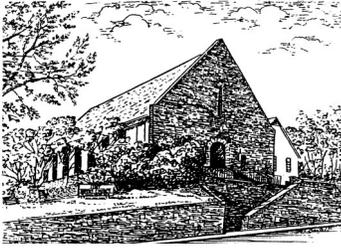


## The Good News



August 2016



## First Baptist Church of Tryon

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### Chat with the Preacher—Encouraging friendship in polarizing times

(I originally wrote this piece for Baptists Today / Nurturing Faith, but with the political season in full swing, it might be worth a revisit.)

We live in polarizing times.

Our two-party political system (along with their cable news spin-doctors) bears much responsibility for this reality. The tired, binary thinking of our current political structures reduce complex issues into simplistic categories like: left/right, conservative/progressive, pro-life/pro-choice, religious/secular, open-minded/closed-minded, good/evil, etc. Reducing complicated matters into partisan sound bites achieves little besides the further polarization of constituents, congregations, and communities.

Churches are also guilty. That Christianity is often described as conservative or progressive speaks of our captivity to American political discourse. Unfortunately, our commitment to conservatism or progressivism (or whatever “-ism” we practice) is often stronger than our commitment to Christ. Instead of allowing Scripture and theology to challenge our deeply held political beliefs, it is usually the other way around—we allow our political convictions to inform our theology and reading of Scripture. This is problematic.

Instead of contributing to further polarization, churches should encourage friendship. Especially since Jesus expects his followers to love people with whom we disagree or dislike: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven” (Matt 5:43-45a). I know I’m not the only one who wishes Jesus would leave some wiggle room about whom we are called to love—but he doesn’t.

These are a few practices that might help:

#### 1. Encourage good citizenship

Followers of Jesus are citizens of the kingdom of heaven (Phil 3:20). This doesn’t mean that we should not be good citizens of the nation in which we live. But it does mean that our ultimate loyalty is not to any nation or political party. Learning to first think of ourselves as members of Christ’s Body—a community that extends beyond national borders—reorients the way in which we view everything. We can no longer just wonder what’s good for me, or my family, or my country, but we must consider what is good for the wider community.

#### 2. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me”

Idolatry is a most unoriginal sin. Unfortunately, we are uniquely “gifted” when it comes to this disordered love. We have a way of making gods out of anything, especially our opinions.

Instead of worshipping the God who created us, we end up worshipping a god of our own making—a god who looks like us, thinks like us, acts like us, and votes like us. As Anne Lamott writes, “You can safely assume you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”

*-(con’t next page)*

## Chat with the Preacher (*con't. from previous page*)

### 3. Practice humility

If you have a hard time admitting you're wrong, or you haven't changed your mind about something important in the last few years, or you agree with a major political party on every significant issue, then you have an opportunity for growth.

I am also learning the limits of stereotypes. I know a "right-winger" who tirelessly works to help the poor. I know a self-described "liberal" who takes Scripture as seriously as anyone I know.

The need to dismiss or demonize the other is rooted in narcissism and hubris, and we are all guilty. Following Jesus should make us humble, not arrogant. And besides, it is freeing to know that I don't always have to be right.

### 4. Listen to more than one viewpoint

Our culture is so polarized that we can select the partisan perspective from which our news is delivered. We can arrange our social media feed to only show like-minded content (it's easy to "unfollow" Facebook friends with differing views). We can attend churches that never challenge our thinking and living. And if we are not careful, we can surround ourselves with people who see the world just like we do.

I have found that Catholic social teaching often challenges my anemic thinking. Here's an example from Bishop Robert McElroy:

"The Republican Party better reflects the commitment to protect unborn life, reject euthanasia and promote religious liberty. The Democratic Party witnesses more effectively to Catholic teaching on the issues of poverty and inequality, immigration reform, restorative justice and the environment. On the critical question of family life, each party reflects certain key elements of the core common good, *while on the issues of the radical need to address global poverty and the fundamental question of the role of warfare in American foreign policy, neither party embodies even an acceptable threshold commitment to achieving the Catholic vision of justice and peace in the world* [emphasis added]."

Can we least admit that God is not a Republican or a Democrat?

