

First Baptist News



Volume LIV No. 3

March 2, 2017

Preparing for Sunday. . .

“A Ton of Feathers”

Psalm 32

We cannot say with certainty that the David who committed adultery with Bathsheba and orchestrated the murder of her husband, Uriah, wrote Psalm 32. However, the text indicates that the author is someone who knew the weight of sin personally. Given that we are all sinners, all of us can relate to Psalm 32, even those who have not had a torrid affair and conspired to commit murder. Our sins may not be as obvious as our neighbors, but *A Ton of Feathers* weighs as much as a ton of lead. Sins add up, even the little white lies and the refusal to help a friend in need. The Lenten season encourages us to examine our lives and confess our sins. As we do, the burden of a heavy heart is traded for happiness of a spirit in which there is no deceit.



Noon Services will be hosted by churches in our community Wednesdays during the Lenten Season. A light lunch will be served following each service.

- March 8**—First Presbyterian Church
Preacher: Rev. Dave Hawes, Pastor,
Godwin Heights Baptist
- March 15**—First Baptist Church
Preacher: Rev. David Ruth, Pastor,
First Presbyterian
- March 22**—Godwin Heights Baptist Church
Preacher: Rev. Erin Collier, Minister to
Children, First Baptist
- March 29**—Chestnut Street United Methodist Church
Preacher: Rev. Gene Wayman, Rector,
Trinity Episcopal
- April 5**—First Baptist Church
Preacher: Rev. Eva Ruth, Associate Pastor,
First Presbyterian

Maundy Thursday Service

First Presbyterian Church

April 13, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Doug Reedy, Minister of Youth, First Baptist

be *still
loved
renewed*

Spiritual Renewal Weekend March 17-19, 2017

Join us for a three-day renewal event as we take to pause, rest and listen for God's voice in our lives. All activities are at First Baptist Church and are free; RSVP required for Friday night and Saturday morning activities. Sign up by calling the church office or follow the link on our website! Deadline to sign up is March 6th.

Schedule of Activities

Friday, March 17

Dinner with program by Lakota John Locklear & Bo Prosser

*Childcare provided for birth-3rd grade

Saturday, March 18

9:00 am– Noon— Prayer Retreat led by Bo Prosser, with music by Lakota John Locklear & The Kin

*Childcare provided for birth-pre-K; Lego Camp offered for K-6th grade.

Sunday, March 19

8:45 am—Worship with guest preacher, Bo Prosser

9:45 am—Sunday School

11:00 am—Worship with guest preacher, Bo Prosser

About Bo Prosser

Dr. Bo Prosser was born and reared in Milledgeville, Georgia. He holds two Master's degrees, one in Christian Education and one in Family Counseling. His doctoral work is in the area of Adult Education from North Carolina State University. His dissertation was in the area of using humor to teach adults. After 25 years in congregational ministry as a Christian educator, Bo began serving at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, where he is the Coordinator of Organizational Relationships.

Bo is married to Gail, his wonderful wife and helpmate of 40 years. They have two married daughters and delight in their twin grandchildren. He is author of numerous books and articles on teaching, humor and adult learning.



One of the worst days of my ministry was the day Don and Pat died. They were out for an afternoon drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway when they collided head on with a car whose driver had fallen asleep at the wheel. Don and Pat were killed instantly. To compound the tragedy, their adult children were not prepared for the sudden deaths of their parents. They had no idea where Don and Pat were keeping important papers or even the whereabouts of a key to their safety deposit box. Nor did they know their parents' wishes in regard to a funeral. The family's lack of preparation made a tragic situation much worse.

Since Don and Pat's deaths I have been a proponent of advanced planning for end of life issues. A couple of years ago, as I helped a family in our church prepare for the funeral of a loved one, I was introduced to a workbook that enables individuals and families prepare in a healthy and life-giving manner. The workbook is entitled ObitKit and is authored by Susan Soper. ObitKit is "a guide to celebrating your life" that helps the reader reflect on her/his life and to collect the memories that s/he would like to have shared at her/his passing. The beauty of the workbook is twofold. First, reflecting on one's life is an important spiritual discipline. The ObitKit helps the reader remember and celebrate the most meaningful life experiences. The second benefit is that ObitKit will be an invaluable resource of helpful information and comforting memories for the reader's children and descendants after her/his death.

