



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.

2016





TIM'S NOTES

FROM ME AND MY FAMILY

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

A WORD OF THANKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

What Is Worship?

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

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

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

Is Prayer Worship?

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

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

Let's examine some of the postures of prayer:

- Bowing/kneeling: Bowing demonstrates humility, surrender, and a desire to hear from God. When you kneel in prayer, you're expressing your reverence for and your submission and commitment to God. It's also a posture associated with pleading requests before a holy God. Learn more in Psalm 95:6-7; Luke 5:8; Romans 14:11; Ephesians 3:14; and Philippians 2:9-11.

- Lying prostrate: Lying facedown as you pray demonstrates extreme humility, submission, and that you're seeking God's mercy. Learn more in Deuteronomy 9:18; 1 Chronicles 29:20; Isaiah 15:3; and Ezekiel 9:8.

- Standing: Standing to pray symbolizes respect and a desire to honor God. It also expresses a desire to meet with God. Read more in 1 Samuel 1:26; Nehemiah 9:5; Mark 11:25; and Revelation 7:9.

How Do We Worship God Through Music?

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

(Continued on next page)



FROM YOUR DEACONS

Let's take a look at some of them:

- **Lifted hands:** Lifted hands during worship can symbolize a lot of things, including commitment, surrender, a desire to receive from God, or just to express your awe before God's holiness.

To learn more, check out Psalm 28:2; 63:3-4; 134:2; Lamentations 3:41; and 1 Timothy 2:8.

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

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

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

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

Can I Worship God Through My Gifts and Passions?

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

How Do I Worship When I Have Nothing To Say?

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

Food for thought!
In Christ, Bro. Tim

A new year is approaching. What, if anything, are we as a church going to do differently? Are we going to make a difference in people's lives that we come into contact with daily? What does that look like for us? I am not one for resolutions. If anything they just show us how human we are and how fast we can break them. I think a better approach is looking at where we are and where we are going and, if necessary, changing direction to point and aim for a better ending next year. It seems to me we are in a place where we are doubting ourselves. The things that we have always done and been successful at may not be giving us the results or joy that they once did. Some people have left our congregation for various reasons, money is tight, some of our members are battling cancer, and we are struggling as a church to persevere in the faith. In the history of the church as a whole this is nothing new. Listen to the words of the writer of Hebrews as he encourages us to continue on.

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay."

³⁸ And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back."

*³⁹ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. **Hebrews 10:35-39***

Today more than ever we need to realize that our hope is in the promises of Scripture and not in the things of this world. Our God is faithful. We may not always see his hand in the things that are going on around us but we must continue on in the faith of Jesus Christ and his Gospel. We must not shrink back and turn from our primary goal of glorifying God by becoming more Christ like and making our Savior famous. We have confidence in Jesus, and we know that God's promises are fulfilled in Him (2 Corinthians 1:20). If God is for us, who can stand against us? (Romans 8:31) So, it is a question of faith? As a church or in our personal walks we must not throw away our confidence, we must live by faith. Happy New Year!

December 14th – January 10th

*Ed Carter

Bob McMillian 386-755-9406 (h) 352-538-6826 (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)

January 11th – February 13th

*Dave Donnelly 386-454-8235 (h) 352-727-0485 (c)

Elzy Lord 386-454-3878 (h) 352-258-3652 (c)

Kyle Petteway 386-454-1298 (h) 352-213-4273 (c)

Daniel Shepherd 386-454-8028 (h) 352-317-2164 (c)

Mike Sturm 386-462-2891 (h) 352-316-1872 (c)

*Team Leader



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

October –December 2015

Books:

Youth and Adults	432
J Section (Older Children)	487
C Section (Younger Children)	792

DVDs	73
Die Cuts	2
Periodicals	3
Equipment	19
Homebound - DVDs	12

TOTAL 1,820

In-House Usage:

Books	69
Periodicals	20

Collection Statistics: Added -- Deleted

Books	147	7
DVDs	6	0

Patron Statistics: Added - 14

Here's is a great book we would like to recommend for the month of January.

America: Turning a Nation to God, Dr. Evans helps Christians understand that at the core, America's problems are spiritual. And, God and His rule are America's only hope. As His people, God is calling us to return to Him in humility and repentance, to submit to His rule and authority. Only as we commit to doing so, individually and collectively, will we realize that hope.

