

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor

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Kenneth West

Organist

Alison Moore

Pianist

Debbie Turner

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Garry Cuthbertson

Custodian

George Hughes

Grounds Maintenance



ACOLYTES

March 11.....Abby Miller

.....Aidan Ledbetter

March 18.....Lillie Beheler

.....Melanie Huneycutt

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

March 12.....Michael Jones

March 13.....Carrie Foster

March 14.....Bill Keever

.....Sandy Harrill

March 15.....Susan Martin

March 16.....Martha McGinnis

March 17.....Sarah McMahan

USHERS FOR MARCH

Team 2: Calvin McGinnis, Daryl Camper, Lane Parton, Stan Clements, Scott Lawrence, Emily Kay, Vicki Hughes, Ronnie Wilson

DEACON AT THE DOOR

Scott Carpenter

COLLEGE STUDENT

Sonia Colnot

301 South Road

Winston Residence, Room 301

Chapel Hill, NC 27512

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UNC-Chapel Hill

TIME CHANGE

THIS WEEKEND!



Don't forget to move your clocks ahead by one hour Saturday, March 10 before you go to bed so that you don't miss church the next morning!

Records for March 4, 2018

Sunday School Attendance 117

Morning Worship Attendance .. 180

Budget Requirements..... \$8,664.00

Budget Offering \$6,146.00

Special Offerings \$6,736.00

Total \$12,882.00

Budget to Date

Required by 3-4-18 \$199,272.00

Received by 3-4-18 \$202,954.65

Building Fund

Received \$3,000.00

Capital Campaign \$200.00

To Date \$423,640.71

WEDNESDAY MEAL: MARCH 14

Menu: Pork Chops, Baked Potato, Garden Salad, Dessert

Cost: Adult \$5.00 (6th Grade and up)

Children \$3.00 (5th Grade and under)

Maximum per family: \$16

Time: 5:30-6:30 PM

CANNED MEAT FOR YOKEFELLOW

January/February Goal: 60

January/February Donations: 78

March Goal: 30

March Donations: 9

Will you please help us meet our March goal of 21 more cans of meat? Winter is an important time for nutritious meals, and some families in our county may be surviving on canned meat. Please think of these folks as you shop for groceries. Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry!

MISSION TRIP TO LUMBERTON

To celebrate Easter 2018, First Baptist is sponsoring a hands-on repair trip to Lumberton Thursday-Saturday, March 29-31. A group of Women Roofers and anyone who wants to help will replace a roof, weather permitting, and skilled leaders are being enlisted to lead teams of 4-5 to provide other repairs. Food and lodging is provided, but volunteers need to bring bedding. Questions? Contact Nell Bovender, 429-9129, or nbovender@yahoo.com. Registration forms due by March 14.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

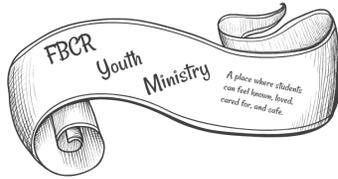
12:00 noon

Host Church: First United Methodist Church, Rutherfordton

Guest Minister: Rev. Arrie Melvin, Russell Tabernacle Church, Spindale

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The church welcomes Kevin and Jessica Young into our fellowship. Kevin is a prior navy corpsman and he works at the VA Hospital in Asheville. Kevin and Jessica are parents to five children and they came here from Massachusetts after having met on Christian Mingle. Kevin was raised in the Episcopal Church and he will be baptized. Jessica comes by way of letter from New England Baptist Church in West Bridgewater, MA. Kevin and Jessica are appreciative of our prayer support. Their address is 381 Collett St., Rutherfordton and their phone is 774-417-9895.



YOUTH

Tonight (ILLUMINATE, March 11th) *No Youth*

Wednesday (DIVE 6:30-7:15 pm, March 14th), Sermon on the Mount Series

Passport: June 24-29 (Averett University), **One spot available**
>Second deposits due by April 1st (\$100.00 per student.)

CHILDREN

South Mountain Camp (July 30-August 3)
\$55 deposit due ASAP to secure your spot.

LENTEN OFFERING

Our families with children have been participating in giving to our Lenten Offering during this season of Lent. They are taking up a collection that will benefit other children...The Baptist Children's Home. If you would like to participate, extra offering boxes are provided in the Welcome Center. The ingathering of this offering will take place on Sunday, March 25.



EASTER LILIES

The Decorating Committee will be decorating the Sanctuary with Easter lilies for Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a flower in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and drop it in the mail, offering plate or church office with **\$17.00** by **Wednesday, March 21**.

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) (Mark 7:1-4, NRSV)

Before sharing Sunday's message with you, I think that it is important to say something about Jesus' conflict with the Pharisees (who are Jesus' sparring partners in this passage), the Sadducees, the Scribes and the Teachers of the Law. Many times we do injustice to the text when we say things like, "The Jews were wrong because they did not believe in Jesus like Jesus' disciples did." Or, we say things like, "The Jews believed in Law whereas Jesus taught grace." Finally, we might say, "The Jews believed in doing good works to get saved whereas we believe that God saves us by grace through faith in Jesus."

