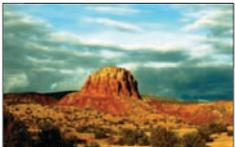


# THE OUTLOOK



# EASTER

**Sabbatical Send-off**



Page 2

**Labyrinth**



Page 3

**Barbara Brown Taylor**



Page 4

**Welcome Pegah!**



Page 6

**CBF to Meet in Atlanta**



Page 8

**Youth Updates**

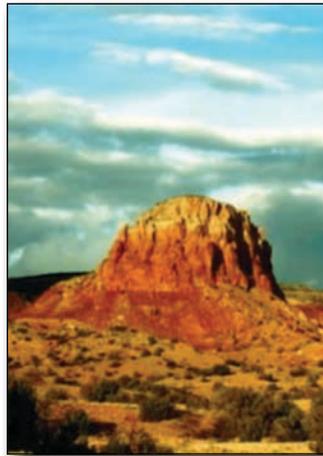


Page 9



Sheldon Sorge of the Louisville Institute at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary wrote an [article](#) a few years ago on the difference a pastoral sabbatical can make for both clergy and congregations. The Louisville Institute has been awarding grants for pastoral sabbaticals since 1994. The findings were significant:

- 90% of pastors report either a moderate or large effect on their subsequent vocational path.
- 87% of pastors report that their sabbatical significantly renewed their commitment to ministry, something noticed by 86% of congregational observers.
- 94% of congregational representatives perceived their pastor to have been refreshed or re-energized after the sabbatical.
- A “strong majority” of congregations reported that granting their pastor a sabbatical significantly benefited their churches.
- The most frequent claim in the pastors’ survey narratives is that without the sabbatical, they would be burned out today. Some credited the sabbatical for keeping them in their present location; others made even stronger claims such as this one: *“I’m not sure the sabbatical saved my life...but without it I’m pretty sure I’d no longer be in ministry.”*



I have six main hopes for my sabbatical leave. Please pray with me about these:

- Recharge physically and emotionally**
- Slow down and enjoy simply being**
- Connect with God in fresh ways**
- Gain clarity on my priorities and goals**
- Savor time with Tim, Taylor and Lucy**
- Enjoy time for writing**

Thanks again so very much for this gift of time. Your generosity toward me is something I thank God for often.

Blessings,

*Julie*

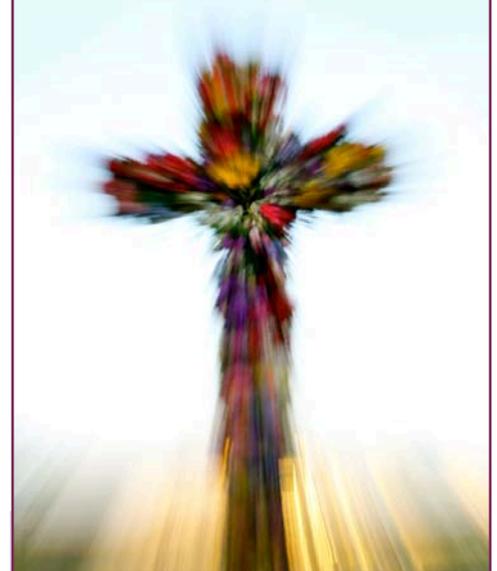
Creative Commons: Patrick DB



Creative Commons: Scott Ableman

**OneWorship:  
Sabbatical Send-Off  
May 18**

# EASTER WORSHIP



**Sunday, April 20**

## FRESH START

8:45 a.m. on Front Lawn

**FreshStart**, led by the FreshStart Band, will worship on the front lawn Easter morning, weather permitting. Alternate location is Carreker Hall.

## SANCTUARY

11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**Sanctuary** will be led by Sanctuary Choir, organ and piano.

## Easter Sermon

Pastor Julie will preach at both services.

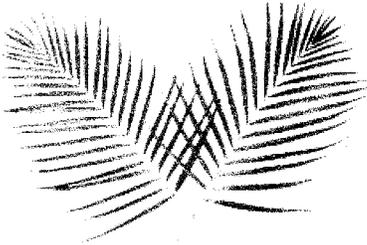
# ALIVE

*The front lawn Easter cross photo was taken and given to us by a neighborhood resident and friend of FBC Decatur, Rebecca Ramsey.*

**Fellowship  
Cook-out**  
Following worship

# Congregational Life

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



### Palm Sunday

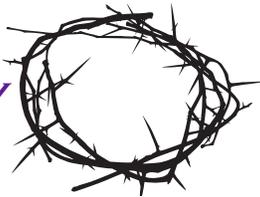
April 13  
8:45 a.m. Fresh Start  
11:15 a.m. Sanctuary



### Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17, 7 p.m.  
In the Sanctuary  
Lord's Supper and Footwashing  
Benevolence Offering  
Meditation led by Sharyn Dowd

