



Good Tidings



AGAPE

Loving the world as God loves us.

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

Newsletter Volume 37, #3 March 1, 2018

Walking with Jesus with Pastor Eric Spivey

When First Baptist Cornelia first conceived Camp AGAPE in the early 1970's the premise was simple. Partnering the Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services, develop and provide a camp where children in foster care experience God's unconditional love (AGAPE). While the premise was easy, the execution required lots of energy, time and work.

Camp AGAPE began at the Harvest Christian camp outside of Clarkesville. We hired an associate pastor with church/youth camping experience to help us develop the structure and traditions. Over these four decades, we have done Camp AGAPE well. Thousands of campers have come through camp. Hundreds of our members and teenagers have served as counselors, moms and dads, cooks, clothes washers, bus drivers, and prayer warriors.

After the building of our Family Ministry Center in 2000, the first event to happen in the new space was moving camp from Harvest Christian to FBC. What we missed of the outdoor life, we made up for with air conditioning (and few of us are willing to go back). Over these years we have refined HOW we do camp. We have gotten better and camp runs smoothly (okay ... as smoothly as possible), each year.

However, what we didn't expect in the 1970's, was the difficulty in locating the best kids for camp. Over the last 5 years the centralization of DFCS in Atlanta has made it difficult for DFCS to recommend kids who will thrive at camp. We've had more children attending from outside Habersham and some with behavioral challenges too advanced for our counselors. These changes have forced us to return to our original premise to discover how to best accomplish this purpose in our present community and its challenges.

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Join us **Wednesday, March 28** for an

EASTER EGG HUNT AND ACTIVITIES.

Children's Easter activities begin at 6:15 on the front lawn.





2018
Holy Week



MARCH 25: Palm Sunday 10:55 A.M.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 29, 2018 - 7:00 PM

On this night we commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13:1 -17) and instituted the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.



APRIL 1

Easter Celebration

SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 A.M. at Tower Mountain

FBC SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:45 A.M.

CELEBRATION SERVICE
In the FBC Sanctuary at 10:55 A.M.

A G A P E MISSIONS:

"Do not neglect to do good and share what you have, for such giving is pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16

Advancing
God's Kingdom



PRIORITY ONE Children & Youth Ministry

Mission: To transform the lives of at-risk children and youth in Habersham County

Vision: To mobilize Christians and collaborate with all community leaders to transform the lives of children and youth who are at-risk of not graduating, who suffer from poverty, abuse, neglect, and lack of parenting. To transform their lives through programs such as Teach One to Lead One team mentoring, one-on-one mentoring in the schools, and sharing Jesus with them during the after-school program, FOCUS.

To help these students graduate, further their education, and become work force-ready productive citizens and future community leaders.

"Thank you FBC for supporting our HUB ministry in the missions budget. You are making a difference in the lives of at-risk youth.

Blake Foster, Director

ROUND TABLE

Monday, March 26, 2018

Fellowship Hall

Fellowship & Card Signing: 11:00 a.m.

Lunch: 11:20 a.m.

Jane Lawson, RN,BSN

International Missionary, SBC

Medical Coordinator, Sub-Saharan Africa

We are fortunate to have Jane Lawson a native of Gainesville, GA share with us during the time she is home on furlough.

Why should we be interested in Sub-Saharan Africa, other than a culture that is different from ours? Christianity as the dominant religion is shifting from our area of the world. In 2015, 26% of the world's Christian population lived in Sub-Saharan Africa. Pew Research Center predicts it will continue to grow. They foresee that 42% of the Christian's in the world will call Sub-Saharan Africa home by 2060.

FBC

Men's Ministry

SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH at 8 a.m.

JOIN US in Fellowship Hall for a hearty breakfast with our guest speaker, Mr. Tim Lee, Habersham County EDC Executive Director And as always, be sure to invite your spouse or a friend(s)!



GEORGIA BAPTIST DENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

The Georgia Baptist Mobile Dental Health Unit will be coming to Habersham County again this year! The dates are May 1-4, 2018

The host church will be Clarkesville Baptist. This ministry is made possible by volunteers. Local dentists and dental hygienists will be giving their time: Checking vitals will be provided by nursing students at North GA Technical College; and meals will be provided and hygiene packets by various Baptist churches in Habersham Baptist Association

THE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, May 1

Screening from
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

Dental services from
1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 3

Dental services from
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
One hour for lunch

Friday, May 4

Dental Services
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 n.
If needed

Watch for the phone number to call – this will be listed in the local news paper and radio stations.

If you serve at any community mission place such as Grace

Gate, Sharing & Caring, and the Soup Kitchen please post this information for those who might need these services.

You may know individuals who could benefit from this service. The person actually receiving the service must call.

A WORD from Pastor John:

Recently I came across this article that spoke about 3 important characteristics of discipleship....here they are, and they give some great Biblical insight, too.

1. Discipleship builds humility.

Our temptation might be to think we know what is best for ourselves. As you've heard, and maybe said before, "we know ourselves better than anyone." Scripture says that we might actually be more confused than we think. The heart is deceitful and so to trust yourself at all times is probably not the best route to take (Jeremiah 17:9). Wise counsel from a friend, pastor, or spouse could be just the thing God uses for our protection.

Proverbs says that a wise man will hear and learn, and will acquire wise counsel (Proverbs 1:5). So we can safely assume that an unwise man will not hear from others, will shut them down and will not listen, will lack understanding and will not acquire wise counsel. We need to resist the temptation to be wise in our own eyes (Proverbs 3:7). This isn't so easy! But as we seek to gain understanding, we must first acknowledge that we don't always know what is best.

2. Discipleship unites us with fellow believers.

The body of Christ isn't meant to simply exist for us to gather together on Sundays and then move along with our lives the rest of the week. God's word paints a picture of believers doing life together (Acts 2:44-47). Seeking counsel and discipleship is one way to invite others into your life.

Most of the time people won't know the details of your life unless you are willing to share with them. Being willing to be discipled by another provides an opportunity for prayer and mutual encouragement (Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11). We want to pursue one another because we are members of his body (Ephesians 5:30).

3. Discipleship equips us for faithfulness.

Paul tells us in Titus 2:3 that the older women in the church should teach what is good and train the younger women. They are to equip other women in how to walk in step with the truth of the gospel. And this isn't a suggestion — it is God's instruction for how we should relate to one another.

This is Discipleship 101. It's yet another proof that we need each other. We can't obey the commands in Titus 2 without being willing to be discipled (and being available and willing to disciple others!).

DON'T MISS THE WEEKLY TIMES OF DISCIPLESHIP WE HAVE HERE AT FBC....Sunday morning Bible study at 9:45 and LIFEGROUPS on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m.

DEACON Leadership Meeting March 4th, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

In the FBC Banquet Room

All Committees and Ministry Teams are encouraged to present a written or verbal report.

March 11th



**Church-Wide
Fellowship
and Church Conference**

Bring Pot Luck meat, side or dessert with enough to share

Sunday, March 18
following Worship

Includes:

- Get to know your church family
- Celebrations of Ministries
- Ministry Testimonies
- Updates on Congregational Life and Ministry

Safety And Security Training: Active Shooter

Saturday, March 3 @ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Banquet Room

The Habersham County Sheriff and Cornelia Police Departments will guide our church in preparations for active shooter scenario. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

March 11th at 6:30pm in the Banquet Room

Worship UNPLUGGED

Acoustic * Contemporary * Casual
* All Ages * Nursery Provided

GAPE DISCIPLESHIP: GROWING DISCIPLES



Join us March 4
for our
First Sunday Family
Breakfast & Worship.



Is coming March 9 – 11!

What is it? It is a great weekend of worship, learning, fellowship and recreation with the youth groups

of several area churches held at **The Woodlands Camp** in Cleveland, GA. Our guest speaker this year is Jeff Williams, pastor of *The Church at Southside* in Athens, Georgia. We will be focusing on **LEAVING A LEGACY** and we have a great group going from our church this year. If you know of a student interested in going, we may have room at the last minute. Just contact Pastor John. **CHURCH FAMILY** – If you would like to help with a scholarship for some of our youth to attend, please let Pastor John know. The cost for each person attending is \$115....each student pays \$75 with our church budget paying the remainder. If you would like to give any amount, just contact Pastor John.

JOIN US FOR YOUTH BIBLE STUDY on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. This month we are learning about the different aspects of Lent and preparing ourselves for Easter.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN MARCH we are continuing our **TRUE LOVE PROJECT** study. We meet at 6:00 p.m. in THE WELL (3rd floor Family Ministry Center). Special thanks to Danny and Linda Almond for their help in leading this study

GEN Z Did you know that our youth and children are considered to be a part of GENERATION Z?

Gen Z is often characterized as those born between 1996 and 2014, so anyone aged 4 to 22 today. They make up 24.3 percent of the US population...more than millennials, more than Gen X, and more than Baby Boomers. By 2020, The Washington Post says that Gen Z will have about \$3 TRILION in purchasing power. They have always been wired.... they have never known a world without the internet or cell phones, and they take wi-fi for granted. The best thing is that THEY ARE OPEN TO FAITH...although only 4 out of 10 attend religious services weekly, 78 percent of older Zs say they believe in God, according to a survey by Northeastern University. WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT IS TO WORK WITH THIS GENERATION TO SHARE THE HOPE OF JESUS! Pray with me that God will use our church to help them find Jesus!



PRESCHOOL



Our preschool theme this month is GONE FISHIN'! It just seems perfect since this month is all about Jesus and how He taught the disciples to be fishers of men. How did they learn to be fishers of men? Well, they followed Jesus! And, we want our preschoolers to know that they can follow Jesus too! Our memory verse is Matthew 4:19, **"Come and follow me,' Jesus said."**

ELEMENTARY



Our elementary children will be focusing on 'peace' with our theme, JUMP BALL: FINDING PEACE IN THE MADNESS. When Jesus died and then rose from the dead, He paid the price for everything that was wrong and unfair in this world. Because of Jesus, we can have peace. We don't have to get even. Instead, we can reflect the character of Christ by caring for others and making peace. Our memory verse is, **"So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another."** Romans 14:19

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

On Wednesday evenings our TeamKID children continue to learn biblically sound teaching, missions teaching, and are enjoying fun and fellowship. One of the countries we will learn about is Lesotho, which is a South African country. Join the fun from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

WE NEED:

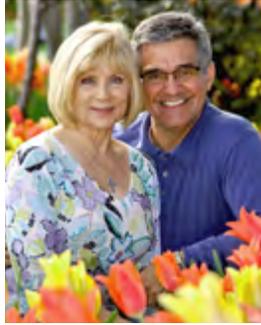
- Easter candy and plastic Easter eggs.
- Monthly nursery volunteers. Please contact Mrs. Carrie if you can help!



MOSAIC Arts Camp & VBS are coming soon! We want you to get AMPED with us about this exciting opportunity to share God's love with our community. Plan to be a part June 18-22. Be listening for planning & volunteer meetings coming soon! We want every individual to have a part in this special week this summer.

Keep up with the Wild Kingdom Children's Ministry on Facebook @wkchildrensministry and on Instagram @fbccorneliachildren

We Will Welcome our New
Minister of Worship and Music
Rev. Randy LeBlanc
On Easter Sunday, April 1st!



After a great Call Sunday on February 25, Randy and Cele LeBlanc traveled back to Dallas, Texas to begin planning their move to Georgia. Join us in praying for them as they put their house on the market, begin packing for their move, pull together housing in Cornelia, and make the trip across the country. Randy's first Sunday as our new Minister of Worship and Music will be on Sunday, April 1st - Easter Sunday!!

Join us in welcoming Randy and Cele to the North Georgia Mountains by sending notes and emails of encouragement. Here is their contact information. Rev. Randy and Cele LeBlanc
3020 Claybrook Drive
Wiley, Texas 75098
Email: randallkleblanc@gmail.com

Continued from page 1

Over the last 5 months, our Camp AGAPE Discernment team has been meeting most months to look squarely at the challenge, our calling as a church, and the needs of our community. AS we meet, we are looking to see where God is calling Camp AGAPE in the future. This quote from Frederick Buechner defines what we attempting to do. "Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need." Camp AGAPE the future will be where Habersham's deep need and FBC's deep gladness meet. Let me ask you to pray specifically for this group of wonderful missional individuals as we pray, discuss and lead. I'm sure God will direct us.

And ... as for this year, let's celebrate the opportunity to take Camp AGAPE on the Road to Miami this summer. Working with Touching Miami with Love, we will bring all of the great traditions and joys of camp to a new set of children in the Overtown community of Miami. I look forward to see what Miami teaches us that we will bring back and incorporate into camp.

I'll see on Sunday,
Pastor Eric Spivey

 **Stewardship**

At First Baptist Cornelia, we collect two offerings throughout the year. The first is our tithe. Our tithe supports our Ministry Operating Budget which funds our mission and ministry work, our pastoral staff and personnel, and our operations and facilities.

We also collect our Unified Mission Offering throughout the year. Our Unified Mission Offering supports all of the mission work of our congregation. Last month, our Mission Council released our 2018 Unified Mission Offering Investment Brochure. This brochure details the many different organizations, missionaries, and denominational partners in which we invest our mission dollars. Pick up an Investment Plan and see where we will Advance God's Kingdom this year. And ... if you are not supporting the Unified Mission Offering each month, consider starting today.

SPECIAL GIFTS (JANUARY)

MEMORIALS:

MINISTRY BUDGET:

Mozelle & Seaborn Carlan, Carleen Ruark,
Effie Parham, Janet Parham

UNIFIED MISSIONS:

Effie Parham

MINISTRY BUDGET FINANCIAL STATEMENT		
JANUARY 31, 2018		
	JANUARY	YTD
RECEIPTS:	\$25,144.00	\$25,144.00
EXPENSES:	\$35,277.29	\$35,277.29
NET:	(\$10,133.29)	(\$10,133.29)
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE SUNDAY SCHOOL	96	
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE WORSHIP	143	

UNIFIED MISSION FUND
JANUARY 31, 2018

	JANUARY	YTD
BEGINNING BALANCE:.....	\$28,823.80	\$28,823.80
RECEIPTS:.....	\$13,985.62	\$13,985.62
INVESTMENTS:.....	(\$11,746.97)	(\$11,746.97)
ENDING BALANCE:.....	\$31,062.45	\$31,062.45

BENEVOLENCE FUND: January 2018

Shared:..... \$1,448.50 Clients:..... 22

AGAPE FELLOWSHIP: PRAYING SPIRIT LED FAMILY OF FOLLOWERS

March

SERVICE REMINDERS



WED.

LOCK-UP

Brad Trotter

4th

PATROL

David Foster

USHERS

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

11th

PATROL

Dennis Tedder

USHERS

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

18th

PATROL

Rick Barron

USHERS

Jarvis McFarlin,
Herman Benfield,
Donald Crowe,
Wes Dodd,
David Elder,
Jack Irvin,

25th

PATROL

Jimbo Stapleton

USHERS

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

9:00AM **SAFETY & SECURITY TRAINING:
ACTIVE SHOOTER**

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

8:00AM **Men's Ministry**/FH

9:45AM Family Breakfast/FH

10:15AM Small group & Bible Study

10:55AM



5:45PM **Deacon Leadership Meeting**

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

5:15PM Fellowship Meal (Reservations Required)

5:55PM Announcements & Prayer/FH

6:00PM •Preschool/Children's Ministries

•Youth Ministry(3rd Floor)

6:15PM Life in Groups, Prayer Ministry
and Bible study

7:30PM Adult Choir Practice

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Youth Converge Retreat

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Daylight Savings Time Starts

9:45AM Sunday School

10:55AM Worship

6:30PM



TUESDAY, MARCH 13

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

7:00PM Book Club

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

5:15PM Fellowship Meal (Reservations Required)

5:55PM Announcements & Prayer/FH

6:00PM •Preschool/Children's Ministries

•Youth Ministry(3rd Floor)

6:15PM Life in Groups,
Prayer Ministry
and Bible study

7:30PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

9:45AM Sunday School

10:55AM Worship

12:30pm Fellowship & Church Conference

MONDAY, MARCH 19

11:00AM Benfield Group

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

5:15PM Fellowship Meal
Reservations Required

5:55PM Announcements & Prayer/FH

6:00PM •Preschool/Children's Ministries

•Youth Ministry(3rd Floor)

6:15PM Life in Groups, Prayer Ministry
and Bible study

7:30PM Adult Choir Practice

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 - Palm Sunday

9:45AM Sunday School

10:55AM Worship

MONDAY, MARCH 26

11:00AM **ROUND TABLE**

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

5:15PM Fellowship Meal (Reservations Required)

5:55PM Announcements & Prayer/FH

6:00PM •Preschool/Children's Ministries

Easter Egg Hunt & Activities

•Youth Ministry(3rd Floor)

6:15PM Life in Groups, Prayer Ministry
and Bible study

7:30PM Adult Choir Practice



THURSDAY, MARCH 29

7:00PM

Maundy Thursday
Service



DEACON OF THE WEEK - March

4th

Doug Dillard
706-778-3334

11th

David Elder
706-754-8620

18th

Jane Ferguson
706-778-5496

25th

David Foster
706-499-2925

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEALS - March

MAKE RESERVATIONS or CANCELLATIONS at: www.fbccornelia.org

7th

Fried Chicken, Baked
Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato
Salad, Rolls, Dessert

14th

Menu unavailable at time
of printing

21st

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic
Bread Dessert

28th

Chicken Tenders, Corn,
black Eyed Peas, Rolls,
Dessert





It is always a joy to share good news with those you love and want to support. The senior members of this congregation are like family to me , so I thank God for the privilege of planning events that bring us together. Here is what is ahead for our senior members.

1. During the month of March I will have spring art on sale in the same room we used last year. This will feature spring items and Easter themes. Once again I am offering this art on a donation basis. You were very generous last fall to support the Christmas Shoe Box ministry. I felt the need to get us started early to help with the cost of that most precious project. I will count on you to check out the art and see if you might find a gift item or something for yourself.
2. Our third "Book Discussion" session will unfold on March 12th across from the church office. We meet at 10 a.m. and finish when we have nothing more to say. Then we head off to lunch if that fits your schedule. Our next session will take us through the events of our Lord's last week before the crucifixion. It is so important fro us to prepare our hearts as we move through the Lenten season. This will require no preparation, but bring your Bible.

David Turner,
Senior Adult Coordinator

Dear First Baptist Church,

Each of us want to "Thank You" for your prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and the loving and caring visits as you remembered our beautiful Mom, Effie Parham.

A special appreciation also to Mrs. Glenda Moore, the Food committee and for all those who planned and prepared the delicious meal at the conclusion of the service on January 15th.

We to are thank ful to Dr. Eric Spivey for his beautiful message and to Mrs. Mary Turner for her wonderful and inspiring music during Mom's Memorial Service.

To God be the Glory.

Larry, Brittany, Alice, Pat and Ronnie Parham

Dear Church Family,

I am so thank ful for all of the prayers & cards I received while I was sick. Also, a huge thank you for the gifts I received from the children and their families in the month of February. I certainly have felt very loved & appreciated!

Thank you,

Carrie Trotter

Dear First Baptist Church Family,,

Thank you so much for the prayers, phone calls and other showings of concern during the time of our Daddy's health decline and eventual passing. Also, thank you of the meal that was provided after the funeral. It was very thoughtful and delicious. We love each of you.

The Henry Hardy Family

Susan and Mitchel

Dear Church Family,

Hoyt and I appreciate the prayers, visits, cards and calls during Hoyt's hospitalizations and his slow recovery. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we face his next surgery.

Sincerely,

Hoyt and Jerry Hooper

MARCH 2018:

March 4 (3rd Sunday of Lent)

[First Sunday Family Worship LOGO]

Title: Fools for Christ

Scripture: 1 Cor. 1:18-25

Worship Elements: Children's Sermon



March 11 (4th Sunday of Lent)

Title: Raised Up

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Worship Elements:

Mission Conversation: HUB of Habersham

March 18 (5th Sunday of Lent)

Title: The High Priest

Scripture: Hebrews 5:5-10

Worship Elements: Faith Story

MARCH 25: Palm Sunday

Title: Living in Mystery

Scripture: John 12:12-16

Worship Elements:

Palm Processional; Baptism



Thursday, March 29 – 7:00 PM

On this night we commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13:1 –17) and instituted the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Eric T. Spivey, Senior Pastor

Rev. John Swindler,

Assoc. Pastor, Discipleship & Student Ministries

Mr. Randy LeBlanc,

Minister of Worship & Music

Mrs. Carrie Trotter,

Interim Minister of Children & Outreach

Jarvis McFarlin, Business Manager

Bobbie Foster, Organist

Mary Turner, Pianist

Ministry Assistants

Sheila Thomason, Finance

Bernice Widding, Publications

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