



# The FIRST BAPTIST BUILDER

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Sr. Pastor, Derek S. Lambert

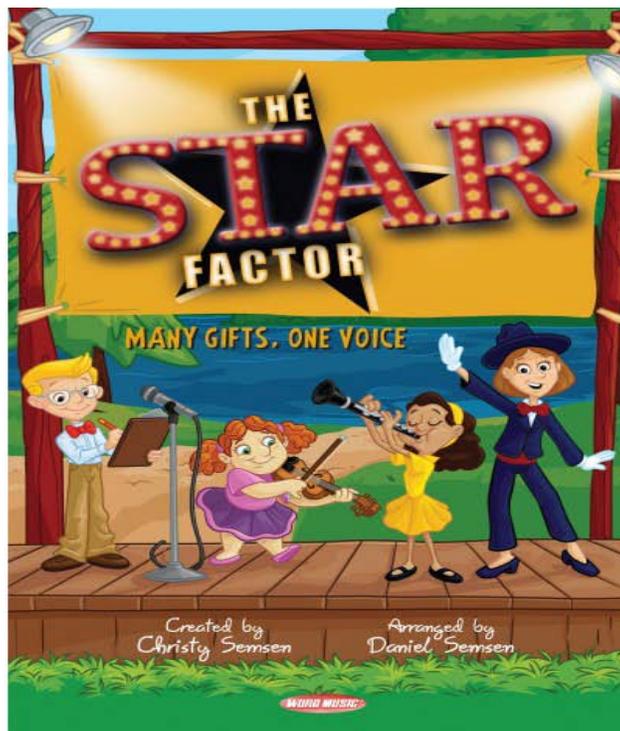
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## First Baptist Church Mission Statement

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

## MAY 2014



**PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014  
AT 6:00 PM**

# PASTORAL PONDERINGS

By: Derek Lambert

"Faith the size of a...*kidney bean*?" You will recognize the error in the quotation. Jesus spoke to His disciples concerning a small measure of faith which He likened to a mustard seed, which was/is dramatically small. He declared that a small portion of faith held the potential for relocating mountains! You get the picture? A tiny amount of faith moves enormous mountains. Seriously? Yes, according to Jesus in Matthew 17.

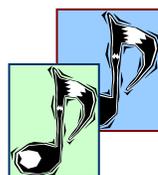
I must admit, I have misunderstood the meaning of Jesus' words for a long time. I had erroneously compared my miniscule faith to the enormous mountains I faced in life. But, faith alone is insufficient. Before you reach for a stone, continue reading.

Humanity places faith in all sorts of things. We trust, or have confidence in our automobiles. Most have little knowledge of the inner workings of the combustion engine beyond depressing the accelerator to "go". Yet, billions, the world over, place faith in the mechanical structures that defy our understanding. A similar comparison can be made with our electronic devices. We cannot explain exactly how we are able to transmit our image to a friend's device, to "see" one another while we talk, but we use the technology often. Faith is also placed in other people. When said people let us down we declare, "I just can't have faith in him/her any longer." Faith alone is insufficient. What Jesus speaks of is a small measure of APPROPRIATELY placed faith...in Him.

Don't compare the measure of your faith with your mountain. The mountains will always be larger, which was the point Jesus made. Compare the enormous mountains you face with the GINORMOUS God in whom you have placed your faith, even when your faith is small. Regardless of the heights reached by the mountains you face, God will always be bigger still.

So, I chose to use the kidney bean in place of the mustard seed. The bean is small when compared to the mountains, but it also reminds me of my mountain. On May 19th my left kidney will be removed from my body and transplanted into another. What if something goes wrong? What if my right kidney fails? Questions abound. Yet, by faith, regardless of how small, I face this enormous mountain with my eyes fixed on Someone besides myself. I am "faithing" Jesus in this...and He is bigger than this mountain.

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## NOTES from our Worship Pastor

### Soul Fitness

As a PK (pastor's kid), I was raised in church. I vividly remember the offering envelopes I completed each week in Sunday School with the check boxes noting my completion of the "required" spiritual activities. Attendance. Check. I was always in Sunday School. Read Bible Daily. Check. I heard my dad read the Bible every morning in our family devotional time. Prayer. Check. I said the blessing over every meal. Giving Check, thanks to the quarter Mom gave me just before entering class. And finally, Worship Attendance. Check. Did I have a choice?

