

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DANVILLE

## First Baptist Missions Offering

*Sharing the Love and Life of Christ through Missions*

**GOAL: \$15,000 Received: \$10,593**

### RECIPIENT FOCUS:

#### ALMA HUNT OFFERING FOR VIRGINIA MISSIONS

This yearly offering given by Baptist churches in Virginia helps support a variety of mission endeavors within our own state. Examples of these are: the **Bland Ministry Center** that meets dental, medical, food, and clothing needs in the Appalachian region resulting from underdevelopment and underemployment; **Latino ministries** supporting spiritual and evangelistic ministries to the Latino population of our state plus emergency assistance for needy families; **disaster response ministries** supporting the almost thirty units which respond to natural disasters around our state and country; and **chaplain service** providing ministry to prisoners and their families throughout Virginia.

## Holy Week Services of Worship

Beginning on Sunday, March 28, the community of faith at First Baptist Church has the opportunity to engage in a series of worship experiences that run the course of Holy Week. That Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday and will include added elements to enhance our experiences in the most significant week on the Christian calendar.

Beginning on Monday, March 29 at noon, First Presbyterian Church will host its annual midday Holy Week services. Clergy from around our community will offer meditations, musicians will share their gifts, and we will pray and read scripture together. Our own Stephen Cook will be the proclaimer on Good Friday.

On Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m., First Baptist will hold its Maundy Thursday service of communion and darkness. We will gather to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday morning having been enriched by these services that we share with fellow Christians around our area.

## Daylight Saving Time

On the night of Saturday, March 13, make sure to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed. Otherwise, you might show up on Sunday morning just as everybody is getting ready to leave!



# THE SPIRE

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

*Prodigal, Riotous Love*

Rev. Stephen Cook

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-24; Psalm 32

**Anthem**

“His Love for Me Never Fails” by Northen

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

*Uncontrollable Generosity*

Rev. Stephen Cook

John 12:1-8; Isaiah 43:16-21

**Anthem**

“Blessed Assurance” arr. Raney

### **EVERY MEMBER IS A MINISTER.**

STEPHEN H. COOK, PASTOR

JOSHUA D. HEARNE, ASSOC. PASTOR

JOSEPH C. NORTHEN, MINISTER OF MUSIC

KATHY A. NORTHEN, ORGANIST/MUSIC ASSOC.

DEBRA PURVIS, FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

TAMMY VAUGHAN, ADMIN. ASSISTANT

SHERMAN RANSOM, SEXTON

DOT WALKER, HOUSEKEEPER

### **SPIRE SCHEDULE**

The Spire is normally printed every two weeks.

The next Spire will be dated March 22, 2010.

Information for that Spire must be turned in or mailed to the church office no later than Friday, March 19, 2010.



Pastoral Ministries

Many consider Philipians to be a “love letter” of sorts. Unlike some of the other missives Paul put in the mail to the churches where he had worked or hoped to work, this one does not have some of the strong words, foreboding admonitions, or angst behind it – or at least not as much.

But as in any congregation, there were challenges in the Philippian church. For that small band of believers that was making every effort to keep the ways of Jesus alive and well, there was a whole world of opposition right outside their door. Paul called them “enemies of the cross.” (3:18) He warns the church about what is in store if they cannot get their lives to square with the lessons they have learned. Sure, they knew the Gospel. Now, the question was: were they living it? In this we see the ongoing struggle to find right practices to right beliefs. If only that were a challenge that were confined to the Christian communities of yesteryear!


Every so often there are voices that rise above all of the others that surround us; voices that challenge us, dare us even, to live more Christ-like kinds of lives. We need these voices. We need to hear those who courageously step forward and speak up, setting the standard for a higher way of being. Paul’s is one such voice that we hear echoing back across the wide chasm that stands between the first-century Church and the Church in the twenty-first. And there are others, too - I would wager that you could even name names.

This Lenten season is a time of expectation. Yes, this is a time to look ahead with anticipation of what comes at the end of our 40-day journey. But more than that, this is a time to renew our expectation for the Church to be more Christ-like, even as the Church expects the same of us.

