



New Poll: Faith is not first in personal identity. Ouch, that statement hurt. But that was a headline in the latest issue of Report from the Capitol.

According to the Barna Group, the leading research group on religious issues in the country, it is overwhelmingly true. Most Americans define themselves first and foremost according to their families (62%). This is followed by defining oneself as an American (52%) and in a distant 3rd place (38%) are those who define themselves by their faith. Jesus once asked his followers, "Who do you say that I am?" But this recent poll asked, "Who do you say you are?" Most people respond by giving their family name, i.e., "I am a Reynolds." Next when asked came nationality, "I am an American." Only 38%, a little over 1 in 3, said first and foremost, "I am a Christian."

It gets worse. Of those who claim to be followers of Christ only 37% said

they were "practicing" Christians. And "practicing" is defined in this study as having attended church at least once in the last month. 64% of those who claim to be Christians admitted to not practicing their faith.

Now, the saddest news of all: In the survey 18% said that faith had little to do with their idea of who they are and 20% said faith had zero influence in their identity. In mid April I preached from Colossians 1:13-20 where the Bible says of Jesus that "he is before all things and in him all things hold together . . . that he himself might come to have first place in everything."

Folks, we've got work to do. Jesus is not first in most people's lives. God gave us His all, His One and Only Son, yet most people in this country only give Him 3rd place, if any place at all. What blessings they are missing in this life! What eternal joy and salvation they are missing!

We have to keep UNBINDING THE GOSPEL. Keep praying for opportunities to witness. Keep inviting friends to church. Keep engaging others in conversations about faith in Jesus Christ. Keep telling our stories.

Inside this newsletter is The Six-month Unbinding Challenge. Let's all take on this challenge and keep spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. God was in him, loving and forgiving, and saving the world. Tell it, tell it out with gladness.

Phillip Reynolds
Senior Pastor



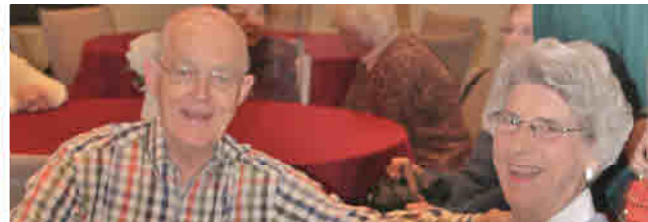
firstLIFE
May 2015



SENIOR ADULT Sunday

Sunday, May 3 - Faith-Filled Worship

SENIOR ADULT EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



MUSICAL NOTES

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY

Senior Adult Sunday will be observed in the Faith-Filled service on May 3. The Gospel Choir, under the leadership of Carolyn Gray, will be singing. This is always a special time in the life of FBC Hickory. Following the service, all Boomers and Senior Adults are invited to celebrate lunch together in the Fellowship Hall. Cost for the lunch is \$5. Call the office to reserve your place at the luncheon.

COMBINED YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT

On Sunday, May 31, at 6:00pm, the combined youth choirs of First Baptist Hickory, Lincoln and Morganton will join their voices in concert at First Baptist Church, Morganton. The concert will be a "local" presentation of the music from the NC-CBF Youth Choir Festival in March of this year. You will enjoy hearing close to 50 young voices singing and leading in this worship experience. We are proud of our Refuge Ensemble and the fine music leadership they have provided us this season. Please come and support them at this event.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Graduation Sunday is June 7, 10:30am in the Sanctuary. We will have one worship service in the sanctuary at 10:30am. 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 3. We will have a special recognition time during the service.

The Six-month Unbinding Challenge

Let's continue to make *Unbinding* part of our daily lives by taking the "Six-month Unbinding Challenge"!

CHALLENGE 1: Talk to someone other than your Christian friends or church folks about your faith/Jesus/Church at least **once each week** for the next **six months**

CHALLENGE 2: Invite someone to church at least **once each month** for the next **six months**

CHALLENGE 3: Bring someone to church with you (or have them meet you here at a specific location) at least **once** in the next **six months**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Music & Missions Finale – May 20, 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Children's Choirs rehearse for Children's Sunday, May 27 6:00pm – 6:45pm in the Sanctuary
- ◆ Children's Sunday – May 31, 10:30am in the Sanctuary
- ◆ Children's Summer Bible Study – Beginning Sunday, June 7 at 9:15am all children who have completed 1st - 5th grades are invited to Big Wave Discovery. For twelve weeks children will be invited on a beach adventure to discover biblical answers to their big questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, Prayer, the Church and more. Meet in room 228 for music, games, activities, Bible story, and more as we jump in the Big Wave of God's love!
- ◆ FBC VBS - July 6-10.

