

# *Highlights*

January/February 2020



**Epiphany: What I am Learning?**  
**First Wednesday Vespers**  
**Wednesday, January 8**  
**6:00 p.m. • Chapel**



In the season of Epiphany, the church celebrates God's dream for the world revealed in Jesus the Christ and how we can participate in that dream to share the love and grace of God, fully living the life God has called us to live.

You are invited to this contemplative and celebrative evening worship experience. As we gather for this service, we will reflect on God's presence this past year, tell stories, and share hopes for a new year. The word epiphany means "to shine upon" or "to reveal." This sacred time will invite you to consider where the light of Christ has shined upon you and how you will respond in this new year.

**A Sacred City Rising**  
**Wednesdays, January 15-29**  
**6:00 p.m. • Chapel**

During these three weeks, we will explore the fantastic dream that is becoming evident in our midst and how each of us can contribute to this resurrection city. We will bring into focus the newer initiatives of our congregation, as well as celebrate our ongoing mission and ministry, to glimpse the vision of what God is doing within and among us.

Our hope is that for people in coming years our church will hold the promise of deep-spirited community, theological training, music and the arts, loving childcare, ministry to those without homes, care to those with special needs, food security, and a place to find refuge, all with an active worshipping community at its heart and its center.

Come and hear this dream and hear the voice of God calling you to participate in making it a reality.



**Listening, Learning, Loving**  
**First Wednesday Vespers**  
**Wednesday, February 5 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel**

Trust and listening are vital components of all healthy relationships. Yet often in our culture today, we struggle to know whom or what to trust. Many of us have not been exposed to stories of people who have different experiences than we do. Some of us live

in an echo chamber, in which we only hear our own perspectives repeated, leading us to distrust others. This Wednesday, we will hear from people who have participated in a community listening project to interview people who have different life experiences than they do. They will share how they listened, what they learned, and how it helped them to love more fully. This sacred time will invite you to consider where the light of Christ may be guiding you into new insights and new relationships.

**Howard Thurman: Love is Our Only Hope**  
**Wednesdays, February 12 & 19 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel**  
**Led by Kris Pratt**

*"It cannot be denied that too often the weight of the Christian movement has been on the side of the strong and the powerful and against the weak and oppressed—this, despite the gospel."*

— Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*

On these two Wednesday evenings, Kris Pratt will invite us to explore the life and teachings of Howard Thurman (1899-1981). Thurman was a prominent theologian, author, educator, civil rights leader, and philosopher. His writings on the theology of radical non-violence shaped and influenced a generation of civil rights activists that included Martin Luther King Jr. He co-founded the first major interdenominational, interracial church in the United States. Thurman also served as the dean of the chapel at Howard University and at Boston University.

Thurman's central hypothesis in his book *Jesus and the Disinherited* is that the life Jesus lived identified him with the downtrodden, outcast, broken, and disinherited of the world. In the human experience, oppression leads to fear. Fear leads to deception, even for good reasons, like protecting your family or loved ones from real threats. Deception leads to hate. The only escape from this cycle of fear, deception, and hate is to love like Jesus loved. Let's join together to learn how to live this way of love.

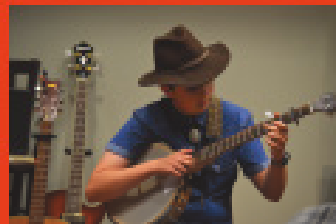
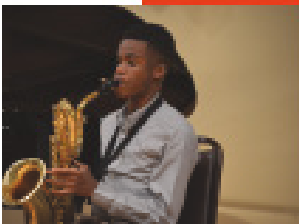
# ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

## January & February 2020 Events

### CELEBRATING

five years of empowering artists

Visit [AcademyfortheArts.org](http://AcademyfortheArts.org) for a complete list of events celebrating our fifth anniversary!



