



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.

DECEMBER, 2014



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

By: Derek Lambert

We Gave a Kidney and Gained a Newhart

When was the last time you were stunned by God? I mean, a time when God did something that simply left you speechless. Unfortunately, I often overlook or neglect to see the beauty in what He does which steals away the awe and wonder I should have for Him. Maybe you fear the same is true of you.

Just last week He granted me a glimpse of His plan...and when He did...I was dumbfounded, amazed, grateful, blown away! May I share with you?

I was traveling down the road, alone. As I drove, my mind contemplated what God had been doing in my life over the last year. I have been privileged with serving an amazing congregation of folks for another year. He allowed me the honor of leading a number of people to faith. I was granted the opportunity to serve among the Promise People, a people for whom I pray daily. God used me to minister to a perfect stranger through kidney donation. And, most recently, our family size has increased through foster care.

During the moments of contemplation came the reality, "We gave a kidney and gained a Newhart." Kidney donation was a family affair. I could not make such a decision alone. Our family drew the conclusion that God was inviting us to be part of this ministry. So, although the kidney was removed from my body, the kidney was actually a gift from my entire family.

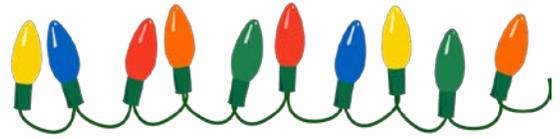


Now we have again discovered that we cannot out give God. His shovel is larger than our spoon! The two little girls we currently care for in our home are blessings from Him. They both bring our family so much joy and laughter. The younger of the two is a Newhart, which provides the excellent play on words chosen for the title of this article.

Look around you and prepare to be amazed.

God is at work and He invites you to join Him...

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



Christmas Lights, I love Christmas Lights! I love looking at them. I love watching them glow and dance. The ones that are timed and coordinated to music absolutely amaze me. I dream of being able to someday design and program my own display of dancing lights. There are some great Christmas light scenes from movies like *Christmas Vacation* and *Christmas with the Kranks*. There is the incredible display at Disney's Hollywood Studios; *The Osborn Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights* that is absolutely mind blowing! Well you get the idea- I love Christmas lights. Now when it comes to hanging lights on my new house here in High Springs I must admit that I am not looking forward to it. The reason is because all of my Christmas decoration stuff is in boxes. Those boxes are surrounded by boxes which are under boxes. Just the thought of trying to "dig out" my Christmas stuff is depressing.

As I think about lights, I am reminded of the Bible passage from the book of Matthew in chapter 5:

14"You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. *15*No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lamp stand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. *16*In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

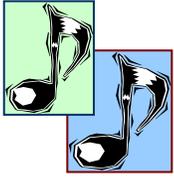
There are many people who find this Christmas season depressing and they need to see the light of Jesus in us. As you go out shopping, eating, spending time with family, etc. remember to be the light to all of those around you.

As for me and my house; well, I am sure if you drive by my home this Christmas season you will find some lights hanging because "I Love Christmas lights" and I want my light to shine.

Blessings to you and yours this Christmas season!
Skipper

Alachua County Public Schools Food Drive

Alachua County Public Schools provide food for needy families in the community. Donations are needed for food boxes for the Christmas season. Please contact Kelly Kostamo, Partners in Education, ACPS, kostamkb@gm.sbac.edu, 352.955.6900. All donations are due December 10th.



NOTES from our Worship Pastor

Well, here we are again. Christmas is just a few days away and we are on the threshold of another new year. And, who knows what the New Year will bring? I do! It will bring what every year of life brings: joys, sorrows, victories, and defeats. It will bring blessings and trials, life and death. It will bring challenges and opportunities, as well as failures and disappointments. There will be times of prosperity and times of financial stress. I guess we could simply say that 2015 will be another year of Our Journey through Life. The real question is NOT what will the New Year bring, BUT what will I bring to the New Year?

Will I bring optimism or pessimism into this year God has opened for me? Will I bring the baggage of past mistakes and failures, the frustration of disappointments and a burdened spirit weighed down by the cares of this world?

Doesn't the Bible encourage us to lay aside every weight that so easily besets us? (Heb. 12-1). Or, will I bring the hope of a life well lived in Christ Jesus. Will I manifest, in my life, the power and glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? After all, I am responsible for "my" attitude.

