



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.



September



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

By: Derek Lambert

Tim Staley recently shared the real numbers concerning our church's current financial posture. The facts were both encouraging and disheartening simultaneously. He discussed the current debt on the Children's building, which encouraged me because we are whittling away at the principle. The Stewardship team is approaching a refinance of the debt that will lock in a lower interest rate and place us on track to retire the debt. That is exciting!

On the flip side, contributions are down, which is somewhat disheartening. His presentation should help us see the value in each family contributing toward meeting our financial obligations. Jesus never mandated "equal giving" regarding amounts. Our incomes vary; therefore the amount for each family contribution will vary. What we can use to summarize what Jesus said about money is "equal sacrifice."

May I encourage you and your family to prioritize your investment in the Kingdom of God through our church? Consider sacrifices you can make in order to grow more faithful regarding tithes and offerings you bring to the Lord. Perhaps you have questions about tithing. I would be honored to discuss tithing with you in light of the Scripture. Maybe you would like more information about how money is allocated through the church. I am willing to discuss the various line items in our church budget with you too. I am available to you. Feel free to contact our church office (386.454.1505) or me directly (352.316.0763) to schedule an appointment.



Maybe you remember hearing your parents say it, "Money doesn't grow on trees." Well, they were right, it doesn't. In order for the church to maintain each ministry, building, and support service we offer, money is required. We are not government supported. We are supported completely by our contributions. Your investment counts. Your investment matters.

I have designated Sunday, October 5 as "Catch Up Sunday." We are currently running behind our budget by \$45,000, which is roughly the amount for two Sunday offerings. Please pray over the next month regarding how you and your family can contribute toward our deficit. We encountered a similar shortfall last year. I challenged the church to give. When the dust settled after the offering, we had gone from two weeks behind budget to one week ahead!! May God prompt our hearts in a similar fashion now.

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

"Once Upon A Time", that is how many famous stories begin. Another famous story begins "A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far Far Away", but we will save that story for another day. Here is the point, every story has a beginning. Those first few words are what catches the reader and draws them in. During the next few Builder editions I will be writing about how we can learn to share "our" story more effectively. At some point in the not to distant future I will be offering a short term class for those who wish to learn to apply story telling techniques to their own witness and life experience events.

God has given each one of us a story to share. If we are a "believer" then we have *The Greatest Story* to tell (Our life with Christ). Our individual life experiences are what makes up who and what we are. The little things in life and the big events that change and direct each of us are how God speaks into and through us. As we go about each day I want to encourage you to look for opportunities to share your story.

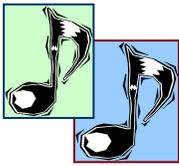
Here are three points to consider as you begin looking at your story and discovering ways to share it.

- 1- A good story has a simple beginning: Once Upon a Time..., A Long Time Ago..., I was born in..., My parents... What words would you use to describe the beginning of your story?
- 2- A good story is short. When you develop your story to share, keep it to two to three minutes. Can you share your story in two to three minutes?
- 3- A good story has a conclusion that leaves the listener wanting more. How would you conclude your story? Can you do it in a way that leaves the listener wanting to know more about you and what God has done in your life?

God has not given you the life you have and the experiences you have gone through for no reason! He has guided you and directed you and molded you and shaped you for a reason. Each time we can share about what God is doing or has done in our life we are sharing our story. Each time we share our story we are opening the door for a "Life Connection"!

Share well my friends!

Blessings!
Skipper



NOTES from our Worship Pastor

YOUNG AT HEAR CHOIR

We are working on our next musical project titled *Mary, Did You Know?* Come join us for fun, fellowship and a time of worship and praise from 10:00 – 11:00 am each Tuesday morning, in the Choir Suite.

THE CELEBRATION CHOIR

Come join us on Wednesday's at 6:55 pm - 8:10 pm in the Worship Center. We are about to start on our Christmas project titled, *Joy of Every Longing Heart*. Now is the perfect time to join us.

THE STUDENT CHOIR

Attention all students 6th grade and up, the Student Choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday afternoons, beginning September 21st at 5:00 pm in the Music Suite. If you missed the meeting on Sept. 7 please call the church office and set up a time to meet with Bro. Tim. There is some important information you need to get from me and I need to get from you.

