

FIRST FOCUS

EYEWITNESS

Jesus was under surveillance during the last week of his life. So many people watched, but few followed. Each one was an eyewitness to Jesus' last hours, but few obeyed him. One betrayed him, another denied him, several plotted to arrest him, several ran away, but only two responded publicly to his work.

For instance, an unnamed woman interrupts a dinner party with a beautiful performance. She pours perfume on Jesus, anointing his body, and becomes the greatest evangelist of the Gospel—without saying a word. A centurion, member of the ruthless Roman military, testifies publicly that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. By contrast, the disciples closest to Jesus run away. An unnamed disciple in Gethsemane flees when Jesus is arrested; one of the twelve named Judas betrays him. Peter, the lead apostle, denies Jesus. The women at the tomb run away in fright.

According to Mark 14-16, eyewitnesses had four reactions to Jesus: watch, oppose, flee, or follow. Two unnamed eyewitnesses—the anointing woman and the centurion—get it right. The disciples—the ones who were supposed to be following Jesus—fail miserably. As David Rhoads suggests, the problem with the disciples is not that they were against Jesus. At the cross, they just weren't really for him either. They had somehow watched, gone out on mission, healed, and taught. In the end, they were still trying to decide if they were all in for the "Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Lent reminds us how vulnerable we are, and humble we must be, as Jesus' followers. Even the presumed best among us have deep flaws. Lent offers us a season to examine our lives as disciples. We realize that once we've agreed to follow Jesus, another round of testing begins. We would not dare to oppose Jesus, but are we all in for Jesus? Are we willing to "deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, follow him?" That's the invitation Jesus gives us at Lent.

As we follow, we realize that disciples like you and I bring a mixed bag of success and failure to the cross. Jesus forgives it all and pays for everything. Then he rises again, sending us back to our Galilee—Tallahassee—where he sees us forgiven, alive, and reborn. In worship in the season of Lent, we'll focus on the eyewitnesses of Jesus' life. These characters can be like microscopes for our lives. By looking through them, we are able to see our hearts and behavior better. We take our spiritual heroes off the spiritual pedestals and look to Jesus for guidance. We learn to use patience with fellow stragglers along the journey. As we do, we remember that just on the other side of the empty tomb, the crucified and risen Lord can't stop watching us.

Join us each Sunday in Lent for these messages:

- March 1—A Beautiful Performance: The Anointer (Mark 14:1-9)
- March 8—Fleeing Disciple: The Fugitive (Mark 14:43-52)
- March 22—True Confessions: The Denier (Mark 14: 66-72)
- March 29—Eyewitness Testimony: The Soldier (Mark 15:33-47)
- April 5—Proclaiming The Crucified and Risen Jesus (Mark 16:1-8)



THIS WEEK

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

In today's technological age, wouldn't it be incredible to have an app designed to teach kids who God is? That is what the characters in our upcoming musical are setting out to create. But isn't knowing about God more than just reading information about Him? Come join the FBCTLH 1st-5th Grade Children's Choir as they get scanned in, play games, and sing fun songs filled with the truth about the gospel and learn how they can truly know I AM. The musical "iAM" is happening this Sunday, March 1, at 6:00PM in the sanctuary! You don't want to miss it!

FAITH, FOOD, FRIDAY

With faith (or lack thereof) used too often as a political tool, the public square could probably stand a change of pace. Whoever you are, whatever your beliefs, bring an open mind, an open heart (and an appetite) for what we hope will be a continuing conversation that defies the biases we seem to have against each other. Join us in the fellowship hall on March 6 as the Faith, Food, Friday season continues by exploring the question of whether God has a sense of humor.

Check out fbctlh.org/faith-food-friday to RSVP and get more information.

Stewardship Testimony

I came to First Baptist in 2008 as quite the timid freshman, and this church has been instrumental in helping me "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18) I have had the immense privilege of participating in many areas of ministry at First Baptist: from college to young adults, music, youth and children's ministries. I have witnessed how this church utilizes their resources to glorify God in ways that are both seen and unseen. I am happy to give not only because of the default, yet accurate, Sunday school answer: "because the Bible tells me so" but to give back in a small way to this church what I have been given. Even though I am now in my last semester as a 'poor' grad student, I am an immensely blessed steward of the King who seeks to use what she has been given temporary custody of for His glory.

