

Highlights

Newsletter

March/April 2019



A Call to Care for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

On January 15, 2019, the Governing Board of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) voted unanimously to elect the Rev. Dr. Paul Baxley as its fourth Executive Coordinator. I want to tell you why I believe their decision will prove to be a watershed moment for Cooperative Baptists, and why this is good news for our particular congregation.

As a student, friend, and colleague of Paul's for nearly 30 years, and as a witness to the transformational impact he's had on every institution he's served—whether as a pastor, chaplain, or administrator—I can say with confidence that neither CBF nor any other denominational body in America has seen many leaders quite like him. He exemplifies an extraordinary combination of love for the church, theological acumen, strategic thinking, and collaborative leadership. Time and again, he has gone about his work with little fanfare, inviting the people around him to discover their own gifts, and giving them the room and time they need to take ownership and thrive in their roles.

Paul is not a stranger to First Baptist Church of Asheville, having preached at my installation service in October 2016. I remember several of our members commenting on his sermon with great appreciation. I've known Paul since he came to serve as Associate Minister of Education and Youth at First Baptist Church of Henderson, NC, where I grew up and discerned a call to ordained ministry. Were it not for his pastoral leadership and ministerial gifts, I would not be a minister today.

Yet, Paul's election matters for all of us because it means we can expect strong leadership from an office that, going forward, will require both careful wisdom and infectious enthusiasm. The global church continues to experience a kind of rapid change rarely seen across its 2000-year history. As disciples committed to the church's continued faithfulness, cooperative local and global missions, and rigorous theological education, the promise of strong leadership in these areas should give us cause for celebration.



Dr. Paul Baxley and family

This new day is also a compelling reason for our church to reflect on and recommit to our participation in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We have been a flagship church for CBF since its inception in 1991. Our pastor emeritus, Cecil Sherman (1964-84), served as CBF's first Executive Coordinator. Many of our church staff over the years have graduated from CBF-partner theological schools. FBCA members have served or are currently serving on CBF state and national councils. Our own Jenny Jenkins is a CBF missionary doing phenomenal work for God's kingdom in Grand Goâve, Haiti. As well, our church budget remains a testament to the crucial relationships with Baptist theological schools, as well as other church and para-church institutions, that have made possible a Baptist Christian witness in America and around the world.

CBF exists to help Baptists do together what we cannot do alone. Because of our particular church's size and the resources at our disposal, it can be easy to think of FBCA as an island, needing little help from others to share the gospel. As our congregation continues to grow with members from diverse denominational and non-denominational backgrounds, we also could be tempted to think that denominations no longer matter for churches like ours.

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**First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina**

Workshops

Sneak peek of some of the workshops offered at the 2019 Gathering . . .

#churchtoo: Resourcing Your Congregation on the Issue of Clergy Sexual Abuse

Pam Durso, Executive Director, Baptist Women in Ministry

Re-imagining Church Membership and Engagement

Christopher Gambill, Director, Center for Congregational Health

Discerning Biblical Voices and Perspectives on Human Sexuality

Mary Foscett, Wake Forest Kahle Professor of Religious Studies, Albritton Fellow, and Associate Chair, Wake Forest University

Cultivating Generosity

Bo Prosser, Director of the Ministerial Excellence Initiative, CBF Global

Social Media, Teens, and Kids: Managing the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Jason Ritchie, Deacon, Ardmore Baptist Church

03/28/2019

Thursday

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Leadership Institute**
Canoeing the Mountains with Tod Bolsinger

6:30 - 9:00 p.m. **25th Anniversary Celebration**
An Evening of Celebration featuring Clyde Edgerton

03/29/2019

Friday

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Cafe and Exhibit Hall Open**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **Peer Learning Group Breakfast**

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Workshop Session #1**

10:45 - Noon **Journey - Opening Session**
with Tod Bolsinger and Kyle Matthews

Noon - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. **Workshop Session #2**

2:45 - 3:45 p.m. **Workshop Session #3**

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. **Serve - Ministry Celebration and Closing Worship**
with Daynette Snead, Guy Sayles, and Stacy Nowell

Remain in Love with the Letters of John

Alicia Myers, Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek, Campbell University Divinity School

Eco-Theology in the New Testament

Jim McConnell, Associate Professor of New Testament Interpretation, Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity

Meet CBF Field Personnel Serving Refugees and Immigrants In North America

Marc and Kim Wyatt, CBF Field Personnel, CBF Global Missions

Visit www.cbfncag.com to register.

