

First Baptist News

a family of faith



I am not the most well-traveled person in the world. I enjoy seeing new sights, but I agree with a friend who once told me that the real joy of going on a trip is returning home. I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had over the course of my ministry to travel. I have been to India and Brazil and enjoyed several mission trips to cities and communities within the United States. With this week's trip to Los Angeles for the second Growing Young cohort, we included an extra day for sight-seeing. Our tour guide took us to the theatre where the Oscars will be held on Sunday and gave us a few minutes to walk the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The star I was most pleased to find was that of Billy Graham. Dr. Graham traveled the world (including a revival in Lumberton) throughout his life. He proclaimed the gospel in every way a person can and millions of people have come to Christ as a result of his faithfulness.

As Doug, Stephanie, and I ate lunch today I mentioned that leaving home and coming to a place like Los Angeles is a good reminder of how big and diverse the world is. It's good to get out of our familiar places at times. Doing so gives us a fresh perspective. The thought also occurred to me that in the Lenten season, we are all invited to journey. We are invited to a journey to the known and the unknown, to the familiar and the mysterious. The Lenten journey is a journey within ourselves. It is an opportunity to delve into our motivations, desires and fears that inspire our words, actions and beliefs. It is one thing to be aware of one's sin, to confess it and to resolve to leave it behind. These are good first steps in the Lenten journey, but they are only the beginning of repentance. We need to go deeper. We need to look at why we sin the way we do if we want to be made whole and holy.

Plato is credited with saying "an unexamined life is not worth living." I believe that is good counsel and I encourage you to take this Lenten season to add worth to your life through reflection. I realize you want to deal with the depth of your sins. I don't want to deal with mine either. This is a daunting journey, but the good news is we do not travel alone. The Holy Spirit is our guide and friend who walks with us each step of the way. I'll write more about this in the weeks ahead, but if you would like to have a conversation about your spiritual life sometime, I'd love to listen, or better yet, walk a few steps with you.

*Peace,
David*



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 7—First Baptist Church, Preacher: Rev. Dave Hawes, Pastor, Godwin Heights
 March 14—Chestnut Street United Methodist,
 Preacher: Rev. Gene Wayman, Rector, Trinity Episcopal
 March 21—First Presbyterian Church,
 Preacher: Rev. Herbert Lowery, Pastor, Chestnut Street United Methodist

Maundy Thursday Services—7 p.m.
 March 29th at Godwin Heights, Preacher: Rev. David Ruth, Pastor,
 First Presbyterian and at Chestnut Street United Methodist Church
 Good Friday Service—noon—Trinity Episcopal Church,
 Preacher, Dr. David Elks, Pastor, First Baptist

CHILDREN'S CORNER

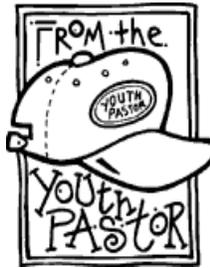
Lately, I've found myself in "receiving mode." It's a term I'm borrowing from writer Glennon Doyle Melton, who describes it as "just reading and breathing and listening and taking it all in." As I think about it, there's a lot for me to take in these days.

I'm reading more as part of a 2018 goal, and the different voices and stories that I'm taking in (both fiction and non-fiction) have given me a lot to think about and reflect on. As our church continues the Growing Young process, there's a lot to hear from the different generations about their hopes and dreams for the future. Our Moms' Bible study is personally giving me a lot to think about, and it's a holy thing to listen to the stories and perspectives of so many different women. We're also still in the season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance, and rather than giving up a specific thing or action, I'm taking time to listen for God's gentle nudging in my life. And finally, there's certainly a lot to take in with the news and current events! I'm not binge-watching the news by any means, but I'm intentionally trying to listen to the important stories (which may or may not actually make the front page) in our world today.

Listening is a bit of a lost art in our culture. With the advent of social media and technology (where you can ignore or unfollow anyone that annoys you) and the transformation of dialogue into debate (where you spend more time thinking about your next point and how you're right than listening to the person in front of you), plus the constant busyness that comes with ministry work, I've found it's hard to make space for listening. Listening to those I disagree with. Listening to those who have a different perspective. Listening to those who are hurting. Listening to those whom I see on a daily basis.

So, I'm trying to listen more and receive. Not listen and regurgitate, but listen and reflect and allowing myself to wrestle with the things I'm hearing in light of what I believe and who God has called me to be. Perhaps listening is something you'd like to work on as well? Consider reading a book written by someone from a different ethnic or socio-economic background, or listening to the news from a different source than your usual preference. Make an intentional effort to strike up a conversation with and listen to someone you don't know very well. Try a new prayer approach like lectio divina or journaling. Or, turn off the music in your car and allow yourself to drive in silence and allow yourself to simply listen to what may be stirring within you.

Listening with you,
Erin



To everyone who helped with or attended the Valentine Banquet, a sincere thank you is in order! Thank you for enduring the ups and downs, commitment of time, and various challenges of feeding a large crowd, decorating the fellowship hall, and putting on a show while working with teenagers. It is nice to see everyone come together to accomplish a task.

