



Highlights

March and April, 2020



This issue of Highlights hits the stands as the season of Lent commences. For Christians around the world, these 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter direct our full attention to penitence and fasting. One seasonal change you'll notice in our Sunday morning worship service, immediately following the invocation,

is a more direct focus on the confession of sin and assurance of pardon. Wednesday evening vespers services, prompted by the third chapter of *Via Karis*, will invite deeper reflection on the theme of "table." Each vespers will offer invitations for both communion and anointing with oil for healing.

If every season in the church year has an inherent mood, we might say the mood of Lent is one of solemnity or deep sincerity. It's a time for the serious examination of our lives and our communal life, guided by liturgies of remembering Christ's temptations, teachings, passion, death, and, finally, his resurrection.

I used to dread Lent. Rather than look forward to it as a unique opportunity, I associated Lent more with wet, cold weather and intentional deprivation. There was the inevitable question, "What are you giving up for Lent?" *Hmm, I gave up chocolate last year. Maybe French fries this year?* Only more recently have I begun thinking of Lent as an opportunity for genuine transformation in Christlikeness.

Last year, for example, I preached on Ash Wednesday about an app I'd just installed on my phone called "WeCroak." For each of forty days, I announced, I would receive five random, sobering reminders that I was going to die, along with a poignant quote. Sound like fun? In fact, it was. Sort of. The point of it all was to help me appreciate *life*. And it did just that. That season of introspection invited me to live a fuller life with my impending death in mind. The app helped me appreciate and savor "ordinary" things with renewed delight, inviting me to appreciate friendships, work, my children, and even food, with new eyes and ears—and a fuller heart. I guess you could say my Lenten sacrifice last year was to give up taking life for granted. And though I may not be wise in comparison to the wise, on the other side of Lent 2019, I'm wiser than I used to be.

Maybe, in all your busyness, you haven't yet decided what to give up for Lent. Or, perhaps, you've sworn off such Lenten devotionals for whatever reason. Please know that I honor your dissent, and may well join up with your ranks again someday.

But if you're still in the game (and still reading this), might I invite you to think of Lent less as a time of self-deprivation, and more as time of *preparation*. Preparation for what? I submit that the season of Lent is most faithfully approached as preparation for...being prepared.

Remember the Parable of the Foolish Bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-11). Ten bridesmaids take their lamps and go to meet the bridegroom. Five are foolish, and five are wise. When the foolish take their lamps, they take no oil with them; but the wise take flasks for their lamps. The bridegroom gets stuck in traffic and arrives so late that he finds all ten of them asleep. When the shout comes at midnight to come out and meet him, the five foolish bridesmaids plead with the five wise ones to share their oil, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise say, "Sorry, no can do—there isn't enough for you and us. The store's still open if you want to buy more. But you better hurry back!" But they don't make it back in time. The door to the party is shut. When they knock, the Lord cracks it open just wide enough to tell them, "I'm sure I don't know you."

It's a sobering ending, not to mention very rude of Jesus. And yet, in light of Lent's purpose, it begins to make perfect sense. If we imagine the oil has to do with a kind of "inner reservoir" of wisdom, it is simply non-transferable. Such wisdom can't be bought in time when we really need it. Nor can we borrow it from others in an emergency. Wisdom comes to us through advanced, and often painstaking, preparation—through prayer, fasting, self-examination, almsgiving, and listening for God. Wisdom takes years to build up. Wisdom, finally, takes a lifetime of preparation.

This Lent, let's wonder along with one another what it means to store up for ourselves the treasures of wisdom, so that, whenever the bridegroom finally does show up, and the shout goes out at midnight, we're not caught scrambling, but well-prepared to enjoy a banquet of truly biblical proportions.

— Mack Dennis

The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday Service • February 26 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary*

The Lenten season begins with the ancient practice of the imposition of ashes in this service of spiritual discipline. The church will gather to remember our mortality and our need for God's grace.

Lenten Vespers • Wednesdays, March 4 – April 1 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel*

These contemplative worship experiences invite you to enter a place of rest, prayer, and reflection. Each week, we will share communion together and will offer prayers and oil for healing.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship • April 5 • 11:00 a.m. • Sanctuary*

This worship experience includes the annual palm procession, music by the Adult Choir, prayers, and a sermon by the Reverend Dr. Richard Lischer.