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A Call to Care for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Nevertheless, our church remains distinctively Baptist in fundamental ways. Without the various ministries and relationships CBF makes possible for us, our own public witness in Asheville and around the world would be considerably diminished. The recent closing of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (my and Casey Callahan's alma mater) is a case in point, and a bracing reminder of what happens when churches lose sight of our broader community's needs. We must support these ministries, missions, and schools now more than ever.

As faithful as our church has been to Baptist causes throughout our history, and with the help of outstanding new leadership at CBF, I believe we'll respond to these critical commitments and partnerships with the characteristic enthusiasm and generosity people have always been able to expect from FBCA. So that we may look with hope towards a new day of flourishing, I encourage everyone to take time to learn more by exploring CBF's website: www.cbf.net, or www.cbfnc.org. If you're able, I also encourage you to attend an upcoming state or national annual General Assembly. CBFNC will meet this year in Greensboro, March 28-29. CBF's national General Assembly will meet in Birmingham, AL, June 17-21.

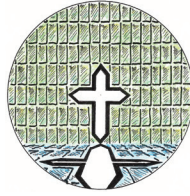
Let's carry in our hearts the conviction that God provides us with everything we need to be faithful witnesses to the gospel. Let's also pray for one another, for our fellow Cooperative Baptists, and for the Church catholic, that we may "contribute to the needs of the saints," for just such a time as this (Rom. 12:13).

— Mack Dennis

A promotional banner for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly. The top section features a group of people standing on a stage in front of a backdrop that reads "COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP" and "LOCAL CHURCH BAPTIST". Below this, a large green and blue banner displays the text "GENERAL ASSEMBLY" in white, with a circular logo in the center. The logo consists of four overlapping circles in purple, green, and blue. At the bottom, a white box with a green border contains the text: "JUNE 17-21, 2019 | BIRMINGHAM-JEFFERSON BIRMINGHAM ALA. | CONVENTION COMPLEX Registration NOW OPEN www.cbf.net/assembly".

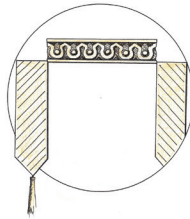
RULE OF LIFE

from the *VIA KARIS*



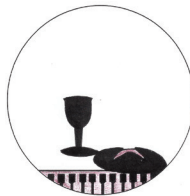
WATER

Remember we are beloved children of God



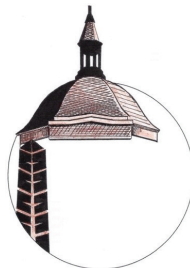
WORD

Pray a Psalm every day



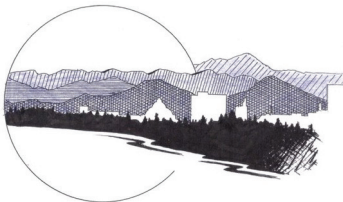
TABLE

Break bread weekly with others



BODY

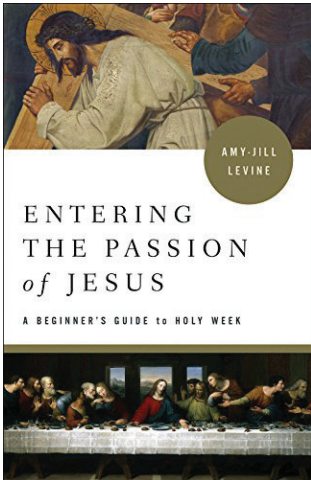
Worship weekly with the Body of Christ



CREATION

Attend daily to the beauty of the world

If you do not have a copy of *Via Karis*, come by the Church Office to pick up a copy or find it online at www.fbca.net.



