



What is

Lent?

Highlights Newsletter
March and April, 2017

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter” and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



Practical Wisdom

We could just as easily call the theme of this season of Lent “Impractical Wisdom,” for so much of our faith is just that, impractical. Faith itself has to do with believing what we cannot see, seeing “in a riddle” (1 Cor. 13:12), or walking a dimly lit path (Ps. 119:105). In a humbling reminder to preachers, Paul says, “God decided to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching” (1 Cor. 21).

Indeed, the faith we proclaim and hear “is foolishness,” impractical, and often absurd by worldly standards. By definition, signs and wonders don’t compute. So much of what we hold dear, or appreciate as beautiful, is simply not empirically verifiable. It takes someone deeply immersed in faith to be able to conceive of the resurrection as “practical.”

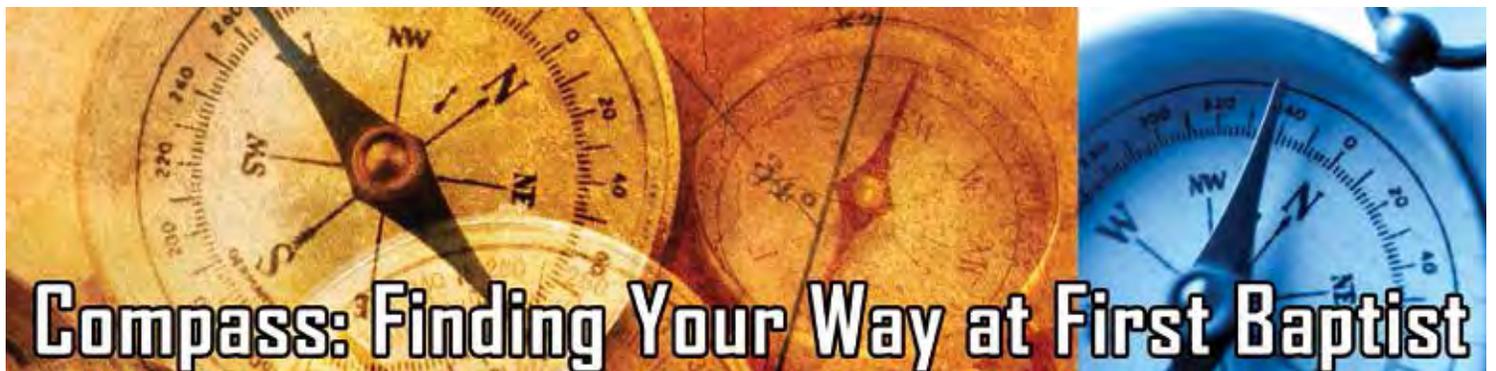
Nevertheless, the Christian tradition gives us specific practices, definite commands, and particular ways of bending our bodies in faithful obedience to Jesus Christ. We’re given concrete things to do in the wake of our baptism. The Scriptures offer us very practical instructions for what to believe, how to pray, give alms, fast, and forgive.

In fact, the Gospel of Matthew—which receives special consideration throughout this year of the lectionary cycle—has often been called “a training manual” for disciples. Simply read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, and try not to get lost in the fascinating details of how to live as a Christian. Undergirding Matthew’s attention to these details of discipleship is his concern for practical wisdom, following his own Jewish Wisdom tradition.

As we journey through Lent, on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, take note of the emphases on the “How To’s” of discipleship. My hope is that as you participate, you’ll find yourself discovering the joys waiting to be found in the practices of our faith. You might even find yourself living into new and redemptive habits, and growing in wisdom

It all begins in the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 6:00 p.m., with a service of the imposition of ashes. There, the mystery of faith becomes plainly visible on our foreheads, a very practical reminder of who we are, and whose we are.

— Mack



Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26 • 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.

During our time together, we will provide a brief orientation to our ministries, talk about our worship and the ways we read and interpret scripture together, and discuss next steps for becoming more involved. Each week will be led by one or more of our ministers. Contact Tommy Bratton at 828.252.4781 for more information.

Ash Wednesday

WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 1
6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

The Lenten season begins with the ancient practice of the imposition of ashes in 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. Children and youth will join in this service. Childcare will be available for preschoolers.