Palm Sunday Concert • April 5 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary*

The Adult Choir and Tate Addis, organist, present Maurice Duruflé's exquisite masterpiece, "Requiem." This worship concert will begin Holy Week with powerful music and a service of communion.

Maundy Thursday Footwashing Service • April 9 • Noon • Labyrinth

This service takes place in the Sacred Garden as a remembrance of Jesus' example in the Upper Room, calling us to selfless service of others.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service • April 9 • 6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary*

Commemorating Jesus' final meal with the his disciples, Maundy Thursday is a time to celebrate Jesus' mandate to "love one another as I have loved you."

Good Friday Tenebrae Service • April 10 • Noon • Chapel

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

Easter

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service • April 12 • 7:00 a.m. • Sacred Garden

Breakfast will follow in the Dining Room.

Easter Bible Study and Worship*

Sunday, April 12

9:45 a.m. • Bible Study

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. • Worship

Music by the Adult Choir, Adult Handbells, and Brass Ensemble.

*Preschool childcare available.



wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.



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

During Lent, our AgapeKids will engage in interactive prayer practices and stations using the Psalms. This is a great opportunity for our kids to learn different ways to pray and how to pray using the Psalms.

On February 26, we will observe Ash Wednesday. Grades 1 - 6 will join their families in the sanctuary for our worship service. Our 3 year old - Kindergarten group will learn about Ash Wednesday and Lent in their classroom.

Our word on March 4 will be LOOK. We will pray Psalm 121. "I lift up my eyes to the hills--from where will my help come?" We will consider where we can look and find God and how God looks after us.

Our word on March 11 will be VOICE. We will pray Psalm 95. "O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" We will think about how we can use our voices to worship and praise God.

Our word on March 18 will be FOLLOW. We will pray Psalm 23. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long." We will think of ways we can follow God, our shepherd.

Our word on March 25 will be WAIT. We will pray Psalm 130. "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope." We will consider what it means to wait on God.

Our word on April 1 will be TRUST. We will pray Psalm 31. "But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.'" We will think about how we can trust God.

Preschoolers meet in CB303.

1st - 6th graders meet in CB221.

Childcare provided for kids under 3 in CB 119.

Contact Amy Stertz for more information.

TABLE PRAYERS FOR LENT

Your family is encouraged to pick up table prayers for your family to use during Lent. These prayer practices will have a verse or quote to read and a practice, question to discuss, or simple project for your family to do together. These are ideal to use around the table as your family is sharing a meal but can also be used at bedtime, on the drive to school, or whenever your family is together.

The Table Prayers will be available in Bible Study, on worship carts, in the weekly update, and around the church.

HOLY WEEK FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday

Children will wave palm branches at the beginning of worship. We'll practice during Bible Study.

Wednesday, April 8 - No evening activities

Thursday, April 9 - Maundy Thursday

Noon Foot washing service
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Worship

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday, April 12 - Easter

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship



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 Noon - 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 is open for those active at First Baptist in January and for the public in March.

youthministry



UNIDIVERSITY SUMMER CAMP/ SERVICE TRIP July 18-25

\$385 Early Bird Rate
(Before March 9)
\$410 Regular Rate
(Beginning March 10)
Register Online

Upcoming Events and Registrations



youngadultministry

YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE CAMINO INGLÉS * MAY 17-25



What's a Camino? Camino means "way" in Spanish. The Camino Inglés ("English Way") is one of many ancient

pilgrim routes that Christians would use for inward and outward spiritual journeys. Records go back as far as the 11th century for pilgrims from northwestern Europe (notably England) traveling by sea to northwest Spain, then on foot to Santiago, which is a hub for multiple camino routes. Some of these routes are quite long,

taking many weeks to complete. This one is fairly short, just 75 miles (120 km) and running from Ferrol to Santiago.

What do you actually do on a Camino? Walk. Think. Learn. Greet. Rest. Pray. It involves daily hiking, moving through various small towns until you reach your daily end point. We've paced this one to be active but not too strenuous, ranging from 8-16 miles/day. There are no pressures to go a certain speed or stay together, and the route is well marked and maintained. Some will go faster and finish the day earlier in the afternoon while others will go slower (there is no "correct" pace for this!).

