



W THE INDOW

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Sunday School and Dinosaurs

During seminary days I was exposed to an intriguing book entitled, *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur* by Ken Hemphill. The title of the book, for the most part, tells it all. Hemphill acknowledges that Sunday School no longer has the appeal that it once did for the average church goer. I suspect many folks reading these words remember the day when more people attended Sunday School than 11am worship. Of course, I do not remember those days! However, through the years, I have heard tell. Now, the tables are turned – in every church I have served more people attend worship than Sunday School.

This is certainly our situation at First Baptist. Thus far this year, we have averaged 160 people in worship and we have averaged 87 people in Sunday School. While not upset that we have more people for the 11am hour than the 10am hour, I confess I would like to see the discrepancy between the average Sunday School attendance and the average worship attendance lessened. In other words, it would be nice if more people participated in Sunday School!

In his book, Hemphill contends that the successful Sunday School programs of years past do *not* have to go the way of the dinosaur. He suggests Sunday Schools, throughout our land, can be revitalized. He reminds his readers that back in the day Sunday School – the small group – was the evangelistic arm of the church. Indeed, it was through Sunday School that much outreach to the community was accomplished. In addition, the small group fosters personal relationships among people. In the small group setting we are able to learn people's names and their stories; and other people learn our names and our stories. Finally, we must not forget how important Sunday School is in relation to biblical

literacy. I am struck, each semester when I teach "Understanding the Bible" at Chowan, how little Bible young people know. One of the reasons my classes are so fascinated with the account of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11) is because most of them have never heard the story before! My experience has been that most people who know something of the Bible have been active participants in Sunday School through the years.

So, what are your thoughts on Sunday School at First Baptist? What could we do to help revitalize our Sunday School program? What if we called it "Bible Fellowship Hour" instead of Sunday School? Would that help? What if we had small groups meet through out the week at people's homes instead of everyone together at the church facilities at 10am on Sundays? Would that help? Perhaps we should get as many people together as are interested to read and discuss Hemphill's book. What do you think?

I ask two things of you going forward from this newsletter article: 1) Please share with me your ideas concerning revitalizing Sunday School here at First Baptist. What is it, for your family, that makes Sunday School difficult to get to or simply unattractive? 2) Would you consider committing (or recommitting) you and your family to Sunday School participation? I remain persuaded that many people in the church of Jesus the Christ are not conversant with the Bible due to a Sunday School deficit. Furthermore, I am persuaded that the overall church experience could be enhanced for many via the development of human relationships that naturally occur when small groups gather.

In Christ,

Trey

From the Associate Pastor

This Sunday, February 11, we will mark the end of the Season of Epiphany by observing the Transfiguration of the Lord. In this final Epiphany story, Jesus takes disciples Peter, James, and John to the top of a mountain where they witness a transfigured Jesus standing with long-dead prophets, Moses and Elijah. And while experiencing this miraculous vision, the disciples hear God's voice proclaim, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" (Mark 9:2-8)

Of all the Epiphany stories, it occurs to me that this one is most suitable for our transition from Epiphany to Lent. Why? Because the Season of Lent calls us to engage in practices that will help us do as God commands: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"



As I prepare for each Lenten Season, I search diligently for a study or set of practices that will help me more clearly hear God's voice giving direction for my life. And usually I share those studies or practices with you. Therefore, beginning this Sunday, February 11, a booklet will be available for you to use at home during Lent. The booklet will be available in the sanctuary and church offices. It may also be emailed to you upon request.

One of the things I like the most about this set of Lenten practices is that it invites us to DO something experiential each week. I also like that it may be used by individuals, couples, friends, or families.

As we prepare to begin the Lenten journey together, it is my prayer that the 40 days of Lent will prove to be a transforming time for us all as we listen to the voice of the Beloved.

Grace & peace,

From the Minister to Youth & Children

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I am so thankful to be part of the FBC-A village! Thank you all for the warm welcome in worship on February 4th.

Youth group is going smoothly. We had a Super Bowl party at Pastor Trey's house, combined with Murfreesboro Baptist Youth Group. Most of our meals are taken care of by generous members of the church. What a blessing to our youth!

On February 21, we will add programming to the children's ministry for grade school kids from 6-7:00 pm on Wednesdays. This will focus on missions and discipleship, as well as giving me the opportunity to get to know the children.

We are currently looking at the summer dates for Passport Camp for both youth and children. Let me know if you're interested in chaperoning or sending a child.

I look forward to worshipping with you more, and I am honored to preach for you on February 25th.

