



Highlights

Newsletter

May/June 2019



Wondering About the Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the climax and crowning point of each of the Gospels. Yet, none of the Gospels describes the resurrection the same way, and they often contradict each other. We can understand how the New Testament authors could confuse minor details. We know what it's

like to remember events differently than others who were with us in the same place at the same time. But it is a maddening, futile effort to combine the Gospel testimonies into a seamless, logical narrative.

For instance, in the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene stoops into the tomb and sees two angels inside. After turning around, she encounters the risen Jesus, has a conversation with him, and promptly relays this good news to the rest of the disciples. Contrast this with Mark's version, where, immediately after Mary sees the angels, she hightails it out of there with two other terrified women who "say nothing to anyone." There is a substantial list of similar inconsistencies.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, calls the resurrection accounts "painfully untidy stories." So, we Christians must be a strange breed. After 2,000 years, we continue to proclaim an inexplicable event as the animating principle of our faith. In this season of Eastertide, we can appreciate what the resurrection narratives hold in common.

First, the "painful untidiness" of these stories is all the more reason to take them seriously. Death is so assured, consistent, and final. We're born, we live, we die. In spite of our stringent pursuit of health and wellness, not one of us is going to get out of life alive. "The grass withers and the flowers fade," Isaiah says (Isa. 40:8). Death is more certain than taxes. So, it makes a peculiar sort of sense that these accounts of Jesus' resurrection differ and even contradict one another. Wouldn't we be more suspicious of a neat, systematic deconstruction of death? We might say the resurrection makes "unreasonable sense." God not only puts death on notice, God overwhelms and conquers death with an event so astonishing that it scrambles and disorients its firsthand witnesses, too.

A **second** consistent element across the four Gospels is that Jesus was not merely resuscitated. There's an infinite difference between resuscitation and resurrection. Resuscitations,

however miraculous, merely revive the same mortal body. But Jesus' resurrection reveals a transformed, imperishable body. Contrast Lazarus coming out of the tomb clumsily unwrapping the strips of cloth that had bound him, while the risen Jesus leaves his linen wrappings in the tomb as though he'd passed right through them (Jn. 20:6b-7). Jesus appears suddenly in rooms with locked doors and fastened windows (20:19). When some of the disciples finally recognize him, he vanishes from their sight (Lk. 24:31). Even so, his risen presence is physical. He walks, speaks, eats with, and even invites his disciples to touch him.

Physics can't explain this. What we do know is that the risen Jesus is "the first fruits of those who have died" (1 Cor. 15:20). Jesus' resurrection reveals that the destiny of our bodies is not death but life. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Rom. 6:5). This risen, bodily Jesus discloses what God's redemption looks like—for us as creatures, and for all creation.

A **third** truth about the resurrection is that it eternally exalts those whom Jesus calls blessed. This Jesus who is risen is the same Jesus the world despises and kills. In raising this suffering servant, God exalts the scorned, the persecuted, the poor, the meek, the destitute, the outcast, and those who weep. This was and still is a mystifying revelation. It remains a stumbling block to many. It may be harder for us to grasp today, but Pilate's sentencing of Jesus to death was not a controversial decision in the general worldview of that time. In Pilate's eyes, Jesus was nothing more than a local renegade insurrectionist, a disturber of the peace, a ragamuffin punching far above his weight. If Jerusalem had gas stations, we might have seen Jesus' face among thousands of others in one of those mugshot magazines beside the cash register. His life was worthless in the grand scheme of Roman politics. In fact, death by crucifixion was Rome's brutal way of communicating the worthlessness of the person being executed.

But in raising Jesus from the dead, God overturns the order of the human point of view. Now the poor and hungry are elevated to prominence and revealed to have eternal significance and value. This is one of the most significant truths unleashed upon the world by Christ's resurrection. By raising Jesus from the dead, God reveals that every human life has inherent dignity and worth. Israel saw this day coming, as Isaiah prophesied, and John the Baptist preached, "All flesh will see the salvation of God" (Lk. 3:6).

