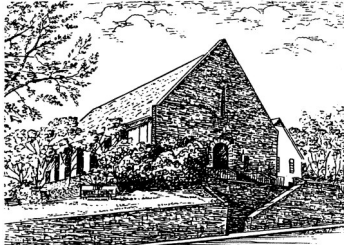


The Good News



November 2015



First Baptist Church of Tryon

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Minister of Music and Christian Formation

Chat With the Preacher

5 suggestions for Christian voters . . .

The 2016 Presidential Election is still a year away and I am already tired of it. Maybe I'm too cynical, but the 24-hour news cycle has a way of bringing out the worst in us. Our dumbed-down, shortsighted, sound bite-infused, bifurcated political conversation (or the lack thereof) can nearly send one into depression; *or* make you want to temporarily move to Britain where the 2015 general election lasted only 38 days, or to Canada where our northern neighbors elected a Prime Minister in 78 days.

But we think bigger is better, so our Presidential campaigns last close to two years and cost an enormous amount of money—the 2012 general election cost 7 billion dollars. It's enough to make you want to pull out your hair.

Since we are now in the midst of this silly season, I thought I'd offer a few suggestions for Christian voters:

1. Thou shalt not lie.

I realize that it's tempting to forward political emails or to say things about political candidates because you wish they were true, but just because you wish they were true doesn't mean that they actually are. Christians should not be in the "truthiness" business. Do your homework. When something seems unbelievable, it usually is. Don't believe everything you hear or read just because you wish it were true. Slander is not a virtue. And voting is not simply a right; it's a responsibility. So act as if you are responsible for the things you say and do—because you are!

2. Don't argue politics on social media.

How many times have you changed your mind about a political issue (or a religious one for that matter) because someone convinced you on social media that your view was wrong? You've probably done that as much as I have, which is *never*. Social media offers an opportunity for constructive dialogue but that rarely happens. Don't get sucked into the drama. As the adage goes, "Never argue with an idiot, on-lookers may be unable to tell which one of you is the idiot."

3.. The political process is not the way to advance the Kingdom.

Christians should be involved in the political process, and they should vote their conscience just like everyone else. Christians should also work for legislation that is good and just, especially for the poor. But it is neither wise nor possible to force Christian beliefs or practices upon people through the political process. The best way to further the Kingdom is for Christians to daily engage in the practices of generosity, compassion, honesty, faithfulness, forgiveness, self-control, mercy, and love. These ways of living are especially effective when we extend them to people who don't look like us, or talk like us, or act like us.

4. Our allegiance is to Christ.

I knew a man who was a Baptist and a Democrat. He married a woman who was a Methodist and a Republican. He was smart enough to understand that marriage requires compromise. And so he told her, "I don't care which church we go to, but there ain't no way I'm voting Republican." Moving to a different Christian denomination doesn't necessarily mean that your political convictions are more important than your religious ones, but for too many people they are. Many Christians are shaped more by partisan politics than by the Gospel. There are good and faithful Christians who vote Republican, Democratic, and everything in between, but woe unto those who would equate the Kingdom with any political party. Our allegiance is to the Lamb, not donkeys or elephants.

5. Jesus could never be elected president.

Have you actually read the Gospels? Do you really think that someone who talks and lives like Jesus could be elected president? Love your neighbor as yourself? Turn the other cheek? Love your enemies? Pray for those who persecute you? Sell everything you have and give it to the poor? You cannot serve both God and money? Don't worry about your life? Really? You think this guy could be elected president? Chances are, Jesus couldn't win a straw poll in a local Baptist church, much less be president.

The only election Jesus ever won landed him on a cross.

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GENEROUS THANKFUL FAITHFUL



“Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. Don’t hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others.” -Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (MSG)

“Generous, Thankful, Faithful” - November 1, 8, 15, and 22. God has generously given us life, love, family, friends, forgiveness, hope, salvation, and so many other good gifts. How do we live as thankful, faithful stewards of these gifts? How do we live generously in a world of scarcity?

S.E.E. NEWS

We hope you will join us at S.E.E. (Sunday Evening Ekklesia) this Fall.

Children and preschoolers activities begin at 5pm in the educational space of the main building, while adults have the option of these studies:

Jeff Harris will lead (in the Activity Building) Adam Hamilton’s “Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today.” Stephen Brady will lead (in the Rock House) “Personal Finances from a Christian Perspective” (based on principles of Dave Ramsey).

At 6:00pm we’ll share a meal, and the Refuge group will meet downstairs. (S.E.E.’s last meeting of the Fall is on November 8. After November 8, S.E.E. resumes on January 10.)

CHANGES TO SISTERHOOD MEETING

Several of Sisterhood’s members are participating in Community Chorus, which meets on Tuesday evenings. For that reason, the meetings for Sisterhood take place on the second Monday of each month, for both November and December. Thank you for adjusting your calendars.

