



Highlights

May/June 2018



Learning a New Vision

So, what's next? Since hundreds of us gathered to tell stories, sharing our memories and hopes for the church, we've compiled and analyzed these accounts, and—with help from the Center for Congregations—discerned five themes or “desired futures” (see opposite page). But you may be wondering, “What are we actually going to *do* with this information?”

Our themes are now in the hands of our ministry councils, who are working to discern how these desired futures will take on concrete form in our ministries and missions. For example, one of the themes is, *First Baptist will wrap its arms around the City of Asheville*. Because that could mean many things, the Missions Council is currently discussing what that might look like in practical terms. They and the other councils are doing the work of dreaming particular new dreams drawn from our congregation's stories. They will share their plans with the deacons in the coming months, so that we may further consider, bless, and, finally, begin living into a new vision for our church.

Since the beginning of this process last fall, our church has received guidance from Timothy Shapiro, who approaches congregational discernment by considering not only what new things we're deciding to do, but how we're “*learning* new ways of thinking, feeling, and acting.” I want to tell you the ways I see our church learning and why these ways of learning fill me with excitement and hope.

First, I see us learning to *trust* the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in ever-deepening ways. As other church leaders and I have led our story-telling sessions, we've been encouraged by the energy around the tables. I interpret the lively conversations and enthusiastic participation as a collective expression of trust that, indeed, the LORD “is about to do a new thing,” as Isaiah prophesies. What I find so gratifying is that we are learning to answer Isaiah's ensuing question, “Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” By remembering who we are, and hoping for fresh expressions of ministry, we are saying, “Yes, we do perceive it.” This learning to perceive God's dream is a demonstration of trust in God to act.

Second, I see us learning to *enjoy* each other's company in new ways. This is a large congregation, so it's common to be an active member for decades and never really know others who've also been here all along. But two common responses to the story-gathering events were, “I wish we could do this more often,” and “I've been a member with Sally or John for years, but I never knew this side of them—I am amazed and grateful.” As we poured out our hearts through our stories, we learned by God's grace just how full of life and faith we already are. In other words, I see us learning through our testimonies that we share a common hope for deeper friendships sustained by faith in Jesus.

Third, I see us learning to *risk*. By becoming vulnerable enough to trust God and to share our testimonies, we are learning to face the fears that accompany dreaming new dreams. I confess that I, too, am afraid of certain things. I am afraid of the ways our culture appears to be leaving church behind. I am afraid the divisiveness of the current “political climate” is making it that much harder for us to be ambassadors of reconciliation. And, I am afraid of making mistakes. Will we truly perceive God's dream for us? Or will we miss something big that was right in front of us? But I take heart in the simple fact that it was an act of risky faith (is faith ever *not* risky?) to begin daydreaming about God at all.

To learn in these ways is to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love” (Eph. 4:15).

May we take heart together, knowing the one who began a good work among us will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6).

— Mack Dennis

Becoming a Parable Church

First Baptist hosted six story-gathering events on Wednesdays and Sundays early in the first quarter of 2018 welcoming the insights of 286 participants of every age. The story-gathering experience was part of our Vision Campaign called ***Becoming a Parable Church***. The oldest story-teller was in her 90's, the youngest, a first grader. All responded to the following prompt:

Tell about a time when you felt most alive, most fulfilled, or most enthused about our congregation. Share the story of this best moment. What were you doing? Who was with you? What feeling did you have? What happened as a result?



Every story was recorded and shared with the Center for Congregations, our partners in shaping our vision for the future. The Center helped us do a deep dive into the actual words and language in the stories. We discovered five central values of our church as we poured over these stories:



- First Baptist is an **active** church. This is a place of living the Gospel through **mission**.
- First Baptist Church is a place where people at all stages of life **grow in faith**.
- **Relationships** between people represent the love Christ has for his people.
- **Worship and music** are means of grace.
- **Inclusion and welcoming** are crucial to lived faith.

Part two of the conversation centered on a second prompt:

Imagine that it is 2023, and our congregation is living God's call in fresh ways. What are one or two things you see happening? Who is involved? What good is happening as a result?