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Wondering About the Resurrection

I offer these meanings with fear and trembling, because the resurrection of Jesus is almost too big for words. While the Gospels commission us to tell others about the resurrection, they don't ask us to explain it. Nevertheless, I delight in trying to articulate what difference Jesus' resurrection has made and continues to make for us. It is sacred work to amble in awe around the "event horizon" of the gospel, knowing how it has changed the world, and our lives, forever.

This Eastertide, I invite us all to wonder, "What about the resurrection bewilders, inspires, and finally transforms us?" May we rest in the promise that, though trying to understand it all can be maddening, it is never futile. Such wondering is reckoned to us as faith itself.

— Mack Dennis

Wednesdays in June

5:00 p.m. • Dining Room

Details coming soon at www.fbca.net
and in Connect Now.

WNCBF 2019 Spring Gathering

Sunday, May 5 • 4:00-7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church Forest City

\$10 Registration Fee (children 12 and under free)

A Spaghetti dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m.

The Baptist Future . . . IS THERE ONE?



Hear thoughts from Dr. Bill Leonard at our WNCBF Spring Gathering. All are welcome!

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
LOCAL CHURCH ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 17-21, 2019 | BIRMINGHAM-JEFFERSON
BIRMINGHAM ALA. | CONVENTION COMPLEX
Registration NOW OPEN www.cbf.net/assembly

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

*As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, let us re-awaken our faith and reshape our lives
in response to God's great love for us and the world.*



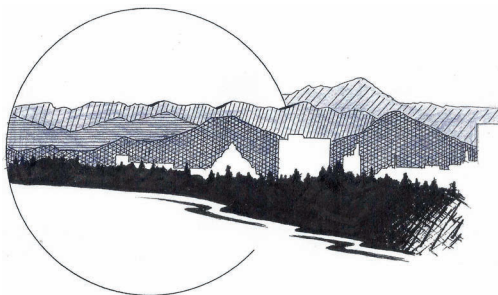
Why Bible study? As followers of Christ, we need one another to help us grow in faith. In the context of life-giving community, we share and learn from each person's unique experiences with and understandings of God, as we explore Scripture and our lives. We develop authentic friendships in which people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

If you are looking for a community of spiritual friends, consider becoming a part of a Sunday morning Bible study community. Contact Tommy Bratton to help you get connected.

VIA KARIS

Creation

"We honor God's creation by enjoying it, blessing it, caring for it, and by developing and sharing our gifts and creativity with it" (*Via Karis* p.50).



The Via Karis Rule of Life for "Creation" commends us to *attend daily to the beauty of the world*. This practice allows tremendous freedom, creating space for you to connect with God through nature, art, music, etc. This spring, the church will provide several opportunities for you to attend to the beauty of the world. Join us on Wednesday evenings in the Chapel as the Creation Care Team and the Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina lead a study on climate change. We will have a worship service on May 19 centered on beloved hymns. At the Caswell spring retreat, the youth will consider how creative practices connect with spiritual beliefs as they learn from artists from our congregation and participate in hands-on creative activities. The Academy for the Arts invites you to attend their end-of-year recitals, May 13-16, and the Asheville Youth Choirs Spring Concert on June 9.

This is also a wonderful season to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation. As you attend to the beauty of the world you may choose to:

- plant flowers or vegetables in your garden
- learn about recycling, composting, or a new way you can care for creation
- volunteer at a community garden or animal shelter
- create through painting, poetry-writing, sewing, etc.

Maker God

Maker God,
I am made in your image:
I am a maker too.

When I am writing
I feel your joy in me,
your imagination dances
in me telling me 'Yes'.

When I am digging
I feel your laughter in me,
I meet worms in the soil,
leaves brush my hands,
birds sing.

