



# **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, 2015**



## TIM'S NOTES

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Gal. 5:22

In John 15:5 Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches he that abideth in me and I in him will bear much fruit." When our lives are totally committed to God and we are determined to obey him, we will bear the fruit of Christ because he is the vine. We cannot help bearing all the fruit of the Spirit when we remain Spirit when we remain in him. Jesus said that we will know his disciples by the fruit they yield. Matt. 7:15-23

Ravi Zacharias wrote in his book, **Deliver Us From Evil**, "It is imperative that the Christian learn to differentiate in his or her own beliefs between opinion and conviction. An opinion is merely a preference in a continuum of options. A person may prefer one color to another or one style to another. A conviction, on the other hand, is rooted in the conscience and cannot be changed without changing that which essentially defines the person. In a pluralistic culture, an opinion should not be given the same passion as the weight of a conviction. And every conviction held must be done so with the clear and required teaching of Scripture. Once these differences are made in a Christian's mind then a very important logical consequence follows: every conviction that is held should be undergirded by love..."

God is always working in me...always speaking to me. I have more questions now than when I began my journey with Him some 56 years ago. Looking at my own life, I have had times when I doubted whether I really belonged to Him. I Corinthians 14:33 (ESV) says, "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace." So, who causes confusion? Satan.

I remember one day I saw myself in the mirror for who I really was. I was horrified! Sin is ugly...I know the sin I committed and the sin I will commit has all been forgiven at the cross. The difference between being a Christ follower and not is conviction, when a Christ follower sins the Holy Spirit convicts.

I began studying the Fruit of the Spirit just a short time ago and I immediately realized this would be difficult. It's difficult because I understand the impact we make when others watch us. When I look at myself and all the times I was so selfish...and still am at times. We are His light in this dark world. Jesus paid a horrific price for our sin. It cost him everything. Has being a Christian or Christ follower cost you anything lately? Do we stand on God's word when decisions are being made or do we just go along with our friends in whatever decisions we make? Do we look more like Jesus? If a non Christian were to try and pick us out as being different would they recognize us or would we blend in with the world?

Many years ago I watched a skit unfold before my eyes in church. The gist of the skit was this: if we could lock arms with Jesus and He were to actually go with us wherever we go would we go there? Would we do what we do? Would we say what we say? If the answer is no, why do we?

There are many things that we may question because the Bible doesn't say yes or no. But when we look are we really looking for the answer or an excuse to get a pass to do that particular thing or to go to that particular place?

While the Bible may not say not to do this or that it does say things like...your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It does say not to do anything to cause your brother to stumble. It does say we are set apart. We all have struggles. We are all tempted but with Christ all things are possible. He overcame the world and with Christ we can overcome anything.

If He indeed is the vine and we are His branches then what does that really mean? If the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and these are to naturally flow from us and they aren't what does that mean?

To die to self is to set aside what we want in this moment and focus instead on loving God with everything we've got and valuing others as highly as we value ourselves. This moves us away from self-centeredness and closer to becoming openhearted followers of Christ who care deeply for others. It's much easier to pay attention to the concerns, interests and needs of people when our own interests no longer consume us.

Jesus described us dying to ourselves as part of following Him: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24. He continues: "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 16:25.

As we die to ourselves, we no longer try to get our own way or try to get people to look up to us. We let go of trying to make a good impression on others. When we die to self, we're no longer obsessed with self. It really is the beginning of life in Christ.

His servant in Christ,  
Bro. Tim  
Jer. 29:11 NIV





## FROM YOUR DEACONS

We certainly live in a culture where it is all about how we feel. Here are some examples: Follow your heart, It feels good, do it, I don't love you anymore, It's all about me. But if we look at scripture we see that we need to be careful about using our heart as our guide. And that God is concerned with our motives.

*The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick:  
who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)*

So how do we as Christians navigate this world when we see that it is driven by feelings? We have to use scripture to test our feelings and prove our motives. Scripture is the truth of God put here for us as a guide. This is probably most important in our service to God and the church

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

With all of this said, I heard a story a while back and have used it as an illustration a couple of times on how to determine what your motivation is when serving God. Although this is only a story it is about Jesus and the disciples. Jesus and the disciples were traveling along and Jesus told the disciples to pick up a stone and carry it while they travelled. Peter looked around and because he didn't want to over exert himself, picked up a tiny pebble. At lunch time, Jesus told his disciples to take out their stone and he turned them into bread and told them to eat. Peter was totally shocked and looked at this tiny morsel of bread and ate it. Peter looked around and picked up the biggest stone he could carry. As they travelled, Peter was struggling but he kept reminding himself of the meal that he was going to have at the end of the day. At the end of the day, Jesus and the disciples came up to a river and Jesus told the disciples to throw their stone in the river. After a few minutes Peter couldn't stand it anymore and said to Jesus, "I don't understand." To which Jesus said to Peter "who were you carrying the stone for?"

