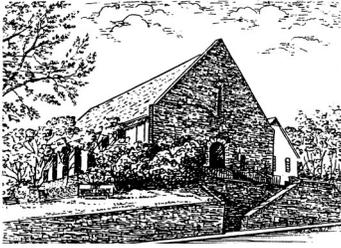


The Good News



November 2014



First Baptist Church of Tryon

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Chat With the Preacher

I'm Baptist, so when All Saints' Day rolls around on Nov. 1 my first response is, "Huh?" All Saints' Day was not observed in the church of my birth, but we had saints in that church. They were not officially canonized saints, but there were three ladies whose picture was hanging on the wall of the senior women's classroom and that was close enough for us.

These women lived lives worthy of emulation, except for the one who I later learned spread gossip faster than Facebook. Still, these women had reached a level of spiritual maturity to which we could all aspire. I thought these saintly women managed, perhaps by sheer willpower, to overcome the temptations of this world and to live as saints among the rest of us sinners.

And there are such persons. There are persons who embody the way of Jesus so deeply you wonder how they do it. While the rest of us mortals flounder along, perhaps doing more harm to the faith than good, these saints manage to live faithfully. As inspiring as it is to be around such people, it can also be depressing. As in — I try my best but I consistently come up short, way short. How do you saints do it?

According to Paul the Apostle (who is also known as St. Paul) saints don't do it. Borrowing from Psalms and Ecclesiastes, Paul writes,

"There is no one who is righteous, not even one; there is no one who has understanding, there is no one who seeks God" (Romans 3:10-12). In case you were wondering, Paul included himself among the unrighteous: "Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost" (I Timothy 1:15b). St. Paul understood that saints are as broken as anyone else, and that their sainthood is less about what they have done than it is about what God has done through them. It was after all, St. Augustine, who famously prayed, "Grant me chastity and continence, but not yet." Not exactly model behavior.

Followers of Jesus should aspire to virtuous living (Lord knows, we could use more virtue in the world), but we should never confuse virtue with achievement. Nor should we equate sainthood with self-actualization because the truth is, we are far from saints. And we should be honest about that. The novelist Marilynne Robinson explains it beautifully: "The belief that we are all sinners gives us excellent grounds for forgiveness and self-forgiveness, and is kindlier than any expectation that we might be saints, even while it affirms the standards that all of us fail to obtain." "Sinner" may seem harsh and judgmental, but Robinson is correct, it is kindlier than saint. If you want to curse someone, call him a saint, and he'll spend the rest of his life falling from that pedestal.

-con't. on page 2

Chat With the Preacher

(con't from page 1)

The saints that we remember and celebrate are not self-made men and women; they are instead, men and women transformed by the grace and mercy of God. All Saints' Day celebrates the goodness of God, not of humanity. The good news is not that we can obtain sainthood if we just try a little harder. The good news is that God can work through prigs like us, for in Christ even the self-righteous can become righteous. As Frederick Buechner writes, "Maybe there's nobody God can't use as a means of grace, including even ourselves."

Grace and Peace,

Jeff



Red Cross Blood Drive to be at FBC, November 10

We'll be sponsoring another Blood Drive at the Tryon First Baptist Activity Building on Monday, November 10. 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 January 12, March 9, and May 11.

WMU Mission Focus

For November, WMU Group 1 will provide nonperishable food items for two families. Each family will also be given a frozen turkey and a dessert for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Poverty and hunger are two critical issues in our county and the more nonperishable food that is donated, the more we help these two families. All ladies are invited to join us November 4th, at the Church, 10:00. Hope to see you there with a can or a box to add to our food collection.

