

# First Baptist News

a family of faith

## FROM OUR INTERIM

A fresh breeze is blowing. . .

Can you feel the freshness of God's spirit among us? I stand amazed in the presence! The fellowship is relaxing and loving. The membership is engaging and hoping. The Pastor Search Committee is hard at work praying and listening.

**Schedule shift**— Feb. 23—I will present a report on the Listening Sessions during the Sunday School hour. Please make every effort to be in Fellowship Hall precisely at 9:45 a.m. I'll have an overview of all the data and what it may be saying to us.

**ECM**— We have received the resignation of the Director and are working diligently to fill this position. Please be in prayer for Christy Strickland as she leads the ECM Committee in searching for and hiring a new Director. Pray also for the leaders and teachers as they continue ministering to over 200 children daily.

**Reach out to your Neighbors**— The simple invitation of "Come and see what God is doing in our church," is powerful. Our children and youth will both be leading worship in March. Our choir and musicians are such a blessing. Sunday School classes are being revitalized. There is a lot to "come and see!"

I'm so blessed by you. I'm so excited by the fresh breeze of God blowing around us.

God is guiding! Come and See!  
Dr. Bo



## Listening Sessions Report

February 23rd at 9:45 a.m.  
Cherry Fellowship Hall

Dr. Bo will present his report from the listening sessions that took place in January during the Sunday School hour.

becoming God's  
**BEL**  **VED**  
community

**Preparing for Sunday . . .**

**"Beloved Community Listens to Jesus"**

**Mark 9:2-7**

**Dr. Bo Prosser**

We tend to listen to everyone about what we should do as a church, when the real voice we should seek is the voice of Jesus. And what does the Lord require of us? (Micah 6:8) There is so much to unpack here but the bottom line is love God and love neighbor!

"We become neighbors when we are willing to cross the road for one another. (...) There is a lot of road crossing to do. We are all very busy in our own circles. We have our own people to go to and our own affairs to take care of. But if we could cross the road once in a while and pay attention to what is happening on the other side, we might indeed become neighbors."

— **Henri J.M. Nouwen, Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith**

# NIGHT to Shine

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW** FOUNDATION™

This Friday, many of our students from the Friends of Jesus class will be attending A Night to Shine,

a prom experience for adults with special needs. This annual event is sponsored nationwide by the Tim Tebow Foundation and hosted locally by Vertical Church at the Venue at White Lake. 66 of our students will attend this event at White Lake, while another 60 will attend another venue in Whiteville.

In the weeks leading up to Night to Shine, participants have the opportunity to be fitted for a suit or tux or receive a donated dress. On the night of the event, the evening starts with a walk down the red carpet while the paparazzi take pictures of each participant in their prom outfits. After receiving a corsage or boutonniere, they are escorted to the ballroom where they dance and enjoy a wonderful meal. The evening also includes a crowning ceremony, where each person receives a prom king or queen crown that they keep. Many of our students wear their crowns the following Sunday, and some even wear their prom outfits!

One highlight of the evening at the White Lake prom is a limo ride around the lake for each participant. Most of the students have never been in a limo, so to ride around the lake and see the beautiful twinkling lights at night is a wonderful thing.

Each participant is assigned a buddy for the evening who eats dinner with them, dances with them, and gets to know them. Several of our church members, including Johnny and Lynn Smith, have volunteered as buddies or in other ways at this event in the past, and will do so again this year.

If you're thinking this sounds like a large-scale event, you're right! A lot of time, people, and donations go into making Night to Shine happen. This year, there are over 250 people volunteering at the White Lake location alone. First Baptist has also contributed some funds toward the event.

If you have questions about Night to Shine or are interested in volunteering next year, please see Lynn Smith.

## Early Childhood Registration for 2020-2021

February 24—Open to First Baptist Members

February 25—Open to Public

Questions?—Call 739-4336

NC PreK applications may be dropped off at the Partnership for Children. More information: 738-6767.



**Howdy! Have a rootin' tootin' Valentine at the**

# Valentine Banquet

**Saturday, February 8**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Cherry Fellowship Hall**

**Tickets may be purchased in the Church Office or from the Youth.**

**\$10.00 each, or \$5.00 for Senior Adults.**



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

- Feb. 26— Trinity Episcopal (Ash Wednesday)
- March 4— First Presbyterian Church, Herbert Lowry, proclaimer
- March 11— First Baptist Church, Carl Rosenburg, proclaimer
- March 18— Chestnut St. United Methodist, Clarence Page, proclaimer
- March 25— Godwin Heights Baptist Church, Bo Prosser, proclaimer
- April 1— First Baptist Church, David Ruth, proclaimer

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church  
Erin Collier, proclaimer

# TRANSITIONS

Greetings from your Pastor Search Committee,

We want to thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. We as a committee have felt your support. After taking a short break during the Advent Season, we have been hard at work for the last few weeks.

