



Highlights

Newsletter

September-October 2018



Visionary Givers

As we were listening to one another's stories of memory and hope earlier this year, a phrase from one reflection stood out to me. "In this church," she said, "you hear laughter in the hallways." That's a characteristic of our church that simply rings true, and one we can be proud of. Of course, we hear other things than laughter in our hallways. We also hear friendly salutations, carry-over discussions from Bible study, gentle encouragements, small talk, and expressions of sympathy. Some Sundays, we might even see tears in the hallway, because we are a church that not only rejoices with those who rejoice, but weeps with those who weep (Rom. 12:15).

Nevertheless, that someone would highlight the tone of laughter is indicative of a community grounded in a particular biblical hope. In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). The word for cheerful here is the same term from which we get

the word hilarious. Might Paul be teaching us that a true spirit of giving springs from the same place in our hearts that laughter does?

I know this verse is a pastor-favorite whenever it's time to approve the church budget. "Don't forget, folks, 'The Lord loves a cheerful giver!'" I wince to remember some of the times I've quoted this verse. How cheerful can a giver be who's working multiple jobs, struggling under the weight of student loan debt, sifting through stacks of hospital bills, or meeting pressing family obligations? Such stressful circumstances can lead us to resent the church, and to give "out of regret or of necessity" (9:7).

But when Paul commends cheerful givers, he isn't talking about people with likeable personalities and flush bank accounts. Rather he's praising those disciples who can laugh knowing their present is already determined by a hope-filled future. A cheerful giver is really a visionary giver, one who gives with a freedom born of their conviction that history is in God's hands.

The preacher-scholar, David Buttrick, once referenced a news story of a poor woman living in the bayous of Louisiana. With only the meager income of a domestic worker, she had managed to raise over a dozen children, eleven of whom were foster children. After the children were all grown and living productive lives of their own, word got out. When a reporter asked, "What made you do it?" she responded, "I saw a new world a-comin'."

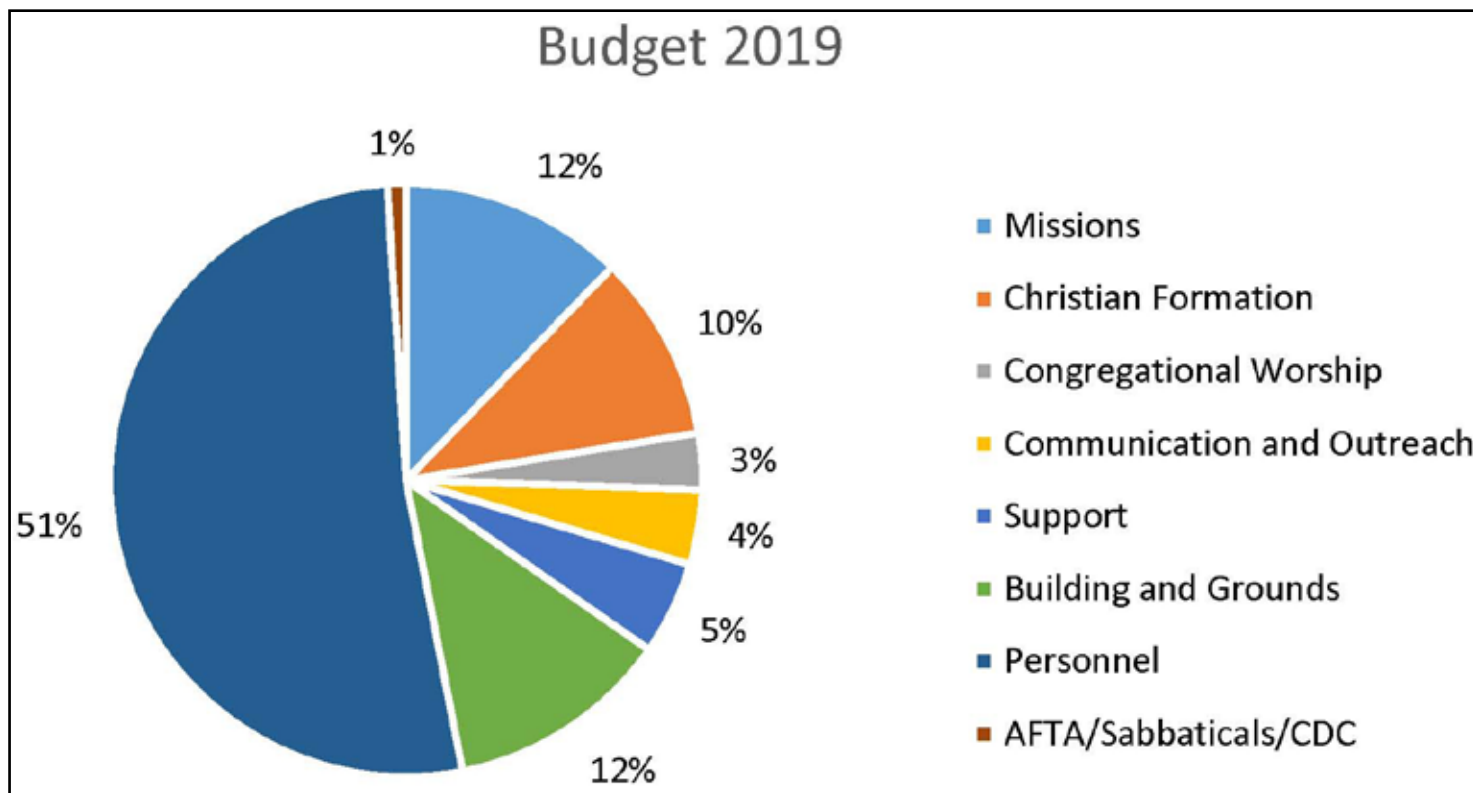
I confess that I feel a little faint at the thought of raising 12 children on any salary. And yet, as we look forward to implementing a new vision for our church this fall, we, too, are poised to see this same new world of God's kingdom unveiled all around us.

