

1st CONNECTIONS

visit www.fbcgainesville.org for more information!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF PALOOZA

Wednesday, August 19th at 5:45pm on the Front Lawn

Everyone is invited as we kick-off Wednesday night programs with games, inflatables, and food trucks! This will also be the time to register for Children's Choirs and Missions programming for the 2015-2016 school year. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join in this fellowship and all Wednesday night activities!

Dear Church,

In this letter I want to share with you my heart's deepest concern. I realize that there are some who like strong statements made by their pastor when big issues arise, such as the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court regarding marriage equality. First, let me say that I do not consider Sunday morning worship time the proper space for any matter other than the praise and worship of God. Second, your deacons and your church staff are charged with the high purpose of fostering a loving spirit and a sense of harmony within the congregation. There are many more things that unite us than those things which could divide us, and the things that could divide us must always be handled with care, sensitivity, Biblically, and in love.

We now enter a period of prayer, discernment, and Biblical study regarding this issue. I will begin this conversation with our deacons in the August meeting, and I will ask our deacons to lead us in an entirely Christ-like approach and in a thoroughly Biblical one. We will move slowly, prayerfully, lovingly and seeking God's wisdom all the way. There will be opportunities for special classes, such as the 4-part series on ethics that Kent Murphey will teach in August. Any decisions made will be made together – by our deacons and staff (those ordained for these purposes) and ultimately by the congregation itself. Our Baptist methodology, which emphasizes the priesthood of all believers, demands this. What we will not do is to speak about this matter in angry reaction, in lack of respect for others, and in ways that would be hurtful to any individual or to this Body of Christ.

Every generation in the life of the church has to face divisive issues. The First Century Church had to wrestle with the question of whether Gentiles could even be included. Paul would later have to wade into the issue of whether it was sinful to eat meat that may have been offered to idols in the marketplace. Later the church would do battle over the question of the nature of Christ himself, his humanity and divinity. Still later the matter of church authority would threaten to tear the church asunder. Attempts to reform the church 500 years ago would result in major divisions between Catholic and Protestant. In our own time, churches have had to decide what is the proper role of women, is it acceptable to marry people who have been divorced, and should the church be accepting of all races and all peoples.

The matter of marriage equality is our current issue. Whatever we do regarding that has to be Biblical, it must reflect the spirit of Christ, and it must be done in a way that will hold together a large and dynamic congregation with diverse views and that will safeguard the church's future as well.

I ask each and every one of you to pray daily and to pray sincerely for your deacons, your church staff and for me. I can promise you this – my own approach will be thoroughly Biblical; I am therefore asking each of you to meditate carefully on Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8. Remember that our words have great power to build or destroy, to heal or to hurt. Remember that there are people in our congregation who truly love God, love the church, and also love someone of the same sex. There are also people who have very strong views about this based on Biblical texts that nudge them in the opposite direction. Please, let all of our words be spoken with deepest respect and with great kindness toward those who may see differently. I have total confidence in our deacons, and our congregation will be lead honorably and wisely by them. I trust you, I trust our deacons and I trust God.

Your friend and pastor,



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA | 751 GREEN STREET NW | 770-534-7354

WORSHIP WITH US!

8:30am in the Chapel

10:50am in the Sanctuary

WATCH LIVE at www.fbcgainesville.org

LISTEN Live at 99.3FM

August 2nd

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Life of Integrity

OT: Psalm 51:1-12 NT: Ephesians 4:1-16

MUSIC MEDITATION: Blessed Assurance

Ladies' Ensemble; Barbara Gilbert, Director

OFFERTORY PRAISE: Morning Has Broken

Dianasue Walton, Clarinet Solo

CHORAL WORSHIP: Holy Is He

Agape Choir (8:30am), Sanctuary Choir (10:50am)

August 9th

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Grumbling Multitude

OT: Psalm 130 NT: John 6:41-51

MUSIC MEDITATION: The Gospel of Grace

Herve Aklotsoe, Solo

OFFERTORY PRAISE: Jon Kerrick, Violin

CHORAL WORSHIP: Walk Worthy

Hope Choir (8:30am), Sanctuary Choir (10:50am)

August 16th

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

A Life of Wisdom

OT: Psalm 111 NT: Ephesians 5:15-21

MUSIC MEDITATION: How We Love

Kim Abrams, Solo

OFFERTORY PRAISE: It is Well With My Soul

Duet: Amy Hulsey, Piano & Della Ruth Johnson, Organ

CHORAL WORSHIP: The Lord is My Shepherd

Rejoice Choir (8:30am), Sanctuary Choir (10:50am)

