



So this old man reclaimed the back section of his lot that was overgrown with briars and weeds and scrubby little trees. He cleared it off and planted a garden and it was fine garden. He brought his neighbor over to show it off a bit. The neighbor was impressed as he looked out over the rows of vegetables and sweet corn and melons and said, "Isn't it wonderful what God can grow?" The old man said, "Yeah it is, but you shoulda seen this mess before I got here."

I love that story. Last month in this space I wrote that I believe 2017 is our time to GROW. Ecclesiastes 3 says, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven." I have the sense we are entering First Baptist Church's growing season.

But just as in the funny little story above, growth doesn't happen without our involvement. Oh, it would be nice if God sprinkled some sort of growth fertilizer on our congregation and we magically began to grow in number, giving, and most importantly, in spirit. But God in His wisdom doesn't work that way most of the time. Most of the time God wants us to work alongside Him. Yes, God does provide the growth.

God will give Betsy and me a fine little raised-bed garden again this year but only after we till the soil, plant the seeds, turn on the water, etc. You get the picture; God likes for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work if we want a garden to grow.

Same with church growth. In my low country South Carolina vernacular we would say, "It ain't gonna just happen." We've got to work alongside God if we want to see our church grow. So how do we work alongside God if we want our church to grow? Let's start with growth in number. It's simple. All we have to do is do it, and you know what it is; invite people to come to church with you to worship God and hear the gospel. There is no great secret to church growth. Church's whose members love their God and love their church and say to others, "Come to church with me," always, always grow. So this week think of someone you know who doesn't attend church somewhere regularly and invite them to come with you.

And remember why we want to grow. It's not just so we can have a bigger church. That's not it at all. We want to grow because the person you think of that is not attending a church regularly is missing so

much of what God wants that person to have: the joy of a healthy relationship with God, a sense of the forgiveness of sins, the reassurance of eternal life in Christ, the joy of worshipping, serving, giving. All this can be found in the Body of Christ, the church. God, I believe, is calling us to GROW because people so desperately need God in their lives.

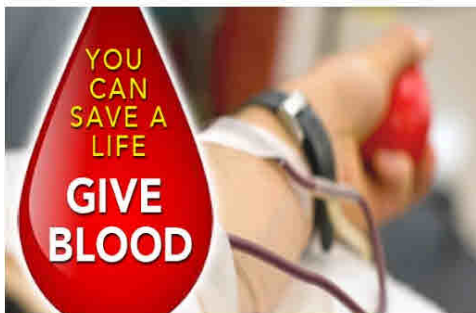
Phillip

Phillip Reynolds

Senior Pastor

FACE OF A CHILD PROJECT 2017

Our church is again sponsoring the Straseni Orphanage in Moldova for the Face of a Child Project 2017. This project provides basic needs every year for a child in a very personal way that conveys to them that there is a God who loves and cares for them individually. The big ticket items this year are: sweat suits, athletic shoes, hygiene items, tube socks, and school supplies. Pictures are available now. Please contact the church office to sponsor a child. Please let us know if you want the same child if they are available.



**American Red Cross
Blood Drive**

**Sunday, March 5
12:30 – 5:00pm**

**Sign up online or
Before or after service**

Sunday, March 12
**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
BEGINS**
Time To Spring Forward!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 5, FBC took part in the national Souper Bowl of Caring. A total donation of \$764.28 was collected benefitting the Hickory Soup Kitchen.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina Annual Gathering
Thursday-Saturday, March 30-April 1, 2017 at FBC Hickory

as you go

Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations...

- Matthew 28:19

Along with the SBC (Southern Baptist Convention), the CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) is a missions partner of FBC Hickory and is one of the major Baptist missions agencies that members of FBC Hickory financially support in sharing the Gospel at home and around the world. This past summer, the deacons of FBC approved the request made by CBF of North Carolina (CBFNC), the state CBF missions organization, that FBC Hickory serve as the “host church” for the CBFNC Annual Gathering on March 30 - April 1, 2017. FBC hosted this gathering 10 years ago.

The CBFNC Annual Gathering features workshops, guest speakers, worship, an exhibit hall, and times of fellowship. It also convenes annual business meetings related to the CBFNC organization. All of the event’s content, including speakers and workshop leaders, is determined solely by the CBFNC staff and their planning team. The role of FBC Hickory, as “host church,” is to oversee the logistics of this meeting including parking, hospitality, on-site registration, use of church technology, shuttle transportation to meals, etc. Area churches will also provide assistance.

