

The FIRST BAPTIST BUILDER

20112 N US HIGHWAY 441 High Springs, Florida 32643

Tel: (386) 454-1505 Fax: (386) 454-4561

Sr. Pastor, Derek S. Lambert

E-Mail: info@fbchighsprings.org

Web Site: www.fbchighsprings.org

First Baptist Church Mission Statement

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

January, 2014



A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

By: Derek Lambert

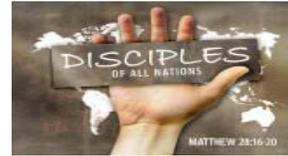
They call them "Selfies," photos taken of an individual by the individual and posted online for the entire world to see! I have provided a personal example for your viewing pleasure below:



My observation has been that most "selfies" are taken by teenage girls (and the occasional pastor who happens to arrive at his office before the rest of the staff providing an excellent opportunity for a personal photo shoot!). I remain uncertain of the exact purpose for "selfies" but they have caused me to think...

What if Christians would begin taking "spiritual selfies"? Spiritual selfies would capture the realities of the individual's spiritual life. We would be better equipped to deal with our shortcomings through seeing them appropriately. Such could not be taken with a cell phone camera; they would require honest, personal evaluation in light of Scripture. The type of deep contemplation over the commands and admonitions of God which lead to conviction and transformed lives is the need of the hour for Christians.

I guess what I am suggesting is that we would do well to be honest about where we are with Jesus. None of us has arrived. We are each a work in progress. Go ahead, snap a spiritual selfie here at the beginning of 2014. Recognize areas needing your attention. Develop some spiritual muscle in areas of weakness. Watch God cause your selfie to look more and more like His Son!



BILLY STEPHENS



What emotions do you immediately feel when you read that word? For some people new is exciting. They like going NEW places, meeting NEW people, and doing NEW things. NEW causes them to feel alive. To them NEW means adventure and mysterious and it gets their curiosity going.

For others NEW is intimidating. They are intimidated by going to NEW places, meeting NEW people, and doing NEW things. NEW causes them to feel paralyzed. To them NEW means fear and being uncomfortable.

There is a Greek word used in the New Testament for "new", it is *καινός*. It means "as respects form. 1A1 recently made, fresh, recent, unused, unworn. 1B as respects substance. 1B1 of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of." Here are a couple of verses in which this word is used. 2 Cor. 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW creation. The old has passed away; behold, the NEW has come." 2 Cor. 3:4-6, "Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a NEW covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

In 2014, let **NEW** be a good thing. In Christ you are a NEW creation and you are carrying the message of a NEW covenant that has the power to make all things and all people...NEW.





TIM'S NOTES

FROM ME AND MY FAMILY

Pam and I would like to thank our church family for the many cards and gifts given to us this Christmas season. We would also like to thank you for your prayers, encouragement and all you do for us. We are so excited to see what God wants to do with us this year. Let's continue to let Him lead us in 2014.

A WORD OF THANKS

I would like to thank all who are involved in The Music/Worship Ministry of our church (i.e. Choirs, Workers, Directors, Accompanists, Soloists, Praise Teams, Audio/Video/Computer and Lighting Teams Members) for all of your hard work throughout the year. You have indeed gone the extra mile many times this year and for that I thank you, your church staff thanks you and your church family thanks you. You all play such a vital role in worship. I pray many blessings to you and your families.

A special Thank "Thank you" David Rendek for leading worship while on vacation and to Jose Valdes for setting up the tech side of things, to make things run smoothly.

The following is a reprint of a current article I came across in December about Worship. While it was written primarily about student worship, it really applies to all of us. Many have asked questions about how to worship or why this or that. So, let's look at what the scripture tells us.

Express Yourself: What Worship looks like and why there's not just one "right" way to worship God.

Singing. Dancing. Raised hands. Bowed heads. Shouts. Tears. Quiet, private prayer. Share it with your student worship leaders!

Scripture is filled with examples of how people worshiped God. For example, in 2 Samuel 6, David worshiped God with exuberant singing and dancing. In Matthew 14:23, Jesus worshiped the Father by drawing away from the crowd and praying in solitude. Then, in Acts 16:25, Paul and Silas sang and praised God while in prison chains. But with so many different examples of worship in Scripture and the fact that true worship is so personal and individual, you've probably still got a few questions about how to express your own worship. Read on! We've got a few answers.

What Is Worship?