### *Bach's Lunch*

Asheville's Premiere Organ Concert Series

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



**January 7** *Winter Dreams*

**February 4** *Music by African-American Composers*



**January 9** Mid-Year Auditions  
4:00 - 6:00 PM



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

**Enrollment is always open.**  
Spring Term starts January 4, 2020.

# missions<sup>ministry</sup>



## SENIOR MANNA TEAM

JANUARY 23  
FEBRUARY 27

Meet at J&S Cafeteria at  
11:45 a.m. for lunch or meet  
at Manna from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Overseas Missions



### CUBA Jan. 16-26, 2020

On January 16-22, eight FBCA members will travel to Las Tunas, Cuba to visit with the members of the Eloheim Church. The team members are David Bourne, Jeanette and Cliff Christian, Susan and Bill Loftis, Steve Metcalf, Martha and Jim Worley. The team is taking several items requested by our Cuban friends. The members of our partner church are interested in starting a music education program for the neighborhood children and needed some instruments for teaching and for their worship services. The team is

taking two violins, two flutes, a keyboard with a base and seat, and a bass guitar.

Several years ago we installed water filtration systems, and these filters need to be replaced. Through the generosity of our church members, we are able to take several new filters that will provide clean water for the neighborhood around the church.

Children's Bible literature is also an ongoing need. The FBCA children are sending books of Bible stories written in Spanish. Our children are signing the books and sending notes to the Cuban children. A photo will be attached to the inside of the book so that the Cuban children can begin to learn our names.

Sunday, January 19 is the anniversary service for the Eloheim Church. We are looking forward to sharing communion with our Cuban brothers and sisters. While we are able to share material things, our friends in Cuba teach us about living out the Christian faith in the community of others. The FBCA team is excited about the opportunity to renew these relationships. -Martha Worley



### HAITI Feb. 2-9, 2020

Bob Busey is planning a medical, dental, and eye care trip to Haiti in the new year for a team of dentists, doctors, eye care staff, nurses, and support staff.

The team will be working with Jenny Jenkins doing back-to-back clinics each day.



## Update on Disaster Relief Mission Trip

### Puerto Rico Nov. 11-18, 2019



Puerto Rico is a beautiful island filled with rich history, amazing sites, unique shopping, and cultural delicacies for the eye and palate. This 'rich port' is also the island that was struck by two massive hurricanes in the fall of 2017, devastating its people and their way of life. There is nowhere that

you can visit on the island without seeing remnants of destruction to this day. As of November 2019, FEMA estimated that 30,000 homes are still in need of attention.



How could we send three separate teams to Puerto Rico and feel a sense of accomplishment, with so much left to do? Our November team honestly struggled with this question. After working on a roof each day, we would gather to contemplate the question of mission. This is where we were able to see, ever so slightly, how we are making an impact. We may be physically changing a home's roof; however, more importantly, we are bringing hope and promise to each family that we meet. A new roof is stability, the release from worry about tomorrow's storm, the opportunity to dream again, and to renew faith that neighbors really will lend a helping hand. *-Kristen Kirby*



### Missions 2019: A year in review

We took you seriously! Missions has long been near the heart of church life at FBC Asheville. In 2019, the Missions Council and others have worked hard to provide you with opportunities to follow God's call to service. And you have responded! Here are some examples as we "wrap our arms around the city of Asheville" (and beyond):

- 500+ of you volunteered for our spring and fall local mission events
- International mission trips to Puerto Rico, Haiti, and Cuba
- Disaster relief in eastern NC
- Outreach to children and families in poverty through Crossroads Afterschool Program
- Ministry with those in prison builds relationships through Bible study, worship and encouragement
- Room in the Inn helped women transition from homelessness
- 8,000 donated items for Tools for Schools
- Collaborative mission efforts among our children, youth and adults
- Creation Care, through events and education, made an impact in the church and community
- Outreach to literally hundreds of people on the margins of society through Lunch at the Crossroads
- Funding for 22 local and international ministries and non-profits, as well as 12 ministries with Baptist partners, both regional and national
- FirstShine Learning Center made strides to launch in early 2020



This is not a complete list either! Many thanks are due for your generosity of time, effort, and money. You are making a difference in people's lives, in Christ's name! Please be assured of that. 2020 will provide new challenges and opportunities. Together we will continue to follow Jesus' call to serve our neighbor, especially "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

# agapekids

Wednesdays  
at 6:00 p.m.  
resumes Jan. 8



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



This winter we will focus on people words (me, family, friend, neighbor) and action words (go, walk, and play).

