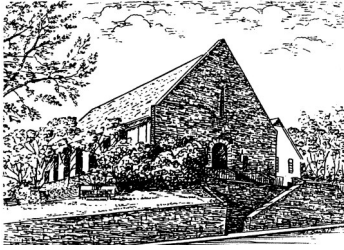


The Good News



March 2017



First Baptist Church of Tryon

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Jeffrey C. Harris, Pastor

Jim Hawkins, Interim Minister of Music

Jaime Fitzgerald, Minister to Youth

Ash Wednesday is one of my favorite days of the year. I realize this may sound odd, as I usually prefer feast days to fast days (feel free to insert joke about Baptist preachers and fried chicken here). The beauty of a “moveable fast” is that Hallmark Cards and mainstream American culture have yet to exploit Ash Wednesday (Lent or Good Friday). While feast days like Christmas and Easter are leveraged for profits, no one has managed to capitalize on these penitential holy days. Forty days in the wilderness is apparently not lucrative.

But according to God’s economy, losing one’s life is the only way to gain true life. Perhaps paradox doesn’t communicate well in a greeting card. Or maybe the hard work of repentance is lost on those desiring cheap grace. Richard Rohr explains it this way, “The human ego prefers just about anything, to falling or changing or dying. The ego is that part of you that loves the status quo, even when it is not working. It attaches to past and present, and fears the future.”

The rose-colored glasses of ego prevent us from seeing ourselves as we really are. We divide the world into “good guys” and “bad guys.” And, of course, we are always the good guys. Because we are good, and because there is plenty of bad out in the world, the work of good guys is mainly external. The problems to be addressed and solved are always “out there” instead of “in here.”

Ashes on the forehead, however, confront you with the possibility that the real problems to be addressed and solved are located within us. Dividing the world into good guys and bad guys is too simplistic. Instead, each one of us is a human being capable of great goodness and horrendous evil.

“You are dust and to dust you shall return,” reminds us of our frailty, and our culpability in the brokenness of this world. While such poignancy does not make for commercialized holidays or greeting cards, it does offer the hope of transformation. Barbara Brown Taylor explains, “Sin is our only hope, because the recognition that something is wrong is the first step toward setting it right again. There is no help for those who admit no need of help. There is no repair for those who insist that nothing is broken, and there is no hope of transformation for a world whose inhabitants accept that it is sadly but irreversibly wrecked.”

The tone of Ash Wednesday (and Lent) can seem archaic and puritanical, but it’s not. Transformation is the goal, not asceticism. Don’t be afraid to look into the mirror and see the truth about yourself, because the truth is, we are all in the same boat. No one is beyond redemption, or above it.

This season of repentance and reflection is a gracious gift. In the midst of our busyness, here is an opportunity to reevaluate our lives and the world around us, to take stock of what matters and what doesn’t. Here is a chance to be transformed. Don’t let it slip away.

Grace and Peace, *Jeff*

A NOTE FROM JIM



Most of us wouldn't have a problem answering the question, "What happens at First Baptist between 11:00 and 12:00 on Sunday Morning?"

Of course we would say, unequivocally, Worship happens! In fact we have said it so many times for so many years that it rolls off our tongues without hesitation. Why, all we really have to do is deposit ourselves on our favorite pews and Worship just automatically happens. So simple, so easy. We don't have to listen to the beautiful renditions from the piano, organ and choir, to sing the hymns or participate in the scripture readings or listen to Jeff's sermon. We don't have to search our inmost hearts (that can really be uncomfortable) and listen for the small voice that gives encouragement, hope, understanding and the meaning of our existence. And when that plate is passed we don't have to put anything in it. God understands that we have over-committed our income on other more tangible things. We could just converse with our friends the whole hour or even catch up on some needed sleep we didn't get the night before. Or better still, we could make a list of all the things we need to get done during the coming week. At least I was in Church; that's what's really important anyway. You get the point! I am often guilty of wasting my sacred time of worship and have ended up cheating myself out of a richer relationship with God that comes only through worship. Our church does a pretty good job providing Opportunities for Worship. Let's make these Opportunities into Realities. See you in Worship Sunday! -Jim Hawkins

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

God's Righteousness: A Lenten journey through Romans. 3/5: Guilty, 3:12 Justification, 3/19: Hope, 3/26: Harmony, 4/2: Roll Call.