When we walk through the hallways of our church and beyond, we can see this new world coming in all of its glory and majesty. Beginning in the sanctuary during worship, we are equipped through the liturgy to see and hear the new world coming in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We also catch glimpses of this new world in the unassuming, daily acts of gentleness and tenderness that constitute our fellowship: a teacher telling a Bible story to a gathering of children; a friend offering forgiveness; a youth doting on a First Shine camper; a Crossroads volunteer praying with a guest for lunch; a child in the CAP program enjoying her friends around the dinner table; or a participant in one of our prison ministries, moved to hear an inmate's testimony of faith. To be a cheerful giver is to be delightfully spellbound by these and countless other signs of God's mission arising in our midst. A congregation full of such visionaries will not lack for anything, but will echo the Psalmist's words of celebration, "Then our mouth was filled with laughter...The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced" (Ps. 126:2-3).

— Mack Dennis

Budget Highlights for 2019

Our 2019 Budget provides the financial support to make our dreams a reality. More than 100 First Baptist Church of Asheville members work together to shape and approve our budget each year as ministry councils, committees, deacons, and staff work to make each dollar given count. Pending changes, the 2019 Budget will total \$2,300,268, a \$70,556 increase over 2018 or about three percent. Here are the ways these gifts work to make a difference:



Sharing in Our Common Journey

First Baptist Church of Asheville thrives through the generosity and faithfulness of each member as we worship, grow, and serve alongside one another. God's dream for us unfolds as we welcome God's love into our lives and when we share that love with family, neighbor, friend, and stranger. Across the month of September, our church will be imagining its vision for the future and welcoming generous expressions of gratitude through our commitments and financial resources.

On September 16 or 23, Bible study groups are invited to offer a 15-20 minute experience of Scripture, sharing, and prayer. During the experience, participants will consider examples of each gift and Scripture that calls us to these gifts. Each person will be asked to choose one of the following gifts to share with our faith community through this year and will receive a Trailmark as a reminder of their prayerful longing to bring these gifts to life. Trailmarks are made by people in our own congregation. They bear symbolic images that are shared as tangible reminders of significant moments along our faith journey. The five Trailmarks will include: kindness, faithfulness, community, gratitude, and generosity.



Reflections Week with Refugee Youth • June 2018

The day began with excitement and anticipation. On Monday, June 18, seven refugee high school students arrived from Raleigh and Columbia. Their home countries were Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Uganda, and Tanzania. There were four young men and three young women. Like last year, the room lit up when they met each other and started speaking multiple foreign languages.

First Baptist Church of Asheville (FBCA) generously welcomed them with dinners provided by Bible Study classes and comfortable lodging provided by five host families. The week was filled with morning visits to the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, and Warren Wilson College, and afternoon recreation involving visiting the Nature Center, swimming, hiking in the Davidson River area, and touring the Asheville Arboretum. Host families entertained them with soccer, bowling, and Fun Depot. All of this was provided by generous and loving contributions of more than \$500. Lutheran Services of North and South Carolina were our partners in this sharing.

Pizza, lasagna, salad, Philly steak subs, chicken pot pie, cake, brownies, ice cream . . . no one left hungry. You, FBCA, opened your doors, your hearts, and your wallets. You answered the invitation to welcome the stranger!