KIDZ PRAISE (CHILDREN'S CHOIRS)

Kidz Praise has already begun on Wednesday's from 6:00-6:45 pm. The musical, *Fear Not Factor* will be the Christmas project this year. If you would like to help in any way, please call and let me know.

THE STUDENT CHOIR MISSIONS THROUGH THE ARTS FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

On September the 28th we will be serving a take-out lunch to raise funds for our Annual Mission Trip in June. You have been so generous in the past and we hope you will continue to support us now. The menu will be Baked Ziti, Garlic toast, Salad, and Desert. There will be tables for those who would like to eat in the FLC. We will have tea available for you as well. The cost is \$6.00 per plate. Thank you in advance for your support.

SENIOR ADULTS

Senior Adults please don't forget about the "*Save Our Seniors*" event on Tuesday from 9 - 11:00 am. The speakers are Kyle Petteway, speaking on wills, power of attorneys and estate planning; Robin Heysel from Hospice of Nature Coast, Caring for the Caregiver, and a speaker from Crime Prevention. There is not cost. There will be a continental breakfast and door prizes.

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



FROM YOUR DEACONS

Everyone loves a good story. You know the ones that have a good plot, overcome the villain, and get the girl in the end. As much as we love a good story, we must realize that we are telling a story with our lives. Our stories are usually different because of where we came from, where we live, where we work, where we go to church, and what ministries we are involved in. These stories tell others what is important to us and hopefully don't only tell others about us but who it is that means the most to us.

The teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount invite us into a better story. This story was told by Jesus at the beginning of his ministry and was not like anything the crowd had ever heard (Matthew 7:28). We have been shown and told for years in our culture that our stories depend on our own effort, our own desires, our own building of our kingdom on this earth. This self-built Kingdom has all of the stuff, all of the comforts, and all of the things that our culture has shown us that we need to make us happy. Jesus' story in the Sermon on the Mount is not about self-actualization, it's about Kingdom-actualization. It's not about building our own Kingdom but it's about building His Kingdom. There is a statement made throughout the Sermon on the Mount that emphasizes the difference between the two.

You have heard it said..... But I say.....

In other words: This is what the World says.....This is what God says.....

It's about living out the Kingdom of God here and now. This begins with the realization that by our very nature we don't have what it takes.

The Sermon on the Mount shows us that we are all in need of a Savior and that we can't get there on our own. After Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount at the beginning of his earthly ministry, He lived it out for the next 3 years on his way to the cross for us. So are you telling the same story that the rest of the world is telling or are you telling a Kingdom story with your life?

The upcoming Deacon on call teams:

August 12-September 8

*Ed Carter	386-755-9406 (h) 352-538-6826 (c)
Bob McMillian	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)

September 9-October 13

*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)

* Team Leader

THE POINT NICK CARTER

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

Have you ever walked through your local grocery store and noticed the potential just sitting on the shelves? You can head down one aisle and discover spices from around the world. Over in the produce stands, you can find ripest apples, cartons of blueberries, maybe even some observe Dragon Fruit. Not to mention all of the staples on another aisle: flour, sugar, eggs and milk.

Incredible ingredients that will sit there and go bad, unless someone takes them home and creates something delicious. You can speculate all day about the potential in that grocery store, but until there is some type of response to what you believe can really happen, it's just potential. In other words, with the right kind of response, faith in a process I can't fully understand, and a big mess of dishes, those ingredients could turn into warm, sticky-sweet, apple cobbler goodness. But if those ingredients just sit there, even though they have incredible potential, the flour will just stay powdery and tasteless. The butter will soften. And those apples will turn brown. In fact, if you do nothing, they will lose their potential and turn into something that just makes your trash smell bad.

Think about someone's life, with all of the God-given, God-created ingredients. You have time, talents, opportunities, words and resources. The point is, we can choose to either respond to what God has given us or we can ignore it. One of the most powerful things leaders and parents can do is to inspire their children to trust that God can do amazing things through the abilities He's given them. Kids should grow up knowing that their faith in God's ability to do that, can profoundly affect how they view and respond to their unique potential.

In **Kingdom Kidz** for the month of **September** we are taking a closer look at what the Bible has to say about responsibility. We define responsibility as: **Showing you can be trusted by what you say and do.** In week one, we head back to the Garden of Eden where God created Adam and Eve and gave them their first job. Through passages in **Genesis 1 and 2**, we'll see how they were put in charge of the entire world. They took responsibility and began to cultivate the earth. **Our Bottom Line is: Show you can be trusted by taking care of what God has made.** The first job God gave to Adam and Eve was a task that we can continue today.

