

# Lentem

HIGHLIGHTS

## Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary  
Dr. Brett Younger, guest preacher

February 22

*Praying Honestly*

Psalm 32

Adult Choir and Brass Quintet

March 1

*Praying for One Another*

Psalm 63

Adult Choir and Adult Handbells

March 8

*Praying Silently*

Psalm 62

Adult Choir and FBCA Orchestra

March 15

*Praying the Blues*

Psalm 27:7-14

Adult Choir and Youth 2 Handbells

March 22

*Praying Thankfully*

Psalm 65

Adult Choir

March 29 - Palm Sunday

*Staying for the Whole Parade*

Mark 11:1-11

Adult Choir

April 5 - Easter

*Resurrections*

*John 20:1-18*

Adult Choir, Brass Quintet, and

Adult Handbells

## *Sacred Space: Pathways to God*

Thursdays, February 19 - April 2 • Noon • Chapel

These 30-minute experiences of worship will be putting into practice the prayer disciplines explored during the Sundays of Lent in both Bible Study and morning worship. Included will be prayers of personal repentance, centering prayers, intercessory prayer, Lectio Divina, and walking the prayer labyrinth. Music, word and silence will guide these times and a luncheon will follow to further enrich our friendships together.

## *Ash Wednesday Service*

Wednesday, February 18 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

The Lenten season begins with the ancient practice of the imposition of ashes within this service of spiritual discipline. The church will gather in the sanctuary to be reminded of our mortality and our need for God's grace.

Music will be offered by the Children's Choirs.

## *Maundy Thursday Service*

Thursday, April 2 • 7:00 p.m.

This night of Holy Week recalls the Upper Room encounter of Jesus and his disciples. Hymns, scriptural meditation, and a special observance of the Lord's

Supper will help worshippers to faithfully remember the sacrifice and example of Christ. Music will be offered by the Jubilee Choir.

## *Good Friday Service*

Friday, April 3 • Noon • Chapel

Recalling the death of Jesus and offering prayers for the world will make this 30-minute experience of worship simple, yet powerful. Scriptural scenes depicting the stations of the cross, heartfelt intercession, and hymns of the Passion will combine to offer a profound remembrance of God's self-giving love.

## *Easter Worship*

Sunday, April 5 • 11:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

*Resurrection* • John 20:1-18

Adult Choir, Brass Quintet, and Adult Handbells

# Worshipping Together



Does it feel like you and I have been set up on a blind date? When a guest minister is invited to preach one Sunday it does not feel like a big deal. If the preacher is good, you figure you heard their best sermon. If the preacher is bad, you look forward to the next Sunday.

But you and I have been paired up for eight weeks without ever having met. Your friends assure me that you have a good personality and are fun to be with. I will wear my nicest tie and assume you are on your best behavior—at least for the first date.

Everything I know about First Baptist Church makes me look forward to our time together. Guy is a friend and one of my favorite ministers. Your investment in worship is obvious. Your staff is clearly committed to helping the congregation live with genuine faith. Your church has the reputation for being a home for people who need a bigger vision and who are hungry for something real.

When I heard your theme for Lent, “Pathways to God: The Inward and Outward Journey,” I was even more thankful for these weeks of worshipping with you. Then I began to think about the Psalms. The Hebrew hymnbook could be subtitled, “Pathways to God: The Inward and Outward Journey.”

When the Jewish people gathered for worship they sang with hearts filled with praise, and grieved their broken hearts. They rejoiced with thanksgiving, and lamented their emptiness. They celebrated God’s goodness, and complained about God’s absence. They shared just about everything they were thinking and feeling right there in the sanctuary. Worship was walking the pathway to God, an inward, outward journey.

