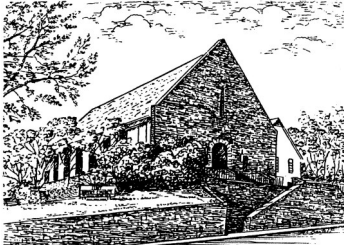


The Good News



January/February 2015



First Baptist Church of Tryon

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Jeffrey C. Harris, Pastor

Candace B. Wilson,

Minister of Music and Christian Formation

Chat With the Preacher

If you're reading this on the first day of 2015, there's a good chance you have not broken your New Year's resolution . . . yet. Even with best laid plans, most of us only last a week or two, if that, before we are back to our old ways. According to Forbes.com, only eight percent of the people who make New Year's resolutions actually keep them. (I read it on the internet so it must be true.)

Eight percent is not a high number. Nor a hopeful one. Eight percent is the kind of number that can turn you into a cynic—the kind of cynic who avoids the ninety-two percent failure rate by resolving to no longer make resolutions.

I've made resolutions before, and for the most part, have failed miserably. I've also played the cynic on more than a few occasions, and have almost always been right.

That's because it's easy to be the cynic. It's easy to say that people don't change, or that things will always be the way they are. If you take the cynical approach you'll be right most of the time, but it won't be much of an accomplishment.

And every once in a while you'll be wrong.

You'll be wrong because some people change. You'll be wrong because sometimes things get better. Every year there are some people who

actually lose weight, get organized, spend less and save more, enjoy life to the fullest, stay fit and healthy, learn something new, quit smoking, help others achieve their dreams, fall in love, and spend more time with family. (These were the top ten resolutions for 2014 according to the University of Scranton.)

Most of us could probably stand improvement in at least one of these ten areas, and we shouldn't let the fear of failure keep us from trying. So don't let the cynics, or more likely, the cynic within, keep you from hoping and dreaming and working towards a better self and a better world for 2015.

Thinking about the New Year reminds me of these words: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (II Corinthians 5:17).

This kind of newness doesn't happen all at once, and it doesn't happen without grace and hard work.

Longing to be made new is not naïve. Instead, it is the deep hope that the Creator hasn't given up on us, or on this world of ours. Resolve to not let cynicism have the final word.

Blessings in the New Year.

Grace and Peace, *Jeff*

Red Cross Blood Drive to be at FBC, January 12



DONATE BLOOD!

We'll be sponsoring another Blood Drive at the Tryon First Baptist Activity Building on Monday, January 12. The Blood Drive will be from 12:30—5:00pm, and appointments must be made by calling the Polk County American Red Cross Chapter at 894-2700. Please bring your Red Cross or Photo ID with you when you come.

We're also looking for volunteers to help on Blood Drive days. If you'd like to save a life (or serve a cookie), consider being a part of this worthy cause. We'll be sponsoring the blood drives every other month. The next dates you can donate blood are March 9, and May 11.



Brotherhood Coat Drive

Brotherhood is sponsoring a coat drive during the fall and winter months. Please bring donations of new or used coats, jackets, and hoodies to the large box inside the hallway closet, across from the Lair SS Room. They will continue to collect warm outerwear and coats during our cold months. These coats will be taken to Thermal Belt Outreach Ministries and distributed to those most in need.

Christian Education Happenings at First Baptist

SEE—Winter 2015

This January our SEE (Sunday Evening Ekklesia) offering for adults will offer a discussion by Jeff Harris, entitled *We Could be Wrong—Examining Moral and Ethical Issues from a Christian Perspective*.

Contentious issues continue to divide churches and communities, but is there another way to approach these complex dilemmas? Can the church offer a better way forward than our tired binary (right/left) thinking? Join us for a series of respectful conversations modeling deep thinking and humility.

Stephen Brady leads a study at the same time in the Rock House, and will be using Louie Giglio's *Passion* series.

Jan 11 Capital Punishment

Jan 25 Abortion

Feb 8 War, Violence, and Pacifism

Feb 22 Politics, Parties, and the
Separation of Church and State

Mar 8 Race

Mar 22 Creation Care and the Environment

Apr 12 Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

Apr 26 Homosexuality

May 17 Concluding Conversation

Looking Forward

January 17 - Deacon Training, 9am-12pm

January 24 - Sole Hope Mission

January 25 -Quarterly Church Conference

February 1- Lord's Supper

February 15 - Heck-Jones Luncheon

December Highlights



Sole Hope Mission



Sisterhood is sponsoring a "party with a purpose" on Saturday, January 24 from 10 - noon. We will be cutting out shoes (from old denim jeans and 100% cotton fabric and milk jugs) to be sent to Uganda. This program is called *Sole Hope*.

Dru and Asher Collie (formerly of Asheville, now living with their two children in Uganda) are leading this program which is two-fold.

1. Without shoes, children get "jiggers" in their feet and their feet become infected. The shoes prevent this. There is no charge for the shoes given to the children.
2. Women in Uganda who sew together the shoes we cut are paid \$10.00 for each pair of shoes so they have income to provide for their own families.

You can help by joining us with your fabric scissors and/or pinking shears on Saturday, January 24 from 10 to noon (followed by a soup lunch).

You can donate \$10 to pay for a pair of completed shoes (make checks payable to *Sole Hope*.)

You can donate old denim jeans and/or 100% cotton fabric.

Contact Judy Lair or Di Greene if you have questions.