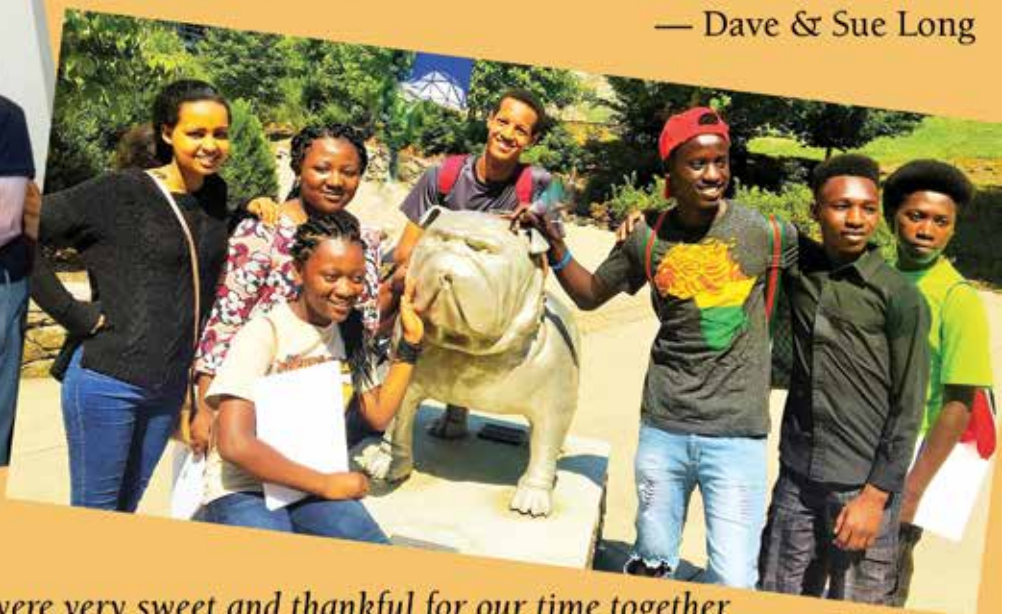
Host families included: Randall and Lisa Barnett, David and Susan Long, Carolyn Charles, Gregory Smith, and Carlton and Celeste Collins. Many classes and individuals provided food and assistance on excursions. Thanks to Nancy McCrory for delicious lunches.

— Hal Littleton



Our time with Hoda was truly a serendipity. His positive attitude and grateful spirit were refreshing. His enthusiasm for all the activities was infectious, creating a positive experience for everyone - students and hosts alike. We are grateful for this outreach by our church.

— Dave & Sue Long



We enjoyed hosting the girls. They were very sweet and thankful for our time together. We enjoyed learning from each other. They especially enjoyed being together in the mornings and evenings listening to music and dancing.

— Carolyn Charles

First Baptist Church of Asheville

A New Year Unfolding

Students are headed back to school. Summer vacations are over. New experiences begin as our church launches into the fall months. Sometimes it helps just to slow down and take it all in, the everyday joys that will unfold here along College and Oak as we wrap our arms around our city and world. These are just a few of the ways your gifts of self and financial resources make a difference.

Some Dreams for the Coming Year: We will...

Work with CBF Missionary, Jenny Jenkins, to break ground on a medical clinic in Haiti serving over 15,000 people.		Support ABCCM in building the Transformation Village, a resource to house homeless women and children in our community.	
	Launch the fifth year of the Academy for the Arts trending to 250 students taught each week.		Teach the Via Karis (Way of Grace) as a rule of life for members throughout our church.
Host Lunch at the Crossroads each Thursday serving more than 5,000 meals per year.		Guide students in making faith last beyond high school, into college and work.	
	Send our young adults on a pilgrimage to Cuba with our partner church at Las Tunis.		Welcome more than 150 voices into the Asheville Youth Choirs.
Open doors to ten 12-Step Groups with more than 300 participants.		Enrich AgapeKids mission focus on Wednesday evenings.	
	Engage more than 600 FBCA members and friends through Operation Inasmuch local mission projects.		Open a Monday-Friday academy for young adults with special needs.
Welcome more than 20 at-risk children, K-3rd grade, to the Crossroads After School program.		Host FirstShine Residential Camp for children with special needs, ages 6-15.	
	Expand our ministry with those in prison, serving in five institutions with more than 3,000 residents.		



What is the Center for Faith and Life?

The Center for Faith and Life at First Baptist Church of Asheville hosts events aimed at connecting the challenges, opportunities and callings of life with the resources of wisdom, beauty, and practice found in the Christian faith. Experiences range from author visits to lectures and workshops. This fall the Center for Faith and Life is sponsoring a lecture by Jonathan Merritt on his new book, *Learning to Speak God from Scratch*, and collaborating with Malaprop's Bookstore to bring in Jan Karon for a reception and launch of her latest book, *Bathed in Prayer*.



