



The FIRST BAPTIST BUILDER

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First Baptist Church Mission Statement

To exalt the Savior, equip the saints, and evangelize the world
through the power of God's Word.



Skipper's Story's- It's A Life Connection Thing!

IT CAME WITH THE HOUSE!

I told you last month about the three points to consider when you begin to develop and practice sharing your story: 1- A good story has a simple beginning. 2- A good story is short. 3- A good story has a conclusion that leaves the listener wanting more. This month I want to share with you about the three most common life circumstances that occur and how they can provide an open door for us to share our story.

There are three common life circumstances that occur and will open doors of conversation and allow us the opportunity to share our story.

- 1- **Life & Death-** When a new life occurs in your family it provides you an opportunity to begin a discussion with others. The same is true when a death occurs. If we are connected with Christ and we are allowing Him to lead and guide us daily, then we can use these life markers to begin sharing with others how God is working in our lives.
- 2- **Career change-** If you are a believer and God provides or guides you to a career change then you will have many opportunities to share what God is doing in your life. Just think of all of the conversations that you can have with friends and co-workers at your old place of employment as to why you are leaving. Next, think of all of the new people you will meet when you begin a new job. When God moves you, you have a "golden ticket" to share about Him.
- 3- **Moving-** If God moves you to a new home, new neighborhood, new city or even a new state- God is saying to you in a very loud voice- "Tell all you meet about me and what I am doing in your life!"

These three are just the most common life markers. There are many more! The point is when we learn to look for opportunities to share our story with others God will provide them. I personally have had the opportunity to share with many people why I have moved and changed jobs. Here is an example of one of my stories and how God is at work in my life.

It came with the House!

When God made it clear that He was calling us to First High Springs we began looking for a new home. We looked at rentals and did not find any homes that would fit our needs. We then began looking for homes to purchase.

We knew a couple of things. We (my wife Tricia, our five kids and I) needed a home with at least four bedrooms and at least two bathrooms. We also knew that my mother (Sara Linda) would be looking for a place to live as she would be moving to High Springs with us. We began looking for her a home with at least two bedrooms and two baths. Our desire was to find two home somewhat near each other. As we began looking at homes in the High Springs area we discovered the average cost per square foot for a home and that there were not two homes near each other that would fit our needs. We then discovered our current home. It was a large home with four bedrooms and two and half baths in the main home. This particular home included a second living area under the same roof with two bedrooms and one and half baths. As we began looking at this particular home we discovered that it was for sale for less than the average cost per square foot. We also discovered that this home would provide a place for all of us to live together. This home would provide a place to live for my family for the same amount per month as our Orange Park home and it would provide a place for my mother which was less per month than her previous rental home. Here is the kicker.

As we began to discuss the move with our kids we asked them to provide us a "dream" list of things that they would like to have in a new home. Tricia, my mother and I also made a list. Here is a summary of our lists: They would like a pool, a zip line, a climbing tree, room/yard to run around in, and a second story bed room. Tricia and I each included a list of things that we would like to have in our new home. My list included a workshop and to be near the church. Tricia requested a front porch and a double oven. My mother's list included to be near us and to have two bedrooms.

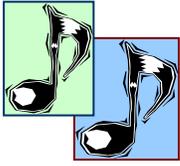
When God showed us our current home we discovered that: Our monthly payment would be the same, my mother's monthly payment would be less. We also began to look at our "dream" lists.

Pool- It came with the House, Zip Line- It came with the House, climbing tree- It came with the house (we have about 25 large trees on the property). Room/yard to run and play in (5 acres) - It came with the House. A second story bedroom- It came with the house. A workshop- It came with the House. A front porch- It came with the House. A double oven- It came with the House. "To be near us and have two bedrooms"- It came with the House.

Conclusion- God has allowed us the opportunity to share how He chooses to bless our family because we choose to be obedient to Him.

Oh, and one more thing. The opportunity to tell others about my relationship with Jesus and how He is working in my life- It also, Came with the House.

