

APRIL 2011

First

LIFE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR...



I am glad that I will be in Hickory in time to celebrate Easter with you. I plan to arrive sometime during the week prior to Sunday, April 10. It will be a busy week moving into our rental house and unpacking books in the office, but I promise to be rested and ready to go on our first Sunday together. Then comes Palm Sunday on April 17, and I'm looking forward to welcoming Jesus as Lord with you on that day, remembering the shouts of the crowd as he rode into Jerusalem, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The staff and I are already making plans for a special service during Holy Week, so watch for news on that.

Of course, Easter is my favorite holiday. It is God's victory in His Son Jesus Christ over sin and death and all that plagues the world and in each of our lives as well. It is also the beginning of Jesus' new and resurrected life.

Easter is all about new things. This Easter I am entering a new chapter in my journey as an individual Christian. My whole Easter experience this year will be new: a new church family, a new town, new friends. And First Baptist Church is entering a new chapter of being served by a new pastor. Paul once wrote that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old things passed away; behold all things become new." This is certainly true for all of us this Easter. But, then again, it is not as if everything has changed. The venue for me may be different, and for you, the

face in the pulpit may be different, but the message remains the same: Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised on the third day. That's the gospel message, and it never changes. It has been celebrated by generations of worshippers at First Baptist Church for nearly a century and a half. It has been proclaimed from your pulpit year after year, regardless of who was preaching. My pledge to you is to remain true to the Biblical texts in preaching and teaching and that the pulpit of First Baptist Church will resonate with the same gospel message that has always been proclaimed there: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen!

Phillip

Phillip
Dr. Phillip Reynolds
Senior Pastor



IN THE PULPIT...

April 3 - 8:30 and 10:55am

Seismic Shift
Dr. Larry Hovis

April 10 - 8:30 and 10:55am

Asking, Seeking, Knocking...for What?
Dr. Phillip Reynolds

April 17 - Palm Sunday

8:30 and 10:55am
Looking Around
Dr. Phillip Reynolds

April 24 - Easter

8:30 and 10:55am
First at the Tomb
Dr. Phillip Reynolds

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Wednesdays 6pm

April 6 - Final week of Into to Revelation
Rev. Rendell Hipps

April 13 - Let's Talk about Faith in Jesus Christ - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

April 20 - Family Communion Service

April 27 - Church Conference

MUSICAL CHANGES

Dear First Baptist Family,

Your staff and deacon chair have been in consultation with our new senior pastor, Dr. Phillip Reynolds, regarding worship leadership over the coming weeks. Together, we have outlined a plan which provides leadership in both services until Dr. Reynolds' arrival on Sunday, April 10, and until the next steps in filling the minister of music position are set in motion under Dr. Reynolds' leadership.

To that end, Rev. Rendell Hipps will provide clergy staff leadership with the 8:30am worship team. Florence Jowers, our church organist, along with her husband, Paul Weber, will lead worship in the 10:55am service and will meet with staff weekly as we collaboratively plan the service.

We appreciate your continued prayers, support, and words of affirmation as we work through this time of transition. We do so in great expectation of all the God has in store for us.

Blessings,
Jerry W. Rodgers

IN-AS-MUCH - There will be an In-As-Much work day on Saturday, April 16. If you know someone who can benefit from a helpful hand for minor household repairs or maintenance please sign up in your Bible study class.

REFRIGERATOR NEEDED

Our Child Development Center is in need of a full size refrigerator/freezer. If you have one that could be donated, please contact Elaine Robinson, CDC director, at 828-328-4122

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our next church conference will be held on Wednesday, April 27. The family fellowship meal will begin at 4:45pm followed by prayer meeting and church conference at 6:00pm. The children and youth classes will be on spring break that night.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 20
Family Fellowship Meal
4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall

Holy Week Family Communion Service
6:00pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 24
Resurrection Sunday - 8:30 and 10:55am

SENIOR ADULT WEEKEND APRIL 30 - MAY 1

Saturday, April 30
Cookout and Fellowship

Sunday, May 1
Worship service led by
our senior adults

EASTER FLOWERS

The worship areas of the church will be decorated with flowers for Easter this year. Would you like to help? If you would like to place flowers in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out the form that will be in orders of worship during the month of April. Please return your form and payment to the office no later than Wednesday, April 13. The cost for flowers will be \$12.

