



Good Tidings



AGAPE

Loving the world as God loves us.

325 South Oak Street, Cornelia, GA / (706) 778-4412

Newsletter Volume 36, #2 February 1, 2017

Walking with Jesus with Pastor Eric Spivey

In February – the world celebrates love!

At First Baptist Cornelia, we define ourselves by AGAPE – Sacrificial, unconditional love. Our Vision is to Love the World as God loves us.

When we celebrate love at First Baptist we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us (and the world) on the cross. Jesus loved us (and the people who are forcefully against Jesus) so unconditionally that he endured the cross. The cross = AGAPE.

When we celebrate love at First Baptist we remember that Jesus invites us to love the world in the same way Jesus loves us (and loved the world). We are called to love each other (and those who are radically against us) so unconditionally that they see Jesus in our actions. Our actions = AGAPE.

In the Gospels Jesus defines the heart of our life with God by outlining the two greatest commandments in the Old Testament.

36 “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Mt 22:36-40 NRSV)

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CONVERGE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Pray for our 20 plus youth and leaders attending this county wide youth retreat February 3 - 5 at the Woodlands Camp. Contact Pastor John if you would like to give a \$60 scholarship.



Children's Musical rehearsals are taking off!
Wednesdays from 6 - 7:15 p.m.

Come and check out scripture's Hall of Fame and learn the music for this exciting worship experience!

Children's Musical Performance

April 2nd



For more information email Bobby Ivey at bivey@fbccornelia.org or Amber Miller at amberelizabethmiller@gmail.com

UNIFIED MISSIONS OFFERING & INVESTMENT PLAN

To Unify is to join together in perfect harmony.

This is the goal of your Missions Council. Instead of promoting various offerings at different times of the year, these would be combined into one offering.

The Unified Mission Offering envelope would be available monthly in each individual member packet and in the sanctuary pews. This provides every one the joy of giving to those missions special to them, and also all the others every day of the year!

To Invest is to take into consideration the most profitable return.

Prayerful consideration is given by your Missions Council about what should be included. Following the giving plan of the previous five years, first consideration was given to those time honored offerings that are special to Baptist – International (Lottie Moon) CBF Global and State Mission Offerings.

Being fully aware we can not fulfill the Great Commission alone we continue supporting our Denominational Mission Partners. We have added the Baptist World Alliance, because of their involvement in over 231 countries this gives us a much broader base of mission investment.

First Baptist Church, Cornelia from its formation has provided leadership and financial support in service organizations in our community. This continues today with our support includes Habersham Christian Learning Center, Sharing & Caring, Grace Gate, The Lord's Help Soup Kitchen, and the Gideon's.

There are mission investments unique for us: Benevolence, Camp Agape, Love The World Day, Housing, Community Thanksgiving Meal, and serving as the Relay Center for Operation Christmas Child. We have two Partnerships: Santa Emilia, Nicaragua and Cornelia Elementary School.

New for us is providing Mission Grants. These are one time grants, and each year a new request must be submitted for consideration. Application forms are available in the church office. Some recipients have been Habersham Believers United, Prevent Child Abuse Habersham, Bibles for the Jail Ministry, Smokey Mountain Resort Ministries, Waterbury Baptist Ministries, and Lake Tahoe Resort Ministries.

We began the Unified Mission Offering concept in December 2015. One year later our mission offerings increased 11%. Because of your support the Ministry Budget and the Unified Mission Offering we met all our 2016 mission investments!

When First Baptist, Cornelia observed our Centennial we were giving 15% to missions. This year when in October we celebrate our 130 Anniversary, let's set a goal to again reach this level of giving to and for missions as in Unity we Advance the Kingdom of God here and around the world!

Helen Bryson

Monthly

PRAYER FOR MISSIONS



Pray for wisdom, protection, and stamina for Janée Angel and her husband Hary who serves as Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field

personnel living and serving in Antwerp, Belgium, working particularly among the Arabic speaking community, which is ever growing in the midst of the world refugee crisis. Janée and her family moved to Antwerp in a church planting effort and established the first evangelical Arabic church outside the Brussels area.