God has blessed us so much. Let's honor Him by letting others see Him in everything we do this New Year. I hope everyone has a *Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This is the fourth year we have been a Drop-Off Site for Operation Christmas Child. That would not be possible without people like Warren and Jean Godsmark. They stepped up to serve. They went through the interview process through Samaritans Purse and were approved to be the coordinators in order for us to become a drop-off site. They were here for 8 days, 2 hours a day for churches and organizations to bring their shoeboxes to be dropped off. They want someone else to step up to the plate. If you are interested in becoming coordinators, please talk with Warren and Jean and they will put you in contact with the right people. Again, "Thank you Warren and Jean for your service to the Kingdom." Also Terry Buehler has been a huge help this year as well, helping the Godsmark's'. A Big Thank You to you as well.

This year our church family gave 138 shoeboxes toward Operation Christmas Child. The Drop off total from churches and individual organizations this year at our site is 575. That is a total of 575 collected shoeboxes representing children that will hear about Jesus in their own language. Please pray as the shoeboxes are being prepared to be shipped. Pray specifically for each child and their families as God's word is given to them that they will hear and receive Christ as a direct result of obedience from His people. Thank you church family, for caring and giving the Gospel to others through Samaritan's Purse.

In Christ, Bro. Tim

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 pm Kidz Praise Musical/ *Fear Not Factor*

Dress Rehearsal Wed. Dec. 3rd 6:00 – 8:00 pm

FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL FRIDAY DEC. 5th

Drama 5:00

Choir 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 14th 6:00 pm

"A Christmas Worship Celebration"

All Choirs will sing! (3 & 4 year olds through Senior Adults)

Times of Sound Checks are as follows:

4:30 Celebration Choir

5:00 Youth Choir

5:15 Young At Heart Choir

5:30 Kidz Praise k-5th grades

5:45 Kidz Praise 3 & 4 year olds

Sunday, December 21st 5:30 pm

Church-Wide Fellowship & Carol Sing / Meet in the FLC

Everyone bring a pot of chili for your family and some to share w/ crackers or whatever you want to share. Tea and coffee provided.

Dec. 22nd through 26th Church Office CLOSED NO Activities

Wednesday Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 28th NO Evening Worship

Wednesday Dec. 31st NO ACTIVITIES

2015

Friday, January 1st 2015 New Years Day

Church Office CLOSED

Sunday, January 4th NO Evening Worship

Question and Answer from Stewardship Team for 2015
Budget TBA

Vote on 2015 Budget Date TBA

It's that time of year again!
Whole Smoked Boston Butts \$30 Donation. Tickets Available

Dec. 1 at the Church Office on after services on
Sunday & Wednesday

PICK UP Wed. Dec 17th OR Sun. Dec 21st

Pick Up from 3 – 6 pm

Proceeds are to help us on Missions Through the Arts
Our Youth Choir Mission Trip



FROM YOUR DEACONS



In 2 Peter 3:11 we are asked this question;*what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?* This question gets to the very heart of why we are here. Are you living the sort of life that makes others wonder why you do what you do? A life that is *QUESTIONABLE*? Not in the sense of morality, but in the sense that it arouses curiosity among unbelievers.

One of the best sermons that I ever heard was preached by the very life of a man I met while I was in High School. Yes, he was quite an individual. He looked like Mighty Mouse, with broad shoulders and a smaller lower body, he had a handlebar mustache and he could sing very well. Every time he saw me anywhere it was the same, we had to Bear hug and try to squeeze the life out of each other. But that isn't what made such an impact on me, it was the fact that he was sold out for Jesus, living a life of joy, showing the love of Jesus to everyone he met. He definitely made me question why he did what he did and what made him tick. He was living a questionable life. He loved Jesus and he had surrendered his life to Him. It gave me a glimpse of what it meant to be a Christian. He probably doesn't know the impact that he had on me as a teenager, but I am forever grateful for him.

Going back to our original question; what sort of people ought you to be? Do you think that you are glorifying God by keeping your faith to yourself, with those that think like you do, and never engaging with non believers outside of the walls of the Church? Do you have any friends that are non-believers? When are we as a Church going to live lives that reflect Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). Are you living a *QUESTIONABLE* life? A life that is sold out for Jesus, full of Joy, reflecting Christ. A life that arouses curiosity among non believers, living out a sermon every day, making decisions based on Scripture and actually enjoying life.

