

# First Baptist *News*

a family of faith



Regardless of the prognostications of Punxsutawney Phil, it has felt like spring this week. It will not be long before the Dogwoods and azaleas will bloom and the warm weather will be here to stay. We have not had a severe winter, but I will still be glad for spring. Another important “rite of spring” is the Lenten season. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and extends to Easter Sunday. Lent is traditionally regarded as a time for self-examination, confession and renewal. These are important practices and, according to pastor and author, Max Vincent, they do not have to be spiritual drudgery. Vincent suggests that Lent has, for too long, been a season of self-sacrifice and discipline that intimidates many Christians.

In his book, Because of this I Rejoice, Vincent sees the disciplines and postures of Lent (prayer, witness, humility, hospitality, asceticism and giving) in the book of Philippians and invites us to practice them joyfully. I will be hosting a study of Because of this I Rejoice on Sundays through Lent this year. Copies of the book will be available first come first serve in the church office for \$12.00. Couples can share a copy of the book. The study will include reading a short chapter in the book, daily bible readings and attendance at a weekly gathering on Sunday afternoons at 4:00. You will need a copy of the book by March 4<sup>th</sup> and we will have our first gathering on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you will join this study. While I love opportunities such as this to strengthen my walk with the Lord, I also enjoy the privilege of getting to know you and your spiritual life better. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Peace,  
David



Children's Sunday  
February 17, 2019

FBC Children will  
lead a Combined  
Service at 11:00 a.m.



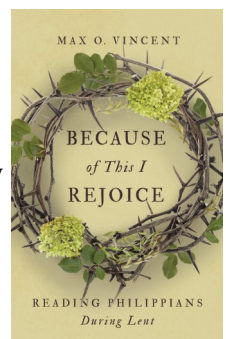
*Preparing for Sunday . . .*

**“Finding the Narrow Gate”**  
**Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29**

We conclude a three week “glance” at the Sermon on the Mount this week with a collection of teachings about judgment, petition, treating others well and wise living. Any one of these lessons would make for a good focus for a sermon, but taken together, they point us to the “narrow gate.” Jesus encourages us to enter life through the narrow gate but warns that it is hard to find. Walking the road that leads to life involves honestly handling our own sin, pleading for help and loving others as we wish to be loved. The narrow gate is hard to locate, but once we find our way we live into the authority that astounded the crowds that listened to Jesus.

***Bible Studies Coming Soon!***

During the Lenten Season, Dr. Elks will be leading a study based on the book, Because of This I Rejoice: Reading Philippians During Lent, by Max Vincent. The study sessions will be held Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. beginning March 10th. Copies of the book will be available in the church office at a cost of \$12 each.



The Five Love Languages of Children  
Moms' Bible Study  
4:00 p.m. —Sundays in March  
Contact Erin for more information.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

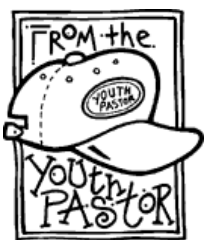
Worship together is an important aspect of our life as a family of faith. It's a time to gather with our community, to sing praises to God, to pray and listen to scripture, and to let the Holy Spirit speak to and move us through all the words spoken and sung. As a congregation with two worship services, sometimes it can be difficult to feel connected to each other (or even know those who attend the other service). Some within our congregation have expressed a desire to combine services more often to allow the entire church to worship together and foster our sense of community. Since last year, the Worship Committee has been talking about this desire and discussing how it can happen, noting the difficulty in honoring both styles of worship and the need to have an intentional and meaningful reason to combine. One idea was to combine on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays...and as it just so happens, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in 2019 are evenly spaced! So, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship was born.

As proposed by the Worship Committee and approved by the Deacons, we will have a combined worship service on each 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in 2019. Each one will have a different specific focus, and we will take turns worshipping in both the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. Our goal for each 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is to have each one be unique while still incorporating some elements of both services. To add to the fellowship, we will also have a church-wide breakfast in the Fellowship Hall prior to the service (because you know how we Baptists love good food!).

The first 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will take place on March 31. From 8:45-9:45 am, breakfast (prepared by the Senior Adult Committee) will be served in the Fellowship Hall. (It's okay if you don't get there until 9:00 or 9:15!) At 10:00 am, we will gather in the sanctuary, where the Sanctuary choir will present a Lenten cantata, *The Body of Christ* by Pepper Choplin, and we will take communion together. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on the life of Christ in the middle of our Lenten journey. As the time for worship this day is different from our usual schedule, we are asking all Sunday School classes to forego their regular gathering in a spirit of flexibility and fellowship.

The details for the other 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are still being worked out and will include elements such as sharing faith stories, guest music/preaching, and leadership from our college students. The Worship Committee is excited about what these services may bring and add to our family of faith. As we prepare for this first 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will you consider doing three things? First, please pray for the choir and other worship leaders as they prepare for this service. Second, consider inviting someone to come that morning for breakfast and worship. And third, plan to come worship that day, even if it is not in your normal worship space or at your preferred time. Our fellowship is stronger when you are there!