If you are interested in learning more about this upcoming Young Adult Pilgrimage to Spain, or to consider becoming a prayer partner for someone on the camino, contact Casey Callahan.



First Baptist of Asheville has been known for Firstshine Camp, hosted during the summer for 25 years or more, and our youth have experienced firsthand what it is

like to serve our community in this way. Many children have been drawn to the program and their parents have found a few days of respite. With this new dream, we are a sacred city rising. We are welcoming and including all in a way consistent with God's love and wisdom. We are providing much needed care and love for these adults who are sometimes neglected and left at home sitting in front of a TV because their parents have no funds or find the process of managing government regulations too rigorous to follow or to even understand. We are inviting God's beloved into our church so that they can have a full and abundant life.

Firstshine Learning Center will be open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. throughout the year. The ambassadors or students will learn about their own health and nutrition. Arts, crafts, reading, money management, culinary lessons, field trips, and music will be offered. Service opportunities in our community will be given and work options will be explored.

Everyone will be learning together, having fun together, and going out beyond these walls to explore, work, and serve.

We are very grateful for the outpouring of gifts of money and materials from the members of our church. As soon as we published the wish list, these gifts started pouring in. Thank you to all who have contributed.

The members of our committee: Leah Brown, Mary Green, Judy Hamrick, David Hart, Martha Morgan, Martha Worley, Charlene Morris, and Pam Moser (who is a longtime teacher in the PEP program at TC Roberson). Through the dedicated work of all these people, Firstshine Learning Center is about to come to fruition.



Our Mission: It is the mission of the Firstshine Learning Center to provide adults with developmental disabilities a safe, nurturing environment within a community of joy where they can experience dignity, grow in mind, body and soul, and make contributions to their world in meaningful ways. — Susan Blackmon

missions *ministry*



Update on Mission Trips

CUBA January 16-26, 2020



David Bourne, Jeanette & Cliff Christian, Susan & Bill Loftis, Steve Metcalf, and Martha & Jim Worley traveled to Las Tunas Cuba to visit our friends at the Elohim Church.

The members of the Elohim Church were interested in starting a music education program. FBCA members donated the instruments. When we started unloading the instruments, everyone was so excited! “We have been praying for a way to start a praise band for so long, but we didn’t have any instruments.”

Through the leadership of the Sixth Grade Rocks water filter project, we were able to replace all of the aging water filters. These filters are used on a daily basis to provide clean water to the families that live around the church.

During the 15th Anniversary Service, we were able to present the liturgical stole to Maura, the pastor. A prayer was offered in Spanish and English, and when we placed the stole around her neck, she later told us that she “trembled.”



We always have a “partnership meeting” to update each other on events happening in each church. Maura told us about the “Pig Project,” which is a joint venture with a neighboring church. They already had a farm, a

farmer, a pig pen, a way to grow the feed, but didn’t have any pigs. They wanted to start with five – one to provide food for the communities, one brood pig, and three to raise and sell for profit. We were excited about the vision and sustainability of this project, and because of the generosity of the FBCA members through the 6th grade fund raiser, we were able to invest in this project by providing the money to purchase the 5 pigs and the needed commercial feed. FBCA and Elohim are now partners in the great “Pig Project.”

Our children sent books to the Cuban children. Each child selected a book, signed it, and a photo was placed inside of the cover. One of our Cuban friends saw the books in the suitcase, and exclaimed, “Libros!!!”



The current embargo has created many shortages. As requested, our team was able to help alleviate some of the shortages by taking medicines such as vitamins, and aspirin, plus 40 pairs of reading glasses.



Our friends in Cuba teach us what it is like to truly live in community. They ask us to pray for them as we walk this Christian journey holding hands. — *Martha Worley*



HAITI February 2-9, 2020



Lisa & Randall Barnett, Bob Busey, Gloria Cobb, Marie Henderson, Peggy & Rex Henderson, Steve James, Valerie Lenhart, Sandra Martin, and Nick Poulos traveled to Port-au-Prince (PaP), Haiti, to conduct a dental, eye care, and medical clinic.

