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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

*The Vision
Proclaiming
the good news*

March 2019



hello March!

Worship and Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:30 a.m. ~ Kingdom Kids for
Children & Bible Study for Adults

10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Service

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. ~ Prayer Meeting
and Bible Study with Jeremy

Thursday

6:00 p.m. ~ Choir Practice



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORT THOMAS

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
Good News!*

Rev. Jeremy Shannon
Pastor
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Worship Leader
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April Ayers (*Piano*)
Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

Worship and Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am. Sunday School for
children &
Small Group Study for adults

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Thursday

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ministry Assistant
Debbie Mershon
office@fbcftthomas.com

From the Pastor's desk...

On my cell phone I have an app called Timehop. The Timehop app pulls up the pictures taken on that same day one year ago, two years ago, etc letting me see what things have happened over the year. It is usually fun to remind myself (and perhaps get a little sad) about things we have done with the kids or other meaningful things that have happened in my life over the last few years. A week or two ago, I saw photos that were taken of what is now our children's area upstairs. The walls were a pale yellow and the clutter had taken over the space and it needed help. As a new minister one of the first big things I asked of the church was to move the children up to that space. We picked out bright colors and scheduled a work day to transform that space. While I expected maybe 7 or 8 people to come, we had at least 19 people come and spend their Saturday working in that children's space. We trusted that it was something God was calling us to do but were still unsure of what the future might hold.

I share that memory because as I looked at those pictures, I also began to think about the past month at the church, particularly with the excitement of calling Kaitlyn Runion as our new children's minister. Slowly but surely in that new space we have seen more and more kids start to join us on a regular basis, along with their families. The seeds that were planted in transforming the space are already starting to bear fruit and I believe we are only seeing the start of what is to come. This month will be a month of celebration as on March 24 we will have a baby dedication where we already have four babies signed up to participate! When we created the new space we had hoped for Sundays where noise can be heard all over the church from the stomping of little feet. It has been fun in recent weeks to see that hope realized.

When God calls us to something, the only thing that we can do is be faithful in taking the steps where we are led and trust God with the rest. As we worship and serve together, what steps do you need to take in a sign of faith and obedience? I believe that if you do so there will be a time down the road where you will look back and be so very glad that you did.

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Jeremy

Does God See Me?

The letters arrived in Jesse's mailbox a couple of times each week. They were typed in a feminine font on blue or pink paper with a woman's name signed at the bottom: "Pamela." Each night exhausted and painfully lonely, Jesse closed the door to his room and spread the pages of the letters across his bed. Jesse had never been in a relationship before, but with Pamela, he finally felt like he mattered to someone.

And Pamela was happy to keep writing to him...for a small fee.

Several years and thousands of dollars later, Jesse discovered that Pamela was, in fact, a scam artist named Don Lowry. Yet Jesse found it difficult to completely discard all that Pamela had meant to him. She had made him believe that there was "someone out there looking out for him"

My heart breaks for lonely people like Jesse. When I think about him, Leah from the Old Testament comes to mind. Leah's name meant "weary, tired," but I sometimes wonder if Leah was more than weary and tired. I wonder if she felt...invisible.

You see, Genesis 29 paints a painful picture of her: verse 17 contrasts Leah's "weak eyes" with her younger sister, Rachel, who "had a lovely figure and was beautiful." Then we learn that a young man named Jacob was in love with Rachel and wanted to marry her, but when the wedding night arrived, the girls' father tricked Jacob into marrying Leah instead! When Jacob realized he had married Leah, his first words to his father-in-law were, "What is this you have done to me?" (v. 25). Poor Leah! Can you imagine?

Sadly, Leah's circumstances got worse. When she and Jacob had been married only one week, he married Rachel too. From that time on, Leah had to live in the shadow of their love. She was the ultimate third wheel.

But Leah, the invisible girl, wasn't invisible to everyone. God saw her. He saw her loneliness, rejection, and broken heart, and He cared deeply about her. Listen to these remarkable words: "When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Rueben, for she said, 'It is because the Lord has seen my misery'" (vv. 31-32).

For everyone who has ever felt invisible, or wondered if anyone in the world noticed her or cared about her broken heart, this short passage holds an ocean of hope.

Our God sees. He cares when we are hurt and lonely.

So come...

Rest in Him today...

And let His great love restore your soul.



He is the God who sees you...and loves you.

From the Children's Minister

"Wow!" That's all my family has to say week after week with this congregation. We have been so delighted to spend time in fellowship with you and your children these last few months, and especially since I've become your Children's Minister and have been able to meet so many of you.

I'm sure by now most of you have heard my little one, Martin, on Sunday mornings during worship. He has been well loved by all of the nursery volunteers as well as countless others that have approached him and I can already envision the long term relationships he will form at FBC Fort Thomas and how each of them will influence his relationship with God.

So much of church community life is building relationships, and the friendships we make and what we share will impact eternity more than the lessons we learn on Sunday mornings. My family is looking forward to building relationships with each of you and your children and grandchildren, deepening our connection to Jesus along the way.