Celtic Evening Liturgy

Wednesdays, March 8 – April 5 • 6:00 p.m. • Crouch Chapel

You are invited to this contemplative evening worship experience, with prayers and liturgy informed by the Celtic tradition. This service invites you to enter into a place of rest, prayer, and reflection. The atmosphere is one of stillness and peace. Musically, you will hear expressions from Celtic and other local traditions. Silence has a place of importance at various intervals as well. Visually you can expect to see a darkened space with many lighted candles. Each week, Mack Dennis will lead a homily around the Lenten themes of giving alms, saying prayers, fasting, healing, penance, and reconciliation. Often, you will hear testimony from one of our church members.



The Celtic Evening Liturgy is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend, family member, or acquaintance to join you. This service is intended to be inclusive and welcoming of all people. We invite you to this experience, hoping it will allow you a deeper place of spiritual attentiveness, a place where you experience God in your midst.

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 9
11:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

Who Is This?

Matthew 21:1-11

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates by William Mathias

Our children will process with palm branches.

Choral Vespers

Sunday, April 9
6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Scriptural and choral reflections on the events of Christ's Passion with music by Duruffé, Bach, Gjeilo, Rutter, and contemporary sacred music. Choral Vespers will be led by the Adult Choir and instrumentalists. This service will include communion in preparation for Holy Week. Childcare will be available for preschoolers.



Spiritual Practices for Lent

Labyrinth: A Walking Prayer — Tommy Bratton

In the end, we will be examined by love. — St. John of the Cross

In our culture, it is difficult but vital to quiet our hearts and minds, and to reflect on the questions of our soul and the callings of our lives. We are easily distracted by consumerism that calls for us to focus our energy and resources on filling the longings within. We diminish the worth of others because our culture labels us and divides us. So we need a touchstone that asks us to go inward — to remember who we are (beloved child of God), to honestly reflect on our waywardness (where have I been unloving?), and to discern the way of Jesus as we move outward back into the world.

For many years, I have found guidance in my spiritual life by walking labyrinths. However, I must admit my own skepticism the first time I walked a labyrinth. It was new to me and I wondered how walking in a circle could in any way enhance my prayers. Sometimes, like all prayer practices, I do not experience anything earth-shattering. Yet when I let go of my expectations, open my heart to simply walking in conversation with God, then I am often surprised by my thoughts, memories, and hopes.

“The labyrinth is not a maze. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. It has a single circuitous path that winds its way into the center. The person walking it uses the same path to return from the center and the entrance then becomes the exit. The path is in full view, which allows a person to be quiet and focus internally.

Generally there are three stages to the walk: releasing on the way in, receiving in the center, and returning when you follow the return path back out of the labyrinth. Symbolically, and sometimes actually, you are taking back out into the world that which you have received.

There is no right way or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Use the labyrinth in any way that meets what you need while being respectful of others walking. You may go directly to the center to sit quietly — whatever meets your needs.

To prepare, you may want to sit quietly to reflect before walking the labyrinth. Some people come with questions, others just to slow down and take time out from a busy life. Some come to find strength to take the next step. Many come during times of grief and loss.

There are many ways to describe a labyrinth. It is a path of prayer, a walking meditation, a crucible of change, a watering hole for the spirit and a mirror of the soul.” (veriditas.org)

I believe that we are a people who are formed by stories. The labyrinth offers a contemplative, sacred space to remember our stories, to ask questions, and to reveal assumptions that may not be true. To remember and reflect and then to share is a freeing experience for many who walk this path. For me, it joins together the religious and the spiritual, and it causes me to pay attention to how the spirit is working in my life.

Stations of the Cross

Jesus' passion teaches us what love looks like. — Michael Battle

The *Via Dolorosa* (Latin, “Way of Sorrows” or simply “Painful Way”) is a road within Jerusalem that is said to have been the path that Jesus walked, carrying his cross, on the way to his crucifixion. The faithful and seekers alike come to remember the path that Jesus walked, searching their own hearts and discovering Jesus’ path of self-giving love.

Beginning the first Sunday in Lent, March 5, we will set up fourteen Stations of the Cross in the windows and chancel of the sanctuary. There will be a booklet with scripture, prayers, and questions to guide your journey through the Stations, reflecting on Jesus’ journey, as well as your own.

