

First Baptist Church
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THE ANCHOR

“so we do not drift away”

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For my personal study right now I am working my way through the book of Jeremiah. As I was finishing up chapter eight this morning I was struck by how it ends. God's people have been given every opportunity to repent and follow Him, to dwell in intimate relationship with Him and to love Him with all they have yet they refuse to do so. This breaks Jeremiah's heart, because these are his people and he loves them deeply. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?" -Jeremiah 8:20-22. Because the people claimed to walk in covenant relationship with God yet did not do so, they were cut off from God and all that being in His presence brings. They were literally left to themselves, and it was a horrible thing. This made me think two main thoughts.

First, what a crazy privilege and blessing we have in Jesus. We are just like the people of Jeremiah's day. We claim covenantal faithfulness yet are consumed with ourselves instead of with God. For this we should be cut off and separated from Him forever, yet by the grace and mercy of God shown in the person of Jesus on the cross, we are made holy and righteous in God's sight. Through nothing of ourselves we are made God's children and are included in His inheritance. Because of Jesus we are saved. Because of Jesus we have a balm in Gilead. We have someone to cure our deepest hurts and needs. We have someone who restores us daily. This is grace, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. What struck my heart is this...I am so often blind to the grace I walk in daily. What would happen in my life if God removed His hand of mercy? If the blessings and favor I take for granted were removed because of what I did? I never even stop to realize how God's grace is draped over me daily. How easy it is to take for granted the grace that cost Jesus everything. My hope and prayer is that God would daily remind and renew my heart, all of our hearts, with thankfulness and love due to the great mercy we have received. And that love and thankfulness would translate into intentional obedience, giving all of ourselves to God because of all that He has done for us in Jesus. That we would rejoice in the grace that has been lavishly showered upon us and move our focus from ourselves and simply walking through each day to pressing in and really learning to live for and with God.

Secondly, I was reminded that I, and that all of us need to be like Jeremiah. Does your heart hurt for your people? The people of our church and our community? Are we invested in them deeply, emotionally, and intimately so much so that we care and intercede for each other in many ways aren't many times? Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet because he was so moved by the horrible condition of his people who claimed to know God and yet did not obey or love God that his entire life he wept for the people in prayer and engaged them daily trying to help them to see their need for God and to entreat them to repent and return to God. Is that how we are loving each other? There are so many hurting and in need people around us, that we should be in a constant state of broken hearts as we see and share in their suffering, and as we walk with them and help them draw near to God. Who are you engaged with, pouring your life into, weeping for and loving on? This is the call for all of us who know the grace of the cross, for us to **love God** with all we have and are, and then to **love others** so that they too might know the grace we have.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:
SS 9:45
Worship 11:00
FBCU 6:00
Youth 6:00
Praise Service 6:30
Choir 7:30

Wednesday:
Prayer Meeting 6:30

Prayer List



- Spiritual Growth
- Unity as a church
- The 414 Project
- TSEASA Ministry
- Youth/Children's Minister

Memory Verse

*"O LORD,
you alone can
heal me; you
alone can
save. My
praises are for
you alone!"*

**Jeremiah
17:14**

Just for Laughs...

A linguistics professor was lecturing his class one day.

'In English', he said, 'A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative.'

A loud voice from the back of the room piped up, 'Yeah, right.'

MARCH THINGS TO BE INVOLVED IN:

RAELENG GIVING
FBCU
AWANA
CHOIR
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Feb. 26, 2012
2nd Food
Offering



The WMU would like to thank all who donated seed packets for the River Ministry. We were able to send 120 seed packets. Thank you and God bless you for your continued support of our mission work.

Thank you so much for all who stayed after the service and donated to our youth potato bake fundraiser last Sunday afternoon. It was a huge success for all those who participated in the fundraiser and really helped many pay for a chunk of their summer camp experience. Thank you for your generosity.

