Volume LV No. 2-a February 8. 2018

First Baptist *News*

a family of faith

From the Pastor

Lent begins next week and I am hopeful. I am hopeful that we will dedicate ourselves to reflection and prayer. I am hopeful we will listen as the Holy Spirit speaks to us and I am hopeful that we will respond to the Spirit. I am hopeful that we will confront the fears, resentments and prejudices that cripple faith. Most importantly, I am hopeful that we will encounter the grace of God. Grace is much more than forgiveness and the promise of salvation. All that we receive from God is grace, including the strength to become more devoted and courageous followers of Christ.

Lent is a forty-day season of reflection preceding Easter. As Christians, pray every day, but our prayers have a more introspective nuance during Lent. We invite the Holy Spirit to reveal our sins to us and we seek to receive and share God's mercy.

Prayer is the principle discipline of Lent, but many people incorporate fasting into their experience. Fasting is a challenging and rewarding discipline, but we must remember that fasting is used to identify and break the grip of a habit or attitude on our lives. We do not fast to strengthen our self-will or to lose weight. We fast to lessen our love for a food or hobby, etc. and to strengthen our love for Christ. In my fasting I give the energy I usually give to eating desserts or watching a specific television program to prayer, service or some other pursuit that strengthens my relationship with God.

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February 14, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Our Ash Wednesday Service will follow our regular Family Night Meal. Children (Grades 1-6) are invited to participate.

From the Pastor, continued from page 1

The irony of the dates of Lent this year is that Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season, is on Valentine's Day. We typically mark Valentines by sharing cards and candies with hearts, but we will gather next Wednesday to receive the symbol of ultimate love, the cross. A second irony is that Easter will be on April 1. A sermon about an empty tomb on April Fool's Day just about writes itself, doesn't it? I hope you will join us for these services, but also remember that we will have worship services with the other churches in the downtown area each Wednesday during Lent. The thirty-minute services begin at noon and are followed by a lunch. We will host this service on March 7.

Lastly, I want to make an offer. Perhaps you would like to have a conversation during this Lenten season about your spiritual life. Perhaps you have questions about prayer or a specific bible passage or maybe you are wrestling with an important decision. If you'd like to talk, I'd love to listen. Call me and we will schedule a conversation.

Peace,
David

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

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

February 14—Trinity Episcopal Church,
Preacher: Rev. Gene Wayman, Rector, Trinity Episcopal
February 21—First Presbyterian Church,
Preacher: Rev. Erin Collier, Minister to Children, First Baptist
February 28—Godwin Heights Baptist,
Preacher: Rev. Clarence Page, Pastor, Bethany Presbyterian
March 7—First Baptist Church,
Preacher: Rev. Gene Wayman, Rector, Trinity Episcopal
March 14—Chestnut Street United Methodist,
Preacher: Rev. Dave Hawes, Pastor, Godwin Heights Baptist
March 21—First Presbyterian Church,
Preacher: Rev. Herbert Lowery, Pastor, Chestnut Street United Methodist

Maundy Thursday Services—March 29th at Godwin Heights
Preacher: Rev. David Ruth, Pastor, First Presbyterian
and at Chestnut Street United Methodist Church
Good Friday Service—Trinity Episcopal Church
Preacher, Dr. David Elks, Pastor, First Baptist

This Week. . .

Sunday, February 11
Children's Sunday

9:45	Sunday School
11:00	**Worship Service**
4:00	Security Monitor's Meeting
4:45	Youth Choir
6:00	Youth Bible Study

Monday, February 12

9:00	Staff Meeting
5:30	Friends of Jesus Valentine Party

Tuesday, February 13

7:00	Men's Prayer Circle

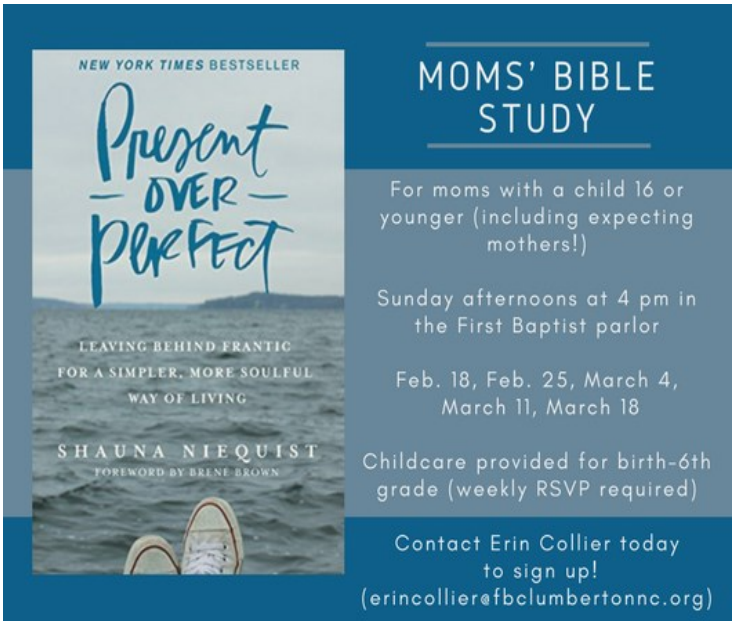
Wednesday, February 14—
Ash Wednesday

12:00	Ash Wednesday Service at Trinity Episcopal
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
6:00	**Family Night at Prayer—Ash Wednesday Service** Youth Doing Missions
7:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