Based on the participant responses, five key statements emerged that express our “desired future” as we come together to strengthen what we do now and imagine new ventures:

- First Baptist will be a place where the **parable path of Jesus is a way of life**.
- First Baptist will be a church that **welcomes and includes all** in a way consistent with God's love and wisdom.
- First Baptist will wrap its **arms around the city of Asheville**.
- **Worship and music** will remain essential and move beyond the doors of the church.
- First Baptist will be a church of **spiritual transformation** grounded in Scriptural imagination, communal discernment, and lived faith.

What next? In the coming weeks, our five ministry councils will explore current programming to build on the strong relationships and resources we enjoy now. They will evaluate our assets as a congregation in downtown Asheville. Councils will imagine people we would like to reach with God's love. Finally, they will present specific ways to enrich our current work and launch fresh, targeted efforts that will guide us over the next 2-3 years. Deacons will work closely with our councils and share these directions later this summer.

What can you do? Be prayerful for our councils and deacons as they continue their work. Pray that First Baptist Church of Asheville will realize God's dream for our church and community. Watch for more information and find ways you can be a part of our journey in *Becoming a Parable Church*.



— David Blackmon

The Season of Pentecost

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. — Galatians 5:25

The Spirit of Pentecost reminds us that we are called to share life together. One in Spirit. One in Christ Jesus. Celebrating unity in our diversity.

Sometimes Pentecost is called the birthday of the Church because life together is the logical and necessary outcome of people inspired by the Spirit.

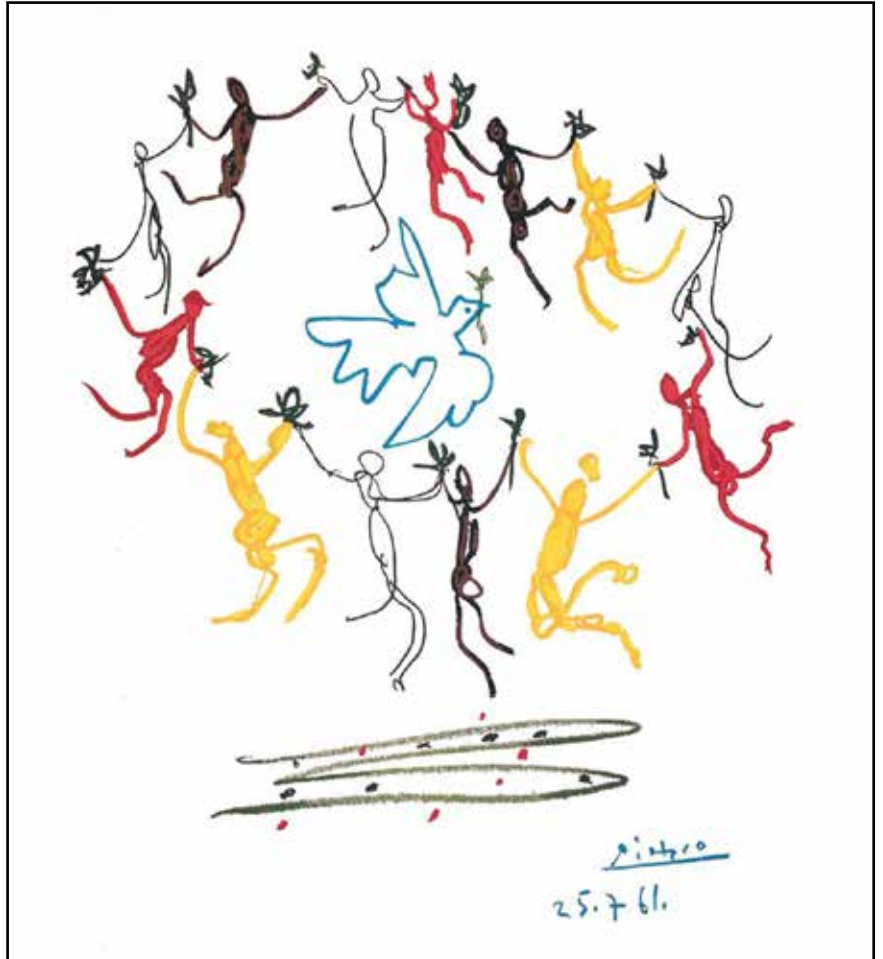
When we are faithful, we are a community of deep-spirited friends devoted to helping one another discover and then exercise our unique gifts, all of us working together for the good of each other and the whole community. Paul calls this life in the Spirit.

