



firstLIFE



The first Sunday of the year is called "Epiphany Sunday" on the church calendar.

Epiphany refers to the Magi's visit to see the baby. The most reassuring part of this

story is that when the magi went in search of the newborn King, they found him! That's God's promise and God's design. "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13).

There is another part of this story that we can learn from and put into practice but we have to be careful how we approach this. It concerns the words of the evil King Herod in Matthew 2:8. Of course, Herod was a manipulative, paranoid, and murderous little scoundrel who thought the baby Jesus was a threat to his throne. He wanted the wise men to let him know when and where they found the baby so he could have him killed. He was not going to let the magi know what he was really up to so he lied to them saying that he only

wanted to know where the baby was "so that I too may come and worship Him." It's a horrible plot that was derailed by the power of God when God warned the magi in a dream not to return to Herod after they found the baby.

But there is one part of Herod's words that are actually good, although Herod did not mean them for good. When Herod said to the magi in Matthew 2:8, "Go and make a careful search for the child, and when you have found him, report to me, that I too may come and worship Him," he is inadvertently outlining a perfect model of evangelism and outreach. He did not mean it that way of course, but had he been sincere, what he said could be my marching orders for outreach in 2014.

Here is what I mean: this coming year can be a time when I search all over again to find Christ, honor Him as the sovereign King of my life, and worship Him. My hope is to discover more about Jesus' love and goodness than I have ever known.

Discovering even more about the grace of God in Christ will cause me to worship with more passion and enthusiasm. Then should come the evangelical part that Herod accidentally put before me. Having met Jesus anew I should return to those who do not believe and tell when and where and how I have found Jesus and invite them to come and discover and worship Jesus too.

Herod was one of the most evil men in history and God stopped his plan to harm His Son. But the wicked old King, without knowing it, has given me a plan to follow in 2014: search for Jesus, worship Him, then tell others where to find the Christ so that they too may worship Him.

Let's all do this in 2014.

Happy New Year, all of you New Creations in Christ,

Phillip Reynolds, Senior Pastor

❄️ INCLEMENT WEATHER

- ❄️ In case of inclement weather, the most up-to-date information on closings or delays will be posted on our website at www.fbc.cc. The following TV and radio stations will also have information: WBTV Channel 3, WSOC Channel 9, WCNC Channel 36, and WHKY-1290am



January 2014



Hanging of
the Green



MUSICAL NOTES

MANY THANKS

There are many, many people that made our 2013 Advent/Christmas observances in worship special. Among those are the members of our Flower/Decorating Team, headed by Nellie Pruitt. The Hanging of the Green service would not be the same without the leadership of Chris Gillespie, Nellie Pruitt and our Refuge Student Ministry. We want to thank all of our children's music leadership teams for their work this fall preparing for the lovely Children's Christmas Music program. And, for all who participated in the December 15th celebration, entitled, "Gloria!," we say a hearty "thank you." Thanks also is given for our support staff in the office and in the maintenance area. Have a wonderful New Year!

A NEW YEAR AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As you are approaching 2014, you are invited to join in one or more of the areas in the music ministry of FBC Hickory. There is always room for more singers, instrumentalists and bell ringers, no matter your age. Please contact the church office or Jim Davidson. Soon we will be beginning rehearsing our music for Lent and Easter. Rehearsals begin on Sunday, January 5 and Wednesday, January 8 Welcome aboard! PS On "Santa's Wish List" is a request for more instrumentalists for the church orchestra.

NEW MEMBERS - We welcome to our church Bill and David Totty and Matt and Ashley Dyson.



18TH ANNUAL FATHER/DAUGHTER GALA

Tickets for Father/Daughter Valentine Gala are on sale in the Church Office. This year's gala will be held on Friday, February 7 from 7:00pm-10:00pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. All ages are invited to the gala. The cost is \$30 per Father. Tickets are limited, stop by the church office this week to purchase your ticket.



THE JOURNEY 201

Starting Sunday, January 12, 9:15am in Room 228. This six-week study looks briefly at the history of the Church starting in the book of Acts, and traces major events in Church history through today. This important class will help you discover what makes Baptists unique amongst other Christians and how FBC is authentically and uniquely Baptist. This class is open to all, but is especially designed for those who have completed The Journey 101 or who are new to First Baptist Church. Please register on-line at www.fbc.cc/NextSteps or by calling the church office.

PARENTS: SYNCHRONIZE YOUR WATCHES

Parents of preschoolers and children, please be aware that you need to pick-up your children after Bible Study each Sunday by 10:20 am. This allows your child's teachers to be able to get to either of our worship services on time. Thank you!