Jenny Jenkins, who works for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in Haiti, helped to coordinate our clinics.

The team had busy, successful clinics at four sites up on the mountains above Grand Goave. One of these sites was Mogandu, which is the future site of the permanent clinic Jenny and CBF hope to build there. We were

honored to be the first team to work there, albeit under tarps, and visited by chickens, goats, and lambs.

We had some interesting challenges, including fixing a broken generator, a five mile hike down the mountain in 95 degrees, one sick team member with a GI bug, one dentist working two chairs, heavy rain with



a leaking tent, and a ten hour van ride back to PaP, with no bathroom break. Everyone handled it all with grace and humor. We practiced *degaje*, or "to make do with what you have." We are all grateful to this church for supporting this ministry. -Bob Busey



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



On April 12-18, we will be hosting and providing a safe haven for women who are transitioning out of homelessness. Multiple volunteer opportunities are available including cooking a warm meal, transporting the women during the day, staying as an overnight host, bringing fresh flowers, making care packages, and more.

To get involved and nurture friendship and fellowship with these women and fellow FBCA members, please stop by the welcome desk in the Atrium on **Sundays, March 1, 8, & 15** to meet our Room in the Inn coordinators and to sign up to help! Over 70 volunteers are need.

Contact Dorothy Porter: dorothy.porter01@gmail.com or 828-778-2010 if you have questions.



SENIOR MANNA TEAM

MARCH 26
APRIL 23

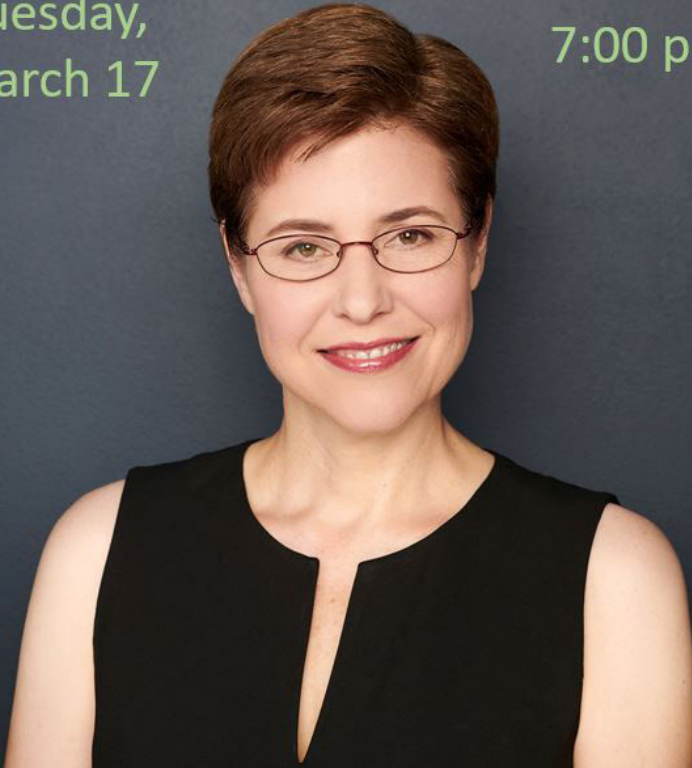
Meet at J&S Cafeteria at 11:45 a.m. for lunch or meet at Manna from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Contact Ed Graham at 828.713.0302.