***Speaking God From Scratch* with Jonathan Merritt** **Tuesday, October 2 • 6:00 p.m. • Crouch Chapel**

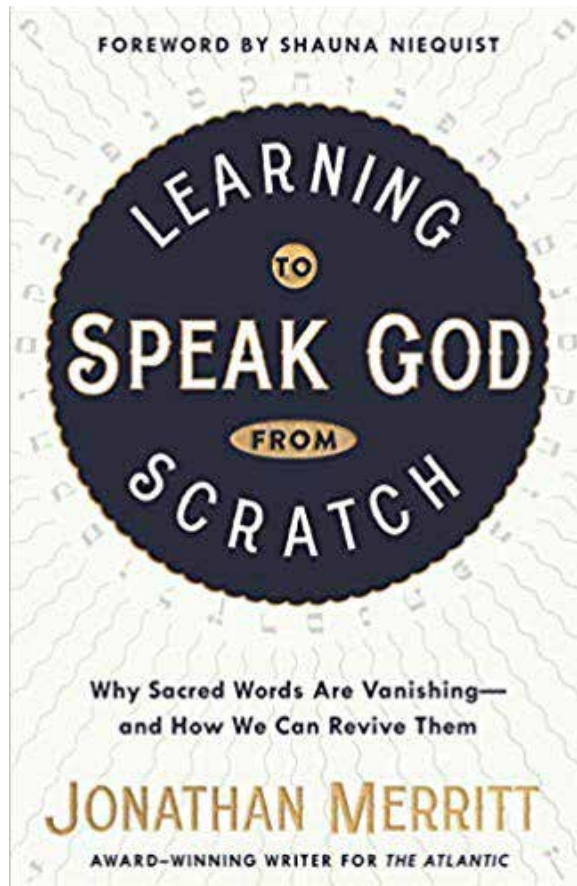
Award-winning faith and culture writer Jonathan Merritt joins us for an evening presentation of his new book, *Learning to Speak God from Scratch*. As America rapidly becomes a pluralistic, postmodern society, many of us struggle to talk about faith. We can no longer assume our friends understand words such as *grace* or *gospel*. Others, like *lost* and *sin*, have become so negative they are nearly conversation-enders.

Jonathan Merritt knows this frustration well. After Jonathan moved from the Bible Belt to New York City, he discovered that whenever conversations turned to spirituality, the words he'd used for decades didn't connect with listeners anymore. In a search for answers and understanding, Jonathan uncovered a spiritual crisis affecting tens of millions.

In this groundbreaking book, one of America's premier religion writers revives ancient expressions through cultural commentary, vulnerable personal narratives, and surprising biblical insights. Both provocative and liberating, *Learning to Speak God from Scratch* will breathe new life into your spiritual conversations and lure you into the embrace of the God who inhabits them.

Jonathan will talk about his book, answer questions, and sign books while he is here. First Baptist Church of Asheville is partnering with Malaprop's Bookstore. You can purchase a book that evening or in advance. If you'd like to purchase one in advance email April Nance at anance@fbca.net or pick one up at Malaprop's — they will have them on a shelf along with other book club groups.

This free event is sponsored by the Center for Faith and Life.





Jan Karon presents *Bathed in Prayer* Tuesday, October 30 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

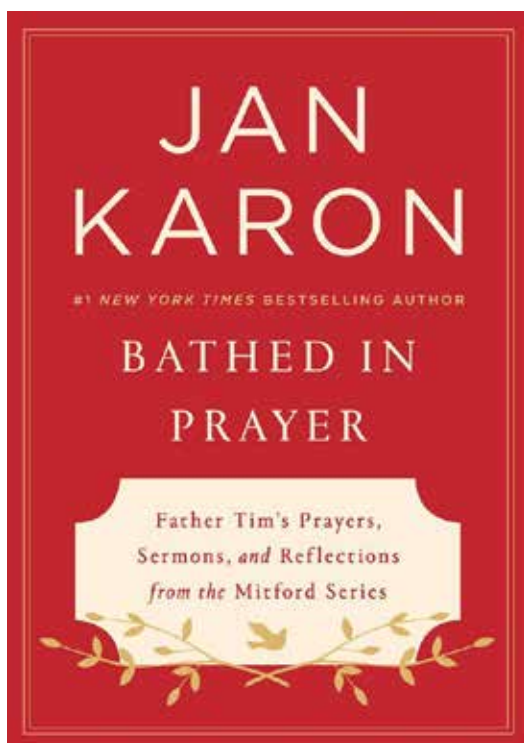
Over the course of fourteen novels, millions of readers have fallen in love with the faith, encouragement, and wisdom that are at the very heart of Jan Karon's Mitford series. Now, for the first



time, readers will have the chance to walk with Father Tim through a collection of prayers, sermons, and inspirational passages that incorporates material from each of the novels. In addition, fans will get to hear directly from author Jan Karon, in a brand-new essay about her own personal journey in faith and the ways that the Mitford novels have impacted her.

