

April 2011

First Baptist Church of Apopka

FIRST THINGS



Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.
Words and music by William J. Gaither, 1971

Oh! The Blessed Resurrection!

Our loved-ones are not gone forever. We will see them again! (This is a time for lots of exclamation points!) My brother died of cancer in 1964. Years later, I dreamed that God allowed my brother to return to this life for a while. I awoke with a most joyful and Spirit-filled feeling. These several years later, I can still remember that wonderful feeling. We will see our departed ones again.

Jesus guaranteed that we will rise from the dead someday by rising from the dead Himself. "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep' (1 Cor 15.20). In the Old Testament, farmers would bind up the first sheaf of wheat and take it to the Temple as a sign that the whole harvest belonged to God. Jesus is the "firstfruits" of the resurrection guaranteeing that the whole harvest of souls belongs to God and will rise from the dead. The following story is a rebuke to a lady who did not believe in the resurrection.

A Tree Out Of Her Grave

In Tewin churchyard, a short distance from King's Cross Station, in England, stands a great four-trunked tree growing out of a grave. Its presence there has given rise to much speculation among the residents of that section. The grave from which it grows is that of Lady Anne Grimston.

Is the tree a monument to a woman's disbelief or did it happen to grow there merely by chance? Nobody knows.

Lady Anne Grimston did not believe in life after death. When she lay dying in her palatial home, she said to a friend, "I shall live again as surely as a tree will grow from my body."

She was buried in a marble tomb. The grave was marked by a large marble slab, and surrounded by an iron railing. Years later the marble slab was found to be moved a little. Then it cracked, and through the crack a small tree grew.

The tree continued to grow, tilting the stone and breaking the marble masonry until today it has surrounded the tomb with its roots, and has torn the railing out of the ground with its massive trunk. The tree at Lady Anne Grimston's grave is one of the largest in England.

Was it mere chance that caused the tree to grow there? Perhaps God the Almighty took her challenge.

Pastor's Manual

Your pastor and glad to be so, Pastor Paul



Impact of Your Giving to First Baptist Apopka

The ministries and missions of the Florida Baptist Convention are made possible by our gifts through the Co-operative Program. Florida Baptist Convention churches and missions now number 3,421, including 629 language churches, sharing God's Word and spreading His love in 22 different languages.

PRAY, GO & GIVE!

Deaf Ministry Chapel

Our Deaf Ministry led by Dr. A.C. & Wanda McCann meets in the Fellowship Hall for Chapel services from 9:00-10:15 on Sunday morning. Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall from 10:30-11:30. The only exception to this is on the first Sunday of each month when they will be in regular services in the Sanctuary at 10:30 and in Sunday School at the regular time of 9:00-10:15 am.



Senior Exercise Classes Meet Weekly

Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00-12:00

Each Wednesday is different so you may start with any class.

There is no charge for your first visit and then if you like it pay \$20.00 per month.



Women's Bible Study

Beth Forsberg is teaching a Women's Bible Study on Wednesday night at 6:30 in Adult 4 Sunday School room. It is called "Following God with All Your Heart" by Elizabeth George. This is an informal Bible study that lasts from 6:30-7:30. You can order a book but it is not required nor necessary to buy one. You can join this study at any time. All women are welcome!



Read to a Child on Thursday from 9:30-12:00

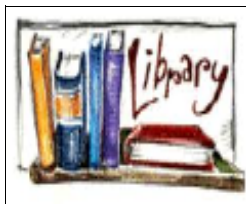
We need substitute readers! Lou Dail & Janet Resch read to our HCA children every Thursday. We need substitute readers when these ladies are unavailable. You would read to 3 & 4 year olds and their teacher would be with you at all times. See Carolyn Dorman or Pat Malcolm or call the office.



How Can YOU Help?