When I am praying
I feel your hope in me,
sometimes your sadness too.
I am held
in your life.

You rejoice
in your creativity.

You made me
in your image.

I love being
a maker too.

— Ruth Burgess

**Christian Pilgrims:
A New Sharing Group
Mondays, April 22 - May 27
10:30 a.m.-noon • Bridal Room**

You are invited to join us for a gathering of fellow travelers on the road of faith. This sharing group will explore the intersection between our life experiences and our faith.

*We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road.
We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ light for you in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear. — Richard Gillard*

For more information, contact Pat Fore at 828.279.3871.

**Ballroom Dance
Affinity Group
Tuesdays, May 7-28
7:00-8:00 p.m. • Gym**



If you would like to spend time learning to dance and experiencing joy in community, you are invited to come to this four-week affinity group led by Amber Austin of Ultimate Dance Asheville. The cost of these four lessons is \$20 per person / \$30 per couple.

Sign up by contacting April Nance at anance@fbca.net or 828.252.4781.



**World Labyrinth Day
Saturday, May 4**

Come celebrate the 11th Annual World Labyrinth Day on May 4, and join over 5,000 people taking steps for peace. Last year, gatherings were held in over 30 countries and 45 US states. Come walk the labyrinth in solidarity with others around the world. For more information, contact Tommy Bratton.

Senior Adults • Jubilee • 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. Please contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 or lbrown@fbca.net for more information.

May 21 • Crocker Auditorium
Vocal Group: Class Act

June 18
Jubilee Picnic at the WNC Governor's Residence

July 16
No Jubilee Luncheon this month. We will see you again on August 20th!!

**Jubilee Picnic
June 18 • 11:00 a.m. •
WNC Governor's Residence**

All senior adults are invited to join us for a special Jubilee Picnic on June 18 at the WNC Governor's Residence. Please consider using our shuttle service due to limited parking at the Governor's Residence. The shuttle will leave at **10:00 a.m.** from the Atrium Parking Lot. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Leah Brown, Minister with Senior Adults at 828.252.4781.

Campus Master Plan

I didn't know the church owned One Oak. Will you tell me more about the property?

One Oak Plaza is a three story, 30,000 square foot office building sitting on 1.82 acres. It was purchased in 1994 and both the 110 parking spaces and the rental income are vital to the church.

That has me wondering about the rest of our property....

The original building was constructed in 1927 with major additions in 1970 and 1980, the Children's building and the Sherman Center respectively. The last renovation was completed in 2005. Today we have a total of 116,000 square feet of floor space. (For comparison, Biltmore House has just under 180,000 and the White House has 55,000.) We sit on 5.82 acres and have about 300 parking spaces in the two lots adjacent to our building.

What prompted this look at how we use our campus?

The deacons formed an ad hoc committee to explore three things:

- Ways to generate more income to support the church budget.
- Ways to add an additional 200 parking spaces.
- Ways we might use our property for missions and ministry.

What mission and ministry ideas are being considered?

The ideas that have most often been suggested are affordable housing, childcare, a community hub for social services and health care, green spaces for outdoor events, and spaces for job training.

I understand the need for more parking but what will the church do with more income?

In just a few years, our sanctuary and the core of our church building will be 100 years old. Ongoing maintenance and repairs, as well as the replacement of aging heating and cooling systems, are expensive. Additional income will provide a way to pay for these items outside of the pledged budget. The hope is to build a fund which will care for our buildings, not just in our lifetimes, but for generations to come.

Is there a theological vision for this work?

In the vision Mack set before the committee, he referenced two passages from scripture. The first (1 Peter 2:4-6) speaks of a structure that lives and thrives only because Jesus Christ lives. The second (1 Cor. 3:11) speaks of Christ, the sure foundation. Both challenge us to dream of the unique things we can do because we rest in the confidence of the resurrection.

What happens next?