In Week 2, we'll look at **I Kings 19:16 – 21** and **2 Kings 2:1 – 15**. Elijah was nearing the end of his work as God's prophet. God chose Elisha to carry on the work. But first, Elisha had some things to learn. **Our Bottom Line is: Show you can be trusted to lead by learning how to follow.** We all want to lead, but we need to learn from our leaders before we can be in charge.

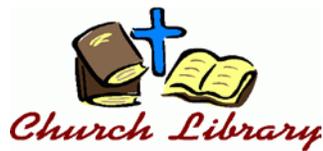
In week 3, we'll hear from one of Jesus' parables in **Mathew 21:28 – 32**. In the Parable of the Two Sons, a father asked his sons to do some work. One said "yes" but didn't follow through with his actions. The other said "no" at first, but ended up completing the job anyway. We'll discover that it's important to do what you say you will. **Our Bottom Line is: Show you can be trusted by what you do.** You can't just say you'll do something; you actually have to do it.

In week 4, we'll look at another of Jesus' parables found in **Matthew 25:14 – 29a**. In the Parable of the Talents, a business owner went on a trip and put three guys in charge of some money. Each one did something different, but only two of them were found faithful and given more responsibility. **Our Bottom Line is: Show you can be trusted with more by taking care of what you have.** If you want more responsibility, show that you can be responsible with what you already have.

Our memory verse this month is **Luke 16:10a**, "*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.*" (NIV) When we show responsibility with the little things, there's good chance we'll have opportunity for greater responsibility in the future. God has created everyone with potential: talents, time, resources, and opportunities. And we can either respond to God with our abilities in a way that honors Him, or we can waste what He has given. Think about the word *responsibility*. It really breaks down into how you respond with your abilities. And we want children to not only understand how to respond to the ability that God's given them, but also how to respond to God's ability to work through them to change the world around them.

CONGRATULATIONS Nick and Natalie Carter on the birth of Ezra Ian Carter, born 11:07 am, 8 pounds 7 ounces. He is perfect. ☐





Library News:

The library is almost ready for our classes to start coming. We just about have all the students' names bar-coded and loaded into our system.

The library would like to thank the following for doing our story time this year for the following grades:

Beverly Jones – Kindergarten A
Diane Peterson – Kindergarten B
Pat Long – 1st Grade A
Darlene Presley – 1st Grade B
Norma Valdes – 2nd Grade

Our back up for story time is Lou Westmoreland. Thanks to all you ladies for helping us out again.

We now have our 22 volumes of the **World Book Encyclopedia** in and on the shelf. We are in the process of getting the **Web Version** up and going.

Here are two books and a DVD we would like to recommend:

What Are You Afraid of? Facing Down Your Fears With Faith by Dr. David Jeremiah: Everyone is afraid of something, and too often these fears are crippling, keeping us from the life of God has called us to live. As Christians, we have been given all we need in order to face down even the most frightening, unexpected, and overwhelming obstacles in life. Dr. Jeremiah explores the top ten fears that are holding so many of us back from the life God has called us to live and shares the supernatural secrets for facing down these fears with faith. (Call # 248.86 Jer)

I Didn't Ask To Be Born (But I'm Glad I Was) by Bill Cosby: The author, a well-known funny man is back with his first humor book. In this new collection of observations, he brings us more of his wonderful and wacky insights into the human condition. (Call # B Cos)

God's Not Dead (DVD): A story of intersecting lives, each on a different path but all on the same journey – an atheist Philosophy professor (Kevin Sorbo), a converted Muslim (Hadeel Sittu), a callous businessman (Dean Cain), a desperate reporter (Trisha LaFache), an anxious pastor (David A. R. White), and an abused girlfriend (Cory Oliver). Weaving together in a journey of faith, denial, doubt, and trust lead to a decision that will change all their lives. (Call # DVD 231 God)

Janet Bridges
Library



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:

September 15-19: VPK Assessments

September 19-20: FCA Forensics Debate Team competition, Jacksonville

September 22: First Progress Reports go home

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

Parent-Student Handbook: The Parent-Student Handbook has valuable information concerning many aspects of the school. We have some copies in the school office. The Handbook is also on our website. Please, review it for questions or clarification about school-related matters.