SIMPLY PUT, WORSHIP IS when our attention and affection is actively focused on God. The Spirit stirs inside our hearts, causing us to worship, which may be expressed by some activity (raising our hands, kneeling, singing, or lying prostrate). The outward expressions of our worship can (and will) look different for each one of us.

Worship can be both public and private. Worship can be within a community of other believers or in the stillness of your own bedroom. Worship can be silent, or it can be filled with prayer and singing. It can involve your gifts and passions, or be born out of your brokenness about your sin, a situation, or whatever you're facing.

Above all, understand that worship is the natural response to God's love for you. When you recognize that truth, you can't help but respond in worship and praise!

Is Prayer Worship?

The short answer – YES! As believers, prayer is the essence of how we communicate with God and connect our hearts with His. Prayer is one way we worship God both publicly and privately. We can pray with other believers or alone. There is no specific formula for what our prayers should look or sound like, because prayer is our honest communication with God. Prayer can happen with your eyes open or closed, or while you're standing, kneeling, or lying facedown on the floor. The posture of our prayers is often a result of the substance of our prayers—and each of those postures shows our reverence and humility before our holy God.

Reading Scripture, journaling, and fasting are also ways that you can worship God through prayer. When you read and pray Scripture, you're able to meditate on the Word of God and respond to His truth. Journaling provides an outlet to write your prayers and allows you to focus your mind and heart entirely on Him. Fasting also gives you an opportunity to focus and empty yourself as you seek God in prayer, knowing that only He can truly fulfill your deepest needs.

Let's examine some of the postures of prayer:

- **Bowing/kneeling:** Bowing demonstrates humility, surrender, and a desire to hear from God. When you kneel in prayer, you're expressing your reverence for and your submission and commitment to God. It's also a posture associated with pleading requests before a holy God. Learn more in Psalm 95:6-7; Luke 5:8; Romans 14:11; Ephesians 3:14; and Philipians 2:9-11.
- **Lying prostrate:** Lying facedown as you pray demonstrates extreme humility, submission, and that you're seeking God's mercy. Learn more in Deuteronomy 9:18; 1 Chronicles 29:20; Isaiah 15:3; and Ezekiel 9:8.
- **Standing:** Standing to pray symbolizes respect and a desire to honor God. It also expresses a desire to meet with God. Read more in 1 Samuel 1:26; Nehemiah 9:5; Mark 11:25; and Revelation 7:9.

How Do We Worship God Through Music?

Truly worshiping God through music involves much more than simply mumbling your way through the verses during the service. Worshiping God through music involves focusing on Him while you're singing or playing. It's thinking about the words and what they mean as you sing them and offering them to God as a gift. It's seeking Him and His Spirit through song and actively choosing to praise Him. It's not just going through the motions or singing because music is being played. It involves concentration and focus—and it's done on purpose and with a purpose: to honor God. Praising God through music can involve a lot of different expressions of worship. Let's take a look at some of them:

- **Lifted hands:** Lifted hands during worship can symbolize a lot of things, including commitment, surrender, a desire to receive from God, or just to express your awe before God's holiness. To learn more, check out Psalm 28:2; 63:3-4; 134:2; Lamentations 3:41; and 1 Timothy 2:8.

(Continued on next page)

• Clapping your hands: In Scripture, clapping hands is often used as a way to express happiness or excitement.

Read more in 2 Kings 11:12; Psalm 47:1; Psalm 98:8; and Isaiah 55:12.

• Dancing: In Scripture, dancing sometimes played a part in worship, particularly when the dancers wanted to express their joy or thankfulness for something God had done.

Learn more in 2 Samuel 6:14, 21; Psalm 149:3; Psalm 150:4; and Jeremiah 31:4, 13.

Can I Worship God Through My Gifts and Passions?

GOD HAS GIVEN YOU specific gifts and talents, and you can choose to offer all those things that make you unique and special back to Him in worship. Colossians 3:17 tells us that whatever we do, we are to do it to bring glory to God. Worship may look different for each one of us, because we are all different— just as God created us to be. Your talents may include playing the guitar, singing, writing, playing a sport, running, dancing, or painting. Whatever your gifts and talents are, when you recognize that God has given them to you and choose to live out your passions for His glory, then whatever you do is an act of worship.

How Do I Worship When I Have Nothing To Say?