--Claire Aguda

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

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
6:00PM Children's Choir Musical, Sanctuary

MONDAY, MARCH 2

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Connect Center
10:30AM First Joy Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

5:00PM Upward Closing Ceremony, Sanctuary
6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1st Floor
6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

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 Moms Connect, Adams Basement
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, MARCH 5

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

12:00PM Faith, Food, Friday; Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

COMING SOON

YOUTH CHOIR DESSERT THEATRE

Each year, our Youth Choir presents a musical revue called Dessert Theatre. This year's show is "At the Movies" and is filled with solos, duets, ensembles, and dance numbers from movies across the generations. Please mark your calendars and join us Sunday afternoon, March 8, at 2:30PM in the CLC Gym (3rd Floor). The doors will open at 2:00PM.

The purpose of the show is to allow youth to have fun performing various musical numbers and to raise money to offset the cost of their annual Mission Trip. An offering will be taken, and you should also come prepared to bid on some excellent desserts donated by our FBCTLH family!

WOMEN ON MISSION

All WMU/WOM groups will meet on Tuesday, March 10, in the fellowship hall in observance of North American Missions Week of Prayer. A brunch will be served at no cost. The program will be an introduction to the WMU National Focus on PTSD. The brunch is open to all ladies of the church. Please contact Donna Heald (224.3940 or dheadlth@centurylink.net) or a WOM group leader for more information.

CHURCH WORK DAY

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 21, for our "Helping Hands" work day around FBCTLH. We will need many hands to help clean up our campus and facilities so that we can be good stewards of our resources! There is something for everyone to do, from gardening/yard work to dusting to painting. We will begin at 8:00AM (with coffee!) and work until 12:00PM. See you there!

EASTER 2015

Remember - Good Friday, April 3 // Spend some time remembering what Jesus Christ did for you on this day. Our sanctuary is open from 11:00AM until 5:00PM, and all are welcome to drop in and stay as long as you need for a time of personal reflection. We will provide a printed guide containing scripture, devotions, and prayer. You will also have the opportunity to take the Lord's Supper.

Last Words from the Cross - Good Friday, April 3 // Last words are very significant. Jesus spoke seven times from the cross; each "word" bears a vital message for His followers. This Good Friday, we will meditate together on Christ's words through scripture, reflection, and song. Invite your friends and join us at 7:00PM in the sanctuary.

Family Easter Celebration - Saturday, April 4 // Each year on the Saturday before Easter Sunday, we encourage families to consider the true meaning of Easter in a fun environment with a variety of crafts, games, and activities. We will meet from 10:30AM until 12:00PM in the CLC Gym.

Easter - Sunday, April 5 // Invite your friends and family to celebrate the risen Lord during our regular worship schedule: Traditional Worship at 9:00AM, Bible Study at 10:00AM, and Contemporary Worship at 11:15AM. We will also host our college students for lunch in the fellowship hall at 12:30PM.

SERVE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

VBS this year will be June 15-19. We need a lot of people from our church family who are able to lead groups of children, teach Bible stories, or lead recreation. Mark your calendars now and be praying about how you can be involved! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rhonda (rhonda@fbctlh.org or x510).

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of March, we will join the Children's Home in collecting **toilet paper**. 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.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

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PERIODICALS
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THE VISION NEWSLETTER

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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

March 4 - Fried catfish, cheese grits, green beans, corn muffins, coleslaw, salad bar, and dessert

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$452,229
Receipts 02/22: \$43,665
YTD receipts: \$319,887

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Tim Barry

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Terry Baker
- 10AM Harold Brock
- 11AM

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 1

- 8AM Lorne Shackelford
- 10AM Jeff Crew
- 11AM Keith Burnsed

Wednesday, March 4

- 6PM Wayne Connor

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

A BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE: THE ANOINTER

Mark 14:1-9