

FIRST FOCUS

UPDATE FROM ISRAEL AND JORDAN

Thank you for praying for us and our families while we've been in Israel and Jordan. I am grateful to our staff for covering bases for Rhonda and me. We've had a great trip, and we are looking forward to seeing you next Sunday. Based on the weather reports, we've stayed much warmer over here than those in Tallahassee.

Trips are always full of surprises, but this one has been especially meaningful. We've not only shared wonderful Bible studies as we've toured these lands, but we've also had opportunities to share the gospel when we've least expected it.



Approximately 5-10% of the population is Christian. Over 1.5 million Syrian refugees are here. Two-thirds of them have housing; 500,000 live in tents and camps supplied by the U.N.

Our guide in Jordan is an evangelical Christian. One of our guide's friends has started a church about seven miles from Madaba in a Christian village. When he arrived, he prayed for people to come; but most of the Christians did not trust each other. As the Syrian refugee crisis unfolded, he realized he had an opportunity. He opened his doors to these refugees, who are primarily Muslim, on Thursday nights. They chose this night for their own safety. The pastor ministers to the needy, provides food, hospitality, and shelter, and teaches a Bible study. He uses the book of Job for the study because Muslims recognize him from the Koran. As our guide told me, "My friend prayed for people to come, and the Lord has sent them."

At a store that sells hand-made mosaics, I had tea with our guide, the bus driver, and the police officer that accompanies our group. The driver and officer are Muslim. The officer saw a hand-painted ostrich egg depicting a crucified Jesus. Many Muslims know about Jesus. He's mentioned in the Koran, but they don't understand the crucifixion. The officer grabbed the egg and asked what the picture meant. Our guide shared the story of Jesus, and I had the opportunity to explain to him the Good Friday and Easter celebrations we observe as Christians. The officer mentioned that Muslims had just finished celebrating their own Festival of Sacrifice, commemorating Abraham's attempted sacrifice of his son, called "Eid Al-Adha." I explained the differences between this sacrifice and the one that Jesus' offered for our sins.

We never know what will become of experiences like these. Certainly Jordanian Christians have many opportunities. Please pray for those we have met like this police officer that God will continue to meet them along the way. He's certainly met us in so many fascinating places.

On Wednesday night, February 5, I plan to share some of the sights and stories of our trip in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. I hope you will join us.

Bill

THIS WEEK

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women of all ages are welcome to join us for *Clothed with Power*, a 6-Week Bible study by Jennifer Kennedy Dean! We will meet each Wednesday at 9:15AM, led by Patsy Faircloth, in Betty Gardner's home beginning February 5. Participant books are \$10.

DRAMA AUDITIONS

Auditions for *The Living Last Supper* will be held on Wednesday, February 5 from 7:00-8:00PM and on Sunday, February 9 from 12:00-1:30PM. *The Living Last Supper* will be presented the evening of Thursday, April 17. The cast calls for 13 men of varying ages. For more information please call the Music office (x201).

FAITH, FOOD, FRIDAY

Dr. Shiell and the rest of The God Squad continues this Faith, Food, Friday season with "When Religion Becomes Violent" on February 7. The special guest will be Dr. Parvez Ahmed from the University of North Florida. The program is from 12:00-1:00PM at Temple Israel (2215 Mahan Drive), with lunch available beginning at 11:30. It will be moderated by Rabbi Jack Romberg of Temple Israel. All Faith, Food, Friday forums are free and open to the public. Lunch is available for \$8 if you RSVP by Tuesday, February 4, and \$10 with a late reservation or at the door – all lunches are paid cash or check at the door. You may also bring a brown bag lunch. For a menu, email fff@tothevillagesquare.org, or call 590-6646.

CONNECTIONS WEEKEND

GET READY - Connections Weekend begins this Friday, February 7. This event is open to the entire community, and we will focus this year on what it means to live for Christ and love Tallahassee. Through our guest speaker, Matt Reynolds, and through a variety of breakout sessions from our own church members, we will explore what it means to live a missional lifestyle where you live, work, and play. YOU are the missionary, YOU are the Church, and YOU are on a mission from God! Register now and get more info at fbctlh.org/connections.

