



# Introducing the Via Karis

**X** ith a full heart and great anticipation, I write with the utmost enthusiasm to tell you of a new adventure for our church. But, first, you should know the story of how this dream began taking shape...

In early 2017, several staff members began working on a solution to a problem. "How can the church staff speak with

one voice as we lead people to baptism?" In other words, what are the essentials of Christian discipleship? And how will we guide people as we introduce new members to a life of faith?

But our conversation didn't stop there. We began dreaming even greater dreams. "What if everyone was in on it? What if we invited the entire congregation to commit to a shared way of discipleship?" Once our imaginations were kindled, we couldn't stop thinking about how significant this could be for our congregation.

Ever since, we've been working on a guide for faith formation that would transform the way we do church together. This document will include not only simple explanations of the essentials of Christian faith, but also a corresponding "Rule of Life" that we all commit to as a church. We're calling it the Via Karis, which means "Way of Grace." This will soon be distributed to the church in the form of a published booklet, but it will be so much more than that. Going forward, it will be the organizing principle of our church's life together.

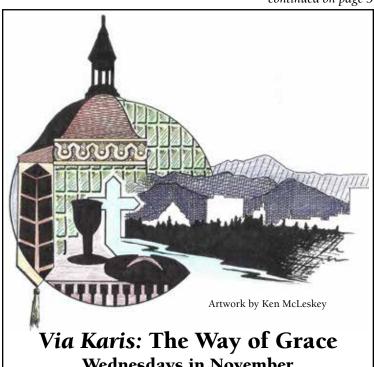
How is this going to work? First, you'll need to use your imagination. Come with me in your mind's eye to stand in our church baptistery. Now, look out over the sanctuary towards the front doors. The Via Karis is designed to reflect just this line of sight by tracing our sanctuary's architecture through its five chapters: Water, Word, Table, Body, and Creation. That is, 1) discipleship is born in baptism (Water), 2) taught from the pulpit (Word), 3) nourished at the Lord's Supper (Table), 4) incarnated in the gathered church (Body), and 5) shared with all the world (Creation).

Each of these five chapters will serve to illuminate the Christian life in a practical way. For example, the first chapter, Water, is not only designed to help us understand what baptism means, but what baptism means for us every day. Each chapter is designed around basic questions about faith, with biblical references and simple theological explanations. Every chapter concludes with a list of suggested "practices" for living our faith.

When you open the Via Karis, you'll see that it begins with something called a "Rule of Life." Christians began adopting rules of life in the earliest centuries of the church. They found them helpful for giving structure to everyday discipleship. It's a very old way of doing things, but it will be new for our church. The Via Karis rule of life is very simple, but also has the potential to have a powerful effect on our common life.

For example, one of the "rules" we will invite everyone to adopt is to "pray a Psalm daily." Not everyone will do this the same way. Some of us may do this by reading one Psalm a day, while others may simply keep a Psalm in their wallet or pocketbook to pray while grocery shopping, sitting at someone's bedside, standing in line at the coffee shop, or enjoying Asheville's favorite new hobby-traffic jams. One deacon has already been praying the Psalms by writing them on her mirror with a dry erase marker, one verse at a time, at her own pace.

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Wednesdays in November 6:00 p.m. - Chapel

November 7 - Water November 14 - Word November 20 (Wed. on Tues) - Table and Body November 28 - Creation

For these gatherings in November, ministers will introduce this way of grace for our whole church.

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What is the point of all this? Mainly, the *Via Karis* is designed to invite us into a richer experience of Christian faith, an approach to discipleship that draws us closer to God and one another. It is not meant to be a "requirement," but more like an invitation. *Via Karis* means "way of grace," and that's what it promises to be…a way of God's grace for our whole church.

As you know, one of the desired futures of our visioning process is that *the parable path of Jesus will be a way of life*. Going forward, the *Via Karis* will be a primary way we give expression to this beautiful dream. I consider it grace upon grace that the work of our staff and the dreams of our church have coincided so serendipitously. The Holy Spirit is working in our fellowship in powerful ways.

What's next? You're invited to learn more on Wednesday nights in November (note the change to Tuesday during the week of Thanksgiving). As well, we're planning to introduce *Via Karis* in worship beginning in Advent, and to invite everyone to commit to this way of life on January 13, 2019, Baptism of the Lord Sunday.

