

# First Baptist News

Volume LIV, No. 2

February 2, 2017



Every once in a while it's a good idea to pause and take a look at how we are spending our lives. What are we devoting our time and attention to? What or who is getting our attention? What makes us happy and what saddens us? Are we in a position where we are able to determine how we spend our lives or do the needs of our family and surroundings dictate our calendar and energy? It is easy to let life slip by, to "be lived" rather than to pursue our dreams and high ideals.

We are beginning a spiritual renewal at First Baptist that I hope you will accept the opportunity to begin to look and listen to in your life. I use the word "begin" intentionally in referring to our spiritual renewal.

I hope you read in last week's newsletter that we have a weekend of prayer, worship and fellowship planned for March 17-19. We will host Dr. Bo Prosser as he leads us to **Be... Still, Loved and Renewed**. The weekend is a few weeks off, but we are beginning a spiritual renewal now. Here's what I mean... I have a doctor's appointment scheduled in about a month. I do not intend to go to the appointment and expect the doctor to make me healthy in the short time I will be in his office. If I want to be healthy, I begin now (or perhaps years ago) eating good foods, exercising and resting appropriately.

Likewise, it is foolish to think I can put the spiritual renewal weekend on my calendar and expect to completely reset my life with God. One's spirit is not renewed in fits and starts. It, like our physical health, requires daily attention and effort.

To help you prepare for renewal, our Deacon Care Teams are hosting prayer gatherings in February and early March. Each of our six teams will host a time to introduce themselves as your deacon care team, inform you of the details of the Spiritual Renewal weekend and lead your group in prayer. You will receive information from your deacon care team in the next few days about your prayer gathering. If you cannot attend your team's meeting, you are welcome to attend another group's event. Contact me and I will be glad to connect you to a prayer gathering that fits your schedule.

Peace,  
David



## Valentine Banquet

February 11, 2017



Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Cherry Fellowship Hall.  
Tickets are available in the church office.  
\$10 each (Senior Adults \$5)

## Preparing for Sunday. . .

**"Salt and Light"**  
**Matthew 5:13-20**

Jesus followed the Beatitudes with two metaphors that provide a picture of what it means to live blessed lives. He told his disciples that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. **Salt and Light** are common elements that impact our daily lives. We don't often notice them, until we have to do without. Salt flavors a meal and light enables us to see where we are. In saying that we are **Salt and Light**, Jesus encourages us to live in a way that makes life better for our neighbors.



One of my favorite youth events of the year, second only in joy and stress to Youth Sunday, is our annual Valentine Banquet. This year's Hawaiian theme promises to be a lot of fun. Both the youth and youth committee are already quite busy preparing for the big night.

There are lots of things to like about the banquet. The teamwork back in the kitchen, the nervousness backstage, the hours of decorating that transform the fellowship hall into something completely new, the vast improvement from rehearsal night to performance, and being served a wonderful meal by our attentive wait staff. However, my favorite part is watching them interact with you.

Our youth group, much like our congregation, is made up of quirky, funny, interesting human beings. Some of them, like some of you, will need a nudge to open up and join the conversation. Ask them if they are in the show. Ask them about what sports they play. Find out their interests. Share yours.

The décor and the food will be topnotch. Your waiters will be enthusiastic. The show will not be perfect, but the effort to entertain you will be there. The friendships made made will be sublime. Love will be shared by young and old and in between.

Tickets are just \$5 for senior adults and \$10 for everyone else. Dinner and a show at the DPAC costs much, much more and you don't meet anybody interesting. Dinner and show is worth so much more at the Valentine Banquet. Hope to see you there.

Peace,  
Doug



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

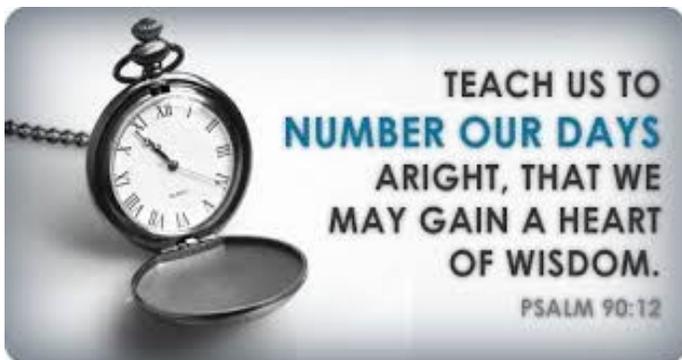
Children's Sunday is coming!

On February 19, our children will be leading worship. The structure of Children's Sunday has changed over the years. This isn't a service for children...it's a service for everyone, led by children! Our scripture for the day will be the story of Moses and the burning bush, thinking about how we can trust in God and follow God, even if we're a little nervous or scared.

Out of respect for our families' schedules (two services is a LOT when you're in elementary school!), we will have one combined service at 11:00. Regardless of what service you regularly attend, or whether or not you are a parent of a child participating, I hope you will be here that Sunday to support our children as they lead us in worship. These children are excited about the opportunities to collect the offering, sing, ring bells, read, pray, and preach, and their enthusiastic and authentic approaches to worship leadership are simply beautiful.

We'll see you on February 19!

*Erin*



### For the Record

Budgeted 2017 .....	685,000.00
Weekly Need (2017) .....	\$12,924.53
Received January 29, 2017 .....	\$10,789.56
Need to date .....	\$64,622.64
Received to date .....	\$54,695.41
Over (Under) Budget .....	(\$9,927.23)
Sunday School Attendance-219	

## Fun & Fellowship

February 9, 2017

11:00 a.m. in the Activity Building

A program on Valentine's Day will be presented by Edith Watts.

Bring a sandwich and friend!

## Baptist Women's Luncheon

February 6, 2017

11:45 a.m. in the Activity Building

## Early Childhood Registration for 2017-2018

Hours: 7:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
After-School Pick-up, Hot Lunch,  
Nutritious Snacks, Reasonable Fees

**Registration for 2017-2018 School Year**  
Currently enrolled students may register  
beginning February 13th.

**February 27th—First Baptist Members**  
**February 28th—Open to Public**

We also have openings in our 3-year-old and 4-year old classes for the current year.

Questions? Call 739-4336.



## First Sunday Food Drive

The first Sunday of each month we collect canned and non-perishable foods for local food charities.

Items may be placed in the collection bins near the church entrances. Please bring your donations to church with you this Sunday, February 5th!



be still  
loved  
renewed

## Spiritual Renewal Weekend March 17-19, 2017

Join us for a three-day renewal event as we take to pause, rest and listen for God's voice in our lives. All activities are at First Baptist Church and are free; RSVP required for Friday night and Saturday morning activities. Sign up by calling the church office or follow the link on our website! Deadline to sign up is March 6th.

### Schedule of Activities

#### Friday, March 17

**Dinner** with program by Bo Prosser

\*Childcare provided for birth-3rd grade

#### Saturday, March 18

**9:00 am– Noon— Prayer Retreat** led by Bo Prosser.

\*Childcare provided for birth-pre-K; Lego Camp offered for K-6th grade.

#### Sunday, March 19

**8:45 am—Worship** with guest preacher, Bo Prosser

**9:45 am—Sunday School**

**11:00 am—Worship** with guest preacher, Bo Prosser

### About Bo Prosser

Dr. Bo Prosser was born and reared in Milledgeville, Georgia. He holds two Master's degrees, one in Christian Education and one in Family Counseling. His doctoral work is in the area of Adult Education from North Carolina State University. His dissertation was in the area of using humor to teach adults. After 25 years in congregational ministry as a Christian educator, Bo began serving at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, where he is the Coordinator of Organizational Relationships.

Bo is married to Gail, his wonderful wife and helpmate of 40 years. They have two married daughters and delight in their twin grandchildren. He is author of numerous books and articles on teaching, humor and adult learning.

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as you go   
*Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations...*  
(Matthew 28:19)

**CBF NC Annual Gathering**  
First Baptist Church, Hickory, NC  
March 30-April 1, 2017

For more information and a schedule of events visit  
[www.cbfn.org](http://www.cbfn.org)!



Noon Services will be hosted by churches in our community  
Wednesdays during the Lenten Season.  
A light lunch will be served following each service.

**March 1**—Trinity Episcopal Church  
**March 8**—First Presbyterian Church  
Preacher: Rev. Dave Hawes, Pastor, Godwin Heights Baptist  
**March 15**—First Baptist Church  
Preacher: Rev. David Ruth, Pastor, First Presbyterian  
**March 22**—Godwin Heights Baptist Church  
Preacher: Rev. Erin Collier, Minister to Children, First Baptist  
**March 29**—Chestnut Street United Methodist Church  
Preacher: Rev. Gene Wayman, Rector, Trinity Episcopal  
**April 5**—First Baptist Church  
Preacher: Rev. Chip Bass, Pastor, Asbury United Methodist

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
First Presbyterian Church  
April 13, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Dr. David Elks, Pastor, First Baptist

A Good Friday Service will be held at Trinity Episcopal  
at noon on April 14th.

### Family Night Supper Menus February 2017

**February 8**—  
**Red Ticket:** Chicken & Rice, String Beans, Rolls, Salad, Lemon Pie  
**Blue Ticket:** Chicken Nuggets, Chips Fruit

**February 15**—  
Spaghetti, String Beans, Texas Toast, Salad, Fruit Pies

**February 22**—  
**Red Ticket:** Hamburger Steak, Rice & Gravy, Lima Beans, Rolls, Salad, Peach Pies  
**Blue Ticket:** Pizza, Chips, Fruit



**Senior Adults' Lunch**  
Calabash, NC

February 27th  
Depart FBC at 9:30 a.m.  
\$7.00 each for transportation

### CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or  
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Dr. David Elks—Pastor  
Mrs. Daphne Fletcher—Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Dorothy Hunt—Building Superintendent  
Rev. Tim Little—Minister of Music  
Mrs. Kandace Ramsey—Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Doug Reedy—Minister of Youth