In our service to the church, and all that we do for God's kingdom on this earth, we must remember this and ask ourselves this question, "Who are we carrying this stone for?"

July 13<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup>

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August 10<sup>th</sup> – September 13<sup>th</sup>

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# KIDZ CHURCH

- 2 - Family FUN Day – more details to come!
- 9 – NO Kidz Church
- 16 – NO Kidz Church
- 23 - School Kick-Off
- 30 – Kidz Church



- 5- Wet & Wild Water Fun – wear clothes that can get wet
- 12 – Back 2 School Bash – come win prizes and play games
- 19 – Church wide Ministry Fair in the FLC
- 26 – Fall Discipleship classes, Wednesday night suppers, and Kidz Choirs begin



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God is so good to his dear children if we let Him. I just want to "thank you" for each act of kindness, prayer, cards, calls, visits and flowers. I want to thank the men for laying of hands for healing and the ladies of the church for preparing meals for me and my family. It is so good to be a part of a great church that opens its arms to a person in time of need. God has done a great miracle in my life and I want to praise Him. Once again, from the bottom of this new "heart" thank you for ministering to me.

In Christian love,  
Jimmy Thomas

To Our dear friends at First Baptist of High Springs,

Thank you so very much for the many prayers that were lifted up and the kind and reassuring words of comfort that were expressed during our recent loss of Marjorie DeLoach. She loved all of her friends and fellow saints at First Baptist Church, during the many years that served as her church home.

We are grateful also for the outpouring of food and the warm hosting services that were provided by your church family. Your love and support truly sustained us during the difficult period.

In Christ's Love,  
The Marjorie DeLoach Family



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

As I write this article for August, our Summer Reading Program has ended. We had 25 to join, 15 to complete it. We are so proud of those who accomplished the goal. It's great to keep up with your reading skills. We are looking forward to seeing you kids during the school year. For their accomplishments the kids were given a Dr. Seuss – The Cat In the Hat bag with a few school supplies, some sweet goodies, gift cards to Books-A-Million, McDonalds, and Frosty Jack's. They had to read 10 books and list all 10 book titles with author and a sentence about each book.

Our History Committee is still hard at work getting the history book ready to go to print in October. Please if you have not purchased your new history book yet please do so because we can only order the number of books that have been repurchased.

A new book added to the library collection: **The Founders' Bible (Call #220.52 Bib)** “America stands at the crossroads of human history, once revered and respected throughout the world for its exceptionalism, a gleaming “city set on a hill” as a beacon of enduring freedom, now reviled, its influence reduced, teetering on the brink of disaster... If ever there was a desperate need for us to look back and rediscover the vision, the passion, and the wisdom of those who laid the glorious foundations, it is now! Founders' Bible Features: Over 40 major articles, some 330 pages, covering such themes as “Our Most Sacred Treasure: The Bible,” “Is America a Christian Nation?” “Original Intent and the Separation of Church and State,” and “Escape from Tyranny.” The Founders' Bible is signature historian David Barton's most significant life's work. 2272 pages beautifully designed and illustrated throughout. With over 900 pages of in-depth culturally relevant articles, insightful biblical commentary and some of the most inspiring history of this nation's founding and the destiny and purpose God intended. Trusted updated New American Standard Bible (NASB) version, full subject index, concordance, center column cross-reference study edition, and Bible maps.

The library has been adding some new books to our collection for the new school year.

**Don't forget to preorder the new history book of First Baptist Church. We still have some copies left of the old history book.**

Janet H. Bridges  
Library

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR:

September 7: Labor Day, FCA closed

September 14-18: VPK Assessments

September 21 – 25: Scholastic Book Fair in FBC library

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

Website: For ongoing and updated information, please visit our website: [fcahighsprings.org](http://fcahighsprings.org).

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. 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!! (We recently received a check for \$386.70 from Box Tops for Education, thanks to your donations.)

Library, Mrs. Janet Bridges: Our library is having their Scholastic Book Fair September 21-25. Please support this Fair. It is a great chance to purchase wonderful books for your students. Money raised from this Fair helps pay for our Accelerated Reading Program.

New Staff: FCA welcomes our new maintenance supervisor, Chuck Simmons. (Also, Chuck's grandchildren attend FCA.)

Dress Code: Our school has a specific dress code for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 10. To benefit our parents, we have a Uniform Closet here at the school that has free shirts, shorts, and pants. The uniform closet is to bless you and for you to bless others. When your children outgrow their clothes, please feel free to donate to the uniform closet.



Do something amazing! Please give blood Sunday, August 16, 2015 from 9:15 am – 1:00 pm. All donors receive a recognition T-shirt and cholesterol screening.

Cross Country: Coaches Adam Hinton, Kyle Petteway and Troy Rumore: Cross Country track practices began the first day of school and are every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after school. "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." 1 Corinthians 9: 24-25

All FCA athletes must have an FHSAA-approved health physical on file in our school office before attending practices.