- Mack Dennis

# Faithful Teaching for 50 Years!

Raised in Franklin, Illinois, Wayne Jewsbury has been a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Asheville since he and his wife, Pat, joined here on August 4, 1963.

It is difficult for many of us to imagine teaching a Bible study class each week for fifty years, but for Wayne, it is a joy. He writes:

Bible study is a basic pillar meant to support the life of any Christian. I understand teaching from the Bible to be my call. It is my passion. It's such a privilege to dig deep into scripture, sources, chronology and its intended purpose - and then be able to tell others what I've discovered. The Bible is rich in meaning and is fundamental in our discipleship. We should remain learners all our life. We will never plumb the full depths of what the Bible has to offer. To assume you've outgrown this kind of study is to miss one of the true joys of your faith life. I come from a long line of Bible teachers and have been so gratified to have the opportunity to share what I continue to learn from my studies.



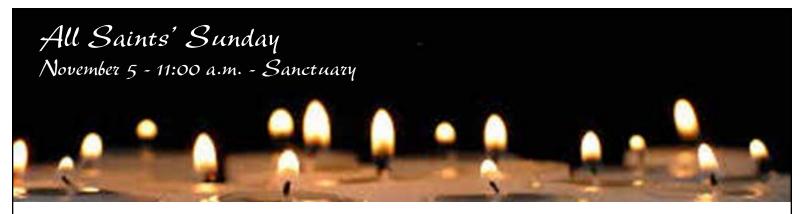
Those who have been members of the Stephen class speak of Wayne's excellence in teaching. He is always prepared, sending out a mid-week email with his reflections on the upcoming scriptural text, and he cares about those in his community. Ginny Morris shared her experience in the Stephen class:

Wayne is truly an amazing, dedicated teacher. To be a member of his class is both an inspiring and a challenging experience. Each lesson is carefully prepared so that our knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith increases significantly. At the same time, Wayne challenges us to make the teachings of Jesus the focus of all that we are and all that we do.

Wayne continues to teach the Stephen Bible study class each week, and he would welcome any who want to study Scripture in community.

We are thankful for Wayne and his continued commitment to studying and teaching Scripture here at First Baptist Church of Asheville. His faithful service is an inspiration to us all.

— Tommy Bratton



This annual service will be a remembrance of those loved ones who have died and a celebration of the promise of eternal life. The experience includes the lighting of candles, speaking the names of those being remembered, and communion.



#### Hanging of the Green - Sunday, December 2 - 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary \*

This service of preparing the church sanctuary for the season includes the hanging of wreaths and garland, the procession of poinsettias, trimming the Chrismon tree, singing carols, and bringing "White Christmas" gifts for the community. The annual reception follows in the Atrium and the Commons.

Caroling, Caroling! AYC Holiday Concert - Sunday, December 9 - 7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary \* The four ensembles of the Asheville Youth Choirs will be joined by harpist and AFTA faculty member, Lelia Lattimore, in presenting this joyful, festive concert.

#### Messiah - Sunday, December 16 - 7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary \*

More than 130 voices from the First Baptist Church of Asheville Adult Choir and the Asheville Youth Choirs High School Chorale will present the Christmas portion and "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's masterwork. Accompanying will be a Chamber Orchestra comprised of members of the Asheville Symphony. Soloists will be First Baptist Church of Asheville alumni now pursuing professional music careers.

#### Family Christmas Eve Service - Monday, December 24 - 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

All are welcome to join us for this family-friendly worship service. Children and families will usher in the wonder of Christmas through interactive storytelling, carols, and communion. No childcare will be offered as we invite infants, preschoolers, and children to participate in this service.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion - Monday, December 24 - 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary** \* The traditions of the Christmas season are celebrated through communion, carols, and candlelight.

**Lessons and Carols, Candlelight and Communion - Monday, December 24 - 9:00 p.m. - Chapel**Centered around communion, this holy night is remembered in the reading of Scripture and songs of faith.

\* Childcare is available.



# The Biblical Story and Folklore in Nativity Sets Wednesday, December 5 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel • Special guest, Jerry Beavers

Nativity sets, also called crèches, are three dimensional representations of the birth of Christ. In recent years they have become quite popular as devotional aids and Advent decorations. This illustrated lecture will help you understand the history and symbols of Nativity sets, and how different cultures have portrayed Jesus' birth. The program will deepen your appreciation of nativity sets, and it will be a wonderful preparation for your enjoyment of the Nativity Exhibit in the Chapel, December 12-19.