We at FBC want to be the very best “host church” we can possibly be. To do that, we truly need your help. Please complete a “volunteer sign-up form” soon to be available in your Bible Study class and on the back of a Connection Card, or by calling the church office.

Visit www.cbfnc.org to get details about how folks can register to ATTEND the event. Volunteers will be registered by our church office. We still need volunteers; sign-up to volunteer on the back of the Connection Card in worship.



NEXT STEPS AT FBC

Are you new to FBC and wondering what your next steps are to connect? Check out DiscoveryONE, a luncheon for newcomers to FBC. This luncheon will be a great opportunity for recent guests and new members to learn a little more about FBC. Sunday, March 19 at noon in room 163. Childcare is provided with advance registration. Sign up for DiscoveryONE on our website at www.fbc.cc/NextSteps by Wednesday, March 15.

CHRISTLIFE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Beginning March 8, you may choose one of these three options on Wednesday nights, 6:15 – 7:10 pm. If you are joining us for supper, 4:45 – 5:55, be sure to register for supper in the church office. Also, if you plan to attend the "Marriage Enrichment Workshop," please register in the church office so we will have a book for you.

Marriage Enrichment Workshop: Making Good Marriages Better **March 8 - April 5, Connection Center, Phillip and Betsy Reynolds**

All marriage relationships require care and attention. This workshop helps you make time for one another in this busy world. We will cover topics like communication, handling conflict, and time management. Led by Dr. Phillip and Mrs. Betsy Reynolds. Advance registration requested.

Aging Well: Taking Care of Business Now **March 8 - April 5, Fellowship Hall, Sandi Hood**

For many of us, the inevitability of aging demands that we begin now to consider how to age well. From a wealth of pastoral care experience, Sandi Hood will guide us to consider issues surrounding aging, including managing stress, advanced care planning, dealing with grief, and the role of Hospice and other professionals in our healthcare plan. Led from a Christian perspective, this will be both an informative and a very practical series. Rev. Sandi Hood, M.Div, is Director of Community Outreach at Catawba Regional Hospice. She and her team will bring a wealth of resources, experience, and information.

Hearing From God: Major Lessons from the **Minor Prophets — Part 1 IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY**

March 8 - April 5, Room 164, Rendell Higgs

In today's world of text messaging, Snapchat, and Facebook, we are constantly bombarded with messages of all types. It becomes difficult for us to stop and listen long enough to hear from God, letting God not only pour out his love and goodness on us, but also letting God speak to us about how our lives can more fully reflect His desire and design for us. This is where the voice of God through the "minor prophets" of the Bible becomes relevant for us today. In this ten-week study in two parts, we will study the major lessons from the minor prophets, lessons which are both timeless and timely, calling each of us to rethink our allegiances and re-center our lives on God. Some reading outside of class will be required. Taught by Rev. Rendell Higgs.

WOMEN'S TUESDAY **MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Entrusted: A Study of 2 Timothy

Tuesdays, March 7 - April 11, 9:30 a.m.,
Room 201

In this new 6-session Bible study facilitated by Sandra Foster, videos by Beth Moore will encourage you to guard what God has entrusted to you, further His kingdom by sharing Christ with others, and pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. Because in this journey of joy and hardship, we need each other to stay the course and live lives of faithfulness. Cost is \$10, includes workbook. Call the church office or see Sandra Foster to register.

RA RACE

Saturday, March 18, 4:00pm-6:30pm,
Fellowship Hall. Hotdog supper
provided. Race divisions are RA-Lad,
RA-Crusader, GAs and Youth & Adult.
Car kits are still available for \$5 each.
Please see Rendell Higgs or Jason
Herring for a car kit or more
information.

AREA LENTEN SERVICES

The Hickory Area Ministers Association is sponsoring Lenten Services beginning at FBC on Wednesday, March 1. The services begin at 11:30 am. FBC will also host Wednesday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 15. Please join us for these times of worship.

PRIMETIMER'S **VALENTINE'S** **LUNCHEON**



This Month's Cover:
*Jason Herring prays with Cody Winger
at Cody's Deacon Ordination Service.*

Sundays

March 5 - 10:30am

Rooted Deep as Followers of Jesus
Why Should I Trust the Bible?
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

March 12 - 10:30am

Rooted Deep as Followers of Jesus
Why Jesus?
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

March 19 - 10:30am

Rooted Deep as Followers of Jesus
Who am I? Why am I Here?
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

March 26 - 10:30am

- Rev. Chris Gillespie

Wednesdays

6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

Beginning March 8
Marriage Enrichment
Aging Well
Hearing From God

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

339 Second Avenue, Northwest
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Return Service Requested

Phone: (828) 328-2031

Fax: (828) 328-4789

Email: info@fbc.cc

Website: www.fbc.cc

Phillip Reynolds, Senior Pastor
Chris Gillespie, Minister to Students
Rendell Hipps, Minister of Discipleship
Steve Clarke, Minister of Music & Worship
Butch Farrah, Church Administrator &
Minister to Senior Adults

Andris Rozukalns, organist
Staff email: (last name)@fbc.cc

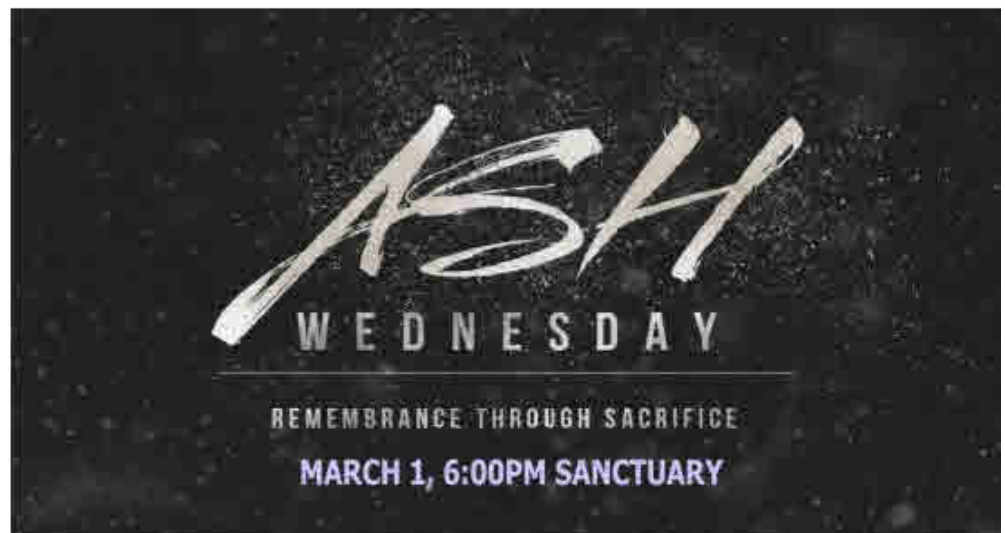


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

Mark your calendar for the annual World Community Day ecumenical worship service at St. Aloysius Catholic Church on Saturday, March 11 at 1:00pm. This service is prepared by over 12 area churches. Childcare will be provided. Refreshments will be served following service. For more information, ask Nellie Pruitt or call Carole Marmorato at 828-256-8956.

RENT A KID 2017

If you would like to sign up for the waiting list of Rent A Kid for March 4, April 1 or May 6, you may do so in Bible Study or contact the church office. No job too big or too small.



The family Lenten service will include the imposition of Ashes. Children 1st - 6th grade and students are encouraged to attend with their families. Preschool childcare will be provided.

March 2017 - Pull Out & Post

Numbers to Know

MINISTER ON CALL

March 4	<i>Chris Gillespie on call (828-320-2741)</i>
March 11	<i>Rendell Higgs on call (828-228-8639)</i>
March 18	<i>Phillip Reynolds on call (828-455-8678)</i>
March 25	<i>Butch Farrah on call (910-206-1887)</i>

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4-10

Rebecca Tanner, Coordinator	381-1924
Chris Tanner	381-8943
Bernie Whitmer	781-9283
Marvin Smith	381-0654

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 11-17

David Haire, Coordinator	303-7911
Jim Totty	256-4396
Cody Winger	726-7795
S. Watson	781-1662

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 18-24

Gary Woods, Coordinator	455-2516
Allen Wittenberg	320-9456
Bernie Whitmer	781-9283
Tom Guthrie	446-0007

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25-31

Ed Auten, Coordinator	302-0739
Alan Bennett	244-1944
Lloyd Bost	320-1485
Brenda Bost	320-1265

Take Note

Our Special Members This Month

Mrs. Margaret Passmore - Abernathy Laurels #809A,
102 Leonard Avenue, Newton NC 28658