Early biographers of Saint Francis reckoned him to be almost like a second Christ. One account put it this way:

*He was always with Jesus: Jesus in his heart, Jesus in his mouth, Jesus in his ears, Jesus in his eyes, Jesus in his hands, he bore Jesus always in his whole body.*

May that be said of you, me, and the Church as we are further formed into Christ’s likeness this Lenten season.

Peace to you, 




Music Ministries

Beginning Tuesday, March 16 (assuming it doesn’t snow!), the Adult Music Group will resume regular weekly meetings at 11:00 a.m. This small group of faithful singers is looking for new talent to join them. The requirements are fairly strict: be available to attend and be interested in singing. Through singing, playing handchimes and Orff instruments, these folks are learning new ways to praise God through music. I would like to have a music folder ready for you, so let me know you are interested by phone (793.8331) or email (j.northen@fbcdanville.com).

Each Sunday in Lent we are extinguishing one candle in our Lenten Wreath. As a person comes from the congregation to extinguish the candle, a choir member sings a stanza of a hymn. For the first three Sundays in Lent, Derek Mitchell, Jane Pratt, and Jess Yarbrough have extinguished a candle, and Beau Carter, Vickie Taylor, and John Garwood sang a hymn. I thank each of these for their part in this moving segment of our worship.

Over the past three weeks, we have heard from guest flutist Olivia Walthall, God’s Ringers, and Jessica Hearne. On the coming Sundays, we will hear Jodi Lea (tenor saxophone), and Amy Cook and Karen Holshouser (violins). Our church is blessed with many talented people! Finally, Kathy and I thank you for your prayers and kind words in the loss of our sister-in-law, Helen Northen, last week.


Ring, Sing, Play for Joy, 



Discipleship Ministries

When we consider the spiritual path that we walk daily when we decide to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, we often become fixated on the outcomes and appearances. We are tempted to focus more on the Christian things we one day hope to do and less on the Christian things we can do right now. Furthermore, we often settle for the appearance of spiritual maturity instead of pressing on to actual, practiced spiritual growth. Caught up in our dreams and holy imaginings, we never begin the journey that ends by transforming our appearances and good intentions into reality.

Abba John the Dwarf was known for a particular saying that he repeated to his students and friends over the course of his life and struggles. He would say, “A house is not built by beginning at the top and working down. You must begin with the foundations in order to reach the top.” Surely this is true in our lives, as well! Indeed we do well to imagine what God wills for us to be some day in the future but we cannot neglect the practice of being what God wants us to be now. In short, we must be people who lay a foundation for spiritual maturity and growth. The solution is not simply imagining a better future. The solution is working on growing today and in this very moment. We can do that by endeavoring to worship more sincerely and more often. We can do that by becoming people who are learning to focus more on others and less on ourselves in little ways every day. We can do that by forcing ourselves out of our comfort zones little by little and following God in service.

In Christ, 

### Congratulations, Debra!

On March 5 our church's financial assistant, Debra Purvis, marked her seventh anniversary of service with First Baptist Church. She has been a faithful servant of our congregation across the years, first as our front office administrative assistant and now "in the back" in the finance office. Please extend congratulations and a word of appreciation to Debra for her fine work among us.

### Lectors Meeting

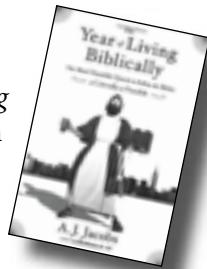
If you are a member of the current group of lectors who lead in worship on Sunday mornings, then please make plans to attend a meeting on Wednesday, March 17 at 7:15 p.m., in the Heritage room. We'll discuss what has happened and what will be happening in worship and what the next quarter will look like for our lectors.

### Contemplative Service

Make plans now to attend a contemplative service of worship on Wednesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church. The services will be in the same style as the Advent services of contemplative worship on Wednesday nights in December 2009.

### Book Club

The book club is currently reading *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs and will meet again on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Friendship classroom to continue the discussion we started on March 9. Even if you didn't make it to the first meeting you can still come to the second and join in the conversation.



