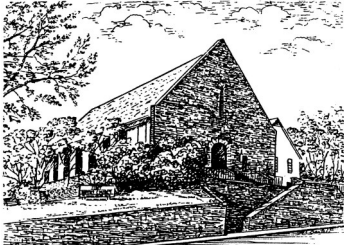


## The Good News



March 2014



## First Baptist Church of Tryon

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## Chat With the Preacher

### The beauty of Ash Wednesday (and Lent)

Ash Wednesday is one of my favorite days of the year. I realize this may sound odd, as I usually prefer feast days to fast days (feel free to insert joke about Baptist preachers and fried chicken here). The beauty of a “moveable fast” is that Hallmark Cards and mainstream American culture have yet to exploit Ash Wednesday (Lent or Good Friday). While feast days like Christmas and Easter are leveraged for profits, no one has managed to capitalize on these penitential holy days. Forty days in the wilderness is apparently not lucrative.

But according to God’s economy, losing one’s life is the only way to gain true life. Perhaps paradox doesn’t communicate well in a greeting card. Or maybe the hard work of repentance is lost on those desiring cheap grace. Richard Rohr explains it this way, “The human ego prefers just about anything, to falling or changing or dying. The ego is that part of you that loves the status quo, even when it is not working. It attaches to past and present, and fears the future.”

The rose-colored glasses of ego prevent us from seeing ourselves as we really are. We divide the world into “good guys” and “bad guys.” And, of course, we are always the good guys. Because we are good, and because there is plenty of bad out in the world, the work of good guys is mainly external. The problems to be addressed and solved are always “out there” instead of “in here.”

Ashes on the forehead, however, confront you with the possibility that the real problems to be addressed and solved are located within us. Dividing the world into good guys and bad guys is too simplistic. Instead, each one of us is a human being capable of great goodness and horrendous evil.

“You are dust and to dust you shall return,” reminds us of our frailty, and our culpability in the brokenness of this world. While such poignancy does not make for commercialized holidays or greeting cards, it does offer the hope of transformation. Barbara Brown Taylor explains, “Sin is our only hope, because the recognition that something is wrong is the first step toward setting it right again. There is no help for those who admit no need of help. There is no repair for those who insist that nothing is broken, and there is no hope of transformation for a world whose inhabitants accept that it is sadly but irreversibly wrecked.”

The tone of Ash Wednesday (and Lent) can seem archaic and puritanical, but it’s not. Transformation is the goal, not asceticism. Don’t be afraid to look into the mirror and see the truth about yourself, because the truth is, we are all in the same boat. No one is beyond redemption, or above it.

This season of repentance and reflection is a gracious gift. In the midst of our busyness, here is an opportunity to reevaluate our lives and the world around us, to take stock of what matters and what doesn’t. Here is a chance to be transformed. Don’t let it slip away.

Grace and Peace,

*Jeff*

## **Baptist Men's Day—March 2**

Join us for Worship on Sunday, March 2 at 11am. It's Baptist Men's Day, when the men of the church plan the service and lead us in worship that morning. Jerry McAtee will preach, and a men's chorus will sing. We are grateful to the Brotherhood for their efforts on our spiritual behalf.

## **Gardner-Webb Concert Choir to perform Sunday, March 2, at 4pm**



First Baptist Church of Tryon is excited to host the Gardner-Webb University Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Paul J. Etter. The Concert Choir is an auditioned, touring choir that performs in churches, schools, and at University functions. The Choir performs sacred and secular choral music from all historical periods. The Concert Choir has sung throughout the Southeast, as well as in New York, Washington D.C., the Holy Land, Europe (Ireland in 2010), and recently at the North Carolina American Choral Directors Association conference. Dr. Paul Etter has taught at Gardner-Webb as the Director of Choral Activities/Coordinator of Church Music since 2001. He teaches conducting classes, church music classes, and conducts the Gardner-Webb Concert Choir, Chorale, Choral Union, and Handbell Ensemble. Dr. Etter has also served as Minister of Music with churches for the past thirty years in Missouri, Illinois, Texas, and North Carolina, conducts numerous school and church clinics. He graduated with a Ph.D. in Fine Arts with an Emphasis in Choral Conducting from Texas Tech University. Originally from Missouri, Dr. Etter completed a B.M. at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri with an emphasis in Church Music, then a M.M. at Southwestern

Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas with an emphasis in Music Ministry. Please tell your friends and come to experience the joy that these young men and women offer as they sing. There is no charge, but a love offering will be collected. Because of the concert, there will be no Children's Choir or Refuge on March 2.

## **Ash Wednesday and Fasting**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Traditionally, Christians have fasted to begin this penitential season and that is why I am asking to observe a daylight fast on Ash Wednesday. A daylight fast allows for a small breakfast early in the morning, and water or juice throughout the day. After a brief time of reflective worship, we will break the fast at the Activity Building with a covered-dish meal.

## **Dinner and Annual Meeting**

### **March 5**

It's that time of year again! The first Wednesday of March, First Baptist Church of Tryon has a dinner and a brief business meeting, to discuss the past year's activities. Dinner will commence immediately after the Ash Wednesday service (details above), when we adjourn from the sanctuary and gather at the Activity Building. Committee chairs have been busy writing reports, and the Social Committee has planned a meal this year of pulled pork and pulled chicken from Mountainview BBQ. You are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. We'll enjoy the fellowship of a shared dinner and then a brief meeting. There is a very short practice of the Chancel Choir after the meeting.



## CBF of NC 20th Anniversary Celebration and General Assembly, March 28-29

The 20th Anniversary Celebration and General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina will be at the First Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC, on March 28-29, 2014. This year's theme is "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). This is an exciting time for all, with Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator preaching, ministry workshops, an educational partners and friends breakfast, a ministry celebration (including a special presentation by the 20th Anniversary Vision Team), and worship services featuring musical guest Ken Medema. All are welcome, but should register for the Fellowship Dinner on Friday, March 28, if you're planning to attend it. Early bird dinner reservations are \$10, with the meal costing \$12 if you register after March 10. Online registration for General Assembly can be made by going to the CBF website and clicking on the link for the event.



### REMINDER!

**Turn Your Clocks Ahead on March 8,  
for Daylight Savings Time**

## Church Clean-Up

The Mission Team meets the first Monday of each month, and together they plan Mission activities for the church family of First Baptist Church. Our March Mission Emphasis is on the Stewardship of the Church. We can be financial and spiritual stewards of the gifts God gave us. We are also called to be physical stewards of all we have been given. The definition of the word 'steward' means to administer the property or finances of another institution. We'll be taking care of the church in March by participating in a church-wide clean up day on March 22. Let's make the buildings and grounds clean and tidy. Sign-up sheets for both indoor and outdoor work are in the Sunday School hallway.



On February 16, the children sang at White Oak and delivered Valentines to the residents.



## WMU March Mission Focus

In March, WMU is making a contribution to the Pure Water, Pure Love ministry. This vital ministry provides a clean water source to missionaries and the communities they serve. We will also finish our baby blankets for Steps to Hope.

## March Sunday Schedules

### *Deacons for March:*

\*Billy McFarland  
Sue Thompson  
Ron Frady  
Johnny Taylor  
Ed Justice (balcony)  
*\*denotes Lead Deacon*

### *Ushers for March:*

Mary Goodwin and Linda Martin (Front)  
Ashlyn Green (Hall)  
Gary Nobles (Side)

### *Acolytes for March:*

3/2 Jamie Greene & Hayden Blackwell  
3/9 Ella Waldman & Wilson Edwards  
3/16 Sydney Waldman & Laney Littlefield  
3/23 Harper Harris & Caitlin Britton  
3/30 Ashlyn Green and Jamie Greene

### *Children's Church Workers:*

3/2 Keith & Debbie Collins  
3/9 Emily Pereira  
3/16 Beth & Rick McCallister  
3/23 Brian & Jennifer Jones  
3/30 Erin & Danny Fox

## March Birthdays/Anniversaries

### **Anniversaries**

1 Phil & Marian Corn  
8 Howard & Mary Greene

### **Birthdays**

5 Keith Constance  
6 Sandy Frady  
10 Billy McFarland  
11 Gigi Covil, Kaya Bishop  
12 Howard Greene, Darryl Maxwell  
13 Sadie McKaig  
14 Charles Stafford, Wilson Edwards  
15 Barbara Batchler  
16 Jennie Bradshaw, Kate McFarland Sap,  
Jan Perry  
19 Jean Bolus, Dan Kimble, Jonathon Edwards  
20 Cale Burrell  
24 Chase Constance, Wendi Jordan  
26 Sharon Burrell, Judy Lair  
27 Franklin Williams  
29 Joe Wray  
31 Tommy Burrell, Phillip Pleasants,  
Mary Margaret Smith