The upcoming Deacon on call teams:

Nov. 10th – Dec. 7th

*Dick Bridges	386-462-3123 (h) 352-870-2112 (c)
Jeff Friar	386-462-1482 (h) 352-318-1577(c)
George Hall	386-454-3660 (h) 352-354-4252 (c)
Wayne Hollingsworth	386-454-4187 (h) 352-317-5657(c)
Robbie Teele	386-497-3360 (h) 352-215-3999 (c)

Dec. 8th – Jan 12th

*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)

* Team Leader

Library News:

As I write this article we have finished our Scholastic Book Fair. Our profit was \$1004.00 and \$225.00 Scholastic dollars. Our profit will help pay for the AR (Accelerated Reading) program for 2015. We would like to thank our church families and parents, teachers, students of our FCA school for supporting our book fair.

Reporting our circulation for the last quarter:

July-September 2015

Books:

Youth and Adults	392
J Section (Older Children)	245
C Section (Younger Children)	419

DVDs	96
CDs	2
Periodicals	9
Equipment	14

TOTAL 1,175

In-House Usage:

Books	22
Periodicals	26

Collection Statistics: Added

Books	328
DVDs	26
CDs	1
Kits	2

Patron Statistics: Added - 52

As Christmas is approaching it is a time to remember and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Let us remind our kids and grandchildren what the true meaning of Christmas is all about. The library has a new DVD and a book of same title inspired and based on a true story.

Christmas For a Dollar by Gale Sears: "It's 1931 in Bakersfield, California. America is in the midst of the Depression, and the Kamp family is struggling to get by, especially after Mrs. Kamp's untimely death. Now with her mother gone and her father overwhelmed by doctor bills resulting from her brother's polio, little Ruthie expects another Christmas without presents or festivities.

(Continued on next page)

But when her father brings home one dollar in change and lets the children use it to buy special gifts for each other, the Kamp family comes to find that money isn't what makes Christmas full of joy, love, and miracles. This touching true story...will remind you and your family of the simple joys in life and the importance of selflessness, gratitude, and charity." (Call # DVD F Chr and JF Sea)

A great movie for the whole family and children will enjoy the reading of the book.

We wish everyone a very *Merry Christmas!!*

Janet H. Bridges
Library



Dear Church Family,

Crossroads Pregnancy Center has been bringing the message of LIFE to North Central Florida for ten years - both life for the unborn and eternal life in Jesus Christ. During this time, First Baptist Church has blessed this ministry with board members, volunteers, fundraisers, as well as many members who have been financial partners. Also over these years, FCA blessed us with a diaper drive, many church members have brought a wide variety of baby items to be distributed through our Earn While You Learn Parenting program, and CPC seminars have been hosted on the FBC campus. Most recently, we held our annual 5K Run/Walk fundraiser at which the vast majority of participants were from First Baptist Church of High Springs. We raised \$3,712 at this event and enjoyed a great day of fellowship here at CPC. FBC provided a wide variety of assistance with much needed equipment and talented people to make this a very special event. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support and encouragement that you continually extend to us and our mission at Crossroads Pregnancy Center. We look forward to your continued favor and participation in this life-centered ministry.

In His Grace,
John and Catherine Estes



PRAY-THEN-PLAY VOLLEYBALL

Pray then Play Volleyball Registration is now open! Sign up is quick and easy online at fbchighsprings.com/praythenplay or praythenplay.com. Look for Volleyball 2015 sign up, click and register. Volunteers can sign up here as well. Volleyball clinics will be December 2nd and December 4th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.