Share often my friends!
Blessings, Skipper



NOTES from our Worship Pastor

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Celebrators Conference October 26 – 30 Pigeon Forge TN

Departure Time is 12:00 pm on Sunday, October 26th. We will return at 7:00 pm on the 30th.

No Evening Worship Service on Sunday Evening November 30th.

A Christmas Celebration

All of our choirs will join together, December 14th at 6:00 pm, as we celebrate Christmas together as a church family. Our Celebration, Young at Heart, Student, 3 & 4 year olds and K through 5th grade choirs will all be leading us in worship in **A Christmas Music Celebration**. Please make plans to attend and bring someone with you as we worship together.

December 7th The K – 5th graders will present **Fear Not Factor** at 6:00 pm. Dress rehearsals are Wednesday evening Dec.3 from 6:00 - 8:00 and Friday evening at 5:00. Drama and Choir will join in from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Pizza will be served Friday evening. We would welcome some of our parents to bring juice boxes and cookies.

Needs:

HELP: We need committed people to help in the media area of our church. Computer/ Audio/ Video and Lighting Technicians are needed for all Worship Services.

If you would like to help please give me a call. My phone numbers are: Office 454-1505; Cell 352-317-3881.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Wow! It's that time of the year again. Where does time go? Some have already begun asking if we are participating in *Operation Christmas Child*. The answer is yes.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, the Christian relief and evangelism ministry led by Franklin Graham.

People across the country are simply getting shoeboxes from home and filling them with small toys, school supplies and other little gifts.

Carefully packed and colorfully wrapped *Operation Christmas Child* shoe boxes brightened the lives of over 7 million hurting children in 100 countries last year.

These simple shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, candy and other gifts, bring smiling faces and the joy of Christmas to God's precious children, many of whom have never received a Christmas present. More importantly, gift-filled shoeboxes provide a way for children and their families to hear about God's greatest gift - His Son, Jesus Christ.



Why give a shoebox? Because this Christmas a needy child overseas can receive your shoebox, hand delivered along with Christian literature in his or her own language. What an opportunity to reach these children with a clear presentation of the Gospel.

Complete details are in the Operation Christmas Child brochure that will be available in the Church Foyer and the Church Office beginning in November. I hope you will be a part of this exciting opportunity to share God's love with a hurting child through the wonderful ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

It is suggested to include a \$7 donation made out to Samaritan's Purse for the shipping of each shoebox. If you would prefer to write a check instead, you can make it out to Samaritan's Purse and place it in the Operation Christmas Child envelope with your name and address for income tax purposes.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE CHECKS OUT TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Collection of shoeboxes will be from November 3rd through 16th. We will dedicate the shoe boxes from our church on Sunday of the 16th. PLEASE HELP US COLLECT ON TIME. DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE.

We are also a Collection Center for Samaritan's Purse and will be collecting the week of Nov. 17th – 24th for all organizations looking for a place to drop their shoeboxes off.

In Christ, Bro. Tim

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jer. 29:11 NIV



"The deacons are checking the instant replay to determine if the pastor's sermon actually crossed the line."



FROM YOUR DEACONS

THE POINT

NICK CARTER

It is very easy to get too busy with the demands of this life and get "tunnel vision". This narrow focus sometimes makes us forget how good God is and what he has done for us in Jesus. We somehow think that He has forgotten about us, that He can't relate to us and that He doesn't love us. All we have to do is look to the scriptures and the Gospel that they proclaim. This is the Gospel:

Christ Jesus, God in the flesh, became like us so he might know our weakness, our pain, and our circumstance and help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 2.)

He resisted every temptation we have embraced so that we could draw near. (Hebrews 4.)

He obeyed God the Father perfectly, earning acceptance for us so we could quit trying so hard to earn it. (Galatians 3.)

He came that we might know the Father like he does (John 17) and experience the relationship we were made to delight in. (1 Peter 2.)

He knew the cost of our life was his death. (John 13.)

His obedience of death on a cross glorified God in a way we couldn't. (Philippians 2.)

His broken body and shed blood covered our sins and our wicked hearts before God. (Colossians 2.)