CBFNC's Annual Gathering
March 15-17, 2018, in
Winston-Salem, NC

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

fit church
nurturing healthy congregations



Coming up. . .

February 17—	Community Café
February 19—	Finance & Deacons Meetings
February 21—	Lenten Service at First Presbyterian Church
February 26—	Early Childhood Ministry Registration opens to FBC Members
February 27—	Early Childhood Ministry Registration opens to Public
February 28—	Lenten Service at Godwin Height Baptist Church
March 4—	Youth Week Officers Meetings Begin
March 7—	Lenten Service at First Baptist Church
March 5—	Baptist Women's Luncheon
March 8—	Fun & Fellowship
March 13—	Youth Committee Meeting—6 pm
March 14—	Lenten Service at Chestnut Street UMC
March 15-17—	CBF NC Annual Gathering, Winston Salem
March 21—	Lenten Service at First Presbyterian
March 25—	Palm Sunday Easter Eggstravaganza
March 28—	No Wednesday Evening Activities or Meal
March 29—	Maundy Thursday Service at Godwin Heights
March 30—	Good Friday—Teacher Work Day Good Friday Service at Trinity

Songs & Stories
February 27, 2018
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Givens Performing Arts Center

The concert, a joint production of the Departments of Music and History, is free and open to the public. Featuring performances by the University Chorale, Jazz Combo, Brass Quintet, faculty and student speakers and soloists, and a guest performance by the Pembroke Elementary School Choir. A slideshow of period photographs, interspersed with audio and video clips, will accompany the concert.

Cookbook Update!
Cookbooks are now on sale for $15 each. They are a padded three-ring binder with an easel, and will be here in early May. Please see Dianne Britt, Miriam Edwards, Phyllis Gibson, Dede Southerland or stop by the church office to place your order.

Thanks for all,
The Cookbook Committee

Servants this Sunday— February 11, 2018

ETC —11:00 a.m.—Amanda Evans & Sara Benson
Welcoming — Judy & David Nicholson, Tim Hobbs
Entrance Greeters
Children's Building —Judy Driscoll
Walnut Street—Johnny & Mickey Johnson
6th Street —Mildred Kinlaw
Senior Entrance — Jim Driscoll
Security Monitor —Jeremy Strickland
Sound—Ross Driscoll
Video— Nate Cribb

Flower Calendar

Contact the church office at 739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org to place flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one.

2018
Feb. 18, 25
March 25
April 1, 15, 22, 29
May 6, 13, 20, 27
June 3, 10, 17, 24
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Aug. 19, 26
Sept. 2, 9, 23, 30
Oct. 7, 14
Nov. 4, 11, 18

For the Record

Budgeted 2018	$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2018)	$13,461.54
Received Feb. 4, 2018	$9,108.96
Need to date	$67,307.69
Received to date	$58,307.74
Over (Under) Budget	($8,999.95)

Sunday School Attendance, Feb. 4—178

Persons of the Week

Sue Sessoms
Wesley Pines—Room A-126
1000 Wesley Pines Rd.
Lumberton, NC 28358

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

Early Childhood Registration for 2018-2019

Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
After-school Pick-up, Hot Lunch, Nutritious Snacks, Reasonable Fees

Registration for 2017-2018 School Year
Currently enrolled students may register beginning February 13th.
February 27th—First Baptist Members
February 28th—Open to Public

Questions? Call 739-4336.

Family Night Supper Menus February 2018

February 7—Red Ticket: Vegetable Soup, Sandwiches, Salad, Pound Cake
Blue Ticket: Hot Dogs,Chips, Fruit
February 14—Chicken & Rice, String Beans, Rolls, Salad, Cheesecake (sugar-free)
February 21—Red Ticket: Hamburger Steak w/gravy, Rice, Baby Lima Beans, Rolls, Salad, Peach Pie (sugar-free)
Blue Ticket: Pizza, Chips, Fruit
February 28—Red Ticket: Chili with Cheese, Salad, Fruit Pies
Blue Ticket: Chicken Nuggets, 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
Rev. Tim Little—Minister of Music
Mrs. Kandace Ramsey—Administrative Assistant
Rev. Doug Reedy—Minister of Youth