OUTDOOR WORK DAY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 3



The House and Grounds Committee would like your help! Winter has come (and is almost gone), and the Committee is in need of folks to come help spruce up the outside of the church property. Anyone is welcome. Bring a few yard tools and meet at the church at 8:30am. The cleanup will be finished by noon (and maybe sooner, with many hands).

YOUTH PIZZA AND MOVIE NIGHT. MARCH 10



All youth in grades 6 to 12 are invited to partake in a "Pizza and Movie Night" in the Activity Building, March 10, from 6pm-11pm. We'll watch a movie, eat together, play games, and have a great Friday night. We hope to see you there!

MARCH MISSION—DRESS A KID AT TRYON ELEMENTARY



During the month of March, we're collecting funds (no clothing, please) for children at Tryon Elementary School. The offering will help purchase coats, jackets, socks, and shoes for those in need, and to help make 'fill-in' purchases for the Clothing Closet as supplies dwindle. You may find envelopes for this at the entrances to the sanctuary, or write "Dress-A-Kid" on the memo line of your check. Thanks for your generosity!

ALUMINUM CAN MINISTRY



Don't forget your cans! We've been presented an opportunity to help with missions for children in Guatemala. All you have to do is bring aluminum cans (in bags, please) to church, and put your bag in the back of Dr. Bob Lair's pickup truck. The money collected for the scrap aluminum goes to provide resources for Guatemalan children.

ONGOING CHURCH OUTREACH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We do quite a bit of collecting around here! You can help in many small ways, too. We have an ongoing collection of personal toiletries and amenities, located in the church kitchen. You can bring small bottles of lotion, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, etc. Sisterhood sees that these items are distributed to Steps of Hope women's shelter, and the Polk County prison.

We're also doing some collecting for Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry. They're in great need of plastic grocery bags and empty (12-count, please, although 18-count is fine, too) egg cartons for their Food Pantry.

HOSTAS NEEDED!



The House and Grounds Committee has a request for you—if you're getting ready to dig and divide hosta plants this Spring, how about donating a few to the church? We'll need some to fill in the spaces between new shrubs that are being planted. You can either bring them to the church office, or contact Cathy Johnson to let her know that you have them. We're excited about the landscaping that's being done around the church, and we're thankful for your extra sprouts.

KID'S NIGHT OUT, JANUARY 27

"Let it Snow" was our theme for January 27th's Kid's Night Out. The night started with making snowflake name tags. Of course, no two were alike, and we learned in group time that no two snowflakes or people are exactly the same!

There was one book that had actual pictures of snowflakes which seemed to be the hit book of the night, and it generated lots of discussions. There were hilarious "snow" jokes, the making of a snowman-light for each to take home, and our snack! Ahh...the snowman made from marshmallows, pretzel sticks and candy were YUMMY! (Of course they were eaten before they melted!)

We used our globe and map to discuss where it snows and why, and for our science project we made SNOW! We had a great time playing and making snowballs and we discussed doing it again in the summer (so we can actually throw some snowballs). Everyone got some "snow" to take home (however, I kept the recipe safe with me for a later time!) Miss Di gave us the materials to make our snowman and snow woman lights. Each were individualized by the artist making them and they were all great! To conclude our night, we had popcorn (of course), and our DVD was all about large machines moving snow in places where they must deal with lots of snow every year. The machines were truly amazing, as were the men and women who were responsible for making sure the roads are kept safe. What a job -BRRR!

It was a great night as we learned about snowflakes, snow, and that each of us are "wonderfully made." Our verse was "I praise you because I am wonderfully made, your works are wonderful" (Psalm 139:13). As we teach our precious kids, may they come to know how wonderful, unique & special they are!

-Submitted by Carol Batts



We need YOU!

The Youth thoroughly enjoyed and are grateful for every meal that was provided by your hands last semester during Refuge! Your presence there during that time was invaluable! This semester the slate is open to bring meals for Refuge on Sunday nights! Refuge is 5-6pm and we share a meal and fellowship from 6-6:30pm each week.

Sign up on the bulletin board or contact
Jaime (434-944-8746)
jaimenfitzgerald@gmail.com

TRYON YOUTH SCHEDULE SPRING 2017

January 15	Pick a team and choose a prayer partner for the semester, and have some fun!
January 22	How did the Bible become the Bible?
January 29	Why does the Old Testament matter?
February 5	No Refuge enjoy the Super bowl with your family
February 11	Skiing or tubing at Wolf Ridge meet at 7:00am at Food Lion
February 12	Creation and Chaos: The first five books of The Bible
February 19	Character Sketch: who are the Kings and Judges?
February 26	From Sadness to Celebration: what we can learn from the Psalms
March 5	The Story: Jesus' and Ours
March 10	Pizza and Movie Night 6:00pm-11:00pm
March 12	The Story: Jesus' and Ours
March 19	The Story: Jesus' and Ours
March 26	The Story: Jesus' and Ours
April 2	The Story: Jesus' and Ours
April 9	The Story: Jesus' and Ours
April 16	Easter No Refuge
April 19	Mystery Lunch and fun 11:00am-5:00pm
April 23	What does the New Testament have to say about Church?
April 30	Who is this Paul guy and why did he write so many letters?
May 7	So What? Why does the New Testament matter?
May 12-13	Spring Retreat *possibility for a date change*
May 14	Mother's Day No Refuge
May 21	Whiffle Ball Game and Dinner last regular Refuge until the Fall
June 18-23	PASSPORT Missions at Averett University

2017 Schedule for First Baptist Church, Tryon, NC

Regularly Scheduled Weekly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

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

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

1 st Monday of each month	Mission Team, 5:30pm
1 st Tuesday of each month:	WMU, 10am
2 nd Tuesday of each month:	Sisterhood, 7pm
3 rd Monday of each month:	Brotherhood, 6:30pm
3 rd Tuesday of each month:	Deacons, 6pm
2 nd Saturday of each month:	Firewood Ministry, Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry, 9am

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.

MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS—"Dress a Kid" for Tryon Elementary School

Wed, Mar 1	Ash Wednesday Service 6pm, Annual Meeting and meal 6:30pm No Women's Bible Study, Bell Choir, or Chancel Choir
Sun, Mar 12	SEE, 5pm, Children's Choir 5pm
Sat, Mar 18	Super Saturday
Sun, Mar 19	SEE, 5pm, Children's Choir 5pm
Fri, Mar 31-Apr 1	CBFNC Annual Gathering, First Baptist Church of Hickory

APRIL MISSION EMPHASIS—Easter Missions Offering (CBF Global Missions/Annie Armstrong)

Sun, Apr 2	Celebration of The Lord's Supper
Sun, Apr 9	Palm Sunday, SEE 5pm, Children's Choir 5pm
Mon, Apr 10	Noonday Prayer
Tue, Apr 11	Noonday Prayer
Wed, Apr 12	Noonday Prayer
Thur, Apr 13	Maundy Thursday Service, 6pm
Fri, Apr 14	Good Friday Community Service at First Baptist Church of Tryon, 12pm
Sun, Apr 16	Easter Sunrise Service at TFAC Amphitheatre, 7am Easter Worship, 11am
Sun, Apr 23	Quarterly Church Conference I Love My Church Offering SEE 5pm (Final SEE of the semester)
Sun, Apr 30	Hooked! Fishing Event, 2pm-5pm

MAY MISSION EMPHASIS—Baptist Retirement Home Offering

Sun, May 21	Youth Sunday (Youth lead in worship) SEE Annual Wiffleball Game and Cookout, 4pm (Last SEE until Fall)
Sun, May 28	Hooked! Fishing Event, 2pm-5pm Refuge "End of Semester" party, 5pm

2017 Schedule for First Baptist Church, Tryon, NC (con't)

JUNE MISSION EMPHASIS—Stop Hunger Now

Sun, Jun 4	Graduate Sunday, 11am
Sun, Jun 11	Celebration of The Lord's Supper, 11am
Sun-Fri, Jun 18-23	Passport Youth Camp, Averett University, Danville VA
Sun, Jun 25	Hooked! Fishing Event, 2pm-5pm
Th-Sat, Jun 28-30	CBF General Assembly, Atlanta GA
TBD	Rafting Trip

JULY MISSION EMPHASIS—Christmas in July Mission Offering (CBF Global Missions/Lottie Moon)

Mon-Thurs Jul 3-6	PassportKids! Camp, Montreat, NC
Sun, July 30	I Love My Church Offering Quarterly Church Conference
TBD	Carowinds Trip

AUGUST MISSION EMPHASIS—Back to School (School Supplies)

Sun, Aug 6	Celebration of The Lord's Supper, 11am
Mon-Th, Aug 7-10	Vacation Bible School

SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS—Commit to #GraceltForward Mission Day

Sun, Sep 10	SEE, Children's Choir 5pm
Sun, Sep 17	Hooked! Fishing Event, 2pm-5pm
Sun, Sep 24	SEE, Children's Choir 5pm

OCTOBER MISSION EMPHASIS—Operation Christmas Child,

Sun, Oct 8	SEE, Children's Choir 5pm
Sat, Oct 14	#GraceltForward Mission Day
Sun, Oct 15	Hooked! Fishing Event, 2pm-5pm
Sun, Oct 22	SEE, Children's Choir 5pm
Sun, Oct 29	I Love My Church Offering Quarterly Church Conference

NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS—Warm Coats & Blankets for Polk County Residents

Sun, Nov 5	All Saints Sunday
Sun, Nov 12	SEE, Children's Choir, 5pm
Sun, Nov 19	Celebration of the Lord's Supper Community Thanksgiving Service

DECEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS—Kathy's Kids, Angel Tre

Sun, Dec 3	Annual Christmas Dinner
Sun, Dec 17	Caroling, 3pm
Sun, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship, 4pm
Sun, Dec 31	I Love My Church Offering

March Sunday Schedules

Deacons for March

*Ellis Fincher Jr.
Sue Thompson
JT Johnson
Danny Fox
Ed Justice

Ushers for March

Lane and Merry Price—Front
Ashlyn Green—Hall
Franklin Williams—Side

Acolytes for March

Mar 5 Storie Lane Whiteside, Olivia Miller
Mar 12 Katie Cothran, Luke Walker
Mar 19 Wilson Edwards, Malik Miller
Mar 26 Harper Harris, Luke Miller

Children's Church Workers for March

Mar 5 Cindy Dusenbury
Mar 12 Dan and Erin Fox
Mar 19 Cathy and JT Johnson
Mar 26 Anthony and Emily Pereira

Our Christian Love and Sympathy are extended to the family of Howard Greene, who died February 13, 2017; the family of Ruth Taylor, who died February 14, 2017; and the family of Annette Stafford, who died February 16, 2017.

REMINDER



**Daylight Savings Time begins at 3am,
March 12. Don't forget to set your clocks
an hour ahead!**

March Milestones

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Phil & Marian Corn
- 7 Kevin & Christy McCall

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Stephen Morris
- 2 Leah McKaig, Damon Johnson
- 5 Ronnie Pack, Keith Constance
- 6 Sandy Frady, Malik Miller ('99)
- 8 Dean Kimbrell
- 9 JT Johnson
- 10 Billy McFarland, Grayson Jones ('02)
- 11 Gigi Covil, Finley Jean Lay ('12), Kaya Bishop (02)
- 12 Howard Greene, Darryl Maxwell
- 13 Nancy Brady, Matthew Baker, Sadie McKaig, Teresa Rossi
- 14 Charles Stafford, Wilson Edwards ('01)

College Student Birthdays

- 22 Wes Brady
- 28 Emily Miller Raines

Military Personnel Birthdays

- 1 Francisco "Paquito" Dona
- 8 Ladd Shepard

Military Personnel Anniversary

- 15 Major & Mrs. Randall Stillinger