The committee will continue to keep the deacons and congregation informed of progress in its work. When there is a proposal, it will be brought to the deacons. With deacon consent, the proposal will then be shared with the congregation. What will we end up with? We don't know yet. We are dreaming this dream together and must find that audacious thing that is right for us. We will know we have found it when we go from saying "How can we?" to "How can we not?"

CMP Ad Hoc Committee:

Will Arledge, Kirstin Austin, Randall Barnett, Woody Bolinger, Ron Butler, Nancy Flippin, Charlie Glazener, Jeff Gorsuch, David Hart, Bradley Hines, Carole Martin, Ginny Morris, Debbie Miller (chair)

This summer we look forward to welcoming Ryan back as our Children's Ministry Summer Intern



Ryan Bratton is a rising junior at University of Georgia. He is a Music Education major.

Ryan grew up at First Baptist and was active in our children, youth, and music ministries.

While at college, Ryan attends First Baptist Church of Athens where he is the Youth Ministry Intern and a choral scholar.

This summer the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Ministries Council will recognize him as one of the "2019 Young Adults to Know."

We are so excited to welcome Ryan back this summer. Ryan will work primarily in the children's area teaching Bible study and coordinating summer camps but will also lead in worship and assist in general pastoral ministries.

agapekids

Agape Kids will end on May 29 with a churchwide celebration. Our children will share things they've learned and done this year. Make plans to join us at 6:00 pm in the Chapel.

Vacation Bible School



June 24 - 27

9:00 a.m - Noon

4 year old - 5th grade

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

VBS is free, but registration is required.



**DARKNESS TO LIGHT'S
STEWARDS
OF CHILDREN®**

May 9 at 5:30 p.m.
Registration fee: \$10
Sign up on the church's website

The Christian Formation and Fellowship Council for Children and Youth invites parents and those who work with children and youth to attend this training to help prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

WHY DOES IT APPLY TO ME?

Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face, with the most serious array of consequences. In fact, 1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.

This means that whether you work with youth, are a parent, or are simply a member of a community, it is highly likely that someone you know or care for has experienced, or is currently experiencing, child sexual abuse. It's going to happen whether you are prepared to deal with it or not – unless you stop it from happening. And the good news, it can be stopped.

WHY IS THIS PROGRAM DIFFERENT?

Stewards of Children® uses real people and real stories to show you how to protect children. The framework of the training is built off the foundation of The 5 Steps to Protecting Children™.

You'll meet survivors who lived through child sexual abuse, experienced its immediate and long-term effects, and ultimately were able to find healing. You'll meet experts who work with children and families, and confront abuse on a daily basis. Many of these survivors and experts are also parents themselves.

This training will be provided by the Mountain Child Advocacy Center. Continuing Education hours are available. To learn more about this training, visit www.d2l.org/education/stewards-of-children/

What might it look like for a teen to attend daily to the beauty of the world, as the Via Karis prompts us?

How do creative practices relate to our spiritual beliefs?

What does it mean to be co-creators with God?

This year's retreat will focus on **CREATIVITY**. Each session will include creative prompts that challenge students in various expressive ways. Sessions will also feature different voices who can speak to God's unique callings upon their lives.

CASWELL

YOUTH SPRING RETREAT MAY 24-27



Creative Leaders include many of our faithful youth parents and volunteers, as well as special session leaders Dearing Davis and Allison Royal.



THE VILLAGE POTTERS

In preparation for our Caswell retreat theme, this spring our youth group visited The Village Potters for an instructional class in working with clay. Our hands-on activity helped bring this biblical metaphor to life:

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand"
(Isaiah 64:8).

2019 SUMMER CALENDAR

FBCA YOUTH MINISTRY (GRADES 7-12)

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

E **Baccalaureate Sunday**
June 2

T **Summer Fun Series**
Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
Meet in Youth Room

V **FirstShine Summer Camp**
June 17-20
Volunteer camp counselor positions.

V **VBS & Day Camp**
June 24-28
Volunteer and paid camp counselor positions.

