

# FIRST FOCUS

## LOVE JESUS

When the disciples see the resurrected Lord, they decide they cannot follow Jesus alone. As much as they need Jesus in their lives, they also decide to commit to each other in the way Jesus taught them to do. They love each other faithfully with grace and truth. Because Jesus rose again, they share the one they see, touch, and follow with the world.

We have a sermon in our Bible that describes this kind of vision of love. It's the book of 1 John, a short, 5 chapter message written by an anonymous pastor to a congregation learning to do life together. They admitted their faults to each other, took the light of Christ into the dark places of their world, and relied on his power to conquer their greatest fears. Despite their concerns, they realized that the commitments they made to each other through the Spirit's power gave them the boldness and courage they needed to share assertively with others. They loved their enemies so much that they overwhelmed them with a different kind of lifestyle. Even the strong differences within their congregation became strengths that were used to "proclaim the Word of Life."

As the Easter season begins and our world rapidly shifts toward recognition, graduation, and commissioning season, I want to share with you the kind of love that I think we need at First Baptist in the days to come. It's what I call "5-dimensional Love." If you watched a 3-d movie at the I-Max across the street from the church, the staff would hand you special glasses to see the action coming at you. In 4-d, you might feel air or water splashing your face. But 5-d loves puts you in the story. You join the movie and become a part of the action.

This kind of love is the life that Jesus calls us to build as his church. We need faithful friendships across generations. We need commitments to the family that not only we have but even the ones under our roof that God has called us to serve. We need to trust that Jesus has conquered every force of sin and darkness through the cross. Now through the resurrection, he's opening doors for us to walk through so that we too can show a love that sacrifices our lives for our friends.

Throughout this series, we're going to give you some opportunities to see what love looks like at FBC. You'll hear stories of real life people who are accepting God's challenge to a deeper, stronger love and learn from them how we can tighten the bonds and expand the bonds of friendship. We'll commission missionaries sent out this summer to share the gospel.

How can you get involved in Loving Jesus?

1. At the Haiti lunch on April 26, take time to sit at a table of strangers and get to know one another.
2. If you're going somewhere this summer on mission, contact our office. We want to know about your work so we can commission and pray for you in both services April 26. Please contact [Hannah@fbctlh.org](mailto:Hannah@fbctlh.org) by April 19, and give us your summer contact information to be included in the worship guide.
3. Sign up for the Pastor's Lunch and Class April 19. As a new or returning member, you'll have an opportunity to meet some newer members of our fellowship and form bonds of friendship with them. RSVP deadline is April 12. Childcare provided.
4. On May 3, plan to invite another SMBS group to lunch or brunch one Sunday morning. Sit together in worship, and share stories. If your class or group is already planning a Spring gathering, invite another class from a different age group to join you.

Easter is just beginning. Grab a copy of 1 John and your Kairos journal. Love is on the move and drawing us closer to one another. Here are the details:

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 3*

# THIS WEEK

## EASTER 2015

We're excited for a great Easter Weekend! Don't forget to welcome guests this Sunday morning - especially by parking at Kleman Plaza to make more room on the street! Golf cart shuttles will be available all morning. If you would like to volunteer in another area, please contact Hannah (hannah@fbctlh.org).

## FAITH, FOOD, FRIDAY

Join us at FBCTLH in the fellowship hall at noon this Friday, April 10, as Dr. Shiell and "The God Squad" conclude the fourth Faith, Food, Friday season looking at the way religion is treated by the motion picture industry with "Does Hollywood Get God?" 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.

All Faith, Food, Friday forums are free and open to the public. Lunch is available for \$8 if you RSVP by Tuesday, April 7, and \$10 at the door. You may also bring your own lunch. RSVP through [fbctlh.org/events/faith-food-friday](http://fbctlh.org/events/faith-food-friday).