For the five Sundays of Lent we will be praying the Psalms in all of their majesty and candor:

- February 22: Psalm 32, “Praying Honestly”
- March 1: Psalm 63, “Praying for One Another”
- March 8: Psalm 62, “Praying Silently”
- March 15: Psalm 27:7-14, “Praying the Blues”
- March 22: Psalm 65, “Praying Thankfully”

The preacher stands at the back of the sanctuary shaking hands after worship. A 25-year-old woman says, “This is the first time I was ever in a church.”

The minister is surprised. “Really?”

“Yeah.”

“Well, how was it?”

“Kind of scary.”

“Kind of scary?”

“Yeah.”

“Why?”

She says, “It just seems so important. You know, I never go to anything important. This just seemed so important.”

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to share something so important as worship with you.

*Grace and peace,  
Brett*

*Brett Younger is Associate Professor of Preaching at the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta. He teaches worship and writing as well as preaching. Brett served as a pastor for 22 years in Texas, Kansas, and Indiana. He writes monthly columns for [Baptist Today](#) and [Baptist News Global](#) and is the author of four books. Brett and his wife Carol have two mostly grown sons, Graham and Caleb.*



**Find Peace . . . Centered on Christ,  
in the Center of Asheville, at the Center of Our Week**

Wednesday evening CenterPeace for adults exists to provide large-and small-group experiences for people of all ages for inspiration, Christian formation, spiritual conversations, and to equip the saints for ministry. Most weeks, we have a Chapel Bible Study led by one of our ministers. There are often small groups scheduled seasonally that meet around a myriad of topics related to faith and life. In general, we focus on “life studied, broadened beyond its immediate interests, deepened from its shallow activities, interpreted from a Christian perspective, directed toward a Christian purpose.” (Roger L. Shinn)

**Consider the Birds**

**March 4-18; April 8-29 • 6:00 p.m. • Crouch Chapel**

**Led by Tommy Bratton**

Birds are everywhere in the Bible — the dove, the pelican, the eagle, the sparrow, the rooster, the hen, the raven, and more. Jesus tells us “to consider the birds” (Matthew 6:26), so in this study we will explore the prominent places that birds occupy scriptural narratives and discover how they help us discern new layers of meaning as we read the Bible.

Debbie Blue writes, “People identify with birds. We watch them, research them, tell stories about them . . . Once you start looking for birds, you will find them everywhere . . . I believe it is the same way with the grace of God — when you start paying attention, you’ll discover it in places you hadn’t noticed it before. It may make your heart race, or help you breathe. It can free you from anxiety (at least now and again.)”



**March 4-18; April 8-29 • Room MB304**

This group is for parents and/or grandparents who are looking for authentic conversations about living the life of faith in their daily, ordinary life as a family. We will explore how we see God working in the lives of our families, how we can encourage one another along the often inconsistent journey of life and faith, and how we can be intentional about the rhythm of our daily life together. Everyday events — conversations in the car, sharing a meal together, performing chores (or not), laughing together, creating family rituals — all have the potential to be sacred moments. These experiences become lodged in our children’s memories and form who they will become and how their lives and souls will be enriched.

a free concert of music and inspired words

**Old Landmarks**  
... celebrating songs that mark a path to freedom

**Wednesday, February 25**  
**6:30-8:00 p.m. - Sanctuary**

*Featuring*  
Kat Williams, Lyric,  
Rhoda Weaver, Lizz Wright,  
River Guerguerian, Chris  
Rosser, Old Landmarks  
Mass Choir and more!

*Special Guests*  
Kenny Banks  
and  
Terreon Gully

**Dinner and Fellowship - 4:45-6:15 p.m.**  
Fried chicken, biscuits and gravy, roasted sweet potatoes,  
sauteed kale, banana pudding. (NO SALAD BAR)

Call 828.252.4781 or visit [www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net) to make dinner reservations!

