



# First LIFE

## FROM THE PASTOR...




Stories; I love good stories. Lately I have been hearing a lot of good

stories of faith from our members. People tell me the most amazing stories about how they see God working in their lives. Most of the time folks are reluctant to tell these stories. I understand. These things tend to be deeply personal and a little, well, weird. I call them "God things." It seems that God likes to color outside the lines, so to speak. Something so odd will happen in a person's life that there is no natural or logical explanation except to say, "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." (Matthew 21:42) It is wonderful to see the storyteller's eyes when they know, they know, that what has happened is from God. Then they know as never before that the

care, the love, and the answers that are being poured into their lives are gifts from God; from God and no one else. When I hear these stories I think of Zechariah 4:6, "'Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." Part of this is unfair. Why should I be the one to hear these encouraging tales of faith over and over again? As I said above, they are very personal to the individuals who tell them, so I cannot go around re-telling them and breaking confidentiality. I wish everyone could hear what I hear so that their faith could be strengthened the way these stories strengthen my faith. It seems as if God is using our members and their stories to constantly build up the preacher's faith. If that is God's plan, it's working! Being here and being your pastor has done wonders in my life. I love you and the tales you tell. Jesus said, "you shall be

my witnesses," and you really are. Thank you for inviting me into your lives, and into your confidence by sharing your stories with me from the front lines of your spiritual journeys. Your faith stories make me a more sure believer in the grace and power of God. I hear you, and then I step into that pulpit with greater conviction than would be possible on my own. Thank you. We minister to one another, don't we? Keep those stories coming. I love them and gain strength from them. And take a little chance every now and then and share with others the "God things" that are happening in your lives. You will find that you are not the only one that God is caring for in such surprising ways.

Phillip  
  
 Phillip Reynolds,  
 Senior Pastor



## IN THE PULPIT...

**October 7** - 8:30 and 10:55am  
 Lord's Supper / Deacon Election  
*Great Questions of the Bible: How Can This Be?* - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

**October 14** - 8:30 and 10:55am  
*Great Questions of the Bible: Are You The One?* - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

**October 21** - 8:30 and 10:55am  
 Deacon Ordination  
*Great Questions of the Bible: Will He Find Faith on Earth?*  
 - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

**October 28** - 8:30 and 10:55am  
*Great Questions of the Bible: Do You Believe This?* - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6PM

*Beyond All That We Ask or Think: A Study of Ephesians*  
 - Dr. Phillip Reynolds



# CHURCH Directory PICTURE TIME

SIGN-UP TWO WAYS  
fbc.cc or 328-2031

October 16-20 &  
October 23-27

## CCM FOOD PANTRY

October is our month to help stock the CCM Food Pantry. The following are their most urgent needs: beef stew and canned soups; canned pasta dinners; spaghetti noodles, macaroni and lasagna noodles, pasta sauces; bread and cake mixes, oatmeal, cereal, grits, Pop Tarts, granola bars and other instant breakfast foods; canned tuna, chicken, Treet and Spam; canned green beans, peas and corn; pork and beans; baked beans; canned pinto and kidney beans; black eye peas; dry beans or peas; dry soup mixes; applesauce; canned fruit; macaroni and cheese; rice; peanut butter, canned sweet potatoes; saltine crackers and powdered milk. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the collection boxes in the lobbies next to the church office and fellowship hall, or take them directly to CCM. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 4, we will give thankful remembrance to those saints whose homegoing in Christ has occurred since October 31, 2011. The names of all members of First Baptist who have died during this time will be included in our worship bulletin. If you have lost a loved one who was not a member but would like to have his or her name included in the bulletin, please call the church office (328-2031) with the information. When you call, please give the names and addresses of any family members of the deceased so that they can be invited to this special service.

After the 10:55 service, there will be a luncheon in the fellowship hall for any family members of the deceased. If you can attend, call Helen in the church office (328-2031) to make a reservation. Reservation deadline for the luncheon is **Friday, October 26, 5:00pm**. Please give the names of those attending the luncheon.



## TRAFFIC NEWS

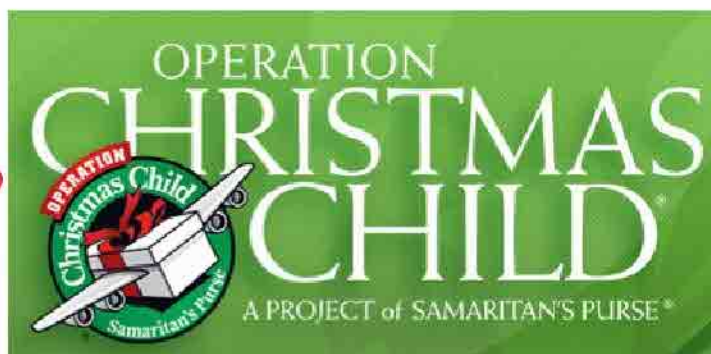
Please be aware that on Sunday, October 7, the annual Brett's Ride fundraiser will take place in Hickory. On that day, 4th Street which runs parallel to the church will be closed. Please use 1st and 2nd Avenues to access any of our parking areas. This will be especially important for our 8:30am service attendees.

## QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our quarterly church conference will be on Wednesday, October 24 at 6:00pm following family supper. The meeting will feature the nominating committee report for 2013.

## THE GIFT OF LIFE

American Red Cross FBC Blood Drive - Sunday, October 7, in the Fellowship Hall from 12:30 - 5:00pm. Please show your support by supplying goodies for the folks donating and by signing up to give.



## Shoe Box Time is HERE!

Fill a shoebox and change the life of a child. Boxes will be available at the beginning of October. Our church goal is 400 boxes. Please return your filled box to church by November 11. For more information contact Sandra Moody.

## STILL TIME TO GIVE

Our September State missions goal is a combined total of \$1500. Gifts can still be given. Please use the envelopes that have been made available around the church.

## WITH GRATITUDE

I want to thank each and every person who has expressed support, especially in your prayers, of my music mission trip to Cuba, September 17-26, 2012. We witnessed God's amazing power among the Cuban people through our music and sharing. The trip also had a great impact on those of us who went and played. Truly, God answered your prayers. I am grateful to be your minister of music and for your allowing me this mission opportunity. - Jim Davidson



Stay connected with FBC on Facebook. You will find updates about all things FBC.



## OKTOBERFEST OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

All of Hickory converges on downtown Hickory just a few steps from FBC's back door for Oktoberfest, and we'll be there! With your help, FBC's Children's Ministry will sponsor a booth at Oktoberfest on Friday and Saturday, **October 12 and 13**. Our booth, located a few doors down from Larry's Music Store, will feature fun activities for children and will provide us with an opportunity to reach out to neighbors and new friends just blocks from FBC. Please sign-up in Bible Study or contact the church office to volunteer for a two-hour block Friday evening or any time on Saturday. You can also sign-up to be part of prayer team that will pray on-site at Oktoberfest for our community. You can just show up at the booth and receive a guide for how to pray by yourself for our community and neighbors. Contact Cindi Morrison or Rendell Hipps for details.



## MUSIC MINISTRY: COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS - AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Yes, for the Music Ministry, Christmas is just around the corner. This means that the Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, October 10, at 7:00pm in the choir room for its Christmas program. The first half of the normal rehearsal time will be dedicated to Christmas music and the last half will be regular Sunday anthems. We are inviting all interested singers to join with the Sanctuary Choir for ten Wednesday rehearsals beginning October 10.

This year's program is "Carols and Keys at Christmas". It will feature the choir accompanied by piano with four hands. The program is on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00pm.

## MELODEARS TO ATTEND FESTIVAL

On October 29-30, the Melodears will be attending the North Carolina Baptist Senior Adult Choir Festival, held at the Gateway Convention Center in Hickory. The guest clinician will be well-known composer/arranger/church musician Lloyd Larson from Minnesota. The Melodears, directed by Nellie Pruitt, will be singing with some 200-250 other senior singers.

## VETERAN'S CELEBRATION

On November 13, the Mature Adults will host a Veteran's Day Celebration during their regular 2nd Tuesday luncheon. Veterans are invited to come to be a part of this luncheon. We will share a meal together, hosted by the Senior Adults. Veterans will be given a chance to share some of their stories of their time in service. The cost of the meal is \$5.00. Veteran's meals will be paid for by the Senior Adult Ministry. Help us plan for the meal for this 2nd Tuesday luncheon, by calling the office to say you plan to attend. If you are a veteran, please indicate which branch of the military you served.

## INASMUCH WORKDAYS

Saturdays, October 27 & November 3  
8:00am – 12:00noon

The MISSIONS COUNCIL is sponsoring "Inasmuch" workdays to assist our members and neighbors with minor repairs, maintenance, and clean-up chores around their homes and yards. We will try to prioritize projects based on urgency of need and do as many as we can from 8:00am until 12:00noon. If you have chores or projects with which you need the help of fellow church members, or if you know of a need that another person has which he or she may be reluctant to identify, please sign up in Bible Study or contact the church .



## Welcome New Member

We have a new church family member. As you see this NEW MEMBER around FBC, be sure to welcome him to our family.



Ryan Strong  
Joined 8-26-12



Music & Missions Kick Off - 2012