Spiritual Practices: How We Engage Our Faith

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly. — Words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)



Taking Notice of Beauty — Kelly Belcher

I love to look at great works of fine art. We have several books of the collections of the Vatican which includes my favorite, the Pieta, the Louvre, the National Gallery, the Metropolitan Museum, and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, which is full of Rembrandts! I studied these in two of my courses in seminary on biblical exposition. You and I are fortunate now: we can also look online at almost any work of art, or any collection around the world, and see the beauty God has inspired.

I give myself time to examine paintings daily, even if it's just for a minute or two as I'm checking my email. This brings me a sense of calm and centeredness. I imagine the great devotion to God that inspired each great artist — favorites of mine like Rembrandt and van Gogh — to contemplate and execute the exquisite work which is available to me to see, to take in at my leisure, and to be inspired by in turn. It seems to me that this is the meaning of our lives: to be moved by deep beauty, and then to enjoy it and recreate it in turn as we live every day.

As I see families as a chaplain in hospice care and in the hospital, I can imagine them as Rembrandt might have painted them, in the deepest beauty of the love they share together, showing me a picture of life and death and new life under the mercy of God. I feel privileged to witness this, as I feel privileged to see Rembrandt's lovely work. Taking notice of people is my main spiritual practice, and I find that taking notice of beautiful art helps me be more observant.

Praying the Protestant Rosary — Mary Caldwell

I have practiced contemplative prayer for many years. Becoming still and quiet, learning to create a calm place within so that I can listen to God, is not always easy. Several years ago I picked up rosary beads, and learned to pray the rosary. The Lord's Prayer is central to the rosary, and then there are what are known as "Hail Marys" (it isn't really a football play). Most of this prayer comes from Luke 2, the words of an angel coming to Mary, announcing the coming birth of Jesus. I find the repetition of the words, along with holding beads in my hands, help me stay centered and focused in prayer.



Meditation — David Bourne

"Peace" was the first word the risen Christ gave to the disciples, as they cowered in the upper room. Every day, I remind myself of this word when I sit down to meditate. First, I take deep breaths and I pray. Then, as my thoughts come and go, I remember "Peace." When I feel scattered or downcast, a return to "Peace" gives me centering and hope. Psalm 46 says to stop your fighting, "be still, and know that I am God." With my meditation practice, I remember and know that the Prince of peace is forever with me. May He also be with you.

The Gift of Letting Go — Dorothy Porter

Spiritual practice to me means approaching each day, moment by moment, with a frame of reference defined by Scripture (Proverbs 3:5-6 and I Thessalonians 5:16-18) and the Serenity Prayer.

This means I may make plans for my day, wanting to acknowledge the Lord in all, but knowing He is the One with real understanding for how to best live life's happenings. So as I go about my day I don't hold my to-do list so tightly that I tune out His voice giving His directions, which may require me to "let go and let God" show me His plans instead. Each day, my mind is filled with rejoicing in Him, talking and listening with Him, with a spirit of gratitude for knowing that He is trustworthy of my walking in moment-by-moment relationship with Him. I say the Serenity Prayer on waking, then as challenges pop up during the day, I ask for His spirit of acceptance, courage, and wisdom, and to keep me from leaning on my own understanding instead of listening for His.



I have more recently started making a point of inviting Him into situations where I've not readily done so in the past — like when I misplace something, if I look for a few minutes and can't find it — I ask for His help, quit looking, go on to something else I need to do, then so very often I find what I was looking for after having "let go and let God" find it for me. Or like when I get interrupted, maybe the phone rings, or someone interrupts me while I'm talking with someone else, I've started looking at such instances as being possible interruptions from Him — my task is to listen and watch for whatever that interruption is meant to bring to me — after all if He is the one bringing on that interruption, I know He is trustworthy, and that He wants to give me direction, so all I have to do is receive it from Him — it's a gift.



Spiritual Direction — Amanda Early

A spiritual practice I find invaluable is Spiritual Direction. This is not someone directing or telling me what to think or do. Rather, it is more of a journey with a companion who listens as I ask questions about God and my faith when they collide in the circumstances of life. It is companionship offering perspective and encouragement as I peel back the layers of my heart and head to better open them to God. My Spiritual Director helps me see God in my life more fully and in the context of God's great love for me. I find this relationship helps keep me on a path toward my goal: to see and hear God more clearly every day.