Presented by the Rev. Dr. Jerry Beavers, a collector, scholar, and educator of nativities. Dr. Beavers is a retired Presbyterian Minister who taught at Muskingum University in Ohio for many years. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Princeton Seminary, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, his collection of over 250 nativities has been gathered from over 50 countries. He moved from Asheville in 2016 to be nearer to his grandchildren in Mount Pleasant, SC.

# Folk Advent Service: Comfort and Joy December 12 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

This year's Folk Advent Service once again celebrates the Advent season with a look back to simpler days and times. Join the set of a live radio variety show featuring folk musicians, Alathea, readers' theater, storytelling, and loads of fun come to life. Invite your friends to join you!

# Advent Lovefeast December 19 • 6:00 p.m. • Dining Room

The Advent Lovefeast is a beloved tradition that is an integral part of our Advent celebrations. Join us for this warm and inviting service of candles, carols, and community. As we gather around the tables and share light finger foods in the dining room, we will tell stories, sing Christmas carols, and enjoy the traditional Moravian buns and hot chocolate, followed by the lighting of our candles of love and faith.

# CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SETS FROM AROUND THE WORLD





December 12-19 Crouch Chapel

Weekdays: 5:00-8:00 p.m. Weekend: Noon-6:00 p.m.

www.ashevillenativity.org



Celebrating 5 years!

AFTA rings in its fifth year anniversary this 2018 - 19 year!

Join us as we celebrate with wonderful student performances,

Asheville Youth Choirs concerts, and Bach's Lunch recitals.

December 3, 4, & 7, 2018 - 7 PM

Student Recitals







December 9, 2018 - 7 PM

Lena Lati

December 16, 2018 – 7 PM

January 3, 2019 - 4:30 - 6 PM

Caroling, Caroling! Holiday Concert featuring harpist & AFTA Faculty, Lelia Lattimore

Handel's Messiah

AYC Mid-Year Auditions

# Bach's Lunch Asheville's Premiere Organ Concert Series

November 6, 2018 Music from World War I

December 4, 2018 Music for Advent and Christmas

(January 1, 2019 No Recital)

First Tuesday of every month, 12:05 PM Box lunches are available for \$5 following each performance.



Tate Addis, organist

# **Family Christmas Eve Service** December 24 • 10:30 a.m. • Sanctuary

All are welcome to join us for this family-friendly worship service. Children and families will usher in the wonder of Christmas through interactive storytelling, carols, and communion. No childcare will be offered as we invite infants, preschoolers, and children to participate in this service.





# agapekids

Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

3-5 year olds **CB303** 1st - 6th graders **CB221** 

During November and December we'll be focused on community. From thinking about our choices and how they impact others, finding ways that we, even as children, serve others, and gathering with our church family for worship, you won't want to miss this season of learning and service!

# **Preschool Music** Every first Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

This fall we began preschool music as a part of Sunday morning Bible Study. Preschoolers play instruments and sing songs of faith. Our infants - 3 year olds meet in CB218/19 and are led by Phyllis Engels. Our 4 and 5 year olds meet in CB301 and are led by Sue Long.

Hear these and other musicians sing at our Wednesday on Tuesday service, November 20, and as they sing carols for Bible Study classes on December 16.





# **PASSPORTkids**

July 16 - 19 Converse College rising 4th - 7th graders Optional Day Camp at church on July 15 We're excited to announce dates for our 2019 summer camps! Registration will be open to First Baptist Church participants in January and to the public in March.

