

July-August 2019



Highlights



## Time for Church

When I was a young teenager, I played the game every Sunday morning. My father would come downstairs to rouse my brothers and I for breakfast, and we'd always pretend not to hear his gentle knocks and declarations, *Time to wake up*. That first prompting usually came around 8:30 a.m., but, for the sake of conversation, we can call that "Round one." We'd hit the snooze button and sink back into our beds. "Round two" would come about 20 minutes later, characterized by harder knocking, and a curt, "Get up, guys!" We didn't often get there, but you can imagine what "Round three" was like.

Since we loved watching Saturday Night Live, our typical bedtime on a Saturday evening could run well past midnight. So, in our defense, we had reason to be groggy and slow to rise. But there was another reason I was particularly loathe to get out of my warm bed on Sunday mornings: church was getting boring. At 13 and 14 years old, the elementary Bible curriculum of my childhood had ceased to capture my imagination. The concerns, fascinations, and struggles of adolescence left little room in my mind and heart for any other challenges. Church was just another thing I had to do. Middle and early high school was already hard enough to navigate. Now, frankly, church had become an extra obligation, and just another complicated place full of awkward moments and demanding social encounters.

I can't say with precision when the change happened, but one Sunday I discovered, to my own surprise, that I had not only gotten out of bed at "Round one," but had done so without thinking of hitting the snooze button. The youth minister was making Bible Study even more interesting and challenging than many of my advanced high school classes. My peers and I were learning to see Scripture and discipleship in new ways. It was as if an entirely new world had been opened to us. My brothers and I went from watching the clock on Sunday mornings to getting lost in time, and wondering how the morning had gone by so fast.

The Scriptures speak of two kinds, or dimensions, of time: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* time is, well, chronological. It is sequential, measured time. We are thinking in *chronos* time when we're racing the clock, or wishing the clock would speed up. We know *chronos* time by the phrases we use to describe it, like, "Are we gonna make the flight?" or, "It feels like this is taking forever," or, "Boy, is he long-winded!" The *chronos* dimension of time is an inevitable and even necessary part of life.

Then there's something Scripture calls *kairos* time. *Kairos* time has to do with something happening at the right time, or even our getting "lost" in time. *Kairos* names any opportune time, appointed time, or fulfillment of time. We describe *kairos* moments by saying things like, "I lost track of time," or, "We were having so much fun, I forgot to look at the clock!" or, "In that moment, it was like the worries of the world faded away, and it was just the two of us..." The *kairos* dimension of time is characterized by abundance, fulfillment, and joy. Of this kind of time, Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10).

It seems to me that no community combines these two dimensions of time quite like church. Yes, in a church like ours, we have schedules to keep, gatherings to attend, hours to give, and, sometimes, not a second to waste. We might feel the stress of being too late for a meeting, or the slight pang of guilt for peeking at our watch, or the bead of sweat rolling down our temple after wrangling the kids to their classes. Modern life makes it hard ignore the clocks on our wrists, in our cars, and on our phones.

But in this life of true community, surrounded as we are by beautiful and sacred people and places, *chronos* time so often gives way to that blessed *kairos* dimension. We might say "church time" is that kind of time where *chronos* and *kairos* constantly intertwine. We become "lost in wonder, love, and praise" during a worship service. We're rendered speechless by a choral arrangement, or mesmerized by a vision during communion. We become engrossed by a Bible study or a new insight about God. The stories of Scripture enchant and inform our children (who live almost full-time in *kairos* time). Or we find ourselves in a conversation with a new friend until the hallways empty out, and we realize we're the last ones to leave. Every now and then, a youth (or someone in their 20s or 30s...or 50s...or 80s) crosses a new threshold of discovery, and a world that once looked so gray and empty becomes promising and enchanting again. It's hard to describe it, but we know when it happens, because an empty place in our hearts becomes full again.

Though we can schedule *chronos* time, we can't schedule or plan *kairos* time. But God can, and does. For, "[God] has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time" (Eph. 1:9-10).

God knows the desires of our hearts even before we can name them. If you're one of those who's learned how to live in "church time," you've made a priceless discovery. But if you're one of those still in the habit of hitting the snooze button, hear the good news, your time will come.

— Mack Dennis



# Reading the FBCA Financial Tea Leaves

In the coming months, you'll receive a monthly financial update on how generosity is unfolding at First Baptist Church of Asheville. The staff, ministry councils, and support committees attend to each dollar that is given. The Finance Committee, chaired by Bill Arledge, also reviews our generosity as well as how each area of ministry and support is spending dollars. They want you to know the details, so watch for these reports in Connect Now, E-News, and in your giving statements.