### Spa for the Soul

Every week each box was proudly checked and submitted to the teacher. But of course, these activities did little to strengthen my walk with God. I basically skated by on my parent's coattails. While my parent's efforts toward my spiritual development kept me from straying far from the things of God, simply living around spiritual activity was insufficient to grow in my own faith. While I was still a Christian, my lack of personal responsibility for my spiritual fitness kept me immature and a baby Christian for a long time.

It wasn't until I was in college and on my own that I really made the choice to seek to know God and make Him the Lord of my life through a real relationship that was based in spiritual disciplines. No longer did I read my Bible, attend church, pray or give just to check a box, I did it (and continue to today) because these activities strengthened my relationship with Jesus. My soul fitness was in a relationship with Jesus and not merely in the activity.

I Timothy 4:7-8, "Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." Just as training the body for physical strength and endurance requires commitment, time, perseverance and growth, so does spiritual strength and endurance training.

Soul Fitness requires commitment. First, you must commit your whole life to Christ through salvation. Wellness apart from Christ is IMPOSSIBLE. Then, commit to allow Christ to change you into His image. This means to allow His truth to direct your choices in every area of your life.

Soul fitness requires time. As with exercise, many people use the lack of time as an excuse to avoid or skip spiritual training. We all have the same 24 hours in a day. Unfortunately, we waste time doing unimportant, less valuable activities such as mindlessly watching TV or surfing the internet for useless information or worse. Plan your day and schedule time to spend alone with God.

(Continued on next page)

Soul fitness requires perseverance. Even as a believer, life is difficult. Distractions, disasters, trials and tests are all part of life. Staying faithful to your spiritual training may not change your circumstances but it will always change you. When we are spiritually fit we think clearer, have more patience, make wise, godly choices, relate better to other people, control our temper, act lovingly, and exhibit self-control. Spiritual fitness directly impacts emotional, mental, and physical health when life gets hard.

Soul fitness requires growth. Just as muscles strengthen and grow when challenged with a weight, we mature spiritually as we exercise our spiritual muscles. Growth, both physically and spiritually, takes time, commitment and perseverance. As you learn more about who Christ is through His Word, you begin to think like Jesus. As you think more like Jesus, you begin to act more like Jesus. And as you act more like Jesus, you reflect His love, glory and power to others through your every day life. Then, and only then, are you on the path toward spiritual fitness.

So, what is your soul fitness level right now? Use these soul fitness markers to check your progress. Ask God to show you where you are weak and where you are stronger, where you are growing and where you are on a plateau. Then, commit, invest time, persevere and grow in your spiritual fitness level.

Written by Branda Polk

Blessings, Pastor 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 POINT NICK CARTER

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

During the month of May, our theme in Kingdom Kidz is BREAKTHROUGH. Never give up! We are talking all about the time and endurance it takes to finish what you start and the need to stick with it even when it gets tough. The verse is "Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop of we don't give up." Galatians 6:9.

The basic truth is: ***I can trust God no matter what.***

The bottom line is: ***I can stick with it because God will help me.***

The last Kingdom Kidz is May 18, 2014.

Betty Radford

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**FROM YOUR  
DEACONS**



Have you ever made promises you couldn't keep. Or spoken before you thought about what you were agreeing too, later wishing you had considered what you were getting yourself into. I certainly have made promises I wish I hadn't and done things just because I said I would, even when I didn't want to do them.

The older I get the more I see that our Heavenly Father always keeps his promises. I sometimes wonder how he ever keeps his promises while using imperfect people. A lot of the time I don't feel like he is working through me both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). But I know that I have been used by him even when I didn't feel like I was being very useful to him. How in the world does God keep all the wonderful promises to us that we find in his word? It really is pretty simple.....

*For all the promises of God find their Yes in him (Christ). That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1:20*

God can keep his promises using sinful people who have trusted in Jesus and become His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21) to reach a lost and dying world with the Good news of His Gospel. Have you told anybody lately about our Savior? Remember you can be of use to the God of the Universe in keeping his promises.....in Jesus. Amen.

