

First Baptist News

a family of faith

CHILDREN'S CORNER

By the time you read this article, my seminary will be closed. It's been tough news to process since the announcement was first made in November, and again when the closure date was accelerated to the end of this month. I've always thought of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond as "the scrappy little seminary that could." Seeking to be a home for moderate Baptist studies, BTSR welcomed its first students in 1991. It had its share of struggles and missteps along the way, often complicated by the fact that it was independent and therefore had no larger institution to help with finances. Still, for many in Baptist life, it was a place of hope, a place of healing, and a place of challenge, and it was attended and supported by people from near and far. In fact, this congregation was instrumental in supporting BTSR through the completion of the Russell T. Cherry endowed chair, which was started and largely funded by our friends at FBC Bladenboro.

I was a BTSR student from 2007-2011. During those years, I fell in love with Hebrew, with preaching, and with Biblical studies, and even was a TA for the Cherry professor of Old Testament. I also fell in love with and married Drew, a fellow student! My professors empowered and challenged me, my classmates encouraged me, and I was grateful for that experience that still shapes my ministry today. I proudly left BTSR with a towel with my name on it, the school's symbol for the servant leadership they hoped to inspire within us. While I celebrate that I am among its 750 graduates, I grieve that future ministers will not have BTSR as an option.

This is the part in the article where some lesson or personal application is normally shared. To be honest, as the story of the closure is still unfolding, I'm not sure what lessons there are to learn, yet. But, even as I grieve, I remain grateful for the BTSR that I knew. And, I'm grateful for this congregation that supported my scrappy little school. Thank you for valuing quality theological education and investing in future ministers. By supporting BTSR, you supported me and many others seeking to learn, to grow, and to fulfill our callings.

Erin

Preparing for Sunday . . .

"Open Secrets"

Matthew 6:7-21

The three pillars of religious experience of the people of Jesus's day were prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Every believer needed to pray, fast and give in order to have a healthy religious life. We have amended this list over the years, replacing fasting with service or perhaps worship. Still, we believe the spiritual disciplines are important. In this Sunday's text Jesus will teach us that how we practice the disciplines is also important. The cultural rule is that "no one likes a show-off" and Jesus seems to agree. He warns us against putting our piety on display for others and encourages us to pray, fast and give in the intimacy of a personal relationship with our heavenly Father. As we do so, our lives become *Open Secrets* in that the substance of our discipline is personal, but the fruit is shared in community.

Youth

super bowl PARTY

February 3, 2019 @ 6 p.m.

At the home of the Wards
308 Londonderry Dr.

VALENTINE BANQUET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

@ 6:00 P.M.

CHERRY FELLOWSHIP HALL

\$10.00 (SENIOR ADULTS \$5.00)

Baptist Women's Luncheon
Monday, February 4, 2019
11:45 a.m. in the Activity Building

In February, we will be making remembrances for Valentine's Day for nursing home residents and our homebound members.
 Please bring a sandwich.

The Glen Flora Circle will meet at 10:45 a.m.

Bible Study #3 will meet at 11:45 a.m. on February 5th.



Children's Sunday
February 17, 2019

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

Servants this Sunday, February 3, 2019

ETC—8:45 a.m. —Casey Williamson & Wendy Allen

11:00 a.m.—Casey Williamson

Entrance Greeters

Children's Building — Jimmy & Billy Dail

Walnut Street— Margie Cockrell

6th Street — Mickey & Johnny Johnson

Senior Entrance — Jim Driscoll

Welcoming Committee— Tony & Becky Thompson,
 Billie Dail

Security Monitor—Devin Watts

Sound— Ross Driscoll

This Week. . .

Sunday, February 3, 2019

- 8:45 a.m. **Worship**
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship**
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Super Bowl Party

Monday, February 4

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Glen Flora Group
- 11:45 a.m. Baptist Women's Luncheon

Tuesday, February 5

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group
- 11:45 a.m. Bible Study #3

Wednesday, February 6

- 5:15 p.m. Family Night Supper
- 5:45 p.m. Music Makers Choir (1st-3rd Grade)
- Young Musicians Choir (4th-6th Grade)
- 6:00 p.m. Family Night At Prayer
- WYD (Grades 7-12)
- 6:30 p.m. 1st-3rd Grade Bible Study
- 4th-6th Grade Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 9

- 6:00 p.m. Valentine Banquet

For the Record

Budgeted 2019	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2019).....	\$13,461.54
Received January 27, 2019	\$14,361.06
Need to date.....	\$53,846.15
Received to date	\$45,245.33
Over (Under) Budget	(\$8,600.82)
Sunday School Attendance, January 27—183	

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!

Person of the Week

Beverly Miller
 525 Hickory Leaf Ct.
 Lumberton, NC 28358

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance to our special person of the week!