The following is a list of monthly needs for Loaves & Fishes. We deliver to Loaves & Fishes once a week. If you would like to donate any of these items, please put them in the grocery basket marked Loaves & Fishes by the Welcome Center/Office double glass doors.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Canned meat | Shampoo | Diapers (all sizes) |
| Canned fruit | Deodorant | Household items |
| Peanut Butter & Jelly | Dish soap | Clothes (no clothes until January 15) |
| Mac & Cheese | Pine cleaner | |
| Hamburger Helper | Disposable razors | |



MARCH WIND BLOWS IN APRIL SHOWERS!

Or so the saying goes....Our library has a great variety of books and reference materials just waiting for you getting "Showers of Blessings" from the Lord as you read and study "How to" grow Stronger in the Lord in your daily walk with Him. It is sad to see the wealth of reference books, Christian growth books, and Inspiration books just sitting gathering dust. Also, for you who have small children, we have

wonderful children's books you can check out and read to your children or let them enjoy them. ALL our books can be checked out for one month and can be renewed with your permission. FREE BOOKMARKS FOR EVERYONE who checks out a book in April! Our CHRISTIAN fiction books are housed in an entire wall of shelves! They are inspiring and reading is a wonderful way to spend spare time....much better than watching TV these days! Also, come by and work on our 500 piece puzzle we have set up for those who get to services early and want to spend a few minutes with us. We will also order any books you would like for us to for you, if **you pay** ahead of time for the book. Our budget is very limited but our service is great!

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!!!

THE LIBRARY MINISTRY TEAM

New to Our Church

Bryan Lenis

Gene Shirley

Monnie Shirley



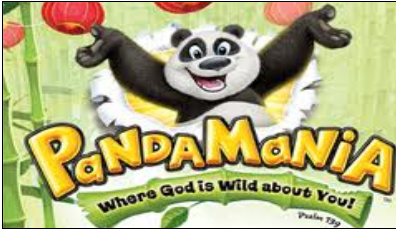


First Family Breakfast

Sunday, April 3rd

@ 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Host is Adult 3 and the First Family Breakfast Ministry Team



Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting - Sunday, April 3rd

Meeting will be after church service in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch will be provided,.

Come be a part of this exciting time of helping children to know our Lord.

Vacation Bible School Pandamania is June 20-24, 6:30-9:00

Exciting activities are being planned!

Lamplighters' Tour - April 12th

The April 12th Lamplighter meeting will be a trip to the Wycliffe Headquarters and Campus Crusade Headquarters in the Lake Nona area. We will leave at 10, driving time will be approx. 1 hour. We will carpool as much as possible. We will have lunch at Wycliffe cafeteria and be back about 3 pm. There are information sheets on Sign Up Table. This tour is not limited to the Lamplighters. Bring a friend!! Wycliffe \$5.00 fee will be collected before leaving. Change will be needed for toll plazas.



Juliet's Dinner

Join Us Ladies In Eating Together

April 21st at the Catfish Place @ 5:30 311 Forest Ave., Apopka, FL 32703

All women are welcome! Call the church office if you plan to attend.

Apopka Pregnancy Care Center 5-K Fundraiser

The Apopka Pregnancy Care Center is having a 5-K Fundraiser on Saturday, May 7th.

I'm looking for sponsors, participants & new-born diapers!.

Thanks, Toby Smith 407-247-0161



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is much more than an offering envelope and an annual missions-giving emphasis. When people give to the offering, 100 percent of their gift will be transformed into missionary salaries and ministry supplies. Those missionaries and supplies will help others hear the message of Christ and respond in faith to His offer of salvation. Time and again missionaries relate how the offering is their lifeblood.

2011 National Goal: \$70 million First Baptist Apopka Goal: \$3200.

Ladies - Pick Up Your Secret Sister Forms-Turn in by Sunday, April 3rd

Instructions: All ladies are welcome to participate! Pick up a Secret Sister "All About Me" information sheet on the Sign Up Table. Fill it out and put it in the basket provided there. Carla Kinsey will make a list of the ladies who have turned in a sheet and will get in touch with you to let you know who your Secret Sister is. When you find out who she is you will be her encourager, secret friend, remember her birthday and special occasions with letters or cards and most important - **pray for her**. Then at the end of 6 months, your Secret Sister will be revealed to you!



