

FIRST FOCUS

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Preparing for a wedding today is a bit like a small conference. Invitations, dinners, engagement ceremonies, save the date cards, counseling, rehearsal, rehearsal dinner, reception. It's almost enough to make you forget that everything that happens before and after the wedding really count. Practice does not make for perfect marriages. Belief in Christ gives us the opportunity to practice what we believe with someone we love.

I don't go to many wedding rehearsals. My part is usually the easiest to work out. It's everyone else that needs the practice. But I do enjoy the conversations with couples before the ceremony. I call it pre-marital coaching (not counseling). Most people need counseling before they get engaged. After engagement, I help people prepare for Christ's role in their marriage. I help them prepare for the person they've committed to and to take the right steps in the first couple of years. Most marriages are made and broken after the ceremony is long past. Every day, we decide to say and show, "I love you."

It's no wonder then that Jesus chose the metaphor of a bride to describe the kind of relationship he wanted to have with believers. This is not the only one in the New Testament. There are many. We are friends (not slaves) of God; we relate to God the Father as his adopted sons and daughters; we are body parts of a larger body of Christ. The best one to describe life in a household, however, is still the bride. The Gospel of Matthew uses this image more than others. Through parables in Matthew, we are depicted as bridesmaids preparing (or not) for the arrival of the groom (Matthew 25). We are guests at a wedding party surprised (or not) at the other guests who are invited (Matthew 22). We don't fast while the bridegroom is around, but we celebrate (Matthew 9).

Jesus commits to us as his bride; we prepare for the great "marriage supper of the Lamb" in the future by practicing the relationship now. No matter who shares the roof over our heads or the neighborhood where we live, we show and demonstrate a different, albeit imperfect, lifestyle. We're not there to show others up. We're there to invite people to come to the rehearsal and practice with us. As a church, we are the school of discipleship training people what it means to be Jesus' bride. If necessary we go out to the highways and byways to invite them in, because we know, as Jesus knew, that most of the people who receive the first round of invitations have other things to do. We who were once guests of the bride and the groom know the power of the invitation and the joy of hospitality and welcome.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST STEP

Are you new to FBCTLH, or maybe you've been a regular attendee for the past few months? If so, please join us for our next "First Step" with Dr. Shiell to discuss what it means to be a member of our church family, and how to get plugged in here! We will meet THIS SUNDAY at 10:15AM in the welcome center. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Singletary (hannah@fbctlh.org).

FIRST LOVE

We hope you're ready to Love Tallahassee as we go out and serve in our community Saturday, October 25. The commissioning service begins at 8:30AM in the sanctuary. Please make sure to give yourself enough time to park, check in, and find your team. After a brief prayer and blessing, teams will proceed to their work site. Team leaders will be responsible for picking up lunches and beverages.

Wear your gray FBCTLH t-shirts to First Love! If you do not have one, you may pick one up for free anytime at our front desk, or when you check in on Saturday morning.

This week, we are collecting items needed for various projects during First Love. Please bring donations to the corresponding bins in the connect center by Friday, October 24. For the list of current needs, check out fbctlh.org/serve.

HAITI MISSION TRIP

This summer FBCTLH will send a mission team back to Gressier, Haiti. If you are interested in finding out more about this ministry and/or joining our team, then come to an info meeting in the Adams Basement on Sunday, November 2 immediately following the contemporary worship service. Free lunch will be provided, so please RSVP on Facebook (or e-mail josh@fbctlh.org). Childcare will also be available.