### GOOD FRIDAY



### Good Friday Worship

April 18, 7 p.m.  
In the Sanctuary

### EASTER

### Easter Sunday Worship

April 20  
early morn Cross is flowered with lilies  
8:45 a.m. Fresh Start on the front lawn  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:15 a.m. Sanctuary  
*No evening activities*

### Walk the Labyrinth During Holy Week

**A path to one's spiritual center and back again into the world**

During Holy Week, April 14-18, there will be a prayer labyrinth in Carreker fellowship hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The labyrinth is an ancient Christian symbol of pilgrimage. Those who could not make a pilgrimage to a holy place would walk through the labyrinth from the edge to the center, seeking



to focus on God to the exclusion of life's distractions. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze is

designed to confuse the walker and present obstacles to overcome. A labyrinth is designed to help the pilgrim find his or her way to the center and find God already there waiting.



### Donate Toward the Flowering of the Cross

On Easter Sunday there will be a flowering of the cross with freshly blooming lily plants. Our flower team will purchase the lilies during Holy Week, and adorn the cross on Easter morn. Each lily is \$5, and we need 50 lilies. Please donate! Be sure to specify "Easter Lilies" on your check or online gift.

### Rekeying for Building Security

In the near future, the church buildings will be rekeyed. If your group/organization needs access on a day or time when the buildings are not usually open, please notify the church office as soon as possible. Requests should be in writing and will be processed by Tom Seim, Facilities Manager, and Van Smith, Director of Operations and Finance.

Email specific request to [drodenhi@fbcdccatur.com](mailto:drodenhi@fbcdccatur.com) or give to church office staff.



For more information see *A Word from Van* on Page 12.



# New Community Classes this Spring

## How Churches Hurt the People They are Trying to Help

Leading: Sharyn Dowd  
 April 2, 23, 30, May 7, 14 and 21

The ideas found in two important recent books: *When Helping Hurts* and *Toxic Charity* will be presented and discussed in a variety of ways. Three FBCD folks who attended a conference on these topics in February will lead a panel discussion. We will look at and discuss some videos. The 2014 Thailand Mission Team will present their work, which is an example of a positive way to do short term missions.



Sharyn Dowd

## The Book of Revelation: Reward and Punishment

Leading: Van Smith  
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14 and 21

Class outline: We will take a look at the theme of reward and punishment throughout the book of Revelation. We will briefly take a look at the historical setting of the book of Revelation and then ask ourselves how reward and punishment functions in the text. We will ask such questions as: are there other texts in the New Testament that focus on reward and punishment for believers; how would it feel to be on the outside of God's judgment; and, how did early Christians view reward and punishment? We will tackle such things as how to remain faithful in the worst of circumstances, God's gracious judgment, the option of salvation, how the theme of "works" functions in an apocalyptic text, and identifying ourselves with the Lamb. We



Van Smith

will discuss how these themes have played out through Christian history, interpretations of the texts throughout history, and what these themes mean for us today.

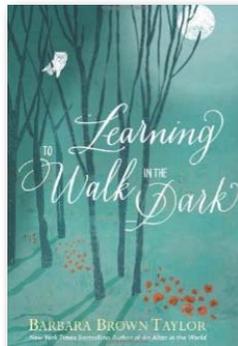
### New Community Wednesday Spring Calendar

**April 9**—Spring Break  
*No dinner or regular meetings*  
**April 16**—Holy Week  
*Walk the Prayer Labyrinth (no dinner)*  
**Regular Wednesday night opportunities in April and May:**  
 April 2, April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14, May 21.

# Barbara Brown Taylor Returns to Speak on New Book: Learning to Walk in the Dark

**Barbara Brown Taylor**  
**May 1 In the Sanctuary, 7 p.m.**  
**Doors open at 6 p.m.**

Award-winning author, Barbara Brown Taylor, will discuss her latest book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Challenging everything she has been told of the perils in darkness, Barbara Brown Taylor embarks on a year-long journey through caves, underground nightclubs, and unlit cabins, discovering a life-saving antidote within the spirituality of darkness. Barbara Brown Taylor is the Butman Professor of Religion at Piedmont College, and the author of twelve books, including *Leaving Church* and *The New York Times* bestseller, *An Altar in the World*.