Praying the Psalms — Paul Grass

Lately I've been reading the Psalms, in order, one or two Psalms each evening. After some deep, intentional breathing to slow and focus the mind, I read my chapter and let one line in particular emerge for quiet consideration. Pretty quickly, the line sticks in the memory:

- "My heart overflows with a pleasing theme," Psalm 45;
- "the Lord is the upholder of my life," Psalm 54; and
- "you put my tears in your bottle," Psalm 56.

Each night's line comes back into my thoughts the next day, eases into my prayers, and points back to where it's already been true in my life.





Spiritual Friendships — April Nance

Each Tuesday during lunch, my friend Karen and I get together to pray. Lately we have been using J. Philip Newell's "Celtic Prayers from Iona" as a guide for this weekly practice. It walks us through a beautifully written prayer, a lectionary-based scripture reading, time for silence, and time for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. We end by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Having a trusted friend to hear my conversation with God has been humbling and wonderful. Likewise, to know what is on her mind and in her heart by hearing her prayers is a gift. The experience reminds me each week that this walk of faith we are on is meant to be done in community. I leave each Tuesday feeling like I have had a refreshing glass of water, without having known I was thirsty.

Seeking Truth through Bible Study — Ed Graham

In early spring of 1959, five other college students and I were sitting in my dorm room at UNC Chapel Hill bravely but ignorantly discussing the nature of God and the universe. We were either freshmen or sophomores who decided to pontificate deeply since we were sure each of us understood God and what God expected of us, or did not expect of us.

A former US Army 2nd lieutenant, Dick Sanders, came by the room, leaned against the door frame, and listened quietly while we talked. Sure of what I was saying, I pronounced that the Bible had nothing to say about a particular subject — which we will not discuss here. Dick stood straight and said "Ed, the Bible has plenty to say about that topic." I denied that again — to which Dick responded by saying if I really wanted to know what the Bible said, I could come by his room and we would look at the Bible together.



I went to Dick's room more to argue with him than to learn anything. However, when Dick opened his Bible and began to show me not only what the Bible said about my topic, but also what the Bible said regarding Jesus' message I had to admit I did not know what I was talking about and maybe I needed to listen.

Wednesdays in Eastertide • April 19-May 24 • 6:00 p.m.

Financial Health Study • 6:00p.m. • Room MB202 • Led by Christine Quinley

In "Your Money God's Way" Amie Streater explores seven money habits that are potentially keeping Christians broke. In this study, we will seek to replace common myths like "Money can fix all my problems" and "I have to give money to every good cause" with biblical truths. We will also cover specific solution steps to overcoming these financial obstacles.

Pre-registration is required for this group. Contact April Nance, anance@fbca.net, to register.

REST(LESS):The Altars Where We Worship

Crouch Chapel • Led by Tommy Bratton and Mack Dennis

Some have suggested that the objects of our attention have become our god and fulfilling our desires has become our religion. In this series, we will consider how to break the restless cycle of anxiety, 24/7 information overload, and a divisive culture to become more intentional about what truly matters: our relationship with God, one another, and creation. We will examine the religious dimensions of American culture that function as "altars" where Americans gather to worship and produce meaning for their lives. Each week, we will explore the witness of Scripture, popular culture, and current theological reflection as we reflect on our own struggles to rest and to be faithful to the God we worship.

Enneagram: The Road Back to You

Wednesdays, March 15 – April 12 • 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. • MB303

Led by Laura Addis

Ignorance is bliss — except in self-awareness. What you don't know about yourself can hurt you and your relationships — and even keep you in the shallows with God. Do you want help figuring out who you are and why you're stuck in the same ruts? The Enneagram is an ancient personality type system with an uncanny accuracy in describing how human beings are wired, both positively and negatively. In *The Road Back to You*, Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile forge a unique approach — a practical, comprehensive way of accessing Enneagram wisdom and exploring its connections with Christian spirituality for a deeper knowledge of ourselves, compassion for others, and love for God.