*Miss Megan Valdes
9906 NW 161 Street
Alachua, FL 32615
443-983-0566
Letter

*Elizabeth May
778 SW Bethlehem Ave.
Ft. White, FL 32038
386-454-5633
Statement

*Travis & JoAnn Sullivan
929 NE 130th Place
Branford, FL 32008
386-466-6175
Joined by letter

*Allen & Meloney Sullivan
17 NE CR 138
Branford, FL 32008
386-935-5385
Joined by letter

*Mrs. Debbie Reid
25609 NW 168th Place
High Springs, FL 32643
352-262-7873
Joined by letter

*Ms. Karen Kirby Dye
4815 NW 166 Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32653
352-665-0872
Joined by letter

*Miss Devyn West
487 NW Lake Valley Terrace
Lake City, FL 32055
352-231-1811
Joined by profession



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:

December 1: Basketball game at Ocala Christian
December 8: Basketball game at Cedar Key School
December 8: Second Progress Reports go home
December 9: Fine Arts Christmas presentation, 7:00 p.m.
December 11: Fine Arts Christmas presentation, 7:00 p.m.
December 12: Basketball game with Creekside Christian School (first home game)
December 12: First and Second Grades to Plantation Oaks Senior Living Residence to present Christmas program
December 15: Basketball game with Newberry Community Christian
December 19: Basketball game with Countryside Christian
December 22 – January 2: Christmas Break; FCA closed
January 5: Classes resume from Christmas Break
February 8-11: The SACS/ACSI accreditation visiting team on campus

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

Mrs. Janet Bridges, Library: Thank you for the successful Book Fair! Sales exceeded last year's total. Thank you for your purchases totaling \$4,015.99. We received over \$1,000 in cash and \$225 in goods purchased from Scholastic.

School Patrol News: Students in grades 5 and 6 that were members of our Safety Patrol program at FCA last year or at another school or are currently a Safety Patrol in 5th grade will be going to Washington, D.C. this spring! We will visit our Nation's Capital for a trip of a lifetime.

Adopt-A-Highway: FCA has adopted a portion of US Highway 441 as part of the FDOT Adopt-A-Highway program. There are road signs announcing our commitment to this worthy project. Our responsibility is to have 4 clean-up days each calendar year. Our first successful clean-up day was Saturday, November 15. Thank you to all that were able to help!

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. (Also one of our new parents has signed us up for an opportunity for you to participate. The Funding Factory recycles cell phones and printer cartridges. They also buy renewable tablets and laptops. If you work at a business that would donate these items or if you have these items in your home, please let us know.) Thank you and please keep up the great work of donating to FCA!!

Accreditation: Our staff and faculty is continuing to work hard to complete all the assignments required for a self-study. It is a grueling process. We are so proud of each member that makes up our FCA faculty and staff. All reports and documentation will be submitted before Christmas break. The SACS/ACSI visiting team will be here February 8-11. Please, continue to pray for the

whole process as we endeavor to achieve this great accomplishment. This process will bring tremendous value to our school and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

VPK: These classes enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast and program in the Family Life Center on November 21. We appreciate our VPK teachers and assistants for their diligence and hard work. Thanks to Monica Thompson for coordinating all the food for the feast. (109 children are enrolled at FCA in infants through VPK!)

Mrs. Shoran Potter, Fine Arts: "Our theme this year in Fine Arts is Gifted4Greatness! Our Bible verse is Proverbs 18:16. The FCA Christmas program will be Thursday, December 9 and 11 at 7:00 pm.

Mrs. Lori Clark and Katie West, Kindergarten: "Kindergarten is gearing up for our first field trip to the Santa Fe College Planetarium and Teaching Zoo. We have learned the Lord's Prayer and eight Bible verses. We will also begin working on songs and Psalms 100 for our upcoming Christmas Concert in December.

Mrs. Cammey Hinton and Lindsey Bigelow, First Grade: "In First Grade, we are excited about our field trip on December 12 to Plantation Oaks Senior Living Residence where we will spread some Christmas cheer. We will be singing Christmas Carols, passing out Christmas cards, and telling The Christmas Story. We will be walking to the facility, spending some time handing out Christmas cards to the residents, singing some favorite Christmas carols, enjoying some play time at the park, and finishing off with a picnic lunch! What a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season and what a blessing to be part of a school where Christ is still the focus of Christmas! We learned all about the First Thanksgiving and its purpose of giving thanks to God for His provision and protection of the pilgrims. We also completed our study of the life of Joseph and learned how he trusted God even in the midst of difficult circumstances. We have some exciting things planned for the month of December including a Christmas concert directed by Mrs. Potter.