REMINDERS



Nov 2

Turn clocks back! (Daylight Savings Time ends)

Worship—All Saints Day, Baptism

Foothills CROPWalk 2pm

Nov 23

Worship—Lord's Supper

Community Thanksgiving Service 7pm

Nov 30

Advent 1, I Love My Church Offering

Christian Education Happenings at First Baptist

SEE—Fall 2014

This fall our SEE (Sunday Evening Ekklesia) offering for adults will be led by Dr. Donald Lee Berry, Professor of Religious Studies at Gardner-Webb University and Director of the Global Missions Resource Center. Berry came to the School of Divinity from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic where he was an Assistant Professor of Missiology and Director of the Institute for Mission and Evangelism for the European Baptist Federation. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at the University of Kentucky and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Indiana, Kentucky and Florida and taught at several Baptist related Universities and Colleges. Dr. Berry has authored two books and has published several articles and presented several papers in the United States and abroad. There is one night left for SEE until the fall break, and here is our topic of discussion:

November 9—Jehovah’s Witnesses

Meet Our Newest Members



We welcome our two newest members, Katie Elaine Cothran, who came forward by Profession of Faith, and who was baptized on

Sunday, October 5th, and StorieLane Marie Whiteside, who also came forward by Profession of Faith, and was baptized on November 2. Katie is a fourth-grade student at Tryon Elementary, and the daughter of Diane and David Cothran. Her hobbies include playing recreational volleyball and gymnastics. When asked about her favorite Bible verse, Katie chose John 3:16, and her favorite hymn is “Holy, Holy, Holy.” She is most proud of her baptism and her decision to follow Jesus Christ. Katie helped with the Mission Day, visiting two nursing homes to sing and play games with the residents.



StorieLane is in third grade, and the daughter of Joey and Olivia Whiteside. She’s involved in gymnastics, soccer, basketball and volleyball. StorieLane has also been in Girl Scouts since Kindergarten. She is most proud of being able to persevere in gymnastics with a broken arm. StorieLane is enjoying singing “Christmas All Over the World” from the drama the children’s choir are practicing. She is a big help to her parents, by helping to frequently take care of her little sister.

When you next see Katie and StorieLane, welcome them warmly into our First Baptist Family. We are grateful for their faith journey and their decision to follow Jesus.

WORSHIP AT HARMON FIELD SEPTEMBER 28



-photo submitted by Paula Edwards

Winter Mission Opportunities at First Baptist Tryon

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



The Missions Committee is sponsoring "Operation Christmas Child" (shoe box ministry). Brochures, with all the information needed to fill a box, are placed in both the Sunday School and front foyers. Un-assembled boxes, should you want them, are in the front foyer closet. Collection deadline is the week of November 16-24. Please place filled boxes, with your check for \$7 included, in the front foyer closet. The Missions Committee thanks you for your support of this ministry and for your willingness to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world. God will surely bless you for your generosity.

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.

STOCKING TREE

The Stocking Tree (sponsored by Sisterhood) will be in the narthex/vestibule on Sunday, November 30 and Sunday, December 7. Fifty names of needy children (Kathy's Kids) from Tryon Elementary School will be on the tree. *Please sign the list when you take a name.* The clothes and gifts for the children need to be at the Tryon Elementary School office by 2pm Monday, December 15.

ANGEL TREE

Our Church is participating in the Angel Tree mission again this year. The tree with the cards will be located in the narthex in a week or so. On the back of the Angel card, you will find the ID# with child's or senior's first name along with items wished for. Gift should be a minimum of \$25. Please enter on the sheet beneath the tree your name and telephone number beside the number of the Angel you selected. Wrap your gift(s); put the Angel ID# and recipient's name on each one. Please turn all gifts in at the 4-H Center on Saturday, December 6, between the hours of 9am and 4pm or bring them to the Church and leave in the narthex closet.

Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary



You may purchase poinsettias in honor or in memory of someone, by filling out a designated pew envelope (available Sunday, Nov. 2 until Sunday, Nov. 23) and placing it in the offering plate or by bringing it to the church office. These poinsettias will be used for decoration during Advent and may be taken home following worship on Christmas Eve. Each poinsettia will have three 8" blooms and be wrapped in foil. The cost is \$15.00 (the same as last year), and the deadline to purchase them is Tuesday, November 24th.

Children's Fall Party



The children enjoyed a Fall Party on Sunday, October 26, when they enjoyed games, crafts, and snacks. All were encouraged to wear costumes. Thanks to those who participated to make this a fun time for the children.