This series requires pre-registration and purchase of a workbook (\$10). Contact April Nance, anance@fbca.net, to register.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE golf Tournament

Etowah Valley Golf Club
Thursday, March 30, 2017
Tee times begin at 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$45 per person (includes lunch)
A box lunch will be provided at the start.

This is a golf social outing for us to meet other members with like interests and to get to know others at First Baptist Church of Asheville. You do not have to register a foursome. Everyone will be divided up across age, gender, etc.

We are also looking for business owners within our church to sponsor holes for some prizes. We hope to have longest drive, closest to the pin, best shot/worst shot. All for fun!



Media Center - NEW ARRIVALS!

The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery, Suzanne Stabile and Ian Cron

Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life, Tish Harrison Warren

Grounded: Finding God in the World—A Spiritual Revolution, Diana Butler Bass

Reading the Parables, Richard Lischer

The Abbey: A Story of Discovery, James Martin, S.J.

Sunday Morning Bible Study for Children

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

Preschoolers meet on the 2nd & 3rd floor of the Children's Building

1st – 5th graders meet on the 3rd floor of the Children's Building. They gather in the Children's Library (CB 310) beginning at 9:35 a.m. for snacks and conversation before Bible Study

6th graders meet in CB 306 for Sixth Grade Rocks.



Save
the Date

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Families are invited to join us for a free dinner and entertainment for the kids. We look forward to an evening shared with First Baptist, First Kids, CDC, and Crossroads Afterschool families!

Wednesday
April 19
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

children's summer camps 2017



REGISTRATION OPEN

June 27 - 30 **Passportkids!** Camp - Charleston
Rising 4th - 7th Graders
Optional Day Camp at FBCA on June 26
Cost: \$275 with \$75 deposit due by April 3

July 10 - 13 **Vacation Bible School**
Four year olds to Rising 6th graders
Limited spots in our preschool classes

July 10 - 14 **VBS Day Camp**
Rising 1st - 6th graders
Cost for Day Camp: \$100 with \$25 deposit

July 24-28 **Discovery Day Camp**
Rising 1st - Rising 6th Graders
Cost for Day Camp: \$125 with \$25 deposit

Registration links have been sent to parents and are open to FBCA families.
Links will be posted on the website and open to the public in April.

Koinonia, Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

Ages ago, God spoke to the people of Israel about a time when God's instructions and dreams would be written on their hearts, as if they were tattoos and God the Master Tattoo Artist.

"The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah...I will put my instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest." (Jeremiah 31:31, 33b-34a)

Here in Asheville, we have lots of tattoo artists and tattooed people, but we are not so prone to having God's words of guidance and promise inked on our hearts. Which is why this semester at Koinonia, we will be working from week to week on taking essential passages of Scripture to heart by studying them, memorizing them, and (ultimately) applying them.



koinonia

on the road

MARCH 12: STUDENT SERVICE DAY

SERVE SUPPER VRQ

VISIT AT GIVENS

YOUTH SATURDAY

APRIL 29

SERVICEDAY
9-12 PM

PAINTBALL
12-4 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Mission Pilgrimage Training Session 4
Sunday, March 26 (following Koinonia)

Student-Led Worship
Sunday, April 30 • 11:00 p.m.

First Lunch: Fried Chicken and All the Fixin's
Sunday, April 30 • Noon • Dining Room
\$10/adult, \$5/child (\$30 family max.)
All proceeds will go toward the Youth Mission Pilgrimage to Cuba.

Youth Mission Pilgrimage Training Session 5
Sunday, May 7 (following Koinonia)

FirstShine Camp

June 26-29

REGISTRATION FOR CAMP COUNSELORS IS NOW OPEN!

Contact the church office at 252.4781 to volunteer.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRIES**

Are you going through a difficult time?

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.

Jubilee Luncheon
Tuesdays, March 21 & April 18 • 11:00 a.m.

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

March 21 • Crocker Auditorium
 A.C. Reynolds Madrigal Singers

April 18 • Gym
 Bailey Mountain Cloggers

**Sacred Garden
 Informational Sessions**
Wednesdays, March 15 & April 26
5:15-5:45 p.m. • Conference Dining Room

The Sacred Garden Team invites you to meet in the Conference Dining Room on the dates and times listed above to learn more about how you can purchase a niche/memorial plaque or support the garden with a gift. If you have any questions or want an informational packet about the garden, please contact Leah Brown at 252-4781.

