




firstLIFE



Unbinding Our Church
Presentation Sunday,
January 11

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out. That's our church's "tag line," and it's the best I have ever heard. A church that focuses on those three emphases is going to be a strong church and one that is pleasing in the eyes of God. Coming in January we will have an opportunity to show how much we really want to be engaged in part three of our tag line – Reaching Out. Sunday, January 11 will be Presentation Sunday for a church wide renewal of commitment to Reaching Out. It's called UNBINDING OUR CHURCH. I am more excited about UNBINDING than anything I have seen in the last three decades for churches to rally around.

What is it? UNBINDING OUR CHURCH is a six week emphasis of worship, study, prayer, and practice designed to get us "out there" telling our stories of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We all have wonderful, powerful stories of how Christ has become real to us, saved us, and carried us through many challenging times in our lives. But for

some reason these great stories remain bound up in us. Let's UNBIND them! Some may need to learn how to tell their story. Some may need to gain a little confidence. Some may need to learn how to pray for and look for opportunities to engage others with their story. Some may need prayer, a prayer partner, and accountability. Some may need a deeper understanding of why this is so important for us as followers of Jesus Christ. Some may need a broader appreciation for the Kingdom of God, the reality of the Holy Spirit's work, and the place of our church in God's grand plan. UNBINDING OUR CHURCH offers all of this and more.

I have already been involved in three UNBINDING small groups within our church. All three have been amazing. The participants have grown in faith and closer to one another. We have seen the Kingdom of God grow when we UNBIND our hearts and begin sharing our stories. For instance, I have a small group going through the study right now. Last Sunday we reported eight encounters with people outside of our church and how we shared our stories with them. That kind of talk is bound to bring Kingdom

growth! Now imagine if we had 20-25 such small groups with 8-10 participants Reaching Out each week, talking about their faith with folks who really need to hear about Jesus. That could be 200 or more deeply spiritual conversations taking place outside of church each week. Can you imagine how God would honor this and do His good work through it?!? Can you imagine the Kingdom growth that will result from it?!? Can you imagine what could happen within our church when we UNBIND our hearts, UNBIND the gospel, and UNBIND our souls?!? It would UNBIND OUR CHURCH!

This whole endeavor will be unveiled on January 11 in our Sunday worship services. Please plan to be here. It is my prayer that we all catch the UNBINDING vision.



December 2014

Sundays

December 7 - 10:30am
Hanging of the Green
One Service in the Sanctuary
From Abraham to Joseph
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

December 14 - 10:30am
In Those Days
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

December 21 - 10:30am
The Eternal Christ
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

December 28 - 10:30am
One Service in the Sanctuary
When God Speaks
- Rendell Hipps

Wednesdays

Wednesday Evenings at 6pm

MUSICAL NOTES

MESSIAH, Part I - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 3:00PM
The Sanctuary Choir will present a portion of Handel's MESSIAH on Sunday afternoon, December 14 - 3:00pm. The choir will be joined by four area soloists and chamber orchestra. You will want to mark this on your calendar and invite your friends and co-workers. Make this an "outreach event" for our congregation. A Christmas offering for the Hickory Soup Kitchen will be taken.

A FAMILY NIGHT AT CHRISTMAS

The Children's Music Ministry will be presenting "A Family Night at Christmas," on Wednesday, December 17, 6:00pm in the sanctuary. All of our Preschool, Music Makers and Young Musicians choirs, along with the Children's Handbell Choir, will participate in this evening.



MANY THANKS

Thanks to all the helping hands with our Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box collection this year. From our church family, to our maintenance staff, RA's, GA's and our wonderful daily volunteers - THANK YOU.

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark your calendars now for Monday, December 8 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Ventriloquist and Comedian Steve Brogan will provide the entertainment. Those planning to attend need to sign up in the church office by Wednesday, December 3rd. Boomers are welcome to attend.



HANGING OF THE GREEN

December 7 at 10:30am we will worship in one service to celebrate the Hanging of the Green. We will celebrate the season with music and scripture as we bring in the decorations for our sanctuary and get our sanctuary ready for the Advent and Christmas Season.

SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Come enjoy a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 28 at 8:45am. Combined Bible Study begins at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall for all adult classes and youth. Children's Bible Study for 2nd thru 6th grade will meet in room 228. Preschoolers meet in their rooms on the Heartland Hall. We will worship together in one service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

If you are an ordained deacon at First Baptist but will not be serving as a deacon in 2015, please consider serving as a deacon family minister. You will work with a deacon or other family minister to serve the members of our church and Bible Study classes. If you would like further information, please contact Rendell Hipps by December 14.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Please take note that on Wednesday, December 24 we will have our Christmas Candlelight Communion Service. On Wednesday, December 31 all regularly scheduled activities are cancelled.



Do You Know Lottie Moon?

"Meet Lottie" portrayed by Carolyn Icard and learn how nearly 140 years ago, the life of a young Southern Baptist Virginian woman changed forever when she moved to China and began a life that would effect millions laboring tirelessly so that many could know Jesus.

Sunday, December 7 at 3:00pm
First Baptist Church - Hickory

FBCITYKIDS WHITE CHRISTMAS BOX DELIVERY

We will deliver White Christmas Boxes to some of our FBCitykids families on Monday, December 15. Volunteers should meet at the parking lot across from the sanctuary (the old Gray Building lot) at 3:30.

FBCITYKIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, December 20, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, our FBCitykids ministry will celebrate Christmas with our neighbors! The party will be held at Ridgeview Park. Children's party will be at the Senior's center behind the gym. The adult's party will be at the Rec center beside the library. Lots of volunteers are needed to help with either the children's events or the adult events. Please contact Christy Greene (828-325-0246) to volunteer.

Advent Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays in Advent at 12:05pm

December 3 - Florence Jowers, organist
December 10 - Johnson Ramsaur, organist
December 17 - Joby Bell, organist

First Friday^{1ST} at First Baptist

Friday, December 5 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm, we will celebrate Christmas with a singles' get-together in our Connection Center. Lots of food, fellowship, and fun. For all single adults in their 20's and 30's. Register online at www.fbc.cc/firstfriday

ANNUAL RA COAT & BLANKET DRIVE

Annual RA Coat and Blanket drive has begun! Boxes are located throughout the church. There is a dire need for these items in our community and the RAs need your help in meeting the need. Donations will be distributed to those in need in our community.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS AND HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS!

• Saturday, December 6 - Christmas Camp, 9:30 - noon, Fellowship Hall



• Sunday, December 7 - Children's Caroling, 3:00 - 4:30pm, Trinity Village (meet us at Trinity Village at 3:00!)

• Wednesday, December 10 - Music Rehearsal from 6:00 - 7:00pm; Music and Missions Christmas Party from 7:00 - 7:30pm in rooms 163 & 164

• Saturday, December 13 - RA Angel Tree gift delivery to Baptist Children's Home (will leave from FBC around 8:30am)



• Wednesday, December 17 - Family Night at Christmas in our sanctuary; 6:00 - 7:00pm



On our cover this month... Children's Handbells presenting a musical offering in the 2013 Hanging of the Green Service.

YEAR END GIVING

The end of the year is rapidly approaching. It is a good time to begin to review your financial support of First Baptist Church.

By law, contributions must be received in the church office by the close of business on Wednesday, December 31, or be postmarked by December 31 to be counted as a 2014 contribution. Please note the church office will close at 2:30 pm on the 31st for the New Year holiday.

For those who typically transfer stock that you wish to be counted toward your 2014 giving, the transfer must be completed by December 31st. It is the policy of First Baptist Church to sell all contributions of stock immediately, and not hold them for speculation. Please notify Jerry Rodgers or Kim Hutchison of all stock transactions so that we will know it is coming, know who gave it, and can give the broker instructions to sell it immediately.

Making gifts of stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds in the right way can bring extra tax savings. When making such gifts, always consider what the securities originally cost in relation to what they are worth today. When securities have increased in value, you should normally transfer them to First Baptist Church rather than sell them. When owned for more than a year, securities used to fund a gift can be deductible for income tax purposes at fair market value, not just the original cost. Giving in this way enables you to bypass capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if the donated securities were sold.

If you own securities that have decreased in value since you acquired them, consider selling those securities and making a charitable gift of all or a portion of the cash proceeds. In addition to the income tax deduction for the cash contribution, this creates a loss you may be able to deduct from other taxable income.

You may own real estate or other assets that could also be good choices for charitable gifts.

Please feel free to contact Jerry Rodgers or Kim Hutchison regarding your year-to-date giving to First Baptist Church. May God continue to bless us as we are generous and faithful stewards.