KEY: **E** Youth Event **V** Volunteer Counselor
T Tuesday Summer Series

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

E **Movie Marathon Overnight**
July 2-3
7:00 p.m. - Pick up at 8:00 a.m.
Meet at church in Youth Room
Movies TBD.

E **UNIDIVERSITY Youth Summer Camp**
July 20-27
Camp is held at Maryville College in Tennessee. Prior to camp, our group will spend two challenging days doing roof repairs in Knoxville.

V **Discovery Camp**
July 29-Aug. 2
Paid camp counselor positions.

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

E **Student Leadership Team Summit & Rising Seventh Grade Retreat**
August 24 - 25

Koinonia Kick-Off
August 25

Contact Us

Casey Callahan, Minister with Students
ccallahan@fbca.net, 828.252.4781

Laura Addis, Ministry Associate for Youth
laura.larsen.addis@gmail.com, 828.252.4781



UNIDIVERSITY

SUMMER CAMP
JULY 20-27, 2019
REGISTRATION OPEN



Overnight Summer Camp: June 17-20, 2019



Academy for the Arts

May & June 2019 Events



May 13 - 21: Spring 2019 Recital Season

June 3: Summer Session 2019 begins

June 8, 2:00 PM: Guest Recital: Helen Rifas, Harp
Crouch Chapel



May 30 & June 6, 4 - 6:30 PM: AYC 2019-20 Auditions
Sign up today for a six-minute audition!

June 9, 6:00 PM: "How Good!" Spring Concert

Bach's Lunch

Asheville's Premiere Organ Concert Series
Tate Addis, organ

May 7, 12:05 PM: *Four Hands, Four Feet*
with guest organist, Wyatt Smith

June 4, 12:05 PM: *Organ Music from the Lighter Side*



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.

2019 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES SUNDAYS IN JULY



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!

Sundays in July. 6 pm.

Enrollment is always open.

AcademyfortheArts.org | info@academyforthearts.org | 828.254.7841



PRACTICING SHALOM IN OUR TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Wednesdays, April 24 - May 15
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Crouch Chapel
First Baptist Church of Asheville
5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC 28801
fbca.net

We are happy to present this 4-part series for our church and our community to examine climate change. We will consider its effects on our world, and explore the role of our Christian faith in response. Join us as leaders share their expertise.

April 24 – “Living in this time of Climate Change”

Deke Arndt, Chief, Monitoring Branch, National Center for Environmental Information, NOAA

From his experience as climate scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Deke will speak to us about the recent report from the National Climate Assessment, helping us understand major points of interest. Additionally, he will speak to conditions we might expect in the Southeastern US with regard to climate change. We are fortunate to have Deke share his scientific expertise with us.

May 1 - “Practicing Shalom in Climate Change”

Rev. Nancy Sehested, Co-pastor, Circle of Mercy Congregation

Nancy will lead us in an exploration of the relationship between our faith and climate change. What can we glean from our Scriptures that speak to this issue? How are we then called to respond?

May 8 - “Asheville Responds”

A Panel of Local Leaders:

Sophie Mullinax, Blue Horizons Project, Coordinator

Dawn Chavez, Asheville Greenworks, Director

Scott Hardin-Nieri, Mountain True, Director of Creation Care Alliance

From these community leaders, we will learn of their efforts in Asheville and Buncombe County to mitigate climate change. Additionally, they will help us know ways we can participate with them or on an individual basis to make a positive difference in combating climate change.

May 15 - “First Baptist Responds”

Dr. Mack Dennis, Pastor

Mack will give an overview of ways our church has already taken steps to reduce our energy consumption and live more sustainably. Where do we go from here? Mack will share ideas that are being explored and visions for our future of ways we can help as we live in this time of climate change.