These are all attempts to distinguish between Jesus' message and his opponents' message(s). However, when we say things like this, we forget that Jesus was both ethnically and religiously Jewish. His followers did not understand that they were forming a new "religion." Rather, they believed that Jesus was God's fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

Thus, it's more helpful for us to understand that Jesus' beef with the Pharisees as a conflict among brothers. Jesus isn't down on Judaism. He's down on a pattern of religion that the Pharisees promoted. It's a pattern of religion based upon rules. The Pharisees were descendants of Jews who returned from Exile six centuries prior to the time of Jesus. During those six centuries, the Jews became a people of the book. They compiled scriptures and taught the law so that they would live lives pleasing to the LORD.

They did not always agree on how to interpret the rules. One result of understanding God as lawgiver is that they did not always understand God's reasoning behind the laws. Thus, it was just as important to practice ritual cleanliness as it was to love their neighbor. Some failed to distinguish the importance of some laws in comparison to others. This led to a second problem. It created a people who were only interested in maintaining their bare minimum responsibilities with their relationship to God. It was important to get the rules right, but after that, anything is fair game.

In Mark 7, Jesus exposes this hypocrisy. Ritual cleanliness did not change the hearts and lives of those who practiced it. Instead, something had to happen to the human heart. Something had to die and be reborn. Something had to be transformed from self-focus to others-focused or God-focused. Something had to change and Jesus came to be that agent of change.

We can be guilty of creating a list of rules that exemplify faithfulness to God. Yet, rules alone cannot change lives. Only a relationship with Jesus – the one who came to fulfill the law and succeeded – can change our hearts, our focus and our understanding of our relationship to God. Don't just wash the outside of the dish. Cleanse the inside so that real transformation may occur!

Grace and peace,
Tim

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RUTHERFORDTON, NORTH CAROLINA
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE
March 11, 2018—10:55 AM

Sermon Series: *Just Jesus*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greetings and Announcements Beth Heffner

Leader: The Lord is Risen!

People: He is Risen indeed!

Lighting the Acolyte Candles “Worthy Is the Lamb” Zschech

Melea Jones, Soloist; Alison Moore, Pianist

*Hymn 366 “O God Beyond All Praising” THAXTED, alt.

*Invocation Scott Carpenter

Family and Child Dedication

Chuck and Jessica Godfrey, Parents; and Ella Christine Godfrey, Child

The Written Word Psalm 121:1-8; Colossians 3:12-14 Beth Heffner

Pledges of Parents and Congregation Tim Marsh

Do you pledge to provide an environment in your home where faith in Jesus Christ is taught by word and example? Do you pledge to model the love of God in your relationship to one another, as an example to **Ella**? Do you pledge to love **Ella**, to care for her, to provide for her, and to give **Ella** stability and security in her relationship with you? Do you promise to love **Ella** as God has so loved you? Do you pledge to love, support and encourage **Ella** on her faith journey as she discovers Jesus Christ and God’s purpose for her life?

Chuck and Jessica: We do!

Do you, members of First Baptist Church, pledge to provide an environment in which **Ella** experiences the love of Jesus Christ through you? Do you pledge to provide an environment in which **Ella** may find and follow Jesus Christ? Do you pledge to provide an environment that is safe, so that **Ella** may grow and develop the gifts and talents that God has given to her free from anxiety? Do you pledge to love, support and encourage **Chuck** and **Jessica** as they raise **Ella** to follow Christ and to discover God’s purpose for her life?

Congregation: We do!

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication John Miller

REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS

*Hymn of Offertory 278 “We Are Travelers on a Journey” BEACH SPRING

*Scripture and Prayer of Offertory 2 Corinthians 9:7 Abby Miller

Offertory

The Lord’s Prayer Tim Marsh

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

The Written Word Mark 7:1-23 John Miller

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem “Father, Forgive Us” arr. Keveren

Stephanie Rzonca, Viola

Father, forgive me, I know not Your glory, I heed not Your wisdom,
I sing not Your praise.

Father, forgive me, I see not Your beauty, I seek not Your presence,
I fear not Your name.

Father, forgive them, They know not their doing, Since I’ve been
forgiven, Lord, pardon their sin.

Father, forgive them, in humble surrender, I give them forever
to merciful hands.

Father, forgive us, We do not Your bidding, We seek not Your
kingdom, Our love has grown cold.

O Father, forgive us, Like sheep, we have wandered, We’re lost
sons and daughters, Dear Lord, lead us home. CCLI#1858884

The Spoken Word “Out of the Heart” Tim Marsh

*Hymn 431 “Jesus Is Lord of All” LORDSHIP OF CHRIST
*(We invite all who desire to make public professions of faith or transfer
church membership to do so at this time. And, we encourage all with
special prayer needs to pray with the pastor or pray silently at the altar
for personal or intercessory prayer needs.)*

GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

*Benediction Tim Marsh

*Departing Song (512) “We Go in Peace” EDWARDS

*Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Please remember to silence your cell phones or electronic devices