Technology: The Technology Team has been working all summer getting ready for the school year. Laptop computers have been purchased for all faculty in Kindergarten through Grade 10. Also desktop computers for each preschool classroom in twos, threes, and VPK. Special thanks to Geoff Grooms who keeps FCA up and running in these areas. Also thanks to Daniel Shepherd and Shane Johnson for getting all the Mimio machines connected and running for grades 1-10. Each student in Grades 9 and 10 are part of a technology initiative that has some of their textbooks loaded onto a Kindle Fire. The students will also have site licenses to download their e-textbooks onto three additional devices.

Volleyball: Began practice on the first day of school. All practices are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:30-5:00 pm.

Fine Arts, Etc.: We recently joined and received our membership plaques for the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society. Students in grades 6-8 will be eligible for membership in the NJHS and students in Grades 9-10 will be eligible for membership in the NHS. Students will be notified of their eligibility based on their GPA after the first semester in January 2016.

Our High School will be adding another excellent opportunity for leadership training through our Student Council. The week of September 14-18 will be Student Government Week with interested students running their campaign and all students participating in the elections.

These teachers at First Christian Academy are reporting some very exciting things going on in their classes:

Kindergarten, Mrs. Lori Clark, and Miss Katie West: We are sad to report our Katie West fell and broke her ankle. Please join us in praying for her! We have had a great start to the New Year with smiling, happy Kindergartners learning how to honor God with our school's Lion Honor Code. Making new friends has been fun. We are excited about learning cursive writing. Our year started with a visit from Chester Raccoon. We hunted him and

learned all about our school, but never found him. We were happy when we discovered he left us a nice treat! We have dived right into phonics learning and have already learned the vowels li and Aa. In Bible we have learned a lot about Heaven and are beginning back in Genesis with Creation/Adam and Eve. We are beginning to learn the Lord's Prayer and our memory verses. Everyone is learning the classroom rules and making many friends. We are excited about all this year is going to hold for us! We are so blessed to be at FCA!

First Grade, Mrs. Susan Mauer and Mrs. Abby Ours: (FCA welcomes two more outstanding teachers to our family!)

Second Grade, Mrs. Kim Friar, and Miss Lindsey Bigelow: We had a busy week of preplanning. We have had a great start to our school year. It has also been nice getting to know the new faces that have joined FCA. The students have come back excited and "grown". We have taken time to learn our schedule and routine and to get to know one another. We are currently working on our first Bible memory verse, Genesis 1:1-5. We are also reviewing skills from first grade so we can begin to build on our knowledge. We love using the Mimio technology to practice math skills, play phonics games and do Zumba for classroom "Brain Breaks". We look forward to a great year!

Third Grade, Mrs. Kelli Rumore: Third grade is off to a great start with 23 students...5 of which are new to FCA this year! We are learning about our nervous system, complete sentences and have already begun to learn Hebrews 11:7-10!

Sixth Grade, Mrs. Michelle Davis: (FCA welcomes another outstanding new family member!)

Seventh thru Tenth Grades, Mrs. Melody Petteway: We are off to a wonderful new school year. The High School is now officially grades 7 – 10. Thank you to all of those who volunteered time and energy to get the wall up in C-wing so that we could now house all of the 7 -10 graders in one building! We are definitely blessed to have such a supportive church body! We are so excited to have two new teachers in the High School. Mrs. Marla Campbell is our new English/Language Arts teacher and Mrs. Elizabeth Betonio is the Science teacher. What a blessing they have been to the FCA family! With our official accreditation, the High School is now able to have a NJHS and NHS chapter for the first time. We are excited to acknowledge the high academic achievement and servant leadership in our student body through these two groups. Also, the students will be able to run for Student Government during September. They are so excited about these leadership opportunities. We are also looking forward to a Spiritual Emphasis week with our High School as the AXIS team comes and challenges the students to stand for Christ in our technological savvy society. Sea Camp in the Florida Keys is another event that our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Biology students are

looking forward to. As you can see FCA is looking forward to an exciting year full of opportunities for growth and leadership. Thank you for your continued prayer support of FCA!!

Submitted by Linda Petteway

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The next **Men's Event** will be Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> in the Family Life Center at 6:30 pm. Join us for some food, music and a whole lot of fun as we get ready to kick off our Fall schedule. Feel free to bring a friend. Fathers and guardians can bring your pre-teen+ age boy. For more information, please contact Skipper Rodgers, Bob McMillan or Kyle Petteway.

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A **Back-To-School Dedication Service** will be Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> during both morning worship experiences. We will dedicate the new school year to the Lord. Our desire is to recognize all educators, administrators, and students at the services. In addition, Pastor Derek is inviting FBC to join together to prayer-walk each school in our area. Members are asked to pray at the school of their choice at 6:00 pm.