August 23rd

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Strong God, Strong Church

OT: Psalm 84 NT: Ephesians 6:10-20

MUSIC MEDITATION: Higher Ground

Brooke Morters, Soloist with Adult Vocal Ensemble

OFFERTORY PRAISE: More Love to Thee, O Christ

Gretchen Welch, Flute Solo

CHORAL WORSHIP: In the Name of Jesus

Agape Choir (8:30am), Sanctuary Choir (10:50am)

August 30th

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Nick Johnson, Amigos for Christ

OT: Psalm 41:1-3 NT: James 1:22-27

MUSIC MEDITATION: Connie Esford, Solo

OFFERTORY PRAISE:

Jesus, Draw Me Close with I AM Thine, O Lord

Benjamin Garner, Classical Guitar & Mark Green, Vocal Solo

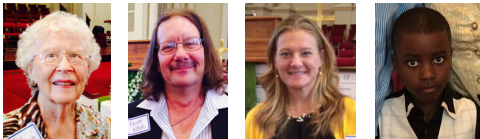
CHORAL WORSHIP: O Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord

Hope Choir (8:30am), Sanctuary Choir (10:50am)

SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER

- 05 Students: Saturday Serve
- 06 1st @ 1st Luncheon
- 07 Church Office Closed: Labor Day
- 12 Families: Picnic in the Park
- 13 Coffee Talk for Visitors & New Members
Maranatha Band in Concert @ 6:00pm
- 16 Living Christmas Tree Kick-Off
- 18 Adults with Seniority: Lunch Bunch
- 17 Young Adults: Theology on Tap
- 20 Foster Care Orientation & Panel
Deacons Meeting
- 25-26 Women's Ministry: Emporium
- 29-30 John Rosemond:
Parenting with Love and Leadership

Welcome New Members!



Joy Taylor Kevin White Brenda Thompson Daniel Mberembe



Adam & Sarah Koscovich The Chavez Family Lila Weaver and Brent Westmoreland, Connor Proffitt

The First Baptist family would like to express its deepest sympathy to the following:

Family and Friends in the death of **Nat Ashe**

Greg DeLong in the death of **Jim and Frannie DeLong**

Amy Anderson in the death of her father **Paul Simoneau**

Genny Satterfield in the death of her husband **JD Satterfield**

Mark Green in the death of his uncle **Amuel Sandridge**

John Upchurch in the death of his wife **Gail Upchurch**

Bruce Morgan in the death of his wife **Emma Morgan**

Nelle Whalen in the death of her husband **Gus Whalen**

Roy Cleveland in the death of his brother **Eugene Cleveland**

Melba Miller in the death of her mother **Eunice Shead**

Gail Evans and Doris Herrin in the death of their father/brother-in-law **Rex Grant**

AUGUST

- 02 1st @ 1st Luncheon** Churchwide lunch in the Banquet Hall after the 10:50am Worship Service.
- 08 Action Bash: Action Ministries Gainesville**
7:00pm in the Banquet Hall (Doors open at 6:30pm). Talent provided by Rev. Mark Green and Dr. Jon Kerrick and others from local churches! Visit www.actionministries.net/gainesville for tickets! (\$25).
- 09 Promotion Sunday and Blessing of the Students**
Young Adults: Sunday School Breakfast Kick-Off
9:45am-10:45am in Room 205. The Young Professionals and Parents of Preschoolers Sunday School classes will have a joint fellowship breakfast to kick-off Fall!
- Students: Parent Meeting, Youth Council Elections, & Potluck**
12:00pm-1:30pm in the Youth Auditorium. We invite all parents and youth to join us for a potluck lunch. Come learn about the upcoming youth events, fill out all the necessary paperwork, and build relationships. The youth will be electing two representatives from each grade to serve on the youth council.

Children: Pool Party at Frances Meadows

1:30pm-3:00pm. \$5/person. Register with Kara Wheeler by August 3rd!