Get Plugged In! Small Groups on Sunday Morning

Stop by Loren's Donut Hut (by the Welcome Center) on Sunday morning on your way to Sunday School! If you don't have a Sunday School small group class to go to, our Sunday School Director, Loren Sauers, can tell you what we have to offer and point you in the right direction. Get plugged in!

Find a class and make new friends!!



AWANA Children's Club

Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00. Boys and girls ages 4 years-5th grade. Games, achievements, Bible stories & more! Awana clubs are world-wide, Bible centered, non-denominational clubs. Questions or like to help? Call Awana Commander Jason Stroub at 352-729-2640 or email him at fbcaawana@gmail.com



A Big Thank You to Wayne & Marie Spoon for hosting our 50 Days of Fitness event here at First Baptist.

Thank you for your time, planning and most of all, thank you for caring!



Administration/Education Corner

Lyle Forsberg - Church Administrator

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University ends soon. It is exciting to see Karina Stroub doing such a great job hosting this course at FBCA. It is also exciting to see so many interested (over 30 attendees) in gaining this kind of financial wisdom. The program is 13 weeks of all the financial information a person will ever need in life. Indeed, if someone follows the included directions for a number of years there is hardly a way for prosperity NOT to blossom.

However one thing is often overlooked. The whole course is biblical based! That's right! The instructions contained in this program are from different parts of the Bible! Now think about that for a moment. The current class is 85% non-members of the church. People are getting God's principles without thinking about it!

For example the last lessons were woven around Proverbs 22.

Proverbs 22

**¹ Choose a good reputation over great riches;
being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.** (Keep your word)

The following story is an amazing example of how following God's principles can lead to a more prosperous life physically and spiritually:

A very successful business owner decided it was time to retire and look for a new CEO to take his place. He called together the various managers both young and old which included some of his children.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. One of you will be chosen for this job. Each of you will be given a seed - just one seed. Go home and plant the seed. Water, fertilize and nurture the seed until 6 months expires, at that time bring it back here. I will then judge what you bring back and choose the next CEO of this great company."

After three weeks some of the CEO hopefuls were talking about how their seed was growing and thriving! One of the hopefuls, named David overheard the office chatter but grew anxious because his seed had not done anything yet! After eight weeks others began to brag about how tall their plant had grown. David said nothing, he just went home every night watering and fertilizing with the help of his wife. After 4 months David still had nothing to show for his hard work and sacrifice. He said nothing to his colleagues but he began to suspicion he had somehow killed the seed. Despite his concerns he remained faithful, nurturing the seed with more care, water and fertilizer.

Finally the 6 months ended and all the CEO hopefuls gathered with their plants lined up against the conference room wall. David felt sick to his stomach. His pot remained bare and he thought, "This will be the most embarrassing moment in my career".

His wife had encouraged him that morning to stay positive so he looked around the room and was amazed at the lushness, beauty and variety of the plants in the room. He took delight in his colleagues work. He heard some chuckles about his pot but a few of them expressed sympathy about his empty pot.



Continued on next page



Just then The CEO walked in. David immediately feared not only humiliation but also the possibility of his firing! *“I have nothing to show for all my work!”*

“Well, what an assortment of beautiful plants we have here!”, Said the CEO. It was then he spotted David’s empty pot and turned to the Financial Director asking him to bring David to the front of the room. David thought *“Well no hiding it now, he knows I failed!”*

The CEO turned to David and asked him what had happened to his seed? David explained how he had cared and nurtured the seed right up to this day, but his work had produced no results. *“David, that is where you are mistaken!* The CEO responded. *“Your work has resulted in your promotion to the next CEO of this multimillion dollar company!”*

The others gasped, *“How can this be!”* The CEO quickly and deliberately explained, *“Six months ago I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take it home and plant, water and fertilize that seed. The seeds I gave to each of you were boiled, they were dead, and so it was not possible for them to grow! Here stands David, the only one with the courage and fortitude and character to bring back my seed in a barren pot. Congratulations, David. You WILL be and DESERVE to be the next CEO!”*

*Choose a good reputation over great riches;
being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold. Proverbs 22:1*

Blessings, Lyle Forsberg



From the desk of Dr. A.C. It's on my heart...