Barbara Brown Taylor



*Sponsored by GA Center for the Book and hosted by the FBC Decatur Conversations Team.*



## March & April Wednesday schedule

- Family Dinner** 5:30 p.m.
- God Stories & Prayer Time** 6:10–6:25 p.m.
- Opportunities for All Ages** 6:30–7:30 p.m.
  - New Community for Adults**
  - New Community for Kids**
  - Youth Community Groups**

### ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

**Faith and Justice Discussion**  
 Rob Johnson and Mickey Goodson  
 In Room S304

### The Book of Revelation: Reward and Punishment

Leader: Van Smith  
 In Room S206

### How Churches Hurt the People They are Trying to Help

Coordinator: Sharyn Dowd  
 In Carreker Hall

### Career Assistance Ministry

Main office—Room 3  
 Coach: Larry Decuir  
 Assistance with resumes, job search strategies, effective interviewing.  
 By appointment only:  
[larrydecur@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydecur@yahoo.com)

### Women's Small Group (filled)

Led by Kristin Vanderende and Stephanie Harry.  
 In Room S123

*If you are interested in participating in a new small group on Wednesday nights, contact Sharyn Dowd:*  
[sdowd@fbcdecatur.com](mailto:sdowd@fbcdecatur.com).

### MUSIC for ADULTS

- Avé (Adult Vocal Ensemble)**  
 7:00–7:30 p.m. in Room S226
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal**  
 7:30–8:45 p.m. in Room S226

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Al-Anon, ANAD, and Emotions Anonymous**  
*Support groups continue to meet every Wednesday year round.*

## Coffee Talks for Newcomers

**A time to meet new friends and learn about FBC Decatur**

**Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in Parlor**

Folks who are new to First Baptist are invited to gather in the Parlor for coffee, nibbles, and a great opportunity for meeting new friends.



## Women on Mission

**Mike and Nancy Norman to Speak on Thailand Mission**

The Women on Mission will meet on Tuesday, April 8 at 11 a.m. in S218 to hear

Nancy and Mike Norman speak on the mission to Thailand earlier this year. The group will meet at 10:15 a.m. for business and prayer.



## Notes From the Organ Bench

**Sanctuary in April**

During April, organ preludes and postludes will celebrate our risen Lord.

Many thanks to Ed Arnn for his gift of Evelyn's organ music to our music ministry. The collection has been placed in the church library, where patrons will soon be able to borrow from it.



## Caregivers' Support Group

**April 1  
In the Parlor  
11 a.m.**

On Tuesday April 1 the Caregivers' Support Group will meet in the Parlor at 11:00 a.m. This group is for anyone who is caring for an elderly person or an individual with a debilitating illness. The leader is Ann Murphy, R. N.



## Thailand Mission 2014



Nancy and Mike Norman will speak on April 8 to Women on Mission about the 2014 mission to Thailand.

# Pegah Moghaddam joins Verdery Counseling Center

**Sunday, April 27**

The Verdery Counseling Center is pleased to announce the addition of a new therapist, Pegah Moghaddam. Pegah works with people who have a variety of challenges and specializes in eating disorders and other addictions. **There will be a reception at the counseling center** on the ground level of the Activities Building on Sunday, April 27 after the Sanctuary worship service. Please join the



Pegah Moghaddam

committee, led by Larry Connelly, and our therapists, Abby Myers and Pegah Moghaddam to celebrate the legacy of Gus Verdery and the ministry of the counseling center.

## A Brief History of the Verdery Counseling Center at First Baptist Church of Decatur

In 1972, Pastor Bill Lancaster asked E. Augustus Verdery to help with the overwhelming number of people seeking counseling at the church. "Gus" Verdery was a licensed professional pastoral counselor, and Director of the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Georgia Baptist Hospital in downtown Atlanta. Although Gus was working fulltime at Georgia Baptist, he agreed to see a few clients on Wednesday nights during the Prayer Meeting hour and afterward. Later, he added some Sunday morning slots. He began a Sunday School class especially for clients suffering from addictions. Finally, the church decided to start an official counseling center, headed by Gus Verdery.

When Gus went on his first sabbatical to teach at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, he arranged for two of his counseling residents to carry on the counseling program at the church. They were Frank Weathersby and Jim Strickland. Also added to the group of counselors when Gus returned were Helen Fisher, a Presbyterian minister, and Ron Stephenson. Gus began to take a less active role in the center as these other counselors took on more of the client load.

In May of 1981, Ron Stephenson became the director of the counseling center upon Gus's recommendation. Ron remained at the counseling center until his retirement in December of 2007. During Ron's tenure as counselor at the center, the center was named in memory of Gus Verdery, who had died unexpectedly.

After Ron's retirement, the Counseling Committee at first contracted with The Care and Counseling center of Georgia, but after a year they decided it would be more financially feasible to contract with its own counselor. A series of excellent therapists have served the Verdery Counseling Center, including Lynyetta Willis, Abby Myers, and Courtney Chambless. The counseling center was recently upgraded with new paint, carpet, furniture and computers.

On April 27 we will welcome our newest counselor, Pegah Moghaddam, with a reception immediately following the Sanctuary worship service. Eleanor Verdery, Gus's widow and the first record-keeper for the center, will also be honored at this time.



Eleanor Verdery

# Invitation

## Verdery Counseling Center Open House

**April 27**  
Following Sanctuary worship

**In the Activities Building**— go through the breezeway to the Education Building and follow the signs



### Meet the counselors & take a tour

Drop by the Verdery Counseling Center to welcome our newest counselor, **Pegah Moghaddam**.