WORSHIP ISN'T ALWAYS about being loud or exuberant songs or clapping your hands. Worship isn't always in a big group, and to the onlooker, it may not even look all that happy. Sometimes, in order to truly worship God, we have to be quiet, focused, and attentive. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus took time to withdraw from the pressing crowds and find a place of silence and solitude where He could just be with the Father. Understand this: Silence can help us to listen to God and respond to Him. Solitude draws us away from the distractions that surround us and allows us to be solely focused on God. Sometimes, your greatest act of worship is to be absolutely open and honest about your brokenness. During your life, there will be moments when worship feels impossible. The hurt is too deep, the sin too great, or the need too big. When you have no words and worship seems impossible, take heart. Romans 8:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit "intercedes for us with unspoken groanings" in moments like that. So know that when all you have is tears, the Spirit intercedes for you and expresses what you cannot express. When you are vulnerable and honest before God about your weaknesses, doubts, and pains, God comes near and meets you. God wants us to know Him intimately, and sometimes, in the despair of our brokenness, we are able to experience His extraordinary love and truly worship Him. Amy Coxwell is a freelance writer from Chattanooga, Tenn.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 9, 2014: Student Choir, Valentine Banquet/Dinner Theater at 5:30 pm.

MTTA: June 11 – 15, 2014 – more details to come.

Food for thought!
In Christ, Bro. Tim

THE POINT NICK CARTER

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

Wow, it is hard to believe another year has gone by. I am excited to see how God is going to move in Kingdom Kidz in 2014, and in the lives of your precious children. This month we will be learning about knowledge – discovering something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

Our verse is *"God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."* 2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

We will NOT be having Kingdom Kidz January 26th, as many of our leaders and children will be at Camp Victory that weekend. If any of you would like to join us in Kingdom Kidz, please feel free to come check it out with your children. We are also looking for helpers. If any of you feel lead to join the Kingdom Kidz team, we try to rotate workers from month to month.

In Christ,
Betty Radford

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

"FORGIVEN AND SET FREE"

Crossroads Pregnancy Center will be offering a free and confidential 10 week Bible study and support group called "Forgiven and Set Free" starting in February 2014. This Bible study is for women who have chosen abortion in the past and would like to find the fullness of God's forgiveness and healing in their lives. Many women carry this painful secret alone for years, even decades, without dealing directly with the brokenness that follows an abortion. There is hope and healing found in the scriptures, in the person of Jesus Christ. For more information contact Catherine Estes at the Crossroads Pregnancy Center, 454 – 0411.



FROM YOUR DEACONS

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb. 10:24-25

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal. 6:9-10

Let's look ahead to 2014 at some exciting opportunities God has awaiting our church on the horizon! This is certainly not an exhaustive list but these are a few of the "new" things God is leading us toward. We will be hearing much more about these opportunities in the weeks ahead but here's a quick primer!

At the recent Deacons/Wives Christmas party, Bro. Derek began to share a vision the Lord has given him for ministering to other Pastors in our surrounding area (and beyond). Although many of us as lay-people don't realize it, often these faithful men of God can get beaten up spiritually, worn out and discouraged.

Two Pastors came to the Christmas party that night and each shared powerful testimonies of spiritual attacks and discouragement that had threatened to end their ministries. Then they shared some eye-opening statistics that suggest this type of serious discouragement is the norm, rather than the exception, for many Pastors in the ministry today. When this happens, it affects not only the Pastor himself but his family, his staff, his entire church body and even those in the surrounding area whom the Pastor and his church may have opportunities to minister to and lead to Christ. The spiritual repercussions are exponential! And the Pastor often finds himself isolated with no one to lean on.

Then Bro. Derek, together with these two Pastors, began to unfold a vision of the impact that one church could have by committing to love on, uplift and encourage Pastors. It would literally be like partnering in ministry with every Pastor we touched. The lives that could ultimately be impacted by this effort could literally number in the tens of thousands. Talk about having a Kingdom impact!

All of us as Deacons were literally sitting on the edge of our seats with excitement by the end of the evening! Bro. Derek and Bob McMillan will begin sharing with our church about this vision to minister to Pastors at our upcoming church Business Meeting. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information about this exciting opportunity!

Also this year, under Bro. Billy's leadership, we will have a renewed emphasis on discipling families through the Family First ministry. This will include studies, small groups and retreats to help us learn how to better function and honor God as husbands, wives, parents and families. Again, be looking for more information about this ministry in the near future and how you can plug in!

Also, we will continue to pray and seek God's leading about the incredible opportunities that await us in reaching the Promise People of Sumatra! Let's all stay tuned, continue to pray and remain open as God unfolds His plan for us there in His time.