Here are a few insights into reading the FBCA financials. We divide our average expenses by 12. So, even though we spend dollars at different rates across the year, the financials reflect 1/12 of the entire budget. Dollars given come as people share their tithes and offerings. As much as 16-20% is given during December, \$325,000-\$350,000. Therefore, our financials look like they are in the deficit most of the time. This is routine. The faithfulness of our congregation makes the difference as each year closes.

Take some time and review these April financials shared on June 9. If you have questions, please contact Wally Davids at 828.252.4781 or [wdavids@fbca.net](mailto:wdavids@fbca.net). You may also email Bill Arledge at [arledgebill@gmail.com](mailto:arledgebill@gmail.com).

## General Operating Fund Summary January 1 - April 30, 2019

CONTRIBUTIONS:	BUDGET Jan.-Apr.	ACTUAL Jan. - Apr.	%
Pledged	489,247	495,859	101.35
Non-Pledged	100,000	73,060	73.06
Over-Pledged	5,128	1,100	21.45
Other	3,333	4,681	140.42
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>597,708</b>	<b>574,699</b>	<b>96.15</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Missions	57,685	54,893	95.16
Program Ministries	142,535	123,374	86.56
Personnel	411,379	408,202	99.23
Maint. & Support	155,650	152,587	98.03
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>767,249</b>	<b>739,056</b>	<b>96.33</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-169,540</b>	<b>-164,357</b>	

## Building and Renovation Fund Total as of April 30, 2019

<b>Long Term Liabilities:</b>	
Renovation 2005	1,098,413
Sacred Garden 2017	828,464
Roof Project 2017	262,478
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>2,189,355</b>



# agapekids

The theme of agape kids in 2018-19 was *Follow Me*.

Three-year-olds through sixth graders learned and practiced ways we are called to follow Jesus. This year our children participated in various spiritual practices, mission projects, and worship experiences. On May 29, our children did a wonderful job sharing things they learned and experienced this year. Each child received a trail-mark honoring ways they've grown and contributed to the group this year and each sixth grader received a book and a blessing as they prepare to join the student ministry next year.



The theme for 2019-20 will be: **WORD**

Each week we will spend time with a word that says something about our faith. Make plans to join us as we resume on Wednesday, August 28!

## Worship Care Volunteers Needed for the New Year!

Can you help us honor our commitment to welcome and nurture the children of our church? We currently working on the Worship Care volunteer schedule for the 2019-2020 church year. Help us by serving as a:

### 1 - Regular Worship Care Volunteer

You would be assigned to work, once a quarter. That's only four Sundays a year!

### 2 - Substitute Worship Care Volunteer

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

If you would like to join our worship care team or would like to know more, please email April Nance at [anance@fbca.net](mailto:anance@fbca.net).



Children will be promoted to their new Bible Study classes on Sunday, August 25. In August, parents will receive a letter with more information.





# TUESDAY

## SUMMER FUN SERIES

July 9 & 16 \* Aug. 13 & 20



Meet in Youth Room 7:00-8:30 p.m.

# Youth Student Leadership Team SUMMIT

Saturday, Aug. 24  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.




## MOVIE MARATHON

Meet in Youth Room: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

AUGUST 24-25  
+++  
Rising Seventh Grade Retreat

hike  
meet Casey  
youth 101  
meet big brother/sister  
campfire

Register online or call 252-4781




# UNIDIVERSITY

SUMMER CAMP  
JULY 20-27, 2019

# KOINONIA KICKOFF

Aug. 25: 4:30-5:30 p.m.



## AGAPE

Aug. 28: 6:00 p.m.



# ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

July & August 2019 Events



Sundays in July. 6 pm. Crouch Chapel.

Join us for our annual Summer Concert Series, featuring AFTA faculty as they perform music from around the world. This free series supports deserving students in the Academy for the Arts. Donations received each night benefit the AFTA Scholarship Fund. Followed by delicious dessert receptions!

## July 7 *American Odyssey*

Gershwin  
Ellington  
Rodgers & Hart  
Spirituals & Folk Songs

RECEPTION  
*pies à la mode*

NEW  
YORK



## July 21 *French Impressions*

Debussy  
Ravel  
Massenet

RECEPTION  
*French pastries & lavender lemonade*



## July 14 *British Tapestry*

Elgar  
Vaughn Williams  
Folk Songs from the  
British Isles

RECEPTION  
*scones with jam & tea*



## July 28 *German Masters*

Mendelssohn  
Schumann  
Mozart  
Brahms

RECEPTION  
*decadent German cakes*





# ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

## July & August 2019 Events



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



*Summer Piano 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!