### God's Storehouse

March 15-18 is another of one of First Baptist's weeks of involvement and sponsorship at God's Storehouse. This is a vital ministry in Danville that we have supported repeatedly in an effort to reach out to the citizens of our city who are hungry or in need of assistance. You can still be a part of it by contacting Peyton Parker or by contacting the church office by phone (793.8331) or by e-mail (office@fbcdanville.com). Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of vibrant ministry here in Danville.

## New Events at FBC

### Liberty Hospice Service Volunteers

Liberty Hospice Services needs volunteers to continue their much needed ministry to those approaching death. They are willing to train anyone who is interested in this powerful ministry of compassionate listening and caring at a time convenient to the volunteer. If you're interested, contact Kathy Caldwell, the volunteer coordinator by phone (434.709.4537) or by e-mail (kcaldwell@libertyhomecare.com). You can learn more about Liberty Hospice Services at [www.libertyhospice.com](http://www.libertyhospice.com).

### The Youth Closet

In an effort to meet their yearlong goal of increased mission involvement, the youth will be collecting clothes and jackets to sort, store, and distribute as needs arise. The youth will meet on Saturday, March 13, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to set up the storage and begin the process of identifying and sorting the donations. **You can do your part** by going through your old clothes and jackets and selecting some for donation. Please drop off these donations in boxes or plastic bags in the youth area near the pool table. Thank you in advance for your support of the youth group's desire to be involved in mission work.

### Sanctuary Flowers

**March 14**

The sanctuary flowers are given in memory of Ned Waller by Fran Waller.

**March 21**

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary on this date, please contact Peggy Smith at 797.5376.

### WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL

**March 17**

**Cooks:** Dot Walker  
**Servers:** New Beginnings Class  
**Host:** Randy Richardson

**March 24**

**Cook:** Dot Walker  
**Servers:** Philathea Class  
**Host:** Jimmy Flippen

### Sunday Morning Fellowship

**March 14:** Karen Harris  
**March 21:** Pat Harper

### WEDNESDAY EVENING NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

**March 17:** Betty Bruce Lind  
**March 24:** Amy Cook

### Sunday Morning Nursery Volunteers

**March 14:** Lyn Farley and Judy Cox  
**March 21:** Mollie Duren and Jan Richardson

# FIRST EVENTS

## Take Special Note of...

### SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010

1:00 p.m. Youth Closet Launch

### SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010

2:00 p.m. Homebound Communion

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
7:15 p.m. Lectors' Meeting

### FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010

12:00 p.m. *The Spire* Information Due

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010

6:30 p.m. Contemplative Worship  
7:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

## Regular Weekly Events

### SUNDAYS

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.  
9:30 - 10:20 a.m.  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

*(unless contradicted by special events)*

Breakfast Club  
Sunday School  
Worship  
Youth Group  
Youth Music  
Brass Ensemble (adults & youth)

### MONDAYS

7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts

### TUESDAYS

4:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

Tutoring  
Starmont Swing Band

### WEDNESDAYS

10:00 a.m.  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
5:00 - 5:45 p.m.  
5:30 - 6:15 p.m.  
6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Gathering  
Childcare (infants - 4 year old)  
Session 1 (& "The Haven" - ages 5-17)  
Supper is served  
Session 2 (& "The Haven" - ages 5-17)

### THURSDAYS

4:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

Baptist Belles  
Tutoring  
Church Choir

### SYMPATHIES

The family of Pat Stafford;  
Cecil Murray in the death of his sister;  
Joe and Kathy Northen in the death of their sister-in-law

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Randy Richardson



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Danville, VA 24541

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### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Year-to-Date Revenue (February 28)	\$71,997.75
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$92,474.93
Revenue Received (Under) Expenses	(\$20,477.18)

### MINISTERS' CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Stephen Cook</b> s.cook@fbcdanville.com (434) 489.1044	<b>Joshua Hearne</b> j.hearne@fbcdanville.com (434) 489.5064
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