



Last year I spent a lot of time clearing the lot on which Betsy and I built our house. Actually, the construction crew cleared the home site and I thinned the front part of the property. We wanted to leave it wooded, but thin enough to see through so we could have a view of the water across the road. To achieve this, I took out well over 100 trees. Don't fear, there are hundreds left but we can see the lake now from our front porch.

However, in the last two weeks we have lost two more trees. They have simply given way and fallen over. These were big, healthy trees, in the "prime of life," so to speak. They weren't old or diseased yet they have not survived. In fact, last spring when a group of buddies from the church came out to help me with my clearing project one of them predicted I would lose a few more. What he said turned out to be prophetic. "You're going to lose some more trees. They will just fall over. The ones you've taken out were helping to protect and strengthen the ones around them. Now that their buddies are gone some of the others will fall." My prophet friend was exactly right.

Now is this a life lesson or what??? We are dependent on one another whether we know it or not. We gain strength and protection from those around us. And just like my fallen trees, if we are not surrounded by the strength of others we will fall too. It does not matter how strong we are, we are not strong enough to "go it alone" in life. The winds and the storms of life will topple us if we try to endure those winds and storms alone. But, if we stand firm in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in faith and with God's Holy Spirit we cannot be destroyed. There will be all kinds of rough weather in our lives but we will survive it for all eternity if we stay together with God and God's people.

This is one of the major reasons for staying connected to a church fellowship. I know church is not perfect. Sometimes we stumble and bumble our way along. Sometimes we may seem foolish or out of touch. But, whatever imperfections we may have, WE ARE HERE FOR ONE ANOTHER! The importance of this cannot be underestimated. It is the way God designed us and it is a key to our survival.

So from now on, when I look out at you on Sunday

mornings I will appreciate your being here more than ever. Without the strength and protection that you surround me with I know I will topple over when the first strong wind comes along, just like those two big, strong, healthy trees that fell in front of our house.

Stay connected to God and God's people and you will be all right.

*Phillip Reynolds
Senior Pastor*



April 2014

MUSICAL NOTES

SANCTUARY CHOIR TO PARTICIPATE IN HYMN FESTIVAL

On Sunday, March 30, our sanctuary choir and instrumentalists will be joining those of St. Luke's United Methodist, First United Methodist and First Presbyterian, in a wonderful Hymn Festival with Dr. Benjamin Harlan, former dean of the School of Church Music at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. The service will be at St. Luke's at 3:00pm. You are invited and encouraged to attend. You will have a chance to sing many of the "old" songs under Benji's talented leadership.

HOLY WEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

Wednesday, April 16, at 6:00pm, we will observe Holy Week Communion with a reflective service in the sanctuary, including the presentation of "In My Place," a musical drama by the Sanctuary Choir and Drama Team. You will not want to miss this service, as we focus on God's gift of salvation through the death of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC CAMP IS COMING

The dates have been set for Children's Music Camp 2014 (for children who have completed first grade through fifth grade). It will be held July 28-August 1. The musical will be "Moses and the Freedom Fanatics". It is based on the story of Moses freeing the Israelites from Pharaoh's control.

EASTER MISSIONS GIVING

Our 2014 Easter Missions Offering Goal is \$5,000. Please indicate on your check or envelope if you wish for your monies to go to the CBF or SBC mission work.

FACE OF A CHILD

Thanks to all those who sponsored children in the Moldovan Orphanage of Straseni. We sponsored 84 children this year through the Face of A Child Project. Together we have shown these children that God loves them specifically - he even knows their name and needs. God bless you!