This story has been told over and over again, I am sure. It never hurts to glance at it again to give us reminders of what we do for Christ without even realizing that we are giving special blessings to people around us. As the scriptures state in Matthew 25: 37-40 and the key verse for the questions given when asked: "When have we done these things for you LORD?" Our KING stated:

... "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Ruth went to her mail box and there was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening, but then she looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address.

She read the letter:

Dear Ruth,

I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit.

Love Always,

Jesus

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer."

With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner." She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least." She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with grand total of twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm. "Hey lady, can you help us, lady?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plan, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags. "Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us, lady, we'd really appreciate it." Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and, frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him."

"Yeah, well, OK lady, I understand. Thanks anyway." The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them.

"Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag. "Thank you lady. Thank you very much!"

"Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering. "You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street... without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest. "Thank you lady! Thank you very much!" Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

Dear Ruth

It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you, too, for the beautiful coat.

Love Always,

Jesus

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

Dear brothers and sisters of FBC of Apopka, the out pouring of your love, prayers and support in various ways has touched our hearts, not only to us; but, to others we have witnessed and do testify of the same blessings you have so willingly bestowed like "Ruth" in the story above. There is one promise that can be depended upon and I, for one, am so thankful that our Heavenly Father has included it in the scriptures. The promise found in Luke 14:14. "And you will be blessed. Although they (A.C & Wanda) **cannot** repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." We would like to take this spot to tell our families of FBC of Apopka a simple heart felt. "Thank you! For the many unspoken blessings you have shared with us."

Pastor A.C. & Wanda

First Baptist Weekly/Monthly Activities

Sunday:

- 9:00 am -Sunday School - A Bible Study program for all ages.
- 9:00 am-Devoted: Youth Small Groups
- 9:00 am - Deaf Ministry Chapel
- 10:30 am - Worship Service* 11:00-11:30 am - Kid's Worship
- 10:30 am - Deaf Ministry "Bible Round Table" Sunday School
- 3:45 pm - Handbell Rehearsals
- 4:30-5:45 pm-ASL Sign Language Class
- 5:30-6:00 pm-Women Praying God's Heart Prayer Group (Sept.-May)
- 5:30-7:00-AWANA Children's Bible Club (Sept.-May)
- 5:00-7:00 pm - Youth Fuel Activities (6th-12th grade)
- 6:00 pm - Praise, Worship & Bible Study *

Wednesday:

- 6:30-7:30 pm - Kid's Activities
 - 6:30-7:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study
 - 6:30-7:30-Deaf Ministry Bible Study in room 108
 - 6:30-7:30 - Women's Ministry Fellowship & Prayer Time
 - 6:30 pm - Student Fuel Ministry (6th-12th grade)
 - 6:30 pm - Praise, Prayer and Bible Study *
 - 7:30 pm - Choir & Praise Team rehearsal
- *Nursery provided for infants through 3 years old during service.