Children's Choir Rehearsals For Christmas Program

The Children's Choir will present the program "Sing Around the World" by Crystal Davis Clay on Sunday, December 7, at 5pm in the sanctuary. In addition to the regular Children's Choir rehearsal on Sundays at 5pm, two more practices have been added. The first is Sunday, November 23, at 12:30pm (immediately after the worship service). Lunch will be provided. On Sunday, November 30, the children will have a dress rehearsal at 5:00pm.

#GraceItForward Mission Day



Many of our church family turned out for our Mission Day on October 4. There were many tasks—from construction and yard work to nursing home visits and collecting food for needy families. Our families also took the time to hand out gift cards to a local restaurant and helped with laundry mat costs, all through the silent witness of our theme for the day—Grace It Forward. During worship on October 5, we enjoyed a slideshow presentation of the First Baptist church family in action. By blessing others we, in turn, were blessed.



YOU ARE INVITED!

to

*"Sing Around the World"
and the Annual Christmas Dinner*

When: Sunday December 7, 5pm

Where: Tryon First Baptist Church

The evening begins with the Preschool Children's singing, followed by "Sing Around the World" by Crystal Davis Clay, presented by the Children's Choir. After the program, we'll have Christmas Dinner in the Activity Building. Meat, bread, and beverages are provided. Please bring side dishes, salads, and desserts to the Activity Building *prior* to the children's program.

November Sunday Schedules

Deacons for November:

*Keith Collins

Beth McCallister

Stephen Brady

Phillip Feagan

Johnny Taylor (balcony)

**denotes Lead Deacon*

Ushers for November:

Brian and Jennifer Jones (Front)

Linda Martin (Hall)

Ashlyn Green (Side)

Acolytes for November:

11/2 Elliott Whiteside & Jonathon Edwards

11/9 Hayden Blackwell & Harper Harris

11/16 Verae Upton & Wilson Edwards

11/23 Communion—No Acolytes

11/30 Caitlin Britton & Jack Fox

Children's Church Workers for November:

11/2 Jennifer & Brian Jones

11/9 Erin & Danny Fox

11/16 Amber & Ben McEntire

11/23 Cathy & JT Johnson

11/30 Susan Smith

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of Burley Durham, who passed from this life on October 9.

We also remember Julia Gliner, mother of Mike Smith (Susan), who passed on October 9.

November Anniversaries

10 Tommy & Edith Vehorn

13 Gary & Carol Nobles

19 Tommy & Sharon Burrell

25 Bill & Rena Henderson

November Birthdays

1 Jimmy Campbell

3 Carol Nobles, Olivia Whiteside

4 Donna Littlefield

5 Vicky Justice, Ethan Waldman, Paul Cantrell, Jerry Barnette

7 Margot Carter

8 Matthew Covil, Casey Collins Harris, Joyce Scoggins

9 Estella Hanson

10 Diane Cothran

11 Edith Vehorn

12 Ruth Ann Arledge, Katherine Garrett

18 Leah Justice

19 Edward Culbreth

24 Charles Huneycutt

25 Trey Dusenbury, John Spinks

28 Phil Feagan (son)

29 Conner Dusenbury ('00), Bill Henderson

30 Rollins Carter ('02)

College Birthdays

1 Brooke Scoggins

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 2014 Schedule

NOVEMBER Mission Emphasis—Coat Drive and Shoe Box

Sun, Nov 2	All Saints Sunday
Sun, Nov 9	5:00pm—6:30pm SEE
Sun. Nov 23	Communion Sunday 12:30pm—Children’s Choir Luncheon and rehearsal for “Sing Around the World” 7:00pm—Community Thanksgiving Service—Tryon Presbyterian Church
Sun, Nov 30	First Sunday of Advent—“I Love My Church” Offering 5:00pm Children’s Choir dress rehearsal for “Sing Around the World”

DECEMBER Mission Emphasis—Kathy’s Kids

Sun, Dec 7	5:00pm Sing Around the World/Children’s Choir and Christmas Meal
Sun, Dec 21	11:00am Season of Rejoicing/Chancel Choir 3:00pm Caroling
Wed, Dec 24	5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

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