

Ministry Councils @ FBCA

Objectives and Strategies- 2016-2018

Areas of Focus

Engaging Faith/Engaging Community

Missions and Hands on Ministry Council

- First Baptist Church of Asheville will develop ongoing relationships with and support of the special needs community through internal ministries and local outreach.
 - Implement a day camp in the summer of 2016 for campers age 16-25.
 - Continue FirstShine2 on Wednesday evenings for children of all ages.
 - Collaborate with the Christian Formation and Fellowship Council- Children and Students to support the ongoing Sunday School class launched in June 2016.
 - Support the teachers and staff in the PEP schools in Buncombe County.
- First Baptist Church of Asheville will sustain and enrich its ministry with persons in poverty and those who are homeless.
 - Continue the CAP program for tutoring and spiritual formation for at-risk children.
 - Launch an educational program for parents of CAP students.
 - Expand services offered through Lunch @ Crossroads (Literacy through Literacy Council, Pisgah Legal Services, etc).
 - Continue collaboration with local agencies.
- Community and mission partners will be better integrated into ongoing ministries, routine communications, and prayer life of the congregation.
 - Invite partnering agencies to Lunch @ Crossroads to share available services.
 - Invite partnering agencies to share through Stewardship Moments.
 - Provide links through our website to partnering agencies and volunteer opportunities with partnering agencies.
 - Share prayer requests and updates with Elohim Baptist Church in Las Tunas, Cuba.

Congregational Worship Council

- Worshipers will feel more fully and wholeheartedly engaged in worship by personally connecting with those around them.
 - Establish a sanctuary section greeting team.
 - Develop an orientation sheet to assist section greeters.
- Families with members who have special needs will feel included in the worship life of our church.
 - Identify ways special needs persons can assist in worship leadership.
 - Explore ways worship can be integrated into other Special Needs activities (Sunday School, FirstShine, Wednesday evenings).
- The congregation will grow in their understanding of the ecumenical and Baptist distinctives of our worship.
 - Partner with the Christian Formation Council(s) to develop educational tools for multi-generational study/use.
 - Focus education on the aspects of our worship that make it Baptist.

Christian Formation and Fellowship Council- Adults

- Members will develop a rich sense of their “calling” as a follower of Jesus investing in personal commitments of worship, spiritual practice, biblical and theological reflection, and positive expressions of the Baptist tradition.
 - Assist members in identifying their own personal sense of calling in their current season of life.
 - Guide members into outlining personal commitments to support their calling.
 - Integrate a deeper sense of prayer and life as a “hospitable person” as foundational in our calling as a church.
 - Collaborate with the worship council on ecumenical and Baptist elements in worship.
 - Enrich understanding through celebration of Baptist History and Heritage Month.
 - Encourage each Bible study class and small group to adopt a mission focus for the year.
- Members will deepen commitment to social justice and hospitable inclusiveness regarding adults with special needs, poverty, homelessness, and faith and politics.
 - Educate the broader congregation about issues/needs of individuals and families with special needs children and young adults.
 - Launch a Sunday morning class for special needs students and young adults.
 - Integrate family members of special needs students and young adults into the broader church.
 - Explore ways to welcome and integrate those who are differently oriented into our church through programming, collaboration with mission projects, and engagement with community partners.
 - Host ongoing educational opportunities and table conversations around these social justice needs.

Christian Formation and Fellowship Council- Children and Students

- Children and youth will become more consistent in their participation in ongoing ministry programs.
 - Offer classes and conversation groups for parents based on the importance of commitment to and consistency in faith formation.
 - Teachers help each class have an intentional system of outreach to children and youth.
- Children, youth, and their parents will become more engaged in congregational worship through faithful attendance, education, participation, and leadership opportunities.
 - Regularly enlist children and youth to lead in worship.
 - Provide educational resources for children, students, and their parents to help them better understand elements of worship and seasons of the church year.
 - Incorporate a children’s moment in the worship service once a month.
 - Provide resources in worship bags to help children engage in worship.
- Families will understand and relate how the Trailmarks ministry helps to recognize milestones and rites of passage in the lives of their children and students.
 - Host Trailmarks information sessions for parents.
 - Determine key milestones and moments for minister(s) to meet with parents.
 - Acknowledge key milestones and moments in the faith formation of preschoolers, children, and youth through Trailmarks.
 - Evaluate current Trailmarks stones and develop new designs as needed
- High school youth will experience an international mission trip that expands their own Christian faith and worldview and helps to strengthen the FBCA Cuban partnership
 - Plan a series of pre-trip meetings for all Cuba trip participants that address essential historical, social/cultural, linguistic, practical, and spiritual issues relating to the youth mission pilgrimage.
 - Work with the FBCA mission council, our partner Cuban congregation, and other Baptist partners in Cuba to plan the youth mission pilgrimage to Cuba in July 2017.
 - Lead a mission pilgrimage to Cuba that brings FBCA youth and Cuban youth together for shared experiences of Christian faith while traveling across different regions of Cuba.
 - Create planning team comprised of youth parents and volunteers to assist with fundraising, communication, etc.

Communications and Outreach Council

- First Baptist Church of Asheville will increase the number of guests involved in the missions and ministries of FBCA by re-messaging the church with the Asheville-Buncombe Community.
 - Engage a marketing agency to supporting outlining message and strategy.
 - Integrate arrival of new pastor with message.
 - Create materials of use to any church member.
 - Highlight the unique, positive nature of FBCA as a Baptist Church.
 - Target message to various age groups.
 - Implement on current platforms of communications.
 - Implement through current partnerships in care of children, the arts, and missions.
- The number of members who intentionally share with friends and the broader community their sense of spiritual growth and connection to this congregation will increase.
 - Provide easy to use materials, links, etc. that tell the story of the church.
 - Train members to tell their “why” about FBCA clearly and authentically.
 - Provide to members and to guests easily accessible pathways for further follow-up by staff.
- The Communications and Outreach Council will collaborate with the Christian Formation Council-Adults to effectively communicate a plan for individuals and small groups to explore calling and committing to one’s own mission and ministry within the church and/or in the broader community.
 - Review materials/directions of the Christian Formation Council.
 - Develop a communications plan to support the training/worship/engagement.
 - Provide the computer/online platform to engage the congregation- both in terms of creating records of the passions/callings of the congregation and integrating members and guests into teams that can benefit from their gifts.
- Enrich participation and attendance patters for persons between the ages of 50 and 70.
 - Engage a team in surveying and identifying the unique needs of this age group.
 - Outline a plan for ministry based on the survey.
 - Develop teams related to these points of need.