

# FIRST THINGS



## Advice for the Graduate

Raymond L. Nooman once said, "To the graduating class, I bequeath the good advice that I gave to the students of former years. It really is as good as new, for very few have ever used it."

Most of us have to get past the teenage years to realize the value of listening to the advice of those who have already been down part of the road of life. Listening to others seems logical to us older folks, but often teenagers can already see how to make life better than that of their parents. They may think, "How hard can it be?" and "Surely, I can make life better and more exciting than the older generation." In a few years, we all learn that making a success of life is much harder than it seems. For those few young people who will listen to the older ones, I will pass along my take on this short little thing called "life." See that your young friends get a copy.

**1) We all have two ways of learning: vicariously and experientially.** Learning vicariously means learning through other's experiences. This is the safe way. By watching others go through life and learning through them, no bones are broken, lives are not risked, and, in essence, lives are not messed up. And, once you finally it all together, you do not hear yourself giving testimony like "I really made some bad decisions . . . . . So don't do as I did." Wouldn't it be much better to do it right the first time. Many have done it right the first time. They are miles ahead of those who didn't. Learning by experience is dangerous. Listen to others—learn vicariously.

By the way, the death of Jesus on the cross is sometimes called "the vicarious atonement," meaning that by receiving Him into our lives, we experience the judgment for our sins through Him rather than suffering in hell for them ourselves.

**2) Make yourself valuable to the community** by getting the proper training so someone will want to hire you and pay you a wage that will pay your bills. Let your parents take care of you until you get that training. Then, get a job and, then, get married. Presenting yourself to the world with no training is McDonaldsville for sure.

**3) Go on a cash only basis as much as possible.** Buy an uncool used car until you have enough money to buy a better one. I would not personally borrow money for college/vocational school and be saddled with a huge debt the day I graduate. Being free of debt is much more enjoyable than having the constant pressure of large installment loans to pay off and having collection agencies calling you every day. I heard Sean Hannity say that he dropped out of college for a year to make money so he wouldn't have to borrow money for his education.

**4) Of course, put the principles of God's word into your life and home.** And, if you marry, marry someone who believes in doing the same. Take God off probation. Dedicate yourself to Him unconditionally, for He will work all things for your good. Do not treat God's word like a cafeteria ("I like that; I don't like that"). Take it all. Believe it all. Those who have done so have found Him faithful. Someone said that Satan has no happy old people.

**5) Pretend that you are on your deathbed.** Am I depressing you? Just stay there in your mind for a few minutes and ask yourself, "What do I wish I had done with my life?" Then, do that!

Your pastor and glad to be so, Paul Gordon



# Get Ready for Vacation Bible School!! PANDAMANIA!!

**WHERE GOD IS WILD ABOUT YOU!!**  
**Monday, June 20-Friday, June 24, 6:30-9:00 pm**  
**Exciting activities are being planned!**  
**Kindergarten-5th grade**

If you feel led to volunteer to help this year, call the church office or see our Church Administrator, Lyle Forsberg. We have a place for you to help the children of our community come to know the Lord. Watch the bulletin for more exciting church-wide events relating to the weekend following VBS.

## 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!!



## 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.



## Weekday Summer Bible Study for Ladies

"Ladies: Please be in prayer about a new, weekday Bible Study for the ladies of our church and our community planned to begin this summer. Watch for upcoming details." In Christ, Monnie

## Join Pastor Gordon's Key Club

Do you have a heart for talking with people about the Lord?  
Pastor Gordon would like to talk with YOU about joining the Key Club! You can call him at 407-886-2628 and talk with him about this exciting and rewarding ministry!



## Women's Ministry Fellowship & Prayer Time

Join your "sisters" here at First Baptist every Wednesday night for an informal sharing of concerns, prayers, ideas & encouragement from 6:30-7:30. We meet in Adult 4 Sunday School room.  
All women are welcome!  
*We catch a glimpse of God's love in the heart of a friend.*

## 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 |                                       |



**Exciting News! Contemporary Worship Service**  
**Coming here this summer on Sunday night!**  
Watch for details.



## First Family Breakfast Sunday, May 1

@ 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Host is Adult 2 Sunday School Class & The First Family Breakfast Ministry Team



## May Lamplighter Meeting on the 10th Will Be Last Until August 27th

Our May 10th meeting will be a picnic get-together at pavilion #2 at Kelly Park Rock Springs at 11:30. Bring your special side dish and the rest will be provided, just as though we were in the Fellowship Hall. You might also want to bring a folding chair. Cost of admission is \$3 for two people in a car or \$5 for more than two. Remember: Fun, Food & Fellowship for the "Over 50 Crowd"



## Woman to Woman Craft Day - Saturday, May 14, 10-2

Bring a friend and join us for a day of relaxed fellowship. Bring your own sewing, quilting, scrap booking or other craft. We can help each other learn new skills! We will stop around 12 for lunch. We ask that along with your supplies you also bring your lunch. Sorry, no childcare provided.