The animating spirit that shapes [our] hearts and directs [our lives] together is rooted in the love of God made known to us in Jesus.

To learn to love, we have to practice with other people who are committed to encouraging us when we are tired, celebrating with us when we succeed, and being gentle with us when we fail. We call this church. It is an invitation to experience a life together in which gratitude and contentment, peace and joy take their place alongside the difficulty and pain that will invariably come our way. It is a people and place where we are taught the Jesus way of love and kindness and challenged to act lovingly with each other and our world.

As we set aside this time and space each week as sacred, we invite the Spirit into the rest of our time and space.

May the Spirit of God who blew over creation at its beginning, descended upon Jesus at his baptism, inspired the church at Pentecost, and gifted each of us to be the Body of Christ, continue to inspire us into tomorrow, and may this Holy Spirit rain down upon us and fill us with the love of Christ. Amen.



Why Bible Study?

As followers of Christ, we need one another to help us grow in faith. In the context of life-giving community, we share and learn from each person's unique experiences with and understandings of God, as we explore scripture and our lives. We develop authentic friendships in which people care for one another, rejoicing when one rejoices, and weeping when one weeps. Life-giving community is where the church begins to share its mission of hope, expressing the love and grace of God made known to us in Jesus.

Wednesday Fellowship & Formation

May 2, 9, 16, 23

**Chapel Bible Study: A Gospel of Hope • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel
Led by Tommy Bratton**

Based on a book by beloved and respected author, Walter Brueggemann, we will explore several of God's prophetic utterances in scripture such as: Let there be light! Let my people go! Let justice roll down like mighty waters! This is my beloved Son! Love one another! Fear not, I have called you by name! As we consider these phrases, we will be challenged to reawaken to a life lived in light of the resurrection.

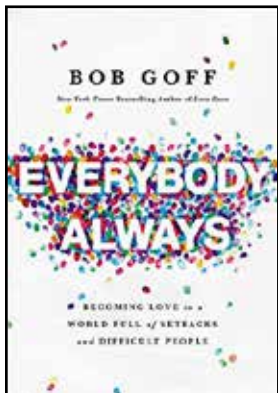
May 30 • Agapekids Church-wide Celebration with Children's Ministry • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel
Our children will share things they've learned and done this year. Make plans to join us for this exciting night.

June 6, 13, 20, 27

Wednesday Refresh • 5:00 p.m. • Dining Room • \$5/adults and senior adults, \$3/Children

Wednesday Refresh provides a place in the middle of the week to refresh our spirits by sharing good food and reconnecting with friends. There will be opportunities to play games, spend time in conversation, or walk the labyrinth in prayer. All are welcome!

Summer Reading for Adults



For me, there is nothing better than sitting on the front porch on a summer morning, sipping on a good cup of coffee, and reading a book that inspires or challenges me. Reading as a spiritual practice helps me grow as a person, expands my views in life, and gives me language for communicating what matters most. A good book can lead me more fully into the presence

of God as I hear the voice of the Spirit speaking to me in new and old ways.

To share my enjoyment of reading as a spiritual practice, I invite you to join me in reading a book together, *Everybody Always* by Bob Goff. For some, this book will be a good read on the beach. Others will take it slow and read it throughout the summer. Some may encourage friends and family to read it with us. My hope is that reading the same book will root us in a common experience that will spark conversations with others, will help us explore and deepen our faith, and will inspire us to live more fully into Jesus' way of love.

Summer Program for Refugee Students Who are Rising High School Seniors June 18-22

Each day we will gather at First Baptist Church of Asheville at 9:00 a.m. for morning education field trips, lunch at the church, followed by afternoon recreation and group dinners at the church. All housing and food are provided by First Baptist Church of Asheville and host families. If you or your Bible study group are interested in helping, contact Hal Littleton at 828.776.2860, hallittleton@gmail.com, or Tommy Bratton at 828.252.4781.



World Labyrinth Day **Saturday, May 5**

Come celebrate the 10th Annual World Labyrinth Day on May 5, and join more than 5,000 people taking steps for peace. Last year, gatherings were held in more than 45 states and 20 countries.