# Celebrating the Ministry of Dr. Guy Sayles



First Baptist Church of Asheville joined throughout January 4-11 to celebrate the ministry of Dr. Guy Sayles. It was a full week. Following worship on January 4, the church broke ground on the Sacred Garden. Through the generous gifts of so many and early sales of niches and memorial plaques, Guy was able to join with lay leaders in blessing this dream of new sacred space for the congregation and community. Guy and Anita shared in stories, laughter, and affirmations during a reception in the church dining room that afternoon.



Guy shared challenges and gratitude with the Board of Deacons on Monday, January 5. Jeff Gorsuch led the deacons in adopting a letter of appreciation for Guy's 13-plus years of service.

On Sunday, January 11, First Baptist gathered for worship and baptism. Jeff Gorsuch shared the letter of appreciation adopted earlier by the deacons. During worship, six of our young people entered into the waters with Guy. Later in the service, all present had the opportunity to welcome the good news of God's love for us. More than 900 came forward to receive water on their forehead or hand along with the spoken blessing of God's delight that is so much a part of our church identity. Lines extended for some time after the service as friends and members offered parting well wishes for Guy and Anita, and their children, Amanda and Elliot.



Guy begins a period of rest and recovery even as he continues treatment for multiple myeloma. He will be writing and consulting as well as working with Doctor of Ministry Students from Gardner Webb Divinity School. In August 2015, Guy will begin of teaching with the religion department at Mars Hill University. Guy and Anita will continue in their home here in Asheville.

The images and words from this page touch on the gratitude of the congregation and the rich journey with God that we have enjoyed through Guy's leadership. In the transitions ahead, we lean into his central message to us, "It's all about Jesus."

## EXCERPT FROM AN OPEN LETTER IN APPRECIATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF DR. GUY SAYLES AS PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE, SEPTEMBER 2001 THROUGH JANUARY 2015

*When Dr. Guy Sayles stepped into the pulpit on September 9, 2001, to deliver his first sermon as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Asheville, none of us had any idea how much our lives were about to change. While we were excited, of course, about the beginning of our new pastor's tenure with us, we could not have anticipated the dramatic shift we would all experience because of the September 11 terrorist attacks, just two days after this first sermon. As the shock and grief generated by the attacks on our nation and its citizens grew, our surrounding community looked to our dome in an eager desire to find some comfort and hope in one of our darkest hours. Our new pastor, who had not yet even had time to learn street names in Asheville, immediately recognized the opportunity we had to minister to our wounded community and opened wide the doors of our facility to offer a place of sanctuary where the love of God would be proclaimed to all...*

*As Guy and Anita enter into this new phase of life and ministry, we send them from us with our most profound appreciation and affection. It is our hope that they have benefited as much from their association with us as we have from our time with them. While Guy's daily presence with us will be sorely missed, we pledge to honor his legacy by remembering all he has taught us and by being a church that shows God's love through its caring ministry to all. Above all, we will live by Guy's blessing for us, "You are a child of God, and God takes great delight in you."*

*Jeff Gorsuch, Chair of Deacons*

# Common Bible Study

*Spirituality without a prayer life is no spirituality at all, and it will not last beyond the first defeats. Prayer is an opening of the self so that the Word of God can break in and make us new. Prayer un.masks. Prayer converts. Prayer impels. Prayer sustains us on the way. Pray for the grace it will take to continue what you would like to quit. — Joan Chittister*

## ***Pathways to God: The Inward and Outward Journey***

**Lenten Common Bible Study • Sundays, February 22–March 29 • 9:45 a.m. in Bible Study groups**

Lent, we believe, is a reflective time, a time to prepare our hearts, to turn away from our selfish desires, to turn toward compassion and love, to begin again. Lent is marked by 40 days (not counting Sundays, which are always considered to be “little Easters,”) which is based on the Israelites’ wandering and Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. We often avoid time in the wilderness, preferring instead the many distractions that we think may fill the holy longing within. Yet these wilderness times when combined with quiet prayer and reflection help us to become mindful, to focus our thoughts on what is true (about us, others, and God,) and to expand our awareness of God at work in our lives. Prayer is a vital way to become “emptied out” in an overwhelming and overloaded culture.

