



# First Baptist Church of Tryon

## The Good News

August 2013

### CHAT WITH THE PREACHER

#### First Baptist Church of Tryon

125 Pacolet Street

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#### Staff

The Reverend Jeff C. Harris, Pastor

The Reverend Candace Wilson, Minister of  
Music and Christian Formation

Kay Greene, Pianist

E. Leslie Raymond, Organist

Sandy Frady, Handbell Choir Director

John Spinks, Sexton

Sunday School 10am

Worship 11am

Children's Choir (Grades 1-5) 5pm

Refuge (Youth Group) 6pm

#### Church Office Hours

Mon/Tue/Thurs 9am to 3pm

Wed 12pm to 4pm

If Christianity is supposed to be such good news, then why does it so often sound like bad news?

Christianity is often described as a laundry list of moralistic do's and don'ts (usually with a heavy emphasis on the don'ts). Alongside this list of prescribed behaviors, there is an implicit (sometimes it is explicit) incentive for good behavior (ie. blessings and rewards) or the threat of punishment for bad behavior (perhaps of the eternal kind). In other words, Christianity is often presented as Karma. If you do good things, then God will shower you with good things. If you do bad things, then God will punish you with bad things.

While it is true that some of this theology can be found in the Bible (it is called Deuteronomistic theology in academic circles), it is *not* the dominant narrative. And if it were, let's be honest, that would be pretty bad news.

One of my favorite theologians, Bono (who also happens to be an Irish Rock Star), explains:

"You see, at the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics—in physical laws—every action is met by an equal or an opposite one. It's clear to me that Karma is at the very heart of the universe. I'm absolutely sure of it. And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that 'as you reap, so you will sow' stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff. . . I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge. It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace."

Like Bono, I know myself well enough to know that Karma would be bad news indeed, because in a world full of poverty, greed, violence, and prejudice, not a one of us is innocent. So, I'm also holding out for Grace.

Grace is the gift of God realized. And when you realize that gift, it changes you. Grace allows you to see beyond your own narcissism; it strengthens you to love not only your neighbor, but also your enemy. Grace humbles you and frees you. Grace is our only hope.

And Grace is at the heart of Christianity. That's not only good news for Bono of U2, it is good news for you, too (pun intended). And for me.

-Jeff

## I LOVE MY CHURCH OFFERING-SEPTEMBER 29

We will collect the I Love My Church Offering on the fifth Sunday of September ( Sept 29). There will be offering envelopes placed in the pew racks on September 22. Please take one and as you consider your giving remember that when we vote for our budget each year, and that vote is a commitment to make every effort to meet that budget. Giving is a part of discipleship. Commitment and discipleship are not easy. When we give our tithes and offerings we are not giving to the “church” but to God.

Each week in the benediction, Rev. Harris reminds us that we are the very body of Christ and disciples of our heavenly Father. Let’s be faithful in our stewardship as we offer our best to Him.

Elizabeth Burrell, Finance Committee Chairperson



## SAVE THE DATE—OCTOBER 12 MISSION INITIATIVE

We need your help as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in Polk County. Please consider volunteering for the Mission Initiative. There are jobs available for all ages

and skill levels; from home repairs to yard work to games and crafts with senior adults. Sign-up sheets and more information to come.

# SUNDAY EVENING EKKLESIA (SEE)

Sunday Evening Ekklesia (SEE) has traditionally focused on young adults, youth, and children. This fall, we are expanding SEE to include educational opportunities for **all** ages. We hope that these increased opportunities for education and fellowship assist in our growth as faithful disciples. Besides, it's fun to share meaningful conversation and food!

Adults will have two options from which to choose:

**The Parables of Jesus** (is a Bible study focused on some well known and not so well known parables) -Activity Building

**You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times** by Max Lucado (Based on the story of Joseph, the study lays out seven steps for surviving the trials of life) - Rock House

Here are the fall dates for SEE (5-6:30pm):

Sept 8 and 22

Oct 13 and 27

Nov 10

Classes meet from 5-6

Meal is from 6-6:30pm (donation suggested)

Also, it is important to note that the Children's Choir (grades 1-5) will meet every Sunday night at 5pm. This means on SEE nights the Children's Choir will meet from 5-5:30, and the Preschool Choir will meet from 5:30-6. On SEE nights children and preschoolers will also participate in thirty minutes of fun activities when they are not in choir.