## First Baptist Church 2014 Schedule

### **MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS—Stewardship of the Church**

- Sun, Mar 2 Baptist Men's Day—Men to lead Worship  
4:00 pm Gardner-Webb Concert Choir to perform followed by dinner for choir  
No Children's Choir rehearsal  
No Refuge
- Wed, Mar 5 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday worship  
6:30 pm Meal and Annual Meeting
- Sun, Mar 9 SEE (5-6:30pm)
- Thu, Mar 13 WNC Baptist Fellowship Workshop—Family Planning Senior Style
- Sun, Mar 16 4:00 pm Children's Choir—*PLEASE NOTE time change this Sunday ONLY*  
5:00 pm Youth (grades 6-12) Progressive Dinner
- Sat, Mar 22 Work Day at church
- Sun, Mar 23 Children's Choir to sing in Worship—Rehearse at 9:30 am  
SEE (5-6:30pm)
- Mar 28 & 29 CBF NC Assembly--20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Greensboro NC (Friday and Saturday)
- Sun, Mar 30 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY—"I Love My Church" Offering/NO SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

### **APRIL MISSION EMPHASIS—Easter Missions Offering**

- Sun, Apr 6 Communion Sunday  
EASTER EGG HUNT—Time and place TBA
- Sun, Apr 13 Palm Sunday SEE (5-6:30pm)—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Spring Break  
Refuge Movie and Popcorn Night
- Mon, Apr 14 Noonday Prayer
- Tue, Apr 15 Noonday Prayer
- Wed, Apr 16 Noonday Prayer
- Fri, Apr 18 Good Friday Community Service
- Sun, Apr 20 Easter—NO SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES
- Sun, Apr 27 Quarterly Church Conference  
SEE (5-6:30pm) Fun Night of Games/Activities/Crafts for Grades 1-5

### **MAY MISSION EMPHASIS—Baptist Retirement Homes**

- Sun, May 4 FBC is hosting WNC Baptist Fellowship Spring Gathering—NO EVENING ACTIVITIES
- Sun, May 12 Mother's Day—NO SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES
- Sun, May 18 All Church Cook-Out and Games
- Sun, May 25 Memorial Day Weekend—NO SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

### **JUNE MISSION EMPHASIS—Stop Hunger Now**

- Sun, Jun 1 Communion Sunday
- S-W, Jun 9-11 Spirituality/Backpacking Trip led by Jeff Harris  
Vacation Bible School—TBA

### **JULY MISSION EMPHASIS—Christmas in July**

- S-W, Jul 06-09 Passportkids!—Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Converse College, Spartanburg SC
- M-Sat Jul 14-19 Passport Camp for Youth (grades 6-12), Atlanta GA
- Sun, Jul 27 Quarterly Church Conference

### **AUGUST MISSION EMPHASIS—Back to School**

- Sun, Aug 3 Communion Sunday
- F-S Aug 15-17 All Church Camp-out at Orchard Lake in Saluda

*Con't. on next page*

## **First Baptist Church 2014 Schedule** *(con't. from previous page)*

### **SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS—Fall Mission Initiative**

Sun, Sep 28 11:00 am Outdoor Worship at Harmon Field

### **OCTOBER and NOVEMBER Mission Emphasis—Coat Drive and Shoe Box**

Sat, Oct 4 Mission Initiative (tentative date)

Sun, Oct 5 World Communion Sunday

Sun, Oct 26 Quarterly Church Conference  
Fall Party for Children (P-S through grade 5)

Sun, Nov 2 All Saints Sunday

Sun, Nov 23 Communion Sunday  
Community Thanksgiving Service

Sun, Nov 30 First Sunday of Advent

### **DECEMBER Mission Emphasis—Kathy's Kids**

Sun, Dec 7 Christmas Meal

Sun, Dec 21 Caroling

Wed, Dec 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

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### **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:**

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

This is the current schedule for the year. Please note some things may be re-scheduled, added, or changed as needed. If changes occur, you will be notified by email, worship bulletin, newsletter, or announcement in worship. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.