



# *Highlights*

November-December 2019





## A Capable Church Staff, Who Can Find?

*1 Thessalonians 5:12*

I continue to marvel at the good work our church staff is doing—both ministers and administrators. Collegial, collaborative church staffs of this caliber are rare, but we have a gifted group that serves our church with enthusiasm and joy. So, I want to take this opportunity to share

my appreciation for my dedicated colleagues—your beloved ministers—and also to give you an “insider’s look” in to the goings-on of the people you support to equip the saints for ministry.

The first thing we do every Monday morning is pray. We begin the weekly ministers’ meeting by reading a Psalm, followed by several minutes of silence. Then we reflect on where we’ve seen the gospel happening in our midst over the past week, bearing witness to those moments where we’ve seen Jesus show up.

Every meeting includes rich discussions about theology, Scripture, vocation, the arts, or contemporary events, as we bring these subjects into conversation with the life of our church. In addition to planning worship, anticipating upcoming events, and coordinating pastoral care needs, we also bear one another’s burdens, and talk about our hopes and fears.

We talk about you, too. We love on, dote on, and hold you up to God in our conversations and prayers. We weep and we laugh with you and for you.

After the (typically 2-hour-long) meeting, we break bread together. We go to lunch and tell stories, talk about our families, argue about college football, and reenact Saturday Night Live sketches.

After that, we’re off to the races, or the hospital, or the rehearsal, or the drawing board to write sermons, prepare lessons, plan budgets, craft children’s curricula, design weekend retreats, and coordinate funerals. We show up at civic functions, and alongside doctors and nurses, attorneys and wardens, paramedics and undertakers. Sometimes we even arrive before the ambulance, and we’re there with you long after the hearse has pulled away. We compete to be the first to hold your babies, and we’re honored to have the last word at gravesides.

We meet with you to coordinate committees and councils, or for pastoral care, or to talk about joining the church. We meet with other ministers for peer support, to organize camps and mission trips, or to help with denominational work.

We read books and reflect on them. We write articles and essays for publications. We rattle off emails and work the phones to call, text, coax, and cajole you. “Can you volunteer?” “Would you read Scripture next Sunday?” “Come help us decorate the Christmas tree.” “I think you’d be a great addition to the choir!”

We run three schools (the five-star Child Development Center, the top-flight First Kids preschool, and the peerless Academy for the Arts), while preparing to launch a fourth (First Shine Learning Center) in 2020.

Not bad for Monday, huh?

Like many of you, we work long, odd hours, on weekdays, weekends, and holidays. The job of a minister has always been this way. Ministry eludes hourly quantification. How do you clock in when you’re lying awake trying to solve a thorny pastoral care matter, stewing over the budget, straining to decipher a stubborn Scripture passage, or praying to this Jesus fellow who also speaks in parables at 4:00 a.m.?

We ministers don’t do our work alone. We find expert support from our administrative colleagues, assistants, and custodians, with whom we love to work, and without whom the gospel we carry would go undelivered. Our co-laborers in Christ help make 5 Oak Street an organized, welcoming, thriving, beautiful community and campus.

We also couldn’t do our work without you, the members of the church, co-laborers all. Our calling and purpose is not to do ministry in your place. We have been ordained—set apart—in order to lead you, equip you, and serve you as you minister to others. All Christians are priests to one another. Ministers are simply priests serving this “royal priesthood” (1 Pet. 2:9).

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# WEDNESDAYS IN November

## **First Wednesday Vespers: Stories and Song** **Wednesday, November 6 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel**

On the first Wednesday of the month, we will gather in the chapel to sing songs of our faith and to tell stories. There will be three adults from different generations telling a story around a common theme. Sharing stories in community with others leads us to deepen our understanding of not only others, but also of ourselves. If you are interested in telling your story, contact Tommy Bratton at 828.252.4781 or tbratton@fbca.net.

## **Deacon Ordination – Will Arledge** **Wednesday, November 13** **6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary**

Join us as we celebrate and ordains Will as a deacon of our church.



## **What is Your Why?** **Wednesday, November 20 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel**

If someone from our community asked why you attend First Baptist Church of Asheville, what would you tell them? This week, we will explore how to craft your WHY and how to share it with others. Our time together will remind us of what gives us meaning, purpose, and joy for our daily, lived faith. We will laugh together and hear sacred stories of our congregation.