Counselors Abby and Pegah will be available to greet you, share information and introduce you to the Verdery Counseling Center space.

**Eleanor Verdery**, Gus Verdery's widow, first record-keeper for the center and long-time member of FBC Decatur, will be honored at the open house.

*This ministry of FBC Decatur has much to offer church members and the community, so come get acquainted.*

# Thanks for your commitment!

## 150 Commitments in 7 weeks

Many thanks to those who call this church home who made a commitment to give to God through the ministries of First Baptist Decatur in 2014. After seven weeks 150 of you made a commitment for a total of \$837,496. In 2013 it took fourteen weeks and 202 people to commit to give \$824,576.

We would still like to hear from the rest of you. You may mail your card to the church, bring it to the finance office, or put it in the offering plate.



Amanda Faulkner, Chair  
Generosity Team

## Formation in Generosity

### New Name is "Generosity Team"

In our effort to avoid "churchy" language that newcomers may not understand, we have changed the name of the "Stewardship Education Committee" to the "Generosity Team." This team works on helping all of us who call First Baptist home grow spiritually as we trust God to meet our needs and let go of more of our resources to proclaim and model the coming Kingdom of God. While it is necessary for the church to pay its bills, it is even more necessary for Christ-followers to evaluate our standard of living, learn to live below our means, and invest more in Kingdom causes.

In 2014 your Generosity Team is made up of: Amanda Faulkner, chair; Jim Manley, Linda Judson, Cecil Cannon, Austin Lee, Lisa Tyler,

and Phil Wise, who is also chair-elect of the finance committee. These are the folks who work with the worship planners to provide compelling testimonies and videos for worship services and provide education about and incentives toward generosity. Last year the team provided "generosity boxes" for use during Lent and the book study *Enough* that the Sunday morning adult groups were asked to study.

This year the team is undertaking a careful analysis of the giving patterns of the congregation to find out what kind of

## Sunday Morning Census

We will be asking everyone in worship to sign her or his name on a roll that will be passed down each row. This will take place on four consecutive Sundays: April 27, May 4, May 11, and May 18. These names will be compared with the attendance from the 10 a.m. Bible study hour to make sure that people are counted if they are able to attend only Bible study. The purpose is to find out who and how many our regular attenders are. Thank you for your cooperation.

educational emphases we need. One thing is obvious: 403 households and individuals gave everything that was given to the 2013 Ministry Action Plan. Over 900 people on our rolls gave nothing at all. As the team learns more, they will share more with the congregation. If you have ideas about ways to encourage generosity in all of us, please share those ideas with one of the team members.

## Thanks to FBC Decatur Kitchen Staff

### Excerpt from a letter of thanks from Clairemont Oaks Administrator, Ellen Miller

Dear Rev. Julie Pennington-Russell,

I am writing to acknowledge and make known the wonderful caring spirit of Steven Hall and his staff at Amazed Catering. As you know, Steven has been a longtime provider of daily catered hot meals to the residents of Clairemont Oaks. While this service is superior, I am writing to inform you of the exceptional and unexpected customer service Steven provided twice in the month of February during the snow crisis which paralyzed the metro for several days during the two separate winter weather events.

As we began planning to make adjustments to the many canceled services.... we were contacted by Philip, a staffer of Amazed Catering that the meal would be served, but he wanted to come early! We were happy to broadcast an announcement that the hot meal would be served.... Two weeks later, during the second snow event, our residents were served hot meals during the 2-day crisis.

**I am commending Steven and his staff for this demonstration of loving concern....**

Sincerely,

*Ellen M. Miller*

Administrator, Clairemont Oaks



Steven Hall



Philip Rogers

## During Lent consume less... give more

During this season of Lent you are encouraged to donate to DEAM's food pantry that aids victims of poverty and crisis. You may deposit any of the



requested items below in the shopping carts as you enter for worship Sunday, or in the designated bins downstairs during the week. Our goal is to *triple* the amount of food we usually collect for DEAM in March: We hope to provide 12 shopping carts full of food and supplies by the end of Lent—up from the usual four that we collect each year during March. This is just one opportunity this Lenten season to not only practice *consuming less*, but to *give more*.

## Items to donate:

**Boxes of—**  
spaghetti noodles  
cereal (kids and adults)  
powdered milk  
corn bread mix  
mac n' cheese

**Canned—**  
pasta sauce  
tuna  
meats

**Bags of—**  
1# bags of rice

**Personal products—**  
toilet tissue  
bar soap

**Money donations** may be turned into the church finance office or placed in the offering plate (designate DEAM clearly, please). Do not leave money or checks in the carts or collection bins.

