



First LIFE



FROM THE PASTOR...



The Democratic National Convention will be held in Charlotte

Inherently divisive? I thought about David Silverman's remark when I sat in our filled sanctuary on August 12, as our Carolina Mission Team's reported on the trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I scanned the room and thought that there is no way I would be in Hickory, or know so many in our diverse group called First Baptist Church if not for our common bond in Christ. I thought that in church young, old, rich, poor, male, female, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, and others all come together. As I listened to the mission team's report I thought how our faith has united us with folks in Alabama we would never know if not for "religion." Divisive? Religion has bound us closer to others than anything else I can imagine. Religion is a good word. It comes from the Latin ligare, which means to bind or connect. We get our English word, ligament

from ligare. Re, of course, means to return. The practice of religion serves to re-bind us closer to God and to one another. Not a bad thing to practice, I believe. I don't believe atheism practices this. Unfortunately, humans also have mal-practiced religion in past history and some continue to do so today. But this is human error, not Divine error. Far too much harm has been done in the name of religion, but not by religion. Little wonder people of faith are misunderstood and even hated. But I will say this, those who practice faith have done infinitely more good in the world than any others. Church historian Bill Leonard likens us to the clowns at the rodeo. The clowns look silly to the spectators (just as the American Atheists president said of religion in general). But when a rider has fallen, "the the clowns become dead serious in

this month and some have seized on it as an opportunity to attack people of faith; people like you and me. A group calling themselves American Atheists are putting up billboards that viciously attack any form of religion because both the Republican and Democratic candidates for president claim to be people faith. If you drive through Charlotte in September you might see these billboards. Why are they doing this? The American Atheists sincerely believe that the practice of religion is wrong. Their president, David Silverman, recently told CNN reporter Dan Merica, "Religion is silly and religion has components that are inherently divisive."



IN THE PULPIT...

September 2 - 8:30 and 10:55am
To Whom Shall We Go?
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

September 9 - 8:30 and 10:55am
Great Questions of the Bible: Where Are You?/Where Is Your Brother? - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

September 16 - 8:30 and 10:55am
Great Questions of the Bible: Can These Bones Live? - Rendell Hipps

September 23 - 8:30 and 10:55am
Great Questions of the Bible: If the Lord IS with Us, why has all this happened to Us? - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

September 30 - 8:30 and 10:55am
Great Questions of the Bible: Whom Shall I Send? - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6PM
Beyond All That We Ask or Think : A Study of Ephesians
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

their efforts to protect the defenseless, sometimes hurting, rider. Somehow, in the mystery of God, the world needs us. Oh, we look silly in the baggy pants of our theology, the painted faces of our practice, and the open-ended barrels of our ethics. But there we are in the center ring where some people need to be protected, where others are hurting, and where those who have fallen need the safety of a second chance."


What has religion done for me? It has re-connected me to God. It has bound me in love and service to people I never dreamed I would know. It has taken me to hurting and dying people in remote corners of the globe. It has done more to open my heart to others than any philosophy of life ever could.

Silly? Divisive? No. It is the wisdom of God that seeks to bring all people together in love and harmony. I like being religious.

Phillips

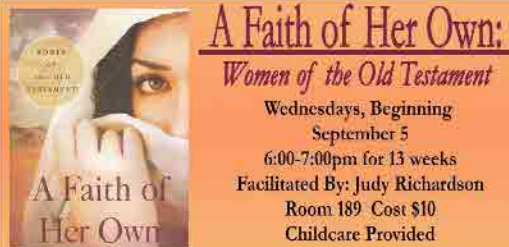
Phillip Reynolds, Senior Pastor

ChristLIFE continuing education studies for growing Christians



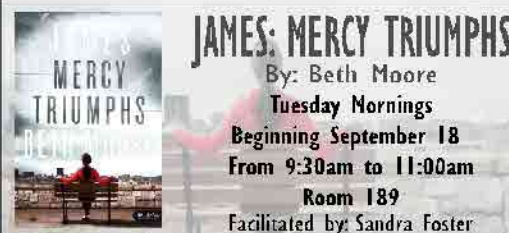
THE JOURNEY 101 –
"Christian Foundations"
Sundays starting September 23, 9:45a.m., Room 201
Facilitator: Rendell Higgs

Engage the Bible to discover foundational beliefs of the Christian faith and how these truths impact your life. Open to anyone, designed especially for those who are new members of FBC, new Christians, or those who need a refresher on the basics of the Bible and the Christian faith.