Pray especially in the month of February for the protection and release of Janée and Hary's 4 nephews and nieces stuck in the Civil War of Syria. The mother of these three children immigrated to Sweden first. The father died the first of January before he could get the children out of Syria. Now the children (17 years old down to 7) are alone in Syria with few options of reunification with their mother. Join us as we pray for a miracle.

To follow this prayer story, connect to Janée's blog: www.seasonedwithspice.wordpress.com



Round Table, Feb. 27
Monday, February 27, 2017
 Fellowship & Card Signing
 begins at 11:00 a.m.
 Lunch: 11:20 a.m.
The Church Lady – Redefined
 Author: Chandra Peele
 Presented by:
 Anne Simmons

A WORD from Pastor John:

Here's something I came across recently that really spoke to me about discipleship –

Jesus made disciples by spending time observing potential disciples. Before calling potential disciples into development, He interacted with them in a variety of settings and situations. He didn't provide a syllabus, a Power-Point guide or a template to follow. Jesus taught discipleship along the way and gave them a mission to complete. He challenged the disciples to embrace a life fulfilling God's call. He used the things around Him to teach discipleship like the birds and the lilies. Discipleship naturally happened simply from a group of people hanging out and growing together. And don't think discipleship happened over night. Jesus spent three years developing 12 men, 24 hours out of the day, seven days a week, 365 days out of the year. In this process, Jesus treated each disciple as an individual – He confronted Peter, He loved John, He challenged Thomas. Jesus told Peter that everyone has their own, individualized path to discipleship. We do too.

Here at FBC we want to help you discover your own path to discipleship AND we want to provide ways for you to grow in your walk with the Lord. Remember, Sunday morning Bible study and the opportunities we offer on Wednesday night for ALL age groups are key parts of growing as a disciple....and, we can all learn from each other, too. Let February be the month that you TRY SOMETHING NEW in your walk with God.

INTERESTED IN DISCIPLESHIP COACHING? Contact Pastor John or Pastor Eric. Coaching is a one on one approach to discipleship. We will meet with you regularly to help you discover how God wants you to follow Him!



RIGHT NOW MEDIA is a great way for you to grow in your walk with the Lord, especially with our highly mobile society. If you did not respond to the invitation by email sent out in January to access all of these resources, let me know and we will get you connected. To learn more about this visit www.rightnowmedia.org.

If you would like to know more about our upcoming mission projects this summer, please get in touch with us. Rhett Weaver can let you know more about our Nicaragua summer trip, and Pastor John can let you know more about our summer trip to Waterbury, Connecticut. Mission experiences are great ways to deepen your walk with the Lord, so pray about being involved in these opportunities coming up later this year.

FBC **Men's Ministry**

FEBRUARY 5TH at 8:00 AM

COME JOIN US in Fellowship Hall for a hearty breakfast, followed by a message from Rev. Greg Burrell. **All men of the church are invited.**

Spring **NICARAGUA**

YARD SALE

COLLECTING ITEMS NOW!



Yard sale the end of April. Folks can **PLACE THEIR ITEMS UNDER THE STEPS** next to the banquet room.

NO CLOTHES PLEASE.

DEADLINE to drop items off is **FRIDAY, APRIL 21.**

Any questions, call Tammy Weaver
706 499-4146

SPECIAL GIFTS (December)
MEMORIALS:

Ministry Budget:
Jodie Burton, Buster Cleveland, Linda Doran, Jonathan Duncan, Mabel Edwards, Bill Legan

Unified Missions:
Jodie Burton, Jacque Dillard, Linda Doran, Jonathan Duncan

HONORARIA

Ministry Budget:
Jane Ferguson, Sarah Gardner

BENEVOLENCE FUND
DECEMBER ,2016

Shared:..... \$1,299.77
Clients: 24



Love is a reflection of the character of God.

God is love. His love for us drove Him to make the ultimate sacrifice: sending His one and only Son, Jesus to pay the ultimate price to make it possible for us to be with God forever.

Because we are created in God's image, we have the capacity to love. Every time we choose to treat others the way we want to be treated, we show others a glimpse into the perfect love of God.

Jesus is the ultimate example of love.

When God sent Jesus to earth, Jesus showed us exactly what it means to love. Jesus prioritized love above everything else. When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the greatest commandment, He reached into the 600+ laws of the Old Testament and took a law that existed about your neighbor and He linked it to loving God. Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul. Love him with all your mind . . . and Love your neighbor as yourself,' (Mark 12:30-31 NirV).

That's why we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about Love—choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Our February memory verse comes from 1 John 4:10.

In 1 John 4:10, we read, ***Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.*** (NirV)

Love isn't just something we demonstrate because it's a good thing to do. Love doesn't even start with us. We love because God loves us. We love others because of the capacity He put within us to love. His love drove Him to sacrifice His only Son on our behalf to make the relationship between us right again.

We will spend the month of February taking a closer look at the way love shows up throughout the Gospels in how Jesus interacts with others.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Nights: Children's Musical Rehearsal

Sunday February 26: Children's Open House

YOUTH NEWS



PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH WHO WILL BE ATTENDING CONVERGE YOUTH RETREAT FEBRUARY 3-5!

What is it?

A weekend of worship, teaching, fun outdoor activities with church youth groups from around the area. We are planning for 150 students and adults to attend.

WHERE IS IT?

At The Woodlands Camp in Cleveland, GA, about 30 minutes from here. Find out more at <http://www.woodlandscamp.org/>



WHEN IS IT?

We will leave from First Baptist Cornelia at 4:30 pm on Friday February 3 and return Sunday February 5 by 12:00 noon pm. Plan to pick up your student after worship on that Sunday here at FBC.

COST?

Each person going will need to pay \$60. The actual cost is \$108. Our church will be paying \$48 for all who attend. If you want to pay more, that's great. This includes all meals for the weekend. Students will need extra money for snacks. If you would like to give \$60 to help pay for a young person to attend this camp with us, please contact Pastor John.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FEBRUARY 1 plan to join us to hear Pastor Javier from Nicaragua and his family to share with us what God is doing with our partnership church there, FBC of Matagalpa. (I will send you a picture to use here).

JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT at 6:00 PM in February in THE WELL (3rd floor Family Ministry Center) for a great time of teaching and fellowship. Remember to always invite a friend to come with you!

SUNDAY MORNINGS our Bible study time at 9:45 will be focusing on the book of James.

Continued from page 1

MUSIC AND ARTS IN WORSHIP

As a little boy attending First Baptist Church in Selma, Alabama, I fell in love with the choir. I can't remember a time that I didn't sing in worship because I love to sing. I'm thankful God blessed me with a passion for music and that I have been able to sing and make music for most of my life. Unfortunately, there have been times I struggled worshipping. As a music director and leader of worship for over 30 years, I haven't always experienced worship. It is so easy to be caught up in the details and mechanics of leading music during a worship service that my mind gets distracted and my heart is not focused on my Savior who I am worshipping. I have been guilty of singing words to songs without fully paying attention to the meaning of those words. Fortunately, for the past 15 years or so, I have done a better job of preparing myself to worship and not let as many distractions prevent me from truly experiencing worship. The older I get, the more meaningful and powerful words to songs become as I sing.

I recently found this quote by Lamar Boschman, a pioneer and leader of worship in today's church.

"When I worship, I would rather my heart be without words than my words be without heart."

When you sing songs in worship, do you pay attention to the words you are singing? Are you singing them from the heart? Recently in choir practice, one of our choir members made the comment, "we better believe it when we sing this song".

And whatever it takes to draw closer to You, Lord,
That's what I'll be willing to do.

And whatever it takes to be more like You,
That's what I'll be willing to do.

I was pleased that she was paying attention to the words of this song and not just singing them. Her comment made us all think about our role as Christians to be more like our Savior. As you sing or listen to songs, do the words stir your soul as you worship? Let's prepare and focus our hearts to worship as we gather each week to praise and glorify our Father and Savior.

Blessings,
Bobby

Love defines and describes the way of God. Love God. Love Others.