New Bible Study: *Entering the Passion of Holy Week* **Welcome Breakfast and Introduction • February 24** **Covenant Group Study • March 3 - April 14** **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. • MB356 • Facilitated by Debbie and Steve Miller**

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In the weeks leading up to Holy Week, this study will provide a rich and challenging learning experience to prepare participants to more meaningfully experience the costs and challenges surrounding the Passion story. The resource that will guide this study is *Entering the Passion of Jesus*:

A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week, written by biblical scholar and professor at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Amy-Jill Levine. In her book, she explores how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Participants will covenant together to be present weekly, prepare by reading before each meeting, pray for one another, and participate in discussion. Space is limited for this covenant group. You can register by contacting April Nance at anance@fbca.net or 828.252.4781. Books are available for \$13.

Chapel Bible Study: *What Does the Bible Say about LGBTQ?* **Led by Mack Dennis and Tommy Bratton** **Sundays, March 17, 24, and 31 • 9:45 a.m. • Chapel**

As we continue exploring our desired future to “welcome and include all in a way consistent with God’s love and wisdom,” this Chapel Bible Study offers an overview of Scriptures that shed light on LGBTQ-related questions. The class is designed to offer a scholarly component to our church’s ongoing work of discernment, so that we may deepen our knowledge of how Scripture addresses our specific concerns. Participants are encouraged to bring their Bibles (and sturdiest thinking caps) as we—with faith, hope, and love—read God’s Word together. There will be time at the conclusion of each Sunday session for Q&A. (NOTE: **Participants need only come on ONE of these dates.** Bible Study leaders will provide specific information for their class’s date.)



Lenten Vespers **Wednesdays, Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6 - April 10 • 6:00 p.m.**

You are invited to these contemplative evening worship experience, with prayers and liturgy informed by the Celtic tradition. These services invite you to enter a place of rest, prayer, and reflection. The atmosphere is one of stillness and peace. Musically, you will hear expressions from Celtic and other local traditions. Silence has a place of importance at various intervals as well. Each week, one of our ministers will lead a homily based on the Psalms. Several weeks, you will hear testimony from one of our church members.

These services will begin with worship and the receiving of ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The remainder of the Lenten services will take place in the chapel.

We invite you to this experience, hoping it will allow you a deeper place of spiritual attentiveness during the Lenten season, a place where you can experience the presence of God in your midst.



“Creation is an act of God. 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 gifts of life, love, and creative expression. We take responsibility to tend this intricate, life-sustaining web of creation to the glory of God. When we enjoy the beauty of God’s creation, including the gift of one another, we show God how much we love God.” — *Via Karis*

Practicing Shalom in the Time of Climate Change

Wednesdays, April 24 - May 15 • 6:00-7:00 p.m. • MB304

April 24 • The science of climate change and how it affects the Southeast

Led by Deke Arndt, Chief, Climate Monitoring Branch, NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information

May 1 • How our faith relates to our response

May 8 • Practical ways we as a congregation can respond

May 15 • Practical ways we as individuals can respond

Sponsored by the FBCA Creation Care Team and Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina.

Creation Care Practices for Lent

Lent calls us to reflect upon our relationship with God and others and to take steps to live more fully in Christ’s will and way. We may ask, “What are some things we might do in our relationship with God’s created order to live more in harmony with nature?” I have decided to not eat any red meat during Lent. Hopefully, that will help me establish eating less red meat as a part of my lifestyle.

What might you choose during Lent? Here are a few ideas to jumpstart your thinking:

- Walk outdoors 10-20 minutes each day.
- Each day find something in nature to ponder and appreciate.
- Do not use single-use plastic (bottled water, shopping bags, plastic straws).
- Use only LED bulbs in your house.
- Hang clothes outside to dry.
- Write a poem or hymn praising God for the beauty of nature and the web of life.
- Walk the labyrinth.

— *Brenda Denton*

Earth Day Vigil

April 28 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sacred Garden

We invite you to join us for a vigil celebrating God’s creation and calling on people of faith to care for it. We will gather outside of First Baptist Church of Asheville for an afternoon of song, reflection, and to hear messages of inspiration and action from local faith and community leaders. All are welcome!





at First Baptist Church of Asheville

March & April 2019 Events

March 28 - 7 PM Honors Recital, *Crouch Chapel*

April 28 - 11 AM Academy Sunday, *Sanctuary*
AFTA students will participate in worship.