10 FLC: Couch Potato to 5K Kick-Off!

6:00pm - Kick-off meeting in Nix Auditorium (across from FLC desk) Training is August 10th through October 15th: MTR @ 6:30pm, childcare provided (optional strength class offered at 6:00pm before group runs). More than 90 new runners have completed their first ever 5K race (3.1 miles) in only 9 weeks with the couch potato method. FREE to FLC members and \$50 for non-members. Register and pay online at www.fbcgainesville.org. Online registration and payment due August 5th. Our annual FLC 5K race will be held October 17th and will finish out the program

12-Sept 23 Foster Care Supply Drive

Please help the Hall County Foster Parents Association and the many Foster Children by donating much needed items! Supplies are needed for newborn through 15 year old children. Please bring NEW OR GENTLY USED items (no stains). Items include: Luggage/Duffel Bags, Clothing, Blankets and Pillows that children can take from place to place, stuffed animals, kid's toiletries, and toys. All items can be dropped off in the Family Life Center Senior Room. Contact Rhonda Ballard with questions: rhondaballard@att.net.

12 "Christianity Beyond the Catchphrases"

6:00pm at Grace Episcopal Church. How can we come together as a wider community, listening to our experiences and sharing the perspectives of our denominations? Given the different ways faith communities are responding to and wrestling with recent social and legal changes – how can we share a space of compassionate dialogue? Too often, it seems we slip into the pattern of using catchphrases to describe different faith communities: liberal, conservative, Bible-based, etc. These limit the richness of each denomination, and they cut off the depth of dialogue that fosters deep community. In that vein, Grace Episcopal Church is hosting an ecumenical panel: "Christianity Beyond the Catchphrases." At this point, we have eight clergy from five denominations who are coming together to share our perspectives of faith, spiritual leadership, community, and theology. The panel discussion will be moderated and is open to the community. Coffee and dessert will follow. Come early to get a seat, as it will probably be standing room only by the end! And, we hope this is the first of many such conversations.

13 Young Adults: Theology on Tap 6:30pm at Downtown Drafts on the Square

14-16 High School Leadership Retreat

Calling all Seniors! Join us for a weekend get-away before your Senior year begins. We will build leadership skills, have devotions, and tons of fun. Come start your Senior year off on the right foot!

16 Youth Adults: Mentor Mission Training

5:00pm-7:00pm. Come learn and receive training to participate in a mentor program for children from our Hispanic Congregation. At Liz Coates' House: liz.coates.isandoro@gmail.com.

19 Wednesday Night Kick-Off PALOOZA! 5:45pm on the Front Lawn. Details on reverse.

23 Women's Ministry Breakfast

9:30am in the Banquet Hall. Join us for breakfast in the Banquet Hall as we hear about the upcoming women's events and studies, including an inspiring message from our Emporium Beneficiary and the reveal of our speaker for The Summit in January! No cost to attend!

Youth Discipleship & Sonlight Kick-off Event

3:00pm-8:30pm. All students, grades 6-12 are invited to come and enjoy a great afternoon of fun and adventure and just being together. We will go tubing down the Chestatee River in Helen and then go to Don Carter State Park for a cook-out dinner! Mark, Steve, Brenda, and Nathan will share exciting plans for the year. We will also enjoy swimming and hanging out at the beach area together!

28 Adults with Seniority: Lunch Bunch We will depart at 9:30am for the Blue Willow

30 Foster Care Awareness Day at FBC

9:00am-12:30pm. Visit the booth in education foyer! For anyone interested in learning more or being part of FBC's Foster Care Ministry. Free registration for a panel discussion and orientation (to be held Sept. 20) for this ministry will be available at the booth. Contact Liz Coates at liz.coates.isandoro@gmail.com.

Family Promise Host Week

August 30th - September 6th. Volunteers are needed to help with evening, overnight, and weekend shifts, as well as with meals. A great way to serve together in ministry with family and friends. Please contact Kim Kerrick at kjkerrick@hotmail.com or 770-519-7433 to learn more and to sign-up for orientation.

SUNDAY GIVING REPORT

June 7th, 2015

Weekly Required: \$57,465.00
Weekly Received: \$67,150.17
YTD Required: \$1,321,695.00
YTD Received: \$1,232,014.53
Deficit: \$89,680.47

June 14th, 2015

Weekly Required: \$57,465.00
Weekly Received: \$49,847.28
YTD Required: \$1,379,160.00
YTD Received: \$1,281,861.81
Deficit: \$97,298.19

June 21st, 2015

Weekly Required: \$57,465.00
Weekly Received: \$75,804.24
YTD Required: \$1,436,625.00
YTD Received: \$1,357,666.05
Deficit: \$78,958.95

June 29th, 2015

Weekly Required: \$57,465.00
Weekly Received: \$43,820.67
YTD Required: \$1,494,090.00
YTD Received: \$1,401,466.72
Deficit: \$92,623.28