The next step in our process is to get some information from you, our congregation, to assist us in developing a profile of what we want in our next Pastor. This profile will guide our process moving forward.

To make this process as concise as possible we have work with Dr. Bo to plan what we are calling "Survey Sunday." On March 1st, we will have a time during both worship services to complete a survey designed to give us the feedback we need to proceed. We hope you will plan to be in attendance to share your thoughts during the process. Please continue to pray for our committee, as well as for the pastor that God is preparing for us.

In Christian Love,  
Christy Strickland  
Pastor Search Committee Chair



**Helen Lawson  
celebrates 10  
years of  
Service at  
FBC!**

We are so thankful for Mrs. Helen's faithful service in our kitchen serving meals to our daycare children and staff each day, and for preparing our Wednesday night supper each week.

Thank you and congratulations, Mrs. Helen!



## **Fun & Fellowship**

February 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.  
in the Activity Building

We will celebrate Valentine's Day  
together!

Bring a sandwich & a friend!



One piece of advice I've overheard older youth giving younger ones over the years is "you can talk to Doug about anything...except don't approach him on barbecue day" or some variation of that. They usually go on to explain that it's wise to look busy and avoid eye contact because on that day, I'm all business. Their assumption that it's the day I'm most stressed out. However, it's not.

My wife, who knows me better than anyone, will tell you that it is in the hours following the Valentine Banquet rehearsal that find me closest to my breaking point. Every year, I come home convinced it will be the worst show and night ever. It never is though.

The night itself is much less stressful. The room is always decorated in a lovely fashion, the food is always top notch, and the show...well, it's always better than the rehearsal. The event is, for lack of a better word, fun. Our senior adults meet and mingle with teenagers they know and ones they have never met. We break bread together. Parents work hard in the kitchen as a team and stay to clean up. There are a few laughs, some even intentional.

For our 12<sup>th</sup> graders, it is the first of several goodbyes to the church that helped raise them. Youth Sunday, Grad Sunday, and that one night on the mission trip are yet to come, but this is the beginning of letting go. For the other youth, it is a chance to shake off stage fright and grow a little. For everyone, it is a chance to get to know each other better.

Tickets are still available in the church office and will possibly still be available the night of. Please forgive us in advance for switching to more disposable tableware this year, but it fits better with our western theme and number of volunteer workers. As always, can't wait!

*Doug*



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## ***Reverse—Children's Sunday, March 8, 2020***

Save the date! FBC Children will lead a combined worship service at 11:00 a.m.



**February 26th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Our Ash Wednesday service will follow**  
**our regular Family Night Meal.**

### **Lumberton Christian Care Center is holding its 4th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser**

Sunday, February 23 from 11:00-2:00

Join us after church for Sunday lunch at Walnut & 2nd Streets.  
 Soup & 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.



### **Family Night Supper Menus**

**February 12—Red Ticket:** Vegetable Soup, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Salad, Brownies

**Blue Ticket:** Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit

**February 19—Red Ticket:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Spanish Rice, Grilled Mixed Vegetables, Rolls, Salad, Banana Pudding

**Blue Ticket:** Chicken Nuggets, French Fries, Fruit

**February 26—Red Ticket:** Barbecue, French Fries, Baked Beans, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Salad, Strawberry Shortcake

**Blue Ticket:** Pizza, French Fries, Fruit

### **For the Record**

Budgeted 2020 .....	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2020).....	\$13,461.54
Received February 2, 2020 .....	\$8,508.72
Need to date.....	\$65,384.62
Received to date .....	\$65,138.94
Over (Under) Budget .....	(245.68)

Sunday School Attendance  
 February 2, 2020—182

### **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**

**Mrs. Daphne Fletcher—Administrative Assistant**

**Rev. Tim Little—Minister of Music and Facilities**

**Mr. Len Power—Building Superintendent**

**Dr. Bo Prosser—Interim Pastor**

**Mrs. Kandace Ramsey—Administrative Assistant**

**Rev. Doug Reedy—Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions**