



Good Tidings



A G A P E

Loving the world as God loves us.

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

Newsletter Volume 36, #3 March 1, 2017

Walking with Jesus with Pastor Eric Spivey

I am always learning lessons of faith and theology from our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters in Matagalpa. During Pastor Javier's visit in late January I was reminded of a key difference in our language of faith. Nicaraguans call their church building, *the temple*. They reserve the word church – *la Iglesia* – for the people, the body of Christ.

FBC Cornelia is rich in both church as the Body of Christ and church as building. During our Walking By Faith Season of discernment several years ago, our congregation repeatedly listed our facilities as one of our greatest assets for Kingdom ministries.

Over the past 5 years we have investigated ways to invest our facilities in God's Kingdom work in our community.

Through these years, we have seen our church buildings used by many organizations which have impacted the community. Examples include the Kiwanis Club which uses our gymnasium for their annual Toys for Kids give-a-way. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops have used our rooms to gain their badges and for troop meetings. Prevent Child Abuse Habersham has used our facilities for new parent gatherings. Relay for Life has used our Fellowship Hall to kick off their annual fund raiser.

Most powerfully, our facility has become the center for English as a Second Language and GED classes in the county. Through partnering with North Georgia Tech Adult Education and Volunteers in Literacy, we have assisted hundreds of adults as they work hard to improve their lives. I always find it exciting to listen to the teachers in these classes as they tell me story after story of how they share Jesus as they help students grow in their language skills. These partnerships have multiplied our ability as a church to invest our facilities in growing God's Kingdom.

Continued on page 5

Introducing...

1st Sunday Family Worship

First Sunday of Each Month

Begins March 5, 2017

- 9:45: Family Breakfast sponsored by the FBC Men's Ministry (Families with children and youth)
- 10:15 Small group sharing and Bible Study for Adults (Cornerstone and Berea Sunday School classes)
Bible study for our children led by our Youth and Youth Volunteers
- 10:55 Corporate Worship with the FBC Family

WHAT TO EXPECT ON FAMILY WORSHIP

- Children and youth worshipping with their families
- Children's Sermon with Pastor Eric
- Children and youth leading in worship

A Word about Family Worship from Pastor Eric

Jesus teaches us to "let the little children come to me." Our Family Worship services invite our families, children and youth to be full participants in our broader worshipping community. Together, we teach our next generation how to worship, we model the importance of worshipping together, and we provide opportunities for worship leadership. I hope that all of our families will make Family Worship a priority in their monthly schedule so that together we grow to be more like Jesus.

Ash Wednesday

A Service of Confession and Clearing

Wednesday, March 1

6:30 PM in the Sanctuary



A G A P E MISSIONS:

"Philip went to Samaria and they believed him as he proclaimed the Good News of the Kingdom of God, and they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12



When the Jerusalem church experienced persecution they could have become discouraged and said "We should have known this new concept of everyone being included in His Kingdom would not work, let's just continue doing things the way we always have." Instead, Philip went to Samaria. Samaria had a different ethnic background, culture, and language. Acts tells us "they believed him and there was great joy in the city!" Samaria has come to inner cities, including Atlanta, Georgia and most of our larger cities as people have left and moved to the suburbs establishing churches there. This vacuum has created a great need to establish new churches. Statics tell us these are the most responsive to the Good News. This shift in population is also true in our neighboring counties and here in Habersham.

When you give to our Unified Mission Offering you continue to reach all people in need of hearing, by word and deed, the good news of salvation. Your giving does not just reach people in "Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the world" but Habersham County.

Two examples of how your mission giving is used are listed on this page:

The Georgia Baptist Mission Board provides two Baptist Mobile Health units that go to different needed areas in Georgia to provide much needed dental services to the under served. All those who minister to make this possible are volunteers including, doctors, dental hygienist, registration, meal, etc. First Baptist Women on Mission, WMU, is providing the Health Kits given to each recipient, which will include a picture of the church and John 3:16. Our GAs and RAs will be assembling the packets.

The Women's Inspirational Prayer Retreat at Camp Pinnacle is made possible in part because Habersham Baptist Association is included in our Unified Mission Offering. A portion of that is shared with the Women on Mission, WMU, helping to make this beneficial retreat possible.

One other example is a Mission Grant that has made it possible to provide "Free On The Inside" Bibles used in a Bible study at Habersham County Detention Center.

Together for His Kingdom is our joy and privilege as we join with others to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Helen Bryson



BAPTIST MOBILE HEALTH MINISTRY



**Tuesday, April 4 through
Saturday, April 8, 2017**

Welcome Home Baptist Church

Complete Information will be in the Northeast Georgian & WCON. Phone calls for appointments will be available Monday, March 27 & Tuesday, March 28.

Women's Inspirational Prayer Retreat



Camp Pinnacle Retreat Center,
Clayton, GA

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017
& SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017**

Theme: *Passing the Faith Legacy from One Generation to the Next*

Discussion topics include:

Woman's Spiritual Health & Experiencing God in the Family

Retreat leaders: Marilyn Blackaby & Carrie Blackaby Webb

Details and Registration forms in the church narthex and Information Table in the office hall.

A must for women of every age!!



A WORD from Pastor John:

Growing in Christ is an ongoing process.....something we do for the rest of our lives here on planet earth. Recently I came across these thoughts from Garrett Kell, the lead pastor of Del Ray Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

“When we encounter Jesus, we meet a man who calls us to come and die (Mk. 8:34-35). And he calls us to follow him and learn from him (Mt. 4:19, 11:29). It doesn't matter whether we're smart or stupid, rich or poor, young or old, Asian, African, or American. The only requirement is that we repent of rebelling against our Creator and cling to him through faith (Mk. 1:15; 1 Thess. 1:9). If we do this, we're promised forgiveness of our sins and reconciliation to God (Col. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:17-21). Jesus calls us to come and die so that we might live.

Those who follow Jesus by faith are known as his disciples. Some suggest that disciples are the “super Christians” who are gettin' it done for Jesus, while Christians are just “normal believers.” **Scripture, however, offers no support for this distinction.** (See, for example, Mt. 10:38, 16:24-28; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23, 57-62; Jn. 10:27, 12:25-26). We are either following Jesus or we aren't; there is no middle ground (Mt. 12:30)

Being a disciple that makes disciples happens in two particular ways. **First, we're called to evangelize.** Evangelism is telling people who don't follow Jesus what it means to follow him. We do this by proclaiming and portraying the gospel in our neighborhood and among the nations (Mt. 28:19-20). We must never forget that God has placed us in the families, workplaces, and circles of friends that we are in so that we can proclaim the gospel of grace to those who are destined to hell apart from Christ. We must help people learn how to begin to follow Jesus.

The second aspect of making disciples is helping other believers grow in Christ-likeness. Jesus has designed his church to be a body (1 Cor. 12), a kingdom of citizens and a family who actively build each other up into the fullness of Christ (Eph. 2:19; 4:13, 29). We are called to instruct each other about Christ (Rom. 15:14) and to imitate others who are following Christ (1 Cor. 4:16, 11:1; 2 Thess. 3:7, 9). As disciples, we are to intentionally pour into other disciples so they can pour into still others (2 Tim. 2:1-2).”

THESE ARE SUCH GREAT REMINDERS FOR US! Let me encourage you to be involved in a Bible study group here at FBC Cornelia. Spring is just around the corner and it is a time for NEW GROWTH. Ask the Lord to help you GROW in your walk with him, and He will!

FBC Men's Ministry
MARCH 5TH at 8:00 AM

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

Monthly PRAYER FOR MISSIONS
PRAYER IS A VITAL PART OF OUR WALK WITH CHRIST!

Here are some mission related items to pray for this month:

- PRAY for our local mission involvement – Caring and Sharing, Circle of Hope, Benevolence Ministry and ESOL Ministry just to name a few.
- PRAY for our Nicaragua Mission Trip June 3-10.
- PRAY about how you can be involved in our upcoming Waterbury, Connecticut Mission Trip July 20-28. Talk with Pastor John for more information.
- PRAY for Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries and the work they are doing in Gatlinburg, TN. Visit their website at www.smmr.org and read about this ministry.
- PRAY for our International Mission Board and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries who are serving God all over the world. Visit these websites: www.cbf.net/pray and www.imb.org/pray.

SPECIAL GIFTS (January)
MEMORIALS:
Ministry Budget: Mozelle Carlan

Unified Missions:

Buster Cleveland, Jacque Dillard, Bill Leagan

Soup Kitchen: Jacque Dillard

Youth Activity 2: Mozelle Carlan

HONORARIA
Ministry Budget:

 Jane Ferguson,
Sarah Gardner

BENEVOLENCE FUND
JANUARY, 2017

 Shared:.....\$ 1,214.73
Clients:..... 24



Forgiveness
is a reflection of the
character of God.

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded about God's grace and forgiveness.

God makes us white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)

God's mercies are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

God is faithful and just to forgive our sins. (1 John 1:9)

When our relationship with God was broken beyond repair, God offered His only Son as the way to forgive us and restore the broken relationship.

Since we are created in God's image, we have the ability to offer forgiveness when people in our lives hurt us. God's love in us makes it possible for us to forgive others and work towards fixing our own relationships that break down from time to time.

Jesus made it possible for us to have God's forgiveness.

God's showed us just how much He cares about forgiveness when He made the ultimate sacrifice and sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. We have been forgiven of so much, it's only right that we turn to those in our lives and offer forgiveness to them in return.

That's why we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

Our Memory Verse for March comes from Colossians 3:13.

In Colossians 3:13, we read, "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." (NIRV)

This verse, from Paul's letter to the church at Colossi, reminds us not only that God forgave our sins, but also that we should forgive others instead of holding grudges against one another. We pray that throughout March, families will let go of what they're holding against each other and choose to forgive. We think that this could be a powerful month in the lives of kids and families in our churches.

We will spend the month of March taking a closer look at the way forgiveness shows up throughout a few of the parables Jesus told His followers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Nights:

Children's Musical Rehearsal

April 1st & 2nd : Children's Musical



YOUTH NEWS



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FOR YOUTH THIS MONTH:

March 1 – Ash

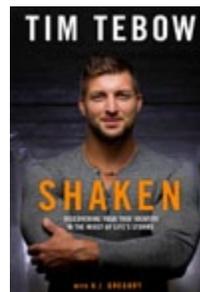
Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm.

We will gather in the youth room briefly at 6:00 P.M., then go to the sanctuary for this meaningful service.



Beginning March 8 and continuing on every Wednesday night this month we will be doing our annual **LEADERSHIP TRAINING** time as we prepare for Camp Agape this summer. This is for ALL YOUTH, and it is a great time to invite friends who might want to help out with us during Camp Agape this summer.

This month, Mr. Dalton Sirmans will be assisting



me in teaching from a series called **SHAKEN: DISCOVERING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IN THE MIDST OF LIFE'S STORMS**. In this powerful series, Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow passionately shares glimpses of his journey staying grounded in the face of disappointment, criticism, and intense media scrutiny. In Shaken, Tebow

talks about what he's learned along the way, building confidence in his identity in God, not the world. This moving series features practical wisdom from Scripture and insights gained from others who have impacted Tebow in life changing ways. **PLAN TO BE HERE EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MARCH AT 6:00 pm!**

WATCH YOUR BULLETIN AND THE CHURCH WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SOME UPCOMING FUN STUFF HAPPENING IN MARCH!

SUNDAY MARCH 5 our youth will help teach our children after our family breakfast time at 10:15 am.

Read more about our **1st Family Worship** experience that will happen on the first Sunday of the month starting this month!

MUSIC AND ARTS IN WORSHIP

The first Sunday of March has been set aside for “Family Worship”. You may be wondering why only the first Sunday if your family is together worshipping every Sunday. So many of our children and children’s ministry workers are missing corporate worship time so we want to have one Sunday a month designated for family worship and bring everyone into the sanctuary to worship together. Some of our members have asked for some new songs so I am planning a variety of music for our “family worship” experience. We won’t stop singing hymns, but we’ll add some new arrangements of beloved hymns along with some newer songs to engage everyone to worship. I want our children, youth, young adults, and adults of all ages to praise and worship our Almighty God and Savior.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

There is no doubt in my mind that the hymn How Great Thou Art, by Stuart K. Hine, influenced the popular praise and worship song, How Great Is Our God, by Chris Tomlin, ED Cash, and Jesse Reeves.

*How great is our God!
Sing with me how great is our God!
And all will see how great,
How great is our God!*

I want to invite ALL of our FBC family to come together and worship corporately for our Family Worship Sunday on March 5 and EVERY Sunday as we praise and glorify our Savior who is worthy of all our praise.

Blessings,
Bobby

Future Use Ad Hoc Committee

- Brad Trotter - Church use Committee; chair
- Danny Almond - BSF committee, vice-chair
- Leigh Thomas - Children's committee, secretary
- Dennis Tedder - Deacon, at large
- Wade Hasty - Building and grounds Committee
- Bobby Tyler - Long Range Planning Committee/shelter ministry
- Sue Blair - History Committee
- Jimmy Stapleton - Bylaws Committee
- David Foster - Ex officio, Deacon Chair Voting Member
- Eric Spivey - Ex officio Non-Voting Member

Continued from page 1

In 2015, something extraordinary happened that unleashed our potential to invest our facilities in Kingdom Work. We became debt free. This powerful moment in the life of our church allowed us to begin to rethink how we can use our facilities to tell people about Jesus and expand God’s Kingdom.

Through the discernment of our deacon body, the church voted last spring to invest over \$100,000 from our reserve account to complete two needed repairs. First, we installed a new boiler and air conditioning unit for our sanctuary and main hallway; then, we repaired the long time leaky roof of our fellowship hall.

In the fall, we began to look at ways to maximize our facilities for our present ministries. The children’s committee presented to our deacons the idea to move our children’s ministries space from the main hallway to the first floor of the Family Ministry Center. This move has opened up new opportunities for our facility to be used to share our faith and expand God’s Kingdom. Not only are we maximizing our first floor space – using our visitor’s center as a check-in for our children - we have also opened up new rooms on the main hallway.