March 23 - 24 Middle & High School Chorales
Mini-Tour

April 6 Concert Choir
Dollywood Performance

April 7 - 11 AM Youth Sunday at FBCA
*Middle & High School Chorales sing
in worship.*

Bach's Lunch

Asheville's Premiere Organ Concert Series

First Tuesday of every month, 12:05 PM
Tate Addis, organ

March 5 Guest Organist: Kyle Ritter
The Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville

April 2 *Music for the Lenten Season*
featuring faculty Ben Smith, cello

Summer 2019 Opportunities



2nd annual
Summer Strings Intensive
JULY 22 - 26, 2019

String players and pianists, for all ages through high school, are invited to join AFTA this summer for our **Summer Strings Intensive** and **Summer Piano Intensive**. Each camp is open to all levels (minimum one year playing experience). Campers will experience private instruction, master classes, group ensembles, Theory-in-Action courses, and more!

Save when you register by May 17.



*Summer Piano
Intensive*
JULY 22 - 26, 2019

Enroll today!

Know someone looking to learn a new instrument or brush up their skills? Refer them to AFTA!

Enrollment is always open.

AcademyfortheArts.org | info@academyforthearts.org | 828.254.7841

agapekids

wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

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



In January, our 5th and 6th graders planned and taught a lesson to our younger children. In their lesson, they read the book *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy, played games, shared conversation, and created a mural of our community. We are so grateful for their leadership and creativity!

During Lent, our AgapeKids will spend time with the *Via Karis* practice of *praying a psalm daily*. Each Wednesday night we will engage in interactive prayer practices and stations using the Psalms. This is a great opportunity for our kids to learn different ways to pray and how to pray using the Psalms.

Preschoolers meet in CB303. 1st-6th graders meet in CB221. Childcare provided for kids under three in CB119. Contact Amy Stertz at astertz@fbca.net or 252.4781 for more information.

Worship Care Volunteers Needed

Can you help us honor our commitment to welcome and nurture the children of our church? We are in need of a few more Worship Care Volunteers. You could serve in either of the following ways:

Regular Worship Care Volunteer

You would be assigned to work four Sundays a year.

Substitute Worship Care Volunteer

You would be contacted when one of our regular worship care volunteers cannot be present.



Asheville First Mission Week Opportunities for Children

March 24

We will have a First Lunch (youth fundraiser) following worship. Then, everyone is invited to the gym to help us pack 10,000 meals!

March 30

On this church-wide missions day, we will have two opportunities for children. Childcare will be offered for our youngest children and we will have a project specifically for preschool and elementary children. We will need a few parents to help with the children's project.



PASSPORTkids

July 16 - 19

Converse College

rising 4th - 7th graders

Optional Day Camp at church on July 15

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

Campus Master Plan

In March of 2017, the One Oak Ad Hoc Committee was formed to explore how to best use the One Oak property in support of the mission and ministry of our church. The committee soon realized that consideration needed to be given to our entire campus. As a result, a property survey was conducted, legal work was done on deeds and easements, and some initial concept drawings were made.

In June of 2018, the committee expanded to 14 members and was renamed the Campus Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee. The work of the new committee is focused on three areas: increased income for the maintenance and preservation of our historic building, additional parking, and exploration of how we might extend ministry into new spaces on our campus. Ministry possibilities suggested to us by the deacons include: workforce housing, work place training and support, community services hub, commercial spaces, and outdoor gathering areas.

To further our knowledge and understanding, we have had productive, engaging conversations with our neighbors at the YMCA and with the State Employees Credit Union, our anchor tenant at One Oak. Our conversations will soon expand to include municipal agencies as well as other non-profits.


I am grateful to the committee members listed below. Each brings a unique perspective to the table and each serves out of love for our church. There is still much to do but we look forward to the time when we will have a plan to present to the congregation.