## WMU MISSION FOR SEPTEMBER

WMU Group 1 mission project for September is to donate to Tryon Elementary the clothing needed for the "clothes closet" Also, we continue to make baby blankets for Steps to Hope. Additionally, September is the month for our annual salad luncheon. Each member brings a salad to share. We invite all ladies to bring a salad and join us for fellowship and good food at the church at 10:00, Tuesday morning, September 3.



# ATTENTION, ALL SINGERS!

## CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSIC RETREAT



You are invited to a special retreat on Saturday, September 28, 2013, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. We will be working on the musical *Celebrate the Child* by Tom Fette, which is scheduled to be presented in worship at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. This retreat will include times of rehearsal, fun, lunch, fellowship, and door prizes!

Make your plans now to attend this event and get a jump-start on the Christmas season preparations.

Make your life a song to God,  
Candy

## CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 11 brought quite a few showers, but only put a slight damper on our church picnic that was originally to be held at Gibson Park and Pool. Because of the impending thunderstorms, our picnic was moved to the Polk County Recreation Complex at the Middle School. Approximately 60 people braved the rain, enjoyed a wiffle ball game, and were served delicious food afterward. Fun and fellowship are important elements to our family of faith.



## CHILDREN'S TRIP TO CAROWINDS

Tuesday, August 13 was the day that twelve children and seven adults braved the threat of imminent rain in order to visit Carowinds Amusement Park in Charlotte. Despite the warnings, there was only one small shower in the afternoon—just enough to cool everyone off. Many thanks to those who went and made this a fun day for all.



## BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Join us for Wednesday Bible Study, which resumes on September 4 at 10:00am in the Activity Building. We will explore *The Easy Burden of Pleasing God* by Patty Kirk. You are asked to bring a light dish to share for lunch afterward. Come and invite a friend to share this time of study, fellowship, and a great meal.

# NOTES FROM CANDY

On Sunday, August 18, we had a luncheon for parents of children through grade 5. At the meeting we discussed my philosophy of Children's Ministry as well as our plans for Fall. Below you will find a portion of our discussion.

## Philosophy of Children's Ministry

I believe Children's Ministry should be for, with, and by children. What I mean by that is that some of the things we, as adults, must do for and with the children is to minister to them and to guide them; but, children are also ministers and they should be helped and encouraged to do ministry, also. They do that by participating in the various opportunities within a church, assisting other children with various tasks, acolyting, as well as visiting the nursing home, making cards for those in the hospital, etc.

I also believe that it is our responsibility as parents, adults working with children, and staff working with children to create a church where children experience God's love, feel included in the life of the congregation, and have opportunities to grow in their faith---so that children will flourish and grow in the light of God's love within the environment of our congregation. I cannot do this alone. You cannot do this alone. We are a team working together to bring these things about. We are blessed with the most important resource for this ministry—our love for children and our commitment to care for them. The Christian faith is communicated to children in essentially two places: the church and the family. It is the primary task of the church to transform persons into disciples. So we are to help children grow in their faith in ways that are appropriate for their age level. So how do we hope to do that at First Baptist?

As a person who is also a Minister of Music, I believe that one of the best ways to learn about ministry and worship is through music. One of my favorite quotes is:

*Teach me a song and I will sing it today. Help me learn music and I will sing and praise God forever.*

Children NEED to be in church and choir. Coming to church and being in choir are not decisions a child can make for himself or herself. Do we ask our children if they want to brush their teeth or if they want to go to school? No--we insist that our children do these things because they are good for them. It is GOOD for your child to be in church and in choir:

~It is part of growing up—a good experience—learning to be a part of a group

~It teaches teamwork and cooperation

~It gives a feeling of accomplishment

~It is a way for children to give of themselves to God and the church

~They learn about worship and worship leadership

~It teaches them confidence and helps them with learning to be comfortable being in front of people—developing a presence for public speaking, etc. which will serve them well throughout life.

Choir is more than just singing—which happens to be a very important element of the overall experience. But in choir your child will learn through music about worship, worship leadership, the church year, music reading, how to use a hymnal, the Bible, ministry, and missions. We will have activities and games as well as singing and working on presentations for worship and for Christmas. Please encourage your child to participate in Children's Choir.

## New Schedule and plans for the fall

It is precisely due to the reasons listed above that we have decided to make Children's Choir for grades 1-5 a weekly event. We will meet each Sunday at 5:00pm.

On the Sundays of SEE (Sept 8 and 22, Oct 13 and 27, and Nov 10), Children's Choir will meet 5:00-5:30pm followed by a time of activities and games 5:30-6:00 pm. Pre-school age children will have activities and games from 5:00-5:30pm and music time from 5:30-6:00pm. Kay Greene will be leading the preschool music time and I will assist her. I will lead Children's Choir and Kay will assist me. Peggy Edwards, Di Greene, Joyce Scoggins, and Susan Smith will lead the activity times.

