

FIRST FOCUS

A NEW CHAPTER

The New Year offers us a chance to write a new chapter in the story that God is telling through our lives. We don't try to start over as if we have a blank slate or try to undo the past. Instead, with the breath of God's spirit and the gift of his mercy, we turn to God and proclaim his presence in our midst.

This month we're studying Ezekiel to guide our church as we begin a new chapter together. Ezekiel knew that three things had to change in himself and the people in order for God to move—the mind, heart, and will. They had assumed that their old leaders back home in Jerusalem were the source of their problems. They stopped listening to God and each other. They talked past one another trying to return to a world that would no longer exist and blamed previous generations for their problems. They met with Ezekiel with pre-set goals and objectives that did not fit the community that God had in mind for Nippur.

Ezekiel gave them a vision for God to open their minds, challenging their assumptions. Each person was responsible for his own actions. God transplanted their hearts, changing their stony stubbornness into hearts of flesh listening to him and each other. He made them vulnerable to each other so they could listen to the prophet and plan together. The people changed their will. They stopped behaving the way they lived in Jerusalem and obeyed God in the new place he had planted them. They surrendered their preconceived goals and objectives and saw God's vision by retelling and sharing his word.

In their book, *Leading from the Emerging Future*, Otto Scharmer and Katrin Kaufer write that an openness of mind, heart, and will transforms relationships among people. When these open, relationships are reconciled, lives are renewed, and communities are changed. Changing lives is all about transforming relationships—to God and each other. This year, God has planted you in Tallahassee just as the residents of Jerusalem found themselves planted in Nippur. The people, institutions, schools, jobs, and families we have today are gifts from God to us. These places and people are our mission. Is your mind, heart, and will open for God to use you to transform these relationships? Keep reading Ezekiel.



THIS WEEK

DEACON ORDINATION

We hope you will join us for a special service of ordination and installation for new deacons - this Sunday, January 11, at 6:00PM in the sanctuary. Childcare will be provided.

WOMEN ON MISSION

All WMU/WOM groups will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at 9:30AM. For more information, please contact coordinator, Donna Heald (dheald@gmail.com).

- Group 1 - Patsy Faircloth's house. The program will be a speaker from the FSU Young Parent's Program
- Group 2 - Visit Teen Challenge program. Meet at Lake Ella to ride the church bus.
- Group 3 - Westminster Oaks Pool House. Make pillows for breast cancer patients.

MENTORS NEEDED

Our partners at Sabal Palm Elementary School are in need of at least 15 new mentors for the rest of this school year. Children already have paperwork completed and are waiting on us to share love, commitment, and learning experiences with them. Please prayerfully consider giving one hour each week in this way, and encourage your friends and family to do the same!

Anyone who would like to become a mentor should fill out the Mentor Volunteer Form online at leonschools.net. The next step would be to attend one of the following mandatory training sessions:

- January 14 1:00–3:00PM
- January 21 10:00AM–12:00PM

For more information, contact Rhonda (rhonda@fbctlh.org).

Sanctuary Flowers

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).

Reserve your spot now.

For more information, contact Lenoir (x201 or lenoir@fbctlh.org).

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary
3:00PM GriefShare, Adams 301
4:00PM New Deacon Orientation
6:00PM Deacon Ordination

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

9:30AM Women on Mission Groups meet
6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1st Floor
6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

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 Prayer and Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
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 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, JANUARY 15

5:30PM First Brass Rehearsal, Adams 200

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00AM-1:00PM CLC Open

COMING SOON

FIRST STEP

Are you new to FBCTLH, or maybe you've been a regular attender 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 next Sunday, January 18, at 10:15AM in the welcome center. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Singletary (hannah@fbctlh.org).

YOUTH CHOIR REUNION

Save the date: the Reunion Youth Choir will give a concert next Sunday evening, January 18, at 6:00PM in the sanctuary. The choir will be made up of choir members past and present who will be singing some of their favorite youth choir anthems. A love offering will be taken to offset the cost of this year's Youth Choir Mission Trip to New Orleans, LA.

LIFE GROUPS: EQUIP

Life Groups at FBCTLH are "church where life happens" for our members who have a common place, pursuit, or phase of life with those outside our campus. Based on the life of the early church in Acts 2:41-47, we want everyone to be a part of one group that gathers off site with an outward focus that sees organic growth. Anyone who is interested in being in a Life Group should register to join us for a training session January 31 from 1:00 until 6:00PM - online at fbctlh.org/lifegroups or by using the form available in the connect center.

CONNECTIONS WEEKEND

We hope you are able to join us for 2015's Connections Weekend. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Scot McKnight, a world-renowned speaker, writer, professor, and equipper of the Church. He is a recognized authority on the historical Jesus, early Christianity, and the New Testament. Mark your calendars for February 6-8 for a weekend of main sessions and breakouts on how the gospel affects different parts of your life. Registration now, online or in person. Check out fbctlh.org/connections for more information.

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of January, we will join the Children's Home in collecting **warm winter socks** - all sizes for boys and girls, ages 5 through 18. 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

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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.

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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

January 14 - Spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, steamed broccoli, garlic toast, salad bar, and dessert

**for kids: hot dog or hamburger with chips*

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Charles Maynard

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Richard Lee
- 10AM Tom Link
- 11AM Erik Eikeland

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 11

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM Lyle Ragans
- 11AM Erik Eikeland

Wednesday, January 14

- 6PM Charles Maynard

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

THE SOVEREIGN GARDENER

Ezekiel 18:25-32