Full of advice and inspiration from the characters that fans have followed for years, this beautifully designed compilation will soon become a staple for any Mitford reader.

This event is being hosted by the First Baptist Church of Asheville Center for Faith and Life and Malaprop's Bookstore. Anyone who pre-orders the book from Malaprop's is invited to a reception in the Dining Room at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to hear Jan Karon speak in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. For more information about pre-ordering, contact April Nance in the church office at 828-252-4781 or anance@fbca.net.



New Bible Study Community; Stepping Stones

Sunday mornings, 9:45 a.m. Beginning on September 9

MB237 • Led by Kara Kelley

Stepping stones is an interactive topical Bible study for ages 8 to 98. Each week a biblical word/topic is chosen, and all are given an opportunity to explore this during the week. The following Sunday all are invited to share their verses, and/or stepping stones of faith. Skip on over and step together with us. You will enjoy the journey!

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

Scriptural Imagination: What do we mean when we say the Bible is inspired?

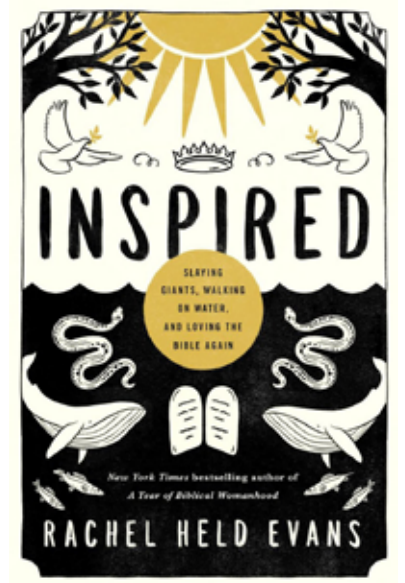
Tuesdays, September 11 – October 30 (8 weeks)

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. • MB303 • Led by Tommy Bratton

If you have ever been captivated by or struggled with the words of the Bible, you are invited to join us for this conversation about the Bible. Whether you read it daily or rarely, we will wrestle with the Bible's mysteries and challenges as well as explore what the Bible means to us as we live our faith every moment of every day.

Scriptural imagination is a new word for many. In essence, Scriptural imagination enables us to view the world in which we live through the stories and images of the Bible. By imagination, we do not mean that Scripture is fantasy or untrue. Instead, we believe that the Bible provides us the most true way of seeing the world as it is. As we view our world through the lens of a Scriptural imagination, we enter a continuous process of transformation into the way of Jesus, the way of love, for the sake of the world.

As a background, we will consider Rachel Held Evans' newest book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screenplay. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.



Bring your Bible to the group. Contact April Nance at 828.252.4781 or anance@fbca.net to register by September 10. If you would like to purchase Rachel Held Evans' newest book, email April or pick up a copy at Malaprops.



FirstShine Day Camp

This summer I have had the honor of being the Camp Director of First Shine, a camp for young adults with special needs. This year we hosted fourteen campers between the ages of 16-24 years old. During camp our 19 youth/young adult counselors, 14 campers, and 7 adult volunteers shared the love of God through music, arts and crafts, swimming, dancing, horseback riding, and much more! Personally, I was a First Shine counselor for three years and my role primarily focused on attending to the needs of my camper. This year as the Camp Director, I was able to direct, interact, and observe all the campers and our wonderful camp staff. I saw campers and counselors being pushed outside of their comfort zones, learning new things about themselves and others. Our counselors

learned how to care for and communicate with individuals who have special needs. Some of our campers experienced camp for the first time while others learned to try new things. Anissa, one of our campers, rode a horse for the very first time! She loved it so much that she's planning a visit to her new four-legged friend, Charm, at the Anderson's farm. Throughout First Shine, I felt the overwhelming presence of God. Everywhere I turned, I saw bright smiles and new friendships forming. If you are interested in experiencing the love and friendship of young adults with special needs, you can speak with Tommy Bratton about joining a team of teachers for our First Shine Class on Sunday mornings.

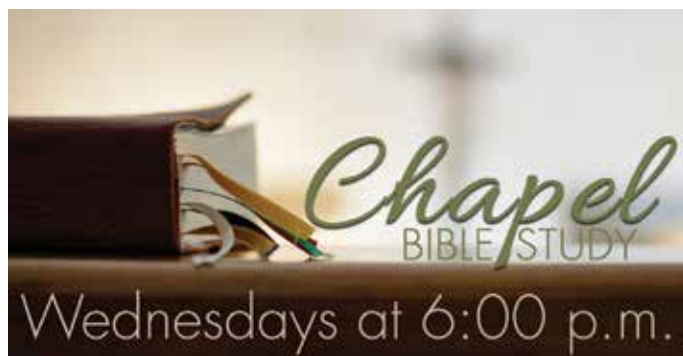
— McCall Rice



The Acts of the Apostles

Wednesdays, September 5-26 • Led by Mack Dennis

After Jesus heals the paralytic in Luke, the witnesses respond in awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today” (Lk. 5:26). We find similar reactions across the Gospels to Jesus’ ministry, his telling of parables, and the early church’s encounters with the world. In Acts, the disciples are even accused of “turning the world upside down” (17:6). During this four-week Bible study, we will explore ways the church may embody the gospel’s counter-cultural strangeness. Participants will explore the Scriptures, reflect on deeper meanings of our vision phrase, “Becoming a Parable Church,” and discover extraordinary ministries that truly turn the world upside down.