Each Bible study group is encouraged to study common lessons on Sunday mornings in their classes. A great group of writers will share their thoughts on prayer and spirituality. These writers include Kelly Belcher, David Blackmon, Tommy Bratton, Leah Brown, Mary Caldwell, Casey Callahan, Martha Ann Callahan, Terry Hamrick, and Eddie Morgan. These lessons will connect to the Lenten themes of the season. Books will be available in classrooms and around the church.

### **Lent 1 - February 22 - *Prayer: God, Me, and You* - Philippians 4:1–9**

**Terry Hamrick**

A significant challenge to our praying is understanding our context. Our prayers and our lives are offered within a complex web of relationships. As we assume a posture of prayer we bring with us our relationship with God, our relationship with our true self, and our relationship with our community. Paul encourages his hearers to give priority to these relationships.

### **Lent 2 - March 1 - *Asking God: Intercessory Prayer* - James 5:13-16**

**Mary Caldwell**

Jesus teaches us to pray for one another, and Paul’s letters are filled with his prayers for others. James gives explicit instructions for prayer and how we are to care for one another, particularly during illness; this is a significant part of what it means to be the body of Christ. How are we to be faithful in intercessory prayer?

### **Lent 3 - March 8 - *A Secret Prayer of the Heart* - Matthew 6:5-6**

**Casey Callahan**

As Christians in the postmodern world, we are fairly good with multitasking, and with a smartphone in our grasp, we can look up a scripture passage, check the church website, listen to a sacred piece of music, and even open up our own FBCA directory app. We may even do these things all at the same time! But one Christian practice is at risk for extinction in such a world as this, and that is Centering Prayer: a secret prayer of the heart, taught to us by Jesus himself, demanding one holistic task: to be silent. God help us, for there’s not a single phone app that will!

### **Lent 4 - March 15 - *Sacred Wound, Lifted Up* - John 3:14-21**

**Various**

“Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy — the experiences that make us the most vulnerable. Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light.” (Brene Brown)

### **Lent 5 - March 22 - *Being in Prayer: Lectio Divina* - John 12:20-36**

**Kelly Belcher**

As ones who pray, we can think easily sometimes of what we have to say to God: what we ask, what we hope, what we fear, what we regret, and for what we are grateful. But Lectio Divina asks, what words could God be waiting to speak to you? What new thing might God be doing, and what message might there be for you since yesterday? In what way could God be hoping you will hear God’s still, small, changing voice calling to you?

### **Passion - March 29 - *Walking to the Cross: Willing and Weak***

**Mark 14:1–15:47**

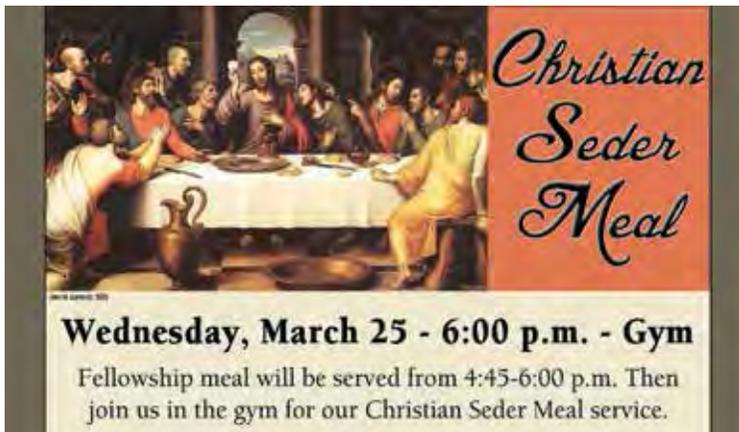
**Tommy Bratton**

In the final week of Jesus’ life, we will explore the walk of Jesus to the cross — the Via Dolorosa — and we will explore how the labyrinth and walking prayers can guide us to reflect on and identify with the people along the way.