Finally, First Christian Academy will be expanding into High School this year! What a rich mission field God has given our church through this ministry as we continue to partner with families throughout our area to disciple students and instill in them a top quality Biblical world-view education. God is allowing us to train future spiritual leaders who will shape the generations ahead!

Deacon Officers for 2014:

Bob McMillan – Chairman
Matthew Humphries – Vice-Chairman
Drew Mock – Secretary

The upcoming Deacon on call teams:

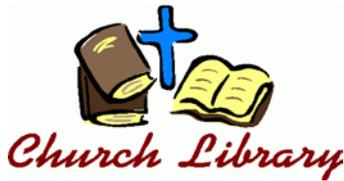
December 9th – January 11th

*Ed Carter	386-755-9406 (h) 352-538-6826 (c)
Bob McMillan	386-462-7867 (h) 352-231-7867 (c)
Bryan Olmert	386-454-1783 (h) 352-538-6457 (c)
Gene Petteway	386-454-2502 (h) 352-665-0687 (c)

January 12th – February 9th

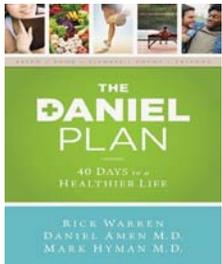
*Garrett Buzbee	386-454-2031 (h) 352-318-4700 (c)
Pace Emerson	386-454-4036 (h) 386-588-4286 (c)
Matthew Humphries	386-497-3295 (h) 352-514-6830 (c)
Rick Jefferson	386-497-1149 (h) 386-853-5633 (c)
Jose Valdes	386-454-9753 (h) 352-562-5633 (c)

* Team Leader



Library News:

I'm writing this article thinking how fast this year has gone by and how soon we are approaching the 2014 year. Looking forward to another year and thanking God for such a wonderful husband in helping me in the Library over the past several years and giving us good health to enjoy life. God is so good!



Eating too much over the holidays, we have just the book to help you lose weight: "The Daniel Plan: 40 Days To A Healthier Life" by Rick Warren, Daniel Amen and Mark Hyman: "God designed our bodies to be healthy, providing everything we need to thrive and live abundantly. And, with assistance from his congregation at Saddleback Church started a journey to transform their lives. The result: 15,000 people lost over 260,000 pounds in the first year. But the changes in people's lives went far beyond the pounds they lost. The Daniel Plan encourages people to get healthier together by optimizing the key five essentials of faith, food, fitness, focus and friends." (Call # 613.2 War). This is a very good book that just came out.

For those who do not know, the Library is subscribing to several magazines that might be of interest to our church family:

Answers, Answers Update, Biblical Archaeology Review, Christianity Today, Consumers Reports, Consumer Reports on Health, Creation, Florida Baptist Witness, Journal of Creation, Mailbox 1st Grade, Mailbox 2nd and 3rd Grades, Mailbox Intermediate, Ministry Today, National Geographic, Nutrition Action Health Letter, and Prevention. Some of these will start in 2014. We also subscribe to quite a few magazines for our school and church family. Come check them out.

If there are any recommendations that you would love for us to consider, please let us know.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Wonderful New Year!!

Janet Bridges
Library



HEAR US ROAR!

"No greater joy can I have than this, to HEAR that my children follow the truth." 111 John 4"

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR:

January 6, January 14, January 22, and January 30: Faculty and Staff devotions, prayer, praise time in black box theatre, 7:30 a.m.

January 6: Classes begin first day back from Christmas break

January 10: Half day of school, Teacher workday

January 15: Second Report Cards go home

January 16: Faculty/Staff meeting

January 20: Dr. Martin Luther King holiday, school closed

January 30: Town hall meeting for our re-enrollment campaign, 7:00 p.m; and January 31 at 8:30 a.m. Financial incentive for attending. Childcare will be provided.

August 2014: Opening of FCA 9th Grade!!

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

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. Each year, we have been able to receive additional money, playground supplies and books for these.

Yearbook Staff: The Yearbook Staff invites students, parents and friends to submit photos for the yearbook. If you have photos of school events of you and your friends just having fun, we would like to consider them. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to own.

Chapel: Parents and Grandparents are invited to join us for Chapel each week. Our Chapel times are exciting as we sing and hear a message from God's Word. We meet each Wednesday from 12:40-1:10 for students in grades 4-8 and 1:15-1:45 for students in Kindergarten-grade 3.