Small Groups

Wednesdays, October 3-24 at 6:00 p.m.

- Gospel of Matthew: *How do we face change?*
- Gospel of Mark: *How do we move through trials and suffering?*
- Gospel of John: *How do we receive joy and know union?*
- Gospel of Luke: *How do we mature in service?*

And these four gospels are more than the sum of their parts. The four gospels, in the sequence of their fourth century reading cycle, are one of the world’s great maps of the universal journey - one of growth, transformation, and love. Come share the journey.

Managing Grief in Our Community of Faith

Sherman Center • Led by Leah Brown

Grief and loss are difficult subjects to talk about, yet in the past year, many of us have been faced with the pain caused by the death of a friend or family member. Contact Leah Brown at lbrown@fbca.net or at 828.252.4781 to register.

God’s Side: For the Common Good

MB304 • Facilitators: Brenda Denton and David Rayburn

My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God’s side. — Abraham Lincoln

There is much conversation in our culture that seeks to divide us into sides. However, the good news of our faith is that God has created the world and all the people in it, we are to love one another as Christ loved us, and we are called to bless one another and to promote the beloved community.

In these four Wednesday conversations, we will focus on what it might look and sound like to be on God’s side for the common good - in all the decisions we make in our personal, family, vocational, financial, communal, and public lives. Author Jim Wallis writes, “That old but always new ethic simply says we must care for more than just ourselves or our own group. We must care for our neighbor as well, and for the health of the life we share with one another. It echoes a very basic tenet of Christianity and other faiths — love your neighbor as yourself — still the most transformational ethic in history.”

If you would like to read Jim Wallis’ book, *On God’s Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn’t Learned about Serving the Common Good*, you can pick one up at Malaprop’s and receive 10% off.

agapekids

Wednesdays • 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

1st–6th graders • CB221

Preschool and Kindergarten • CB303

Childcare is provided for children under age 3

AgapeKids is a time for preschoolers and children to participate in missions, faith development, and worship.

The theme of AgapeKids in 2018-2019 is *Follow Me*. Throughout the year we will focus on what it means to follow Jesus and how to be a leader who is kind, generous, and compassionate.



Contact Amy Stertz at astertz@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 for more information.

Welcome to Worship!

This fall welcomes a new group of first graders into our worship services. As we join their parents in teaching our children to worship, you can help us create an environment where children experience the mystery and love of God and build relationships with their church community by:

- Learning the names of the children who sit near you in worship and greeting them each week.
- Helping hold a hymnal or finding the page in a hymnal.
- Sharing a bulletin.
- Offering a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Parents of children

Relax! God put the wiggle in children. They wouldn't be children if they sat perfectly still through the whole service. We understand and it's okay. Here are a few things that may help you as your worship with your child(ren):

- Visit the restroom before the service.
- Pick up items from the worship cart that your child may use during the service.
- Sit toward the front or in a place where it is easier to see and hear what is going on.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service before or as they are happening.
- Sing the hymns, pray the prayers, and voice the responses. Children learn to worship by copying you.
- Talk about the service on the way home.

Children are an important part of this congregation. Bringing children to worship may not always be easy, but it is an essential part of their growth in Christ and we all benefit by their presence.

Children's Sabbath

October 21 • 11:00 a.m.



Our congregation will join congregations around the world in celebrating children as a part of our worship on this special day. Children will lead in our worship service through reading scripture, prayers, and song.

Friday Night Madness

Friday, October 19

6:00-8:00 p.m. • Preschool – 6th grade

This is a free evening for parents while children rehearse for worship for Children's Sabbath. We will have dinner, games, and lots of fun. Please contact April Nance at anance@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 to sign up.

Celebrating a wonderful summer with our children!

We serve an awesome God who invites us to be his hands and feet in the world around us. During Advocacy Camp, we saw this first-hand in a person sleeping on the front portico of our church the very morning our kids were to hear about how First Baptist Church of Asheville serves the homeless in our city.

David Blackmon, who found the man sleeping, challenged us to lay down on the hard, marble floor and gaze at the ceiling. He asked, "What do you think this man felt there overnight - cold, dry, alone, safe?"