**Holy Week 2015**  
**Release, Receive, Return:**  
**A Labyrinth Walk**  
April 1 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel  
Facilitated by Tommy Bratton

In our journey to the cross during Holy Week, we will gather and take time to meditate on the fears and longings within our souls. Tommy Bratton will lead a study on the labyrinth, exploring the biblical passages of the way of love and faith. There will also be an extended time of silence for some to walk the labyrinth and others to spend time in silent prayer.



**Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22**  
**9:45-10:35 a.m. • Conference Dining Room**

If you are new to the First Baptist Church of Asheville family, or if you've been here for a while and are interested in getting more deeply involved in the mission and ministry of the church, please join the ministers for this time of fellowship and conversation about our faith tradition, our worship life, and the many ways to be a part of this community of faith. Compass is an opportunity to ask questions about the church, meet the ministerial staff, get to know other people on their journey of faith and church connection, and learn how to get involved in our common life and ministry. Each week will be led by one or more of our ministers. Sign up online at [www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net) or by contacting Tommy Bratton at [tbratton@fbca.net](mailto:tbratton@fbca.net) or 252.4781.



## **Preschool Bible Study**

**Sundays • 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

Sunday morning Bible Study provides our preschoolers an excellent opportunity to grow in faith through captivating stories, fun activities, and loving relationships.

## **CenterPeace for Preschoolers Wednesdays • 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

CenterPeace for Preschoolers uses a curriculum called “Growing in Grace” that provides wonderful music and worship activities for our children. During the season of Epiphany, stories, music, and activities for preschoolers will center around Jesus as the Light of the World and how we can live and walk in the Light. Childcare is provided for children under age 3.

*Contact Bree Welmaker at [bwelmaker@fbca.net](mailto:bwelmaker@fbca.net) or 252.4781 for more information.*

## **Kids Connect • Sundays, 9:35 a.m. • MB310**

A time to gather for friendship, prayer, and to connect to the theme of the season.

## **FaithQuest: Guiding Children on their Spiritual Journey**

**Sundays • 9:45 a.m. • 3rd Floor Children’s Building**

**February 22 - March 29 • Pathways to God: An Inward and Outward Journey**

During this rotation, children will explore creative ways to pray, including walking a labyrinth, observing silence, and praying with color. They will discover that prayer helps us deepen our relationship with God and helps us to become more compassionate, loving, and peaceful.

**Easter Sunday, April 5 • Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Resurrection Celebration**

On this day that is central to our Christian faith, children will join together to celebrate the good news of Jesus’ resurrection.

**April 12 - May 17 • Appearances of Jesus**

Children will explore the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus and connect them to ways we see Jesus in our everyday lives. Stories include the Walk to Emmaus, Doubting Thomas, the First Breakfast, the Great Commission, and Jesus’ Ascension.

## **Fifth and Sixth Grade Rocks!**

**Sundays • 9:45-10:45 a.m. in CB306**

Fifth and sixth graders have their own time of learning, sharing, and Bible Study on Sundays.



## **CenterPeace for Children**

**Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

Our Wednesday evening music, worship, and faith development activities are for children from first through sixth grades. Have supper in the Dining Room, then join us for a time of singing, storytelling, and sharing God’s love with others in word and deed.

**February 25 – March 18 •** We will focus on the season of Lent, exploring Jesus’ temptations, what it means to forgive, and imagining what life was like during the Last Supper.

**March 25 •** Intergenerational Seder Meal

**April 1 •** No CenterPeace for Children and Preschool Activities

**April 8 – April 29 •** We will explore the season of Eastertide, and how the resurrection of Jesus inspires us to love and care for all.



### Camp Dates: June 15-18, 2015

FirstShine is a traditional fun-filled overnight summer camp for children ages 6-12 years old with special needs, held on the beautiful campus at Warren Wilson College in the Swannanoa Valley. Day activities are geared to age and interests of each child and can include swimming, horseback riding, outdoor games, arts/crafts, and more! Help us get the word out to prospective campers that FirstShine is back.