## **Wednesday on Tuesday – A Service of Word and Table** **Tuesday, November 26** **6:00 p.m. • Dining Room**

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As we enter the holiday seasons, it is important for us to pause and give thanks. Too often, in our rush, we forget that we are beloved children of God (and so is everyone else). We get distracted by the sights and sounds of the seasons and the demands on our time and energy. We even miss out on the simple and abundant gifts God gives us.

The theme of our gathering this evening will be “Living with Gratitude.” Following the weekly fellowship meal, youth and adults will gather around tables in the dining room to explore why we celebrate. We will share in a service of communion and hear several members share why they love this congregation. Come and experience the joy of community and give thanks for all God has done for us.



*continued from page 2*

Just as Paul teaches the Thessalonians, you “respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and...esteem them very highly in love because of their work” (1 Thess. 5:12). We are grateful to you for hiring and supporting us, for funding our salaries, as well as the ministries and missions you’ve commended us to lead. We cherish your encouragement and passion for ministry. We appreciate it when you say, “Good job,” or “Thank you,” or “Hang in there.” We’re grateful for your love and prayers. We enjoy your friendship. We also treasure free babysitting.

To my colleagues, and to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I say *thank you*.

Now, if you’ll excuse me, I have a sermon to prepare. Jesus is being particularly aggravating this week, and, ready or not, Sunday’s comin’.

— Mack Dennis

## *All Saints' Sunday* *November 3 - 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary*



All Saints Sunday Worship will be a celebration of the eternal hope central to our Christian faith. Worshipers will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one, and the names of church family members who have died in the last year will be spoken. The service will include baptism, communion, and extended music by the choir, organ, and AFTA saxophone instructor, Frank Southecorvo.

## *Advent* at a Glance



### **Hanging of the Green - Sunday, December 1 - 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary \***

Poinsettias, wreaths, garland, candles, and the Chrismon tree will be placed in the sanctuary by all ages in preparation for the Advent season. The singing of carols and a wonderful holiday reception make this experience a cherished tradition.

### **The Time of Snow - Sunday, December 8 - 7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary**

The Asheville Youth Choirs will present a concert of holiday music exploring the surprising beauty of the winter season. Amidst barren, snowy and cold weather, the “warmth” of the season is discovered in the beauty of music, the love of family, and generous compassion for the world.

### **Glorious and Magnificent! - Sunday, December 15 - 7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary \***

The Adult Choir and AYC Treble Chorus will be accompanied by Orchestra in the presentation of two seasonal classics: Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and John Rutter's *Magnificat*.

### **Family Christmas Eve Service - Tuesday, 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 - Tuesday, 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 - Tuesday, 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.



## WEDNESDAYS IN *December*

### **First Wednesday Vespers: Stories and Song** **Wednesday, December 4 • 6:00 p.m., Chapel**

On the first Wednesday of the month, we will gather in the chapel to sing songs of our faith and to tell stories. There will be three adults from different generations telling a story around a common theme. Sharing stories in community with others leads us to deepen our understanding of not only others, but also of ourselves. If you are interested in telling your story, contact Tommy Bratton at 828.252.4781 or tbratton@fbca.net.

### **Folk Advent Service:** **December 11 • 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, readers' theater, storytelling, and loads of fun come to life. Invite your friends to join you!

Following the Folk Advent Service, the Nativity Exhibit will be open for a preview in the Chapel.

### **Advent Lovefeast** **December 18 • 6:00 p.m. • Dining Room**

**5:00 p.m. Cello Ensemble in the Atrium**

**5:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal**

**6:00 p.m. Roundtable Celebration of the Lovefeast**

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 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**



O COME LET US  
*Adore*  
HIM

**December 11-18**  
**Crouch Chapel**

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

[www.ashevillennativity.org](http://www.ashevillennativity.org)

# youthministry



## Upcoming Events and Registrations



### ● ASHEVILLE WORSHIP PROJECT ●

November 10 is our last day that a group of our high schoolers will visit another Christian body of faith for a morning worship service. Parents of participating youth should expect their teens to leave with their small groups at 10:30 a.m. and return to FBCA at 12:20 p.m. to enjoy lunch in the dining room from 12:30-1:30 p.m.



**Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**  
**Special Guest Speakers:**  
*Stephanie McKleskey (11/3)*  
*John Bailey (11/17)*



## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

at the Bournes' House

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SKI TRIP

WINTERPLACE, W.V. JAN. 24-26



Register online by Dec. 24



# college *ministry*



## COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY, 12/19 \* 7:00P.M.

HOSTED BY BOB & CATHY GILKESON

# ALUMNI

## BASKETBALL

# GAME

## THURSDAY

JAN 2 at 3:00 P.M.

## STUDENT-LED

# WORSHIP

SERVICE

## December 29, 2019

### @11:00 AM



## The WHY? Project

During the next several months, the Communications and Outreach Council will be encouraging each member and regular attendee to consider their WHY. If someone from our community asked why you attend First Baptist Church of Asheville, what would you tell them? These WHY statements will be personal and unique for everyone. Your WHY may include what you experience in worship, building deep-spirited friendships in Bible study communities, being Christ's hands and feet in service to our neighbors, and more. You have the freedom to approach your WHY from any angle. Here are some prompts to get you thinking:

- Why are you at FBCA and what keeps you here?
- Why do you attend church?
- Why did you choose this church instead of another church?
- Why do you think FBCA makes a difference in your life?
- Why do you stay at FBCA?
- Why is FBCA important to you?

Members of the Communications and Outreach Council will be visiting groups in November and December to help us consider how we tell others about what FBCA means to us. Ultimately, we want to invite others by saying something like, "Come and see for yourself. We might just surprise you!"

Thomas Wolfe penned, "You Can't Go Home Again." I beg to differ. I have "come home" to FBCA three times: as a 3-year-old with my parents; as a single-again mother of two preschoolers; and as a happily married grandmother of ten! Each time, FBCA has been a loving, caring "second home" to me where my faith has taken root and grown prolifically. I am grateful for dedicated, educated staff and teachers; for a compassionate congregation who loves deeply; for friendships steeped in the common cause of sharing the gospel; for a church focused on sharing the love of Christ with our community. Bo Prosser likes to say that people seek a church "where they are prepared for and cared for." That church for me is FBCA, and I am forever blessed to call it my "home church."

— Beverly Pennell



Why do I come to FBCA? To discover Faith... Everything is possible for those who believe .....and.....

To encounter a crazy surprise, find amazing friendships, know that all families are welcome...that my family is welcome with all our hopes, warts, and talents. To be a family who finds individually and collectively that we are challenged to work to be the best versions of ourselves as we walk the walk with the One who proclaims that we are all children of God and that God takes great delight in us.

The Greenhouse is so grateful to be on this journey! Thank you!

— Mary Green



Jeff and I joined First Baptist Church more than 30 years ago when we were looking for a congregation that would help us raise our children in our faith. We found that, but we found so much more. We found a caring, compassionate congregation that has helped our entire family grow in faith while providing us with ways to follow Christ's example of service. We appreciate the fact that the sermons and Bible study at FBCA have challenged us to seek answers to the faith questions we have.

— Brenda Gorsuch



There are so many things that I love about FBCA. More than anything though, I love that FBCA is a place that welcomes a diversity of opinion and encourages questions along our various faith journeys.

— Leesa Brandon

I am at FBCA because I value community. In a world where people are retreating ever further apart and isolating themselves in their phones, it is incredibly important to connect to a community of people. FBCA adds value to wanderers in all stages of life and connects families through strong bonds of fellowship.

— Will Arledge



**Registration opens for those active at First Baptist in January and for the public in March.**





# CELEBRATING

five years of empowering artists

Visit [AcademyfortheArts.org](http://AcademyfortheArts.org) for a full schedule of events.

## November & December 2019 Events

### *Bach's Lunch*

Asheville's Premiere Organ Concert Series

First Tuesday of every month, 12:05 PM



Tate Addis, organ

**November 5**

*Music for Sinners & Saints*

**December 3**

*Music for the Holiday Season*



**November 2**

*Love and Marriage*

High School & Middle School Chorales in concert with Asheville Symphony Chorus

**December 8**

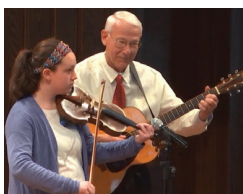
*The Time of Snow*

Asheville Youth Choirs Holiday Concert

**December 15**

*Glorious and Magnificent!*

AYC Treble choir, FBCA Adult Choir, & Orchestra



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

**Enrollment is always open.**

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

## Jubilee Luncheon

**Tuesday, November 19 • 11:00 a.m. • Crocker Auditorium**

*(No Jubilee in December. See information below for Jubilee on the Road!)*

Join us as our own Tim Owings, pianist, performs in Crocker Auditorium. Jubilee is a time for Senior Adults to enjoy fellowship, entertainment, and a delicious meal. 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.