### 5. Gather at the table

While many consider regular church attendance and participation passé, this is still one of the best practices for encouraging friendship and resisting partisan polarization. When we faithfully gather around the table for The Lord's Supper, covered-dish meals, and even committee meetings, we are reminded of our common faith, and our common need for mercy and grace.

We are reminded that we are wonderful-flawed-beautiful-broken children of God—every last one of us.

And that's not a bad starting place for friendship if you ask me.

Peace, *Jeff*

## DAVIDSON RIVER CAMPING TRIP, JULY 22-24

### AUGUST MISSION FOCUS

The Mission Focus for the month of August is **“Back to School.”** We’ll be collecting supplies for Tryon Elementary School. Supplies needed throughout the school year are: wide-ruled notebook paper, #2 pencils, two-pocket folders with no rings but with punch holes, non-spiraled composition books, glue sticks, highlighters, tissues, and disinfectant wipes. The number one need throughout the year is notebook paper. Boxes for collection of the supplies will be in the Lair, Scoggins, and Taylor Sunday School rooms, as well as the narthex.

### ITEMS FOR VISITATION TEAM

The Visitation Team is gathering supplies to take to nursing home residents and our homebound members, and we need your help! Needed items are listed below. Boxes are located in Dr. Lair’s and Phil Scoggins’ Sunday School classrooms. This will be an on-going project, so please remember this list as you do your weekly shopping.

**Emery boards, nail clippers**

**Toothbrush, toothpaste**

**Face powder, lipstick, blush**

**Clip-on earrings, necklaces, bracelets**

**Deodorizers for rooms**

**Comb/Brush/Hair pick**

**Dry shampoo, soap, body wash**

**Handkerchiefs, Kleenex, wipes**

**Vaseline for lips, lotion**

**Socks, bibs, lap quilts, throws**

**Shawls, scarves, activity/lap blankets**

**Notecards, pens, stamps**

**Baby dolls**

**Adult coloring books, colored pencils**

**Find-a-word and crossword puzzle books**



## VBS AUGUST 1-4

**Vacation Bible School at FBC is scheduled for Aug 1-4** (Monday-Thursday), 6-8:15pm. This year's theme is "Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love." We need your help. We are looking for pre-school teachers. For children grades 1-5 we need adult guides for age-level groups, an assembly leader, and a supply coordinator. If you would be willing to help with VBS in any of these areas, please contact Candy Wilson. Registration forms are in the church office, or you may call to register.

## LORD'S SUPPER, SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION AUGUST 7

Join us for worship on Sunday, August 7, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. We will also be recognizing our scholarship recipients in worship, and we hope you can attend.

## BASEBALL WITH THE ASHEVILLE TOURISTS, AUG 7

Take me out to the ballgame! We have tickets to see the Asheville Tourists play ball, at 2pm on August 7. Cost of the game is \$5 for children under 12 and seniors (adults \$7), and there is a sign-up sheet in the education hallway. We have a shaded section of the ballpark reserved just for us, so join us for a good afternoon of fun.

## OLD-FASHIONED SUNDAY

**Old-Fashioned Sunday is September 18.** We'll sing music from the era and learn a little about the "worship wars" of the day. So wear some old-fashioned clothing (or not) and join us for a unique time of worship.

## CAROWINDS TRIP JULY 26

Fourteen youth and adults braved the heat for a fun day at Carowinds. Here are a few pictures from the day.



## **2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

We are recognizing twenty students who have been awarded scholarships from First Baptist Church, as well as six children who received camp scholarships this year. We are proud of the hard work they have done and are pleased to award scholarships to the following:

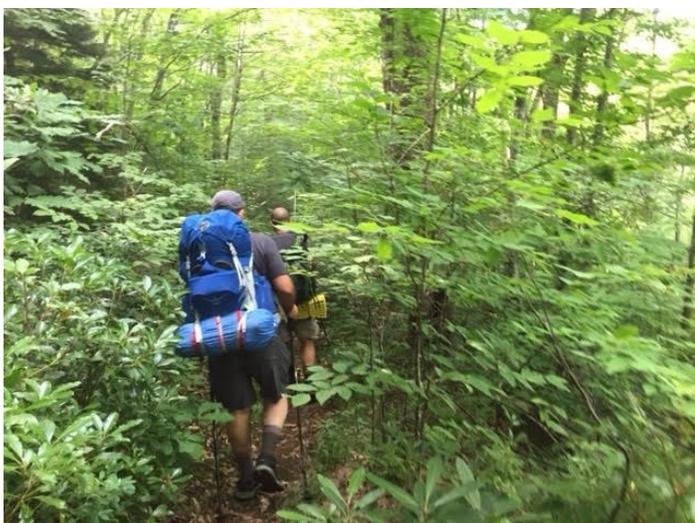
### **College Scholarships**

Andrew D. Appleyard, University of Georgia  
Taylor A. Ballard, University of South Carolina  
Emily D. Brady, UNC Charlotte  
S. Wesley Brady, UNC Charlotte  
Frank David Brannon, North Carolina State University  
Caitlin S. Britton, Western Carolina University  
Kathryn H. Carter, East Carolina University  
Haley A. Dusenbury, Virginia Technical College  
Tanner A. Garrett, University of South Carolina  
Jamie D. Greene, Western Carolina University  
Melissa N. Hardee, Catawba Valley Community College  
Casey Collins Harris, Clemson University  
W. Alexander Miller, North Carolina State University  
Gwendolyn B. Morris, Medical University of South Carolina  
Holland S. Morris, Clemson University  
Stephen L. Morris, Warren Wilson College  
Emily N. Miller Raines, Tidewater Community College  
Brooke E. Scoggins, Western Carolina University  
Kathryn C. Smith, Blue Ridge Community College  
Mary-Margaret Smith, UNC Chapel Hill

### **Camp Scholarships**

Hayden Blackwell  
Katie Cothran  
Harper Harris  
Cole Pereira  
Elliott Whiteside  
StorieLane Whiteside

# SPIRITUALITY/BACKPACK RETREAT TO SHINING ROCK WILDERNESS, PISGAH STATE FOREST, JULY 8-10



## PASSPORTKIDS! CAMP PHOTOS

First Baptist Tryon sent a coalition of six children to PassportKids! at Converse College, Spartanburg, from June 29-July 1. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, all children were able to partake of a scholarship opportunity to go. Enjoy these pictures of our happy campers—Hayden Blackwell, Katie Cothran, Harper Harris, StorieLane Whiteside, Cole Pereira, and Elliott Whiteside, as they grew in their relationship to God and made new friends, all while having great fun.



# MORE PASSPORTKIDS! CAMP PHOTOS



*"All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children."*

*-Isaiah 54:13*

# Hooked



## The David Stillerman Fishing Project of FBC Tryon

First Baptist Families,

We'd love to have you go fishing with us.

While Hooked is great for parents and children, everyone is welcome!

You do not need any fishing equipment (you can certainly bring your own if you wish), experience, or license. We will supply fishing equipment, instruction, drinks, and a light dinner. We do ask that at least one parent be present with children. This is great opportunity to foster friendships with each other, and with others from our community (especially with foster children and those involved with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.)

Here are a few reasons we think "Hooked" is worthwhile:

- Get outside . . . teach kids and others to enjoy and respect the outdoors.
- Encourage friendships . . . with children and with adults.
- Learn how to fish . . . fishing is a great hobby, that teaches patience and perseverance, builds confidence, and can be enjoyed for a lifetime.
- Have fun!

We'll go fishing at these times and places, and hope that you can join us:

Sept 25     White Oak Mountain, 2-5pm

Oct 16     Tryon Estates, 2-5pm

If you plan to attend, please RSVP, as that will help provide the correct amount of fishing equipment, volunteers, and food.

**For more information or to RSVP please call:  
First Baptist Church of Tryon at 828.859.5375  
or by texting Jeff Harris at 828.899.1386  
or by emailing [jeffreyharris@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyharris@gmail.com)**

## 2016 Schedule for First Baptist Church, Tryon, NC

### Regularly Scheduled Weekly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

Sundays	Sunday School, 10am Worship, 11am Children's Choir (grades 1-5), 5pm Refuge (grades 6-12), 6pm
Wednesdays	Bible Study, 10am Handbell Rehearsal, 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

### Regularly Scheduled Monthly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month	Mission Team, 5:30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month:	WMU, 10am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month:	Sisterhood, 7pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month:	Brotherhood, 6:30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month:	Deacons, 6pm

*This is the current schedule for the year. Please note some things may be re-scheduled, added, or changed as needed. If changes occur, you will be notified by email, worship bulletin, newsletter, or announcement in worship. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.*