Mrs. Kim Friar, Second Grade: "We have studied the life of Moses. We have learned of the hardships that the Israelites endured because of their lack of trust in God. We are now focusing on Jesus' birth during December. First and Second grades will be going on a field trip in December. We will make Christmas cards, sing, recite verses, and visit with the folks at Plantation Oaks in High Springs. Our class also participated in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We collected enough items to assemble a total of 3 boxes (2 boys and 1 girls). I am so very proud of the willingness to give from 2nd graders! Thanks to a very helpful room mom, our class enjoyed fun activities on our last day before Thanksgiving break. We all have so much to be thankful for and are truly blessed to at FCA!

Mrs. Melody Petteway, Middle School: "Wow! It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone and that Christmas is right around the corner. The students continue to work hard and tackle the complex concepts in Math: fractions, decimals, percents, ratios, proportions, graphing linear equations, and formal proofs in Geometry.

(Continued on next page)

In Bible, we continue our study of the Old Testament, as we learn from the Israelites and their long journey in the wilderness. In spite of the Israelites disobedience, God reveals His character as He continuously offers mercy and grace and remains faithful to the promise He made through Abraham to His chosen people. We all fall into the same trap of grumbling and complaining as the Israelites did; however, let's all be mindful during this season of our MANY BLESSINGS and thank God for them all. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalms 118:1.

Submitted by Linda Petteway

The Meaning of the Candy Cane

Hard Candy:

Reminds us that Jesus is like a "rock," strong and dependable.

Peppermint Flavor:

Is like the gift of the wise men.

White Candy:

Stands for Jesus as the holy, sinless, Son of God.

The Letter "J":

Is for the Name of Jesus, our Savior.

Cane:

*Is like a staff used by shepherds in caring for sheep.
Jesus is our "Good Shepherd."*

The Color Red:

Is for God's love that sent Jesus to give his life for us in the cross.

The Stripes:

Remind us of Jesus' suffering – his crown of thorns, the wounds in his hands and feet; and the cross on which he died. .

GRACE MARKETPLACE

Volunteers are needed Saturday, December 6th at 4:00 pm. If a group could volunteer to bring sweet tea, and ice it would be appreciated. We would also like to give out men's and women's underwear, feminine products, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canned meat, and canned fruit. If you would like to help with these donations, please make sure they are received at the association office no later than Monday, December 1st. Please pray for evangelistic encounters with those seeking God. Thank you so much for your support. For more information, contact Vicki Lawrence at 352-373-5030.

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

One of the FBCH foster families in the Jacksonville area, the Platts, initially came to FBCH 5 years ago, seeking to become licensed to care for the youngest of orphans. At that time, the Platts had just relocated to Jacksonville after they had lived for many years in Hawaii, where they had operated an in-home daycare for young children.

After moving back to Jacksonville, the Platts heard about the need for foster parents. Being retired and have 2 empty bedrooms in their home, the Platts believed that they had no legitimate excuse for choosing not to help children in need. Accordingly, they were excited to take the MAPP classes and begin to foster care licensure process.

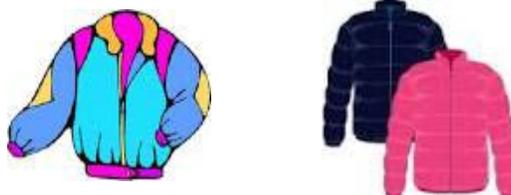
Although the Platts are in their 80's, during the past 5 years, they have cared for 20 foster children, all of whom have been under the age of one. And, included within those 20 children are 3 sets of twins.

The Platts pray for each child placed in their care and the child's family daily, as they recognize how difficult it must be for parents to be away from their young infants and for young infants to be away from their parents. On a daily basis, they also tell these precious little infants that Jesus loves them. In addition to caring for foster children, the Platts also volunteer their time to serve lunch to the children at a local Christian school.

The Platts are an wonderful reminder that even the older individuals in our community can make a difference in the lives of children and a clear illustration that there truly are no legitimate excuses for doing nothing to help children in need.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

High Springs Church of Christ is holding a Coat Drive for clean and gently used coats and jackets through December 12th. Coats will be distributed December 13th. Coast can be dropped off at High Springs Community School, Jim Douglas Sales, Church of Christ, Hair and Nail Depot, Winn Dixie and Robinson's Cleaners. Contact 386-454-2930 for more information.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Please join us for our men's breakfast on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 7:00 am in the FLC. It will be a time of food, fellowship and prayer. Hope to see you there.