This year, we will offer several times to host labyrinth walks and group reflection. You may also walk the labyrinth at other times throughout the day in solidarity with others around the world.

Contact Tommy Bratton at tbratton@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 for more information.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship **General Assembly**

June 11-15 • Dallas, Texas



We live in an era of a Global Church, where mission is from everywhere to everyone. Join us as we celebrate the Church, both around the world and down the street, at the 2018 CBF General Assembly.

Through engaging workshops, nightly worship, partner events and a specially redesigned exhibit hall with live podcasts and entertainment, you'll deepen friendships and partnerships, locally and globally.

Contact Tommy Bratton at tbratton@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 if you are interested.

Wild Goose Festival **July 12-15 • Hot Springs, NC**

What is the Wild Goose Festival? It's hard to sum up in a few words. We try, when we say things like: it's a 4-day Spirit, Justice, Music and Arts Festival. But it's so much more than that.

It's a place where all kinds of people come together, not only to hear great music and incredible speakers, but also to dive into lively conversations with thought leaders, writers, dreamers, artists, visionaries, social justice activists, peace-makers...the ones you'll find on the official program, and the ones you might meet while just getting lunch or hanging out by the river. It's also a place where you can be a spectator, but where you can be a co-creator as well. A place where we affirm the creativity in all of us, and opportunities to make art and music, to tell stories and take in stories, can be found around every corner.

It is a place where all are welcome. Because we are rooted in a progressive Christian tradition, we welcome you, whatever your age, race, culture, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, religious tradition, disabilities, different abilities, whether you have money or not, whether you have a degree or not, whether you have a strong faith or no faith, or perhaps a billion questions about faith, whether you have a home or not, whether you're an extrovert or introvert, everyone is welcome here. Even eye-rolling teenagers. And rambunctious little kids. Rambunctiousness is, in fact, encouraged. We welcome all to come and seek the common good together.

Contact Tommy Bratton at tbratton@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 if you are interested.



Puerta Rico Mission Team 24 May 6-12

Peering at photos of crystal clear turquoise water beyond the beaches and plum colored sunsets settling behind Fort San Cristobal in Puerto Rico, you would think that we were planning an exotic vacation. Rather, we turn our sites inward, to an island that just seven months ago was devastated by Hurricane Maria. From this vantage point, we will see that there remains a lack of structure and foundation — from missing roofs to missing stop lights, broken roads to broken water pipes (leading to contamination), sporadic electricity to none at all.

How do people survive? How do they continue, push forward, eek out a living, an existence? These are the questions that have always driven me when there is a disaster, a need. I have thought to myself, “If they can survive and find it within themselves to keep on, then the least I can do is lend a hand.” For me, lending a hand has been literal — I must go. I feel blessed to say that 10 others in our congregation have been called to go as well. Jim Anderson, George Bashor, Max Bashor, Cady Bell, Carlos Collazo, Jeff Kirby, Zach Setzer, Cayla Slaughter, Dave Tippett, Parker Young and I make up Team 24 — Puerto Rico, of the Baptists on Mission. We have been enabled to fulfill our calling through your generous donations. As we work in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on roofing and more, may we lessen a burden along the way. We ask for your prayers for the people who continue to call Puerto Rico home.

— Kristen Kirby, Team Lead



MANNA
FOODBANK



A member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

Manna FoodBank Opportunities:

Come and help pack and sort meals for members in our community facing food shortages.

- **Tuesday, May 8: 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday May 24: 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Senior Adult Team**

Before volunteering the Senior Team meets at 11:45 a.m. at J&S Cafeteria to eat lunch together.

Reframing Vacation into Pilgrimage

The summer season brings with it hope for a different, more relaxed rhythm of life. Children are out of school, families look forward to vacations, the weather invites us beyond the four walls of our homes into nature, and we all seek to recharge and renew ourselves.

I admit that I am looking forward to recharging with time away this summer. However, I have a complicated relationship with vacations. We take vacations in hopes that time away will renew us, connect us with others, and bring learning and joy into our lives. Yet it seems that we work twice as hard to get ready for time away and spend more money than we should. When we return, we quickly resume our stressed out lives, catching up on chores and work, with only faint glimpses of that time away. How many people have you heard say that they need a vacation to recover from their vacation?

