

1st CONNECTIONS

visit www.fbcgainesville.org for more information!

Dear Church,

2016 will be a big year for me, for two reasons.

I was ordained by my home church in 1975 at age 20. By then I had been a student pastor of two small congregations since graduation from high school in the class of 1972. So this year will move me past forty years of ordination and will mark forty-four years of preaching and pastoral work. I've served only three churches since graduation from seminary; one pastorate for seven years, the next for twelve, and soon this one for eighteen.

Never did I dream at age 21 how my life would unfold in such surprising and adventurous ways. The only thing I was pretty sure of that April of 1976 was that Claire and I would marry in a few weeks. On May 30 we will celebrate forty years together. So, 2016 really is a big year in our lives.

The blessings have far outweighed the trials, the good has overwhelmed the bad. The grace and love shown to us by God and by countless others cannot be overstated. There have been a few enemies but a thousand times more friends; some deep sorrows but far more happiness.

What I'm saying is this: *LOVING, SERVING AND FOLLOWING THE GOD REVEALED IN JESUS IS FULL OF SURPRISE AND ADVENTURE -- AND FORGIVENESS AND SECOND CHANCES AND HEALING AND FRENZY AND REST AND VALIDATION AND AFFIRMATION AND SACRIFICE AND RENEWAL AND LIFE ABUNDANT. BY NOW I'VE LEARNED TO EXPECT NOTHING LESS IN THE YEAR AHEAD FOR MY LIFE -- AND FOR YOURS, AND FOR OURS.*

In faith, hope and a whole lot of love I say this.

Your friend and pastor,

Bill Coates



An Encore Evening with...
**JOHN
McDERMOTT**
Saturday, March 12th, 2016
7:00pm in the Sanctuary
Tickets: www.fbcgainesville.tix.com

THE
SUMMIT
with Lauren Winner
JANUARY 29TH & 30TH
www.fbcgainesville.org

Worship

8:30am in the Chapel, 10:50am in the Sanctuary
WATCH LIVE: fbcgainesville.org, LISTEN LIVE: 99.3FM

January 3rd

Second Sunday after Christmas

"He Dreamed of Saints"

OT: Jeremiah 31:7-14 NT: John 1:14-18

MUSIC MEDITATION: Come Share the Lord

Brooke Burt, Solo

OFFERTORY PRAISE: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Curtis Malcom, Violin; Mark Green, Piano

CHORAL WORSHIP: In the Name of Jesus

In Remembrance of Me

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

January 10th

The Baptism of Our Lord

First Sunday after the Epiphany

"When You Pass Through the Waters"

OT: Isaiah 43:1-7 NT: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

MUSIC MEDITATION: How Can I Keep from Singing?

Eliza Kate Leither, Guest Soloist

OFFERTORY PRAISE: Amazing Grace

Tami Easterday, Piano

CHORAL WORSHIP: A New Year Dawns w/ Grace & Hope

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

January 17th

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

"Why Would God Rejoice Over You?"

OT: Isaiah 62:1-5 NT: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 31a

MUSIC MEDITATION: Kim Abrams & Jeff Williams, Duet

OFFERTORY PRAISE: Gretchen Welch, Flute

CHORAL WORSHIP: Treasured Three: Faith, Hope & Love

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

January 24th

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

"From Praise to Fury"

OT: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 NT: Luke 4:14-30

MUSIC MEDITATION: Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Jeannine Callahan, Soloist with Choir & Orchestra

OFFERTORY PRAISE: Ancient Words

(10:50am) Exaltation! Orchestra

(8:30am) Amy Hulsey, Piano Solo

CHORAL WORSHIP: I Sing Because I'm Happy

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

January 31st

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

"What is a Calling?"

OT: Jeremiah 1:4-10 NT: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

MUSIC MEDITATION: Nothing Can Separate Us

Duet: Mark Green & Joy Green

OFFERTORY PRAISE: Elation

(10:50am) Sanctuary Ringers

(8:30am) Della Ruth Johnson, Organ

CHORAL WORSHIP: Jesus Loves Me

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

january

01 Church Offices Closed Happy New Year!

03 1st @ 1st Luncheon Churchwide lunch in the Banquet Hall after 10:50am Worship!

04 Men's Bible Study Resumes 7:30am in the Banquet Hall Lobby.

FLC: New Year, New You January 4th-28th. Kick start your fitness goals for 2016! Workout on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 5:45am and 6:00pm at the Family Life Center. \$45/FLC Members and \$65/Non-FLC Members.

06 Wednesday Night Activities Resume 5:00pm Dinner in the Banquet Hall. Children's Choirs and Missions, Students, Adult Bible Studies, and Sanctuary Choir. Learn about available Bible Studies at www.fbcgainesville.org.

ChapelTime Resumes 6:00pm in the Chapel.

Wednesday Night Walkers Moms, come walk together at the Family Life Center! 5:45pm-6:45pm during children's activities. Just show up!

09 Students: Saturday Serve Contact Brenda Thompson for more details! bthompsonok@hotmail.com.

10 Coffee Talk for Guests and Visitors 9:45am-10:35am in the Lobby outside of the Children's Wing in the main church building. Come learn more about First Baptist!