CHANGES TO BROTHERHOOD MEETING

Please mark your calendars accordingly, as Brotherhood will not meet in November or December.

NOVEMBER MISSION



You can already feel the chill in the air as we move from fall into early winter. Our mission for the month of November is to start collecting coats for Thermal Belt Outreach Ministries—all sizes, new or gently used. If you have extra coats, sweaters, or hoodies in your closet, please consider giving the gift of warmth this winter. There is a large collection box in the closet across from the Lair Sunday School Room. Each time it is filled, we will take the coats to Thermal Belt. We’ll continue to collect coats and sweaters throughout the winter months.

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK!

Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday, October 31st. Please remember to set your clocks back an hour and enjoy a bit of extra sleep.

ALL SAINTS DAY NOVEMBER 1

On this All Saints Day, we remember these departed members of First Baptist Church: Mae Scruggs, Sheila Miller, Iola Brock, Marie Pearson, Paul Cantrell, Emily Rose Scoggins, Georgia Pack, and James Bodie.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES



Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse) is a mission opportunity in which we can provide joy to children around the world. Shoeboxes are available in the narthex closet. Fill them with appropriate items (instructions and how to pack a box are found on the colorful labels you find at the entrances to the sanctuary), enclose a \$7 check (made out to Operation Christmas Child), and return the box to the narthex closet by November 16.

THANKSGIVING REMINDERS

There will be no Bible Study, bell choir or chancel choir rehearsal on Wednesday, November 25. The church office will be closed all day on Thursday, November 26, for Thanksgiving.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT FIRST BAPTIST



The Community Thanksgiving service will be at First Baptist Church of Tryon on Sunday, November 22nd., at 4:00pm hope you'll join us as we worship with our community.

CHAT WITH THE PREACHER

(con't from page 1)

And therein lies the problem. The God revealed in Jesus does not redeem the world in the same way we do. In the inverted world of the Kingdom, you find your life by losing it. Power is made perfect in weakness. The last are first and the first are last. The exalted are humbled and the humbled are exalted. The powerful are brought down from their thrones and the lowly are lifted up. The hungry are filled with good things, and the rich are sent away empty.

This is the Kingdom to which we belong, and it is the ultimate hope for the world.

Now this doesn't mean that Christians should not be involved in politics, but it does mean that we must be careful to not lose our souls in the process. As we head toward November 8, 2016 we'd do well to remember this prayer from Stanly Hauerwas: "Sovereign Lord, foolish we are, believing that we can rule ourselves by selecting this or that person to rule over us. We are at it again. Help us not to think it more significant than it is, but also give us and those we elect enough wisdom to acknowledge our follies. Help us laugh at ourselves, for without humour our politics cannot be humane. We desire to dominate and thus are dominated. Free us, dear Lord, for otherwise we perish. AMEN."

Grace and Peace, *Jeff*

#GRACEITFORWARD MISSION DAY

First Baptist Church of Tryon scheduled the #GraceItForward Mission Day on Saturday, October 3. Unfortunately, the rains were so heavy that some of the projects were postponed until better weather. We are grateful for those who gave McDonald's gift cards, handed change to folks in the laundrymat, packed and delivered food to local families, took time to visit local nursing homes, cut wood (there's another woodcutting day at Thermal Belt Outreach, November 21, at 8:30am) and for helping with yardwork. Thank you for volunteering to be Christ's hands and feet in our community. Here are some pictures:



FIRST BAPTIST CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Refuge (grades 6-12) group experienced a haunted hayride at their lock-in at the Fincher's on Friday, October 23. The younger children enjoyed a fall party on Sunday, October 25, complete with activities, games, and refreshments. All were encouraged to wear costumes. As you can see, both groups had lots of energy!



First Baptist Youth and Parents:

If you're like me, it's a little sad to see the summer end. And yet, I am excited about the fall and especially some of the good things happening at First Baptist—such as working with our youth. I hope that you are ready to get back into the swing of things.

In order for our youth ministry to be successful there is one key factor—**attendance!** If there are only one or two youth present, it is very difficult to have good conversation or to play fun games. The number one way you can support this ministry is to make sure your youth attends. I promise that if you get your youth here, we won't waste their time!

Here are a few reminders about youth group:

- Refuge is the name of our Sunday evening youth gathering, and it is open to all middle and high school students.
- Refuge meets from 6pm to 7:30pm.
- Youth are welcome and encouraged to bring friends.
- We engage in serious Bible study and faith formation.
- We always share a meal (most of the time there is no charge for this meal).
- Occasionally there are special events that require money, if money is ever an issue please let us know.
- We play fun, goofy games.
- If you need help with transportation let us know.
- We encourage youth to think seriously about their faith.
- We welcome questions and doubts.
- When it's time to be serious we collect their cell phones.
- If your youth has special needs (dietary or otherwise) please let us know.

