

# FIRST FOCUS

## **MISSION REPORT**

This week, I'm pleased to share this space with our Builders for Christ and Haiti Mission Teams. Throughout the month of July, we've been on mission for Jesus nationally and internationally. These groups will be sharing a full report on Wednesday evening, August 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Here are the highlights of their trips by Linda Smith, James Craig and Daniel Sheets.

### **Builders For Christ by Linda Smith**

"Greater Harvest, Bigger Barn" was the theme for the project this year at First Southern Baptist Church of Pratt, KS, a SW Kansas farming area. We helped construct a new 15,000 sq ft sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen and choir rehearsal/classroom. FSBC has about 450 in attendance each Sunday, at two services. In a welcome from the Pastor, he stated that "Pratt has become the talk of our town and surrounding communities. People recognize what is happening among us is a 'work of God,' and the coming of Builders for Christ...is also seen as a continuation of God's presence to our midst. ... the fact that an extraordinarily large number of people are coming to help us, many people immediately think of an old fashioned 'barn raising.'" Even other denominations want to have a part as witnessed when Sandy Monson was on a plane with a Methodist lady from Pratt, who went home and had ladies from her church provide us with desserts.

This is the 25th year FBCTLH has participated with Builders; and we sent 23 people, with two "newbies." Our people hung sheetrock, installed exterior siding, did electrical work, framed walls, and provided food for the workers. Approximately 150 people from other churches came from 9 churches, including children and youth who ministered in the community.

Builders share what they are doing in Kansas "as they go" to restaurants, Walmart, gas stations, on walks, as we travel to and from our destination. Wearing our FBCTLH shirts opens doors for these conversations. Richard Tudor shared, "When we walked up to the registration desk at the Best Western in Pratt, a young and desk clerk greeted us with a smile. As she took our names, she asked "What brings you to Pratt?" We responded that we were building the church across the street from the hotel. Kaylah the clerk said: "Oh, that's my church; thanks for coming." It helps become more than just a hotel guest and have a chance to share Christ's love with a new sister in Christ.

Bonnie Snyder shared, "For me, the BFC experience is a picture of the Body of Christ working together--no matter what gifts or talents each of us brings. I'm certainly not a skilled construction worker but I was able to contribute my time and effort putting in insulation, and assisting a Sheetrock crew. . . .It was great to work with others from groups all over the country---all there with one purpose--to assist 'Building a Bigger Barn' for the people of Pratt and the surrounding areas. Anyone who is willing (young or old--but we need more who are young!) can be used to bring glory to God through this wonderful organization. We especially want to thank Richard Tudor for his leadership for all these years.

### **Haiti Mission Trip Report by James Craig and Daniel Sheets**

On July 18-25, a team of nineteen, including eleven first-timers, from FBCTLH went to Haiti. This was the sixth year our church has sent a team. Each year we have worked in and around Gressier, Haiti, with a local mission called The Joy House ([www.haitijoyhouse.org](http://www.haitijoyhouse.org)). Throughout the week, approximately 500 children attended VBS. Thirty teenage boys participated in an Upward-style basketball camp. Eight young men attended mentoring and discipleship training classes. We taught ESL (English as a Second Language) to more than 100 Haitians. More than a dozen Haitians accepted Christ as their personal savior.

# THIS WEEK

## FIRST STEP

Please join us THIS SUNDAY at 10:15AM in the welcome center to meet our pastor, Dr. Bill Shiell, and to discuss what it means to be a member at First Baptist. This informal gathering of guests and new members will give you a chance to discover ways to connect at FBCTLH. If you've been a regular but have not taken that first step of membership, this is your opportunity to do so!

## DEACON NOMINATIONS

In August, the Nomination Committee will begin the process of selecting deacons for the upcoming year. The committee requests the names of men you recommend for this important servant role. Your recommendations may be submitted via the drop boxes in the connect center or College Avenue foyer, or via the website at fbctlh.org. All forms must be returned by THIS SUNDAY, August 16.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITY SIGN UP

Registration for 2015-2016 Wednesday night activities will take place August 19th in the Children's area (2nd Floor Duval), beginning at 6pm. Notaries will be available, so you will be able to get everything done at once. There will be no extended child care. Be sure to be there as Wednesday night activities begin August 26th.

## OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN CHOIR

Our Sanctuary Choir is open to all adults, college-age through senior adults, and meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm in C-2201. This active choir performs a wide variety of challenging and inspiring music and leads our congregation in worship most every Sunday at the 9:00 traditional service. We are gearing up to kick off the fall with special music on August 23 to welcome our college students back, and on September 13 to launch the Think, Act, Be series. Then on Wednesday, September 16, we will introduce and sing through our Christmas Musical program (to be presented December 13). We invite you to join the Sanctuary Choir just for Christmas, or for all year round. For more information, contact Penny (penny@fbctlh.org) or Lenoir (lbrewer@fbctlh.org).

If you are retired or semi-retired, First Joy Choir may be the right fit for you. We meet on Monday mornings, 10:30-12:00 in C-2201, and spend our time enjoying snacks, planning activities, having a time of prayer and devotion, and of course, singing our hearts out! We are primarily an outreach choir, enjoying monthly "sing-outs" in various locations around the Big Bend, including Assisted Living and Retirement Facilities. We are planning to be a performing choir at The Celebrating Grace National *Inspire!* Choral Festival in Jacksonville next April 14-16. We need to take 50 singers, so now is a good time to get involved and learn the music with us!

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

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

### MONDAY, AUGUST 17

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

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

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 Collide, CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

# FIRST FOCUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Our first full day at the Joy House started with Sunday morning service. There really is nothing quite like worshipping The Lord with other Brothers and Sisters from a different culture. There were some songs to which we (Americans) knew the melodies, so we were able to sing along with their Kreyòl lyrics. Other songs, we relied on interpreters to translate.

At the church, our task was spreading dirt, gravel and rock to pour a cement foundation. We worked several days alongside members of Pastor Paul's church and finished by Friday. After we finished spreading the foundation, Pastor Paul told us a parable of the heavy banana tree. When a banana tree begins to buckle under its own weight, it must be supported with posts. He told us each year he begins to feel the heavy burden and each year we have returned to be his support posts. Some members of our church sponsor children through the Joy House school, the Christian Institute of Roland Marthé (CIRM). These sponsors met with their kid(s) and showered them with school supplies. The Gospel and the Power of Our Lord reaches across geographical boundaries, people groups, socioeconomics, education, stage of life, etc... Truly, He is for all people!

Another great feature of doing the Lord's Work with Brothers and Sisters from a different language and culture is that there are natural conversational filters in place to "weed" out topics that don't matter. No one there cares how the upcoming college football season will play out, who won the latest and greatest reality game show, and who's on the cover of such-and-such magazine. Without all of these typical conversation pieces, what's left? The Gospel. The cultural divide helped us focus and hone in on the work that God had set before us. Through our efforts and conversations through a translator, we were able to show His Love through our deeds and our words. Not being able to talk about any and every thing helped us talk about the one and only thing that ultimately does matter: The Gospel.

Loving the Haitians through hard work was an incredible experience. Thankfully, God built our team to be a multi-talented group. We all brought something different to the table, much like the Body of Christ. Holding a baby on your hip for 4 hours is hard work! Having patience with over 140 children during VBS is hard work! Sharing Christ and praying with people in villages is hard work! And finally, pushing wheelbarrow-loads of gravel and rock up a hill to fill in a 5,000+ square foot church foundation is hard work! Christ reaches beyond languages and nationalities. He reaches beyond American-made worship songs and sermons. He reaches beyond sports, tv shows and media. There is no Greek nor Gentile. We are all His children. We give glory to God for all the work that was accomplished.

Hard work for the sake of the Gospel really isn't hard, is it?



**SERVE**

## FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of August, we will join the Children's Home in providing personal hygiene items - shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and deodorant. 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](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 [leinoir@fbctlh.org](mailto:leinoir@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**

August 19 - grilled chicken breast, bow tie pasta, alfredo sauce, steamed veggie medley, rolls, salad bar, and dessert

**FINANCIALS**

YTD budget: \$1,752,386

Receipts 07/19: \$59,126

YTD receipts: \$1,533,018

**DEACON SCHEDULE**

Deacon of the Day – Jim Pitts

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM Tom Perrin
- 10AM Bob Cullen
- 11AM Gerald Culbreth

**SECURITY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, August 16

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM Brent Daniel
- 11AM Eric Palm

Wednesday, August 19

- 6PM Jim English

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

9:00AM

**BIBLE STUDY**

10:00AM

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

11:15AM

# THE GOSPEL SPECTACLE

1 Corinthians 4:9-20