## Mother/Daughter/Friend Tea - Saturday, May 14, 2:00-3:00 pm

In honor of Mother's Day we will have a tea & dessert social. This is a casual event. Bring your favorite dessert. If you don't have a mother or daughter that can attend, "adopt" one or ask a friend! Pull out your favorite recipe and plan for a fun time together!



## Law Enforcement Recognition/Memorial Service Sunday, May 15th 10:30 am



## Highland Christian Academy Yard Sale Saturday, May 21 from 9:00-2:00 in the parking lot

## GREAT DAY In Concert Here on May 29th @ 6:00

Great Day is a very talented family group, blessed with a humble attitude, awesome singing talent and ministers with great songs. They provide a wide range of music, from old standards, to fresh new arrangements from some of gospel music's most prolific writers.



## Juliet's Dinner

Join Us Ladies In Eating Together

Thursday, May 19th at 6:00 at the Golden Corral on 434 by Costco.

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. Donated so far: \$2042.

## 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





*Administration/Education Corner*  
*Lyle Forsberg, Church Administrator*



## **FALLEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN HEROES**

The country's heroes are sometimes ignored but let it not be so in our community. Let's remember this month during "Law Enforcement" week that there are heroes among us. The dictionary defines hero as a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities. Although not all heroes get headlines and recognition these people of courage and ability remain ready to respond to most any emergency. Who are they? Our local law enforcement officers.

Money or honor does not motivate these men and women in uniform. Something draws them to a life of service. I believe it is the divine inspiration given to us by our Creator. An inspiration that starts deep within the soul. I believe it to be linked to the divine plan of *self-sacrifice* that God chose not only for us, but His son Jesus Christ. It is a service that not all survive, certainly Jesus did not. Police officers are not immune from the perils of putting themselves between danger and their fellow citizen. In fact *on average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 53 hours.* Since the first known line-of-duty death in 1791, more than 19,000 U.S. law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice.

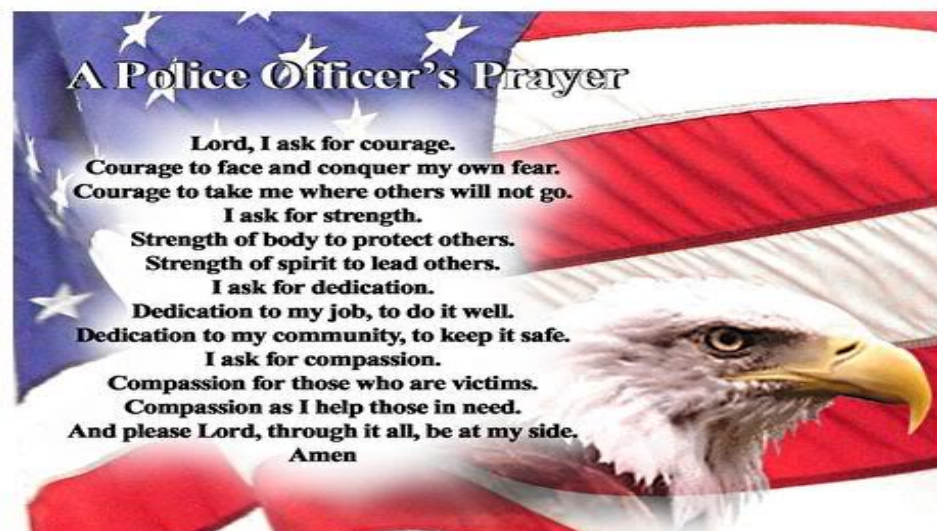
So when you attend church and are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made to pay for our sins, pause a second longer and remember the fallen officer who was inspired to serve and if necessary make the ultimate sacrifice.

Law Enforcement day will be recognized at FBC on May 15. If you would like to thank a police officer personally please attend morning service, and bring friends and family.

We will not forget!

Blessings to all of them and their families who serve and sacrifice.

Lyle Forsberg





## Library Spring Fling

Sunday, May 22, 2011 is our annual book FLING-AWAY. We consolidate and make room for new contributions once each year by deleting our duplicate and seldom read books and sharing them with you. Come in and check for something you are interested in - Fiction, Reference, Poetry, Cook Books and other categories. We want our library to be up-to-date and useful, if you have books that you no longer need and that would be appropriate for the library please bring them in.