It was one of many moments we shared thinking about being without a home, being away from family and wondering where the next meal would come from if we had no money. We were also challenged to walk around a grocery store with \$20 to feed three meals to a family of four. But, the big question was this . . . what does God see? No matter how lonely, beat up or dirty people are . . . No matter how far they are outside our comfort zone . . . He sees them as the grandest guests at His wedding feast . . . and He invites us to join Him in caring for His guests.

— Phyllis Engels



We are so grateful for the amazing staff, camp counselors and volunteers at FBCA camps. Our two boys looked so forward to their special camp week and had an absolute blast. One of our sons has severe food allergies, and this was his first camp experience... I was a little nervous! Everyone there was so professional and so genuinely caring. They sent regular updates and accommodated all of our special requests. I can't say enough—we'll be back for sure!

— Gavin Young

EXPERIENCE YOUTH MINISTRY

@ FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE



WHY YOUTH MINISTRY @ FIRST?

Come and see for yourself. We encourage thoughtful exploration of what it means to be a follower of Christ in a complex and divisive world. We embrace conversations that are open and respectful, ideas that are true to the identity and work of God, and lifestyles that show following Christ is a way of life, not just a system of belief.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE
(AND ALL MEANS ALL)

Become fully connected to this community by making Koinonia a weekly experience. *Koinonia* is the Greek word used to describe the first Christian communities in the New Testament. *Koinonia* happens on Sunday at FBCA when we form small groups, share in activities, and wrestle with complex and critical issues of faith and spirituality.

SUNDAY KOINONIA YOUTH GROUP

AGAPE WEDNESDAY

Jesus teaches that the greatest commandment is to love God with all of your mind, heart, soul, and strength, and that Christ-like understanding of LOVE (*Agape* in Greek) guides our monthly structure: we use our minds through thoughtful discussions (week 1), our hearts through encounters & excursions with people outside our own community (week 2), our souls through creative activities (week 3), and our strength through hands-on service projects (week 4).

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Youth are searching for meaningful studies of the Bible that are insightful, conversational, and relevant. Come deepen your knowledge and application of the Bible with a group of peers from your own grade, and don't forget to bring your honest questions!

AWANITA Youth Fall Retreat

October 26-28, 2018





First Lunch Fundraiser for Young Adult Cuba Trip Sunday, October 14 Noon • Dining Room

Come enjoy a delicious Cuban sandwich, as well as rice, beans, and dessert, as we share in our First Lunch fundraiser. This fundraiser will support our young adults traveling to Cuba in January 2019. The cost is \$7.00 per person.

Contact Casey Callahan at 828.252.4781 or ccallahan@fbca.net for more information.



The First Baptist Church of Asheville's Creation Care Team, partnering with RiverLink, has adopted Town Branch Creek in Asheville. Our spring cleanup was a big success and we are scheduled to do it again. The cleanup involves a few hours of walking through ankle to knee-deep water and removing trash from the stream and banks. You are invited to help care for God's beautiful creation and to deepen friendships with others.

The Creation Care Team affirms that out of love, God created all that is. God created us as a part of an intricate web of life. All creation bears witness to God's love, care, power, and majesty. We praise God for the gift of life and love. We take responsibility to tend this intricate, life-sustaining web of creation to the glory of God.

Contact Will Arledge at 828.231.2972 to volunteer by October 7.



Polaris Mission to Charleston

Metanoia was begun in 2001 by urban ministers Bill Stanfield and Evelyn Oliviera as part of an anti-poverty outreach effort by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. They spent the first year in the community not by developing programs but by simply listening to community members.

Today, Metanoia is able to purchase homes in the neighborhood, repair them, and then rent them at an affordable price to keep families in their communities. About 30 members and children from the Polaris Bible Study Class spent a weekend in August in the area and they were able to work on two of these houses — landscaping the yard in one and painting the inside walls, closets and cabinets in the other.

Jubilee/PrimeTime On The Road

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We are headed out for a fun day trip to Lake Lure where we will enjoy a boat tour around Lake Lure and lunch at La Strada. This is a wonderful way for you to get to know others in the church and for us to get to know you! You will only be responsible for the cost of your lunch. Space is limited to 48, so please reserve your spot by Monday, September 10. The menu is available at www.fbca.net and a hardcopy is available in the church office and Eisenhower Hall.



Jubilee Luncheons will resume on Tuesday, November 20. Please sign up for the PrimeTime/Senior Adult Retreat in October.



Prime Time/Senior Adult Fall Retreat *A Beautiful Life: Theology and Art in the Everyday* Bonclarken Retreat Center

Depart: Thursday, October 11 • 2:30 p.m.

Return: Friday, October 12 • 2:00 p.m.