I was so impressed with ObitKit that I ordered one and have recently been in contact with Susan Soper, the author. I told her that I want to introduce the workbook to the senior adults in our church at a Lunch and Learn. She was thrilled at the idea and has volunteered to come and speak to our group. I was surprised by her offer. She lives in Atlanta and I informed her that I would not be able to compensate her other than the purchase of a few books. She did not rescind her offer to come and I am pleased that Susan will be our guest speaker at our Lunch and Learn on Monday, March 20th. We will have a covered dish meal at noon and then Susan will speak. The event is open to everyone. Senior adults and children of senior adults will especially benefit from hearing Susan and purchasing an ObitKit. I hope you'll be able to join us for Lunch and Learn with Susan Soper on March 20th.

*Peace,
David*



Ash Wednesday is one of the more complicated days on the church calendar. The symbolism that evokes a Christian paradox such as our certain death and eternal life, our dual identities of beloved creations of God and hopeless sinners, and whether or not we can have Sundays in Lent off to drink sweet tea or do whatever else we are giving up all raise questions that aren't easy to explain to adults, let alone teenagers. It is a day of the universal church, but it is also deeply personal.

Whether you receive the Imposition of Ashes first thing in the morning, at noon, at night, or not at all is nothing for anyone else to judge. What you give up for Lent can be private or public. What is in your heart is for God to judge, no one else.

Whether or not you use this occasion, always remember to make time for prayer and humble reflection. Reflection on your own mortality and sinfulness can frankly be depressing. Knowing that you are not alone in these reflections, however, makes all the difference. Look around at every brother and sister of God's great creation, of every nation, and know you share in their beauty and their pain. Repent in ashes so that you may learn to love in color. God be with you on your Lenten journey.

Doug



**Welcome to our
New Early
Childhood
Ministry Director,
Chanda Hughes!**

FBC's Early Childhood Committee is pleased to welcome Mrs. Chanda Hughes as our new ECM Director in Training. Chanda is a native of Robeson County and has been working the past fifteen years in the public school systems. Most recently she has taught science at Fairmont High School. Along with her superb experience as a teacher and administrator, Chanda brings a wealth of energy for innovation to the ECM. In her interview with the ECM Committee, Chanda said, "I believe each child is a unique individual who needs a secure, caring and stimulating atmosphere in which to mature (spiritually), emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially. It is my desire as an educator to help students meet their full potential by providing an environment that is safe, supports risk-taking and invites a sharing of ideas."

Chanda began her service in the ECM on March 1st and will become the director for the ECM and NC Pre-K on July 1, 2017.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Not long after Hurricane Matthew, I told someone, “there’s no seminary class that teaches you what to do after a natural disaster.” Learning how to minister in the days and weeks after Matthew wreaked havoc required a huge learning curve, one that we’re still navigating months later.

One of the unique ways we have been helping those affected by the storm has been through our Mini-Grant program, thanks to the generosity of so many individuals and churches who sent us financial donations to help families in need. Our committee formed to disburse these funds had two options: give to organizations already doing work in town, or help individuals and families caught in the gap due to FEMA limitations. Unanimously, we felt called to help individuals and families.

It hasn’t been a simple task by any means. This path meant collecting applications, making numerous phone calls, double checking details, and answering countless inquiries and office visits. Because it has been time consuming, some regular ministry tasks had to be put on hold. But was it worth it? Absolutely. When you choose to work directly with people and see their faces and hear their stories, you have the privilege of diving into the messiness of ministry and hearing the beauty and the pain in their lives. And, thanks to the generosity of so many who gave, we have been able to help get families back in their homes, help pay the deposits for new places to live, and help replace furniture and appliances lost in the storm. Even more so, we have been able to offer hope in circumstances where needs had been overlooked or fallen through the cracks.

