

FIRST FOCUS

TRUSTING JESUS TOGETHER

Thank you so much for your kind words and support over the last couple of weeks. I'm so grateful to be a part of First Baptist, and our staff and families have felt your prayers. We're having a great summer of ministry and mission. Your attendance has been outstanding in worship and Bible study. Our music has been inspiring and engaging. Thank you for being the church in these days.

Like you over the past few days, I've spent a lot of time praying, reflecting, and addressing the issues we face in our world. We've had conversations about security in the church, marriage in the nation, flags in South Carolina, and burned churches in the South. At the same time, I've talked with people discerning calls to ministry, celebrated the birth of a new baby, and rejoiced in the marriage of a man and woman who've worked very hard to prepare for this new chapter in life. We have nine more couples expecting babies right now and others thinking about adoption and foster care. Needless to say, there's a lot of excitement among several families. The Builders for Christ leave early Friday morning, and we have one more mission trip to go before our focus turns to the mission on school campuses. Now more than ever, it's time for the church to be the church that Jesus has called us to be.

I remain hopeful about the mission of First Baptist in these next few years together. As we have been saying for the past couple of years together, and as our church has said for over 165 years, it is possible for us to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves. It's possible to live the way Jesus lived in our day, "full of grace and truth." We are obedient when we follow Paul's instructions in Romans 12, to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind," as well as "to let our love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good... outdo one another in showing honor...contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers... bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep." I think these texts are central to our understanding of ministry every time we go through cultural upheaval and uncertainty. We focus on what churches do best; we let God be the judge of people's hearts, motives, and attitudes, and we respond to his call to share the gospel.

Trust Jesus to protect his church. If we are faithful to who we are as Baptists, if we follow Jesus Christ, we have nothing to be afraid of. God willing, First Baptist will be here for a long time. We already follow scripture; we have a very clear confession of faith. Our focus as a church body needs to remain reaching people for Christ. How can we best do that in these days? Let me suggest five ways we can stand for Jesus together and in turn reach others for Him.

1. **Wisdom** - Every person I know is facing decisions in their households, friendships, and offices about how best to express their faith, shine the light, and spread salt. Pray for God to give you wisdom. Each person will need to discuss his beliefs, compare them with scripture, and respect the views of others. By asking for wisdom, we will know how to behave and how to live. Most families are having conversations with children and grandchildren about topics they never thought they would have to address. From Charleston to Washington, we're facing many things together. Pray for the right words, the right response, and obedient lives.
2. **Hospitality** - One of the best things we can offer each other is conversation, friendship, and dialogue. We need to learn to listen to other people's points of view. Most of these conversations need to happen over coffee and a casserole, not out in public within earshot of others. "Agreeing to disagree" is neither a Christian point of view or a particularly helpful point of view in a community. Instead, as Christians dialogue with others, spending time in

THIS WEEK

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Sunday we welcome the Chapel Choir, Chapel Bells, Concord Bells, and Chapel Ensemble from Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. This very fine group of young musicians, under the leadership of Dianne Findley, is leading us in worship Sunday as a part of their "Woven Together" tour. We look forward to their inspirational music and their energetic presence.

NEW MEMBERS' BRUNCH

If you have joined the FBCTLH family in the last 3 months, you're invited for our New Members' Brunch. Dr. Shiell and other staff will present an overview of the identity of FBCTLH, and ministry opportunities available to you here! We will meet Sunday, July 12, at 10:15AM in the fellowship hall.

FIRST LADIES

Ladies of all ages are invited for our annual "Summer Suppers"! Please join us on the second Monday of each summer month. The next gathering is Monday, July 13, 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... the last Summer Supper this year is August 10.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 12

8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor
9:00AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:00AM Churchwide Bible Study Options
10:15AM New Members' Brunch, Fellowship Hall
11:15AM Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary
12:15PM Haiti Team Meeting, Adams 317

MONDAY, JULY 13

9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Connect Center
10:30AM First Joy Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201
5:00PM First Brass, Adams 200
6:30PM First Ladies Summer Supper, Hopkins Eatery

TUESDAY, JULY 14

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

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 Collide, CLC 2nd Floor
6:00PM Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary
6:00PM Moms Connect, Adams Basement
6:00PM Women's Bible Study, Adams 301
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, JULY 16

FRIDAY, JULY 17

SATURDAY, JULY 18

FIRST FOCUS


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Christian fellowship actually opens eyes to see and ears to hear so the gospel can be shared. I've already had some wonderful, hopeful conversations with nonChristians about Baptist views of society.

3. **Calling** - God is always calling during times of social change. Whether they be disaster relief, political tension, or societal unrest, people are open to listening to God. Just check with Samuel, Isaiah, Peter, Huldah, Rahab, Esther, you name it. I had two conversations this week with people who are contemplating calls to ministry. God could be calling you to share his Name in creative, wonderful ways. Be ready, and be open.
4. **Basics** - Get back to the basics in the Christian life. This fall we'll be studying "Think. Act. Be." - a Jesus revolution in your life. How would Jesus live your life right now? We will study our core beliefs, discover areas to grow in our obedience, and nurture the fruit of the Spirit.
5. **Vision** - Our Strategic Planning Committee is working diligently to complete their work by September. This 5-goal plan we will present will be our approach to equipping our church and reaching our world. Just as Paul, Priscilla, Aquila, Timothy, and Silas had a hopeful vision for Corinth, I believe God has a vision for Tallahassee. So let's do as Paul realized in Acts 18, "Don't be afraid, keep talking; I have many people in that city."



Music Ministry Changes



The music ministry is excited to announce some staff transitions in our instrumental music area. We are so grateful for Omar Allen and the way he has led our instrumental music for the last five years. Omar is a skilled and servant-hearted musician and a talented composer. As a result of his giftedness in the area of composition, Omar is being named First Baptist's first "Composer in Residence." In this position, he will be assisting the music ministry with instrumental accompaniments, transpositions, orchestrations, and original compositions. You will be glad to know he will continue to share his other talents with us by singing solos in worship and playing trombone in Chamber Players.

Sam Carlton, who has been a music intern with us for three years, will be assuming the role of Instrumental Director. He will oversee our instrumental music and direct the Chamber Players. Sam has served as a baritone in the Sanctuary Choir and as the accompanist for Youth Choir. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree in composition at the FSU College of Music. Sam is a highly skilled pianist and has studied orchestral and choral conducting along with orchestration and advanced music theory. As we seek to have a greater student involvement in Chamber Players, giving young musicians opportunities to learn, play and conduct, Sam will naturally be able to make connections with student instrumentalists, thereby strengthening our interns and scholars program and our entire instrumental ministry.

We hope you will give your congratulations to these gifted musicians. We are so grateful that God has sent them our way.

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of July, we will join the Children's Home in Ziploc bags - storage and freezer bags in quart or gallon size, and trash bags in 13-gallon or tall/strong kitchen size. 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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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

July 15 - Breakfast: casserole (with or without sausage), grits, pancakes, spiced apples, juice, and dessert.

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$1,526,272

Receipts 07/05: \$56,077

YTD receipts: \$1,327,026

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Lee Gonzalez

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Al Eppinger
- 10AM Bud Evans
- 11AM Tolar Griffin

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 12

- 8AM Jim Wheeler
- 10AM John Schanbacher
- 11AM Mark Byler

Wednesday, July 15

- 6PM Lee Vickery

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

THE MOTHER
WHO CHANGED
THE WORLD

Mark 7:24-30