-These are our expectations:

Be Respectful *Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 (NRSV)*

No bullying/making fun/leaving folks out, etc. Use appropriate language. Only one person talks at a time. Place your phone in "cell jail" when it's time to be serious. No "smooching!"

Be Faithful *Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and love your neighbor as well as you do yourself. Luke 10:27 (The Message)*

Act like a follower of Jesus. Be kind, practice forgiveness, welcome strangers. Reflect God's love at church, home, and school. Attend Sunday School, Worship, and Refuge as often as possible.

Have Fun *I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.*

John 10:10 (The Message)

Play! Laugh! Participate! Bring a friend! For goodness sakes, have fun!

Looking forward to a great fall! (2015 fall schedule is on the next page)

Jeff Cell: 828.899.1386

Candy Cell: 919.649.4502

YOUTH FALL SCHEDULE 2015

(On SEE nights we begin our time with a meal in the upstairs of the Activity Building, so please drop your youth off upstairs. On non-SEE nights please drop your youth off downstairs.)

| | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 1 | 6pm, Refuge Selfie-Scavenger Hunt |
| Nov 8 | 6pm, Refuge (SEE night) |
| Nov 15 | 6pm, Refuge at the home of Philip and Paula Edwards |
| Nov 22 | No Refuge because of Community Thanksgiving Service |
| Nov 29 | No Refuge because we do not meet on 5 th Sundays |
| Dec 6 | No Refuge because of the Annual Christmas Dinner |
| Dec 13 | 6pm, Christmas Party at the home of Jeff and Jodi Harris |
| Dec 20 | 3pm, Christmas Caroling (dinner at El Sureno to follow) |
| Dec 27 | No Refuge over Christmas Break |
| Jan 10 | Refuge resumes |

2015 Schedule for First Baptist Church, Tryon, NC

NOVEMBER Mission Emphasis—Coat Drive

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Sun, Nov 1 | All Saints Sunday |
| Sun, Nov 8 | SEE (5:00-6:30 pm) |
| Sun. Nov 22 | Communion Sunday Community Thanksgiving Service at TFBC (4 pm) |
| Sun, Nov 29 | First Sunday of Advent/“I Love My Church” Offering |

DECEMBER Mission Emphasis—Kathy’s Kids

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Sun, Dec 6 | Annual Christmas Meal 5:00pm |
| Sun, Dec 20 | Caroling |
| Thu, Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 pm |

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
(UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) INCLUDE:**

Sundays 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 5:00 pm Children's Choir (grades 1-5)
 6:00 pm Refuge

Wednesdays 10:00 am Bible Study (resumes September 16)
 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal (resumes August 26)
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (resumes August 19)

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

3rd Monday of each month: 6:30 pm Brotherhood (no meeting Nov/Dec)
1st Tuesday of each month: 10:00 am WMU
2nd Tuesday of each month: 7:00 pm Sisterhood (2nd Monday in Nov/Dec)
3rd Tuesday of each month: 6:00 pm Deacons
3rd Sunday of each month: 11:00 am Food Pantry Collection

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.

November Sunday Schedules

Deacons for November

*Stephen Brady
Beth McCallister
Keith Collins
Phillip Feagan
Johnny Taylor (balcony)

**denotes Lead Deacon*

Ushers for November

Brian Jones & Robert Carter (front)
Malik Miller (hall)
Jennifer Jones (side)

Acolytes for November

11/1 Katie Cothran & Jonathon Edwards
11/8 Laney Littlefield & Durham McEntire
11/15 Harper Harris & Sydney Waldman
11/22 Communion—No Acolytes
11/29 Elliott Whiteside & Oliviah Miller

Children's Church Workers for October:

11/1 Susan Smith
11/8 Keith & Debbie Collins
11/17 Billy & Brett McFarland
11/22 Linda & Ellis Fincher
11/29 Stephanie Mathis

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of Ken Carter, who died on October 3, the family of James Bodie, who died October 4, and the family of Gary Greene, who died October 20.

November Milestones

Wedding Anniversaries

10 Tommy & Edith Vehorn
13 Gary & Carol Nobles
19 Tommy & Sharon Burrell
25 Bill & Rena Henderson

November Birthdays

3 Carol Nobles, Olivia Whiteside
4 Donna Littlefield
5 Jerry Barnette, Vicky Justice, Ethan Waldman, Ty Walter
7 Margot Carter
8 Matthew Covil, Casey Collins Harris, Joyce Scoggins
9 Estella Hanson
10 Diane Cothran
11 Edith Vehorn
13 Ruth Ann Arledge, Katherine Garrett
18 Leah Justice
19 Edward Culbreth
21 Charles Huneycutt
25 Trey Dusenbury, John Spinks
28 Phil Feagan (son)
29 Conner Dusenbury, Bill Henderson
30 Rollins Carter

College Student Birthdays

1 Brooke Scoggins