Preschoolers meet in CB303. Grades 1-6 meet in CB221. Childcare provided in CB219 for kids under 3.

Contact Amy Stertz for more information.

## Parent and Child Dedications at First Baptist



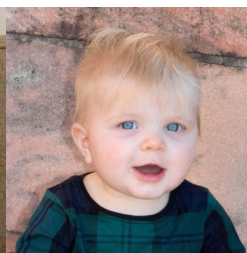
This year our church participated in parent and child dedications with nine families. During parent and child dedications, we ask families and our church family to covenant to raise our children in the ways of Jesus.

It's important for parents to promise to share the stories of faith and the love of God with their sons and daughters. But it's also important for us, as their church family, to remember the promises we make at these dedications. As you pass children in the hallway, share a table with them on Wednesday night, or sit behind them in worship, remember these words you affirm each time we have a dedication and look for ways to live them out.

*Will you promise to love these children and their parents, to model for them the grace of Jesus Christ, and to be for them a community of blessing? Will you promise to love them and pray for them, to surround them with your encouragement and support, and to be for them a community that teaches and lives the ways of Jesus Christ?*

Here are some simple ways you can live these promises with and for our children and their parents:

- Learn a child's name and call them by it.
- Greet children and families during sharing peace.
- Find ways to serve in our children's ministry (worship care, VBS, Bible Study, etc.).
- Hold a door or offer to carry a bag for young parents coming into church.
- Offer words of encouragement and lots of smiles to our families as they worship, share dinner, and participate in the life of our church.



### Advocacy Camp

June 1 - 5 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
rising 4th - 7th grade (FBCA only)

### Vacation Bible School

June 22- 25 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
4 year old - rising 6th grade

### VBS Day Camp

June 22 - 26 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
(and all day on Friday)  
rising 1st - 6th grade

### PASSPORTkids

July 15 - 18  
St. Andrews University, Laurinburg, NC  
rising 4th - 7th grade

### Discovery Camp

July 27 - 31 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
rising 1st - 6th grade

### Preschool Camp

July 28 - 30 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
2 - 5 year old

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



# youthministry



## UNIDIVERSITY SUMMER CAMP July 18-25, 2020

\$385 Early Bird Rate

(Before March 9)

\$410 Regular Rate

(Beginning March 10th)

Register Online.

## Upcoming Events and Registrations



## Jubilee Luncheons

**11:00 a.m. • Dining Room**

All senior adults are invited to join together on the third Tuesday of each month for fellowship, programs that inspire, entertain and inform, and a delicious meal. This meal is \$3 per person and free for our first time guests. Contact Leah Brown at 828.252.4781 or lbrown@fbca.net for more information.

**January 21** - "Justice in the Cotton Patch: Clarence Jordan on Racial and Economic Justice." - Kris Pratt

**February 18** - Jubilee on the Road - Haywood Street Fresco

Join us for a trip to tour The Haywood Street Fresco! We will come back to FBCA for lunch (\$3 per person). Please call Leah Brown at 828.252.4781 to reserve your seat on the bus. We will meet in the Atrium at 11:00 a.m.



## Sacred Garden

Would you like to learn more about how to purchase a niche, memorial plaque, or support the Sacred Garden with a gift? Please contact Leah Brown at 252-4781 to make an appointment to speak about the Sacred Garden or receive a packet of information.

## Coming in

# February

A three-sermon series by Mack Dennis on the question, "Why Christian?"

Join us for worship as we consider the difference Jesus makes in our lives, communities, and world, on the Sundays of February 9, 16, and 23. Stay tuned for more details in e-news and on the website.

### 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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