



Branches

Volume 11, Issue 4

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A Weekly Publication of
First Baptist Church, Commerce, Georgia



SPECIAL PROGRAM ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

On Wednesday, February 1st we have asked JD Granade to make a presentation to the church. In this presentation he will detail how a full-time position could enhance our ministry to children and address needs for more attention to our Bible study opportunities. There will also be time for questions and comments regarding the consideration of this becoming a full-time position. We will begin the presentation at 6:15pm. I want to encourage each member of the congregation to attend this presentation. We particularly would like to see the parents of children in attendance. This is an issue of vital importance to our church.

Carlton

Youth News

Last weekend, 8 high school students and 3 adults attended Faith in 3D. It was a retreat during the weekend of Martin Luther King Jr. day that just so happened to be at Disney World. It's difficult for me to describe how incredible our experience was; how powerful and lively our worship together was, how meaningful and relevant the MLK service was, or how much fun exploring the parks with energetic youth was... so I won't. Instead, I hope you take the time to talk with one of these youth that attended and ask them what they learned, experienced, and even about one of the funny stories (there are plenty).

There was much to reflect on that weekend, but there was one thing in particular that I wanted to share with you. Saturday night after a full day of Faith in 3D events as well as time in the parks, we sat together as a youth group and did as we usually do on these types of trips; we debriefed. The usual format is to share "highs" and "lows", where you saw God that day, and discuss the topics addressed in worship. These late night devotions go a number of ways depending on the level of exhaustion and sanity we are all feeling. This night we laughed a lot, remembering the crazy things that had happened that day.

Slowly (very very slowly) we transitioned into talking about worship, what they had learned in the countries at Epcot, and God's presence throughout the day. And then, with hardly any energy left, the conversation got real. Eight High School students were honest, and open, and willing to listen. This conversation wasn't much (we were all tired beyond reason) but it was something, it was the start of something. And all I could think was, "this...THIS is why we play."

These moments with the youth are my favorite, and thankfully they aren't that rare. They happen after the end of a long day of camp, at the end of the week of camp, at night during a retreat, or after a large event. Yes, intentional worship and powerful ministry experiences evoke such conversations but what is mostly required is play and laughter. If you bring people together to talk in an honest and open manner, you won't accomplish much. The discussion is usually shallow, short, and with a hint of judgement and reservation. But if you let them play first, let them laugh together, problem solve together, try to create a game together... then you'll get somewhere. But it comes at the end of the day; after we have explored, learned, worshipped, laughed until it hurts, goofed off, probably found some sort of trouble to get into, competed, worked together, and made fools of ourselves. With laughter we are able to shimmy off the differences and tensions between. With inside jokes, comes something we share that no one else understands. With play comes the freedom to be yourself for the sake of fun. And after sharing these things together, we are a family that is able to share our prayers, fears, joys, concerns, and more.

So when you look in the newsletter and see that the youth are doing a lot of "fun" events, I want to reassure you (and myself) that the fun is what matters. The fun is what allows us to get to know one another more honestly and eventually allows us to truly fellowship together. It takes long days, lots of time together, lots of energy, even more patience, and lots of laughter and fun, but the exhausted conversations at the end of the day make it all worth it. THIS is why we play! And this is why I love my job, and these incredible youth!

In Christ's name we play!

Kelsey



Sundays, January 29, February 12 & 26, 6-8PM
There will be no F4 on February 19.



Youth Super Bowl Party
Sunday, February 5, 6-8PM in the Youth Sunday
School Room. Bring a snack/side dish to share!



March Mission Madness

When: March 3-5

What: A weekend retreat for youth to gather together for worship, fellowship, and a full day of mission work in local Georgia communities.

Where: Roswell, Georgia

Cost: \$60—early registration
\$70—late registration

Deadline: Early registration ended January 9th.
Sign up by January 27th for \$70 (late registration fee).

Payment is due by February 26th.



Passport Camp: Choices

What: This is the camp we attend every summer. It is the highlight of the year! It is a week of worship, fellowship, and fun with other Baptist Churches.