His resurrection proved the power of God over death and brought about healing for those who believe. (1 Corinthians 15.)

Whether you are a Believer or not God is good. He loves you so much (John 3). The Gospel not only is the power to salvation it is the ever present reason that I know that God is good and that He loves me.

The upcoming Deacon on call teams:

Sept. 14th – Oct 12th

*Garrett Buzbee 386-454-2031 (h) 352-318-4700 (c)

Pace Emerson 386-454-4036 (h) 386-588-4286 (c)

Matthew Humphries 352-514-6830 (c)

Rick Jefferson 386-497-1149 (h) 386-853-5633 (c)

Jose Valdes 386-454-9753 (h) 352-562-5633 (c)

Oct. 12th – Nov. 9th

*David Friar 386-497-4307 (h) 352-262-1773 (c)

Brent Douglas 386-454-1577 (h) 352-665-5638 (c)

Rex Hancock 386-935-2261 (h) 352-318-2389 (c)

David Rendek 386-454-3010 (h) 352-494-2971 (c)

Tim Staley 386-462-7000 (h) 352-317-2495 (c)

* Team Leader

Student Ministry, Nick Carter
Leadership in Student Ministry (and life)

When we hear the word **creativity** we respond in a handful of ways. Many of us get excited. We love everything to do with creativity. We can draw or paint, sing or dance, and LOVE the arts. Others of us break out in to a cold sweat thinking about that one art class we had to take in high school. Still others of us simply ignore it. We think we're just not creative. Never have been; never will be. And if you look at your kids, I bet at least a few of them feel the same way. They have being on stage, they have not rhythm, can't play an instrument, and start to flip out when they see a box of crayons. For whatever reason, they've been taught to think about creativity in terms of arts and crafts, music and dance.

But there's something about creativity that we all need to remember. We're not creative because of our talents. We're creative because that's how God made us. He designed each of us with a mind to think beyond ourselves and imagine the possibility for, well anything. It's God's image in us that gives us the capacity to see beyond the ordinary and to understand a dimension of life that a dog, or a tree or a whale cannot experience. Our imagination – our creativity – is a reflection of His image.

That's why we're taking the month of October to look at CREATIVITY: using your imagination to do something unique. It's so important that leaders and parents work to tap into a child's imagination and fuel their creative side. Not simply because we want to unleash a child's potential to do unique things, but because we want every child to grow up and put faith in what God can do in their personal life and believe in what He wants to do through them.

You have an opportunity throughout a child's life to spark his or her creativity and to say over and over again to every child: You have amazing potential to create because you were created in the image of an amazing Creator. Really, creativity is simply imagination plus action. When you imagination leads you to do something good, to make a unique mark, to find a unique answer or solution, you are being creative.

In week 1, we start with the most creative act ever: God's creation of the world. In Genesis 1, we see God's creativity on display as trees and flowers, stars and galaxies, and a whole lot of animals are spoken into being. And then God created us in His image to be creative in the world we call home. **Our Bottom Line is: You were created, so you can be creative.** Creativity isn't just about arts and crafts, creativity is about using your imagination to solve problems and figure out how to help others.

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In week 2, we look at Exodus 1:22-2:10. Miriam had the responsibility of watching out for her brother Moses when he was floating in the Nile River. She thought on her feet and creatively figured out a way for Moses' mother to be with him in the palace.

Our Bottom Line is: Use your imagination to figure it out. We will discover that God gave us an imagination to solve problems of any size. In week 3, we look at David's final words in 2 Samuel 23:1-2. David notes that he did what God created him to do. He ruled God's people. He wrote songs of worship to God. David didn't always get it right, but he was still a man after God's heart. Our Bottom Line is: Use your imagination to do what you were made to do. God uniquely designed each of us to do something specific. We'll discover ideas for how to put your gifts into practice.

In week 4, we take a look at one of Jesus' familiar teachings from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:14-16. Jesus told His followers that they are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. We can use our gifts to point others toward Jesus. **Our Bottom Line is: Use your imagination to do more good.** When we use our gifts and talents to do good, we have an opportunity to show others God's love. When people see the good we do, it points them toward God.