Our work disbursing grants is quickly coming to a close (no more new applications are being accepted), and we look forward to sharing the final numbers about money given and families assisted. But as we do, please remember that the road to recovery is a long one, and there are still opportunities for us – as individuals and as a congregation – to continue to minister in our community.

Erin

Easter Eggstravaganza!

Sunday, April 9, 2017

3:00 p.m.

For preschoolers and children up to 6th grade.

Cherry Fellowship Hall

Please bring Easter eggs filled with individually wrapped candy to the church office by April 5th.



All Senior Adults are invited to Lunch & Learn, March 20th at Noon in Cherry Fellowship Hall.

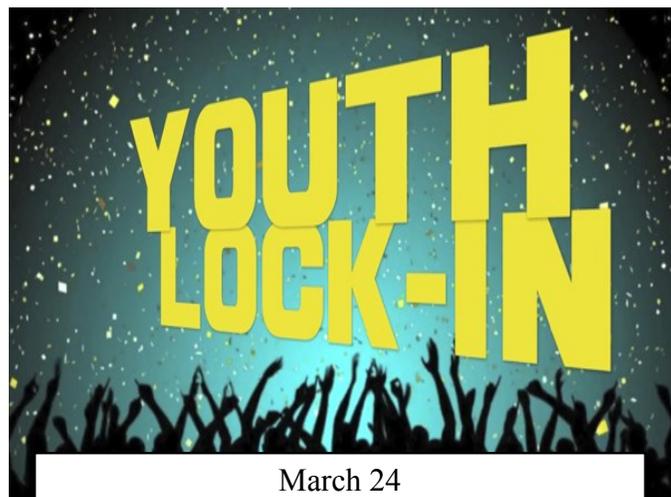
Susan Soper will be with us presenting information on ObitKit. Bring a covered dish!



Youth Week

March 26th to April 2

And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” —John 9:39



March 24

Cost is \$40 and includes a trip to Sky Zone, the Lock-in and a Youth Week t-shirt.

Sign up with Doug.
Youth Week Shirt-\$10.

For the Record

Budgeted 2017	685,000.00
Weekly Need (2017)	\$12,924.53
Received March 5, 2017	\$14,475.56
Need to date	\$116,320.75
Received to date	\$102,195.93
Over (Under) Budget	(\$14,124.82)
Sunday School Attendance—	184

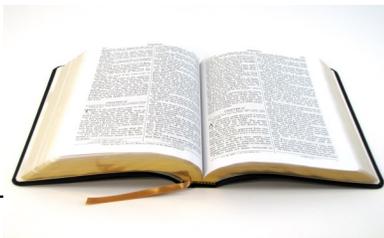
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Fun & Fellowship

March 9, 2017

11:00 a.m. in the Activity Building

We will be doing Bible Activities! Please bring your Bible, a sandwich and a friend!



Baptist Women's Luncheon

March 6, 2017

11:45 a.m. in the Activity Building

Rev. Bonnie Reedy will speak about her work with Southeastern Hospice.

as you go 

Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations...
(Matthew 28:19)

CBF NC Annual Gathering

First Baptist Church, Hickory, NC

March 30-April 1, 2017

For more information and a schedule of events
visit www.cbfn.org!



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, March 5th!

Family Night Supper Menus March 2017

March 8—Red Ticket: Baked Chicken, Rice, String Beans, Rolls, Salad, Banana Pudding
Blue Ticket: Pizza, Chips, Fruit

March 15—Lenten Service: Spaghetti, String Beans, Texas Toast, Sugar-free Cookies
Red Ticket: Barbecue, French Fries, Baked Beans, Hushpuppies, Salad, Peach Cobbler
Blue Ticket: Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit

March 22—Red Ticket: Stew Beef, Rice, Baby Lima Beans, Rolls, Salad, Chocolate Cake
Blue Ticket: Chicken Nuggets, Chips, Fruit

March 29—Red Ticket: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, String Beans, Rolls, Salad, Apple Cobbler
Blue Ticket: Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit

CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or
daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org
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