When: June 18-23

Where: Greensboro, NC

Cost: \$320 (FBC covers \$50 deposit)

Deadline: Sign up by paying a \$75 deposit that goes toward the total cost by April 21st.

Valentine Gift Bags



We are collecting any of the following items for our Valentine gift bags for homebound friends:

Note paper, pens, pencils, lotion, socks, crossword puzzle books, emery boards, nail clippers, chapstick, combs, Kleenex and devotional books.

A collection box is located in the hall by the bulletin board.



Jolly Agers Luncheon

Tuesday, February 7
12:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall

The Jolly Agers will have a Valentine themed program of games and music for our February meeting. Bring a covered dish, a friend and join us for fellowship, fun and spiritual nourishment.

Non-Profit Org.
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 6

First Baptist Church
1345 S. Elm St.
Commerce, GA 30529
706-335-4083
fbccommerce@windstream.net
www.fbc-commerce.org

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



Pastor: Dr. Carlton E. Allen
Minister to Families & Youth: Rev. Kelsey Stillwell
Minister to Children: Rev. JD Granade
Minister of Music: Todd Chandler
Financial Secretary: Martha Heisley
Administrative Secretary: Tami Antry
Custodian: Roger Bryant

This Weeks' Servants

January 29 **Deacons**
Clarence Bryant & Sammy Thomason
Counters
Jimmy Miller & Scott Goodnight
Ushers
Joe Head, Billy Chandler, Johnny Eubanks,
Jimmy Bray
Greeters
Steve & Trell Wilson
January Outreach Committee Leader
Karen Westbrooks
Clothes Closet – 1-3 PM
February 2 Judy Farr & Sonya Bishop
Flowers for January
Sharon Highsmith
Meals on Wheels
January 27 Lisa Lathem & Karen Wardlaw
January 30 Susan Harvin
January 31 Joyce Bradshaw
February 1 Ernie & Kathy Pruett
February 2 Emily & Buford Perry
February 3 Carter & Carolyn Golden
Food Bank Delivery Volunteers
Jan. 30-Feb. 3 Ann Rhoads

Nursery Workers



January 29 Kelly Goodnight
Lauren Milford
February 5 Donna Allen
Chris Wallner
& Nevaeh Wallner

Supper menus will be sent out by email when available. If you need to make changes in your reservation, please contact the church office by Tuesday morning.



Come to Worship
January 29
“Outrageous Faith”
Matthew 4:12-23
Dr. Carlton Allen

Attendance & Financial Report
Sunday, January 22, 2017

Sunday School Attendance: 90
Morning Worship Attendance: 115
Weekly Budget Required: \$ 8,733.87
Budget Offering Today: \$ 4,724.00
Budget Required to Date: \$ 148,475.79
Budget Given to Date: \$ 180,829.11

This Week at FBC

Sunday, January 29
9:45 am Bible Study
11:00 am Morning Worship
Church Conference
6:00-8:00 pm F4—Youth
No Other Evening Activities

Wednesday, February 1
9:30 am Quilt Ministry Meeting
5:30 pm Family Night Supper
6:00-6:15 pm Pre-School Story Time—Library
6:00-7:15 pm Preschool Missions & Choir (Pre-K—K)
6:00-7:15 pm KOAM & Choir (Grades 1-5)
6:15-7:15 pm FOUR for Youth (6th-12th grades)
6:15-7:15 pm Presentation by JD Granade—F. Hall
7:15 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
(Nursery Provided from 6:00-7:30 PM)

Thursday, February 2
1:00-3:00 pm Clothes Closet

Sunday, February 5
8:30 am Property Committee Meeting
9:45 am Bible Study
11:00 am Morning Worship
6:00-8:00 pm Youth Super Bowl Party—Youth SS Room
No Other Evening Activities



happy birthday

January 27 Lily Head
January 28 Sam Wilson
Ann Brown
January 31 Hudson Wilbanks