Center for **Faith & Life**

Tuesday,
March 17

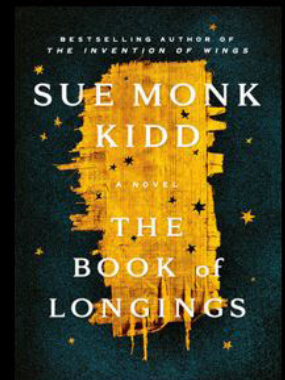
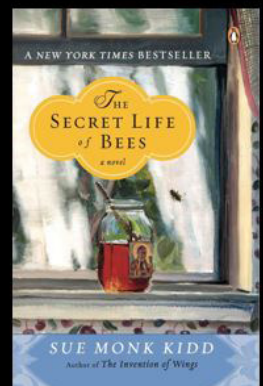
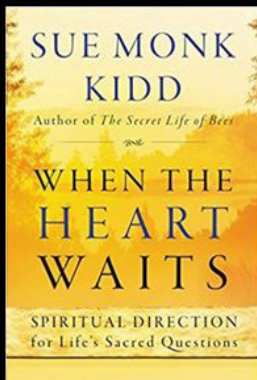
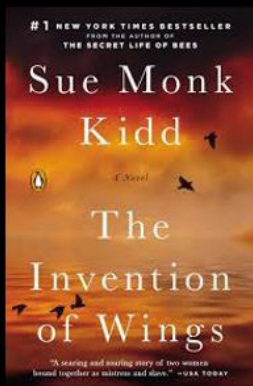
7:00 p.m.



FAITH IN
AMERICAN
PUBLIC LIFE



MELISSA ROGERS
FOREWORD BY E.J. DIONNE JR.



Coming! Friday, April 24

Jubilee Luncheon

Tuesdays, March 17 and April 21

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.

March 17- Bailey Mountain Cloggers (meet in the Gym)

The Bailey Mountain Cloggers were organized in 1974 by students at Mars Hill College in the mountains of North Carolina, near Asheville. The Bailey Mountain name is derived from the mountain adjacent to the college campus. The Bailey Mountain Cloggers Folk Dance Company has established a national and international reputation for American clog dance excellence.

April 21- Tai Chi for Memory with Anne Plyler

The program was developed by a group of medical and Tai Chi experts. The combination of Tai Chi movements and breathing is an obvious choice to maintain physical and emotional balance, memory, social interactions, and general health. You may do this class seated or standing.

A poster for 'Senior Adult Sunday' with a background of green and yellow leaves. The title 'Senior Adult Sunday' is in a large, black, cursive font at the top. Below it, a green, leaf-shaped box contains the text 'Sunday, May 3 Noon Dining Room' in bold black font. At the bottom, in a smaller black font, it says: 'Enjoy a luncheon celebrating our 50- and 75-year members following worship on this special day. The cost per person is \$5 and reservations are required for this event. Please contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 by Sunday, April 26, if you would like to attend.'

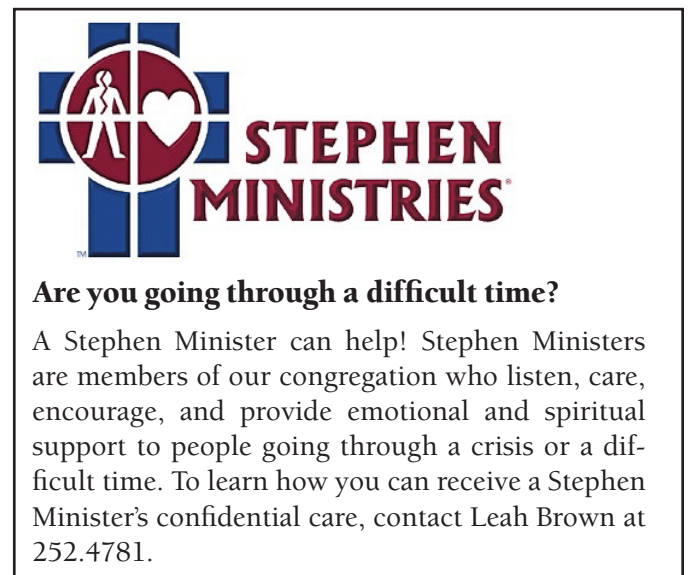
Wednesdays, April 15, 22, and 29 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel

“Creation is an act of God. Out of love, God created all that is. God created us as a part of an intricate web of life. All creation bears witness to God’s love, care, power, and majesty. We praise God for the gifts of life, love, and creative expression. We take responsibility to tend this intricate, life-sustaining web of creation to the glory of God. When we enjoy the beauty of God’s creation, including the gift of one another, we show God how much we love God.” – *Via Karis*

- **April 15** - Flora and Fauna of the Southern Appalachians - Caitlyn Worth, Blue Ridge Parkway
- **April 22** - Where Have All the Birds Gone? - Tom Tribble, Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society
- **April 29** - Rivers and the French Broad Watershed - Justin Young, Riverlink.