A Faith of Her Own:
Women of the Old Testament
Wednesdays, Beginning September 5
6:00-7:00pm for 13 weeks
Facilitated By: Judy Richardson
Room 189 Cost \$10
Childcare Provided

Participants in this ladies Bible study will look at the lives of Eve, Naomi, Leah and Rachel and more exploring what their lives and faith have to say to women today. Facilitated by Judy Richardson. A discussion guide is included. Please pre-register. Weekly reading required.



JAMES: MERCY TRIUMPHS
By: Beth Moore
Tuesday Mornings
Beginning September 18
From 9:30am to 11:00am
Room 189
Facilitated by: Sandra Foster

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple in this 8-session study. And learn how you can put your own faith into action. Facilitated by Sandra Foster. Workbook is required.

Are You New to FBC?

IF SO, YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A

FBC Newcomers Luncheon

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 NOON - 2:00PM

After the meal, our ministers will share valuable information about the various ministries of the church, allowing you to learn more about who we are, what we value, and how you can be a part of FBC.

CHILDCARE PROVIDED AFTER THE MEAL FOR INFANTS AND PRESCHOOLERS

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 5 TO 828-328-2031 x309

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU

For Our Children Our children's music ministry opportunities will begin on Wednesday evening, September 5. Children's handbells 5:20-6:00pm rm 302 Children's choirs from 6:00-6:45pm

For Our Youth

Youth Choir at 5:00pm in the Choir Room, beginning Sunday afternoon, September 9. Youth Handbell Choir schedule is to be arranged (look for news about this in mid-September).

For Our Adults

Sanctuary Choir will continue meeting Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Choir Room. Adult Handbell Choir will be meeting at 4:00pm in room 301, beginning September 9. (New ringers are needed as the youth will have their own bell choir.)

For Our Senior Adults

Melodears rehearse Thursday at 10am in the Choir Room, beginning September 6. Gospel Choir (southern gospel) rehearses the last Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the



**Welcome Back
Wednesdays!
Starting
September 5**

TAKING OWNERSHIP OF YOUR FAITH

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY



BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH; 6:15-7:30
...for you, for a friend, and for God

Kids Corner

The Parent Connection to Sunday morning Bible Study

Each week, children 1st thru 6th grade will be bringing home a sheet which summarizes the lesson for the week and includes activities for the whole family. Please review this sheet with your child and try some of its suggestions. We pray that these take home sheets will help your family grow together in the Lord this year! Helping a child develop Bible skills is part of each parent's task as the primary spiritual leader in your children's lives. Model the importance of Bible Study to your child. Require him or her to bring a Bible to church each Sunday. Guide your child in worship by helping him or her find the Scripture passage used in the sermon.

FBC's Ministry Philosophy for Children's Bible Study

The Children's Sunday morning Bible Study ministry consists of three key ingredients:

Bible Content - Help children hear and understand stories from the Bible, know how to use the Bible, and know specific verses in the Bible.

Bible Application - Help apply Biblical truths to the immediate lives of the children, including the decisions they make.

Relationships and Modeling - Help guide the formation of each child's faith through relationships with teachers and with the church by modeling discipleship and Christ-likeness. Please pray for your children, your teachers, and all that goes on during Sunday morning Bible Study for children.