Sonlight Choir Resumes We'll meet every Sunday in January!

11 Estes-Dozier Mission Meeting 10:15am in the Parlor. Our guest speaker will be Terri Armour, Program Director for Action Ministries Gainesville.

12 Ageless Grace: Timeless Fitness for the Mind + Body Tuesdays from 10:00am-10:45am at the Family Life Center. January 12th - February 16th. This seated exercise class focuses on safe and effective movements that help with joint mobility, brain coordination, bone density, balance, and fall prevention. Great for senior adults! Walkers and wheelchairs are welcome! FREE to Silver Sneakers members or \$5. Call the FLC at 770-535-0478 to RSVP.

Training for Reading Mentors 4:00pm-6:00pm in the Family Life Center Arts and Crafts Room. We are partnering with Center Point to provide reading mentors for pre-K and kindergarten students who are active in our Promising Futures program. Dr. Rhonda Hayes, Growing Readers Consultant with Pioneer RESA, will train us and Center Point's Director of Mentoring will provide orientation for this strategic volunteer opportunity. We will work to bring students up to grade level performance so that they can be engaged and successful students throughout their school years. Please contact Rev. Ruth Demby for more information at ruth.demby@gmail.com.

21 Young Adults: Theology on Tap 6:30pm at Downtown Drafts on the square.

22 Adults with Seniority: Lunch Bunch We will view "War Room" the movie at 9:00am at the church and have lunch at Longhorn Steakhouse.

22-24 Students: Ski Trip For all High School students. Register at www.fbcgainesville.org!

24 Faith Commitment/New Christians Class for Children January 24th & 31st. For children who have been baptized recently or other children who may be asking questions about what it means to be a Christian. We will explore together what it means to be a Christian, as part of a special class during the Sunday School hour. RSVP to Kara by Sunday, January 17.

29-30 The SUMMIT: Women's Weekend We will gather in the Banquet Hall on Friday, January 29 at 6:30pm and again Saturday morning at 9:00am to hear from our featured speaker, **Dr. Lauren Winner**. An Episcopal priest, an Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke Divinity School, and author of several award winning books, Dr. Winner will lead us through her latest work **Wearing God**. She invites us to widen our vocabulary and imaginations when we think and speak about God so we might experience God in new ways. Register at www.fbcgainesville.org! \$25.

31-07 Family Promise Host Week January 31st - February 7th. Family Promise is a community mission that assists homeless children and their families. We host children and their parents for one week four times per year right here at First Baptist. To help, please contact Kim Kerrick at 770-519-7433.

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY

- 06 English as a 2nd Language Training
- 07 Children's Sports Team Day
1st @ 1st Luncheon
- 10 Ash Wednesday Service
- 13 English as a 2nd Language Training
Green Street String Quartet Concert
- 17 Noon Lenten Service
- 18 Young Adults: Theology on Tap
- 19 Adults w/ Seniority: Lunch Bunch
- 19-20 Religion for the 21st Century
- 21 Children: Bible Skills
Deacons Meeting
- 23 Young Adult House Group Begins
- 27 Northwinds Symphonic Band Concert
- 21 Children: Bible Skills

FBC would like to express our deepest sympathy to the following:

Betsy Clausen death of her husband
Chuck Clausen

Family and Friends in the death of
Peggy Daughtry

Bennett & Noel Yell death of their grandson
Nicholas James Scott

Family and Friends in the death of
Frances Bray

Jojo Thomas in the death of his father
Grover Thomas

Phillip Sartain and Family in the death of his mother
Carolyn Sartain

Family and Friends in the death of
Willie Glover

Amy LeBlanc in the death of her grandfather
Bennett Howell

Debbie Shumake in the death of her mother
Melba Jean Trapp

Henry and Jerry Ward in the death of their brother/cousin
Harry Ward

April Wood in the death of her grandmother
Evelyn Lucille Thompson Cassity

SUNDAY GIFTS

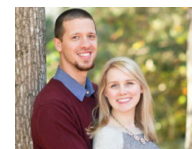
Nov 29th, 2015	Dec 13th, 2015
Wkly Req: \$57,465.00	Wkly Req: \$57,465.00
Wkly Rec: \$55,240.35	Wkly Rec: \$68,495.50
Yr Req: \$2,758,320.00	Yr Req: \$2,873,250.00
Yr Rec: \$2,576,021.76	Yr Rec: \$2,714,448.29
Deficit: \$-182,298.24	Deficit \$-158,801.71
Dec 6th, 2015	Dec 20th, 2015
Wkly Req: \$57,465.00	Wkly Req: \$57,465.00
Wkly Rec: \$69,931.03	Wkly Rec: \$66,759.90
Yr Req: \$2,815,785.00	Yr Req: \$2,930,715.00
Yr Rec: \$2,645,952.79	Yr Rec: \$2,781,208.19
Deficit: \$-169,832.21	Deficit: \$-149,506.81

Welcome new Members!

ARIA PEDRY



DOUG CHEEK



SEAN & COURTNEY THOMAS