What if, rather than seeking simply to get away from it all, we reframed our summer vacation as a pilgrimage. On a pilgrimage, our intention is to be open to God along the journey, to allow each experience the opportunity to transform us. As pilgrims, it doesn't matter where we travel, because we are less concerned with the destination and more focused on the joy of the journey. We are intentional about our need for time away to open ourselves to rest in the presence of God with a listening heart.



Transforming an excursion into a pilgrimage offers something deeper. Getting away can definitely offer us rest and renewal, but framed as pilgrimage, we allow God to form our spirits and teach us to bring the lessons of the unforced rhythms of grace into our everyday, ordinary lives when we return.

Tips for reframing your summer vacation as a pilgrimage:

- Be intentional with your language. Use the word “pilgrimage” to describe time away.
- As you plan your time away, ask how the time away will tend to your soul and the soul of your family.
- Read a book that invites you to grow in faith.
- Journal about your days. Reflect on where you see God in nature, in others, in worship, in yourself.
- Attend a church from a different tradition. I enjoy looking at the bulletins from other churches, so bring one back to me.
- Enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Take a walk in the woods. Put your toes in the sand at the beach and reflect on the vastness of the ocean. Plant a flower garden in your yard. Eat a good tomato sandwich on white bread with Duke's mayo. Watch a sunset with someone you love. And in all things, give God thanks and praise.
- Serve those in need. Instead of spending money on a lavish vacation, find opportunities to care for those who will likely never have the chance to take a vacation. Volunteer with a local agency. Go on a mission project. Form relationships with people who are different than you.
- Have a stay-cation and explore the wonders all around us.
- Worship in community. Summer is not a time to take a break from the worship of God. Instead, come together each week to worship God and encourage one another through our presence.
- Sit on the porch. If you don't have a porch, sit in a chair under a tree. Listen. Slow down. Pray.
- Walk the Labyrinth in the Sacred Garden. Consider what you may need to release. Center yourself in God's love. And return to the world renewed and ready to live out your calling.

Let me know what you are doing this summer to form your spirit and tend to your soul. And bring me back a bulletin when you visit a church while you are away.

— Tommy Bratton



Why Urban Immersion, and Why Now?

Thanks to the continually unfolding advancements of technology, we can virtually travel the planet from the comfort of our own homes, provided we have a capable device and a stable connection to the Internet. We can see stunning photography and watch captivating videos; we can engage in real-time conversations with strangers; we can use applications to translate any language or virtually walk the streets of a major city; furthermore, we can learn all about the local histories and legends of basically any region across the globe, all by simply clicking on a hyperlinked word. All of this can come not only without leaving our homes, but also without spending much money or investing too much time.

So it is worth considering whether or not, in such a time as this, our church should still be pursuing trips for ministry and missions outside our own city. After all, most of us still have a lot to learn about our beloved Asheville and the surrounding mountain communities.

So, why should we invest time, money, and resources in taking people to other places when we could spend those efforts right here? Why even bother with something like an Urban Immersion, unless it's just some excuse for Christian tourism?

The potential for us to be any place at any time (at least digitally) is exactly why it's important that we maintain the ability to fully be in one place for one extended period of time. To be fully present in the here and now, and to refrain from endless distractions and multitasking: these are the societal reasons why something like an Urban Immersion can be deeply nourishing, particularly to our younger adults. And the spiritual reason is even more substantial, for this is built upon a complete devotion of self and time to being in one place with fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, so that we may see God anew in the midst of our immediate surroundings.

Two years ago, I led a group of young adults on an Urban Immersion to New York, where we walked the streets, visited sacred and historic sites, broke bread together, and shared honest stories about where we'd encountered God, where we hadn't, and what it all meant for better understanding the call of Jesus upon our lives. That call looks different for each person, but there are resonating aspects and experiences, if only we find the time to share them with others. To a large extent, of course, we seek to do this each and every week as we gather for worship, service, and Bible study. But when we have the chance to physically leave our homes and our jobs behind, we will often find more heightened senses and keen observations for our surroundings.

This summer we'll have a group of young adults travel to Boston for a five-day immersion. There will be sightseeing, including visits to historical and sacred spaces. There will be participation in cultural rituals – both at Fenway Park and in sacred worship services. There will be shared meals and devotions, and through everything, a deeper invitation for our young adults to think theologically, together. Pray that in the midst of this break from the routine spaces of life, God's persistent calling may be more clearly discerned.