FACEPAINTING FUN & GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Learn more about Creative Ministry with these two sessions: "Facepainting Fun" and "Graphically Speaking" (aka 'chalk talk') with Becky Cortino. The sessions are for folks who are interested in learning more, exploring these mediums, learning technique. All ages are welcome. Children are asked to be accompanied by an adult, and must be able to draw and paint figures. No previous experience, nor artistic talent is necessary -- just an interest, desire to learn. All FREE, with NO strings attached.

WITH MANY THANKS

Thank you, church family, for providing Angel Tree gifts for the children at the Baptist Children's Home in Thomasville, NC. Our RA's delivered the gifts on December 14th and we got to enjoy seeing the gifts being opened! Thank you for helping the boys and girls at BCH know that we care about them and that God loves them.

Saturday, February 1. Session 1 at 10:00—11:30am and Session 2 at 12:30—2:00pm. In Room 163. Lunch break on your own. No cost for the class. Sign up by calling Heather in the office.



RA CHILI BOWL

It's the Annual RA Chili Bowl! Sunday, January 26 from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at the Gray Activities Building. Parents of RA's are asked to bring a pot of their favorite chili. The whole church is invited for this afternoon of food, fun, fellowship and football.

PRAYER MINISTRY

After years of faithful service, Mrs. Lee Benson has stepped down as head of our Intercessory Prayer Ministry. We thank Lee for her dedication to the prayer needs of this church.

Beginning in January, if you have an urgent need for prayer, please contact Mrs. Jane Clark (294-9605) who will take the lead of intercessory prayer ministry. Your request will be passed along to others on the prayer chain.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

There will be a quarterly church conference on Wednesday, January 22 at 6pm in the fellowship hall.

Sundays

January 5 - 10:30am

Close Encounters
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

January 12 - 10:30am

Kingdom of God: The Where, Who,
What & Why of it: Where is the
Kingdom of God?
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

January 19 - 10:30am

Kingdom of God: The Where, Who,
What & Why of it: For Whom Is the
Kingdom of God?
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

January 26 - 10:30am

Kingdom of God: The Where, Who,
What & Why of it: What is the kingdom
of God Like?
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

Wednesdays

Bible Study & Prayer
6:00pm

With Much Appreciation

The clergy and staff would like to send a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who showed their love to us this Christmas season through cards, hugs, words of appreciation and all the many delicious baked goods. Our hearts are full!

*We always thank God for
all of you, mentioning
you in our prayers.
-1 Thessalonians 1:2*

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday - January 3, 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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

339 Second Avenue, Northwest
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

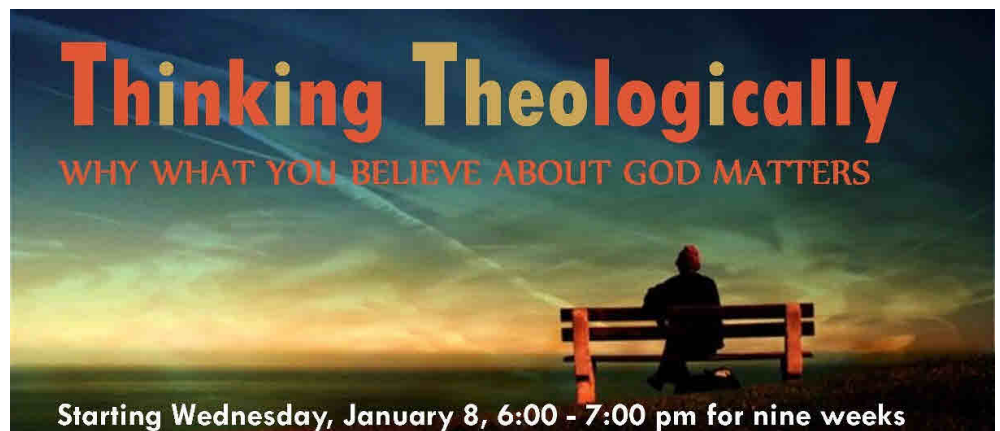
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Ronny Skinner, Minister of Worship Arts
Florence Jowers, Organist
Staff email: (last name)@fbc.cc

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What do you believe about God? Why do you believe what you believe? Does what you believe really matter? In this engaging seminar, we will uncover why what you believe about God matters. We will consider topics such as: the inspiration of Scripture; creation and humanity; sin and evil; election, free-will, and salvation; the Holy Spirit; and end times. Taught by Rendell Hipps. Room 164. Childcare provided. Please register on-line before January 1, 2014 at www.fbc.cc/ChristLife or by calling Amanda in the church office.