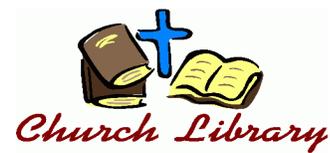
Our memory verse this month is Ephesians 2:10: *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* God wants to do something unique with our lives. We are created in His image, and because of His work in us through Jesus, we have an amazing capacity to use our creativity to do more good things. Every parent, every leader wants the children they influence to live their lives to the fullest. When we really believe we are made in the image of God, we believe in a new set of possibilities. When you understand the image of God that is in you, you begin to look at life from a new perspective.

I would like to give a big shout out to the following youth who are serving in Kingdom Kidz:

Maddie Donnelly, Emily Keene, Peyton Delaney, Samantha Bird, Jesse Thompson, Rebecca Yarbrough, Claeb Rodgers, Ari Rix, and Kyle Williamson. We could not do it without you all!!

WESTSIDE SAMARITAN'S CLINIC

Our gift closet is looking bare, and we need to get it restocked. Could we find a church, group, or Sunday School Class who might be willing to donate much needed items for our wonderful low-income patients? We need diapers, wipes (travel and regular sizes), baby blankets for boys and girls, baby clothing (preferably new but used in good condition is acceptable), baby hats, baby shoes, grooming kits, baby shampoo, soap and lotions, bibs, etc. We give these items to our patients in need. They are so blessed by you, Thank you! Please contact Brittney Ranard, Office Manager at the Samaritans Healthcare at 352.872.5171.



Library News:

The library is in full swing now with the K-2nd Grades classes coming for story time and library time, 3rd - 6th coming for 30 minute library time. We are teaching 2nd- 6th grades a little bit about the Dewey Decimal System and how to use the library's computerized catalog.

Last month we mentioned the library has the DVD available on God's Not Dead. We now have the book available **God's Not Dead (call #231 Bro):** Explores "the questions surrounding faith, skepticism, and the meaning of life...as well as...evidence for the existence of God and the truths of Christianity"—Dust jacket flap.

Also we want to mention our **Scholastic Book Fair coming up October 27-31, 2014.** Please help us spread the word to our whole church body and school. We have asked for more Christian and good moral books at this fair.

The library would like to mention a new movie coming **October 3** in the theaters: **Left behind: The End Begins** - this movie is based on the book by **Tim LaHaye.**

The library has a new book entitled **A Christian Manifesto by Francis A. Schaeffer**, this book was recommended as an excellent book to read during our school orientation back in August. "In this explosive book, Francis Schaeffer shows why morality and freedom have crumbled in our society. He calls for a massive movement—in government, law, and all of Life—to reestablish our Judeo-Christian foundation and turn the tide of moral decadence and loss of freedom. This book is literally a call for Christians to change the course of history—by Returning to biblical Truth and by allowing Christ to be Lord in all of life". **(Call # 261.7 Sch)**

The library has added a number of new DVDs, here are a couple we would like to mention: **Bless You, Prison** -- "The true story of Nicoleta Valery Gossu's amazing survival in a Romanian Communist prison camp and how faith in the Lord enabled her to transcend the relentless cruelty. It was an experience unspeakably brutal...to be taken away from home and thrown in jail without any trial, to be interrogated night after night, having to spend your days in a cell, to be tortured to give away innocent people, to have the courage to say what you think no matter the consequences, to see how a fellow inmate swaps sides and becomes your worst enemy, not to be able to help your beloved ones imprisoned along with you. You can betray. You can die. Or you can find God. Nicoleta Valery Gossu found God in the communist prisons". **(Call # DVD B Gro)**

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Mercy Rule: There's No Quit In Family: "Mercy Rule is a baseball adventure for the whole family, starring Kirk Cameron and his wife, Chelsea. Parents and kids alike will be inspired by the story of the Miller family as they learn life's lessons of mercy, patience, sacrifice, legacy and trusting God. Mercy Rule will teach your family what it means to be a "No Quit Family." (Call # DVD F Mer).