Sponsored by First Baptist Church & Creation Care Alliance



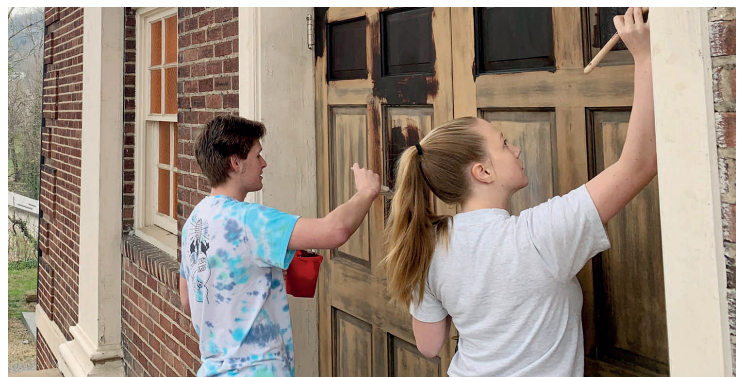
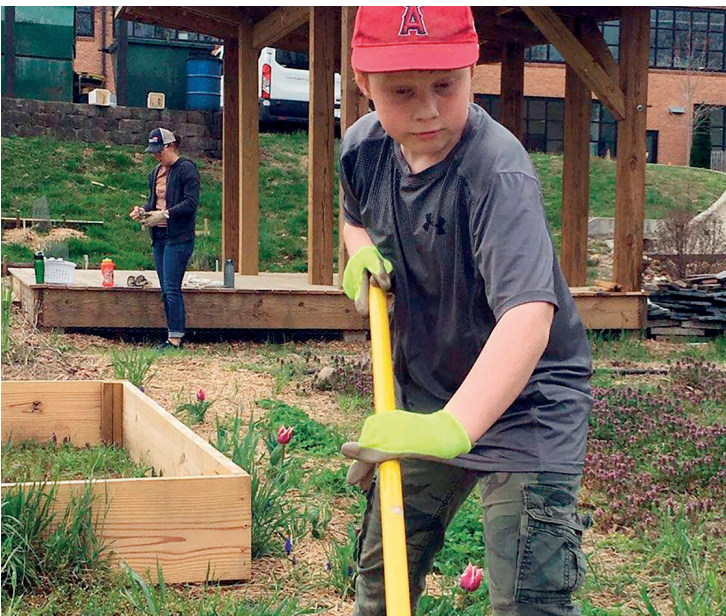
March Mission Emphasis

First Baptist Church of Asheville embraced Asheville with the love of Christ across March 24-30. Members and friends fed the hungry, tutored children, made school campuses beautiful, and much more. More than 75 gathered to pack 10,000 meals that went to ABCCM crisis ministry and shared cards with our shut-ins. We welcomed Girl Scouts to tend our Sacred Garden and shared trees to grow in other gardens. Thanks be to God for all the ways we attended to the beauty of creation across our community

By the Numbers

There were 35 projects, 393 jobs, 323 actual people participated showing that some of our people did multiple projects, and 1059 hours of service completed. We delivered 215 children's books to the Read Cycle program, 58 beautiful, full bags to Hope Chest for Women, health snack bags to Eblen Charities, backpacks fill with school supplies to the Salvation Army, and personal items for women who are guests of Room in the Inn.





Finding the “Real Magic” in Cuba

A Few Reflections from our Young Adult Pilgrimage

Before the sun rose over Asheville on New Year's Day, our young adult team was already above the clouds and headed south, anticipating an arrival into Havana, Cuba, shortly after lunchtime. Receiving us at the airport were the wide-open arms and endearing smiles of Maura Solo Alicio, pastor of Iglesia Elohim in Las Tunas (our sister congregation), together with other friends from Las Tunas and North Carolina natives Stan and Kim Dotson, our trip leaders. The next six days would take our joined FBCA/Las Tunas group on a mini-pilgrimage through the western region of Cuba. In addition to meeting with local pastors and church leaders, we visited the Baptist retreat center, the ecumenical seminary, the faith & arts initiative in Matanzas, and interacted with various other innovators, theologians, musicians, and artists. The entire experience was very enriching and left us all with many inspiring and intriguing things to ponder as we all returned home. As a team, we are very thankful for the good and loving work that has been done by our church these past 6+ years in developing and nurturing this good partnership.