CONNECTIONS WEEKEND RESOURCES

We have put together a small group of reading materials that may be helpful in preparation for this year's Connections Weekend. If you would like to purchase any of these books, you may do so at the front desk. All are available on Kindle as well. For more info, check out the display in the Connect Center.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options
10:15AM New Member Brunch, Fellowship Hall
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary
12:30PM College Mission Trip Meeting, Adams Basement

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room
10:30AM First Joy Choir, Chason 2201

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 2nd Floor
6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

4:45PM Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall
5:00PM Youth Snack Rack, CLC 2nd Floor
6:00PM Childcare, Duval 1st Floor
6:00PM Children's Choir, Duval 2nd Floor
6:00PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, Adams 211
6:00PM First Ladies' Bible Study, Adams 301
6:00PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study, Sanctuary
6:45PM RAs and GAs, Duval 2nd Floor
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2nd Floor
7:00PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201
7:00PM Chamber Players Rehearsal, Adams 201
7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:15PM Young Adults Veritas, Adams 317

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:00AM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 2nd Floor
9:30AM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201
5:30PM First Brass, Adams 200

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

5:30-9:00PM Connections Weekend

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:00AM-2:30PM Connections Weekend

COMING SOON

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary on a Sunday morning in honor or in memory of a loved one or a special event, please let us know using the flower calendar in the Adams foyer (on the first floor, on the right as you exit the organ-side of the sanctuary). There are many weeks still available in 2014, so reserve your spot now. For more information, contact Lenoir (x201 or lenoir@fbctlh.org).

YOUTH CHOIR DESSERT THEATRE

Dessert Theatre 2014 is coming! Our show, *WFBC: On the Radio*, will be held in the CLC 2nd Floor youth room. The show times are Friday, February 14 at 7:30PM; Saturday, February 15 at 7:30PM; and Sunday, February 16 at 2:00PM. There will be a love offering taken at each show to help offset the cost of the 2014 Youth Choir Mission Trip. There are only 100 seats per performance, and you will need a ticket to enter, but tickets are free and are now available in the Welcome Center each Wednesday and Sunday.

WOMEN ON MISSION

All ladies are invited to join us for the WMU/WOM February Mission Project; all groups will meet together this month.

When: Tuesday, February 11, 9:30-11:0AM

Where: Library at the Florida Baptist Children's Home (8415 Buck Lake Road)

We will be making Valentine goodie bags for the residents and hearing an update from an FBCH staff member. All supplies will be furnished for the bags. Call Beckie Maynard (539-5079) if you need additional information. If you would like to ride the church bus, call Linda Wheeler (877-4839).

SENIOR ADULTS

Join in the *February Festivities: Food, Fellowship, and Friends* - Friday, February 21, in the fellowship hall. Our luncheon will feature the FBC Chordsmen, and is still just \$5 per person. Please invite a *friend* to join you; reservations are required. Sign up in your SMBS class or call Kathy Lambert (x141).

YOUTH

- Disciple Now Weekend is February 27 – March 2! Total cost is \$55 but will increase to \$65 after this Sunday
- Release Forms for 2014 are needed for all youth. Find them in the Connect Center and online at: fbctlh.org/youth

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of February, we will join the Children's Home in collecting **personal care items**, such as shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, and body lotion. 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 new 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
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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

February 5 - veggie bar: macaroni & cheese, fried okra, peas, steamed cabbage, corn muffin, salad bar, and dessert

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$207,375
Receipts 1/26: \$40,177
YTD receipts: \$145,185

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Bob Snyder

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Charlie Silcox
- 10AM Bill Smith
- 11AM Roy Story

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 2

- 8AM Jim Wheeler
- 10AM Jeff Crew
- 11AM Lorne Shackelford

Wednesday, February 5

- 6PM Wayne Connor

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

LIVE

SENT

Matthew 10:5-15