### Stewardship Testimony

*Money...it is just a number. Yes, we are called to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us; however, some people let this "number" consume their lives and define their feeling of self-worth (especially around April 15th). This becomes a problem when a believer puts this "number" as his or her top priority in decision-making. Instead, we should ask ourselves "Am I able to glorify God through this decision?" and "Will this decision enable me to make a positive impact building the kingdom of God?" It is difficult and goes against our culture to be kingdom-minded instead of wallet-minded, yet it is something we must continue to strive for.*

--Nick Meyer  
read more at [fbctlh.org/blog](http://fbctlh.org/blog)

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, APRIL 5

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor  
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options  
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary  
12:30PM College Easter Lunch, Fellowship Hall  
3:00PM GriefShare, Adams 301

### MONDAY, APRIL 6

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL 7

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

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

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

### THURSDAY, APRIL 9

9:00AM Childcare for Internationals, Duval 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
9:30AM Internationals English Classes, Chason 2201

### FRIDAY, APRIL 10

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

### SATURDAY, APRIL 11

# COMING SOON

## **BUILDERS FOR CHRIST**

This summer, during the week of July 13-17 (plus travel time before and after that week), a group of volunteers from FBCTLH will be working with the members of the First Southern Baptist Church of Pratt, Kansas in the construction of an addition to their building so that they have more space for worship and youth and adult Bible study.

If you would like to know more, plan to attend an informational meeting in Chason 2201 on Sunday afternoon, April 12, from 4:30 until 5:30PM. Call Richard Tudor (386-5424) with any questions.

## **WOMEN ON MISSION**

WMU/WOM groups will meet on Tuesday, April 14 at 9:30AM. All ladies are invited to attend. Please contact Donna Heald (dhealdtlh@centurylink.net) for more information.

- **Group 1** - Patsy Faircloth and Gloria Dowden, Facilitators | Location: A Women's Pregnancy Center | Mission Action: Items for babies
- **Groups 2 and 3** will meet together - Glenda Verhine and Linda Teague, Facilitators | Location: Home of Betty Gardner | Program: The History and Heritage of WMU at FBCTLH

## **HAITI MUSIC CAMP FUNDRAISER**

Each year, Janet Ray hosts the "Hope for Haiti" fundraiser to support the summer music and leadership camp at the Christian University of Northern Haiti. We would love for YOU to be involved, whether that includes financial support, donating instruments, going to Haiti to teach music, or anything in between. Please join us for this year's fundraiser—Saturday, April 18 from 11:00AM until 2:00PM. Tickets are \$10 and are available for purchase in your SMBS classes. Our goal this year is to raise \$5,000 to build a volunteer house on the university's campus. Please help us meet this goal! For more information, please contact Janet Ray (893.4207).

# FIRST FOCUS

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### **Love Jesus: A Series on 1 John**

4/12 What Love Looks and Sounds Like (1 John 1:1-4)

5/3 Love that Participates (1 John 2:7-17)

5/24 Pentecost Sunday: No Greater Love (1 John 4:7-21, John 15:12-17)

4/19 Love in 5 Dimensions (1 John 1:5-2:2)

5/10 Loving the Family that God Calls You To (1 John 3:11-24)

4/46 Engage the World Boldly (1 John 5:7-21)

5/17 Love that Overcomes the Unknown (1 John 5:1-6)





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

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**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 [lenoi@fbctlh.org](mailto:lenoi@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**

April 8 - BBQ chicken, baked beans, slaw, green beans, salad bar, garlic toast, and dessert

**FINANCIALS**

YTD budget: \$734,871  
Receipts 03/29: \$36,945  
YTD receipts: \$570,525  
Spring Missions Offering: \$7,027

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Bill Gardner

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Denis Harrelle
- 10AM Jeff Crew
- 11AM Darrell Thompson

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, April 5

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM Jeff Crew
- 11AM Keith Burnsed

Wednesday, April 8

- 6PM Wayne Connor

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

9:00AM

**BIBLE STUDY**

10:00AM

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

11:15AM

# PROCLAIMING THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN LORD

Mark 16:1-8