April 12, 2017

Pastor’s Corner

What changed because of the presence of Christ in the world? People who were being manipulated and bullied by their religious leaders found a defender in Jesus. Your religious authorities “tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them” (Matthew 23:4). People who were sick, helpless and alone found in Jesus’ words dignity, comfort, and healing.

People found a new way to understand the heart of God. God is like a father who welcomes home his wayward son. He is like a shepherd who will not rest until he finds the last one of his sheep. People found a new way to pray and give, a new way to understand the temple and the Sabbath, a new way to treat sinners. They found that they mattered to God. And, they found the way to heaven. Jesus invited them to follow him, and they thought it was all done. But God was not finished with them. They wanted no troubles. They turned their heads away and sent a few soldiers to carry out the execution. They died in agony, but he didn’t linger long. They had no way of knowing the burden he was carrying in his heart was far heavier than the loads carried by the ships that sailed the Great Sea, and that it was that crushing weight that pressed the life out of him. Since that moment, God’s forgiveness of sin has been available to all who come to the cross and look upon him and ask him to give new life.

Happy Easter!

—Mark T. White, Pastor
Join us on Thursday, April 13, for our Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7:00 PM

Holy Grounds Coffeehouse returns Thursday, April 27, from 7:00pm - 8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Music will be provided by Christian singer, Michele McLaughlin from Four Oaks, NC.

Don’t miss this time of fun, food, fellowship, and good music!

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All church members are invited to attend the Stop Hunger Now on Saturday, April 15th.

This mission event will take place at the Civitan Club in Clayton. Meet at the Civitan Club at 8:00 AM on Saturday, April 15th to fill meal bags for our brothers and sisters in need. You may volunteer for 1 to 3 hours. This is a fun way to serve the Lord!

The Homebound Ministry Team will meet on Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30 pm in the church conference room. Please plan to attend if you are currently a member or if you would like to join the team! We will update our Homebound list and team visitation assignments.

This will also be a time of sharing ideas to better serve our Homebound members. Please make every effort to attend!

Vespers

Feeling a desire to reconnect to the Bible, award-winning author Bruce Feiler set out on a perilous, 10,000 mile journey retracing the Five Books of Moses through the desert. He crosses the Red Sea, climbs Mt. Sinai, and interviews Bedouin and pilgrims alike, as he attempts to answer the question: Is the Bible just an abstraction, or is it a living, breathing entity?

Join us on Wednesday, April 19 for our 3rd and final video series of Walking The Bible at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Gideon Memorial Bible Plan

Did you know that you can donate Bibles with Gideon Expressions Tribute Cards? "In Memory" expresses love and sympathy at death. "In Recognition" honors a friend or loved one. "Thinking of You" shares thoughts and prayers. Each tribute card you send includes a special panel that indicates your donation of Bibles and New Testaments. Did you know that cards are available here at church? Wednesday evening, April 26th, during our Vespers service at 6:30, George Easley of the local Gideon Camp will be speaking about the Gideon Living Memorial Bible Plan. We hope you can join us!

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A Big Thank You to everyone who came out to the Easter egg hunt on Wednesday night, and especially to all of those that helped make it happen. Whether you brought candy, stuffed eggs, hid eggs or served refreshments we couldn’t have done it without you!

THANK YOU for the overwhelming support for our Baptist Children’s Home collections. Your contributions of cash, gift cards, food and supplies were generous, and many needs will be met and children blessed by them. Way to go First Baptist!

THANK YOU also to all of the Baptist Women who donated delicious desserts for our Missions Luncheon and Silent Auction last Sunday. The bidding on the Silent Auction was competitive and fun!

Please Pray

A. J. Harvey is going home today - Praise God; please continue to keep A.J. in your prayers. Pray for doctor’s wisdom and healing. Please pray for strength for both A. J. and Phyllis as she ministers to him.

Both Frances Reams and Bert Barrett have been released from the hospital and are at home. Please continue to pray that Frances and Bert would continue to recover without any complications and gain strength each day.

Please continue to pray for Maloa Benson and Laura Lee Pittman as they continue with their rehab at Springfield. Please pray for strength and encouragement in the rehab. Please also keep their families in your prayers as they minister to Maloa and Laura Lee.

We extend our Deepest Sympathy and Christian Love to the family of Bobby and Linda Alsobrooks. Bobby’s sister, Martha Alsobrooks Brown, passed away on Thursday, April 6. Martha and her husband, Doug, lived in Young Harris, GA.

Pray that Doug, Bobby, Linda and the family each feel God’s love and presence in the coming days, weeks and months.

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Mosaics: Church of Clayton

is collecting items for its annual yard sale. They will not collect exercise equipment or adult clothes. Best selling items include: kids toys and clothes, kitchen appliances and supplies, furniture, baby accessories, and gently used shoes.

If you would like to donate items before April 30, please contact Andy (919-971-4412, andy@mosaicclayton.com). Large items can be picked up. Smaller items can be scheduled for drop off.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS...

Scholarship Applications are now available!

The Wilma Dailey Coates Scholarship

The church has the Wilma Dailey Coates and Lucy Wilson Coats Scholarship application available for high school seniors. Come by the church office to pick up the application form which is due by April 14, 2017.

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Last Sunday’s Homebound Ministry Sewing Group raised over $600 for the “Family in Prayer” program. Thanks to all those who participated for their time and for the monetary and fabric donations!

ATTENTION SENIOR ADULTS

May 14, 2017

First Baptist offers a service of Parent-Child Dedication on Mother’s Day Sunday. Please notify church office if you would like to participate.

We will need the child’s full name, date & place of birth, parents’ names & preferred service (8:45 or 11:00). Please contact the church office before April 28th so that the personalized Bibles may be ordered for the children.

ACTEENS Main Mission Focus

For the month of April, our ACTEENS will be collecting clothes for the Cuban Ministry. Please drop off in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for supporting your First Baptist Acteens!