Final registration July 10.

## *Bach's Lunch*

Asheville's Premiere Organ Concert Series  
*Tate Addis, organ*

**July 3: No Recital**

**August 6, 12:05 PM:** Guest Organist Nolan Anthony



# AUDITIONS

August 22 or 29  
4:00 - 6:30pm

Sign up today for a six minute audition at  
[AshevilleYouthChoirs.org](http://AshevilleYouthChoirs.org)



# CELEBRATING

five years of empowering artists

AFTA's 2019 - 20 season begins August 12. Look forward to a year full of exciting events!

Enrollment is always open.

[AcademyfortheArts.org](http://AcademyfortheArts.org) | [info@academyforthearts.org](mailto:info@academyforthearts.org) | 828.254.7841



# Via Karis Worship Liturgy for When You Are Away

The Via Karis calls us to worship weekly with the body of Christ. While nothing can substitute for gathering with a local church on Sunday, there may be times and events that prevent you from doing so. When you are not able to be present, we have provided this Liturgy for Travel that you can do on your own or with your family that will allow you to join us in worship any time and from anywhere.

**Call to Worship** - Read the Psalm of the week.

**Hymn of Praise** - Choose a familiar hymn to sing.

**Opening Prayer** - Choose someone to offer a prayer welcoming God in your midst or have a time of silence for the confession of sin, concluded by saying the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Sharing Peace** - Greet each other with the words "Peace of Christ be with you."

If you are worshiping alone bless yourself with the words "may the peace of Christ be with me."

**Scripture** - Read the scripture text of the week or choose a Bible passage to read.

**Reflection** - Reflect on the scripture using the practice *Lectio Divina* ("sacred reading").

1. Read through the passage slowly.
2. As you read through the passage a second time, choose a word or phrase that stands out to you.
3. Read the passage again while considering what your word or phrase means, particularly to you and what is happening in your life.
4. Read the passage a fourth time while thinking about what God is saying to you through this passage and how you will respond.
5. Sit silently in the presence of God and see if there is anything else God is saying to you or that you need to say to God.
6. Share any thoughts or questions with those with you or write them in a journal.

**Prayers of the People** - Share prayer concerns or needs and offer this or a similar prayer to God

*For those who are sick, pour out your healing power...*

*For those who are lonely, lead them to friendship and true community...*

*For those who are afraid, instill in them your courage...*

*For those who are traveling, we pray you would keep their going out and coming in...*

**Offertory** - Make an offering to God by sending your tithe to the church or choose a way you will serve the community wherever you are

**Doxology** - Sing the Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**Benediction**

God be in your head and in your understanding  
God be in your eyes and in your discerning  
God be in your mouth and in your speaking  
God be in your heart and in your thinking  
God be at your end and in your departing  
Now and forevermore. Amen



# Watching Our Desired Future Unfold this Fall

For a year now, we have lived into our five desired future statements. These hopes came out of stories about 300 of us shared around tables in the spring of 2018. The stories reflect the goals we long to achieve, people we want to engage, and directions that are built around our strengths as a congregation. What about the result? Over this past year, we have opened our doors to “welcome and include all in a way consistent with God’s love.” Members have invested their lives in the *Via Karis*, *Way of Grace*, and begun worshipping weekly and sharing a common table blessing. Our youth have centered a retreat around attending to the beauty of creation. Our children have taught us how to pray the Psalms. We are beginning to love in accordance with a new rule and rhythm of life. Our hands have been busy about missions, our hearts open to new partners in serving others. Members and friends have gone out from our church to area prisons to find Jesus in places many feel forsaken. But, we have taken just a few steps towards this desired future. There is more to do!

**What next?** The five statements are listed below with the assigned ministry council. For each statement, ministry councils were challenged to name one project that speaks to their hopes for realizing that hope. We want everyone to know about these directions as we head towards Fall 2019 and a new season in the life of First Baptist Church of Asheville.

**Via Karis Team** - First Baptist will be a place where the parable path of Jesus is a way of life.

- We will connect the words of the *Via Karis* to different seasons of the year. You will discover these connections in worship, Bible Study, during Wednesday meals, and in print and social media.

**Communications and Outreach Council** - First Baptist will be a church that welcomes and includes all in a way consistent with God’s love and wisdom.

- Across this new year, we’ll be re-introducing First Baptist Church of Asheville to our city and region. Members and friends will share their own one-minute welcome to the fellowship we are becoming. Our print, social media, and other venues will help others know us even better as we invite new relationships from across our community.