In February, our deacons established an ad hoc committee called the Future Use Committee (see names to left). This committee will coordinate with the committees and ministries of the church to repurpose/renovate these spaces to best use them for the ministries of the church. They will present a recommendation to our deacons at their Leadership Meeting on March 12 for how we can repurpose these important rooms based on the input we received from the church in January. I am hoping that by Easter, these transitions will be complete and we will see our facilities maximized for our ministries.

The church facilities of First Baptist Church Cornelia are a gift from God through the generations who have come before us. As we seek to Love the World as God loves us, I am also certain that we will continually be challenged in the years ahead to find new ways to use these buildings to expand God’s Kingdom. There will be more work to do, more ways to follow Jesus. Together, as we improve and invest our temple, we will rediscover the beauty of being la iglesia - the Body of Christ.

I’ll see you on Sunday,

Pastor Eric Spivey



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

5:15PM Fellowship Meal
Reservations Required
6:00PM Preschool/Children's Ministries
6:30PM Ash Wednesday Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

1st Sunday of Lent

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 12

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 19

3rd Sunday of Lent

9:45AM Sunday School
10:55AM Worship

MONDAY, MARCH 20

11:00AM Benfield Group

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 26

4th Sunday of Lent

9:45AM Sunday School
10:55AM Worship
1:30PM Tea-Shower for Katie Weaver

MONDAY, MARCH 27

11:00AM Round Table

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

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

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

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

MARCH

1ST

Pork Loin	23RD
Steamed Cabbage	Fried Chicken
Creamed Corn	Baked Beans
Rolls	Slaw, Rolls
Brownies, Tea	Dessert

8TH

Chicken Casserole	29TH
Veggie Medley	Ham
Fried Okra	Sweet Potato Souffle
Cranberry Salad	Lima Beans
Dessert	Rolls
	Strawberry Cake

15TH

Chili
Cornbread
Salad, Dessert

SERVICE REMINDERS

MARCH 5

Ushers:

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

Patrol:

David Foster

Wed. Lockup/MARCH:

Brad Trotter

MARCH 12

Ushers:

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

Patrol:

Dennis Tedder

Wed. Lockup/FEB:

Caleb Souther

MARCH 19

Ushers:

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

Patrol:

Rick Barron

Wed. Lockup/FEB:

Caleb Souther

MARCH 26

Ushers:

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

Patrol:

Jimbo Stapleton

Wed. Lockup/FEB:

Caleb Souther

DEACON OF THE WEEK

MARCH 5

Donna Trotter
(706) 778-2893

MARCH 12

Ben Brooks
(706) 768-7011

MARCH 19

Donald Crowe
(706) 778-7578

MARCH 26

Kathy Crowe
(706) 778-7578

The Habersham Christian Learning Center
Board of Directors invite you to our

Annual Meeting and Fundraising Banquet

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Cornelia United Methodist Church
The Stewart Fellowship Hall

6:00pm Silent Auction

6:30pm Dinner

A \$10 donation to cover the cost
of the banquet would be appreciated.

For Reservations, please contact HCLC by March 10
at 706-778-5483 or habershamclc@gmail.com



DANCING WITH THE STARS FOR HOPE

APRIL 1, 2017

Doors open at 6:30 PM

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.



Children's Musical Performance

April 2nd

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

Please join us for a...



Tea-Shower

Honoring

Katie Weaver

Bride-elect of

John-Henry Dean

Sunday, March 26, 2017

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Cornelia First Baptist Banquet Room



RICE to Love the World Day 2017

Saturday, April 22

A fun, missional way to gather a team of friends and bless our Habersham Community in Jesus Name.

Look for more information in March.

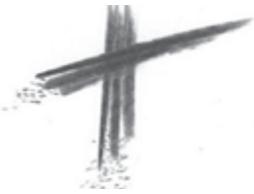
Spring **NICARAGUA**

YARD SALE

COLLECTING ITEMS NOW!

Place items under the steps. No clothes please.

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



Ash Wednesday

March 1st

6:30 PM Sanctuary

Title: Preparing our Lives

Scripture: Mark 11:1-33

- Imposition of ashes
- All ages Welcomed

March 5 – First Sunday of Lent

Title: Not Far

Scripture: Mark 12:1-44

- Family Worship Sunday
- Acolytes in worship
- Pastor Eric’s Children’s Sermon
- Children lead in worship

March 12 – Second Sunday of Lent

Title: Tenacity

Scripture: Mark 13:1-37

- Acolytes in worship

March 19 – Third Sunday of Lent

Title: Monologue: Extravagant Sacrifice

Scripture: Mark 14:1-52

- Acolytes in worship

March 26 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Title: Monologue: Peter’s Denial

Scripture: Mark 14: 53-72

- Acolytes in worship

Special Music by Faith and Lily West

[Coming in April...](#)

Holy Week



Easter Sunday is April 16, 2017

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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