**DEAM Collection Dates:**  
Sundays  
through April 13

### Goal:

12 shopping carts filled with requested food and household pantry items

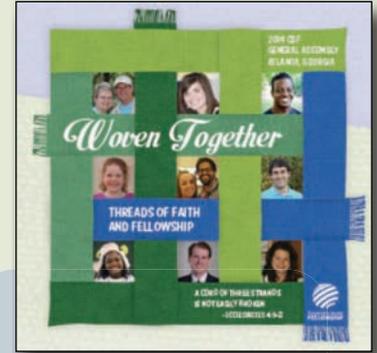
## Woven Together: Thread of Fellowship CBF General Assembly

June 23-27 in Atlanta!

Downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel

FBC Decatur one of four  
Atlanta churches asked to  
lead worship

Our FreshStart Team has been asked to plan and facilitate a worship service from a postmodern perspective during the General Assembly this year in Atlanta. Postmodern worship is marked by organic movement through the liturgy, experiential elements designed to challenge or decode dogma and tradition, and hands-on congregational participation. Pray for our FreshStart Liturgy Planning Team as they plan this special worship service. Though Pastor Julie is on sabbatical in June, she will be in town briefly that week, and will bring the message on Friday afternoon at the 1:30 worship service.



Celebrate how  
our stories as  
Cooperative Baptists  
are *Woven Together*  
with each other and  
with God's **mission**

- **Pre-register today!**

<http://www.thefellowship.info/assembly/preregistration>

- **Volunteer!**

Our own Ann Smith is leading registration for the Assembly. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift at the registration kiosk, please email Ann at [clairannsmith@gmail.com](mailto:clairannsmith@gmail.com).

- **Complete information at**

<http://www.thefellowship.info/General-Assembly>

### Worship Schedule:

Thursday, June 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Worship with **Johns Creek Baptist Church**, Alpharetta, Shaun King preaching

Thursday, June 26, 2:45-3:45 p.m.

Worship with **Friendship Baptist Church**, Atlanta, Emmanuel McCall preaching

Friday, June 27, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

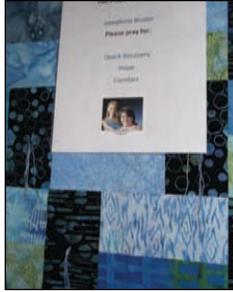
Worship with **First Baptist Church, Decatur**, Julie Pennington-Russell preaching

Friday, June 27, 2:45-3:45 p.m.

Worship with **Northside Drive Baptist Church**, Atlanta, James Lamkin

## Youth at FBC Decatur Youth Ministry prays with Josephine Brodie through Prayers & Squares

During the first three weeks of March, the FBC Decatur youth dedicated part of their Sunday night studies to praying with Josephine Brodie and her family through creating a quilt with Prayers & Squares. Earlier in the year, Josephine, a freshman competitive swimmer, sustained a concussion while competing and has been recovering ever since. As she engages in rehabilitation and reintegrates into her school and practice routine, the youth ministry community is surrounding her in prayer and encouragement. The group hopes that Josephine's quilt will only be a symbol of every prayer for healing and wellness from God.



## FBC Decatur youth to engage missionally in Nashville



During the week of June 16-21, 26 youth and adult chaperones will travel to Nashville, Tennessee to partner with local organizations seeking to foster justice and sustainability among communities there. The group will work with Second Harvest Food Bank, the McNeily Center for Children and the Nashville Food Project sorting food, working in community gardens, caring for children and providing maintenance for three days in the city. As they partner with these organizations during three days of missional education, the group will

engage what it means to live a missional life dedicated to justice and serving others. In addition to partnering with these organizations, the group will experience Nashville staples such as the Country Music Hall of Fame and Centennial Park.



McNeily Center for Children

## Youth Summer Dates

- Vacation Bible School**—Youth volunteering  
June 9 - 13
- Youth Mission Trip**—Nashville, TN  
June 16 - 21
- Beach Retreat**—Panama City Beach, FL  
July 7 - 11

## THE YARD SALE is October 3 & 4!

Time to spring clean and donate stuff to the church-wide yard sale for missions!\*

Courtney Mwangura and Mike Haun have taken on specific responsibilities. Courtney is managing the sale's team coordination and publicity and Michael is overseeing the logistics of gathering the yard sale items.

Big thanks to the following FBC folk who've already stepped up to lead critical pieces of the Yard Sale:

- Mike Haun (pickups and storage in pods)
- Mai Cavalli (food and volunteer coordination)
- Carol May & Joyce Garrett (pricing)
- Helen Wallace, Courtney Mwangura & Katie Roberts (set-up and take-down).

\* Proceeds from the sale will go towards our missions efforts including scholarships to the First School, After School and Community School programs.



### REQUEST PICK UP

- Email [FBCDYardSale@gmail.com](mailto:FBCDYardSale@gmail.com)
  - Call the church office at 404-373-1653.
- Your name and contact information will be forwarded to the above email address. You will be contacted within 24 hours.

### DROP OFF ITEMS

- Drop-off items go under the **covered area** outside of Tom Seim's office and Clothing Room.

# Young at Heart

## Mackinac Island Sign Up Deadline is May 1

### Make your reservation now

Make plans now to travel to Michigan with the Young at Heart September 7-13. The featured location is Mackinac Island in the Upper Peninsula area of Michigan.

Sign up deadline is May 1.

The deposit due to sign up and secure your reservation is \$75.

Cost is \$569. \$75 deposit required at signup.

The price includes: Motorcoach transportation, 6 night lodging, 10 meals, tour of Mackinaw city, Guided carriage tour of Mackinac Island, boat ride thru Soo Locks, visit to Mackinac Crossings, and admission to Colonial Michilimackinac. Sign up NOW! See Bob to sign up.

Look for flyers in your Sunday School classroom for more details. Invite friends and family to join you on this trip.

## YAH Trip to Mackinac Island September 7-13

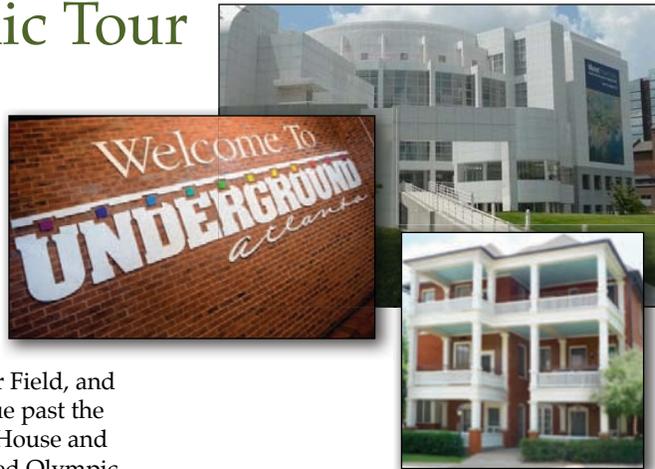
Sign up now for the fall Young at Heart trip to the Mackinac Island area of Michigan. Don't miss:

- Mackinac fudge
- Soo Locks
- Mackinac Crossings
- Colonial Michilimackinac

## Atlanta Scenic Tour

Thursday, April 24

YAH committee has planned a tour of Atlanta on April 24, led by Jim Howe of Howe To Travel Tours. Here is how Jim describes this tour: it includes "the Georgia State Capitol, Underground Atlanta, Peachtree Street, Centennial Olympic Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District, Turner Field, and Jimmy Carter Museum. Continue past the Fox Theater, Margaret Mitchell House and High Museum of Art and selected Olympic venues. Other sites include the Governor's Mansion, Swan House and a drive through the exquisite Buckhead Residential District where many of 'rich and famous live.'" This is primarily a bus tour but some walking is involved. Lunch will be at Underground Atlanta.

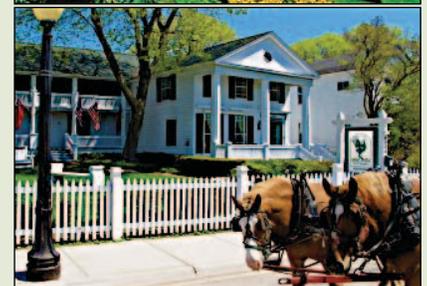


The cost is \$15 per person and *you will need to pay when you sign up for this tour.* We leave from the church at 9 a.m. and plan to be back before 5 p.m. There is limited seating. We will begin the sign up at the Senior Adult Birthday Party.

## Lunch & Learn

Thursday, May 15

Our next YAH Lunch and Learn will be Thursday, May 15 at noon. Andy Landrum, executive director of Clairmont Oaks, will be the speaker for our luncheon. Sign up at drodenhi@fbcdccatur.com.



# FBC Decatur Kids

## PASSPORT



Pick up a Passport booklet now. It is not too late to get started.



### Passport Booklet— The Lenten Journey, Holy Week and Easter

Children are invited and encouraged to pick up a Passport for Lent. *It is not too late to get started.* Children take a guided tour through the events of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The passport booklets have interesting information about the events leading up to Easter and a place to respond to questions and reflections, as well as a place to record photo shoots as various legs of the journey are completed. Children will also be using this booklet while attending

the Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday worship experiences. When each section of the book is completed, pastors will provide a corresponding stamp to put in the book. This will be a fun way to learn more about this meaningful season of the church year. Booklets are available at the preschool check in desk on the first floor and the grade school check in desk on the second floor of the educational wing.