Mrs. Mary Pace – Brookdale Hickory Northeast #45, 2530
16th Street NE, Hickory NC 28601

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

Wednesday Night Meals

March 1

Choose an Entrée: Shrimp & Grits,
Spaghetti, Chicken Salad on Croissant, Turkey

Choose 2 Sides: Roasted Veggies,
Green Beans, Cooked Apples

Rolls & Dessert

March 8

Choose an Entrée:
Herb Roasted Pork with a Mushroom Sauce,
Pizza, Chicken Salad on Croissant, Turkey

Choose 2 Sides: Baked Asparagus,
Rice Medley, Green Beans

Rolls & Dessert

March 15 Ides of March

Choose an Entrée:
Roman Style Baked Chicken & Ziti, Ham,
Chicken Salad on Croissant, Turkey

Choose 2 Sides: Caesar Salad, Green Beans,
Roasted Glazed Carrots with Greek Yogurt

Roll & Dessert

March 22

Choose an Entrée: Beef Sheppard's Pie,
Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo,
Chicken Salad on Croissant, Turkey

Sides: Green Beans, Cooked Apples

Biscuits & Dessert

March 29

Choose an Entrée:
Baked Chicken with Blackberry Sweet & Sour Sauce,
Fish Sticks & Hush Puppies, Chicken Salad on Croissant,
Turkey

Choose 2 Sides: Macaroni & Cheese,
Corn, Green Beans

Rolls and Dessert

Children's Workers

March 5

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Kara Wittenberg **10:15am** - Kara Wittenberg

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Debby Cook & Phillip Bumgarner

Walkers & Two's — Jewel Mabery & Susan Mofford

Three's & Four's — Frank Stephenson & Sandra Foster

Coordinator: Ruth Ann Carreira

Children's Church: Children in Worship

March 12

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Ashley Dyson **10:15am** - Gail Ford

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Aaron Bliss & Becky Icard

Walkers & Two's — Christy Greene & Jerry Long

Three's & Four's — Brian Bogle

Coordinator:

Lead Teacher: Beth Watson **Shepherd:** Adair Bowman

March 19

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Kristin Herring **10:15am** - Betsy Reynolds

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Renea Featherstone & Glenda Foster

Walkers & Two's — Traci Palmer & April Teague

Three's & Four's — Tiffany Hightower & Ruth Hastings

Coordinator: Mechele McCormack

Lead Teacher: Fran Ballengee **Shepherd:** Caroline Trado

March 26

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

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

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Eric Johnson & Linda Wike

Walkers & Two's — Ashley Dyson

Three's & Four's — Matt Dyson & Jeanne Davis

Coordinator: Sallie Johnson

Lead Teacher: Carolyn Icard **Shepherd:** Cody Wingle

THE HISTORIAN'S COLUMN

Frank Mofford

"Herodotus (Greek Historian generally considered to be the father of history) says 'Very few things happen at the right time and the rest do not happen at all.' The conscientious historian will correct these defects."

-Mark Twain

Let me introduce myself. My first experience with FBC Hickory was in 1963 as a member of the Scout Troup that met there. I played football on a grassy area near the education building. There was a Colonial grocery store across the street. I returned in the early eighties because my wife to be Susan and I used church attendance as part of our dating experience. Susan had been a member since 1965. I joined the church formally in 1984 and was baptized by Dr. Mobley. I admit I was a little old to be taking the dip. Susan and I were married in the Gray House in 1985. All three of my children were baptized by Dr. Bill Leathers in the Church Baptistry.

I am an ordained Deacon in our church having served several active terms. I was an RA leader for over seven years. I taught high school Sunday School for several years. I have sung off key in both our sanctuary choir and the contemporary choir. I have directed church skits in both services for several years. Sometimes the audience loved it. Sometimes the audience couldn't stand it. And now I am a charter member of the First Baptist Primetimers. I am probably most proud of this because it validates I am still around.

I tell you all of this because this is just a drop in the bucket of history for First Baptist Hickory. Just one person's experiences. Multiply that by all who have attended our Church over the last 146 years. That, I think, is the real definition of history and on May 7, 2020 our Church will be

150 years old. I would like to explore this history and be able to share what I find out with you.



I will try to make the information both useful and

entertaining. It is you I am here to serve. We do need feedback as to how you would like your church historian to serve you. On May 7, 2020 our church will celebrate a birthday. Our church will be 150 years old. And that in itself will be a joyous and historic occasion.