

# First Baptist News

Volume LIV No. 4-b

April 20, 2017



I am not a gambling man. I have never placed a real bet in my life, but the ministerial staff and I took a bit of a risk this past Sunday. We'd talked about our schedule for Easter Sunday and decided to make a change this year. Over the past few years we have not had good luck with the weather for a Sunrise Service and the attendance was less than what we hoped for. Also, when we do not have our 8:45 service, the folks who enjoy that service miss it. So, we decided to forgo the sunrise service and have our regular schedule instead. I missed not doing a sunrise service and at 8:40 I was beginning to wonder if we'd made a mistake as most of the chairs the Fellowship Hall were empty. I was beginning to wonder if we'd gotten the word out about the service. I suppose now I should plead for forgiveness for doubting you. By 9:00 every seat was not taken, but we had a good attendance.

Offering spiritual care is similar to running a business in that we (the ministerial staff) work to identify your needs and desires and then try to fulfill them. We consider your interests, questions, schedules and do our best to offer worship, learning and fellowship opportunities that will enrich your spiritual life. This brings to mind an important point Bo Prosser made in the Spiritual Renewal Weekend. When speaking of how people choose to spend their time and money, Bo said "people go where they know they are prepared for and cared for." This is true in all areas of life. You would not go to a restaurant if you the staff had not prepared the delicious food or a pleasant environment or if they did not care if you came or not. We go where we know we are prepared for and cared for.

So what does this mean for our church? I think it means we need to examine who we are prepared for and who we care for. We do a good job of preparing and caring for one another at First Baptist and this is good, but we all wish more people would attend our worship services and activities. We wish our inactive members would return. We want to welcome folks who are new to the community and we especially want to see those who do not know Christ. We wish more folks would come, but do they know that? Are we prepared for them and are we willing to care for them? These may seem to be simple questions, but they are not easily answered. We need to get off our wishes, prepare ourselves to care for the community to come and then personally invite any and all to be a part of our *Family of Faith*.

Peace,  
David

## Preparing for Sunday—

### "For Those Who Have Not Seen Him"

John 20:19-31; I Peter 1:3-9

Thomas is the patron saint of the long week. The other ten disciples encountered the resurrected Jesus on Easter evening, but Thomas was not with them. In the days that followed, he wrestled with his doubts and questions about what was happening. To his credit, he did not give up on Jesus. John says Thomas was with the other disciples the next Sunday when Jesus appeared. Thomas' faithfulness is a guide *For Those Who Have Not Seen Him*. Continue to do the things a disciple does. Show up and the Lord will appear. We may not see him with our eyes or touch him with our hands, but we will experience him *with an indescribable and glorious joy*. (I Peter 1:8)

**Quarterly Church Conference**  
**April 26, 2017**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**(At Family Night At Prayer)**

## 40 HOUR FAST

**April 28-30**  
**Open to Youth**  
**grades 7-12**  
**\$50 per person.**

**Proceeds will be**  
**donated to local**  
**hunger ministries.**





### Senior Adults' Lunch Out

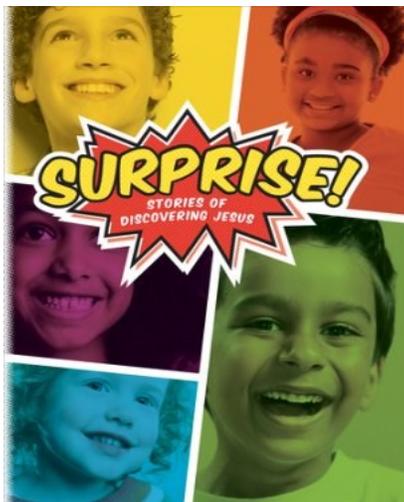
May 8, 2017  
 State Farmer's Market, Raleigh, NC  
 Transportation \$8.00 per person

Sign up and pay at the church office!

### 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.



*Save the date!*

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is June 12-14!

**Volunteers are needed!**  
**Registration will open**  
**May 3rd.**

### ***This Week . . .***

#### ***Sunday, April 23***

- 8:45** Early Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00** Worship Service
- 12:00 Friends of Jesus Spring Fling
- 3:00 Joyful Notes Rehearsal

#### ***Monday, April 24***

- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:30 Deacons Meeting

#### ***Tuesday, April 25***

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Circle

#### ***Wednesday, April 26***

- 4:00 Young Musicians Bells (Grades 4-6)
- 4:45 Music Makers Choir (Grades 1-3)  
Young Musicians Choir (Grades 4-6)
- 5:15 Family Night Supper—Hamburgers
- 6:00 Family Night at Prayer—Quarterly Church Conference  
Music Munchkins/Mission Friends (Ages 3-K)  
Wednesday Night Live (Grades 1-6)  
Youth Doing Missions (Grades 7-12)
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **For the Record**

Budgeted 2017 .....	\$685,000.00
Weekly Need (2017) .....	\$12,924.53
Received April 16, 2017 .....	\$6,248.64
Need to date .....	\$206,792.45
Received to date .....	\$182,825.76
Over (Under) Budget .....	(\$23,966.69)

Sunday School Attendance—191

### **Person of the Week**

Betty Britt  
 1903 N. Barker St.  
 Lumberton, NC 28358

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance to our special person this week.

### **Baptist Women's Luncheon**

May 1, 2017  
 11:45 a.m. in the Activity Building  
 Our speaker will be Lisa Rust,  
 Moderator of CBF NC.

### **Servants this Sunday April 23, 2017**

- ETC—8:45 a.m.**— Amanda Evans & Lisa Ivey
- 11:00 a.m.**— Amanda Evans & Sandra Elks
- Welcoming**—James & Lois Johnson, Eloise Bullock
- Collection**—Wayne Stevens & Craig Britt
- Entrance Greeters**  
 Children's Building—Judy Driscoll  
 6th Street—Margie Cockrell  
 Senior Entrance—Jim Driscoll
- Security Monitor**—Bill Mauney
- Sound**—Greg Gibson
- Video**—Amy Gibson