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 Baptist Church - Hickory Presents

Handel's
Messiah
Christmas Portion

Sunday, December 14 ~ 3:00pm
Sanctuary Choir with Soloists & Orchestra
Love Offering Collected for Hickory Soup Kitchen

The poster features a green background with a bright starburst in the upper left. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a stable with figures inside, and a small city skyline at the very bottom. The text is centered and uses a mix of fonts, including a large, elegant script for 'Messiah'.

December 2014 - Pull Out & Post

Numbers to Know

MINISTER ON CALL

December 6 - Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)

December 13 - Chris Gillespie on call (320-2741)

December 20 - Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)

December 27 - Jerry Rodgers on call (217-2597)

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6-12

Steve Palmer, Coordinator	304-0358
Gary Woods	327-3172
Tom Guthrie	256-8266
Carolyn Gray	325-0509

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13-19

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

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20-26

Ruth Ann Carreira, Coordinator	256-5616
Kelly Clark	729-6793
Jim Elliott	294-4747
Ken Parish	324-2932

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 2

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

C A R E

December 7 - Tucker, Faith & Hope, & Melton/Bost Classes

December 14 - Allen & Foster Classes

December 21 - Available

December 28 - Blackwell/Woolf & Powers Classes

Wednesday Night Meals

December 3

Roman Style Chicken

Ziti

Roasted Carrots

Salad Bar

Garlic Bread Sticks

Dessert

December 10

Pistachio Crusted Tilapia

Risotto

Broccoli Slaw

Salad Bar

Cheddar Bay Biscuits

Dessert

December 17

Plum Pork Loin

Teriyaki Green Beans

Sweet Potato Gratin

Salad Bar

Rolls and Dessert

IMPORTANT WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNER INFORMATION

Please help us as we strive to be good stewards of our food service employees' time and products. Some weeks we have as many as 40 reservations for dinner from people that are not able to make it to the dinner and forget to cancel their standing reservation. This leaves an overage of food preparation costs as well as time to set up un-needed tables, chairs & linens by our maintenance staff. Please try to help us by canceling your reservation when you are not going to be here. To cancel or change reservations call Amy Moore @ 828.328.2031 or email her at moore@fbc.cc Thank you for your support.

Children's Workers

December 7

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9:00am - Jan Rodgers 10:15am - Lydia Gillespie

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Debby Cook & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Jewell Mabery & Paid Worker

Threes — Jeanne Davis & Harriett Stephenson

Fours - Becky Hedrick & Sam Mabery

Fives— Family Day

Coordinator: Ruth Ann Carreira

Children's Church: Children in Worship

December 14

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9:00am –Kristin Herring 10:15am - Betsy Reynolds

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Kim Buchanan & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Lee Bogle & Jerry Long

Threes — Brian Bogle & Lauren Bliss

Fours & Fives— Aaron Bliss, Paid Worker & Alice Long

Coordinator: Jennifer Summerlin

Children's Church Leader: Beth Watson

Shepherds: FF— Chris Tanner, FW— Candace Johnson

December 21

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9:00am – Vonda Paquin 10:15am - Dana Woods

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Robin Parish & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Tiffany Hightower & Traci Palmer

Threes — Steve Palmer & Linda Jones

Fours & Fives— Bob McCormack, Becky Icard & Ruth Hastings

Coordinator: Mechele McCormack

Children's Church Leader: Fran Ballengee

Shepherds: FF— Kristin Herring, FW— Adair Bowman

December 28

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9:00am - Sara Moore 10:15am - Sara Moore

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Kara Wittenberg & Eric Johnson

Walkers & Twos— Ashley Dyson & Jason Herring

Threes — Katie Little & Matt Dyson

Fours & Fives— Frank Stephenson & Kristin Herring

Coordinator: Sally Johnson

Children's Church Leader: Norma Flores

Shepherds: FF— Jan Rodgers, FW— Charity Hand

Take Note

Our Special Members This Month

Ms. Mae Honeycutt - Brian Center #107, 3031 Tate Blvd SE, Hickory NC 28602

Mrs. Gladys Knuckles - Trinity Village #101, 1265 21st Street NE, Hickory NC 28601

Please keep these special members in your prayers. Send a card or visit them.

Thank You Notes

Thank you notes have been received from Cooperative Christian Ministries, The Pregnancy Care Center, Exodus Homes, Ruth Hastings, Nancy Hicks and the Catawba Valley Young Life.

In Christian Love & Sympathy to...

Margaret Passmore on the death of her husband

and
suddenly
there was with
the
angel
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God
and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth,
peace, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14