

# FIRST FOCUS

## **LEARNING FROM THE KRANKS**

Luther and Nora Kranks are religious empty nesters featured in John Grisham's novel *Skipping Christmas*. With their daughter Blair safely away on a Peace Corps mission to Peru, the Kranks decide to give themselves a Christmas gift. Normally, they host an annual Christmas Eve neighborhood gathering. People have come to count on it in this suburban land of fake smiles and friendly competition to see who can have the gaudiest Christmas décor. As a gift to themselves and an insult to their neighbors, the Kranks decide to forego their annual neighborhood Christmas Eve gathering and go on a cruise.

When Blair calls to announce her recent engagement to a Peruvian man named Enrique, their world is turned upside down. She wants to bring her fiancé home for Christmas and introduce him to the family and the neighbors. As Grisham writes, "With each new assault on the right to do as he pleased, Luther was more determined to ignore Christmas." But Christmas would not permit him to be absent.

Grisham, among many other noble qualities, is a lifelong Baptist. He gets people like us, especially religious ones, who think that most of our lives come down to our privatized choices to do whatever we please and ignore our calling in community. We do so at our own peril. We can't go it alone; in fact, we were never created that way. We were created to share community together.

The writer understands that transformation happens in the midst of crisis, when we actually need the people we're trying to avoid. Despite Krank's best attempt to forego his community, they rally to support him. In crisis mode, he's injured trying to create the false impression that he was always going to be home for the holidays. The neighbors he normally resents serve him, and the competitors cooperate to provide an annual celebration that can only look like the real meaning of family.

The birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ confront the uniquely American Christian perception that we can do whatever we want. It sends us on the common Way to live the message of Easter and Christmas through the humidity of Summer with friends, co-workers, neighbors, roommates, and church members. We show, despite our best efforts to the contrary, what it means to be the bride of Christ.

Luther and Nora discover that the great present came from the gift of community. Grisham writes, "When they were alone in the living room,... Luther and Nora shared a few quiet moments by the fire....They were touched beyond words by the unity of their neighbors." This kind of love is enough to change even religious hearts into a binding relationship with others in Christ.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill".

# THIS WEEK

## CHILDREN'S FUNIVERSITY

Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30PM this summer for Arts in Action as we learn more about the Bible stories of "David vs. Goliath" and "Jesus Calming the Storm" through art, dance, drama, and music. For more information, contact Rhonda (rhonda@fbctlh.org).

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Collide returns this week! Join us for "The Good Life" on Wednesdays this summer. People sometimes seem to see the book of Proverbs as a candy-like a quick, tasty treat. But there is a chewy nougat of wisdom inside every verse that can provide a full, spiritual meal. This summer we are going to unwrap several lessons that will lead you to a diet of spiritual health that will help you have a better life.

Every week after Collide, there will be a special fellowship activity! Make sure to join us!

- July 2 - Heart | Crenshaw Bowling (FREE)
- July 9 - Choices | Burger Fi (\$10)
- July 16 - Friendship | IMAX Theater to see "The Amazing Spiderman" in 3D (\$10)
- July 23 - Words | Dodgeball and pizza - bring your outfit and A-game! (FREE)
- July 30 - Wealth | Buffalo Wild Wings (\$10)
- August 6 - Addiction | Barberitos Burritos (\$10)
- August 13 - Wisdom | Red Elephant (\$10)

## SINGERS WANTED

Out of school for the summer? In between projects? Looking for a new challenge? Come sing with the Sanctuary Choir for the summer! We'll be on a lighter rehearsal schedule and with many regulars out on vacation, we could use your help! We rehearse Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM in Chason 2201. We would love to add your voice to our song!

## YOUNG ADULT GUYS

Hey fellas, do you have plans for lunch? You do now! Join other guys-single and married-as we get together for lunch at 11:30AM on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. This is a great time to invite a friend or a coworker! Our next lunch is Wednesday, July 2 at Five Guys Burgers and Fries (1872 Thomasville Road). See you then!