I want to thank the First Baptist Church for ministering to me and my family during our time of sorrow. I thank the wonderful ladies for cooking and serving us a meal; we really do appreciate it so very much. It was so good to see and visit with people that I haven't seen in years. Also, I thank Jo Ann Davenport for playing the piano, Bill Pyle for the Eulogy and Bro Kevin Cornelius for the message. And, I thank you for caring and visiting my mother, Leola (Graf) Forister while she was in the nursing home. God changed her heart and I'm glad I got to witness that miraculous change. She loved God and was ready to be with Him. My family and I thank you for showing God's love to her.
God bless you,
Mary C. Forister of Austin, TX

- 12 cans Vienna Sausage
- 3 cans spam
- 2 cans spaghetti's
- 2 jelly jars
- 1 honey
- 3 peanut butters
- 10 4 packs of pudding
- 15 cans stew/soup
- 4 cans ravioli
- 7 cans chili
- 8 jars applesauce
- 8 cans refried beans
- 16 mac 'n cheese
- 6 jars spaghetti sauces
- 16 cans green beans
- 11 pinto beans
- 10 instant potatoes
- 20 can corn
- 2 pork 'n beans
- 2 ranch style beans
- 1 baked beans
- 4 drink mix
- 14 pack noodles
- 21 box cereal
- 7 bags of rice
- 7 boxes instant oatmeal
- 3 peaches
- 6 boxes of crackers
- 3 packs of cookies



Stewardship

	Budgeted	Received
Month:	14,982.17	19,788.64
Year:	29,964.34	45,671.44

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Our 2012 Goal:
\$1500.00

Sound Bytes

...But be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.—Ephesians 5:18b-19

Can I be honest? Most of the time when it comes toward the end of the month, my wife comes to me to let me know it's time to write another article for the church newsletter. And almost every month, I struggle and procrastinate trying to figure out something to write on. This month is no different, but I ended up coming up with something that I hope will encourage you. As I was contemplating what I could write on, I was struggling harder than most other months, because the only event of significance is St. Patrick's Day, who doesn't have a lot to do with music. So I didn't want to write about him. My next thought is that March is known as the beginning of Spring, but seeing as how we barely got into freezing temperatures this winter, I didn't know if we'd be able to tell a difference, so I didn't want to write on that.

Then a thought occurred to me. I haven't spent much time over the past few months giving you guys some resources for good music listening. I wanted to remain Scripturally based, so I decided to focus in on the Psalms, since I'm reading through them. I came up with a top ten list of songs (mostly "new") that have been written exclusively from the Psalms. What I couldn't call to mind, were many older hymns that were Psalm based, so if you think of any, please don't hesitate to let me know. So without further ado, here's the list ranked in order of how they came into my head:

Artist	Song Title	Scripture Reference
Adrae Crouch	Bless the Lord, O My Soul	Psalm 103
Third Day	Your Love, O Lord	Psalm 36
Matt Redman	Better is One Day	Psalm 84
Brooke Fraser	Hymn	Psalm 139
Kutless	Strong Tower	Psalm 61
Matt Papa	23	Psalm 23
Chris Tomlin	Forever	Psalm 118, 136
Charlie Hall	Give Us Clean Hands	Psalm 24
Rush of Fools	Peace, Be Still	Psalm 46
U2	40	Psalm 40

Please don't forget that one of the fastest and easiest ways to get plugged into ministry at the church is by joining the choir. Also, don't forget to let me or Mary Anna know if you would like to perform a special for the Sunday morning service. Until next month, happy listening!

SUMMER ALREADY?!

I know you may be thinking we are starting a little early, but yes, we do need to start thinking about the summer programs now. For starters, you may have noticed the VBS sign up poster behind the organ in the sanctuary. Please be praying where God would like you to volunteer. This is a huge way we serve the children and families of our community every year. We start working on it now!

Our first summer camp fundraiser was last week. Thank you for those who helped. The next fundraiser will be the spaghetti lunch on April 1st. We also have a Bake sale scheduled on May 6th. All of these fundraisers help our kids get to summer camps where they learn about God and being in relationship with him. Thank you in advance for helping them get there.

Also here are a few more summer dates to through out there. Children's camp is June 11th-14th this year. VBS is June 24th-29th. Youth camp is July 15th-19th. All of these events are ones to invite friends and neighbors. There are closing dates for both children's camp and youth camp so be looking for further details, but anyone can come at anytime for VBS. We are looking forward to this summer and the great things God will do in our, the lives of our kids, youth, and our community.