— Casey Callahan

Meet our Young Adult Ministry Intern, Will Raybon!



Actually, it's hard to imagine anyone at First Baptist Church of Asheville hasn't met Will. Will grew up at First Baptist Church of Asheville, graduated from Appalachian State University, and just completed his second year of divinity school at The School of Divinity at Gardner Webb University.

This summer, Will is spending a focused amount of energy with our young adults, primarily as the director of the FirstShine Day Camp (August 6-9). In addition, he'll help facilitate theological reflection on the Urban Immersion to Boston, and serve as the college chaplain at Unidiversity Youth Camp.

Young Adult Cinco de Mayo Party Saturday, May 5

The Karis Class will have a Cinco de Mayo party hosted by Megan Hughes. This fiesta is open to all First Baptist Church of Asheville young adults. More details about the event will be shared through Facebook and social media.

Asheville Tourists Game Sunday, June 17 • 2:00 p.m.

As a sponsor of our local Asheville Tourists, we receive a limited number of complimentary tickets each year. On June 17, the Karis, Sojourners, Polaris, and Proclaimers Bible Study classes will be spearheading a fun social with friends and families to the 2:00 p.m. Tourists game. Participants need to RSVP through these classes or with Tommy Bratton at tbratton@fbca.net.



Over the course of this year's spring retreat, our youth will be defining the Table of Christ. Be prayerful for our group of 60 (youth and adults) as they seek to better understand the overturned, welcome, serving, and sacred dimensions of Christ' table.



Unidiversity is a week-long Christian summer camp for teenagers. Camp is planned and lead by church ministers and adult volunteers who have a passion for connecting teens with Christ and with each other. Unidiversity is celebrating our 25th year and have used college campuses in the Southeast as home. We follow a collegiate theme with our schedule and take full advantage of everything the campuses have to offer.

This year we will return to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. We arrive on campus on Monday, July 23 and leave for home on Saturday, July 28. The price for this year's camp is \$360.

We are expecting churches from Missouri to the coast of South Carolina to join in for fun and fellowship of this year's camp. We will spend the week together exploring the theme: *Rhythms of Grace*

Baccalaureate Sunday • June 10

In the context of our congregational worship, we will recognize, honor, and give thanks to God for our youth class of 2018, in addition to any collegiate or graduate degree recipients. Worship will be followed by a luncheon for our youth graduates and their families. Reservations are required for the lunch. Contact Casey Callahan at ccallahan@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 for more information.

Asheville Tourists Baseball Game Youth Social • Tuesday, June 26 • 6:00 p.m.

All youth are welcome to attend this baseball game with our complimentary tickets. Youth VBS volunteers can also enjoy free hot dogs, drinks, and snacks at the stadium. We will meet at the church and carpool together. Contact Casey Callahan at ccallahan@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 for more information.

Ordination of Charlyne Marie Boyette

On April 15 at 3:00 p.m. in Crouch Chapel, our congregation ordained Charlyne Marie Boyette to the Gospel ministry. More than 100 family, friends, and colleagues rejoiced as they affirmed her gifts for ministry and named the responsibilities of both congregation and minister in this new season of Charlyne's service to Christ. All present were invited to share in the laying on of hands as we blessed this beloved daughter of God in her unfolding vocation. A reception followed in the church dining room.

Calling is a discernment that emerges in the care of others. Friend and colleague, Carol Dalton, Chaplain at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women, remembers her journey with Charlyne in the following words, "Watching the breaking-forth of God's call on the life of Charlyne Boyette has been a highlight of my ministry. We have cried together, laughed together, dreamed together, and prayed together, hoping for the day when some mountainous circumstances could be made low." As Charlyne reflected on her service of ordination and our pastor's charge to her, she recalls, "I have been saved, and I am being saved, so that now First Baptist Church of Asheville is sending me as an ambassador to save others who are perishing, not to count their trespasses against them, but to reveal to them the truth — that everything old has passed away. I go to tell the world that we have already been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ."