Dr. Tony Evans said YES.

We hold within the collective body of Christ not only the power but also the capacity to put our country back on the path of ascendancy. This straight-forward teaching, when embraced by believers in our nation, will usher in the greatest revival in American history."

(Call # 269.0973 Eva)

Janet H. Bridges
Library

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR:

January 4: Classes resume following Christmas break

January 11-15: VPK Assessment

January 18: FCA closed for Dr. Martin Luther King holiday

January 22: First semester ends

January 28: Thursday: "Pure Truth" Conference, FCA High School Spiritual Emphasis Day

January 28: Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm Town Hall meeting plus Pure Truth Seminar for parents

January 29: Friday, Snow Day at FCA

January 29: Report cards go home

January 30: Saturday: 9:00 am, Town Hall meeting

FCA School Board Members: Kathy Barnes, Kim Carter, David Friar, Cammey Hinton, Drew Mock, Rusty Noah, Kim Teele and Chairman Daniel Shepherd.

Website: For ongoing and updated information, please visit our website: fcahighsprings.org.

Property Improvements Appeal Fund: Our FCA School Board has recently established a restricted account with the title of Property Improvements. We have a wonderful problem of needing lots of extra space as God blesses FCA. This account is in a separate account with Capital City Bank. Your designated donations will be used expressly for the expansion of our space needs. In the month since this account was set up, God has provided over \$12,000 through the generosity of our families. Would you pray about making a contribution to our school as we expand and grow? If you can give #50, \$500, \$5000 or more, your gift will be used to continue to expand what God is doing at FCA. We are registered as a 501c3 non-profit organization and your gifts will be tax-deductible. Any amount is appreciated from our school family, church family or outside donors. Thank you!!

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Basketball, Coach Rick Price and Alan Dubose: Congratulations to our boys' basketball team as they defeated Jacksonville Christian School on December 18. This win was quite historic as this was the first home victory in the history of our school. The FCA Lions are on the prowl!

Thank you! Thank you to FCA parent, Jason Mowrer for the installation of our new basketball goals and wall pads in our gym.

Archery, Coach Pat Combs: FCA Archery is looking for individuals to join our coaching team! No experience is necessary. All that is needed is your willingness to help. You will be trained using the "National Training Stand. Interested individuals must be at least 18 years of age. If you are interested contact Coach Combs.

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!!

Submitted by Linda Petteway



Dear Church Family-

I could never fully express in words how much all your help was appreciated. Thank you for everything you did for Alvin and me during his sickness and home going. The prayers, cards, calls, visits, food, offers of help in any way, sitting with him and loving Alvin with your presence, transporting him to Dr appointments, gift cards, money, and cleaning our home.

Alvin appreciated everything done for him so much. The ramp the 100 Club men built for his was such a labor of love for the Lord and for Alvin. From the time he was diagnosed, Dec. 24, 2014 until October 7, 2015, when he went home, the tenderness, love, compassion, concern, kindness, words of encouragement toward my husband, Alvin Talton, will never be forgotten. What a blessing you have been to our lives.

Mary Talton and Family

Dear FBC-

On behalf of LifeSouth Community Blood Center, we want to thank you for your support and assistance with the blood drive held on Sunday, November 1, 2015. The following is a breakdown of the total donations:

Perspective Donors:	20
Deferred Donors:	4
Actual Donations:	16

This includes 5 first-time donors and included the most lifesavers at any drive since February 1, 2015. FBC had nearly doubled the number of donations as the prior drive!

Thank you again for your continued support.



CAMP VICTORY FAMILY MISSION TRIP

The annual Camp Victory Mission Trip is scheduled for January 28 – 31, 2016. Please prayerfully consider going. There is a maximum of 125 people that can go. The signup sheet will be placed in the Church Foyer, December 20th. If you have any questions, please give Matthew Humphries a call at 352-514-6830.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday, January 6, 2016 will be Family Movie Night, featuring "War Room." The cost is \$5 per family and will include pop-corn and drinks. The movie will be in the FLC and will start at 6:00 pm.

QUARTERLY MINISTRY CELEBRATION

The next Quarterly Ministry Celebration will be Sunday, January 17, 2016 in the FLC at 5:30 pm. **To be included on the agenda, requests should be made through the Church Office.** Make plans to be there to celebrate all the Lord has done in the ministries of FBC.