

First Baptist News

a family of faith



I am writing this on Ash Wednesday and thus, Lent has begun. I led the Bridge Sunday School class this past Sunday in a conversation on “Lenting Well.” We talked of the reason for Lent and a few ways of practicing the season in a meaningful way. I have appreciated the Lenten season for several years, but this year I feel an even stronger attraction. I sense the Lord inviting me (and all of us) on a forty day journey within. Like most everything in life, Lent is what you make of it. A cursory effort will yield limited growth, but a good hearted investment of time and energy will intensify your experience.

I am going to use this article to offer guiding thoughts for Lent over the next few weeks. I will write about prayer, fasting and giving and a few insights from the Because of This I Rejoice study. To start us off I want to offer a few framing questions for the Lenten journey. These are questions we need to keep in mind as listen and respond to the Spirit’s work in our lives. In these early days of the Lenten journey let’s think about these questions...

How is my prayer life? (blessings and hindrances)
 What am I doing with my time?
 Am I giving (money, time and talent) sacrificially?
 Am I serving someone in need?
 How do I define my identity? (relationships, occupation, hobbies, etc.)

I hope these questions will prompt you to think and act faithfully in your life with God. If you will I believe we will see great results in our church. I often hear that we need a revival in the church. I could not agree more, but the revival I believe in is not a week of worship services as it is a season of genuine renewal of heart and spirit and a greater awareness of the presence and work of God within us. Lenting Well is the best way to revive our spirits and strengthen our commitments. In her Lenten devotional, Small Surrenders, Emilie Griffin writes *a Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life*. I am praying we will all take advantage of the opportunity ahead of us.

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.

March 13	Chestnut Street United Methodist Eva Ruth, proclaimer
March 20	Lenten Service at First Baptist Herbert Lowry, proclaimer
March 27	First Presbyterian David Elks, proclaimer
April 3	Godwin Heights Baptist Doug Reedy, proclaimer
April 10	Chestnut Street United Methodist 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

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The season of Lent has begun. This 40 day time (plus the 6 Sundays) is an opportunity for us to reflect on our relationship with Christ and his sacrifice for us before we celebrate the joy of resurrection at Easter. Last week, David encouraged us to think about our personal preparations for Lent and what the season might mean for us individually. This week, I'd like to share some of the preparations that have been made at church for our corporate observation of Lent...

Symbols: The large crosses will be present in both the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall for the full season of Lent to serve as a visual reminder of this season. In addition, we will use a new parament (a liturgical hanging) on the communion table in the Fellowship Hall. This parament is made of strips of fabric that were dyed by our Art Campers last summer, with a burlap border to remind us of sackcloth (a biblical symbol of repentance) and an applique cross to remind us of the ashes we receive at the beginning of this season. On the sanctuary communion table, we have 40 rocks laid out in a winding path that leads to the cross, symbolic of our Lenten journey.

Music: At the conclusion of each worship service in Lent, we as a congregation will sing together the last verse of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." The scripture texts that will be used this year during Lent are texts that will challenge us and remind us of the responsibilities that come with discipleship. As we receive and wrestle with what these scriptures mean, we will also remember that "love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." We will also have our Lenten Cantata, *The Body of Christ*, on Sunday, March 31 at 10:00 am as our 5th Sunday Fellowship. Come experience beautiful music that retells the story of Christ's life and death.

Family Celebration: As is our tradition, we will have a family Easter festival on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 14. This event will have a variety of activity stations to help children and families reflect on the events of Holy Week. However, we are doing things a little differently when it comes to the eggs! Instead of an egg hunt, children will collect eggs as they visit each station. Due to this change, we are not requesting donations of filled eggs. (If you have already purchased empty eggs, though, we will gladly accept them!)

Other opportunities to observe Lent together include the Lenten study led by David and the mid-week services hosted at the different downtown churches. Through all of these things, our prayer is that this season will be deeply meaningful for us as individuals and as a family of faith.