This week a church coaching friend made this observation. "Many congregations are sincerely asking how to evaluate their effectiveness in this Post-modern Era. Here's a thought....an evaluative statement to use at year's end: "As a result of participating with this church this year, am I/We more loving (towards God and others) than at the beginning of this year." When our answer is YES, this means we have effectively been church to one another and the world this year. When the answer is NO, then we have failed being church this year."

Love becomes the measure of who we are as a church.

What about you? How would you answer this question personally? Are you more loving at the beginning of 2017 than at the beginning of 2016? What's holding you back? What more does God want of you?

I'm excited to announce that in December Pastor John Swindler was certified as a Discipleship Development Coach. Besides directing Sunday School and serving as youth minister John wants to walk beside you to help you grow to be more like Jesus. This is a one on one discipleship coaching opportunity.

If you are not experiencing or exhibiting AGAPE as you expect, let me invite to you consider working with Pastor John this year. See what new things God will do in your life. And the best part – It's free! Email, call or drop John a note to get started.

This month, let's celebrate love together and make room for God's love to change us and change the world. I'll see you on Sunday.

Your Pastor,
Eric Spivey

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

- 5:15PM Fellowship Meal
Reservations Required
- 6:00PM Preschool/Children's Ministries
Adult Prayer Meeting/FH
Youth Bible Study
- 6:15PM Adult Recharge Classes
- 7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

- 8:00AM Men's Ministry
- 9:45AM Sunday School
- 10:55AM Worship

TUESDAY, FEB. 7

- 7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast /Stew & Que
- Tuesday Crew

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

- 5:15PM Fellowship Meal
Reservations Required
- 6:00PM Preschool/Children's Ministries
Adult Prayer Meeting/FH
Youth Bible Study
- 6:15PM Adult Recharge Classes
- 7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, FEB. 12

- 8:30am Deacon Meeting
- 9:45AM Adult Sunday School
- 10:55AM Worship

TUESDAY, FEB. 14

- 7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast /Stew & Que
- Tuesday Crew
- 7:00PM Book Club/BR

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

- 5:15PM Fellowship Meal
Reservations Required
- 6:00PM Preschool/Children's Ministries
Adult Prayer Meeting/FH
Youth Bible Study
- 6:15PM Adult Recharge Classes
- 7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, FEB. 19

- 9:45AM Sunday School
- 10:55AM Worship

MONDAY, FEB. 20

- 11:00AM Benfield Group

TUESDAY, FEB. 21

- 7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast /Stew & Que
- Tuesday Crew

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

- 5:15PM Fellowship Meal
Reservations Required
- 6:00PM Preschool/Children's Ministries
Adult Prayer Meeting/FH
Youth Bible Study
- 6:15PM Adult Recharge Classes
- 7:00PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

- 9:45AM Sunday School
- 10:55AM Worship

MONDAY, FEB. 27

- 11:00AM Round Table

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

- 7:00AM Men's Prayer Breakfast /Stew & Que
- Tuesday Crew

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

MAKE RESERVATIONS or CANCELLATIONS at:
www.fbccornelia.org
(click the link about halfway down the home page)
FEBRUARY

1ST

Fried Chicken
Baked Beans
Potato Salad
Rolls
Dessert

15TH

Ham
Lima Beans
Creamed Corn
Slaw
Rolls
Dessert

8TH

Spaghetti
Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert

22ND

Poppyseed
Chicken
Rice
Green Beans
Salad
Dessert

SERVICE REMINDERS**FEB. 5****SS Greeters:**

Ben Books,
Phil McClain,
Charlotte Meister

Ushers:

Phil McClain,
Rick Barron,
Nolan Nix,
Dalton Sirmans,
Bill Tanneberger,
Dennis Tedder,
Robert Tyler,
Ed Vaughn

Patrol:

Jack McMullan

Wed. Lockup/FEB:

Caleb Souther

FEB. 12**SS Greeters:**

Charlotte Meister

Ushers:

Richard Whatley,
Grant Bentley,
Bill Chandler,
Steve Doran,
Brian Peek,
Chester Skelton,
Larry Whitfield

Patrol:

Donald Crowe

Wed. Lockup/FEB:

Caleb Souther

FEB. 19**SS Greeters:**

Charlotte Meister

Ushers:

Jarvis McFarlin,
Herman Benfield,
Donald Crowe,
Wes Dodd,
Murphy Doran,
Terry Doran,
David Elder,
Jack Irvin,
Jared McFarlin

Patrol:

Grant Bentley

Wed. Lockup/FEB:

Caleb Souther

FEB. 26**SS Greeters:**

Charlotte Meister

Ushers:

David Foster,
Jason Hughes,
Jack McMullan,
Richard McMullan,
Mark Reed,
Caleb Souther,
James A. Stapleton III

Patrol:

Bob Tyler

Wed. Lockup/FEB:

Caleb Souther

Coming Soon

**DEACON OF THE WEEK****FEB. 5**

Jimmy Stapleton
(706) 778-8278

FEB. 12

Dennis Tedder
(678) 617-3688

FEB. 19

Donna Trotter
(706) 778-2893

FEB. 26

Larry Whitfield
(706) 778-9755

MANY THANKS to our church for your participation in the **Community-wide Thanksgiving Meal**. It was such a wonderful opportunity for us to serve and be served. So many of you allowed us to serve over three hundred folks. We are grateful for those of you who cooked, decorated, set up, served, or made desserts. We also recognize all of the behind the scenes things that had to occur in order for this meal to take place. Our Tuesday crew worked tirelessly to make sure that we had everything that we needed to serve all of those folks. We were also blessed to have several new churches to participate this year. Our meal truly is becoming more of a community event. Even so, our church is the heart of the meal and we could not do it without the participation that you so freely give. Thanks be to God for your efforts!

The Community-wide Thanksgiving Meal Committee



DANCING WITH THE STARS FOR HOPE

APRIL 1, 2017

Doors open at 6:30 PM

TICKETS GO ON SALE FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Circle of Hope and the Habersham Rotary Club have partnered to host **Dancing with the Stars for Hope**. This fundraiser highlights ten teams of volunteer dancers from Habersham County including team **SuperStars Lift-A-Lott for Hope** featuring Donna Trotter and Jeff Wilson.

Awards will be presented for "Judges Choice" of best dance performance and "People's Choice" for the team that raises the most support via votes. Help your favorite team secure the "People's Choice Award" for most funds raised. ONE DOLLAR EQUALS ONE VOTE. Go online to cast your vote.

TICKETS will be reserved seating and therefore require online seat selection or in-person seat selection.

PURCHASING TICKETS/VOTES can be done through the web site www.dancingwiththestarsforhope.com using Pay Pal. Circle of Hope staff will also be available during business hours at 592 N. Main St. Cornelia for in-person seat selection for those wishing to purchase tickets via cash or check.

Dear Church Family,

I want to personally thank all of you who visited the funeral home, went to the funeral, sent food & flowers when Clifton Caudel passed away.

Thank you,

The Caudel Family

Dear Church Family,

How blessed we are to be a part of the loving and caring individuals that make up First Baptist Church. Our family wishes to express our thanks for all of your cards, visits, and prayers during Jacque's illness and passing. The meal after the service was such a comfort. We are grateful to each person who served, organized, and cooked. Your love means so much during this difficult time.

Love all of you,

Doug, Shirley, Chip, Jay and Andrea Dillard

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, calls and visits during our recent health struggles.

Sincerely,

Larry & Loraine Warren

February 5

Title: ***On the Way: Glory's a-Comin'***

Scripture: Mark 8:27-9:13

February 12

Title: ***Humble Service***

Scripture: Mark 9:14-50

February 19

Title: ***Standing Apart***

Scripture: Mark 10:1-31

February 26

Title: ***Prepared to Suffer***

Scripture: Mark 10:32-52

MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Eric T. Spivey, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. John Swindler,

Assoc. Pastor, Discipleship & Student Ministries

Bobby Ivey, *Minister of Worship & Music*

Mrs. Amber Miller,

Minister of Children and Community Outreach

Jarvis McFarlin, *Business Manager*

Bobbie Foster, *Organist*

Mary Turner, *Pianist*

Ministry Assistants

Sheila Thomason, *Finance*

Bernice Widding, *Publications*

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