*Thank you.*

### **AUGUST MISSION EMPHASIS—Back to School (School Supplies)**

Mon, Aug 1-Aug 4	Vacation Bible School, 6pm-8:15pm
Sun, Aug 7	Celebration of The Lord's Supper, 11am Recognition of Scholarship Recipients, 11am Asheville Tourists Baseball Game, 2pm

### **SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS—#GraceltForward Mission Day Planning**

Sun, Sep 11	SEE (5-6:30 pm)
Sun, Sep 25	SEE (5-6:30 pm)

### **OCTOBER MISSION EMPHASIS – Mission Initiative, Distribute Shoe Boxes**

Sun, Oct 2	125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Meal
Sun, Oct 9	SEE, 5pm
Sat, Oct 15	#GraceltForward Mission Day
Sun, Oct 23	SEE, 5pm Children's Fall Party (P-S through grade 5)
Sun, Oct 30	I Love My Church Offering (collected on fifth Sundays) Quarterly Church Conference

### **NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS – Coat drive; Shoe Boxes**

Sun, Nov 6	All Saints Sunday
Sun, Nov 13	SEE, 5pm
Sun, Nov 20	Communion Sunday Community Thanksgiving Service

### **DECEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS—Angel Tree (Thermal Belt Outreach); Kathy's Kids**

Sun, Dec 4	Annual Christmas Dinner
Sun, Dec 18	Caroling, 3pm
Sat, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship, 5pm
Sun, Dec 25	Christmas Day Worship, 11am

## August Sunday Schedules

### *Deacons for August*

\*Susan Smith  
Ellis Fincher  
Sue Thompson  
Johnny Taylor  
Mike Greene

*\*denotes Lead Deacon*

### *Ushers for August*

Joyce Scoggins, Renae  
Waldman (front)  
Carl Umphlett (hall)  
Ron Frady (side)

### *Acolytes for August*

8/7 Communion—No Acolytes  
8/14 Verae Upton & Luke Walker  
8/21 Harper Harris & Luke Miller  
8/28 Elliott Whiteside & Hattie Jolly  
Crawford

### *Children's Church Workers for August*

8/7 Becky & Ray Hudson  
8/14 Sandy & Ron Frady  
8/21 Susan Smith  
8/28 Debbie & Keith Collins

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of Harold Taylor, who died July 5, 2016.

We also extend love and sympathy to the Billy and Kim McFarland family, on the death of Kim's father Johnny Shytle, who died on July 16.

## AUGUST MILESTONES

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

2 Rick & Beth McCallister  
7 Bernard & Peggy Edwards  
9 Bud & Georgia Pace  
11 Chuck & Denise Britton  
12 Robert Earl & Ruth Ann Arledge  
15 Darryl & Doris Maxwell  
16 Keith & Debbie Collins  
18 Joe & Frances Wray  
19 Ron & Sandy Frady  
Phil & Hilda Pleasants  
26 Joe & Gigi Covil  
27 Fred & Shirley Edwards

### **Birthdays**

1 Scout Fox ('11), Don Batts  
3 Missy Fincher, Emily Prince  
6 Elliott Whiteside ('04)  
7 McClain Koistinen ('05)  
8 Jan Rasmussen, Anna Feagan  
9 Simon Bremner ('13), Shannon Bishop  
11 Skyler Covil ('08)  
13 Carla Tumbleson  
14 Beverly Dillon, Jane Edwards  
15 Mona Kimble  
16 Sophie Maxwell ('00)  
17 Lainey Littlefield ('07)  
18 Lane Covil ('11)  
19 Buffy Blackwell, Carol Hickey  
23 Kathy Ashley, Debby Covil, Rena  
Henderson, Gabriel Gates (McKaig)('12)  
24 Martha Covil, Hannah Emory ('00),  
Carol Batts, Michael Tennant ('01)  
25 Geoff Tennant  
26 Evan Jones ('04)  
28 Lewis Hawkins, Reva Williams  
29 Susan Brady, Jan Ponder  
30 Carroll Brady, Steve Stott, Georgia  
Garrett ('99), Perry Tennant ('12)

### **Military Personnel Birthdays**

16 Sharon (Mrs. Randall) Stillinger