2015 BUDGET

We will vote on the proposed 2015 budget in both worship services on Sunday, November 9. A discussion on the proposed budget will be Sunday, November 2 at 6:00PM in the sanctuary. Please mark your calendars to be there for this important piece of business in the life of our church family! You can find copies of the proposed budget in the connect center.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options
10:15AM First Step, Welcome Center
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary
3:00PM GriefShare, Adams 301
4:00PM American Sign Language Class, Conference Room

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room
6:00PM Deacons Meeting, Fellowship Hall
6:30PM Newlywed Seminar, Cooke Home

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1st Floor
6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:30AM Women's Bible Study, Gardner Home
11:00AM Senior Ladies' Bible Study, Large Meeting Room
4:45PM Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall
6:00PM Childcare, Duval 1st Floor
6:00PM Children's Music & Missions, Duval 2nd Floor
6:00PM Youth Choir, Adams 211
6:00PM Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary
6:00PM DivorceCare, Adams 315
6:00PM Women's Bible Study, Adams 301
6:45PM RAs and GAs, Duval 2nd Floor
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2nd Floor
7:00PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201
7:00PM Chamber Players Rehearsal, Adams 200
7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:15PM Young Adults Veritas, Adams 317

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

9:00AM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1st Floor
9:30AM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201
5:30PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200
5:30PM First Love Committee, Conference Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:30AM First Love

FIRST FOCUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When you think about it, it's easy in church today to be caught up in so many events, classes, programs, ceremonies, and plans that we forget what we're really here to do. We share the mission of the Bridegroom with the world, and most of us need a lot of practice. How we share that mission and what we do once we've accepted Christ's invitation make all the difference. It's time for the rehearsal.



COMING SOON

SENIOR ADULTS

You are cordially invited to our Fall Senior Adult Luncheon on Monday, November 3, at 12:00PM. We're trying out Monday instead of Friday this month, so re-program your thinking! The program will be music and testimony by Bill and Kelly Shiell and you won't want to miss this opportunity to get better acquainted with our pastor and his wife. Our meal will be the fabulous Thanksgiving luncheon Laurinda Norris is famous for! Begin your celebration of the season of gratitude in a special way with this wonderful time of food and fellowship. Call Lenoir Brewer (x201), or sign up in your SMBS class to secure your reservation. Cost for the luncheon is \$5.

During our Heritage Sunday worship service at 9:00AM on November 9, special recognition will be given to our Golden Members. If you have been a member of FBCTLH since 1964, or you have a cumulative total of 50 years membership, and your name is not listed below, please contact Vicki (x141).

- Maurice & Nell Barineau
- Bill & Betty Gardner
- Jerry Haywood
- Elna Sapp

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of October, we will join the Children's Home in collecting **small backpack items**, such as Chapstick, hand sanitizers, tissue packs, journals/pens, and hairbrushes/combs. Collection bins are in the College Avenue foyer, the welcome center, by the elevator on the first floor of the Adams building, and in the main office.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the fbctlh.org/Serve page for more ways to get involved now in serving in and through FBCTLH.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301
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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
TALLAHASSEE
FLORIDA

THE VISION NEWSLETTER

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For submissions, address corrections, or to unsubscribe, contact x132 or hello@fbctlh.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Vision, 108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

SERVICE RECORDINGS

fbctlh.org/sermons

Our Traditional Worship service is broadcast on Comcast Channel 21 at 11:00AM each Sunday.

Contact x215 or lee@fbctlh.org with questions.

If you are homebound and would like to be on our mailing list to receive a free DVD of our worship services each week, please contact x201 or lenoir@fbctlh.org. All other requests are \$5, and can be made at the front desk or online at fbctlh.org/contact.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

October 22 - Fried or baked chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad bar, biscuit, and banana pudding
**for kids: hamburger or hot dog with chips*

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$2,125,591
Receipts 10/12: \$55,579
YTD receipts: \$2,040,655

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Jeff Butts

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Richard Duley
- 10AM Harold Brock
- 11AM James Craig

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 19

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM Jeff Crew
- 11AM Keith Burnsed

Wednesday, October 22

- 6PM Wayne Connor

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP	9:00AM
BIBLE STUDY	10:00AM
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	11:15AM

LIVING IN A COVENANT WITH JESUS

Matthew 19:1-12