GRADUATION - 2011

Graduation time is quickly approaching. If you have a child graduating this year from high school OR college, please call Helen in the church office. Please give FULL name, date of graduation, the degree and school. **This information is needed in the office by May 1.** We will have a special recognition time during the service on Sunday, June 5.

BEACH CAMP 2011

June 12 - 17 ~ Junior High
June 19 - 24 ~ Senior High

Students will learn how they can develop and grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship, and ministry.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

REFUGE
Psalm 18:2
student ministry of fbc hickory, nc

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, May 2

Support
Mission Trip
2011

Register in your Bible study class or the office

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

In an effort to eliminate some confusion and to present a more accurate record of our year-to-date giving, the Finance Committee has requested we change the format for reporting weekly and year-to-date giving.

Several years ago we added our debt service as a line item in the annual budget. We will continue to do this but will separate the debt service amount from our weekly budget needs which will provide a clearer picture of our year-to-date giving. In recent weeks, our year-to-date giving has reflected an excess of over \$250,000.00 which is due to the dollars that have been given to the "Greater Things" campaign. We hope this will clear up any confusion.



GOD, GIRLS, & GIGGLES

Friday, April 8 - 6:00pm

The GA Sleepover will be full of food, crafts, games, singing, Bible verse relay, movie, and popcorn followed by pancakes for breakfast.

This will be our time for fun and fellowship to allow God's love to shine through for one another and to get to know each other more.

FIRESIDE, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

The RA's, their dads and RA leaders will spend Friday night, April 15, camping out at Mr. Terry's house. Each RA is asked to bring tents, sleeping bag, pillow, flashlight and extra clothes. The campout will begin at 6:00pm. Mr. Terry is expecting a special visitor that night as well.

The night will consist of fun, adventure, hot dogs, camp fire, marshmallows, and a "healthy" breakfast of doughnuts with plenty of sodas to wash it all down. Sorry, NO GIRLS ALLOWED!

Missions Giving Opportunities April 10



Cooperative Baptist
FELLOWSHIP

The CBF Offering for Global Missions is the way many CBF field personnel are supported in ministry. Your gifts to the offering are what sends them to the mission field and keeps them there to share the presence of Christ. You are a vital part of reaching that goal and keeping field personnel in ministry.

More than 5,000 missionaries live, work, mingle, and minister in cities, towns, and neighborhoods all over the United States and Canada. Consider the North American mission field. Start with prayer. Intercede for our missionaries, using this prayer guide to help you. Prayerfully consider how you may give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering this year.



Greater Things

first baptist church stewardship campaign

Dear Church Family,
Just a few short months ago, we began a journey to eliminate our debt at First Baptist Hickory. This endeavor was not just about the money, but rather to allow us to enjoy a deeper worship experience, practice obedience to God, and grow together as a church family (among other things). Simply stated, the Greater Things campaign allows us to become more Christ-like and fulfill our vision of Reaching Up, Reaching In, and Reaching Out.

We are pleased to report that, to date, the church has collected \$573,061.34 in Greater Things contributions. We are making great progress on paying down the \$2.75 million in debt we started with. While we have received 167 pledges, another 45 members who did not pledge in the campaign are giving anyway. Thank you!

The campaign results are extraordinary, considering the tough financial situation our community faces and considering we did not have the leadership of a senior pastor. We look forward to Pastor Reynolds' arrival next month and his guidance as we continue this three-year campaign.

If you made a pledge, please honor that commitment and continue to give. If you did not pledge, give anyway. If you are new to First Baptist, please see Cliff, Jim, or any staff member about how you can get involved in Greater Things at First Baptist Hickory.

With thanks, Cliff Moore & Jim Meade
Campaign Directors

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Heather Cary has been chosen by Dr. Reynolds to provide administrative support for the Senior Pastor's office as well as the Music Minister's office. Heather joined the staff in September of 2005 and has performed admirably in her current position of administrative support for Rendell Hipps. Please join us in congratulating Heather and wish her continued success.