**Missions and Hands-on Ministry Council** - First Baptist will wrap its arms around the city of Asheville.

- Thousands of people head to work each day within a short walk of our church. We will find ways to listen and get to know those laboring nearby. What are their needs? How can we walk alongside them in helpful ways? How can they enrich our congregation? What is Jesus leading us to do with and for downtown workers?

**Congregational Worship Council** - Worship and music will remain essential and move beyond the doors of the church.

- We will continue to creatively offer weekly worship experiences which support the focus of *Via Karis*, particularly as it relates to Body, Table, and Creation. Our worship life will move beyond our doors as we partner with other church entities to offer worship through our prison ministry, recreational affinity groups, and AFTA.

**Christian Formation/Fellowship Council (Adults) & Christian Formation/Fellowship Councils (Children & Students)** - First Baptist will be a church of spiritual transformation grounded in Scriptural imagination, communal discernment, and lived faith.

- Scriptural imagination enables us to view the world in which we live through the stories and images of the Bible. We will encourage the in-depth study of Scripture in community, and help our members develop the skills for thinking theologically about the neighborhoods in which we live out our calling. In this upcoming year, we will seek to create and deepen community through shared interest/affinity groups that help us live out our faith with joy and purpose. Using the beauty and peace of our Sacred Garden, as well as locations around Asheville, we also will encourage prayer and listening to sacred stories, reaching out to people who may not normally enter the church building.
- Last year our congregation was introduced to the *Via Karis* and committed to its Rule of Life. As we shape our lives around this way of grace, we will help church members deepen their relationship with God and our church community by offering *Via Karis* Bible study resources for children, youth, and adults.

Watch for more information as each of these projects develop. If you see a focus that calls to your talents, contact David Blackmon for more information and to be directed to the right council leader. You can contact David at [dblackmon@fbca.net](mailto:dblackmon@fbca.net) or call David at 828.252.4781.

## Jubilee Luncheons

Jubilee Luncheons are a time for all senior adults to join together 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. We look forward to seeing you on September 17. **(There will be no Jubilee on July 16 or August 20.)**

## Stephen Ministry Corner

Everyone faces periods of crisis, transition, or difficulty. During these times, people can receive great support from a confidential, caring relationship with someone who will faithfully listen, pray, and care for them. If you feel that you would benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, please contact Leah Brown at 252-4781 for more information.

## A Look Back . . . .

### Senior Adult Sunday • Sunday, May 5

Senior adults gathered on May 5, 2019 to enjoy a luncheon celebrating our 50 and 75 year members! We are grateful for their commitment and dedication to God and our congregation. A special thank you to members of the Senior Adult Team and Nancy McCrory for such a wonderful event!







# First Baptist Church

is Partnering with

We are excited to share an opportunity First Baptist Church has to support families in Asheville. The Mission Council has approved our participation in the Ingles Tools for Schools drive. This is an annual event that brings the community together to stand beside the students, teachers, school administration, staff, and parents in helping make sure that families that cannot afford proper supplies will have what they need for a successful school year. The program serves Asheville City and Buncombe County school districts.

**First Baptist Church will be a drop off location for the Ingles Tools for Schools Drive to benefit Eblen Charities. Collections dates will be July 28 and August 4. Donations can be dropped off in the Atrium and at the Senior Adult/AFTA entrance.**



## Items Needed Include:

**Book bags, wide and college ruled paper, composition notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, pencil boxes, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, markers, glue, highlighters, scissors, dry erase markers, index cards, crayons, notebooks, folders, zip lock bags, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, rulers, graph paper, post-it notes, dividers, and Clorox wipes.**

The school supplies will be distributed on Wednesday, August 14, at the Eblen Charities Waddell Client Service Center at Westgate Shopping Center in West Asheville. The children of families who qualify are given the opportunity to shop for the items they prefer in a store environment.

**Thanks in advance for your generosity as we continue to wrap our arms around Asheville as followers of Christ.**

**Sunday, August 18**

**2:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Etowah Valley Golf Club**

470 Brickyard Rd, Etowah, NC 28729

# ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic is a great opportunity for our church family to come together for fellowship, food, and recreation. First Baptist will provide the meat. Remember to bring a covered dish to share. A van will be available at the church to provide transportation to and from Etowah. This van will leave at 2:30 p.m. and return by 7:00 p.m. If you plan to ride the church van, reserve your seat with Leah Brown at [lbrown@fbca.net](mailto:lbrown@fbca.net) or 828.252.4781.

## **First Baptist Church of Asheville**

Freedom. Friendship. Faith.

5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC 28801 • 828.252.4781 • [www.fbca.net](http://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.



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