

# First Baptist News

Volume LIV No. 5

May 4, 2017

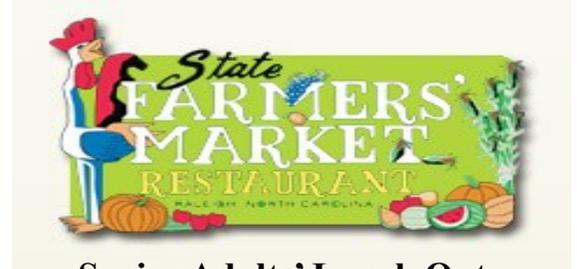
## Friends of Jesus Softball Game



**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**  
**Game at 5:00 pm**  
**Supper at 6:00 pm**

**Join us at Godwin Heights Park to cheer on the Friends of Jesus Sunday School Class. Hamburgers & Hot Dogs will be served.**

**This event will take the place of our regular Wednesday activities.**



### Senior Adults' Lunch Out

May 8, 2017  
State Farmer's Market, Raleigh, NC  
Transportation \$8.00 per person

Sign up and pay at the church office!



Our Spiritual Renewal weekend of several weeks ago is fading into memory, but I am still considering a few of the thoughts Bo Prosser shared with us. Bo's passion in ministry is spiritual formation. He loves the privilege of helping people grow in their faith and commitment to Jesus. Early in his time with us he shared his personal definition of spiritual formation. He said "spiritual formation is the process of being formed in the image of Christ by the gracious working of God's Spirit in community." There are several important points in this thought, the most important of which is that it is God who is doing the work. We have a part in being formed in Christlikeness. We pray, read the scripture, worship and serve, but spiritual formation is always God's doing in our lives.

Another key point of Bo's idea of spiritual formation is particularly important as we near the summer months. He said we are formed by God's Spirit *in community*. We Baptists take great pride in being individually responsible for our relationship with God. I cannot relate to God for you and you cannot relate to God for me. Still, we are formed by God's Spirit *in community*. We help and inspire one another. We encourage and teach one another. We challenge and convict one another. Most importantly, we encounter Christ in one another.

Continued, see page 2— "From the Pastor"

### Preparing for Sunday—

**"To Have More... Give More!"**  
John 10:1-10

This Sunday's gospel reading includes Jesus' statement that he *came that they (you and I) may have life and have it abundantly*. In this statement, Jesus is saying that his whole life was founded on giving to others. We know he fulfilled this statement by teaching, healing, serving and, most especially by atoning for our sins on the cross. Jesus gave everything he had and in doing so he teaches us what abundant life really is. Abundance is not having everything you want. It is not measured by financial statements or good health. Abundance, as lived by Jesus, is in giving to others, especially those who are marginalized. This is one of the great paradoxes of our Christian faith... **To Have More... Give More!**

**“From the Pastor”** —continued from Page 1

The poet John Donne was correct when he wrote that “no man is an island.” None of us are whole unto ourselves. We are connected to one another. My relationship with Christ is woven into yours and yours into mine. We are formed by God’s Spirit in community, so it is vital that we keep the words of Hebrews 10:24-25. We are to *consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.*

I realize this summer holds exciting opportunities for many of you. I am looking forward to some time away as well, but I hope you will attend the worship services, bible studies and fellowship opportunities we have planned at church.

Furthermore, I encourage you to come not out of habit or just for the sake of filling a seat. “Pray yourself up” before you come to a service or an event and I am sure the Spirit will go about the work forming you (and me) in the image of Christ. See you Sunday!

*Peace,  
David*



Years ago, our youth group participated in an annual event known as the 30 Hour Famine. It is a juice fast and the money raised goes to impoverished peoples throughout the world. Five or six years ago, for numerous reasons, we stopped doing the 30 Hour Famine and switched to a variety of other options.

One year we fasted for 24 Hours from sundown on Maundy Thursday until sundown on Good Friday, attending a couple of local services. We may do this again in coming years. Last year we joined a poverty immersion weekend in Fayetteville with other area youth groups, learning how the homeless function, their stories, and living their experiences the best we could over 48 hours.

This year, as we have also done before, we completed our own 40 Hour Fast, with the money raised staying local. We arrived at the church Friday night at 8:00 PM. Around 10:00, we drove out to a church member’s land and spent the night in hammocks in their pines. Saturday’s big event was a team building experience at Escape Room in Fayetteville. While we will likely do something different in the coming years, there were some lessons worth sharing from this year’s.

If you choose to do a juice fast, choose your juice wisely. Don’t fall for clever marketing. Plum juice sounded delicious and had a fairly good nutrition label. As it turns out, prunes are plums and I ended up consuming nothing but prune juice for 40 hours.

Sleep is important. If you hang out (literally, in hammocks) all night with teenagers talking, singing, and joking around on a weekend without food, you’ll pay later. They will too but their recovery time is much better than yours. By the way, 40 hours without food is much better than 40 hours without sleep. Solving your way out of a pressure situation, even one artificially created by Escape Room, on zero sleep and a scarce few prune infused calories, is difficult to impossible. That is, unless you work as a team. We solved the puzzle and beat the clock with only three minutes to spare (our other team finished with nine minutes left on the clock). I’m quite proud of both our teams.

In fact, I’m proud of our youth group. You should be too. This church has taught our youth to lead if gifted as a leader and to be who God created them to be. Our youth know they can be themselves and still be loved. There is no better way to end hour number 40 without food than sharing in communion with your church family. Eating and drinking of Christ’s blood and body, feasting on grace, love, and acceptance is a perfect ending to an imperfect experience.