Sports: "Pray then Play" Volleyball begins soon and FCA will have its own team. If you would like your child to play on our volleyball team, be sure to fill out the registration form soon. It is open to all FCA students (boys and girls) ages 8-18.

Teachers at FCA are reporting some very exciting things:

Mrs. Lori Clark, and Mrs. Katie West, Kindergarten: "Kindergarten went caroling at Harbor Chase Assisted Living Facility on Friday, December 20. They also performed "jobs" at home to raise money for One Hope project to send scripture books to children in other countries so they too can know that Jesus loves them and died for them.

Mrs. Kate Kieszek, First Grade: "On December 20, First Grade enjoyed a wonderful walking field trip to The Talented Cookie Shop and the High Springs Train Museum."

(Continued on next page)

Friar and Mrs. Stephens, Second Grades: "Second Grade joined Mrs. Kieszek's First Graders on their walking field trip to the Talented Cookie Shop and the High Springs Train Museum in December. What a wonderful time of the year! God has blessed us by sending His one and only Son to this earth as a baby just to grow up to be a man and die for our sins! Our students have been learning about the first Christmas; the true meaning of Christmas. We have enjoyed celebrating the Christmas spirit by taking our walking field trip into High Springs., then watched The Polar Express movie. Our students did a marvelous job on their Christmas performance. They sang songs and quoted scripture. Thank youth Mrs. Potter for the beautiful performance! We look forward to a new start in our new year.
Kelli Rumore, Third Grade: "Third Grade was very excited about their Christmas stage performance! We had a wonderful time focusing on the true meaning of Christmas and making winter crafts! We have learned to recite, from memory, Hebrews 11:1-19!"

Mrs. Melody Petteway, Middle School: "Wow, it is hard to believe that Christmas has come and gone. Let us not forget to celebrate the birth of our Savior, His life, death, burial and resurrection all year long! We are so blessed to have such a wonderful Fine Arts teacher at FCA. FCA has wonderfully talented young ladies and gentlemen who led us to the throne room through worship at the annual Christmas Concerts. Thank you, Mrs. Potter, for your amazing leadership! The middle grades (6th-8th) had the opportunity to have separate chapels for boys and girls in December. In the girl's chapel, we talked about discovering who we are in Christ. We discussed how Satan loves to deceive us through his lies and how to arm ourselves with the truth of God's Word. 1 Peter 2:9-10 tells us that we are completely accepted/chosen, extremely valuable, eternally and unconditionally loved, totally forgiven, and fully capable. Hope you have a blessed New Year!"

Written by Linda Petteway

MEN'S GAME DAY WITH COACH BOBBY BOWDEN

On Saturday, January 11, 2014 you are invited to be a part of a special evening with Coach Bobby Bowden at First Baptist Sweetwater in Longwood, Florida. This is an advanced ticket event for men and boys. There will be food, games and a door prize where someone will win an autographed helmet signed by Coach Bowden. For tickets, visit fbsweetwater.org/gameday.

THE RESOLUTION 5K RUN/WALK

Get your feet on the ground and get fit while at the same time helping others! The Run/Walk, hosted by Fellowship Church, will be January 25, 2014, at the Hal Brady Recreation Center. The cost is \$15 for pre-registration and \$20 the day of the race. The funds collected will be used to help provide food and clothes to families in need, through Fellowship's Community Outreach. To register go to www.fellowshiponline.org.



*Mr. Kyle Williamson
20852 NW 166th Place
High Springs, FL 32643
386-454-7023
Joined by statement

Miss Kaitlyn Coburn
370 SW Unity Court
Ft. White, FL 32038
Profession of faith

*Michael and Patricia Griffis
9805 NW SR 45
High Springs, FL 32643
352-262-4036
Joined by letter

*Daniel & Rosemary Dougherty
215 SW 7th Ave.
High Springs, FL 32643
386-454-4782
Joined by letter

*Steven and Dee Taylor
425 NW 6th Street
High Springs, FL 32643
352-256-8627
Joined by statement

*Ashley and Cheryl Audette
1926 SW CR 138
Ft. White, FL 32038
386-454-7794
Joined by statement

*Kevin and Corina Douglas
Ariana Rix
237 SW Thistlewood Lane
Ft. White, FL 32038
386-288-5255
Joined by letter and baptism

*Virginia Hearn
19810 NW 231 Drive
High Springs, FL 32643
352-317-5159
Joined by letter

*Pending completion of the New Members Class