Thank you as well to everyone who purchased a ticket. We owe our senior adults in particular a special thanks. The Valentine Banquet (if you are new to this) used to be a party thrown exclusively for our senior adults by our youth. No tickets were required, just sign ups. Everyone ate steak. Younger adults, including parents, were not admitted unless they wished to stand in the back after working in the kitchen. Most parents only saw the show via a recorded DVD.

Recognizing our need (as a church) to spend much less on the event, as well as the need for more interaction between youth and adults of all ages, our seniors (mostly enthusiastically) agreed to paying \$5 a ticket and open the banquet to folks of all ages. This relieved pressure on our budget, but more importantly it has become a true church event. Family members of youth who are performing (regardless of the status of their membership here or anywhere), friends of our youth, interested FBC members of all ages, and especially our own senior adults were well represented in our audience. Individual tables were interestingly mixed and diverse.

This is a prime example of what it means to "grow young". Our senior adults and our youth leaders both saw the need for change. Our senior adults were the ones that made the sacrifice and either embraced or accepted the changes. Our youth will be the first to agree that the level of singing, writing, and acting talent among our teens varies from year to year but the one thing that remains constant is their joy in serving and entertaining you. The "in between" adults in the kitchen and helping out in other areas are there because they really do enjoy it. So thank you for being part of it. It was an appropriate amount of fun right before Lent.

Doug



Baptist Women's Luncheon

March 5, 2018

11:45 a.m. in the Activity Building
Adolfo Barrios will be speaking to us about Guatemala. Our offering this month will go to support the Lumberton Christian Care Center.



March 8, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
In the Activity Building
Southern Lady will bring our program.
Bring a sandwich and a friend!

For the Record

Budgeted 2018.....	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2018)	\$13,461.54
Received February 25th	\$12,0505.00
Need to date.....	\$107,692.31
Received to date.....	\$97,783.16
Over (Under) Budget.....	(\$9,909.15)

Sunday School Attendance,
February 25—223



The Senior Adults will go out for lunch to Webster Manor in Mullins, SC on Tuesday, March 20th.

Trip cost is \$5 per person and lunch will be Dutch treat.

Give to Christian Aid Ministries

Literally within hours after Hurricane Matthew, representatives from *Christian Aid Ministry* (CAM) were in Lumberton preparing to help. In the months since, these Mennonite and Amish “saints” have been restoring homes and lives devastated by the storm.

Two weeks ago, tragedy struck the CAM family as two of their workers were killed in a car accident in Robeson County. We grieve with and pray for the families of the men who died. We also want to help and the best way we can do so at this time is by making financial contributions to assist with the funeral expenses and the families’ travel.

You may make checks to **Christian Aid Ministries** with a designation for the “Yoder-Miller Tragedy Fund.” The checks can be sent to First Presbyterian Church in Lumberton or, you can send it to our church and we will deliver it to CAM.

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



CBFNC's Annual Gathering
March 15-17, 2018, in
Winston-Salem, NC
For more information and a schedule of events visit www.cbfnc.org



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

Sunday, March 25th at 3:00 p.m.
For preschoolers and children up to 6th grade.
Cherry Fellowship Hall

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

Coming up . . .

- March 4— Youth Week Officers Meeting
- March 5— Baptist Women’s Luncheon
- March 7— Lenten Service at First Baptist
- March 8— Fun & Fellowship
- March 11— Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 13— Youth Committee Meeting—6 pm
ECM Committee Meeting—6:30 pm
- March 14— Lenten Service at Chestnut Street
UMC
- March 15— Southeastern Hospice Memorial
Service
- March 15-17— CBF NC Annual Gathering,
Winston Salem
- March 17— Community Café hosted by
The Fellowship Class
- March 21— Lenten Service at First Presbyterian
- March 24— Winterjam
- 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
Episcopal Church

- April 1— Easter Sunday
- April 2— ECM & Church Offices Closed
- April 2-6— Spring Break—Robeson County
Schools
- April 4— Chapel Service

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

Preparing for Sunday—

“Redefining ‘Well’” **I Corinthians 1:18-25**

First century Corinth was an important city. It was situated on a vital trade route which meant the city’s population included people from every known land. The two dominant people groups were the Jews and the Greeks and, according to Paul, the gospel did not make sense to either of them. The Jews considered the cross a curse and the Greeks paid little attention to anything that was not philosophically sound. The idea of following a man who’d been crucified was absurd, but *to those of us who are being saved*, Paul says, *the cross is the power of God*. The Christian life may still be regarded as foolish by those who think living well is in having an abundance of material wealth and influence but as followers of Christ we equate “well” with the cross.

Family Night Supper Menus March 2018

March 7—Red Ticket: Stew Beef w/Rice, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad, Apple Cobbler
Blue Ticket: Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit

March 14—Spaghetti, String Beans, Toast, Salad, Lemon Pie (Sugar-free)

March 21—Red Ticket: Baked Chicken, Rice w/ Gravy, String Beans, Rolls, Salad, Cherry Pie (Sugar-free)
Blue Ticket: Pizza, Chips, Fruit

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 4th!