## Coming This Summer

**FBC Decatur Kids**  
Vacation Bible School:  
June 9-13  
Passport Kids Camp:  
July 19-22



**Activities Ministry Day Camp**  
9 weeks of camp are available  
Begins Week 1: June 2–June 6  
Ends Week 9: July 28–August 1

For complete Camp schedule and reservations, please go to the Camp website: [fbcdccaturcamp.net](http://fbcdccaturcamp.net)

## Easter Egg Hunt

**We partner with the Decatur Business Association to host the annual Easter Egg Hunt on our lawn. Everyone is invited for the fun.**

**April 12**  
Easter Bunny arrives by fire truck at 10:30.  
Hunt at 11:00 a.m.  
Rain or shine. Will use the gym for inclement weather.



### April New Community for Kids

**Wednesdays**  
6:30–7:30 p.m.

### Community Groups:

**Someone's In the Kitchen**  
(Kid's Zone in Carreker Hall)

**Exploring the Life of Christ Computer Lab**  
(E-220)

**★ New in 2014!**  
Worship and the Arts with creative writing, design and drawing  
(S324)



## First School

**Registration now open**  
*Helping children grow cognitively, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.*  
Full time learning care center, ages 3 months through 4 years old  
Upcoming information sessions and tours of school:  
**Tuesday, April 1 at 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, April 24 at 8 a.m.**  
Applications for the fall semester are being accepted now.  
Contact Harriet Holland at 404-370-7688 or [hholland@fbcdccatur.com](mailto:hholland@fbcdccatur.com)



## Personnel Committee Update

**Debra Pyron, Personnel Committee Chair**



### Youth Pastor Blake Tommey Graduating from McAfee

Blake Tommey will graduate from McAfee in May and will be with us through the middle of August. We've been blessed to have Blake as our Youth Pastor since November 2012. Now a new chapter is about to begin for him. Please pray for Blake as he seeks a full-time ministry position in the area of youth and young adults, particularly those who are new to faith or who feel estranged from God and the church.



Jay Copeland, Personnel Committee member, will serve as team lead for the search for a Youth Pastor to assume responsibilities at the end the summer.

Next steps include:

- Finalizing the job description
- Posting the position
- Forming two interview panels

We anticipate interviewing candidates in early May and naming a replacement by June 1 who will be on board in

August. For questions about the process, please contact Debra Pyron, Personnel Committee Chair ([dmp1331@aol.com](mailto:dmp1331@aol.com) or 404-202-1037)

### Other Staff Transitions

*Please bless and pray for two of our staff who are beginning a new chapter:*

#### Emily Gibson

Emily has served as Sanctuary pianist since December 2002. She submitted her resignation effective March 9. In her letter she said, "I have never known any more kind, generous, loving, or giving Christians than those at FBCD. It has been an honor and joy to serve Christ with these wonderful Christians. God is leading me to go in a different direction at this time in my life. I will hold FBCD in my heart and continue to pray for your growth, service to the community, and for God's leadership." The choir and congregation appreciate Emily's ministry here. We are honoring her request to leave without a public farewell.



### Personnel Committee—Job Posting

#### Worship Arts Leader

First Baptist Church of Decatur is seeking a **Worship Arts Leader** for our Sanctuary worship service. This person will, through thoughtful, artistic, imaginative preparation and leadership facilitate the dialogue of worship and enhance the worship life of our congregation, opening doors for engagement with the Decatur community through music and the arts.

##### The Worship Arts Leader will:

- Provide congregational leadership, including adult choir and other groups
- Develop worship and creative arts teams
- Facilitate a choral ministry for children that will grow into a choral ministry for teens
- Plan and lead major worship events throughout the year
- Oversee and administrate all aspects of the worship arts ministry

Resumes will be received through April 21. Interviews with top candidates will take place in late March with employment targeted to begin in April.

The job description, desired qualifications and a narrative introduction to First Baptist Church of Decatur can be found on the home page of FBCD website at [www.fbcdecatur.com](http://www.fbcdecatur.com). Copies of the job description are also available in the church office.

Those interested should email cover letter and resume to Mary Ann Eaddy, Pastor's Assistant, at [meaddy@fbcdecatur.com](mailto:meaddy@fbcdecatur.com) by **April 21, 2014**.



#### Kenny Martin

Kenny has served as church custodian since July 2012. The church staff showed their sincere appreciation to Kenny at a luncheon on March 26.

First Baptist will begin contracting with a custodial services company on April 1.

## A Word from Van

### Project updates

**Van Smith**, Director of Operations and Finance



Church Family,

Our operations and finance team is hard at work with several upcoming and exciting projects! First, we are continuing along in the planning phases of our renovation of Carreker Hall. Our professional team of designers, Scott Morris and Deborah Garrard, are currently receiving estimates so that we can have a good idea of the overall costs. After the scope of work is determined, we will begin planning out how to best approach the project financially. We are all filled with enthusiasm about how wonderful our new space will turn out! Stay tuned for more updates.