Charlyne is a graduate of Campbell University with an undergraduate degree in religion and Master of Divinity in Counseling and Education. She is also a graduate of Elon Law School. Charlyne serves as a Licensed Addiction Specialist and is leading our church in deepening its ministry with those in prison. She actively works with 12 Step groups through Celebrate Recovery. Charlyne also serves as a volunteer at the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women. Charlyne is married to Gray Boyette, also a member of First Baptist Church of Asheville.

— David Blackmon





In a time when church youth choirs have become nearly extinct, our church made the decision in 2015 to share with our community the strong youth choir tradition First Baptist Church of Asheville has enjoyed for many years. That year we launched the Asheville Youth Choirs (AYC) as part of the Academy for the Arts. AYC are community choirs which give teenagers and children the opportunity to create beauty and friendship while traversing the false boundaries of school choice, race, family structure, and socioeconomic background. The youth of our church have served as the core of this initiative as they have provided musical foundation and welcomed teenagers from all across Buncombe county. A variety of schools (public, private, charter, home), different degrees of faith backgrounds, and a wide array of life experiences have given the choir a unique identity of diversity. Our youth have been stretched as they have exercised the welcoming spirit of Christ in opening our doors to all.

This year AYC consists of nearly 80 singers in the Middle School and High School Chorales. They have shared music in Asheville church services at First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Grove Stone Baptist Church, at Hickory's Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and on Youth Sunday, April 29, will lead the worship service at First Baptist Church of Asheville. In addition to these church services, these choirs joined with the additional 90 voices of AYC's Prelude Choir (gr. K-2) and Concert Choir (gr. 3-6) in presenting the *There Is Peace* holiday concert in December. In February they were the featured choirs at the Segue Youth Choir Festival at Campbell University. In addition to singing at FBCA on Youth Sunday in April, they will present a concert with the Asheville Symphony Chorus on April 28 where they will offer an opening set of selections and then combine with the Symphony Chorus and Orchestra on the last movement of the Bach B Minor Mass. Their year will culminate this summer as they embark on a week-long tour which will include concerts at churches, and mission points.

The Asheville Youth Choirs are another way our church, led by our youth, reaches beyond our walls in the name of Christ to enrich God's creation with goodness and light. By sharing our resources, our time, and ourselves we express love to all of God's children. What a meaningful purpose for our lives together!

— Clark Sorrells

**AYC Summer Tour
June 20-24**
National Anthem at Braves vs. Orioles Baseball Game
Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, GA
Church of the Nativity Episcopal, Huntsville, AL
First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville, NC



**MEISNER
ACTING
TECHNIQUE
WORSHIP**
WITH KELLY HINMAN

Free | Must be 18+
Saturday, May 19
10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Visit Academyforthearts.org
to register.



at First Baptist Church of Asheville



*Summer
Strings
Intensive*

July 16-20
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For grades K-12
Open to all levels

- > Private Instruction
- > Master Classes
- > Rehearsal & Performance with Group Ensembles
- > Theory-in-Action Courses
- > Music Electives
- > Daily Faculty Recitals
- > Lunch & Snack Daily

Early Registration Ends May 15!
Visit Academyforthearts.org for more information.



at First Baptist Church of Asheville

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 in our Dining Room. The cost is \$3 for the meal, and first-time guests eat free. Contact Leah Brown at lbrown@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 for more information.

May 15 - First Fashion for Fun - Join us for an exciting twist on a traditional fashion show! Senior Adult Leadership Team members and others will entertain us by showing us their "gently-used" fashions.

July 17- No Jubilee Luncheon this month. We look forward to seeing you again on August 21.

Stephen Ministry Corner

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.

A Look Back . . .

The first Jubilee/Prime Time on The Road on April 17 was a fabulous success. Twenty-five folks enjoyed a wonderful day touring the Titanic Museum and lunch at the Applewood Farm House in Pigeon Forge, TN. Thanks to Wally Davids for getting the group there and back safely. Stay tuned for the next Jubilee/Prime Time on the Road in September.



Jubilee Picnic & BLUEGRASS
Featuring Grammy-nominated Old Time and Bluegrass Musician, Josh Goforth

June 19 - WNC Governor's Residence
The shuttle will leave the atrium parking lot at 10:00 a.m.



Agapekids will end on May 30 with a church-wide celebration. Our children will share things they've learned and done this year. Make plans to join us at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.