The upcoming Deacon on call teams:

**April 7<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>**

*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)
Drew Mock	386-438-3393 (c)

**May 12<sup>th</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup>**

*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)

Library News:

School is almost over, 4 weeks to go. Our children will be allowed to check out books for the next two weeks, the last two weeks they need to get all their books turned in or parents will have to pay for the lost books. It's been a good school year and we have enjoyed watching the kids grow and mature.

We will be posting the new library hours for the summer in our next issue and in the Connector.

Here are two new books added to the library collection that we would like share:

**Enemies of the Heart: Breaking Free from the Four Emotions That Control You** by Andy Stanley: Stanley explores four destructive forces—guilt, anger, greed, and jealousy—and shows how they infiltrate your life and damages your relationships. He offers Biblical direction to help you fight back, and take charge of those feelings that mysteriously control you. (Call # 152.4 Sta)

**Experiencing God At Home** by Tom Blackaby and Richard Blackaby: "Healthy home-lives lead to strong Christian communities! Illuminating that the clear foundation for God's work in nations and churches around the world begins with his relationship with individual families, the Blackabys offer real-life stories---supported by lessons from the Bible---that illustrate God's presence in marriage, choosing life goals, rescuing broken friendships, forgiveness, and more." Parents will see a clearer picture of how Christian beliefs and family values are undermined in today's world and learn reliable ways to better prepare their children for what they will face in this secular society. God's powerful work in our neighborhoods and nations alike begins at home. (Call # 649 Bla)

We would like to wish our Mothers a very happy Mothers' Day and look back on our moms who have gone on to a better place – so thankful that you were a Godly and loving mom. (Proverbs 31:10-31)

Janet H. 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:

April 27 – May 1: VPK Assessment

May 5 – 9: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6, May 14, May 22, May 30: Weekly Staff Devotions Meeting, 7:30 am

May 1 – May 16: Drop off all out-grown student uniforms to FCA office

May 17: Used uniform Exchange, 9:00 am – noon, No Charge!

May 22: Faculty/Staff Meeting

May 25: Memorial Day, FCA Closed

May 28-30: Final Exams for Middle School

May 30: Last day of school, K-8 and Eighth Grade Graduation

June 2 -6: Postplanning for teachers

June 5: Prekindergarten Graduation, 10:00 am, FBC sanctuary and last day of VPK school

June 6: Final Email Newsletter for school year from Mr. Stone

June 9: Opening of new FCA Preschool Babies (six week old) bed babies, one and two year old enrollees.

June 9 – August 15: FCA Summer Camp, ages 3 through Grade 8, 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, Misty Emerson, camp director

August 2014: Opening of FCA High School!!

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

School Uniforms Exchange: We will be holding a used uniform exchange on Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 am – noon. Parents may donate all FCA clothing that a child has outgrown. Drop these items off at school any time between now and Friday, May 16. Mrs. Kelli Reustle is coordinating this exchange and will organize all garments. There is NO cost for FCA families to come and receive FCA shirts/shorts/pants. There will be a limit of 2 shirts per child and 2 pants/shorts per child for you to take home. They are free! We are going to bless one another by donating and receiving clothing. Even if you have nothing to donate, you may still come and receive garments.

Teacher Appreciation: Mrs. Patty Earnhart has agreed to coordinate our annual Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-9. Contact her if you would like to help. We love our teachers and will try and show it with food, beverages, treats, service, coupons, deliveries, etc., and lots of hugs!

Oasis Summer Camp, Misty Phelps Emerson, Director: The program includes Kindergarten through Eighth Graders. You may choose one or all 10 weeks (Monday through Friday) beginning June 9 and ending August 15. Camp will be closed July 4. Hours are 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. There is a one-time registration fee of \$75 per child. The cost is \$125 per week and includes 2 snacks per day and 2 field trips per week. The program will focus on spiritual, creative, and leadership development. Contact the school office for more information.

Sports: As we continue to plan for the opening of our high school in August 2014, we have joined two athletic associations—

FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) and FCAL (Florida Christian Athletic League). Come join our team!