*Peace,  
Doug*

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

Area schools are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week (either this week or next week, depending on their schedules). As the child of public school teachers, I have always had a deep respect for what school teachers do. The amount of energy, creativity, compassion, and time it takes to be a teacher is immense, and teachers' commitment to investing in the lives of young people (for minimal pay) is worth celebrating. If you know a school teacher, please be sure to thank them sometime within the next week – or better yet, thank them regularly throughout the year!

And although Sunday School teachers are not traditionally recognized under the “Teacher Appreciation Week” umbrella, they are just as important. No matter what age group they teach, our Sunday School teachers pour themselves into their lessons and their relationships with their classes – often in the midst of their own busy schedules. If you haven't recently thanked your Sunday School teacher or your child's Sunday School teacher, this might be the perfect time to do so!

*Erin*

**Music Day Camp—July 31-Aug. 4**  
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 For children who have completed 1st-6th grade.  
 \$55 (\$50 if paid early per child)  
*Registration is now open!*

## Coming up . . .

- May 17— M-Fuge Parent Meeting
- May 18— ECM Spring Art Show
- May 20— Community Café (hosts needed)
- May 22— Finance Committee & Deacons Meetings
- May 26-29— Young Adult Retreat
- May 29— Memorial Day—ECM & Church Offices Closed  
Asbury UMC Memorial Service
- June 4— Baccalaureate & Seniors Luncheon
- June 7— Last Day of School (Robeson County Schools)
- June 12-14— Vacation Bible School
- June 15-16— Friends of Jesus Bible School
- June 17— Community Café (hosts needed)
- June 18— Father's Day
- June 19— Senior Adults' Lunch & Learn  
Finance Committee & Deacons Meetings
- June 25-30— Youth Mission Trip—Charleston, SC
- June 27-29— Lego Mini-Camp
- July 4— Independence Day—ECM & Church Offices Closed
- July 5— No Wednesday Evening Services or Meal
- July 6-12— Wilderness Trail Hiking Trip
- July 9-12— Passportkids!
- July 15— Community Café (hosts needed)

## Fun & Fellowship

May 11, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Our speaker will be Ed Tatum, a former guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

## For the Record

Budgeted 2017 .....	685,000.00
Weekly Need (2017).....	\$12,924.53
Received April 30, 2017 .....	\$8,911.75
Need to date .....	\$232,641.51
Received to date .....	\$204,134.93
Over (Under) Budget .....	(\$28,506.58)
Sunday School Attendance—	192



## First Sunday Food Drive

The first Sunday of each month we collect canned and non-perishable foods for local food charities. Items may be placed in the collection bins near the church entrances. Please bring your donations to church with you this Sunday, May 7th!

## Graduation is approaching!

If you know of someone in our membership who is graduating from high school or college, we would like to include them in our June newsletter. Please contact the church office (739-4336 or [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org)) as soon as possible with the full name of the graduate, school where they completed the degree, and the type of degree received.

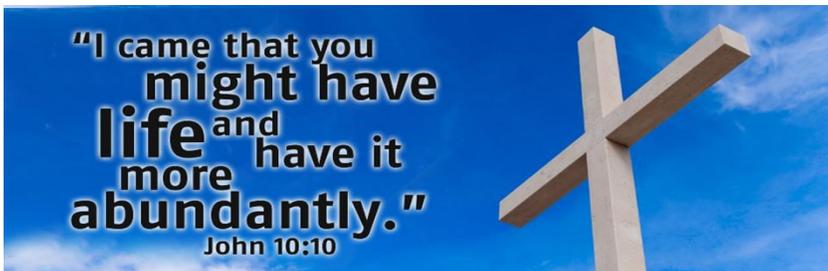
All information must be received no later than May 26th.

First Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC  
 606 N. Walnut Street  
 Lumberton, NC 28358  
 (910) 739-4336  
 The **FIRST BAPTIST NEWS** (USPS 192-260)  
 published monthly by First Baptist Church,  
 606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358  
*Periodical Postage Paid at Lumberton, NC*

Community Café Volunteers Needed!

Groups are needed to host our Community Café on the 3rd Saturday each month. Host groups provide a meal, devotion and fellowship for Community Café guests. Dates are available August-December.

If your Sunday School Class, Mission Group, etc. would like to host please contact the church office (739-4336 or [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org)).



**Family Night Supper Menus  
 May 2017**

**May 10**—Friends of Jesus Softball Game at Godwin Heights Park—Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

**May 17**—Red Ticket: Stew Beef, Rice w/Gravy, Baby Lima Beans, Rolls, Salad, Peach Pie

**May 24**—Spaghetti, String Beans, Texas Toast, Salad, Apple Pie

**May 31**—Red Ticket: Hamburger Steak, Rice w/Gravy, String Beans, Rolls, Salad, Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

**CHURCH STAFF**

Contact us at 739-4336 or [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org)  
[www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)

- Mrs. Nancy Bass — Financial Coordinator
- Rev. Erin Collier — Minister to Children
- Dr. David Elks — Pastor
- Mrs. Daphne Fletcher — Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Dorothy Hunt — Building Superintendent
- Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music
- Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant
- Rev. Doug Reedy — Minister of Youth

<b>2017</b>	Aug. 6, 20
May 21	Sept. 3, 10
June 11, 18, 25	Oct. 1, 8
July 2, 9, 16, 30	Nov. 19, 26