Elizabeth Villegas



Worshipping Together

February 11, 2018
11:00 am
Transfiguration of the Lord

Worth the Climb
Mark 9:1-9
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Choir: Sanctuary Choir



We extend the hand of welcome to William J. "Jack" & Millie Britt who join our church coming from Wake Forest United Methodist Church. The Britts have been worshipping with us for several months and both have joined Sunday School classes. Jack & Millie, we look forward to serving with you in the life of First Baptist Church. Welcome to the family! Speaking of family—Jack is the brother of Gloria Freeman.

First Wednesday Fellowship
on
February 14
and



•6:00 pm Meal

\$6.00 Adult \$3.00 Child \$15 Family
Sign up Deadline 5:00 pm Mon., February 12

•6:45 pm Worship
Sign-up not necessary

Let's come together for a meal followed by a service of worship as we begin the Season of Lent.

Announcement



Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child! We are excited to announce that this year there will be three options for your participation.

- (1) Collect items and pack your own box//boxes.
- (2) Donate \$25 (includes \$9 shipping fee) for each box you wish to sponsor. Items will be purchased and boxes filled on your behalf.
- (3) Donate items all year! Place items in the OCC green & red box in front of the library each month to go toward the boxes. A picture will be placed above the box monthly showing focus items to be collected, however all appropriate items are welcome any time.

It is our desire that these options will make it easier for everyone to help share the Good News of Christ through a gift-filled box, bringing hope to a child in need.

All monies may be given to the church office, (checks made payable to FBC Ahsoskie, with OCC written in the memo line). Our 2018 goal is 150 boxes, and together we can surpass our goal.

—Melanie Byrum, OCC Coordinator for FBC

The Week Ahead



Sunday, February 11, 2018

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship: *Transfiguration Sunday*
- 4:00 pm Chairo Music Ensemble
- 5:00 pm Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
- 6:00 pm Youth Snack Supper (Grades 6-12)
- 6:30 pm Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Monday, February 12

- 3:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 5:45 pm Girl Scout Troop 1702

Wednesday, February 14

- 5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions
- 6:00 pm First Wednesday Fellowship Meal
- 6:45 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble

Friday, February 16

- 9:00 am CWJC

Sunday, February 18

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship: *First Sunday in Lent*
- 4:00 pm Chairo Music Ensemble
- 5:00 pm Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
- 6:00 pm Youth Snack Supper (Grades 6-12)
- 6:30 pm Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Monday, February 19

- 3:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 5:45 pm Girl Scout Troop 1702
- 7:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, February 20

- 6:00 pm Missions Committee
- 7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

Stewardship Statement

February 4, 2018

Weekly Need	\$	8,555.00
Weekly Offering	\$	10,990.72
Difference	\$	2,435.72
YTD Needs	\$	42,775.00
YTD Offerings	\$	40,130.66
YTD Difference	\$	-2,644.34
YTD Global Missions Offering	\$	5,755.01

Thank you for your generous gifts!

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of February 11-17

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Jean Parker, 332-3550
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

Extended Session—February 11

Birth-Age 2: Sandra Pierce, Stephanie Rose,
& Taylor F. Rose
Ages 3-5: Anna Pierce

Ushers—February 11

Jamie Burns, Lanie Byrum, Debbie Greene,
Bill Magette, Pate Pierce, Edgar Swain;
Balcony— Andy Woodard & Dawson Rose

Sound System —February 11

James Early

Floral Offering—February 11

Ruth Ward

Home Delivered Meals—February 12

Jayne Frei & Margaret Winn

Food Pantry—February 16

Pansy & Robert Earl White—Earlys Baptist

Week of February 18-24

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Claire Presley, 287-6132
Peggy Springfield, 332-8701

Sunday School at Creekside—February 18

Hannah Brown Class

Extended Session—February 18

Birth-Age 2: Jessica Brinkley, Melanie Byrum,
& Debbie Magette
Ages 3-5: Harriet Byrum & Kari Pierce

Ushers—February 18

Ed Copeland Jr, Tim Frei, Jane Marie
Hollingsworth, Spencer Matthews, Mollee
Frei Lamm, Carroll Thompson;
Balcony— Colby Hauser & Isabella Woodard

Sound System —February 18

Walt Pierce

Floral Offering—February 18

TBA

Home Delivered Meals—February 19

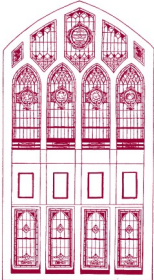
Pat & Henry Byrd

Food Pantry—February 23

Bonnie Revelle



FBC's Benevolence Fund is running low. These funds are used to help our neighbors in need. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this ministry.



The Window

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Main and West Streets
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Office Hours:

8:00 am -5:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Office Closed on Friday