Fine Arts, Mrs. Shoran Potter: The Association of Christian Schools International Art Show was April 4 in Jacksonville. FCA submitted 16 pieces of artwork for judging. "Best in Show" for first and second grades was awarded to Madeline Gruenwald. "Best in Show" for third and fourth grades was awarded to Ashley Hinton. Students receiving "Superior" Ratings were Blake Petteway and Maggie Zawoy. Receiving "Excellent" were Ashlynn Allen, Tyler Cousins, Whitney Davis, Matthew Green, Alana Lambert, Kaitlyn Petteway and Junah Rumore. Kindergarten classes are rehearsing for their musical, "The Little Red Hen" performance on May 13 at 10:00 in the black box theatre. Second through Fifth grades are rehearsing for "Sinfonietta" (band concert) on May 15 at 10:00 am in the black box theatre. Eighth grade is in the editing phase of their "Stop Motion Animation" film project.

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.

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.

Teachers at FCA are reporting some very exciting things:

Our Babies: "We are making final preparations for the arrival of our infants, ones and twos. We are at capacity for the infants and ones and may need to open another class of twos. These are exciting days at FCA! Mrs. Carol Combs has been appointed as our Preschool Director.

Mrs. Cammey Hinton, VPK Classes:

Our VPK students are busy bees as we wind down the school year! We are reviewing all letters and sounds, practicing reading short one and two vowel words, and participating in lots of spring related art activities as we enjoy all this season has to offer! We will complete our third and final VPK assessment the last week of April and then begin to spend more time preparing for prekindergarten graduation—held in the church sanctuary on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. All parents, siblings, extended family, and friends are invited to share in this special time with us!

Mrs. Lori Clark, and Mrs. Katie West, Kindergarten:

"Kindergarten is continuing to learn Bible verses and we are currently learning 'Exceeding great and precious promises are given unto us'. 2 Peter 1:4. What a great verse for this time of year as we celebrated Easter. We are also continuing to learn about God's World with topics of seasons, plants, and insects. The month of May we are displaying some "interesting critters" on the bulletin board at the front entrance. Many children are having much success with the Accelerated Reader Program and we thank Mr. and Mrs. Bridges for maintaining that program for us with all of the books available to read."

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Mrs. Kate Kieszek, First Grade: "We are studying and writing about ladybugs. We are up to the 13 addition and subtraction families. We can't believe this school year is coming to an end! We have a fun bowling day planned for our last week of school.

Mrs. Kim Friar and Mrs. Natalie Carter, Second Grades: "We welcomed Mrs. Natalie Carter into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to replace Mrs. Stephens. Mrs. Stephens had baby, Asher, on Tuesday, April 22. All are doing well. Second graders have completed their standardized testing for this year. We are very proud of how hard the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders worked during testing. Results from the testing will be mailed out to parents in late May or early June. We have talked about Jesus' life, death and resurrection to help celebrate our Easter season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are just full of amazing questions! We know Jesus is smiling down on FCA and the students enrolled at FCA! As we are wrapping up our year, we have done a lot of reviewing. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are now practicing their 4 times tables and learning division through the 4-family. We have also talked about our bodies and manners through our health book. We have learned what a habit is and what needs to become a habit to help us stay healthier. Please, continue to pray for the FCA students as summer approaches. We know that at this time some students will not be returning to FCA and some new students will be joining us. I pray that FCA will have made a lasting impact on all the students and will carry through each and every one of their lives."

Mrs. Whitney Bussey, Middle School: "Kaitlyn Petteway and Ivy Emerson (7<sup>th</sup> grade) participated in the 2014 Association of Christian Schools International Creative Writing Festival. Both girls submitted free verse poems and did an outstanding job!! Ivey earned "Good" and Kaitlyn "Excellent". Their poems were about the struggle of finding and fighting to keep the faith!! Amazing how God works. FCA will be a host site for this same festival next year. Sixth through Eighth grades is focusing on writing in response to literature for the month of May. We plan on utilizing the computer lab to polish our PowerPoint skills. Many thanks to the dedication of Megan Swilley, our computer teacher, for working with them during the research process! Our School Board blessed us with a delicious brunch on April 15. Many thanks for their dedication and leadership!!