The library is also working on an AR reward program for our FCA children. More to come on this.

Don't forget about the Scholastic Book Fair coming Oct. 27-31.

Janet Bridges
Library



In April of this year (just before Easter), "Molly," one of our former residents, who had been placed with us for over a year at that time, was placed in an adoptive home. She contacted the house parents a couple of days before Easter and asked if she and "her mom" could possibly attend church with them. And, of course, the house parents indicated that they would love for them to do so.

During Molly's 90-day pre-adoption placement (the time required by statute before adoptions can be finalized) in this home, Molly continued to maintain contact with the house parents. Earlier this month, she texted the house parents and asked if they would be willing to attend her adoption ceremony. And, without hesitation, the house parents indicated that they would be honored to do so.

After returning from the adoption ceremony, the house parents indicated that they were overwhelmed to be given the opportunity to witness the "birthing" of this family and to see the "fruits of (their) labor" with Molly. They explained that, at times (in fact, often), it can begin to seem as though they are not making any significant difference in the lives of the children we serve. However, being asked to attend this girl's adoption ceremony and realizing that she continues to desire to have them involved in her life even after she has left FBCH and even though she now has a new forever home, reminded them that the work we do DOES make a difference and that, by the grace of God, we truly ARE changing lives one child at a time.



HEAR US ROAR! *"No greater joy can I have than this, to HEAR that my children follow the truth. 3 John 4*

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR:

October 17: University of Florida Homecoming, FCA closed

October 22: End of first 9 weeks

October 23-24: Teacher Convention, FCA closed

October 29: Our fundraiser items should arrive

October 31: First Report Cards go home

October 31: FCA Fall Festival

FCA School Board Members: Kathy Barnes, Shelly Donnelly, David Friar, Ruth Lord, Drew Mock, Daniel Shepherd, and Kim Teele.

Mrs. Janet Bridges, Library: Our Scholastic Book Fair is coming up in the church library. The dates to come browse and purchase are October 27 – 31. Hope to see you all there! Thank you for your support.

Sports: Our Cross Country team traveled to Lake City on September 27 to compete in the Eye of the Tiger Invitational. Our girls' volleyball team traveled to Neptune Beach on September 30 to play Beaches Chapel and Ocala on October 3 to play Meadowbrook Academy. We begin our JV basketball program soon with our first day of practice on Monday, November 3. We are looking for coaches for our boys and girls basketball teams. If you are interested in serving as the head coach or assistant coach, please call Stan Stone.

FCA Yearbook: We recently signed a contract with Herff Jones to handle our yearbook needs for this school year. Our yearbook staff had the opportunity to attend a yearbook training workshop on September 11 at Santa Fe High School. Students in Grades 7 – 9 are eligible to serve on the yearbook staff. Students in our Grade 9 will receive high school credit. Thanks to our staff advisor, Mrs. Hacht!

Ongoing Fundraisers: Here at FCA, we have several fundraisers that go on year round. We appreciate all of our parents and church family helping in the collection of the following: Campbell's Soup Labels, Box Tops for Education, Tyson Project A+ labels, Sunny D labels, Coke Rewards. Thank you and please keep up the great work of donating to FCA!!

Annual Christmas Card fundraiser: Thank you! Our fundraiser was very successful and ended on September 29. We had 36 children (Kindergarten through Grade 4) who sold at least 10 items and qualified for the Banana Split Party! There were 22 students in Grades 5-9 who qualified for the Early Bird Award and were treated to a McDonald's breakfast. Our Preschool had several who qualified for the "furry friends" stuffed animals. Your purchase should arrive by October 29. Our profits will be spent on FCA technology initiatives. Thanks again!

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Accreditation: Our faculty and staff are currently engaged in the accreditation process. We are a candidate school for dual accreditation with SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). Part of this process includes using the AdvancED Parent Survey which is designed for gathering feedback from our parents who have children in Kindergarten through 9th grades. The survey is a means of obtaining opinions to help target areas for the school to improve as well as areas to continue to be effective. The surveys went home on Monday, September 29 and will be due back by Friday, October 3. Responses to this survey are anonymous. Thank you for our Steering Committee: Shoran Potter, Marcy Shepherd and Theresa Stone.