The Sundays of which we do not have SEE, we will have Children's Choir from 5:00-6:00 pm. We will be working on a special musical play to be presented on the evening of December 8 in the sanctuary and having these extra times for preparation and rehearsal will help to ensure that the children are adequately prepared and will feel confident in presenting the message.

The main thing (schedule-wise) for parents to remember is that **children in grades 1-5 WILL MEET EVERY WEEK at 5:00 pm** (except on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays—there is one in September).

## Registration

Please make sure your child is registered so we have vital info on all participants (we will have registration cards or sheets available on September 8). *Please bring your child to the door of the choir room and pick him/her up at the Children's Choir Room or other area (big room or playground) each week. Please park your car and come in. We ask this of you for your child's safety.*

In God's Service With You, *Candy*

## SEPTEMBER REFUGE EVENTS

We're looking forward to a great Fall with all of you! Commit to making Refuge a part of your weekly schedule. See on you Sunday evenings!

—Jeff and Candy

- Sept. 8** Refuge, 6pm cookout and SEE Kick-off
- Sept. 15** Refuge, 6pm (at Harris')
- Sept. 22** Refuge, 6pm
- Sept. 29** No Refuge (Refuge will not meet on Fifth Sundays)

## FALL YOUTH RETREAT

### ***Save the date!***

The Fall Youth Retreat is October 25-27. We'll spend the weekend hanging out at Lutheridge (in Arden) exploring faith, fun, and adventure. It'll be a blast!



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3	Eric & Dana Ponder
10	Charles & Lib McKeller
11	Lewis & Georgie Hawkins
12	Eric & Melinda Walker
15	Bob & Judy Lair
24	Jimmy & Donna Littlefield

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Robert Earl Arledge
1	Lawson Carter
1	Edward Justice
1	Adam Nobles
1	Don Ponder
3	Sue Thompson
5	Jimmy Littlefield
6	Di Greene
6	Andrew Lair
7	Amber McEntire
8	Trey Fincher
12	Doris Maxwell
12	Anne Tauber
14	Izabella Jackson
15	Alice Prince
15	Ruth Cantrell
15	Peggy Constance
16	Joan Feagan
16	Charles McKeller
17	Blake Moffit
19	Elizabeth Burrell
26	Robert Carter
26	Cheryl Roach
28	Franklin McKaig
28	Emily Brady
30	Ian Stafford
30	Laura Smith

### DEACONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Billy McFarland (lead deacon)

Johnny Taylor

Rick McCallister

Sue Thompson

Ed Justice (balcony)

### USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Bud & Georgia Pace (front)

Dawn Campbell (side)

Wilson Edwards (hall)

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS—SEPTEMBER

1	Erin & Danny Fox
8	Susan Smith
15	TBD
22.	Emily & Anthony Pereira
29	Beth & Rick McCallister

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

9/1	SS (10am), Worship (11am), NO Refuge	9/17	Deacons meeting (7pm)
9/2	Office closed—Labor Day Holiday	9/18	Bible Study (10am), Bell choir rehearsal (6pm), Chancel choir rehearsal (7pm)
9/3	WMU Group 1 (10am)	9/19	Nominating Committee (6pm)
9/5	Nominating Committee (6pm)	9/22	SS (10am), Worship (11am), SEE (6pm)
9/4	Bible Study (10am), Finance comm. (1pm), Bell choir rehearsal (6pm), Chancel choir rehearsal (7pm)	9/23	Staff meeting (10:30am)
9/8	SS (10am), Worship (11am), SEE kickoff and cook out (5pm),	9/25	Bible Study (10am), Bell choir rehearsal (6pm), Chancel choir rehearsal (7pm)
9/9	Staff mtg. (10:30 am), Mission team (7pm)	9/28	Chancel Choir Christmas music retreat, (10am until 4pm), in the choir room (lunch provided)
9/10	Sisterhood—Lair SS Room (7pm)	9/29	SS (10am), Worship (11am), No Sunday Evening activities
9/11	Bible Study (10am), Bell choir rehearsal (6pm), Chancel choir rehearsal (7pm)	9/30	Staff meeting (10:30am)
9/15	SS (10am), Worship (11am), Children's choir and acolyte training (5pm), Refuge (6pm) at the Harris'		
9/16	Staff mtg. (10:30am), Brotherhood (6:30pm)		