Mrs. Melody Petteway, Middle School: "FCA had the opportunity to participate for the first time in the ACSI Math Olympics at University Christian School in Jacksonville on Friday, April 25. FCA took 32 third through eighth graders with at least three participants per game in Computation and Reasoning (Word Problems). There were five other private schools from Florida and Georgia making the number of participants over 160 students. Of the 32 students that participated from FCA, 22 of them received ribbons for placing in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in their category of competition. This means that FCA received 22 out of the 60 ribbons (approximately 37 %) given out for math Olympics. That is quite an accomplishment! Below are the students who qualified for participation and their award ribbons placement:

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

Madison Brown

Tyler Cousins – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Reasoning

Alaina Maupin – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Computation

Kaden Reed

Arabella Rumore

Cody Stephens

4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Ashlynn Allen

Zachary Brecken – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Computation

Ethan Conner – tied Caleb Johnson for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Computation

Caleb Johnson – tied Ethan Conner for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Computation

Ellie Keesling

Carleigh Newsom – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Reasoning

5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Cheney Brown

Aiden Collins

Trey Dubose

Matthew Green – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Computation

Blake Petteway – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Reasoning

Connor Strickland – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Reasoning

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Skyler Christopher – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Computation

Daniel Fowler – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Reasoning

Michaela Potter – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Reasoning

Junah Rumore

Jenna Sullivan – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Computation

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Ivy Emerson – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Computation

Grace Hinton – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Reasoning

Emily Keene – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Computation

Emily Noah – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Reasoning

Kaitlyn Petteway – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Computation

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Meghan Collins – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Computation

Christian Conner – 5<sup>th</sup> place in Reasoning

Jonathan Green – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Computation

Maggie Zawoy – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Computation

*Colossians 3:17 – "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

Written by Linda Petteway





**Thank You!**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the love and strength you provided during this time of loss. Charlie was thrilled knowing the Young At Heart Choir would be singing at his service. It is a blessing to be part of this church family.

Love,  
Linda Baldwin and family

Dear Church Family of FBC,

We the family of Vanice Stone would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for all of the love that you poured out to our Mom, Nanny and sister during her illness as well as to us after her home going to heaven. The cards, visits, phone calls, wonderful meals and most of all your prayers were graciously received. Although she will be forever missed we are rejoicing with her as she is resting in the arms of our Lord. May God richly bless FBC as you continue to reach others for Him.

Sincerely,  
The family of Vanice Tompkins Stone

Dear Church Family of FBC,

Thank you for the purchases of the Cook Books. The money raised totaled \$1,826.50 and will be given to Florida Baptist Children's home. A big THANK YOU to Janet Bridges and Madge Nipper for their help with the organization and sales.

Donna Frankenhauser's Life Connection Class



The next Senior Adult Quarterly Luncheon will be Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 11:00 am. Please bring a covered dish, meat will be provided. A sign-up sheet is available in the Church Foyer. The program will be "Hurricane Preparedness."

### GRADUATION RECOGNITION

If you or anyone you know are graduating from college or high school, please contact the Church Office no later than May 25th. A graduation recognition service will be held Sunday, June 1, 2014.

### ANNUAL CHURCH WORK DAY

Come out and join us for the next Annual FBC Work Day, Saturday, May 17th from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. For more information or work project suggestions, contact Mike Sturm at 352-316-1872. We will need workers and project leaders.



May 18, 2014 we are having a Life Connections Teachers Luncheon. The meal will be provided. This will take place in the FLC at 12:30 pm. This is the most important meeting we will have for this ministry. Please make plans to attend so we can achieve the maximum potential. If you cannot attend, please appoint someone to be there so the important information can be passed along to you. **Please RSVP to the Church Office by May 15, 2014.**



Vacation Bible School will be June 23 - 27, 2014. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up in the Church Foyer or contact Beth Jones at 386-365-5652.

### VICTORY CUP CHALLENGE

The "Victory Cup Challenge" will be Wednesday, May 21st at 6:00 pm in the Gym. For more information, contact Jeff Friar.

### THINGS MOM WOULD NEVER SAY

"How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"  
Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too."  
"Just leave all the lights on...it makes the house look more cheery."



"Let me smell that shirt...Yeah, it's good for another week."

"Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day."

Well, if Rahul's mamma says its OK then it's good enough for me."