We live just a few minutes from the church so don't be strangers! We would love to support your children at their games, recitals, birthdays, and celebrations. My email is krunion@fbcfortthomas.com and my cell is 859-279-8924. Contact me at any time! We can't wait to be a part of this journey with you.

Kaitlyn



*March 17th
St Patrick's Day
Message
Everyone wear green...*



On Monday, March 11, the Mary Francis Gould Mission Group will be hosting their annual mission luncheon. They will meet here at the church at 12 noon. The speaker will be from the Fairhaven Rescue Mission in Covington. All are invited to attend. Consider joining them for this big event this year and invite friends to come with you. There will be a very nice luncheon served.



Ladies (and men, if you choose), Beth Moore will be at the BB&T Arena at NKU on August 23 & 24. Tickets are \$59 each for a group of 10 or more. Please see Mirm to sign up. Miriam will need to know no later than March 10. Thank you!

From the Worship Leader

Happy March...I am hoping Spring is coming soon...how about you?

I am continuing my comments on *why we sing* this month.

You may not realize this but we were **created** to sing,... It's what we do; and, when we sing we are simply joining in with the rest of what creation is doing. Yesterday morning, when I got up, as the sun was coming up I heard the birds. And, boy, were they singing! By what I heard I thought Spring was actually here. They sounded so good! It really started my day off good.

Yes, we are all singers, no matter what you might think. We are praising God through song, whether we are very good or not; we still praise Him by our singing. And, He is not concerned about how we sound, only that we praise.

Again, let me commend you as a congregation. Last Sunday our April was sick and I needed to play the piano. David and the choir led you all in "Good, Good Father" and I could hear you singing out. It was wonderful! You have surprised me by picking up some of our newer songs so well. Great job!

Did you know that God made us to be powerfully engaged in our sense and memories by music? Think about it. Doesn't a song bring back a memory to you? In the 23 years of service at the Baptist Convalescent Center I watched many people with dementia or Alzheimer's not know their family BUT they remembered a hymn or other song from their past. Music is strong in our memory. A former pastor of mine just recently passed away. His name is Norman Willie and he and his wife, Barbara, would ding together a lot. Occasionally I would play a song for them. They taught me "Beyond the Sunset", so anytime I hear that or see that song I think of them. Songs can transport us back in time or place. What was the first hymn you learned? How old were you? Think about it.

Singing is a way we communicate with God. We were designed for community...with God and with each other. And, when we sing together we are doing what we were created to do; our voices joining together, singing praises to the one who gave us voices.

These next two Sundays we will be singing favorites of the choir. Jeremy said that March 17th is a special St. Patricks Day sermon..not sure what music we'll sing with that! Baby Dedication and Dr. Bugg at the end of the Month...and then mid-April is Easter! Lots beginning to happen. As I always say:

Sunday is coming, see you then!!

Mirm

March Calendar

March 10~ Daylight Savings Time begins. Be sure to set your clocks forward 1 hour before going to bed Saturday evening.

March 11~ The R.O.M.E.O.'s will meet and eat at the Frisch's in Highland Heights at 8:30 a.m.

March 11~ The Mary Francis Gould Mission Group will have their annual mission luncheon at 12 noon here at the church. All are invited.

March 17~ St. Patrick's Day message. Everyone wear GREEN!!

March 24~ Baby dedication day

March 31~ Dr. Charles Bugg will be here to deliver the message. We will be having a lunch in the fellowship hall after the service.



~ The Blessings of Spring ~

There are many blessings,
that each new Spring brings
you can see it bloom about
and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over,
and brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,
and their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance
grace in our hearts will grow.

He sends us the robin's song,
with the promise to provide
a shelter under His mighty wing
where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers,
and sends the refreshing rain
sprinkling us with His mercies
to heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His Son,
to shed upon us a new light
and the real blessing of Spring .
is keeping Jesus in our sight!



Baby Nursery
SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Lori Maines
Peggy Spradlin

WORSHIP HOUR

3/3
Barb Scott
Cindy Stricker

3/10
Jackie Harry
Bev Rath

3/17
Kim Beagle
Debbie Mershon

3/24
Amy Shannon
Patty Adams

3/31
Amy Shannon
Kim Beagle

Toddlers & Pre-School

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Debbie Mershon

Children's Worship Hour
Toddlers/Pre-school

3/3
Carol Steffen
Walter Mershon

3/10
Susan Smith
Jeff Smith

3/17
Dora Griffin
Barb Musick

3/24
April Ayers
Dale Ayers

3/31
Debbie Mershon
Miriam Fuller

Elementary Teacher

Lori Orne

Pantry Outreach Ministry!

**During the month of February you donated 947
Packs of Ramen Noodles and 36 Miscellaneous
items**

This is fantastic! Thank you FBC family.