2014 RENT-A-KID

February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3

Sign up in Bible Study or call Amanda in the office.
Proceeds from Rent-A-Kid go to fund this summer's
Refuge Mission trip to Baltimore, MD.



JANUARY 2014 - Pull Out & Post

Numbers to Know

MINISTER ON CALL

January 4

Chris Gillespie on call (320-2741)

January 11

Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)

January 18

Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)

January 25

Chris Gillespie on call (320-2741)

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4-10

Peter Ballhausen, Coordinator 326-9233

Dana Bennett 326-9187

Brenda Bost 294-0585

Dee Blackwell 294-3522

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11-17

Nathan Bowman, Coordinator 324-9166

Ruth Ann Carreira 256-5616

Kelly Clark 729-6793

Jim Elliott 294-4747

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18-24

Dennis Gaines, Coordinator 874-0158

Wink Gaines 874-0158

Tom Guthrie 256-8266

Carolyn Gray 325-0509

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25-31

Dwight Hastings, Coordinator 322-5633

Eddie Icard 495-2763

John Johnson 495-7981

Cindi Morrison 294-6492

Wednesday Night Meals

January 8

Pecan Pork Loin

Black –Eyed Pea Risotto with Bacon &
Collard Greens

Salad Bar

Rolls and Dessert

January 15

Pot Roast

Potatoes, Green Beans & Carrots

Salad Bar

Biscuits and Dessert

January 22

Chili

Baked Potato Bar

Salad Bar

Cornbread

Dessert

January 29

Open Faced Chicken Pot Pie

Pear and Gorgonzola Bake

Salad Bar

Dessert

Children's Workers

January 5

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

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

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Jill Pernel & Mara Peters

Ones & Twos— Lisa Cox, Sheryl King and Mark Peters

Threes & Fours— Kelly Clark and Tony Cox

Fives— Family Day no preschool worship care for fives

Coordinator: Fran Ballengee

Children's Church: Children in Worship

January 12

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9:00am—Beverly Crosby 10:15am - Betsy Reynolds

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Clay Buchanan and Pam McCall

Ones & Twos— Allen Wittenberg, Sara Moore & Tiffany Hightower

Threes & Fours— Susan Tallent and Sandra Foster

Fives— Kara Wittenberg and David Moore

Coordinator: Terry Starnes

Children's Church Leader: Dana Bennett

Faith-Filled Shepherd: Donna Adams

Freedom Shepherd: Mark Peters

January 19

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

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

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Renea Featherstone & Carla Ingram

Ones & Twos— Beth Watson, Elizabeth Sledge & Rachel Paquin

Threes & Fours— Linda Meares & Julie Hampton

Fives— Carol Lupton & Matt Ingram

Coordinator: Shellie Bumgarner

Children's Church Leader: Beth Watson

Faith-Filled Shepherd: Chris Tanner

Freedom Shepherd: Lisa Bowne

January 26

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

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

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Kristen Keener & Paid Worker

Ones & Twos— Rene Stilwell, Paid Worker & Phillip Bumgarner

Threes & Fours— Scott Stilwell & Beverly Crosby

Fives— Scot Crosby & Paid Worker

Coordinator: Mechele McCormack

Children's Church Leader: Kara Wittenberg

Faith-Filled Shepherd: Jennifer Summerlin

Freedom Shepherd: Adair Bowman

Take Note

Our Special Members This Month

Mrs. Jewel Brooks - #223 Trinity Village, 1256 21st Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Mrs. Gloria Carowan - #903 Abernathy Laurels, 102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

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

In Memoriam...

Emily Roper - November 2, 2013

Pat Barlow - November 16, 2013

Mildred Locke - November 30, 2013

Jolene Hudson - December 14, 2013

In Christian Love & Sympathy to...

Kim Buchanan on the loss of her grandfather.

Louis Peak on the loss of his mother.

Palmer Owensby on the loss of his brother.

Barbara Eckard & family on the loss of their husband, father and grandfather.

Diane Johnson on the loss of her father.

Alan Bennett & family on the loss of their father and grandfather.

Congratulations to

Aaron and Lauren Bliss on the birth of a son, Shane on November 28.

Thank You Notes

Thank you notes have been received from Cooperative Christian Ministries and The Pregnancy Care Center. These notes have been placed on the board across from the chapel.

C A R E

January 5 - Hinson, Faith & Hope, & Melton/Bost Classes

January 12 - Allen & Foster Classes

January 19 - Wachter Class

January 26 - Blackwell/Woolf & Powers Classes