Tutoring: FCA offers tutoring services to students needing specialized attention in a core subject or multiple subjects. Please, contact the office if you are interested.

The following teachers are reporting some very exciting things going on at FCA:

Mrs. Shoran Potter, Fine Arts: "Our theme this year in Fine Arts is Gifted4Greatness! Our Bible verse is Proverbs 18:16. A man's gift (talent) makes room for him and brings him before the great."

Preschool: Our VPK students celebrated a Tea Party in honor of the letter "T" on September 26. Mrs. "Teabody (aka Carol Combs) made her annual appearance at the party. All the girls came in dresses and tiaras and the boys wore ties. FCA kids have the most fun!

Mrs. Lori Clark and Katie West, Kindergarten: "Kindergarten is studying community helpers. We have been reading lots of books together about apples and John Chapman's (Johnny Appleseed) contributions to communities across our country. We celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day in honor of his birthday in 1774 on September 26. Johnny Appleseed is a famous historical figure, whose most noted for his spread of apple trees throughout Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. He was a prominent religious figure, conservationist, and businessman. He was well-known and liked for his kindness and generosity. In Kindergarten we are learning character traits such as kindness, patience, and self-control. In Bible, we are learning about Noah and Abraham's faithfulness to God."

Mrs. Cammey Hinton and Lindsey Bigelow, First Grade: "First graders have just finished memorizing their first Bible passage of the school year, John 3:14-19, and did a wonderful job! They are now working on a passage in Psalms. During Bible class they are learning some valuable life lessons from Old Testament figures such as Enoch and Abraham. The children have recently participated in a school fundraiser and many earned special prizes for their efforts. We are beginning to enjoy the slightly cooler weather and are looking forward to the school's Fall Festival just a few short weeks away!

Mrs. Kim Friar, Second Grade: "We have learned our first memory verse: Genesis 1:1-5 and talked about the life of Moses. We are continuing to review special sounds and spellings with correlating spelling words. We are very blessed at FCA and welcome our 3 new students!

Mrs. Vicki Johnson, Fourth Grade: The students in our 4th grade have been asked to participate in the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress. We are excited and proud to be able to

represent U.S. students in the Nations' Report Card. The assessment will take place in March 2015.

Mrs. Melody Petteway, Middle School: "Fall is in the air and it's great. The school fundraiser was a great success and some students have already enjoyed a McDonald's breakfast for their wonderful salesperson abilities :)! We are progressing along in all math classes as we tackle fractions, operations with integers, algebraic equations and geometry. In Bible, we are enjoying a fresh perspective on the Bible as one big story around 3 central themes: creation, fall and redemption. We are currently studying the covenant God made with Abraham and the beautiful way it all points to Christ!

Submitted by Linda Petteway

YOU'RE INVITED

If you have been visiting First Baptist Church, but have not yet decided to become a member, we invite you to join our staff for brunch, Sunday, October 12, 2014 at 10:00 am in the FLC. It would be our pleasure to share with you our vision as well as the many worship opportunities for you and your family. Please RSVP by calling the Church Office.

CHARLES BILLINGSLEY CONCERT



A Charles Billingsley Concert will be held at North Central Baptist Church, October 10th, at 7:30 pm. They will host the concert featuring a mass choir comprised of North Central's Worship Choir and four other church choirs in the area. This will be a memorable event of which everyone will be glad they were a part. Bring someone with you for this amazing night! Tickets are \$10. Call 352.373.3341 to order tickets, or visit www.gatorchurch.com.

ALACHUA COUNTY FAIR MINISTRY

Please mark your calendar for the Alachua County Fair, October 17-25th. During this week the Association will have a booth from which different churches can take part in ministry to the fair workers. If you are interested in assisting with this ministry, by either donating food items or hosting a night, please contact Vicki Lawrence at the association office.