Sports: Grades 6-9 (Junior Varsity) is now in full swing with coed cross country and girls' volleyball practicing Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:30-5:00 pm.

Forensics Debate Team: Our brand new team is open to grades 6-9, girls and boys. We meet every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 pm. We will compete in local, state, and national debate competitions. For more information contact Coach Shane Johnson.

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!!

School Uniforms: We have a uniform closet that has dozens of uniform pants, shorts and shirts available for free. Please, see the receptionist for assistance. We would appreciate if you would like to add your lightly-used uniforms to the collection.

FCA Lunches: Our wonderful hot lunch program for all students in K-9 grades is off to a good start this year. The weekly menu-order forms are available on our website and at the desk near the front office. You may order by the day or by the week. Our receptionist collects the lunch orders each morning by 8:15, tabulates the order and then calls the restaurant by 9:00 to place our order.

Thank you: Thank you to The Frozen Berry in Newberry who "love FCA and wanted to do something for the faculty and staff. We are located in Newberry, just south of the light." They welcomed our staff with a discounted dessert!

Accreditation: Our faculty and staff have embarked on a huge adventure as we work toward becoming dually accredited by ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) and SACS (Southern Association of College and Schools). We believe this will only validate the quality of excellence that is already taking place every day at FCA. We now have 331 students!

(Continued on next page)

Speech and Language Therapy: If you would like your child assessed for any speech or language issues, please let your teacher know. Alachua County provides a free evaluation and private therapy sessions during the school year for those identified with a specific need.

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."

Mrs. Lori Clark, Kindergarten: "We're happy to have new faces and families with us this year. Looking forward to growing in wisdom of the Lord in all subjects."

Mrs. Cammey Hinton, First Grade: "FCA has to first grade classrooms this year with a combined total of thirty students! We had a great first week of school getting to know the children and their families! It has been a blessing to hear the children's responses to the Bible lessons being taught. Their young hearts are so open to God's word! What a great bunch!"

Mrs. Kim Friar, Second Grade: "Welcome back students! We have had a fun filled and exhausting school beginning. It has been such a blessing to meet new families at FCA. I am excited about our new school year. We have been busy getting to know one another and our routine. I am looking forward to teaching the 2d graders about Jesus and what His word tells us about our everyday life and applications. Please, continue to pray for all involved with FCA."

Mr. Todd Cangelosi, Sixth Grade: "God has blessed me by placing me in a job where I am surrounded by well-behaved children, supportive staff and parents, and then with the ever-present opportunity to share about what Christ has done and what He is doing."

Submitted by Linda Petteway

First Baptist Church Family

***Please join us for a very special night of worship!
On Sunday, September 14th, we will be holding our
Sunday night worship service at Camp Kulaqua to
welcome our new***

Associate Pastor, Skipper Rogers and his family.

***Pastor Derek will be bringing us a special message and
the youth will be leading our praise time.***

***We are asking that everyone bring a dessert
to share at the end of the worship and praise time.***

***So mark your calendars for
Sunday, September 14, 2014, from 6-8:00 p.m.***



Mr. Balin Strickland
16186 NW 204th St.
High Springs, FL 32643
352-857-3678

Joined by profession

Jerry and Candace Davis
24002 NW 176th Ave.
High Springs, FL 32643
352-317-6306

Tab & Avalys Hunter
169 SW Candor Place
Lake City, FL 32024
386-961-8035



Dear Church Family,

We are so thankful for your recent gift of \$3,016.75 that you helped collect through the clever sale of cook books within you church all for the benefit of the Cellon-Thomas Campus (Florida Baptist Children's Home). Thank you to the W.O.W Sunday School class and your church.

The first family has been in one of the units for 8 months with approximately 15 children being touched. We have had during this time two professions of faith. As well, the empty and ready home now has parents and they are officially in – will be expecting children almost any day. And we continue to raise funds for the two homes yet to be built.

We are currently planning on April 11th, 2015 as the 5K Run date (Yerman Run) in Gainesville and our goal is to raise all remaining funds by that date (approximately \$350,000).



Pray then Play Basketball Registration is now open! Registration forms available in the Church Foyer, Office or at praythenplay.com. Basketball Evaluations are **Saturday, September 13th at 9:00 am.**

Please sign up in the Church Foyer if you want to volunteer. **Players and coaches must be registered by September 13th to participate in the season.**