# **Vacation Bible** School

June 24-27 9:00 a.m. - noon 4 years olds - rising 6th graders

# **VBS Day Camp**

June 24 - 28 noon - 5:00 p.m. rising 1st - 6th graders

## Advocacy Camp

June 10 - 14\* 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. rising 4th - 7th graders \*dates may change

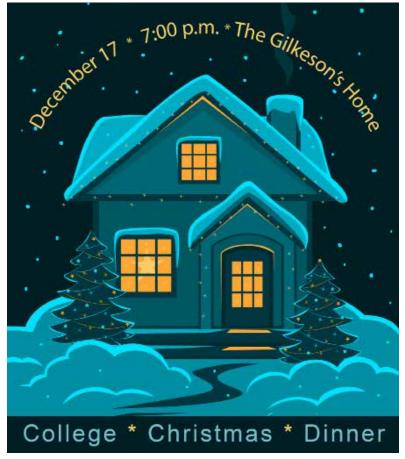
## **Discovery Camp**

July 29 - August 2 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. rising 1st - 6th graders

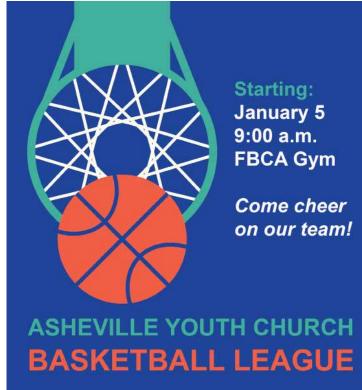
## Preschool Camp

July 30 - August 1 9:00 a.m. - noon 2 years old - 5 years old













# **Jubilee Luncheons**

## Tuesdays, November 20 and December 18 • 11:00 a.m.

All Senior Adults are invited to join us for fellowship, entertainment, and a delicious meal. The cost is \$3 for the meal and first time guests eat free! Contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 or lbrown@fbca.net for more information.

#### November 20: Wayne Caldwell, Church Historian - Dining Room

Wayne will review the work of the History Team and share an overlay map of what was on this site before our building was built in 1927. Don't miss this exciting and informative hour of history!

#### December 18: Michael Lyles, piano - Crocker Auditorium

Michael is studying piano performance at UNC-Asheville. He will offer sounds of the season and other beautiful pieces during this special concert.

# A look back . . .



Jubilee on the Road Lake Lure and Lunch at La Strada September 18





Senior Adult/Prime Time Fall Retreat Bonclarken Retreat Center October 11-12



# ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Advent Conspiracy is a movement designed to help us all slow down and experience a Christmas worth remembering. It is about the entire body of Christ at work in the world. As we worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all, something begins to happen that is greater than any single person, church, or denomination. As the Church, we are telling the story of Jesus to the watching world.



#### **WORSHIP FULLY**

Nearly every character in the Christmas story that encountered our King responded in the same way: worship. Let's make the conscious effort to reorient our hearts toward Christ. Christmas began with worship, may it continue with worship.



#### **SPEND LESS**

In our hearts we know mindless consumption is not the way to celebrate Jesus. But spending less does not mean spending nothing. Rather we will thoughtfully evaluate what companies and causes we support through our purchases.



#### **GIVE MORE**

The best gifts celebrate a relationship. They require our time and our energy. Relational giving means that we think about the other person—who they are and what they care about.



- Share a meal at a Kairos retreat as teams share God's love with those in prison - \$10
- Give 3 pairs of reading glasses for the team to take to Hait i- \$10
- Sponsor a monthly blood pressure clinic in Haiti \$25
- Fund a month of Thursday meals for Lunch @ Cross roads - \$25
- Give the gift of music through an AFTA music lesson for a child that cannot afford lessons - \$30
- Fill a gas tank for the bus headed to do hurricane relief \$75
- Sponsor a Cuban young adult on pilgrimage with our young adults in January - \$200

Make your checks or donations payable to First Baptist Church. Designate one of the above for 100% of funds to go to that mission activity of our congregation.

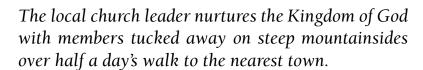


#### LOVE ALL

Christmas is a chance to move closer to those in crisis. We will love others as Jesus has loved us. The poor and hurting of our world can be reached by God through the way we choose to celebrate Christmas.

# **Building Mercy in Haiti**

Children follow a foot path home from school to houses with no running water or electricity.