**For the Month of March, the pantry is asking for
donations Pasta Sauce.**

When you donate to the Pantry, you are working in
the mission field because you are feeding the
hungry!

THANK YOU!!

*For I was hungry and you gave me
something to eat. Matthew 25:35*



Happy Anniversary

3/9

Ray & Dean Leurck

THE BRIGHT SPOT...

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3



If you have a baby or a child that you would like to have dedicated, or know someone that would, please call the church office or tell Rev. Jeremy. Dedication ceremony will be on March 24.

Ushers

3/3

**Debbie Mershon
Kathleen Webber
Donna Stormer
Bev Rath**

3/10

**Dakota Guilkey
Mary Strange
Fay Hailes
Walter Hailes**

3/17

**Bob Peelman
Bill Eckerle
Carol Steffen
Cindy Stricker**

3/24

**Peggy Spradlin
Susan Smith
Jerod Guilkey
Dora Griffin**

3/31

**Karl Larsson
Candy Pentz
Jenni Shannon
Tom Rankin**



**DEACON
MINISTRY**

3/3

Harry Weitkamp

3/10

Walter Mershon

3/17

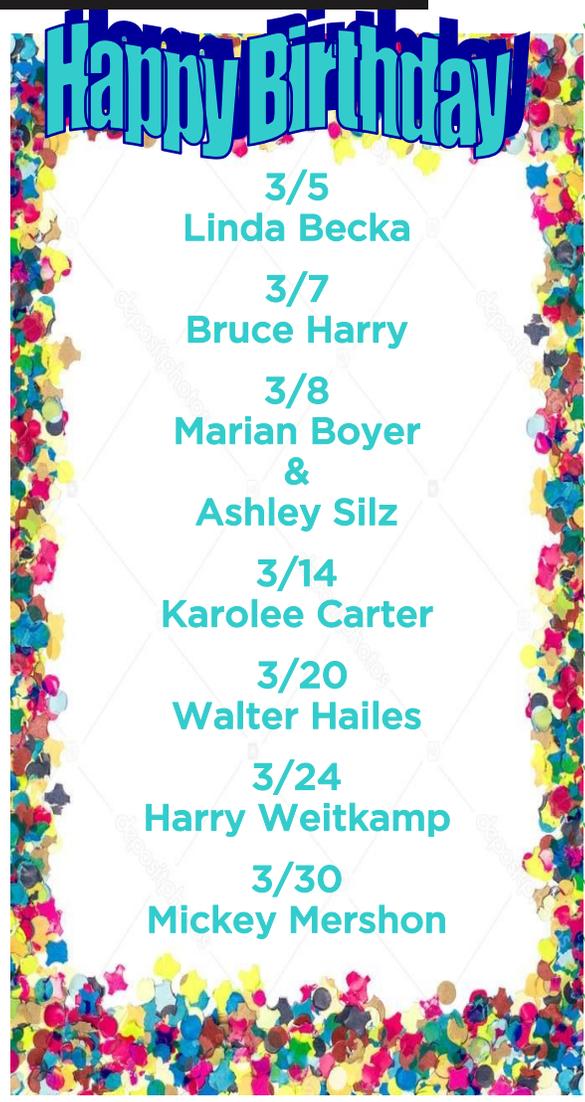
Bill Klopp

3/24

Lori Orne

3/31

Harry Weitkamp



**3/5
Linda Becka**

**3/7
Bruce Harry**

**3/8
Marian Boyer
&
Ashley Silz**

**3/14
Karolee Carter**

**3/20
Walter Hailes**

**3/24
Harry Weitkamp**

**3/30
Mickey Mershon**

"A joyful heart is
good medicine"



A PASTOR GOES TO THE DENTIST...

A pastor goes to the dentist for a set of false teeth.

The first Sunday after he gets his teeth, he talks for only eight minutes. The second Sunday, he talks for only 10 minutes. The following Sunday, he talks for two hours and 48 minutes.

The congregation has to mob him to get him down from the pulpit, and they ask him what happened.

The pastor explains the first Sunday his gums hurt so bad he couldn't talk for more than 8 minutes. The second Sunday his gums hurt too much to talk for more than 10 minutes.

But, the third Sunday, by mistake he put his wife's teeth in and couldn't stop talking.



A Child's Point of View!

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

Little Angel

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm.

Johnny asked his mom, "Where'd he come from?"

"He came from heaven, Johnny."

Johnny responded: "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!"

A pastor who was known for his lengthy sermons noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service.

Afterwards, the pastor asked the man where he had gone.



'I went to get a haircut,' the man replied.

'Why didn't you do that before the service?' the pastor exclaimed.

'Well,' the man said, 'because I didn't need one then.'

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see ... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said.

"But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius - the Pilot!"



I was at the beach with my children when my four-year-old son ran up to me, grabbed my hand, and led me to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Mommy, what happened to him?" the little boy asked. "He died and went to Heaven," I replied. My son thought a moment and then said, "And God threw him back down?"

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Bishop said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."