*Erin*



Until a couple of weeks ago, sciatica was just something I'd heard of. I knew it had something to do with back pain, and that more and more people I knew were dealing with it. Now that I have it, I'm intimately familiar with it. It lasts a long time and can be quite painful.

When we experience something first hand, or through a close family member, our awareness and empathy increase dramatically. People around us are dealing with any of a number of physical, mental, or spiritual ailments that we may be aware of, but have no deep understanding of. Unless, of course, we have been through it or someone we love dearly has.

It reminds me the importance of listening to each other's stories. Being aware of what other people experience is a vital part of forming empathy, which is crucial to being a decent human being. If we have never lived through poverty, been of a minority race in a population, or served in a war, we truly cannot understand what it's like. However, that makes it all the more important that we try.

However, if I wish to be a Christ follower and serve all, I need to listen to the individual stories of other human beings and learn from them. People are going through so much worse than what I am. That's a humbling thought. Let's pray for each other and let's listen to each other.

*Doug*

## Daphne Fletcher Celebrates 20 Years of Service at FBC!

When the phone rings or the doorbell sounds in the church office, there is no telling who is calling or dropping by or what he or she needs. Most calls and visits are routine but some can be quite exciting. Regardless of who calls or what is needed, Daphne Fletcher has been there to help in our church office for the past twenty years.

As a “preacher’s kid,” Daphne has a deep love for the church and understands that her work as our Administrative Assistant is ministry. She welcomes everyone who calls or visits the church and is always willing to help. Daphne takes pride in preparing our publications and is devoted to making sure our ministers have everything they need to lead the ministries of the church.

We are very grateful for Daphne’s “first twenty” and look forward to many more years of shared service!



### For the Record

Budgeted 2019.....	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2019).....	\$13,461.54
Received February 3, 2019.....	\$9,719.04
Need to date.....	\$67,307.69
Received to date.....	\$54,964.37
Over (Under) Budget.....	(\$12,343.32)

Sunday School Attendance,  
February 3, 2019—222

### Family Night Supper Menus February 2019

February 13—Red Ticket: Stew Beef w/Rice,  
Butter Beans, Rolls, Salad, Apple Pies  
Blue Ticket: Chicken Nuggets, Chips, Fruit

February 20—Spaghetti, String Beans, Toast,  
Salad, Chocolate Cake

February 27—Red Ticket: Baked Potato Bar,  
Salad, Chocolate Chip Cookies  
Blue Ticket: Pizza, Chips, Fruit

## FUN & FELLOWSHIP

February 14, 2019  
11:00 a.m. in the Activity Building  
We will have a Line Dance Team.  
Men are welcome!  
Bring a sandwich and a friend!

### Early Childhood Registration for 2019-2020

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

Registration for 2019-2020 School Year  
Currently enrolled students may register beginning February 12th.  
February 25th—First Baptist Members  
February 26th—Open to Public

Questions? Call 739-4336



## Kids Against Hunger.

Feeding families around the world... and around the corner

Join us March 9th at Godwin Heights Baptist Church as we package meals for Kids Against Hunger. Watch *First Baptist News* for more details.

### 5th Sunday Fellowship

March 31, 2019

8:45-9:45 am - Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

10:00 am - Lenten Cantata & Communion Service in the Sanctuary



First Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC  
606 N. Walnut Street  
Lumberton, NC 28358  
(910) 739-4336

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

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| March 6  | Trinity Episcopal  |
| March 13 | Chestnut Street United Methodist<br>Eva Ruth, proclaimer       |
| March 20 | Lenten Service at First Baptist<br>Herbert Lowry, proclaimer   |
| March 27 | First Presbyterian<br>David Elks, proclaimer                   |
| April 3  | Godwin Heights Baptist<br>Doug Reedy, proclaimer               |
| April 10 | Chestnut Street United Methodist<br>Leslie Sessoms, proclaimer |

Maundy Thursday Service—7:00 p.m., April 18th at First Baptist,  
Dave Hawes, proclaimer

Good Friday Service, Noon, April 19th at Trinity Episcopal,  
David Ruth, proclaimer

*Knit Wits will NOT meet this Sunday,  
February 10th.*



Lumberton Christian Care Center is holding its  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser**

Sunday, February 24 from 11:00-2:00.

Join us after church for Sunday lunch at  
Walnut and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets.

Soups and Dessert donated by local restaurants.

Dine in or take out.

For more information call 910-739-1204.

Tickets:           \$15 for meal and locally  
                          made pottery bowl.  
                          \$10 for meal  
                          \$5 for children 3-8 years



**CPR**   
**TRAINING**

Get trained. Save a life. You'll be glad you did.

A hands-only CPR class (training with the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) will be held at First Baptist on Sunday, February 24 at 3 p.m. *All ministerial staff, security monitors, greeters, and deacons are encouraged to attend.* The class will last approximately one hour.

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Contact us at 739-4336 or  
[daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org)  
[www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://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

**CBFNC's Annual Gathering**

**March 28-29**

**FBC Greensboro, NC**

For more information and a schedule of  
events visit [www.cbfnc.org](http://www.cbfnc.org)