

# First Baptist *News*

a family of faith

## PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

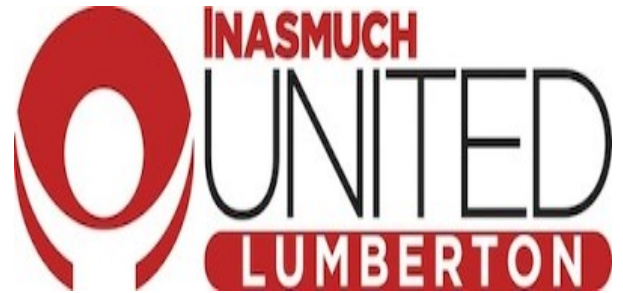
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16  
4:00-5:30 PM  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Technology is a constant part of our lives. What does this look like for our children? How can we help them create healthy boundaries when it comes to their technology usage? Join us as Dr. Brian Foreman leads us in a conversation about how to help guide and raise children in the digital age.

For: families with children birth-6th grade  
Cost: \$10 per adult

Childcare is included (if registered by Sept. 10)  
To register, visit [www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)  
or call the church office (739-4336)



September 22, 2018

Projects include: Visitation, Kids Against Hunger (meal bag assembly), Friends of Jesus Fall Festival, Cutting Firewood for the Robeson County Church and Community Center, and Meal Preparation (grilling hotdogs) for Inasmuch workers.

**Sign up for the project of your choice!**  
You may sign up online at the Inasmuch United Lumberton Facebook page or pick up a form in the church office.

Nursery care is available with advance reservation. Children ages 6-11 may sign up for any project, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### *Preparing for Sunday—*

Trusting God's Memory  
Genesis 6:5-22, 9:8-17

The flooding of the earth is unquestionably one of the Bible's epic stories. God is so dismayed by the sins of the people that God regrets creating them and decides to destroy all humanity with the exception of Noah and his family. Once the water returns to its boundary, God vows to never again flood the earth and sets "his bow" in the sky as a reminder. We see the rainbow as a sign of God's promise, and it is, but according to our text, the rainbow is a reminder to God to never destroy the earth again. We must trust God's memory as we look at the problems in our world and as we endure loss. We must remember that God has promised that the earth will not be destroyed. As we trust God's memory, we dedicate ourselves to persevering through hardship as Noah did.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

In the four Gospels, Jesus talked about the “Kingdom of God” (known as the “Kingdom of Heaven” in Matthew) at least 100 times. And his teachings about it were not about some future reality after we die, but about his mission to make the Kingdom of God a reality here on earth...

“The kingdom of God has come near” (Mark 1:15)

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10)

“The kingdom of God is among you” (Luke 17:21)

When Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God, he was proclaiming a reality where people live under the governance of God. When God’s love is proclaimed, when God’s grace is shared, when God’s justice is sought, the kingdom of God is at hand. And if the Kingdom of God was important enough for Jesus to talk about it at least 100 times, perhaps it should be important to us, too.

The past four weeks in worship, we’ve been focusing on the Kingdom parables in Matthew 13 to help us think about the Kingdom of God. Now, we’re issuing a challenge. What does it look like for each of us to seek the Kingdom in our lives, in our homes, and in our community? How can each of us live our lives in such a way that we help make the Kingdom of God a reality right here in Robeson County?

We’re calling this emphasis “Kingdom Now,” and we’ll be officially kicking it off this Sunday in worship. Throughout this emphasis (which will last through the school year), we will be gathering and sharing and celebrating stories of ways members of our family of faith are seeking the Kingdom in Robeson County. It might be through helping with a one-time event, serving in an ongoing ministry, or doing something new to help share the love, grace, and justice of God in our community. Some of these stories might be through mission opportunities at church, and others might happen outside the church walls.

Our goal is for every person in our congregation to find some way they can help make God’s Kingdom a little more real in our corner of the world. Regardless of age or ability, we have all been called and empowered to seek God’s Kingdom here on earth. And, as you are seeking the Kingdom, please share your stories with us so we can celebrate!

Join us as we work together to seek God’s Kingdom...now.

*Erin*



I am not exactly sure when I started using the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) as a sermon resource. My guess is that I have been a “lectionary preacher” for at least fifteen years. The RCL is a three year cycle of scripture readings that are used in worship services. The lectionary gives us an overview of the scripture and helps us see the connections between the Old and New Testaments. I have also enjoyed the fact that it connects us to the larger body of Christ in that many of our sister churches of various denominations base their worship on the RCL.

The RCL has been and is an invaluable tool and I hear the same about a relatively new resource called the Narrative Lectionary (NL). There are several differences between the RCL and the NL but both help grow an understanding of the full scope of God’s story. A couple of primary differences between the RCL and the NL is that the RCL begins on the first Sunday of Advent and offers four readings every Sunday while the NL follows the academic year and suggests two readings for each week. The primary intent of the NL is to help us know and find our place in the story God is writing through time.

See *From the Pastor*, page 3

## Baptist Women's Luncheon

September 10th at 11:45 a.m.

In the Activity Building

Ladies of all ages are invited to join us. Alice

Bell from the Southeastern Family

Violence Center will present our program.