“Every time I return from Cuba people want to know what it was like, what we do there, and what impact it has. After three trips now, I am still unable to truly capture what happens down there. For me the real magic is seeing people experience our partnership in person. It isn’t always an easy or smooth experience but by the end they get it. That intangible thing that makes what we do important and special. It is always wonderful to meet the members of our sister church down there, and I feel so fortunate to have been able to go on a journey with them once more.” (Daniel Lewis)

“What struck me most about Cuba was the people we encountered. Almost all of them are poor by any American standards, but the joy with which they approach life, and the little things that bring meaning to the days, could teach any wealthy American more than a few lessons about living abundantly. In a

place and time when many privileged, powerful people are claiming that Christians in America are being persecuted or that the church can’t survive a difficult environment, the Christians we encounter in Cuba are a living testimony to the vibrant, living church that has endured real persecution and government hostility and has thrived anyway. Experiencing Cuba also shows us that just because we have been taught that a place or culture is evil or foreign or “other” doesn’t make it true. Finding how much we have in common despite hostile governments, travel and trade restrictions, and a culture that demonizes the idea of “communists” truly shows the truth of Jesus’ call to treat all people as neighbors and to love them as ourselves.” (Jamie Gorsuch)



Prison Ministry: And You Visited Me

Jesus reminds us that he inhabits every prison cell, each minute of the lives of those who are incarcerated. Jesus, says, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...I was in prison and you visited me." Members and friends of First Baptist Church of Asheville make this journey to find the Risen Lord as they tend souls living in three prison facilities in our region housing over 2000 residents. The Missions Council asks for your prayers as the following mission efforts unfold:

Each Week

Servants from our church lead Bible study at Craggy Correctional Center. Others share in the Yokefellow program at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women (SCCW), sitting with residents and listening to their heartfelt needs. A few in our congregation accompany residents of SCCW as they attend worship with us at FBCA.

May 5 and July 7

A team will lead in worship at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women. More than 100 women will attend each service.

May 2-5 and May 21-24

Members and friends of First Baptist will join others in leading a three-day inside retreat at Craggy Correctional Center and Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution. Around 50 residents will be welcomed into the unconditional love of God through these experiences in which members of the team commit to "listen, listen, love, love."

Pray that God would be near our friends as they serve in these difficult settings. Even more, ask that the residents would experience the Spirit's presence as they share and sing, worship and pray.

Need more information? Would you like to attend to the beauty of God's creation through ministry with those in prison? Contact Sarah Whitlock at 828.252.4781 or swhitlock@fbca.net. She can help you. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to meet him through these beloved sons and daughters.



In the coming weeks, students and adults from FBCA will join campers, age 6-15, at FirstShine, our camp for children with special needs. This year, we'll be housing the camp here at FBCA. From our campus, campers will launch out with their counselors to journey on a train, have a picnic, ride horses, and swim. Mornings and evenings are filled with music and crafts, good food and friendship. Pray that our campers will experience the joy, their families will welcome a season of rest, and our counselors will have the strength to embody God's love in this beautiful setting.

Summer Program for Refugee Students Who Are Rising High School Seniors July 15-19

Recreation: hikes, swimming, sports, outdoor programs

Education: visiting UNCA, AB Technical Community College, Mars Hill University, Spartanburg Methodist College
To explore high education opportunities and financing

If you are interested in hosting a student or if your Bible Study community is interested in providing a meal, please contact Randall Barnett at randall@ashevillehomebuyer.com or Tommy Bratton at tbratton@fbca.net



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.



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www.fbca.net



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