A Look Back . . .

**Youth/Senior Adult/Prime Time
 Valentine's Banquet**

Youth and their sponsors celebrated Valentine's Day with Prime Time/Senior Adults on February 12th! Everyone enjoyed delicious food, fellowship, and engaging conversations during this annual multigenerational event. A special thank-you to Nancy McCrory and her staff for a wonderful meal.

Senior Adult Sunday
May 7 - Noon - Dining Room

Menu

Roast Beef
 Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Lemon Layer Cake
 Tea
 Coffee

Enjoy a luncheon celebrating our 50- and 75-year members following worship on this special day. The cost per person is \$5 and reservations are required for this event. Please contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 by Sunday, April 30, if you would like to attend.





OPERATION[®] INASMUCH A Compassion Revolution



April 21-30, 2017 Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” In late April, First Baptist Church of Asheville will engage our community with God’s love as more than 500 volunteers serve alongside one another and partner agencies from throughout the region. We need your hands and feet as we live the ways of Jesus by caring for others, working with our neighbors, and tending the environment. There will be tasks for every age group and ability, for families and small groups. Spend a few hours or a whole day. Buy an OIAM T-shirt. Take on the “form of a servant,” and make a difference here in our hometown.



What Can You Do?

- Make educational materials for children in our schools.
- Feed the hungry through one of four programs FBCA supports.
- Clean out a river or recycle “hard stuff” to recycle.
- Help Habitat restore the dream of a new home.
- Plant beautiful things at FBCA and some of our partner schools.
- Make a home more energy-efficient for a low-income family.
- Create caring gifts for our shut-ins.

Childcare is provided for all preschoolers on April 29.

More April Opportunities...

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Salvation Army | A-HOPE Project |
| Center of Hope | Brother Wolf |
| ABCCM Medical | Veterans Restoration Quarters |
| Crisis Ministry | Habitat Build |
| Blanket Project | Meals on Wheels |
| for Council on Aging | Sunshine delivery |
| Work on Baptist House | Haw Creek Commons |
| on UNCA campus | Make 10,000 Meals in Gym |
| Hope Chest for Women | MANNA Foodbank |
| CDC Playground | Kairos Prison Ministry |
| Hands-on Asheville | |

How Can You Help?

- Watch Connect Now, E-News, the Atrium for sign ups.
- Ask your small group or Bible study class to be a part.
- Buy a T-shirt. Wear it to your mission project.
- Tell others what we are doing and why.
- Pray that every act will make Jesus’ ways real to our neighbors and friends.

But Don't Forget to Celebrate on Sunday, April 30...

- Welcome a friend to share in worship and Bible study.
- Wear your t-shirt to Bible study and worship.
- Stay for First Lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- Help pack 10,000 meals as a final act of God’s love.
- Hug a friend and let them know the joy of Christ lives in you.

HAITI MISSION TRIP

MEDICAL - DENTAL - VISION
APRIL 1-8, 2017

Imagine carrying everything you need for a medical, dental, and optometry clinic, plus 10 to 12 volunteers and several interpreters in one open bed truck for two hours up a winding mountain road. The rural Haitian community served there is one of several sites our mobile clinic visits. A team from First Baptist Church Asheville will be returning to Haiti April 1-8. This will be the fourth team visit sponsored by FBCA. As in previous years the team will be providing these much needed services in remote villages with little or no access to care. CBF missionary Jenny Jenkins, a former FBCA member, is our onsite coordinator. Some may remember that Jenny gave the 'Mission Moment' when she was here in June. The conditions are primitive and challenging. Besides the heat, (we were told Haiti has three seasons; hot, hotter, and hottest), we typically work with no running water or electricity. Yet somehow, the quality of care, and spirits, are high. We are grateful for a church that values and supports international missions. The partnership we have formed with Jenny Jenkins and the surrounding community of Grand Guave Haiti, has been a blessing for the good people there, and even more so for those who provide the care. There will be ways to more directly support this work, including donation of sunglasses. (They were a big hit last year. We ran out midweek.) We ask for and cherish your prayers.