Debbie Miller
Chair, CMP Ad Hoc Committee


Committee Members: Will Arledge, Kirstin Austin, Randall Barnett, Woody Bolinger, Ron Butler, Nancy Flippin, Charlie Glazener, Jeff Gorsuch, David Hart, Bradley Hines, Carole Martin, Ginny Morris, Casey Callahan (staff)



Desired future statement: *First Baptist will wrap its arms around the city of Asheville.*



THE VILLAGE POTTERS
 Koinonia on the Road
 March 24 (4:30-7:00 p.m.)
 Sign-Up in Youth Room
 \$30/youth (includes pottery and dinner)



YOUTH SUNDAY
WORSHIP
 SERVICE
APRIL 7, 2019 @11:00 AM





Youth Fundraiser Following Worship
 \$5/BBQ

Join us Sunday for a \$5 Lunch

Youth First Lunch Fundraiser

No Reservations Required

MARCH 24



Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Coleslaw, & Dessert

APRIL 7



BBQ, Mac&Cheese, Baked Beans, & Dessert

Youth/Senior Adult/Prime Time Valentine's Banquet

Youth and their sponsors celebrated Valentine's Day with Prime Time/Senior Adults on February 10. Everyone enjoyed engaging conversations during this annual intergenerational event. A special thank you to Nancy McCrory and her staff for a delicious meal.



UNIDIVERSITY

SUMMER CAMP
JULY 20-27, 2019
REGISTRATION OPEN

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Regular Camp Cost: \$380/student
\$120 Deposit due at Registration

Experience a truly unique camp set on the campus of the University of Tennessee. Choose from a list of creative electives and seminars, attend thought-provoking worship sessions, and enjoy free time and recreation on the campus. Prior to camp, our group will spend two challenging days doing roof repairs in Knoxville. Register online today at www.fbca.net.



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Celebrate the end of the year in the sand and the surf of Caswell Beach. We'll enjoy thoughtful discussions, group games and challenges, and evening parties, as well as group affirmations and senior rites of passage. Register online today at www.fbca.net.

Jubilee Luncheon 11:00 a.m.

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 828.252.4781 or lbrown@fbca.net for more information.

March 19 • Crocker Auditorium

Music and Stories with Dave and Sue Long

April 9

Jubilee on the Road (*Note the change of date!*)

Join us for a trip to Biltmore Village to tour The Cathedral of All Souls and eat lunch at The Well-Bred Bakery and Cafe. Please contact Leah Brown to reserve your seat on the bus. You will be responsible for the cost of your lunch.



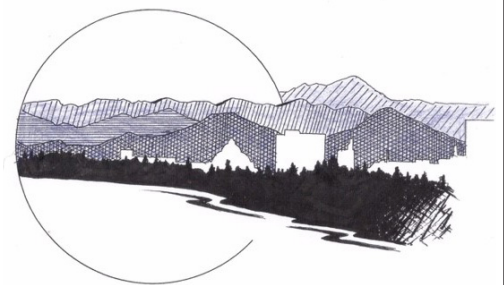
Enjoy a luncheon celebrating our 50- and 75-year members following worship on this special day. The cost per person is \$5 and reservations are required for this event. Contact Leah Brown at lbrown@fbca.net or 828.252.4781 by Sunday, April 28, if you would like to attend.

VIA KARIS, Part 5: Creation

HOW DOES MY CHRISTIAN FAITH INFORM MY APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS?

God created us in God's image to share in the ongoing act of creation. Sacred art – including music, dance, painting, crafts, drama - makes visible to our senses the invisible beauty of God's love for the world. Artists use bodies, voices, and elements of nature — precious metals, stone, clay, paint, wood — to mold and shape works of art that speak to and show forth the beauty and mystery of God. When we encounter a work of sacred art through color, light, form, or sound, we catch glimpses of the beauty of Christ's love.

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer)



Creation Practice

View the beautiful collection of paintings in the hallway between the Atrium and the Chapel "A Testament of Devotion in Watercolor" by Marjorie Weatherly Ostborg was given to First Baptist Church of Asheville by Mrs. Claude Frazier in December, 2008. You may learn more about this collection by visiting the church library.

New Year, New Mission Opportunities 2019

Asheville First Mission Week • March 24-30

There are Mission opportunities for all!

Do you enjoy nature? Help with a tree giveaway.

Do you like construction? Help with remodeling.

Do you love animals? Help bag food, assist with fencing.

Do you love children? Help area schools.

Do you enjoy working outdoors? Help with landscaping and garden prep.

Do you want to partner with other non-profits and church communities?

We have 40 partnerships throughout the week of March 24-30.

If you have one hour, four hours, or all day to lend a hand you are welcome.



Look for sign-up opportunities to begin Sunday, March 3, in the Atrium.



ROOM IN THE INN

April 14-21

First Baptist Church of Asheville partners with Room in the Inn twice a year to provide shelter for up to 12 women. Each week, a different congregation opens its facilities to welcome the women as guests, offering a warm, safe place for them as they work hard to move forward to permanent housing. The simple goal is to keep women without homes from sleeping on the street and risking their safety. The greater goal is to build caring, supportive relationships with them, one week at a time. Volunteers are needed for four teams: evening meals, evening hosts, overnight hosts, and transportation (driving church van mornings/evenings — no commercial license necessary). Approximately 72 volunteers participate. Room In the Inn needs help driving a truck for mattress-transfer to host church. Contact Dorothy Porter at 828.778.2010 for more information.

Quilt Raffle for Room in the Inn Sunday April 7 and 14

Room in the Inn is having a Quilt Raffle to benefit Homeward Bound's Shelter to Home program for women. Dorothy Porter and Chris Sylvester will be in the Atrium on Sunday, April 7 and 14 with the quilt on display. They will be selling raffle tickets for \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five tickets.



This summer our youth and adult volunteers will lead *FirstShine* Overnight Summer Camp, a 4-day, 3-night experience for children with special needs, ages 6-12.

Youth, college, and adult volunteers are needed to run this camp, working one-on-one with campers as they participate in music, horseback riding, bowling, crafts, dance, and other wonderful activities.

Contact the church office at 828.252.4781 to volunteer.



Senior MannaFood Bank Team March 28 and April 25 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.



The First Baptist Church of Asheville Senior Adult Manna Foodbank Team will be going to sort and pack food that will be given to people in our community facing food shortages. You can meet at Manna FoodBank from 1:00-3:00 p.m. or join us at the J&S cafeteria for food and fellowship before we volunteer. Contact Ed Gra-

ham at edgraham03@gmail.com or 828.713.0302 for more information.

Living the Way of Jesus in the Hills of Haiti

First Baptist Church of Asheville Mission Team

The gospel comes alive as we serve in Haiti. Across the first week of February, 12 members and friends of First Baptist Church of Asheville (FBCA) worked alongside Jenny Jenkins, FBCA member and CBF field personnel in that country for more than 10 years. Each day brought healing through dental, medical, and vision care offered by the team. Every encounter was marked by prayer. For Bob Busey, team leader, this was his eighth trip to the hills around Grand Goave. Listen just a bit to their reflections across the week...

- Rex Henderson and Valerie Lenhart joined the medical team in caring for over 160 patients with Gloria Cobb and Lisa Barnett filling over 800 prescriptions. Sandra Martin assisted.
- Dr. Kasee Metcalf (dentist) cared for a patient for a third time demonstrating some of the continuity of care Jenny hopes to see. The dental group pulled more than 200 teeth across 60 cases, all done in a make-shift clinic of the church with patients lying on a cot. Caroline Cooper and Marie Henderson rounded out the dental group.
- Randall Barnett and Marilyn Bollinger shared 80 pairs of glasses and dozens more of the sunglasses FBCA friends gave.
- Peggy Henderson and others encouraged, hydrated, and shared hugs with all who came to the daily clinics.



The team weaved joyful worship and evening devotions across these days of care. Walks down the mountain invited new intersections for the group to attend to the beauty of God's creation found in each smiling face or during a quiet walk along the blue waters. The future holds the possibility of a new clinic tucked along the hills serving more than 10,000 who live within walking distance. Thanks be to God for what we can do as we answer the call to love the beloved. Listen for God's call in your life.

Team members were: Lisa Barnett, Randall Barnett, Marilyn Bollinger, Bob Busey, Gloria Cobb, Caroline Cooper, Peggy Henderson, Rex Henderson, Marie Henderson, Valerie Lenhart, Sandra Martin, and Kasee Metcalf.





New Bern



During the fall of 2018, Hurricane Florence devastated Eastern North Carolina. To us watching the events on TV, the flooding was historic. To the people watching their homes and possessions being destroyed, the flooding was devastating.

In September, Cliff Christian, Chair of the Missions Council, asked our congregation to raise funds to send to First Baptist Church, New Bern, to help with the immediate needs in their area. The good folks of First Baptist Church of Asheville responded and \$22,000 was sent. First Baptist Church, New Bern, used the funds to help people in their congregation as well as others in New Bern and the surrounding area.