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION

Please be reminded that the "Guest Parking" spots that are designated in the First Citizens Bank parking lot across from our guest welcome center entrance are reserved for first-time guests. This is our way of helping first-time guests feel welcomed at FBC. Thank you for leaving these spaces open for guests on Sunday morning. Also, be aware that the spaces marked "Reserved for First Citizens Bank" are not to be parked in on Sunday mornings. Thanks for helping us be good neighbors to our downtown friends.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT
MONDAY
MAY 5
12:30 LUNCH; 1:15 TEE TIME
CATAWBA COUNTRY CLUB
\$55 PER PERSON

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY
PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS YOUTH BALTIMORE MISSION TRIP

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 8 - Faith-Filled Traditional Service. Graduation time is quickly approaching. If you have a child graduating this year from high school OR college, please call Amanda in the office at 328-2031. Please give FULL name, date of graduation, the degree and school. This information is needed by May 4. We will have a special recognition time during the service on Sunday, June 8.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

At 6:00pm each Wednesday in Lent, Dr. Reynolds will teach the study *Stations of The Cross*.

GA's/WMU TEA PARTY

Both GAs and WMU are celebrating special milestones this year - 100 years and 125 years respectively. Wear your prettiest hat and join us to honor these important ministries with a "Tell Your Story"



Tea Party on Saturday, April 5 from 2:00 to 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Relive your days as a GA and help share your story with our current GAs.

SENOIR ADULT Sunday

April 27 - Faith-Filled Worship

Senior Adult Sunday is April 27 in our Faith-Filled Service. All Boomers and Senior Adults are invited to celebrate lunch together following the worship service in the fellowship hall. Cost for the lunch is \$5 each and will feature a menu of curry chicken with coconut rice, peas and mushrooms, fruit salad, rolls and dessert. Call the office to reserve your place at the luncheon.

Local Missions

in our own backyard...

Every two years North Carolina Baptist Men encourage churches to impact their communities by preparing for a one day mission event called Operation InAsMuch. Our Missions Council chose May 3 for our church. To promote total church involvement the council voted to rename this FBC

Mission Blitz Day. The idea is to continue to reach out to the needs of our members but include our community. There will be the usual hands-on spring yard work; however to get everyone involved, we can visit the homebound, organize prayer walks and for folks that can not walk the streets some could meet and pray at the church. You may sign up to help on Mission Blitz Day in your Bible study class or by emailing Heather at lockman@fbc.cc.

CATAWBA REBUILD

FBC will support North Carolina Baptist Men in Catawba County with rebuilding efforts due to the July 2013 flooding. Tommy Styers, our region 8 Blue Hat with NCBM, has requested we furnish laborers for this project. We have been given two houses at this time and have completed work at one of them. This is a way to help our neighbors in the county that need help. If you are interested in Catawba Rebuild, please contact Allen Tallent or Woody Tucker for more information.

2014 RENT-A-KID

April 5, May 3 Proceeds will fund this summer's Mission trip to Baltimore, MD.

**DATES FILLED
THANK YOU**

QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, April 23 we will hold our quarterly church conference in the fellowship hall at 6pm.



SPRING BREAK

There will be no children's activities the week of April 23. Supper and Prayer Meeting only.

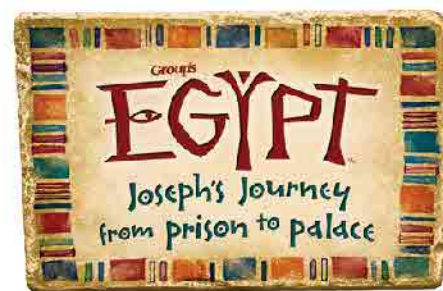


FBCitykids Partners Interest Meeting
Are you interested in learning about our FBCitykids Partnership Ministry? Come learn about how this ministry changes the lives of children in our community forever through personal relationships. Hear stories from current partners, and discover if this is a ministry that God is calling you to be involved in. This meeting is for current partners as well as those who are not partners but are interested in learning more.
Wednesday, April 30, 6:15 - 7:00 pm, in the church parlor.