Gratefully,
Robert Busey, DDS

This year's team consists of: Lisa Barnett, pharmacist; Randall Barnett, optometry; Marilyn Bollinger, optometry; Robert Busey, DDS; Gloria Cobb, pharmacist; Caroline Cooper, dental assistant; Jim Early, MD; Rex Henderson, MD; Kara Kelley, RN; Sandra Martin, RDH, dental assistant; Kasee Metcalf, DDS



MEN'S DAY PROGRAM

The Men's Day Program sponsored by First Baptist Church of Asheville is designed to assist veterans and civilians in finding a new path in life. We affirm the fact that, "We are all children of God and God takes great delight in each of us."



Recognizing that spirituality is not simply something we do but is who we are, this program focuses on the whole person.



Issues of returning veterans or homeless folks are not just about drugs and alcohol, but are also relational, emotional, and mental. Research is beginning to show that spiritual issues may be at the core of many of our difficulties. This is where the loving and supportive community at First Baptist Church of Asheville, along with individual therapy and spiritual direction, becomes very important.

If you would like to know more about the Men's Day Program, it meets Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. You are welcome to join us.

— Joe David Fore, Coordinator

Hear What the Participants in the Men's Day Program Have to Say . . .

In 2016, I realized I had been sick and suffering for 65 years. I heard spirit and was awakened. Then I began to feel something. While on the waterfront in Hampton, Virginia, I had a spiritual awakening and felt I was being told I would be restored. As the spirit began to restore me my life became more abundant. Now I stand today saying, the world did not give it to me and the world cannot take it away, because I have a creator and his name is Jesus Christ.

The fellowship of this group is very uplifting and the topics are real life applications of healing and productivity. I thank God for this group.

After arriving at the Veteran's Restoration Quarters broken, sad, feeling helpless, and hopeless, my God put a group of men in my life that changed my whole outlook on life. Our mentor has shown us love even though I didn't know how to love myself. I've gotten some self-esteem back but most of all I have a sense of direction and the desire not to go back — to keep on the road to recovery, to sustain and maintain staying clean with pride.

In 1969, I didn't care about myself. As I became homeless I lost the desire of being a responsible citizen of the United States. It was a dark place in my life. I lost my family. I didn't want to be bothered with anyone, sleeping under bridges and in cars. I was so low in June.

To me, the program means a new way of life learning how to love myself and others. It was a new beginning for me.

This Men's Day program is a light that gives guidance and direction so that we can find our way. Lord, I thank you for that light.

*Oh God, let me know you
and never have to die.*

*Oh Lord, you said the only true death is
separation from God and I know why.*

*You're the truth teller, I mourn over my
death and find grace in my life.*

This is how I repent

Hear my prayer for forgiveness

In Jesus' glorious name

Thank you, God

Amen



Under the Dome

If you wandered the halls of First Baptist Church of Asheville during any given week, you would see the love of God taking shape right before your eyes as . . .

- Children learn about prayer or almsgiving...
- Hungry guests enjoy a good meal and a movie...
- Choirs bring melody and praise to life...
- At-risk students read with a tutor...
- A congregation sings its faith...
- Friends open the Bible and their hearts...
- A community bows in prayer for our world...
- Teachers of the arts ignite wonder...
- Youth lead in living the ways of Jesus...
- We walk humbly with our God...



Can you find your place in the journey?



Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 13 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Hymns, scriptural meditation, and a special observance of the Lord's Supper will help worshippers to faithfully remember the sacrifice and example of Christ.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 14 • Noon • Chapel

Recalling the death of Jesus and offering prayers for the world will make this 30-minute experience of worship simple, yet powerful.

Easter Worship

Sunday, April 16

Sunrise Service

7:00 a.m. • Sacred Garden

*Directions from the Tomb
(Breakfast to follow)*

Sanctuary Worship

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Greetings!

Matthew 28:1-10

Our Easter celebration will include baptism and communion.

First Baptist Church of Asheville

Freedom. Friendship. Faith.

5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC 28801 • 828.252.4781 • 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 828.252.4781.

The deacon of the week can be reached through the church office or by contacting the minister on call.