Additional Weekly and Monthly Activities

- 1st Sunday of each month - First Family Breakfast 8:30 am
- Each Tuesday of the month - Visitation, Outreach 6 pm
- Each Tuesday of the month-Deaf Ministry Bible Study at NDA in Mt. Dora 7:00-8:00 pm
- 2nd Tuesday of each month - Lamplighters' Luncheon 11:30 am (for the "50 and over crowd") (Sept.-May)
- 3rd Tuesday of each month - Mission In Action 9:00 am (quilting ministry) (Sept.-May)
- Each Thursday of the month - Jabez Prayer Group 7:00 am

Staff at FBC Apopka: E-mail addresses:

- Pastor- Dr. Paul F. Gordon- pfgordon@fbcapopka.net
- Youth Pastor- Kevin Kozial- kevin@fbcapopka.net
- Deaf Ministry Pastor- Dr. A.C. McCann- acinsight66@bellsouth.net
- Administration/Education- Lyle Forsberg- lylef@fbcapopka.net
- Music Director -Steve Hooks- steve@fbcapopka.net
- Sunday School Director-Rev. Loren Sauers-ocministries@aol.com
- Awana Commander- Jason Stroub- fbcaawana@gmail.com
- Children's Church Director- Lori Ahern
- Finance Secretary- Sherry Marsden- sherry@fbcapopka.net
- Church Secretary- Judy Brown- judy@fbcapopka.net
- HCA Director-Michelle Brown- michelle@fbcapopka.net
- Maintenance- Billy Seigler
- Church Email- fbc@fbcapopka.net

First Baptist Church of Apopka

441 S. Highland Avenue

Apopka, FL 32703

office-407-886-2628

fax-407-886-3332

E-mail - fbc@fbcapopka.net

Website - www.fbcapopka.net

Highland Christian Academy

Infant through Pre-kindergarten

407-886-0015

Library Hours

Sunday-8:30-9:15 and 5:00-6:00

Wednesday-10:00-11:00

3:00-6:30

Women's Craft Saturday-2:00-2:30



The deadline for newsletter articles is the third Monday of every month. Email to: Judy@fbcapopka.net or turn them in at the office.

First Family Breakfast
Sunday, April 3rd
Fellowship Hall
@ 8:30 AM

| <u>April Birthdays</u> | | <u>May Birthdays</u> | |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 15 | Dana Lear | 14 | Chris Smith |
| 2 | Shelby Stewart | 17 | Pledith Malcolm |
| 3 | Mattie Turner | | Bonnie Asters |
| 4 | Sharon Pittman | 2 | David Wilson |
| | Brandon Stewart | 3 | Johnnie Gowan |
| 5 | Bel Warner | 5 | Dianne Woods |
| | Mike Matzen | | Luz C. Rolon |
| | Allie Forsberg | 19 | Patrick Richards |
| 6 | Jean Grice | 20 | Sherry Marsden |
| 7 | Clemmie Hicks | | |
| | Julianna Cuadrado | 6 | Dustin Martin |
| | Juliette Cuadrado | 7 | Florence Little |
| 8 | Tom Haley | | Lemuel Walfall |
| | Rev. Mike Matzen | 8 | Regina Cole |
| 9 | Christopher Jones | | Ty Collins |
| 10 | Martin Cramer | 9 | Susan Manley |
| 11 | Jason Mimms | | Christine Walker |
| 13 | John Archambault | 13 | Walt Williams |
| | Michael Murphy | | Jeanie Burkholder |
| 15 | Rudein Talton | 14 | Tom Gandy |
| 16 | Emma Davoll | | |
| 17 | Tania Collins | | |
| 18 | Monnie Shirley | | |
| 19 | Jason Knowles | | |
| 20 | Clinton Carter | | |
| | Millie Mahan | | |
| 22 | Barbara Bryant | | |
| | Thomas J. Staples | | |
| 23 | Daniel Myatt | | |
| 24 | Kris Johnson | | |
| 25 | Elaine Cox | | |
| | Michael Burroughs | | |
| 26 | Trevor Walfall | | |
| | Jon Woods | | |
| 28 | Bob Smith | | |
| | John Hebda | | |
| | Virginia Williams | | |
| 29 | Toby Smith | | |
| | Luke Jordan | | |

If your birthday has not appeared on the monthly list in the newsletter, that means it is not in our computer system. Please call the church office at 407-886-2628 and let us know that you need to be added to our list for your special day!