

FIRST FOCUS

GATHERINGS

Following the resurrection, Jesus gathered with his disciples. Whether behind locked doors in the Gospel of John, on the road to Emmaus to share a meal, or after a long day of work on the beach of the Sea of Galilee, the Easter season means fellowship. This past week, I've had a chance to meet with, plan, and cast vision with our church leaders.

Last weekend, our deacons met in Florida A & M University's Grand Ballroom for our annual retreat. The facilities were outstanding, and the staff offered us great hospitality. Our deacons heard the first public report of the strategic planning vision sessions and survey results and reviewed five landmarks of God's call for FBCTLH over the next 3-5 years. We received great feedback and conversation about the process and the outcomes we're hoping to see. I'll report the progress we've made thus far to our congregation during the April 29 business meeting.

This week, I've spent two days on a Pastoral Staff retreat praying, dreaming, and bonding as a staff. We've discussed the same information our deacons received and discerned together how we can be a part of the vision for our church. Our Pastoral Staff works so hard throughout the week, and I'm grateful we have a chance to get away and rest for a couple of days. Thank you to John Rice and Amy Parks for handling the logistics for these groups.

As you know, fellowship is more than an event or a ministry group. It's a powerful sign of the resurrection love that Jesus Christ has shown to us. Fellowship shows in our intentionality to be with people whom we don't know as well so that we might grow in our relationship with Christ and his church. Another word for that is friendship. We need events to create opportunities for fellowship that can lead to a friendship. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

Vacation Bible School is June 15-19. We're expanding this year and offering more opportunities for children to come to know Jesus. Churchwide Family Night is June 19 at 6:00PM. We need your help. If you can take vacation or take time away from your volunteer opportunities, sign up in Rhonda Smith's office.

First Love is Saturday, October 24. Our annual day of service to Love Tallahassee promises to be a fantastic fall outreach.

Connections Weekend 2016 is February 5-7. Dr. Chap Clark will be with us to talk about the issues facing adolescents and college students today. More significantly, he'll be equipping individuals, parents, and grandparents how to be the church to hurting families.

I'll be hosting a pilgrimage of Paul's and the apostle John's travels in Greece, Patmos, and Ephesus April 18-30, 2016. Information is available through Amy Parks in my office, and we're already receiving deposits. Because of the amount of interest expressed, we now have 30 spaces available for this trip. It promises to be a powerful two weeks of on-site Bible study.

By showing up, you present the life of the risen Christ to another person. Pray for us in these days as we seek God's will for our church in the months to come.



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).

PASTOR'S CLASS

Reminder: If you are a new or returning member of FBCTLH, don't forget to join us for a free lunch and class led by Dr. Shiell THIS SUNDAY from 12:30 until 3:00PM in the fellowship hall. Learn more information about growing as a follower of Christ through your church membership, and meet many other new and returning members! Childcare will be provided.

SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

Join us for lunch - Friday, April 24 at 12:00PM in the fellowship hall. Enjoy a musical program by Larry Gerber, from the FSU College of Music voice faculty. The cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP by signing up in your SMBS class or by contacting Lenoir (x201 or lenoir@fbctlh.org).



CONNECT WITH US

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CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

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
12:30PM Pastor's Class, Fellowship hall
3:00PM GriefShare, Adams 301

MONDAY, APRIL 20

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

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 Preschool Class, Duval 1st Floor
6:00PM Elementary Music & Missions, Duval 2nd 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 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, APRIL 23

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

12:00PM Senior Adult Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

COMING SOON

SPAGHETTI LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Spaghetti Lunch - Sunday, April 26 at 11:10AM or 12:20PM

Everyone's invited to come support our mission trip to Haiti this July...and enjoy a spaghetti lunch while you're at it. For early worshipers, we'll have lunch ready in the fellowship hall when your SMBS ends at 11:10AM. For late worshipers, you can just walk downstairs to the fellowship hall after the service at 12:20PM. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased through the front desk or one of our mission-trippers. Contact Josh (josh@fbctlh.org) if you have any questions.

A FULL SUMMER

We would love for you to get involved with this June's "A Full Summer." FBCTLH is partnering with St. John's Episcopal Church to provide funds and volunteers needed to pack meals for the hungry in our area. Many children in the Big Bend community who depend on free or reduced-price school lunches during the school year do not have a reliable source of food during the summer. Meals prepared at "A Full Summer" will be distributed by Second Harvest of the Big Bend to children and families in our community.

You can participate by volunteering to pack meals during "A Full Summer" on June 6 from 10:00AM until 12:00PM at Rickards High School. Registration forms are available in your SMBS classes. You can also participate by donating money to provide the food supplies required. Checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church, with "A Full Summer" in the memo line. For more information, please contact Becky Liner (beckyliner@comcast.net).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration is going on now for this summer's "Everest" Vacation Bible School: June 15-19, from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. It will be a great week that you do not want to miss! Vacation Bible School is FREE, and for children 4 years old through completion of 5th grade. Through Bible stories, music, recreation, crafts, and snacks, children will learn how to conquer challenges with God's mighty power. Registration forms are available online at fbctlh.org/children or in the welcome center.

Also available during VBS week is our basketball and cheerleading camp. Camp is open to boys and girls who have completed Kindergarten through 5th Grade. We strive to insure that every child is a winner by sharing the love of Jesus with each player, participant, coach, referee, and family member. We want to help every child grow as Jesus did—spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially. Every child will learn to develop character, an understanding of sportsmanship, and a respect for authority in any situation, on and off the court. Basketball or cheerleading camp takes place after VBS, from 12:00PM until 5:00PM. The cost is \$100 per child until June 3.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! We would love for you to be involved with Vacation Bible School this year, and you can sign up to help out by turning in the volunteer form, also available in the welcome center. For more information, please contact the Children's Ministry office (x501 or rhonda@fbctlh.org).

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of April, we will join the Children's Home in collecting **cleaning supplies**, such as Clorox wipes, bathroom cleaners, window cleaners, and paper towels. 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
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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.

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

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

April 22 - Baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, steamed veggie medley, salad bar, rolls, and dessert

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$847,929
Receipts 04/12: \$37,503
YTD receipts: \$728,180

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Richard Lee

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Erik Eikeland
- 10AM Tom Link
- 11AM Bill Smith

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 19

- 8AM Jim Wheeler
- 10AM Brent Daniel
- 11AM Eric Palm

Wednesday, April 22

- 6PM Jim English

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

**LOVE
IN 5-D**

1 John 1:5-2:2