Sacred Garden

Would you or your class 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.

A logo for 'STEPHEN MINISTRIES'. It features a blue cross with a white circle in the center. Inside the circle is a white silhouette of a person with arms raised, and a white heart. To the right of the cross, the words 'STEPHEN MINISTRIES' are written in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Below the logo, the text 'Are you going through a difficult time?' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that, in a smaller black font, it says: 'A Stephen Minister can help! Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a crisis or a difficult time. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister’s confidential care, contact Leah Brown at 252.4781.'

ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

March & April 2020 Events

CELEBRATING

five years of empowering artists

Visit AcademyfortheArts.org for a complete list of events celebrating our fifth anniversary!



Thursday, March 26 - 7:00 PM
Crouch Chapel

Save the date for AFTA's annual Honors Recital! Invite a friend and join us for a lovely evening of music featuring some of our finest students. One performer will receive the Robert Dekker Scholarship Award. Reception to follow!



July 6 - 10
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, daily

Registrations for our Summer String, Piano, and Traditional Music Intensives are now open to grades 1 - 12! All levels welcome.

Visit AcademyfortheArts.org/summer to learn more!

Bach's Lunch

Asheville's Premiere Organ Concert Series

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



March 3 *Guest Organist: Kathy McNeil*
of First Methodist, Waynesville

April 7 *A Meditation for Holy Week*



March 1 Tried Stone Baptist Church
11:00 AM High School & Middle School Chorales

March 9 So-Con Basketball Tournament
National Anthem
High School & Middle School Chorales

April 19 Asheville Tourists
2:00 PM *National Anthem*
Concert Choir

April 26 Youth Sunday, First Baptist Church
11:00 AM High School & Middle School Chorales

April 26 *Look at the World!*
6:00 PM A Concert for Earth Day
All Choirs, FBCA Sanctuary

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

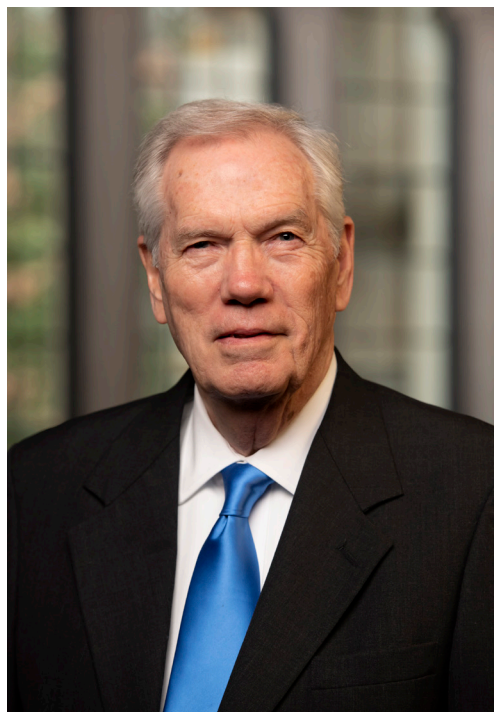
Enrollment is always open.

AcademyfortheArts.org | info@academyforthearts.org | 828.254.7841

The Reverend Dr. Richard Lischer to Preach on Palm Sunday

**Sunday, April 5
11:00 a.m. • Sanctuary**

We welcome the Reverend Dr. Richard Lischer to the pulpit on Palm Sunday, April 5. A native of St. Louis, and ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lischer taught homiletics and ministry at Duke Divinity School for nearly 40 years. Throughout his work, Lischer has explored the interactions of preaching, politics, and contemporary culture, and has lectured widely in the areas of practical theology, ministry, religious autobiography, and preaching. He has held many distinguished lectureships, including the Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School. Lischer received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 from the Academy of Homiletics. His theological memoir, *Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery*, evokes the hidden dynamics of ministry in a small-town parish. A second memoir, *Stations of the Heart: Parting with a Son*, commemorates his son, Adam, who died in 2005. He recently published a 2nd edition of *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America*. Since retiring from Duke, Lischer has continued teaching and preaching, and traveling with his partner, Tracy, a retired lawyer in Durham, NC.



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.



VISIT

www.fbca.net



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