▼irst Baptist Church of Asheville (FBCA) members and friends have labored for more than five years alongside Jenny Jenkins, a nurse with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Jenny's dream of establishing a medical/dental clinic in this village 10 miles into the hills south of Grand Goave, Haiti, is taking shape. Bruce Johnson, FBCA member and architect, and David Blackmon, Coordinating Pastor, spent three days with Jenny in September locating and imagining the difference four or five small buildings, water storage and purification, and limited electric power could make to the 10,000 or so people within walking distance of the clinic. With the purchase of a small plot of land and initial plans, our prayers are sounding more like WHEN, not IF. Generous FBCA donors have contributed more than \$13,000 towards making the clinic a reality. Pray for Jenny and her team as they continue to reach out to people with limited access to medical and dental care. Pray for our church as we consider sending teams to help with construction or train young teachers. In February 2019, Bob Busey will lead another gathering of a dozen medical/dental and support persons to the area. Are you interested in going to Haiti? Contact Sarah Whitlock at 828.252.4781 or swhitlock@fbca.net.

### **Creation Care Team**

Our Creation Care group at FBCA functions as a branch of the larger organization existing here in WNC, whose mission is to provide a network of people of faith and congregations who unite around a moral and spiritual call to preserve the integrity, beauty and health of God's creation.

Our main focus areas are: Sustainability, Natural Resources, Energy Use, Education and Advocacy, Children's Education, and Spiritual Nourishment/Outdoor activities

If you are interested in learning more about Creation Care and getting involved in upcoming activities, email April Nance at anance@fbca.net to get on our e-newsletter list!

Food for thought — Holiday waste

- In the US, annual waste from gift wrap and shopping bags totals 4 million tons!
- Electricity bill for lighting a Christmas tree for 12hrs/day x 40 days: Incandescent lights, \$25.13 vs LED lights, \$0.56





# Creation Care Alliance (CCA) Gathering Thursday November 20 a 6:00 0:00 Thursday, November 29 • 6:00-8:00 p.m. • Dining Room

Learn from experts, congregational leaders, the Director of NC Interfaith Power and Light, and community leaders as we explore ways for faith communities to unleash the power of the sun. We will be coming together to share compassion and ideas and learn about creation care work. We will share about CCA and community events and work. If you are interested in learning more about creation care in Western North Carolina, this meeting is for you! A light meal will be provided. RSVP by contacting the church office.

# **Morning Prayer:** Awakening to Gratitude Sunday, November 11 • 8:45 a.m. Sacred Garden (weather permitting)

As we welcome the day, we will gather together around the labyrinth, surrounded by the beauty of autumn colors, to awaken to the wonder of God's creation. We will sing, share words of scripture, and give thanks and praise to God for God's goodness and love. Come celebrate and awaken to gratitude!

To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything ... Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God.

~Thomas Merton, Seasons of Grace

# Hitting a Homerun with Habitat

Asheville Area Habitat built 14 houses in 2018, including the 20th Interfaith House supported by the \$10,000 gift from our congregation. They have served 500 families over the past 35 years with 300 new homes and 200 served through home repair. Our Habitat partner in Madison County is gearing up to continue the tradition of creating a path to home ownership for low income families. These long-term friends of First Baptist Church of Asheville (FBCA) really put out the welcome mat on October 13 inviting more than 70 FBCA members and friends to six sites across Buncombe and Madison counties. One member of the church said, "We have always gotten together to build things as a part of our faith." Hammers and saws, shovels and rakes recaptured that commitment. Like to volunteer with Habitat? Contact Sarah Whitlock at 828.252.4781. There are positions on work sites or at the Habitat Restore, a major source of funding for new homes. Who knows who will win the World Series later in October. FBCA has already hit a grand slam homerun with these partners in service.







# Helping in a Hurricane November 14-18 and Beyond!

Like to let your hands and feet do the caring? Go to New Bern, NC, and help in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. With so much damage across the state, First Baptist Church of Asheville decided to focus our attention to the area within about 30 minutes of New Bern. Our partners are FBC New Bern, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Baptist on Mission. We'll be helping with demolition of homes early on with hopes of rebuilding when the time comes. Most trips will be Wednesday-Sunday with the option of doing your own transportation and coming when you can. Our goal is to send multiple teams across the next year or so as the people there negotiate the marathon of recovery. Watch for dates. Contact Sarah Whitlock at 828.252.4781 or email Sarah at swhitlock@fbca.net for more details.



# **Crossroads After School or CAP**

What do you get when you mix 24 children with 24 tutors and a host of other volunteers committed to caring for kids? It all adds up to CAP! On October 17, FBCA began its 6th year of teaching K-3rd graders from Jones and Claxton Elementary Schools. Students begin with snacks and play in our gym followed by an hour of 1-1 tutoring focused on math and reading. Music and chapel follow study. The evening ends with one of Nancy's great meals and a ride home on our FBCA buses. Thanks to all who watch over this vital ministry of our congregation.