Saturday, June 2

5:30-8:00 p.m.

4 year old - 2nd graders

Wear your pajamas and join us for dinner and lots of pajama party fun! Make sure you bring a stuffed animal...they'll get to stay and have a slumber party at church. With your parent's help, you'll be able to watch and see pictures of their adventures through the evening and they'll be waiting for you when you come to church on Sunday morning



Meet our Children's Ministry Summer Intern Ryan Bratton!

Ryan is a rising sophomore at the University of Georgia. He is majoring in Music Education.



Ryan grew up in our church. As a child, he participated in all of our summer camps. As a youth, he was a volunteer in these camps. We look forward to welcoming him as leader to help coordinate our summer camps along with other summer activities.

Ryan will work primarily in the children area but will also lead in worship and assist in general pastoral ministries.

why Summer Camps are important

Each summer our church sponsors several camps for children. These camps are so much more than affordable childcare for working parents or a way to keep kids busy during their summer break.

Our summer camps offer *spiritual formation*. During Vacation Bible School, our kids will hear Bible stories each day and learn a Bible verse. All of our camps have a missions component that allows children to serve others. This summer they'll work at a community garden, Lunch at the Crossroads, MannaFood bank, and collect items for Crossroads Afterschool Program.

Our summer camps offer *community*. Children who are a part of our church deepen their relationships with each other and youth and adult leaders. Other children who come experience what it is like to be a part of a church community as they meet our youth, are taught, fed, and driven by adults from our church.

Our summer camps are an important *outreach* of our church. Because of the quality and affordability of our summer camps, we have families asking for registration beginning in the fall and a waiting list each summer. Families from our community are drawn to the excellence and love of First Baptist Church each summer and some of these families begin attending our church because of these camps.

— Amy Stertz



Advocacy Camp

(4th - 6th graders)

June 13

6:00-7:30 p.m.

dinner & orientation

June 14-15

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



Vacation Bible School

(Ages 4 - Rising 6th graders)



June 25 - 28
9:00 a.m.-Noon

**Free but
registration is
required.**

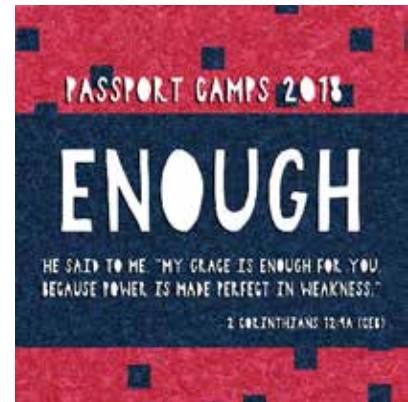
To provide the best care there are limited spots available in our preschool classes

PASSPORTkids

July 11-14

with optional day camp on July 10
Converse College, Spartanburg, SC

(Rising 4th - Rising 7th graders)



VBS Day camp

(Rising 1st - Rising 6th graders)

June 25-29

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

(includes Vacation Bible School)

This camp is already full, please contact the church office to be added to the wait list.



Preschool Camp

(Ages 2 years - Pre-K)

July 31-August 2

9:00 a.m.-Noon



There are limited spots available. Contact Bree Welmaker for more information and to inquire about registration.

Discovery Camp

(Rising 1st - Rising 6th graders)

July 31-August 3

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

*This camp is already full,
please contact the church
office to be added to the wait list.*



Each day we will have a theme (arts, nature, recreation, food, and books). We will discover new things about the theme while participating in hands-on activities.



*Treats for the
Ear
&
Palate*

2nd Annual AFTA Faculty Recitals and Delicious Desserts

Featuring celebrated AFTA faculty:

Josh Goforth
Frances Duff
Ben Smith
Grace Lee
Mariya Potapova
Frank Southecorvo
Tate Addis
Clark Sorrells
Simone Vigilante
and more!

Classical, jazz, and folk music!

Scrumptious receptions:

Chip Buffet
Pie Night
Build-Your-Own Ice Cream Sandwiches
Carnival Food Night

Join us for the second installment of our celebrated Summer Concert Series! This free Concert Series supports deserving students in the Academy for the Arts. Donations will be received each night to benefit the AFTA Scholarship Fund.

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.