Children's Resources Available

Find these helpful resources in the children's lobby on the 2nd floor:

- ◆ "Children and Conversion: How To Present Salvation to Children" by Janice Haywood
- ◆ "Is Your Family #Hooked on Digital Media" by Greg Jantz
- ◆ "Helping Your Children Learn To Pray" (author unknown)
- ◆ "Children, God, Jesus, and Salvation" by Rendell Hipps
- ◆ "Parent Life"- Monthly Magazine

SENIOR ADULTS - LAZY 5 RANCH

(rescheduled trip from March) Friday, September 14
Cost: \$7.50 per person. If you had already signed up with payment for the March trip, please call the church office to confirm at 328-2031. New sign ups are welcome, please bring your money to the church office. Bus leaves lot at 10:30am and will return approximately 4:00pm. Includes a ride through the park plus picnic lunch.



IN THE MUSIC MINISTRY

choir room and sing the first Thursday of the month at Pinecrest Nursing Care Center at 6:45pm.

For Instrumentalists

Please contact Dr. Davidson if you are willing to share your talents and skills playing an orchestral instrument. He will gladly arrange opportunities for the use of instruments in our traditional worship services.

These ministry groups welcome new participants. Please make your plans to join with other believers in praising the Lord together and lifting up His name.

Welcome

Look who is new to our church family. As you see this **NEW MEMBER** around FBC, be sure to welcome her to our family.



Heather Benfield
Joined 8-19-12

MUSIC & MISSIONS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

It's not too late to get involved in weekly music and missions that begins September 5. Call the church office for details on getting your child involved in Wednesday night music and missions!

MUSIC 5:20-6:00pm

Beginning Handbells (4th-6th Grade)

6:00-6:30pm

Music Friends I (3-4 year old)

Music Friends II (5 yr/Kinders-1st Grade)

6:00-6:45pm

Music Makers (2nd-3rd Grade)

Young Musicians (4th-6th Grade)

MISSIONS 6:30-7:00pm

Mission Friends I (3-4 year old)

Mission Friends II (5yr/Kinders-1st Grade)

6:50-7:30pm

GA's Grades 1-3 , GA's Grades 4-6

RA's Grades 1-3 , RA's Grades 4-6



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

339 Second Avenue, Northwest
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

Volume 12, Issue 9
Published Monthly by
First Baptist Church, Hickory, NC

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 85

Return Service Requested

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Jerry Rodgers, Minister to Senior Adults and Church Administration
Jim Davidson, Minister of Music
Florence Jowers, Organist
Staff email: (last name)@fbc.cc

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNER RESERVATIONS NEEDED

Please help us as we start our standing reservation list over so we will have a more accurate count. Contact Helen @ 828.328.2031 or catt@fbc.cc and update your reservations for the fall season. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you around the table.

MUSIC MINISTRY IN CUBA

Our minister of music, Dr. Jim Davidson, will be going to Holguin, Cuba with a group of 16 other Christian musicians from all over the USA, September 17-26, 2012. He will be playing bass trombone. The group will be travelling with Cultural Visas. The Cultural Visa will give access openly to the secular community but not openly with the faith community.

Last year when a similar group went to Cuba, more than 400 Cuban musicians joined in a teaching setting. 160 of them registered as "guests" which meant they had no church affiliation. 30 of them gave their lives to Christ. The conductor of the symphony is an "on-fire" believer who is committed to using his platform with his orchestra to share Christ with them and others.

Please pray for Jim and the others on mission with him, that the Lord would use their ministry to touch many lives in the Cuban community for Christ and His kingdom. Pray also for the groups health and safety (there will be only one player to a part). May God be glorified through everything said and done! --- By the way, Holguin is the hometown of Fidel Castro.

Our cover photo this month is from our VBS finale night. The children learned about the story of Noah through the "100% Chance of Rain" theme. The week ended with a musical production preformed by the children for friends and family.



March 28 – April 6, 2013

Deposit of \$250 per person is due by Saturday, September 15, 2012.

Join Dr. Reynolds as he follows Paul's 2nd missionary journey through Greece and Turkey. Detailed information regarding the trip is available on flyers throughout the church, on the church website, and by contacting Noelle Wachter at 244-6640.

Sunday Sermon Series

Great Questions of the Bible Beginning September 9



Dr. Phillip Reynolds

Budget Discussions on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:00pm.