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JUNE 29

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor  
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options  
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary  
2:30PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal, Adams 211  
4:30PM Builders for Christ Meeting, Chason 2201

### MONDAY, JUNE 30

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room  
10:30AM First Joy Choir, Singing Out

### TUESDAY, JULY 1

6:00PM Property Committee, Conference Room

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

11:00AM Senior Ladies' Bible Study, Large Meeting Room  
4:45PM Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall  
6:00PM Childcare, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Children's FUNiversity, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study, Sanctuary  
6:00PM DivorceCare, Adams 315  
6:45PM RAs and GAs, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00PM Sanctuary 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, JULY 3

5:30PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200

### FRIDAY, JULY 4

Church office closed for Independence Day

### SATURDAY, JULY 5

9:00AM CLC Gym - open until 1:00PM

# COMING SOON

## SINGLE ADULTS

All single adults (40+) are invited to join us for our summer In-Home Sunday Night Talk Series! Facilitated by Jenna Young (jenna@fbctlh.org), we are reading "The Art of Neighboring" by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. Our next meeting will be July 13 at the home of Virginia Glass from 5:00 until 7:00PM. Our dinner theme this month is salad and veggies! Please RSVP to Vicki (vicki@fbctlh.org) if you're coming, and for directions.

## FIRST LADIES SUMMER SUPPERS

It's that time again! Ladies of all ages are invited to join us for our annual First Ladies "Summer Suppers"—mark your calendars for the second Monday of each summer month. Our next gathering is on July 14 at 6:30PM at Hopkins Eatery (1415 Market Street). Our "Summer Suppers" are relaxed, Dutch-treat gatherings for the purpose of fun and fellowship, seeing old friends, and making new ones—the perfect time to invite a friend or neighbor! No reservations are needed. Arrive when you can and leave when you need to. Join us for good food, laughter, a word of encouragement, and door prizes! Please contact Barbara Corven (bcorven@corveneng.com or 850.422.2902) if you have questions.

Dear First Baptist Church,

*On behalf of St. John's Episcopal Church, I'd like to thank you for partnering with us for A FULL SUMMER. It was a pleasure to volunteer with you and your leader, Becky Liner, was a joy! Because of people like you, who show the love of Christ through their actions, we assembled 50,000 meals and contributed over \$2,500 to Second Harvest of the Big Bend. Our donations will make the difference in the lives of many children and their families this summer when the need is great, but the supply of food is low. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus said, "...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Thank you for helping "the least of these brothers and sisters" in Tallahassee and the Big Bend! St. John's wishes you all A FULL SUMMER!*

Sincerely,

Laurye Messer  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
Co-Chair, A FULL SUMMER

**SERVE**

## FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of July, we will join the Children's Home in collecting **everyday household items**, such as laundry detergent, dryer sheets, toilet paper, paper towels, and Clorox wipes. 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  
850.222.5470 (phone) | 850.681.0488 (fax)  
vol. 20 | issue no. 26 | week of June 29, 2014

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
TALLAHASSEE  
FLORIDA

#### THE VISION NEWSLETTER

The Vision (USPS 662-400) is published weekly, except for Independence Day and Christmas, by First Baptist Church, 108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Periodicals postage paid at Tallahassee, FL.

All submissions are subject to editorial revision. Deadline for submissions is 10 days before Sunday publishing date.

For submissions, address corrections, or to unsubscribe, contact x132 or [hello@fbctlh.org](mailto:hello@fbctlh.org).

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

#### SERVICE RECORDINGS

[fbctlh.org/sermons](http://fbctlh.org/sermons)

Our Traditional Worship service is broadcast on Comcast Channel 21 at 11:00AM each Sunday. Contact x215 or [lee@fbctlh.org](mailto: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](mailto:lenoir@fbctlh.org). All other requests are \$5, and can be made at the front desk or online at [fbctlh.org/contact](http://fbctlh.org/contact).

#### FELLOWSHIP MEAL

July 2 - Country-fried steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuit, salad bar, and dessert

#### FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$1,296,092  
Receipts 6/22: \$35,607  
YTD receipts: \$1,249,444

#### DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – John Corven

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Phil Cooper
- 10AM Jim Cooke
- 11AM Carl Monson

#### SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 29

- 8AM Steve Williams
- 10AM Jim Croushorn
- 11AM Art Pitts

Wednesday, July 2

- 6PM Roy Story

## TRADITIONAL WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:00AM  
10:00AM  
11:15AM

# *The Fellowship of the Trinity*

Matthew 28:16-20