FBCITYKIDS EASTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 12, 11:00am-2:00pm at Taft Broome Park - near Ridgeview Library. See Christy Greene or Rendell Hipps to volunteer. We will distribute fliers on April 10 from 3:30-5:30pm. Meet at the Gray Building to help.

VBS 2014



July 7-11, 2014 from 6:00 - 8:15pm

On the cover this month...These students make up 7thTime, our student ministry worship band. They dedicate every Sunday afternoon, to practicing their talents as they prepare to lead in worship the following Sunday.

Sundays

April 6 - 10:30am

Following Jesus

- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

April 13 - 10:30am

Palm Sunday

The Death of the Messiah

- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

April 20 - 10:30am

Easter

Raised up With Him

- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

April 27 - 10:30am

Freedom Worship - Rendell Hipps

Senior Adult - *Faith-Filled Worship*

We Become Family in Christ

- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

Wednesdays

Bible Study & Prayer

6:00pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

339 Second Avenue, Northwest
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

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Phillip Reynolds, Senior Pastor

Jerry Rodgers, Minister to Senior Adults and Church Administration

Chris Gillespie, Minister to Students

Rendell Hipps, Minister of Discipleship

Jim Davidson, Minister of Music

Ronny Skinner, Minister of Worship Arts

Florence Jowers, Organist

Staff email: (last name)@fbc.cc

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FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday - April 4, 6:30 - 9:00pm. A monthly gathering of single adults in their 20's and 30's featuring - music, message, meal & more. Meal is \$6.00 per person. Register online at www.fbc.cc/firstfriday

THE FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

On Easter Morning the family of First Baptist Church is invited to bring fresh cut flowers, from your own yard or ones you have purchased, to place on the Easter Cross. The wire cross will be at the main sanctuary entrance on 2nd Avenue NW.



Kids' Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19



10:30am - 12:30pm
Fellowship Hall

April 2014 - Pull Out & Post

Numbers to Know

MINISTER ON CALL

April 5

Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)

April 12

Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)

April 19

Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)

April 26

Chris Gillespie on call (320-2741)

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 5-11

Steve Palmer, Coordinator	304-0358
Gary Woods	327-3172
Ruth Ann Carreira	256-5616
Jim Elliott	294-4747

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-18

Brenda Bost, Coordinator	294-0585
Dee Blackwell	294-3522
Peter Ballhaussen	326-9233
Dana Bennett	326-9187

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19-25

Kelly Clark, Coordinator	729-6793
Jim Elliott	294-4747
Nathan Bowman	324-9166
Ruth Ann Carreira	256-5616

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26-MAY 2

Tom Guthrie, Coordinator	256-8266
Carolyn Gray	325-0509
Dennis Gaines	874-0158
Wink Gaines	874-0158

Wednesday Night Meals

April 2

Spaghetti Pie
Barbados Vegetable Mix
Cooked Apples
Salad Bar
Bread Sticks and Dessert

April 9

Chicken ala King
Warm Honey Glazed Apricots topped with Blue Cheese & Walnuts
Salad Bar
Biscuits and Dessert

April 16

Orange Glazed Baked Ham
Roasted Carrots
Asparagus
Ambrosia
Salad Bar
Rolls and Dessert

April 23

Pistachio Crusted Pork Loin
Balsamic Cherry Green Beans
Cheesy Smashed Potatoes
Salad Bar
Rolls and Dessert

April 30

Potato Crusted Cod
Potatoes Au Gratin
Tropical Fruit Cole Slaw
Salad Bar
Rolls and Dessert

A graphic with the words "thank you!" in a colorful, stylized font. The word "thank" is in blue and green, and "you!" is in orange and yellow.

Many thanks to those who sponsored Refuge Rent-A-Kid during the month of February. Your support will go to help our summer mission trip to Baltimore, MD.

Tony & Lisa Cox
Tony & Lisa Kakassy
Jim & Lisa Meade
Greg & Beth Watson
Allen & Kara Wittenberg
Nolan Yount