Youth Schedule Spring 2015

- Jan 11 6pm, Refuge kick-off (SEE night)
Capital Punishment
- Jan 18 6pm, Refuge
- Jan 25 6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
Abortion
- Feb 1 6pm, Refuge
- Feb 8 6pm, Refuge (See night)
War, Violence, and Pacifism
- Feb 15 6pm, Refuge
- Feb 22 6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
Politics, Parties, and the Separation of Church and State
- Feb 28 (SAT) Ski Trip, Wolf Ridge, all-day event
(Instead of an overnight ski trip, we're doing a lock-in on March 8)
- Mar 1 No Refuge (because ski trip was the day before)
- Mar 8 Refuge Lock-in, 6pm to 8am
- Mar 15 6pm, Refuge
Race
- Mar 22 6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
Creation Care and the Environment
- Mar 29 No Refuge (no activities on fifth Sundays)
- Apr 5 No Refuge (Easter Sunday)
- Apr 12 6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
Christian Sexual Ethic
- Apr 19 6pm, Refuge
- Apr 26 6pm, Refuge (SEE night)
Bullying
- May 3 6pm, Refuge
- May 10 No Refuge (Mother's Day)
- May 17 6pm, Refuge (final SEE night)

There will be one "fun" event each month of the summer. TBD.

First Baptist Church, Tryon NC
2015 Spring Schedule for Children (grades 1-5)

Sun, Jan 11	SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, Jan 18	Children's Choir (5-6pm)
Sun, Jan 25	SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, Feb 1	Children's Choir (5-6pm)
Sun, Feb 8	SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, Feb 15	Children's Choir (5-6pm)
Sun, Feb 22	SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, Mar 1	Children's Choir (5-6pm)
Sun, Mar 8	SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, Mar 15	Children's Choir (5-6pm)
Sun, Mar 22	EASTER EGG HUNT—Time and place TBA SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, Mar 29	Special Rehearsal for Children's Choir (4-6 pm)
Sun, Apr 5	EASTER--NO Children's Choir
Sun, Apr 12	SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, Apr 19	SPECIAL REHEARSAL for Children's Choir (4-6 pm)
Sun, Apr 26	SEE (5-6:30pm)
Sun, May 3	Children's Choir DRESS REHEARSAL (4-6pm)
Sun, May 10	Mother's Day—PRESENTATION of <i>The Tale of The Three Trees</i> during 11:00 am Worship Service
Sun, May 17	SEE (5-6:30pm) Final session for Spring
Sun, May 24	Memorial Day Weekend—NO SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

*****Stay tuned for Summer activities including Vacation Bible School and Passport Camp
(rising 4th-6th graders)*****

JUNE---VBS

JULY---Passport Camp

AUG----Trip to Zoo???

SEP

OCT

NOV

***Special Qtrly Activity

January Sunday Schedules

Deacons for January

*Ron Frady

Marian Corn

Sharon Burrell

Phillip Feagan

Mike Greene (balcony)

**denotes Lead Deacon*

Ushers for January

Joyce Scoggins and Tommy Burrell

Jan Rasmussen (hall)

Sharon Burrell (side)

Acolytes for January

1/4 Katie Cothran & Jonathon Edwards

1/11 Hayden Blackwell & Harper Harris

1/18 Verae Upton & Wilson Edwards

1/25 Caitlin Britton & Jack Fox

Children's Church Workers for January:

1/4 Erin & Danny Fox

1/11 Amber & Ben McEntire

1/18 Cathy & JT Johnson

1/25 Susan Smith

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of Sheila Miller, who passed from this life on January 13, 2015.

January Anniversaries

27 Steve & Cathy Stott

29 Cale & Casi Burrell

January Birthdays

1 Frances Smith, Cindy Lobo

2 Marian Corn, Barbie McCoy, Alyssa Fincher, Henson McEntire ('12)

3 Jerry Attwood

5 Peggy Edwards

8 Gerry Taylor, Hub Arledge

12 Lora Baker, Heath Culbreth, Cindy Dusenbury

13 Phil Corn, Stephen Brady

14 Ken Raymond

15 Harold Taylor

17 Tim Morrow, Isabella Gates ('09)

19 Linda Martin

23 Dick Wilson, Sean Durham ('04)

27 Owen Justice ('12)

28 Taylor Ballard

31 Dick Tauber

College Birthdays

28 Rachel Vining

Military Anniversary

4 Paquito & Emily Dona

Newsletter Submissions

Everyone is invited to submit articles and pictures for the Good News. Please submit your information to the church office by the 18th of the month.

First Baptist Church Schedule

Regularly Scheduled Weekly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

Sundays 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 5:00 pm Children's Choir
 6:00 pm Refuge
Wednesdays 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

3rd Monday of each month: 6:30 pm Brotherhood
1st Tuesday of each month: 10:00am WMU Group 1
2nd Tuesday of each month: 7:00 pm Sisterhood
3rd Tuesday of each month: 6:50 pm Deacons

The Schedule for 2015 is still in the making, and will be posted in February's Good News.

A Special Thank You from Kathy Ashley

I would like to thank each person who took a child's name from the Stocking Tree at Christmas (to benefit children from Tryon Elementary School), as well as the folks that gave money for me to buy gifts, and the people who kept me in their prayers as I shopped. Without your blessings and donations, we would not have helped eighty-two children! Together, we made a big difference in those lives.

I asked one mother "if she could have one thing, what would she want for herself?" Her answer was "a warm sweater." I asked if she meant sweater or coat? She said she had neither, nor did her husband. Thanks to our coat drive, I was able to find a warm coat for both of them. We have a wonderful and caring congregation, and I am glad to be a member. God bless each and every one of you.

-Kathy Ashley