

FIRST FOCUS

WEEK OF AWARENESS

Resurrection love compels us to move out into the darkness, renew the bonds of friendship, and examine our shadow side. We don't have to look very far to find examples of strife. Since Cain and Abel, we've torn apart families and friendships with our sin. Some issues, however, seem to be so preventable with just a little more information and awareness. One of those is underage substance abuse.

Nationally in 2013, 23% of 9-12th graders have experimented with marijuana in the last month. When coupled with alcohol abuse among teenagers, these two areas combined produce a toxic mix of high risk behavior and death. Tallahassee and Leon County reflect these trends. The tragedy in the Rayborn family earlier this year was just one example of the heartbreaks people face way too often. Most families I know have attended the funeral of a teenager whose death could have been prevented.

As we celebrate college and high school graduates, we also recognize the challenges that these students and parents face. Christian parents cannot afford to bury their heads in the sand, and we know that the solution to these problems is much more than behavior modification. We need spiritual transformation in Jesus's name. To raise awareness in our community, we also need good information. This is a community-wide problem, not limited to a neighborhood or two. Our teachers and administrators work hard to fulfill the mandates of state testing requirements, leaving no time in the school day to discuss health, character, and good judgment. Parents, neighbors, and friends share the responsibility as well as the opportunity to do some very important work together.

In April, Sachs Media, with the support of the Leon County Schools administration, commissioned an anonymous survey of Leon County high schoolers and parents from public and private schools. Over 1100 responded. The information they shared will be used as a part of a series called "The Week of Awareness." On May 17, the Tallahassee Democrat and WCTV-TV will collaborate on stories designed to open our hearts to the realities of our community and what we can do as educators, parents, and friends to help prevent these tragedies.

For Christians, this information is just the beginning. But we do need a place to start the conversation. Join me in prayer for this important series that's so important to all of us. Mark your calendar for February 5-6, 2016 for Connections Weekend, when our church will be discussing in greater depth the spiritual causes of the problems identified in this series. Dr. Chap Clark from Fuller Seminary will be with us to discuss the challenges facing adolescents that lead to these tragedies, and we'll have helpful workshops to help us build stronger Christian homes. Every person in our church can make a difference. We don't have to wait until February to become aware of the problem. Every generation has faced these issues; together, we can shine God's love into the darkness.



THIS WEEK

FIRST LADIES

It's that time again! Ladies of all ages are invited for our annual "Summer Suppers"! Please join us on the second Monday of each summer month. The first gathering is this Monday, May 11, at 6:30PM at Hopkins Eatery (1415 Market Street). These Summer Suppers are relaxed, Dutch-treat gatherings for the purpose of fun and fellowship, seeing old friends, and making new ones - a perfect time to invite a friend or neighbor! No reservations are needed. Arrive when you can and leave when you need to. Join us for good food, laughter, a word of encouragement, and door prizes! Contact Barbara Corven (bcorven@corveneng.com or 422.2902) if you have any questions. FYI...other upcoming Summer Suppers are June 8, July 13, and August 10.

CBF FLORIDA SPRING CELEBRATION

FBCTLH is the host for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida's annual meeting this Friday and Saturday, May 15-16. The theme of the meeting is "Impact Florida". A full schedule and registration form is available at floridacbf.org/upcoming-events. The cost is \$40 per person.

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. Registration forms are available online at fbctlh.org/vbs 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. Basketball or cheerleading camp takes place after VBS, from 12:00PM until 5:00PM. The cost is \$100 per child.

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).

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 10

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

MONDAY, MAY 11

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Connect Center
10:30AM First Joy Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201
5:00PM First Brass, Adams 200

TUESDAY, MAY 12

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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
6:00PM Weekday Committee, Large Meeting Room
7:00PM Youth Collide, CLC 2nd Floor
7:00PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201
7:00PM Chamber Players Rehearsal, Adams 200
7:00PM Endowment Committee, Large Meeting Room
7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:15PM Young Adults Veritas, Adams 317

THURSDAY, MAY 14

CBF Florida Leadership Conference

FRIDAY, MAY 15

CBF Florida Spring Celebration
7:30PM CBF Florida Worship Service, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MAY 16

CBF Florida Spring Celebration
11:15AM CBF Florida Worship Service, Sanctuary

COMING SOON

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 Sunday, May 17 from 12:30 until 3:30PM (lunch included). Register online at fbctlh.org/lifegroups or by using the form available in the connect center.

SMBS LEADERSHIP MEETING

Sunday Morning Bible Study teachers and directors are invited to a gathering on Tuesday, May 19, at 6:00PM in the fellowship hall. We will share a meal together and spend some time discussing the vital role of SMBS in the life and future of our FBCTLH family. There is no cost for the meal, but please RSVP to jordan@fbctlh.org.

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).

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOME

For the month of May, we will join the Children’s Home in collecting paper napkins, paper plates, aluminum foil, and Saran Wrap. 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

May 13 - Meat or veggie lasagna, steamed broccoli, salad bar, garlic bread, dessert

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$1,017,515

Receipts 05/03: \$65,437

YTD receipts: \$863,381

Mother's Day Offering YTD: \$975

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Keith Gaskins

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Roger Merriam
- 10AM John Schanbacher
- 11AM Lee Scarboro

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 10

- 8AM Ben Hart
- 10AM Jeff Crew
- 11AM Keith Burnsed

Wednesday, May 13

- 6PM Wayne Connor

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

LOVING THE FAMILY GOD CALLS YOU TO

1 John 3:11-24