THE EASTER JOURNEY LIVE



MUSIC AND MISSIONS FINALE

On Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, come hear our preschool choirs and our children's handbells, and don't miss the end-of-year report from our RA's, GA's, and Mission Friends! It's always a joy to hear how our children are learning about missions and are doing missions! Call the church office to be sure you are on the supper list that evening!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 31, worship will be led by our children! Our Children's ministry, the various children's choirs and bells will be presenting music throughout the service. We will come together as a church family for one worship service in the sanctuary at 10:30am. Following worship, our children's ministry luncheon and awards recognition will be held in the fellowship hall. All preschoolers, children, parents, grandparents, Bible Study teachers, and Music/Missions leaders are invited. Lunch cost is \$6.50 per adult; preschoolers and children through 6th grade eat free. Parents are requested to bring a dessert. Please register for the meal no later than Wednesday, May 27 by calling the church office or emailing holland@fbc.cc.



- ◆ FBCITYKIDS SUMMER CAMP June 22-26.
- ◆ Partnership Ministry - Partner with a child through this ministry! More FBC partners are needed.

On the cover... The Easter Journey Live. Children experience washing of feet as Jesus did for the disciples as they joined Him for the Last Supper.

Sundays

May 3 - 10:30am

Senior Adult Sunday
Building a Healthy Family:
Sharing a Vision - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

May 10 - 10:30am

Building a Healthy Family:
Honoring Your Mother
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

May 17 - 10:30am

Building a Healthy Family:
Speaking the Truth - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

May 24 - 10:30am

Building a Healthy Family:
Forgiving & Forebearing
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

May 31 - 10:30am

Children's Sunday
Building a Healthy Family:
Loving One Another - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

Wednesdays

Bible Study & Prayer at 6pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

339 Second Avenue, Northwest
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

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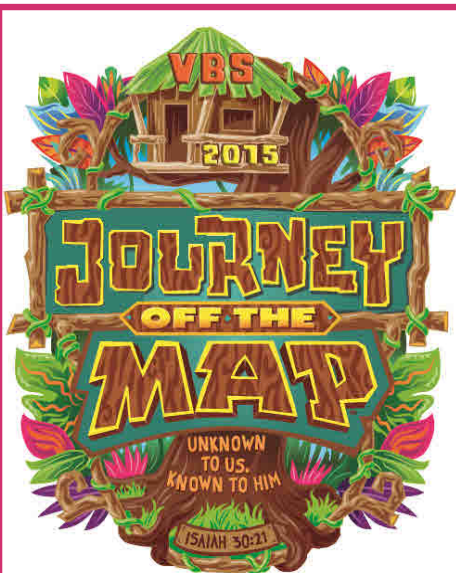
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Chris Gillespie, Minister to Students
Rendell Hipps, Minister of Discipleship
Jim Davidson, Minister of Music
Florence Jowers, Organist
Staff email: (last name)@fbc.cc

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SAVE THE DATE
VBS 2015 - July 6-10
6:00pm to 8:15pm Nightly

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7 and will be held downtown Hickory at the Sails on the Square. This event will be held from 6:00am- 8:00pm. Each hour there will be a different prayer focus.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY
MAY 4

12:00 LUNCH; 12:30 TEE TIME
CATAWBA COUNTRY CLUB
\$55 PER PERSON

PROCEEDS GO TOWARD YOUTH ST. LOUIS MISSION TRIP

May 2015 - Pull Out & Post

Numbers to Know

MINISTER ON CALL

May 2 - Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)

May 9 - Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)

May 16 - Chris Gillespie on call (320-2741)

May 23 - Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)

May 30 - Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2-8

Cliff Moore, Coordinator 312-0120

Cindi Morrison 291-6492

Eddie Icard 234-3783

John Johnson 409-1163

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9-15

Steve Palmer Coordinator 781-1293

Van Pernel 381-0162

Vic Paquin 409-0832

Bob Parlier 312-2881

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16-22

Rebecca Tanner, Coordinator 381-1924

Rick Travis 514-3642

Jack Pressly 381-6015

Chris Tanner 381-8943

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 23- 29

Bernie Whitmer, Coordinator 781-9286

Marvin Smith 381-0654

Allen Wittenberg 320-9456

Cliff Moore 312-0120

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 30—JUNE 5

Nathan Bowman, Coordinator 302-9689

Dana Bennett 244-1944

Ed Auten 302-0739

Lloyd Bost, Jr. 320-1485

Wednesday Night Meals

May 6

Baked Chicken

Your Choice of 2 Sides:

Mexican Rice,

Corn & Black Beans, Watermelon,

Green Beans, Tossed Salad

Mexican Cornbread, Rolls & Dessert

May 13

Beef Stroganoff

Your choice of 2 Sides:

Honey Glazed Carrots, Cooked Apples,

Green Beans, Tossed Salad

Rolls & Dessert

May 20

Bacon & Corn Quiche

Your Choice of 2 Sides:

Broccoli & Cheese Sauce,

Green Beans, Tropical Fruit Salad,

Pasta Salad, Tossed Salad,

Rolls & Dessert

May 27

BBQ Pork Ribs

Your Choice of 2 Sides:

New Potatoes, Baked Beans,

Mini Corn on the Cob,

Green Beans, Slaw,

Tossed Salad

Roll & Dessert

Children's Workers

May 3

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Vonda Paquin 10am - Dana Woods

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Betsy Reynolds & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Adair Bowman & Paid Worker

Threes — Nathan Bowman & Lauren Bliss

Fours - David Lawrence & Danielle Paulsen

Coordinator: Valerie LaBo

Children's Church: Children in Worship

May 10

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Sara Moore 10am - Sara Moore

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Rebecca Tanner & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Vonda Paquin & Paid Worker

Threes — Ashley Dyson, Kimo Mullinax & Rachel Paquin

Fours — Betty Long & Chris Tanner

Coordinator: Sandra Foster

Children's Church Leader: Cindi Morrison

Shepherds: FF— Ashley Dyson FW— Thomas Hand

May 17

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Jan Rodgers 10am - Lydia Gillespie

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Kara Wittenberg & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Sheryl King & Paid Worker

Threes — Jennifer Summerlin & Caroline Trado

Fours — Chuck Trado & Brooke Johnson

Coordinator: Carol Ann Keller

Children's Church Leader: Lee Bogle

Shepherds: FF— Cody Wingler FW— Mark Peters

May 24

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Kristin Herring 10am - Betsy Reynolds

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Jan Rodgers & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Tiffany Hightower & Adriane Oxford

Threes — Greg Watson, Lisa Meade & Kennedy Stilwell

Fours — Gerry Brown & Dana Woods

Coordinator: Sheila Brown

Children's Church Leader: Beth Watson

Shepherds: FF— Chris Tanner, FW— Lisa Bowne

May 31

Preschool Reception Volunteers:

9am - Vonda Paquin 10am - Dana Woods

Preschool Worship Care

Infants — Fran Ballengee & Paid Worker

Walkers & Twos— Noelle Wachter & Lydia Gillespie

Threes — Beth Miller & Cody Wingler

Fours — Linda Jones & Melanie Wingler

Coordinator: Sandra Foster

Children's Church Leader: Fran Ballengee

Shepherds: FF— Kristin Herring, FW— Adair Bowman

Take Note

Our Special Members This Month

Ms. Helen Cater - Trinity Ridge #606, 2140 Medical Park Drive, Hickory, NC 28601

Mrs. Judy Finney - Trinity Ridge #801, 2140 Medical Park Drive, Hickory, NC 28601

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

In Memoriam

Merle Hudson, April 18, 2015

Thank You Notes

Thank you notes have been received from Cooperative Christian Ministries, Hickory Soup Kitchen, The Pregnancy Care Center and Florence Jowers.

C A R E

May 3 - Tucker, Faith & Hope, & Melton/Bost Classes

May 10 - Palmer & Foster Classes

May 17 - Available

May 24 - Blackwell/Woolf & Powers Classes

May 31 - Faith & Hope

WELCOME

New to our church family: Michael Crowl - 3/29/15
As you see our NEW MEMBER around FBC, be sure to welcome them to our family.

CDC Openings

Our child development center currently has part time positions available for afternoon and mornings. Please submit resumes to Elaine Robinson or Sylvia Lail.

MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE

Music Search Committee Asks for Your Prayers
The search for music leaders is ongoing at our church. Dr. Reynolds has appointed a committee of eight church members to assist him in identifying the candidates for these positions. Please pray for the Music Search Committee that the committee is able to discern God's leadership to just the right persons to lead music in our worship services and the many areas of our music ministry.