Erin



From the Kids Against Hunger website:

- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that about 795 million people of the 7.3 billion people in the world, or one in nine, were suffering from chronic undernourishment in 2014-2016.
- Every 6 seconds a child dies (nearly 16,000 every day) because of hunger and related causes.
- 15.3 million children under 18 in the United States live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food necessary for a healthy life.

Many of you and most of our youth have signed up for me to send them daily Jesus quotes during Lent. Most of you recall in Matthew 25 Jesus welcomed those who fed the hungry to eternal life, for in doing so they were feeding him. He also tells those who refused to feed the hungry to depart from him.

We all have times when we see a need and meet it and other times when we look away. On Saturday, March 9, we will have an opportunity to be a part of assembling 10,000 life giving meals to those in desperate need. I'm hoping you can help.

Please be at Godwin Heights Saturday morning by 9:00 AM. If enough people chip in, the project can be over by lunchtime. Nearly everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, can participate. See you then!

Doug

Kids Against Hunger
Feeding families around the world... and around the corner

Join us March 9th at 9:00 a.m. at Godwin Heights Baptist Church as we package meals for Kids Against Hunger.

	Sunday, March 10th
	Sanctuary Choir Bonus Rehearsal—Noon
	Adult Handbells will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Nancy Bass Celebrates 20 Years of Service at FBC!

The work of First Baptist Church is first and foremost Christian ministry. We seek to share the love of Christ in all that we do. The fact is however, ministry requires money and the keeping of excellent records is not just important. It is a matter of biblical stewardship. At First Baptist we are deeply fortunate to have Nancy Bass serving as our Financial Administrator. Nancy is a superb accountant and devoted Christian. She understands that every dollar the church receives in tithes and offerings is given in the confidence that it will be used to do the Lord’s work in our church and community. Nancy works long hours to insure the financial integrity of the church’s ministry and the accuracy of every report and record.



Thank you Nancy for twenty years of faithful service!

Y O U T H W E E K

March 31-April 6

For the Record

Budgeted 2019	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2019).....	\$13,461.54
Received March 3,, 2019	\$13,559.12
Need to date.....	\$121,153.85
Received to date	\$103,861.58
Over (Under) Budget	(\$17,292.27)

Sunday School Attendance,
March 3, 2019—205

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

March 14, 2019
11:00 a.m. in the Activity Building
“Calling North Carolina Home”
Speaker: Senator Danny Britt
Bring a sandwich and a friend!

***Family Night Supper Menus
March 2019***

March 13—Red Ticket: Breaded Pork Chops, Carrots, Wild Rice, Rolls, Salad, Pecan Pie or Chocolate Chip Cookies
Blue Ticket: Chicken Nuggets, Chips, Fruit

March 20—Red Ticket: Chicken Alfredo, Peas, Rolls, Salad, Fruit Pies
Blue Ticket: Pizza, Chips, Fruit

March 27—Hot Dogs/Hamburgers, French Fries, Salad, Slaw, Chili, Chocolate Cake

Knit Wits will not meet in March.

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.

2019

- March 17, 24
- April 28
- May 12, 19, 26
- June 2, 16, 23, 30
- July 7, 14, 21, 28
- Aug. 4, 25
- Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Nov. 17



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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

Preparing for Sunday . . .

“Enough to Share” Matthew 18:15-35

The servant in Jesus’ parable owed an astronomical debt. He likely owed more money than was even in circulation, so it is astounding that the master forgave so easily. The servant has a new lease on life, but he misses the first opportunity to share his wealth when he insists that another servant pay a very small debt. When it comes to mercy, the servant had been given ***Enough to Share*** and so have we. This parable indicates that God has not forgiven us just for our own good, but for the good of others as well. God intends for us to offer the mercy we have received to people who have harmed us. “For God so loved the world,” Jesus said and truest way for the world to learn the depth of God’s love is for us to forgive as we have been forgiven.



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

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Called Together
CBFNC
Annual Gathering
2019
25th
anniversary

CBFNC’s Annual Gathering
March 28-29
FBC Greensboro, NC
For more information and a schedule of events visit www.cbfnc.org

CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or
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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

Kingdom NOW