Youth and college students are essential to the vision for FirstShine. Counselors are needed for each participant, and any youth (10th-12th grades) or college student willing to commit to this experience must complete an application by April.

Counselors pay \$100 to cover their camper's fee, so the children can attend at no cost. Applications are available in the church office. Please consider being a part of this mission opportunity.

### Spring Retreat at Fort Caswell

Friday, May 22 – Monday, May 25

Registration is open through April 23 for \$140

Late Registration is open through May 1 for \$155



Come celebrate the end of the year in the sand and surf! We'll be playing in the waves, enjoying a party, as well as doing our affirmations and Senior Rites of Passage. Register and pay \$140 by April 23. Registration after April 23 will include a \$15 late fee. Registrations will be accepted no later than May 1. We will leave the church at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and return at 4:00 p.m. on Monday!

Contact Casey Callahan at [ccallahan@fbca.net](mailto:ccallahan@fbca.net) or 252.4781 for more information.



Youth Summer CAMP

July 18-25, 2015

University of Tennessee Campus

The cost is \$340 with a \$75 deposit required at time of registration. Sign up online at [www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net). Contact Casey Callahan at [ccallahan@fbca.net](mailto:ccallahan@fbca.net) or 252.4781 for more information.



Dates: June 22-27 Cost: \$375

YouthCUE is the premier student choir resource in North America. Over the past 25 years, YouthCUE has provided innovative programming and resources to foster and promote the development of student choirs in churches and schools across the continent.

The Nation's Capital Festival of Youth Choirs offers participants a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity of singing in one of the premiere venues in the United States, the Washington National Cathedral. Accompanied by members of the local professional symphony, participating in the Nation's Capital Festival of Youth Choirs is an experience every student should have at least once.



YouthCUE purposefully schedules generous amounts of free time each afternoon during the Festival week to allow participating choirs to engage in their own activities.

# *Koinonia* ON THE ROAD



Sunday, February 22  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m. • \$10 per person.

**Don't Miss Out!**

Youth Fundraiser

## **First Lunch**

Sunday, March 1  
Noon - Dining Room

\$10/adult  
\$5/children (12 and under)

Teens who are serving do not need tickets.



Fried Chicken \* Mashed Potatoes \* Green Beans \* Dessert \* Drink

**5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

# *Open Play Night*

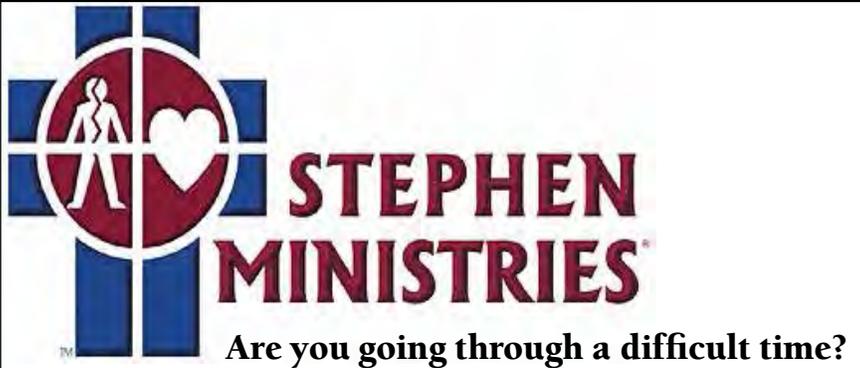
**Fridays  
February 20  
to  
March 27**

**FUN FOR  
INDIVIDUALS  
OR FAMILIES!**

The Fellowship and Involvement Council is sponsoring a series of "Open Play" nights in the Sherman Center recreation area. On each Friday night throughout Lent (February 20-March 27), our recreational spaces will be open from 5:30-8:00 p.m. as a chance for individuals and families to come to a warm place for a few hours of exercise, fellowship, games, and recreational interaction with others from our congregation. One of our recreation interns will be present to help with any supplies or game information.

## **ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

Would you be willing to head up a church-based affinity group, such as biking, jogging, walking, gardening, or golf? These groups will meet on a schedule determined by each group leader in an effort to foster friendship, relationships, fellowship, and fun among our church members. Affinity groups will also offer guests from our community another doorway into the life of our church in a non-pressure atmosphere. If you're interested in leading or helping lead one such group, contact Fellowship & Involvement chair Robert Ferguson (rkferguson1@charter.net).



A Stephen Minister can help! Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a crisis or a difficult time. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact Leah Brown at 252-4781.

***The Easter Story in Art: A Strolling Tour***  
**Bob Jones University Museum and Gallery/Heritage**  
**Green Museum and Gallery**  
**Thursday, March 26 • 8:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

Join Prime Time and Senior Adult friends as we travel by bus/van to Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC to tour one of the finest collections of European Old Masters and antiquities from the Holy Land. The cost of admission to the museums is \$10 per person. We will also enjoy lunch together at Smoke On The Water ([www.saucytavern.com](http://www.saucytavern.com)). Please contact Leah Brown at 252-4781 or [lbrown@fbca.net](mailto:lbrown@fbca.net) by March 8 to make your reservation for this exciting event.

**Groundbreaking for the Sacred Garden - January 4, 2015**



Friends joined together outside the chapel to witness the first steps in making The Sacred Garden a reality. The brief service included words of celebration, hope, appreciation, and blessing along with turning the first shovels of dirt!

You may purchase a niche at the reduced price of \$3,000 until January 3, 2016. Then, the price will increase to \$3,500. Memorial plaques are also available for \$500 for those whose ashes are placed in the garden or to remember someone who is buried elsewhere. Your continued gifts to the garden are also welcomed. If you have questions about purchasing a niche or memorial plaque or about donor opportunities, please contact the church office at 252-4781. A representative will be back in touch with you to answer your questions or to set up an appointment.

**Jubilee Luncheon**  
**11:00 a.m. • Dining Room**

All senior adults are invited to join us for fellowship, programs that inspire, entertain, and inform, and a delicious meal. The cost is \$3 for the meal, and first-time guests eat free. Please contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 or [lbrown@fbca.net](mailto:lbrown@fbca.net) for more information.

- **March 17 - Choral Group from Buncombe County Schools**
- **April 21 - Bailey Mountain Cloggers**

**Memory Café**  
**March 19 (Conference Dining Rm.)**  
**April 16 (Dining Room)**  
**1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Memory Café is a volunteer-run social gathering and respite service for those with dementia, their caregivers, families, friends, and the community. This is not a drop-off program or a support group, but rather a time to gather, relax, enjoy one another, and to reduce the isolation and loneliness that accompanies a diagnosis of dementia for both the person who gets the diagnosis and the caregiver. Each session will be hosted by members of our congregation who have received specialized training. This program is open to people in our congregation and the community. Reservations are not required for these gatherings. Contact Leah Brown at 252-4781.

# Lenten Mission 2015: OPPORTUNITIES

Please go to the volunteer sign-up shack in the atrium to sign up and get involved or call 252.4781.



**8 Volunteers Needed**  
**Thursdays**  
**6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**February 12**  
**March 12**  
**April 9**

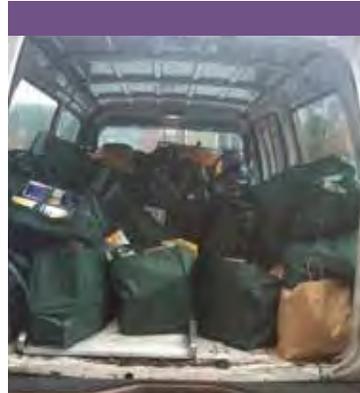
Come and volunteer with a group of FBCA members to sort and pack food at MANNA FoodBank. Sign up in the Atrium or call Sarah Whitlock at 252.4781.



**ROOM**  
**IN**  
**THE INN**

**March 8-14**

In March, FBCA will partner with Room in the Inn to provide shelter for up to 12 women. Volunteers are needed to prepare and dismantle space where the women will stay for the week as well as prepare meals, serve as hosts, stay overnight, and provide transportation. Our greatest need with volunteers is overnight hosts. Please consider being a part of this special ministry. To get involved contact Brenda Denton at 254.8650 or Heather Newton at 279.4110.



**Green Bags!**  
**Homeward Bound**

**February 22**  
**March 1**

Please pick up a bag in the Atrium and fill it with toiletry items. Suggested items include: dish soap, body soap, razors, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, all-purpose cleaner, and laundry detergent.



**April 2015**

This will be in conjunction with Operation Inasmuch. Some local FBCA efforts will include:

**Restore** - April 18,  
10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Construction** - TBA  
**Meals on Wheels**  
April 18, 10:00 a.m.

**Cookies for Kairos**  
April 22

**There will be many more options for you to choose to get involved in as the date approaches.**

## FirstShine & You - June 15-18

FirstShine is a traditional fun-filled summer camp for children ages 6-12 years old with special needs. We need:

- Bible Study classes to provide evening meals during camp.
- Prayer partners who will write specific campers and counselors notes of encouragement.
- Bible Study classes or families to "adopt" the campers and their families and connect



## **Tell me about First Baptist Church of Asheville - Part II**

Some people just know us as “that church with the dome,” and if you’re downtown, it’s hard to miss our landmark building, designed by renowned architect Douglas Ellington in the mid-1920s. What about the church that meets under the dome? What are we like? Here are our answers to the questions we’re most often asked. If you don’t find answers to all your questions here, please let us know. We would love to share more about our church with you and hear your story as well.

### **What about your “middle name” Baptist?**

#### **Is the church affiliated with a national Baptist organization?**

Our “middle name” means freedom. We invite people to make up their own minds about God and faith, and to do it at their own pace. We welcome the freedom to use the mind as a gift from God to ask questions, to debate, and, even to doubt. Freedom means equality between men and women, older and younger, rich and poor. Freedom gives hope as one comes back from heartbreak and failure or lets go of guilt and fear. Freedom welcomes us into being and becoming all God made us to be.

In living out this freedom alongside other Baptists, our church partners with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a network of Baptists who are committed to freedom, diversity, and meeting human needs in the name of Jesus.

### **What is the role of women in the church?**

We are committed to the full equality of women and men in the life of our church, so all leadership positions are open to everyone, regardless of gender. Our commitment to this equality is grounded in our understanding of Jesus, who invited women into the company of his first followers, and is expressed by scriptures such as Galatians 3:28, which reads, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

### **Will I be comfortable no matter who I am? Are you open and accepting?**

Jesus makes it clear that God loves everyone. All people deserve our respect and love. So our hearts and arms are open to everyone. We seek to be a caring and compassionate church, which like Jesus, accepts everyone and is committed to serving our neighbors, community, and world.

***If you’d like to know more about our congregation, please call the church office at 252-4781 or email our Coordinating Pastor, David Blackmon, at [dblackmon@fbca.net](mailto:dblackmon@fbca.net).***



**First Baptist Church of Asheville**

Freedom. Friendship. Faith.

5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC 28801 • 828.252.4781 • [www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net)

Child Development Center: 828.252.3234 • Fax: 828.254.2302

**Sunday Worship:** 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary • 9:45 a.m. Bible Study for all ages

### **Minister on Call**

A minister is on call 24/7 to support you in times of need. To contact the minister on call, dial 252-4781. The deacon of the week can be reached through the church office or by contacting the minister on call.