Join Mack Dennis and Leah Brown for a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship at Bonclarken Retreat Center in Flat Rock, NC. The cost of the retreat is \$35.00 per person for a double room (\$70 for a single room) and includes three meals, transportation, and conference materials. Please register by calling Leah Brown at 828.252.4781 by **Monday, September 24.**

Managing Grief in Our Community of Faith

Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24 • 6:00 p.m. • Sherman Center

Grief and loss are difficult subjects to talk about, yet in the past year, many of us have been faced with the pain caused by the death of a friend or family member. Leah Brown will facilitate this series on grief. Please contact Leah Brown at lbrown@fbca.net or at 828.252.4781 to register.



Stephen Ministers are trained laypeople who are eager to provide one-to-one confidential care for people in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives (i.e. death of a loved one, a chronic or terminal illness, separation/divorce, unemployment, birth/adoption/miscarriage/infertility, etc.) Contact Leah Brown at 828.252.4781 for more information about how this ministry might assist you.

Opportunities to Serve

MannaFood Bank • September 27 and October 25 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.

On the fourth Thursday each month our Senior Adults help box and sort food at Manna Food bank to help families that are facing food shortages. They meet at the J&S Cafeteria before volunteering for a lunch and fellowship time together. Contact Ed Graham at 828.826.5857 or edgraham03@gmail.com for more information.

Crop Walk • Sunday, September 30

Registration at 1:30 p.m. • Walk at 2:00 p.m. • St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 10 N. Liberty St., Asheville

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Join fellow First Baptist Church of Asheville members as we walk together to end hunger. Contact Dan Dudde at stardudde@bellsouth.net for more information.

Room in the Inn • October 7-14

Homeward Bound's "Room in the Inn" (RITI) program provides a mobile shelter for the homeless, serving 12 women for up to 90 days. This mobile shelter is accomplished by working together with 40-plus faith congregations. During our RITI week, First Baptist Church of Asheville (FBCA) volunteers drive church vans taking the women to the AHOPE Day Shelter at 6:30 a.m. and picking them up at 6:00 p.m., bringing them back to FBCA for safe night shelter and evening activities. Our volunteers provide the evening meals and FBCA provides breakfasts and lunches. Contact Dorothy Porter at 828.778.2010 or dorothy.porter01@gmail.com to volunteer.

Habitat for Humanity • Saturday, October 13 • 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Asheville will fill every work slot on every work site at Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, October 13. Join us as we need your help to raise a roof over the heads of God's beloved. If you are not a builder, there will be projects for all ages, from caring for one another to cleaning up our earthly habitat to supporting our children in local schools. Each coordinator will send their team details. Sign-ups will be September 9, 16, and 23. A meal will follow at the church beginning at noon and meals will be delivered to those on building sites. Contact Jim Worley at 828.713.3941 or jim@jhworley.com for more information.

Crossroads Afterschool Program • Resumes October 17

Crossroads Afterschool Program held on Wednesday afternoons during the school year is an FBCA ministry to help kids at risk in grades K-3. FBCA volunteers are paired one-on-one with a student to help tutor them in their homework. Afternoon activities include snacks, games, homework assistance, and chapel time. Approximately 30 volunteers are needed. Contact Everett Clark at 828.667.8078 or ewjclark@gmail.com or Susan Burns at 828.585.5326 or sb60watts@aol.com for more information.

Meals on Wheels • November 3 • 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The mission of Meals on Wheels is to provide hot, nutritious meals, to elderly individuals who are homebound, thus allowing them to live in their own homes, among familiar surroundings and maintain their independence. First Baptist Church of Asheville volunteers will meet in the church dining room at 10:00 a.m. to deliver meals that have already been cooked. Sign-up in the Atrium today to deliver a warm meal and friendly smile to a person who is homebound. Contact Sarah Whitlock at 828.252.4781 for more information.

Disciple Bible Study at Craggy Correctional Center - Spring 2018

This past Spring, a team from First Baptist Church of Asheville (FBCA) led an eight-week Disciple Bible Study on Monday evenings at the Craggy Correctional Center. Nine inmates participated along with three facilitators from FBCA in this study entitled Introduction to the New Testament. The group met in the chapel adjacent to the minimum-security facilities at the Craggy Correctional Center on Riverside Drive in Woodfin.

Disciple Bible Study materials involve daily reading of scripture, and participants are encouraged to remember each other in prayer during their daily study. The interactions among participants have been meaningful and encouraging for everyone involved.

— Randy Harter

Free community event, everyone is welcome!

FALL FAMILY festival

October 31
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



Wear your costume and come and enjoy inflatables, balloon twisting, face painting, trunk or treat, game booths, cake walk, door prizes, and preschool zone. And don't worry about what you'll have for dinner, we will have concessions for sale!

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.