The church will begin re-keying all of the locks in the entire building soon. As you may know, we now have the capability of keyless entry with our keypads. This gives us the ability to open certain doors at certain times with a particular key code that we've assigned. Soon, instead of using keys to enter the building, we will assign a key codes to groups and individuals so that no one needs to carry around a physical key. This will obviously help us keep track of physical keys as well, which some will still possess in the case that the power and battery operated system go down. We will equip our employees with a key card instead of a code, which will be used by that employee alone. If you or your group will require entry into the building and entry into any locked doors once inside the building, please use the form in the front office to fill out your request. You may also email myself or Darci your request.

Another exciting project is our brand new website! We are currently in development of the site using Faithlab, a company in Macon with Baptist roots. With our new website, all information will be available and streamlined online. There will be easy access to a church-wide calendar, as well as access to information regarding every ministry the church provides. We are also working on streaming our Sunday services online!

Beginning on April 1, we will use a contract custodial service to clean our buildings. This does mean that we will say goodbye to Kenny Martin, our custodian. Kenny has served as our custodian since July 2012. If you should have any concerns about custodial services, or if you see things that are undone and need attention, please do not hesitate to contact me via email and we will take care of the problem immediately.

In Christ,

*Van*

# Sharing in Prayer

## Christian Sympathy

To the Holt family—Philip, Mary, Jimmy, Andrew and Sarah, on the passing of Philip’s mother, Nancy Holt, on March 23.

To Lynnne Grant, Jeanie and David Gushee and family, on the passing of Dr. W. Vance Grant, Jr. on March 19.

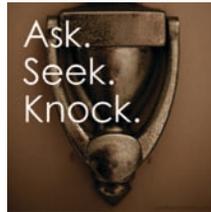
To Phillip Lamb in the passing of his father, George S. Lamb on March 16.

## Ask. Seek. Knock.

*Pastor’s Prayer Partners & Pals*

You are invited to pray with Pastor Julie.

Sign up by emailing Darci at [drodenhi@fbcdccatur.com](mailto:drodenhi@fbcdccatur.com).



Pray for the church worldwide at [www.operationworld.org](http://www.operationworld.org).

## 2014 By the Numbers

### MINISTRY ACTION PLAN (M.A.P.)

#### Through March 23, 2014

Offerings last week.....\$18,750  
(average needed per week.....\$26,058)

Offerings received YTD.....\$266,860  
Offerings YTD (behind) budget.....(\$42,371)

150 commitment pledges totaling \$837,496

#### YTD through February 28, 2014

Offerings + other income received.....\$193,089  
Church expenses.....\$213,502  
Surplus/(Deficit) \*.....(\$20,413)

### PROGRAMS OUTSIDE OF M.A.P.

#### Through March 23, 2014

Special Missions.....\$4,535  
Benevolence Offerings.....\$2,598



Giving Online

## Quarterly Publishing Schedule for the Outlook:

April publish date is March 27.

May publish date is May 1.

(Articles due Monday, April 21.)

June publish date is May 29.

(Articles due Monday, May 19.)

*Articles submitted after each issue’s deadline will be published in the following issue, put on a MailChimp email or posted on the website.*

## Contact Us

Main Office—404-373-1653  
Fax—404-370-7692

First School—404-370-7688  
Activities—404-373-2442

Website—[www.fbcdccatur.com](http://www.fbcdccatur.com)  
E-Mail—[fbcd@fbcdccatur.com](mailto:fbcd@fbcdccatur.com)

308 Clairemont Avenue  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

## Weekend Contacts

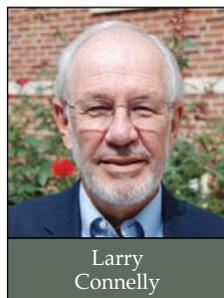
To reach a staff member for weekend pastoral emergencies, please call their cell phone number (below).

### Pastors on call

Sharyn Dowd (770) 329-7929  
Julie P-R (678) 602-7209  
Bob Williamson (770) 633-4651

### Deacon on call

March 28-30—Larry Connelly  
April 4-6—Sally Thomas  
April 11-13—Cecil Cannon  
April 18-20—Bob Waters  
April 25-27—Matthew Hicks



## Wednesday Dinner

Every Wednesday—5:30–6:30 p.m.

The first time a visitor attends the Wednesday night supper the meal is free. Encourage folks to get involved in New Community offerings and the fellowship around the tables.

## Office Schedule

**Regular office hours:**

9 till 5, Monday–Thursday

9 till 12, Friday (including Good Friday)

**Office Easter Holiday**—offices will be closed Monday, April 21

**First School**—closed on Good Friday

## Blue Plate

April 2—Meat Loaf

April 9—No Wednesday evening meal

April 16—No Wednesday evening meal

April 23—Poppy Seed Chicken

April 30—Country Fried Steak

## Meal Prices

Adults—\$6.50 Students—\$5.50

Children (10 and under)—\$3

Family Maximum—\$25