

# FIRST FOCUS

## **DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS**

First Peter 3:15 says, “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you and accounting for the hope that is in you.” But how do we prepare for those times? At some point or another, we engage in conversations—and even interrogation—about our faith in Christ and the beliefs that are distinctive to Baptists. Jesus tells us to avoid rehearsing answers to hypothetical test questions. Instead, we are to follow him in every aspect of life, trusting that we’ll know what to say and when to say it, if we need to say anything at all.

Beginning March 25, I want to invite you to a new Wednesday night Bible study series entitled, “Calm, Ready, and Unrehearsed: Difficult Conversations Christians Have.” We’ll be looking at Jesus’ instructions to his disciples in Luke 12:11-12, Luke 21:15, and 1 Peter 3:15. Difficult conversations are really pretty small compared to the trials that Jesus told us to expect. So how do we prepare the way Jesus taught us to? We’ll look at the examples of Mary, Zechariah’s neighbors, Jesus on trial before Herod, and two of Paul’s trials and then some living examples of how we have conversations on a variety of topics that are in the world today. We work on what we know, and we prepare in the same way that these examples in scripture prepared. By doing so, we actually gain peace, comfort, and endurance.

March 25: Calm, Ready, and Unrehearsed (Luke 12:11-12, Luke 21:15, and 1 Peter 3:15)  
*Jesus prepared his disciples to be arrested for the sake of his name but not to prepare a speech beforehand. So why would we not prepare answers in advance?*

April 1: A Silent Defense: Jesus on Trial before Herod (Luke 23:6-12)  
*Jesus gives us an example of what it means to remain silent when on trial and still get your point across. (We will meet in the fellowship hall tonight.)*

April 8: The Problem with Mouthing Off (Ephesians 4 and James 1)  
*Paul, James, and Jesus warn against the Christian problem of garrulousness: talking too much and too glibly. What are the dangers of mouthing off about things?*

April 15: The Wise Use of the Tongue (Proverbs 10:18-11:31)  
*Proverbs offers basic instruction about the wise use of the tongue.*

April 22: Storing away Treasures (Luke 1 and 2)  
*Mary and Zechariah offer two different models of living out Jesus’ instructions. We store all kinds of things in our hearts, but one gives us a treasure to draw upon later.*

April 29: Where we Are as a Church Body: A Report from the Strategic Planning Committee  
*Tonight, we’ll hear a report about the vision process of our church and the next steps as we discern God’s call over the next 3-5 years*

# THIS WEEK

## 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 this Sunday at 10:15AM in the welcome center. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Singletary (hannah@fbctlh.org).

## JOURNEYS OF PAUL

Dr. Shiell is planning a "Journeys of Paul" pilgrimage for late April 2016. An interest and informational meeting will be Wednesday, March 25, from 7:15 until 8:00PM in the Adams Chapel. This trip is open to anyone and will include a Bible study of many of Paul's epistles as well as travel to several of the cities where the apostle Paul visited and the island of Patmos. For more information, contact Amy Parks (amy@fbctlh.org).

## SPRINGTIME TALLAHASSEE VOLUNTEERS

We hope you will join us downtown and welcome guests to FBCTLH as we kick off Holy Week during Springtime Tallahassee - THIS SATURDAY, March 28! Sign up to volunteer at fbctlh.org/serve.

## COLLEGE MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

FBCTLH's famous Boston Butts will be sold now through Sunday, March 29. For \$35 you can help support our college ministry's spring break and summer trips to Boston. The delicious smoked pork shoulders can be ordered on Sundays in the welcome center (9:45-10:15AM and 12:15-12:30PM) and on Wednesday evenings in the fellowship hall (4:45-6:00PM). They can be picked up on Thursday, April 2 in the FBCTLH parking lot, next to Park Avenue, from 3:30-6:00PM. Thank you for your support!

## EASTER LILIES

*If you would like to place one or more lilies in our sanctuary this Easter in memory or in honor of a loved one, the cost is \$11 per plant. Please return the form available in your SMBS class with your payment to the front desk. For more information, contact Lenoir (lenoir@fbctlh.org).*

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, MARCH 22

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

### MONDAY, MARCH 23

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Connect Center  
10:30AM First Joy Choir, Seven Hills Rehabilitation Center

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

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 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Preschool Class, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Elementary Music & Missions, Duval 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
6:00PM Youth Choir Rehearsal, Adams 211  
6:00PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study, Sanctuary  
6:00PM DivorceCare, Adams 315  
6:00PM Moms Connect, Adams Basement  
6:00PM Women's Bible Study, Adams 301  
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  
7:15PM "Journeys of Paul" Meeting, Adams Chapel

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

6:00PM Young Adult Bible Study, Adams 317

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

9:00AM Springtime Tallahassee

# COMING SOON

## EASTER 2015

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. According to Mark 14-16, eyewitnesses had four reactions to Jesus: watch, oppose, flee, or follow. What will your response be? Join us on Sundays at 9:00 or 11:15AM as we worship together. Invite your friends to join us for Easter Sunday! Check out [fbctlh.org/Easter](http://fbctlh.org/Easter) for more information.

Begin preparing now to welcome guests Easter Sunday morning - by parking at Kleman Plaza, and signing up to volunteer to be a greeter, a caregiver for children, or a parking attendant. Check out [fbctlh.org/serve](http://fbctlh.org/serve) to learn more.

**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.*

## FIRST FOCUS

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May 6: Prudent Speech under Arrest (Exodus 4 and Luke 21:1-21)

*Moses struggled to speak, but God offered him hope. How does Jesus give us the mouth and wisdom to speak?*

May 13: Godly Judgment and Gentleness about Family (Matthew 7, John 8 and the Adulterous Woman)

*How do we bear witness today to friends and family about sexuality, marriage, and God's redemption?*

May 20: Talking about Evil (Luke 13:1-5)

*What we can say and not say about evil in our world today?*

Our series begins in the Sanctuary following business meeting March 25. I look forward to studying this important topic together. If you can't join us, be sure to download the podcast on itunes or request an audio recording from Lee Shell ([lee@fbctlh.org](mailto:lee@fbctlh.org)).



Check out the [fbctlh.org/Serve](http://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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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**

March 25 - Baked chicken, yellow rice, green beans, salad bar, rolls, and dessert

**FINANCIALS**

YTD budget: \$621,815

Receipts 03/15: \$34,606

YTD receipts: \$485,581

Spring Missions Offering: \$4,100

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – George Borders

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM James Craig
- 10AM Paul Lambert
- 11AM Richard Duley

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, March 22

- 8AM Jim Wheeler
- 10AM Lyle Ragans
- 11AM Erik Eikeland

Wednesday, March 25

- 6PM Charles Maynard

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

9:00AM

**BIBLE STUDY**

10:00AM

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

11:15AM

# TRUE CONFESSIONS: THE DENIER

Mark 14:66-72