## December Jubilee on the Road

**Sunday, December 8 • Noon – 5:00 p.m.**

Join us as we enjoy lunch in our dining room before making our way by bus to the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre's musical production of "Miracle in Bedford Falls." Cost per person is \$25 (non-refundable) and includes your lunch and ticket to the play. Please reserve and pay for your seat by December 5 by contacting Valarie Shoulta at 828.252.4781.

## A look back . . .



**Jubilee/PrimeTime On The Road**  
Lunch at Pisgah View Ranch  
September 17



## Senior Adult/Prime Time Fall Retreat October 10-11



Our Senior Adult and Prime Time group enjoyed our annual Fall Retreat at Bonclarken Retreat Center in Flat Rock. We studied the theme "Living a Storied Life" with Tommy Bratton and enjoyed a communion service together. This retreat time allows people to develop and deepen friendships during our study and fellowship time. For more information about ministry to people over 60, please contact Leah Brown at lbrown@fbca.net or 828.252.4781.



## The Long Road to Recovery



Hurricane Florence in 2018 is the most devastating natural disaster that North Carolina has ever experienced (approximately 100,000 homes affected).

Eight church members traveled to Rose Hill in eastern NC last weekend and laid flooring in a house located in a community that had five feet of floodwaters. The team members were Carlos Collazo, Charles Eichhorn, Dennis Hill, Dennis Kabasan, Sharon Tabor, Jim Worley, Martha Worley, and Bruce Young.

The team stayed in the Charity Rebuild Center, which is one of four “rebuilding hubs.” This hub is a former middle school that has been remodeled by the North Carolina Baptists on Mission for lodging and to supply tools for disaster relief teams. Here are some of the facts we learned:

- The NC Baptists on Mission have been in Rose Hill for 375 days.
- The long term response will last two to three years.
- 65 houses have been restored
- 150 houses are on the approved list waiting for construction help
- 150 more houses are on the list waiting for an evaluation
- Some homeowners are still repairing their homes from Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

The money that you give to the budget is important to support a variety of mission project teams. This disaster is so big that it requires a long-term rebuild response. Please prayerfully consider going the next time our church sends a team to help our neighbors.





## Kairos #3 at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women

Kairos #3 at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women (SCCW) is over. The four days spent at Kairos were physically and emotionally exhausting for the residents and the volunteers, but I would do it again with gratitude and humility.

The 37 residents of SCCW who were chosen for Kairos came from all walks of life. They were filled with shame and regret over what they had done. They were dealing with emotional and physical trauma from the past often by those who should have protected them. The stories of being separated from their children and families broke my heart! They were afraid about what will happen when they leave prison. Will their families forgive them? Will their children want to be part of their lives? The walls they had built for protection were strong and very high. How could they forgive and how could anyone love them? They needed hope and they needed to know how much God loves them and how much we loved them. During the last four days you could see the walls crumbling around them as they began to realize their journey with God was one of unconditional love.



Many of you at First Baptist Church of Asheville were part of their journey. You wrote letters of encouragement, bought meal tickets and gave donations, designed placemats, and prayed for the residents and volunteers. Thank you! I wish you could have seen their faces and their tears. They could not believe how much they were loved!

— Debra Collazo

## Scenes from Churchwide Missions Day - October 12





Scenes from Churchwide Missions Day - October 12





# 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 1** and will continue until the delivery on Sunday **December 15**. This year our goal is to prepare and deliver 80 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
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-Key-stone	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	5 14.5 oz. cans green beans and 4 7.25 ox. 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. cans 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	5 7.25-oz. boxes macaroni & cheese and \$5 cash for fresh oranges
Singles Connection	2 15-oz. cans yams 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 yams and 4 6-oz. cans chicken
Youth (10th-12th)	4 15-oz. cans fruit and 3 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

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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