The money was needed and was timely, but money alone would not repair the damage caused by the storms. Three First Baptist Church of Asheville groups made the journey to New Bern to put hands and feet to our commitment. Our first group traveled to New Bern on October 24-28, to help with the “mudout phase” of disaster relief, cleaning out three homes. Another group cooked breakfast for the team and also worked in a food distribution center where they handed out more than 200 meals. In November, Team Two hung and floated sheetrock in the Christian Faith Assembly Church in Trenton. Team Three landed in new Bern over this past MLK weekend and again worked in the St. Stephen’s Church hanging sheet rock. A second group worked repairing a house across the street from the church.



Each of these teams did the hard work of repairing the physical damage of the storms. Plus, they did the good work attending to the emotional needs of their neighbors by showing God’s love for them through words backed up with action.

We are not done in the New Bern area and more storms will make landfall somewhere/sometime this year. When asked, please do your part. We know you will.

— Jim Worley



Rebuilding

On Thursday, January 17, eight of us traveled on the bus to First Baptist Church, New Bern, to assist with rebuilding efforts from the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence. There were three other missionaries who arrived by separate vehicle. The 11 of us all got together Thursday night, had a meal together, and received our instructions for the following day's work from Daynette Snead, our contact, who was familiar with the area, the people, and the priorities that the rebuilding tasks required.

Having previously done a mission trip to New Bern, and especially hard-hit Trenton in November, it was refreshing to see that the tearing out of dwellings we had done in November was replaced with rebuilding and working to get structures habitable again. Because of the volume of water produced by this storm, there was little of the typical "mudding" that ensued post-hurricane.

Trenton is a small, low community with some encroaching waterways, most notable the Trent River. Visible were water marks of 12 feet or more on some buildings and during the height of the storm many residents had to be airlifted to safety to avoid the wrath of the rising water. A resilient demographic is on display as residents hopefully and cheerfully look to rebuild and get back to normal.



Upon arriving in Trenton, Daynette assigned us to St. Stephens Church, one of seven churches adversely affected by Florence. Several of the team members worked there and the remaining team members worked at a dwelling that was waiting to be occupied by two sisters and their brother who would watch us daily getting the residence habitable.

St. Stephens Church had electricity and water restored. The responsibility of the team there was sheetrock taping and applying mud. The dwelling we worked in was a double-wide mobile home. When we arrived the mobile home had been stripped to the walls and was awaiting additional insulation.

We insulated the home, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and at noon, the inspector came. He inspected our work and gave the okay to commence hanging sheetrock. By the first day's end we had a quarter of the residence's walls covered. By the end of the following day we had completed three quarters of the dwelling and had run out of sheetrock.

We went to Trenton to continue working at St. Stephens Church with the whole team prior to departing. As we continued working there, two gentlemen from the church described the ordeal of enduring the hurricane. The men were unabashedly thankful for God's grace through our arrival and work. They were frank in their admission of how the attention and the hard work performed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and North Carolina Baptist Men was instrumental in their hopes for the future.

Much work remains to be done there and I will be returning in short order to shore up the great needs of our brothers and sisters living to the east.

— Dennis Hill



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday Worship Service • April 14 • 11:00 a.m.

This worship experience includes the annual palm procession and music by the Adult Choir.

Maundy Thursday Foot Washing • Thursday, April 18 • Noon

This experience will take place in the Sacred Garden and will be a remembrance of Jesus' example in the Upper Room, calling us to selfless service of others.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service • April 18 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

This day of Holy Week is remembered as the time Jesus ate a final meal together with the men who had followed him. It is a time to celebrate in worship what Jesus did and taught and modeled for us.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service • April 19 • Noon • Chapel

Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" and is an opportunity to reflect on the death of Jesus through the symbolic use of light and dark.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service • April 21 • 7:00 a.m. • Sacred Garden

Breakfast will follow in the Dining Room.

Easter Worship • April 21

9:45 a.m. - Bible Study • 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship

Music will be offered by the Adult Choir, Youth Handbells, and Brass Ensemble.

First Baptist Church of Asheville

Freedom. Friendship. Faith.

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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.



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