# Welcoming Grace to Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women

The second four-day Kairos retreat with residents at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women (SCCW) could be summed up with words from the song, *Chain Breaker*, "He's a prison-shaking Savior . . . if you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, Somebody testify!"

Faith! All 42 SCCW participants accepted a cross from their family leader as evidence they will henceforth count on Christ and their newfound Kairos community.

Freedom! Sisters of Christ took rice paper upon which they had written their sins and the sins of others against them and watched them dissolve as Chaplain Carol Dalton stirred them in a clear bowl of water. Forgiveness continued to flow as participants were challenged to share a bag of forgiveness cookies with another SCCW resident they had problems with in the past.



Friendship! At the instructional reunion on Saturday following the four day retreat, a woman shared that as she read through the multitude of letters she received at Kairos she heard the same messages repeated over and over. Now she believes "God loves me despite my mistakes. I am worthy of love. I am not alone or forgotten."

Thank you to First Baptist Church of Asheville for supporting this amazing ministry. If you would like to go inside at SCCW, September 19-22, 2019, please email Charlyne Boyette at charlyneboyette@gmail.com.



# **Churchwide Missions Day - October 13**



# White Christmas Food Ministry

For many decades, our church has collected food gifts to help create meals for area families in need during the Christmas season. This sharing of love is known as our White Christmas ministry. We hope you can be a part of this traditional ministry by securing the food items according to the Bible Study Class assignments below. We will begin collecting food gifts during the Hanging of the Green service on Sunday evening **December 2** and will continue until the delivery on Sunday **December 16**. This year our goal is to prepare and deliver 85 food gift packages to neighbors in our community. Two special notes. One is that some food items have changed this year. The other is that we are asking some class members for \$5 cash instead of Ingles Cards to increase our purchasing options. If you are not in a Bible Study class choose any item(s) from the list.



Class Name	Food Items per Class Member
Agape	4 10.5-oz. cans soup, 2 15-oz. cans peas, and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Alpha, Loyalty, Fellowship	1 16-oz. package dry pasta, 2 18-oz. jars jelly and 1 40-48-oz. bottle canola oil
Catacombs	5 15-oz. can pasta (spaghettios, ravioli, etc.) and 3 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese
Children & Preschool	4 15-oz. cans fruit and 1 large (14-18 oz.) box nutritional dry cereal
Stepping Stones	4 14.5-oz. cans green beans and 3 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese
Pilgrims	5 14.5-oz. cans green beans and 3 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese
Faith, Basics, Friendship	6 10.5-oz. cans soup and 1 40-48-oz. bottle canola oil
General Officers & Ministers	6 10.5-oz. cans soup and 1 large (14-18 oz.) box nutritional dry cereal
IBD	3 15-oz. cans peas, 4 5-oz. cans tuna and 1 40-oz. box Bisquick
Journey	3 15-oz. cans fruit, 3 15-oz. cans corn, 4 5-oz. cans tuna
Joy & Gideon-Keystone	2 20-oz. cans beef stew and 2 40-48-oz. bottle canola oil
Life	4 14.5-oz. cans green beans and 5 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese
Mark	5 16-oz. boxes dry pasta and 3 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese
New Testament	2 20-oz. cans beef stew and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Garden Group	4 14.5 oz. cans green beans and 5 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese
Polaris, Karis, First Shine	2 18-oz. jars jelly and 1 large (14-18 oz.) box nutritional dry cereal
Sojourners	4 5-oz. cans tuna and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Proclaimers	2 20-oz. beef stew and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Rehoboth	4 24-oz. jars pasta sauce and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Seekers	4 6-oz. cans chicken and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Shared Leadership	4 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Singles Connection	2 15-oz. cans corn and 3 20-oz. cans beef stew
Stephen	1 20-oz. can beef stew and 2 40-oz. boxes Bisquick
James Body of Christ	3 15-oz. cans corn and 4 6-oz. cans chicken
Youth (10th-12th)	4 15-oz. cans fruit and 4 5-oz. cans tuna
Youth (7th-9th)	3 15-oz. cans pasta (spaghettios, ravioli, etc.) and 5 6-oz. cans chicken

# 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.