## *Be Joyful Always*

*For the joy of the Lord is your strength.*  
Nehemiah 8:10

In Psalms, David said, "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth." *At all times* means in the good times as well as the tough times. The Bible tells us to stay full of joy no matter what we are facing.

The joy of the Lord is our source of strength and the enemy knows it. He knows that if he can get you down and discouraged, before long, you'll be weak and feeble and he'll be able to easily defeat you.

When you are full of joy and have a good attitude, you keep yourself strong. That positive attitude of faith paves the way for God to work miracles in your life - it paves the way for God to turn your situation around!

Decide today to have a good attitude. Keep yourself full of His joy by meditating on the goodness and promises of God. Be full of the joy of the Lord! You'll soon experience supernatural strength and discover the victorious life God has planned for you!

Prayer for today:

Dear Father, thank You for filling my life with joy.

Thank You that I am blessed and cannot be cursed.

Thank You that in all things You cause me to triumph.

Thank You for Your strength within me that comes from that joy.

I bless You today and rejoice in Your goodness.

Excerpt from 30 Days of Victorious Living



## **Come Join the Fun!**

## **Vacation Bible School**

## **June 20-24**

## **6:30-9:00 pm**

## **Kindergarten-5th grade**



# From the desk of Dr. A.C.

## It's on my heart:

After reading this child's assignment from Godvine, I thought this would sum up in simple terms the "jobs" of God through the eyes/minds of children. It seems that Danny was using the same scenarios that are demonstrated around him in his particular environment. What do we present to the "little eyes" around us? What are we telling them in the area of what's important or not important. Children will re-produce what they have seen, heard, and learned. They are our replicas. Are we doing what is right? "Do what is right, just because it is the right thing to do." Are we pleasing in the sight of God? These are questions that each one of us need to answer in our own hearts, especially Daddies and Mommies.

### **8 Year Old Explains God**

How to Explain God was written by Danny Dutton, age 8, from Chula Vista, California, for his third grade homework assignment

"Explain God".

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off. "God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

"His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

"You should always go to Church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong and besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

"But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

"And that's why I believe in God."

I feel enough been said out of a child's mouth:

**Psalm 8:2** "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger." KJV

"From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." NIV

**Matthew 11:25** At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

**Matthew 21:16** "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"

Brother A.C. & Wanda



## "Oh!"

Can you see the apostle Paul? I can. He is tired. His hand aches. He has been writing all night about the glorious mercies of God. As he reads back over his words that will one day be the first eleven chapters of Romans, his heart bursts with love for his God. Laying his quill on the table, he falls on his face before his Lord and breathes one small word. "Oh!" This little word declares so much. When we truly see the Holy One, there are no words, for no words in any language can declare His majesty. Just. "Oh!"

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom  
and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are  
His judgments and unfathomable His ways!  
For who has known the mind of the Lord, or  
who became His counselor?  
Or who has first given to Him that it might  
be paid back to Him again?  
For from Him and through Him and to Him  
are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*  
Romans 11:33-36

Open your Bible and look. Have you ever noticed the Oh? Paul basks in the Oh of all God is. His rich wisdom. His breathtaking knowledge. His total otherness. This-God-who-became-man is indescribable and unfathomable. All Paul can do is bow. Bow low because everything originates with God, all is given by Him. He is all of life and all of life is Him.

Excerpt from *Satisfy My Thirsty Soul* by Linda Dillow



## 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 5:30-6:00

Wednesday - 5:45-6:30

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, May 1

Fellowship Hall

@ 8:30 AM

<u>May Birthdays</u>		<u>June Birthdays</u>	
1	Marge Huber	14	Chris Smith
	Floriece Frish	15	Kimberly Ricketts
2	Pauline Helms	17	Pledith Malcolm
3	Patrick Mack		Bonnie Asters
5	Barney Resch		David Wilson
	Trudy Evans	18	Johnnie Gowan
	Jim Malcolm		Dianne Woods
	David Mayhew		Luz C. Rolon
	Dwight Collins	19	Patrick Richards
6	Dustin Martin	20	Sherry Marsden
7	Florence Little	21	Paul Gordon
	Lemuel Walfall	22	Alex Castaneda
8	Regina Cole	23	Larry Blackwelder
	Ty Collins	24	Danielle Hilson
9	Susan Manley	28	Paul Porpiglia
	Christine Walker		Nikko Woods
13	Walt Williams	30	Traci Fisher
	Jeanie Burkholder	31	Helen Conway
14	Tom Gandy		Austin Martin
		20	Katherine Cramer
		22	Janelle Padilla
			Pat Malcolm
			Frank Martin
		26	Tracy A. Smith
		27	Jay Channell
			Sarah Stroub
		28	Carolyn Gatlin

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!