### *From the Pastor, continued from page 2*

After considerable prayer and conversation with our ministerial staff, I have decided to try the NL beginning this Sunday. If I were not writing this article to tell you about this decision I am quite confident that you would not notice a difference in our worship services. I will be basing every sermon on scripture and be focusing on what God has, is and wants to do among us. We will spend most the fall in the Old Testament. From Christmas to Easter we will read from the gospel of Matthew and after Easter we will read from Acts and Romans. If this proves to be a worthwhile resource, we will follow a similar pattern next year and focus our attention on Mark's gospel.

I cannot emphasize enough that while you are not likely to notice a difference in our worship, this is a monumental change for me. I have been relying on the RCL for several years and perhaps have become too comfortable with it. I think this change will prompt me to pray with greater devotion over my preparation, writing and delivery of sermons. And if I am relying on God more in my preaching, maybe I will be better able to help you rely on God more in your living.

*Peace,  
David*

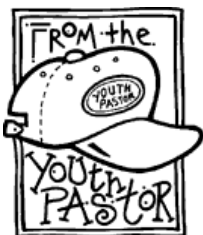


September 13, 2018

11:00 a.m. in the Activity Building

We will begin a new year of Fun &

Fellowship with a special program of music presented by Wendy Doeller. Lunch will be served.



It is no secret, according all the research, that church attendance in America is in decline. There is research that the churches that prioritize young people are the exceptions to that trend. Although we live in an area currently experiencing some economic and demographic challenges, we should never give up. There are things about our church culture that are wonderful, but some things need to change. Cultural shifts don't happen overnight. It is a long, slow, and at times painful process. We want to see immediate results but often the ideas that provide immediate results are the opposite of the philosophies that ensure long term success.

Our church over the last 150+ years has earned a reputation in excellence in many areas. This separates us in many respects from the "hot" churches that spring up suddenly, grow, and then rapidly decline. We have solid programs and many positive traits, especially our commitment to missions.

Of our many positives, warmth is unfortunately not at the top of the list. We also tend to exist in silos, depending on our favorite area of ministry. Not surprisingly, when we went through the *Growing Young* process both warmth and fostering intergenerational relationships proved to be areas we could improve upon. There is no quick fix. It will take a cultural change and willingness of all of us interested in the future of our church to stay on message.

So I'm extremely happy to report that we finally have all of our college and military 18 to 22 year olds formally "adopted" as a prayer partner by an adult from our church! This is a big deal. It is one of my biggest annual frustrations each year to beg folks to be willing to send a few cards and perhaps a few snacks to a young person we have (up until college) invested so much in. High school graduation should not end what has been such an important relationship.

Let's keep that momentum! Why not go ahead and claim one of our high school seniors NOW while you can spend a year getting to know them. If you choose someone now, you can begin chatting after services. You can tell them when they have done a good job reading scripture or ringing bells. You can offer advice when they preach their first sermon on Youth Sunday. In short, you can teach them they not only have a youth family, they also have a church family.

*Doug*

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 (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*

**For the Record**

Budgeted 2018.....	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2018) .....	\$13,461.54
Received Sept. 2 .....	\$8,747.32
Need to date .....	\$471,153.85
Received to date.....	\$411,860.40
Over (Under) Budget.....	(\$59,293.45)

Sunday School Attendance,  
 September 2—148

***FBC Youth Reunion—October 13-14***

We are excited to announce that a Reunion Weekend is being planned for those who were youth group members during the 1970s. Our hope is that it will be a weekend of remembering and celebrating together what God has done in our lives and the special role that FBC Lumberton played in that. Activities will begin on Saturday, October 13th at 3 pm and will include the 11 am Worship service on Sunday, October 14th.

Please help us get the word out! If you know someone who was a part of the FBC Youth Group during that time, please be sure to contact them. For more information, please contact Steve Branch at goheelsno1@embarqmail.com.

Join us in reminiscing and celebrating how God is continuing to use the body of FBC Lumberton to impact its community and the world.



***Coming up. . .***

- Sept. 9—Knit Wits
- Sept. 10—Baptist Women’s Luncheon
- Sept. 13—Fun & Fellowship
- Sept. 16—Parenting in the Digital Age Seminar
- Sept. 17—Finance & Deacon’s Meetings
- Sept. 19—Robeson County Schools Half Day
- Sept. 22—Inasmuch
- Sept. 28—Robeson County Schools Teacher Work Day

- Oct. 1—Baptist Women’s Luncheon
- Oct. 7—Deacon Election  
           World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 11—Fun & Fellowship
- Oct. 14—Knit Wits
- Oct. 20—Community Café hosted by the Circle of Friends  
           Sunday School Class
- Oct. 22—Finance & Deacons Meetings
- Oct. 24—Quarterly Church Conference
- Oct. 31—Trunk or Treat

**Our Early Childhood Ministry  
 has openings for 2-year-olds & 3-year olds.  
 Contact the office for more information—739-4336!**



**CHURCH STAFF**

- Contact us at 739-4336 or  
 daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org  
 www.fbclumbertonnc.org
- Mrs. Nancy Bass —Financial Coordinator
  - Rev. Erin Collier—Associate Pastor of Families and Worship
  - Dr. David Elks—Pastor
  - Mrs. Daphne Fletcher — Administrative Assistant
  - Rev. Tim Little—Minister of Music and Facilities
  - Mrs. Kandace Ramsey—Administrative Assistant
  - Rev. Doug Reedy—Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions