

First Baptist Church

a harbor of God's love

....a beacon of Christ's hope



Holy.

The season of Lent ends this month with Holy Week. What gives this week its name is its dedication to the veneration of the last days of Jesus' life and ministry, and his death on a cross. This week has shaped my understanding of what it means to be holy. I have come to understand that it has less to do with the squeaky clean image of living a perfect life and is more about choosing to live into being faithful to what is good and right amidst the messiness and difficulties and failures of life. After all, if there is anything I've learned from the season of Lent it is that I am certainly not perfect, and that in my attempt to follow Jesus I fail. I sin. I miss the mark, miss the point. But in that is the beauty of Holy Week and in the search for that which is holy in this life. God, who is the Holy of holies, entered into human flesh as Jesus of Nazareth and redeemed all that is unholy about human life, all that is unholy about us. God loves us and forgives us when we fail. God proved this as one of us.

God was born by way of the dangerous, risky, and messy process of childbirth. God was a snotty-nosed kid who scraped his knees and needed his mom to feed him and his dad to teach him how to play. He got tired, slept, cried, hurt, got angry, experienced hunger, and knew what it meant to lose. He lived, breathed, had the breath knocked out of him, bled, and died. Along the way, he revealed God's holiness in human flesh. He loved and laughed, hugged the lonely and healed the sick, had dinner with criminals, blessed children, taught those hungering to learn, washed dirty feet, challenged religious leaders, held church people accountable to their commitment of faith, forgave the unforgiven, and loved the unlovable. Jesus showed us that we don't have to look to or reach for the sky to find the holy, because the holy is here on earth in our daily lives.

Last month I had the privilege to accompany our deacons on their annual retreat. While we were there, we worshiped together, washed one another's feet, served each other communion, laughed and cried, and talked about what it means to serve each other. It was a holy experience. It was holy not because any of us are perfect, but because in our imperfections we came together to share in a common life of love, forgiveness, and service with and to one another. As servant-leaders our deacons and staff have made a commitment to lead holy lives through a life and ministry of service. This does not mean that we will be perfect. We will make mistakes. But we are committed to forgiving one another and showing grace. What it does mean, though, is that we are committed to offering consolation for those that are grieving loss, providing support to someone in the hospital, being a companion to the person who is lonely, showing hospitality to the stranger, and being a friend to our neighbors. Please pray for the leaders of our church as we try to lead by example. We are also praying for you. Ultimately, we are in this together, and will learn from one another what it means to be holy when we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and become a servant of God.

Blessings,

Michael

U-O-T + C-D-S + O-R-S
Z-O + O-O-O-O



Baptists still leading the pack!

The Hotel Tavern asks you to join them for Sunday Brunch. Bring your church bulletin, and they will donate 10% of your total bill to the Sharing Center. Andy says they receive more than double the number of bulletins from us each month than from any other denomination.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

First, let me thank you once again for your encouragement, support and donations for our FBCWJ children and youth ministries. The Wednesday, February 3 dinner and program were awesome. Thank you for investing in the lives of our children and youth. They will remember your encouragement, words of wisdom and support for years to come. Also, while I am giving thanks, let me thank all of those who came out to visit our shut-ins. This ministry is so important and you helped to bring light to our shut-ins' lives. I appreciate everyone and all of your service to FBCWJ and our community by sharing your love.

Our FBCWJ Easter Egg Hunt will be Friday, March 25 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. If you would like to help with crafts that day or with stuffing eggs, please let Patricia know. Families are encouraged to come to the Holy Week Service and Lunch on Friday and then stay for the Egg Hunt. Please invite friends and our community to join us.

It is the time of year to be planning Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 14 through Friday, June 17 from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Also mark Sunday, June 26 11:00 worship as our VBS Sunday in Worship. Our theme this year is Barnyard Roundup focusing on Jesus Gathering Us Together. Psalm 23 is our theme chapter the children will be learning. How can you help? Pray for the preparation and week of VBS. Volunteer to help (contact Jennifer Treski). All gifts and skills are needed, so inquire today. Spread the word and invite children age 3 through grade 6 in your neighborhoods and community. The week of VBS is a very important ministry and we appreciate in advance all you will do to be a part.

Finally, the youth ministry continues to be very active. We just had a ski retreat which was a great time of learning and fellowship together. Youth Sunday School continues to be at Bohemia and Youth Missions continues to be meet on Wednesdays. Youth, please watch for a Youth Calendar with many opportunities over the next few months. Continue to keep our youth in your prayers and offer words of encouragement when the opportunity arises. The youth need and appreciate our wisdom and support. —Patricia

Please remember to check the church's website, fbcwj.org, in inclement weather - click on the link **Inclement Weather Cancellations**

CAMP NEW HOPE

The Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 26, has been cancelled due to recent flooding. However, the Easter Bunny will be at the gate on that day to give out bags of candy from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FBCWJ CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Join Miss Patricia on Friday, March 25 from 1:30-2:30. Enjoy activities, egg hunt, refreshments and fellowship time. Please invite your friends to attend also! Bring your baskets and help Miss Patricia with planning by letting her know how many friends you are bringing. Come as a family for the Holy Week Service and lunch and stay for the Egg Hunt.

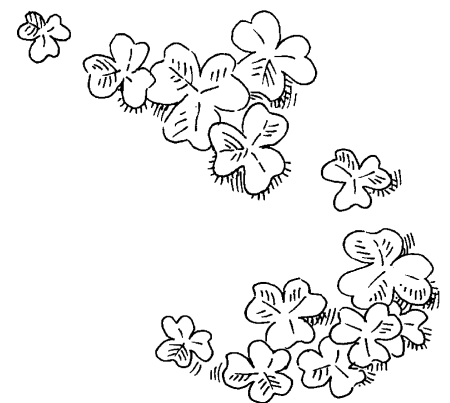
The Monday Morning Bible Study group will take an Easter Break during the month of March. A new 6-week session will begin Monday, April 4 at 10 a.m. in the FBC Fellowship Hall. We will study Margaret Feinberg's Fight Back With Joy. Judy Morris will be our leader. Workbooks will be \$15.00 each and will be available in the church office. We encourage everyone to take part in the Bible sessions.

DATE	OFFERING	SS
Feb 7	\$7,425.83	66
Feb 14	\$7,848.25	56
Feb 21	\$5,456.00	63
Feb 28	\$7,642.50	67

Easter Lilies — If you would like to place an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of someone this Easter season, you may purchase your lily at the place of your choice and place it in the sanctuary March 25 or 26. Please call the church office and let us know who it is in honor or memory of and by whom it is placed. Be sure to label your lily with your name so you can take yours home after Easter.

serving in march

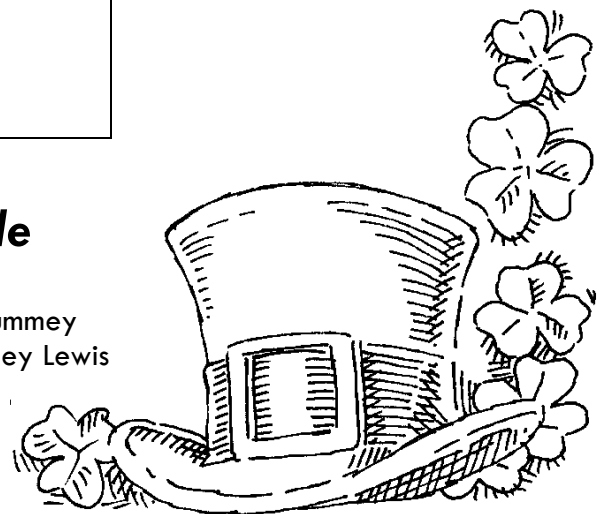
CHILDREN'S CHURCH			GREETERS	
6		3-K Jennifer Treski Judy Morris Gr. 1-3 Hobie Davis Lora Davis	SS Lib Bare Larry Rhodes Worship Martin Little Debbie Little	
13		3-K Ken Gardner Billie Gardner Gr. 1-3 Derek McClure Laura McClure	SS Ken Gardner Richie Gardner Worship Beth Johnson Lib Bare	
20		3-K Sandra Hollingsworth Avery Winterton Gr. 1-3 Larry Rousseau Linda Rousseau	SS Becky Burgess Cameron Current Worship Mark Absher Vickie Absher	
27		3-K Josie Reeves Kennedy Reeves Gr. 1-3 MaryBeth K.-Greene Shane Greene	SS Theresa E. Curd Richie Gardner Worship Larry Rousseau Linda Rousseau	



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 14-17
Mark your calendars and get ready! Volunteers, start signing up!

Sharing Center Volunteers Schedule

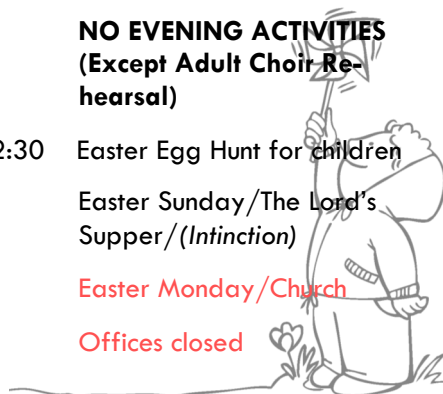
3/1 Linda Rousseau, Sandra Dail, Vita Blevins, Jennifer Treski
 3/8 Jane Hamm, Maude Shatley, Sandra Hollingsworth, Jeannette Summey
 3/15 Ken & Judy Morris, Becky Lopp, Swansie Baldwin, Charles & Lesley Lewis
 3/22 Wayne & Becky Burgess, Monte DeBoard, Lib Bare
 3/29 Linda Rousseau, Sandra Dail, Vita Blevins, Jennifer Treski





March Calendar

Sun	Mar 6	8:00	Deacons' meeting/Lent IV
Sun	Mar 13	11:00	Church Business Session/ Daylight Saving Time begins
Sat	Mar 19	10:15	Taste Buddies: Lunch at La Cucina Italian Kitchen, Mt. City, TN
Sun	Mar 20	11:00	Palm/Passion Sunday/A Ser- vice of Music
Mon-Fri	Mar 21-25	12:00	Holy Week Noonday Ser- vices at FBC
Wed	Mar 23		NO EVENING ACTIVITIES (Except Adult Choir Re- hearsal)
Fri	Mar 25	1:30-2:30	Easter Egg Hunt for children
Sun	Mar 27	11:00	Easter Sunday/The Lord's Supper/(Intinction)
Mon	Mar 28		Easter Monday/Church Offices closed



TASTE BUDDIES TRIPS

March 19 - Lunch at LaCucina Italian Kitchen in Mt. City, TN (leave church at 10:15)

April 7 - Dinner at The Depot at Cody Creek, Dobson, NC (leave church at 3:15)

May 25 - Lunch at Harvest Table and Barter Theatre "Greater Tuna" Abingdon, VA (leave church at 9:15). Group cost for the play is \$27.00. Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or call Linda Rousseau at 336-877-0654. Last day to sign up is Sunday, April 24.

June 1 - Lunch at Little Richard's BBQ in Yadkinville, NC and Shiloh Amish General Store, Hamptonville, NC (leave church at 9:45)

July 26 - Lunch at Milners American Southern Restaurant, Winston-Salem, NC and Historic Priddy's General Store, Danbury, NC (leave church at 9:45)

August 25 - Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", Wytheville, VA (leave church at 10:15)

September TBA - Lunch and The Orchard at Altapass, Spruce Pine, NC (leave church at 9:15)

October 5 - Lunch at Over Yonder Appalachian Restaurant, Valle Crucis, NC (leave church at 10:00)

November 15 - Southern Living Christmas Show, Charlotte, NC (leave church at 8:00)

December 7 - Lunch at Proper Restaurant, Boone, NC (leave church at 10:45)



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March 2016 Newsletter



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