Mission Possible Day

Join us on Saturday, April 20, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Mission Possible Day! This day is our day to make a huge difference in our community as we join hundreds of people to "Work on Wilmington." This year, we will be completing indoor and outdoor projects at our downtown location and at Alderman Elementary, our neighbor across the street from the Activities Center! Outdoor projects include pressure washing, painting and planting flowers. If you would like to help at Alderman Elementary, please arrive at 8 a.m. ready to get started! If you would like to volunteer downtown, please let Joe Capell know at jcapell@fbcwilmington.org or 910-763-2471, so that he can put work teams together. A pressure washer is needed for some downtown work as well. Enjoy a morning of working beside other members of the FBC family as we make a difference in our neighborhood!

In This Issue

Page 3
Summer Camp Registration Open!

Page 7
Miami Trip Recap

Page 8
Dr. Frank Hawkins Retirement

Get Your Groove On!

Show off your dancing moves at the fun and exciting Churchwide Dance on May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy social time with friends and a fabulous dinner, then dance the night away with all types of fun dance tunes! So grab your date, your friends and your dancing shoes for a fun evening!

Cost is $10/person.
Pre-Dinner and Social Time- 6:00 p.m.
Dinner- 6:30 p.m.
Dancing– 7:30-11:00 p.m.

Contact Margaret by May 1 to make your reservation!
799-7564 or mjohnson@fbcwilmington.org
Childcare made available per request

Dr. Frank Hawkins to Retire in April

Our church was blessed with a true gift from God when Dr. Frank Hawkins and his lovely wife, Pat, joined our church family in July of 2003 and even more so when Frank joined the pastoral staff in October of 2004. After giving his life to the ministry of furthering God’s Kingdom on earth through pastorates in SC, GA and TN and serving as interim pastor of several churches in NC, Frank and Pat moved to Wilmington to enjoy retirement and spend time with their daughter, Perri Miley, and her family. However, when a source of knowledge, love, experience and enthusiasm like Frank Hawkins is planted in your patch, any wise gardener would glean from the fruit of that vine. First Baptist Church took advantage by asking him to serve as our Minister of Pastoral Care. Over the past eight years, Frank has mentored ministers, guided people seeking direction, encouraged the disheartened, married young lovers, challenged us to think deeper and risk more in faith, prayed for us, preached to us, taught us to love in word and by example, reminded us of whose we are and given us glimpses of who we can become, lived out hope before our eyes while inspiring us to do the same for others, taken the church to our mature members who are no longer physically able to gather with the church family to worship and offered words of comfort and reflection at the gravesides of saints that have gone before us. The embodiment of Christian integrity has been ever-present in the ways that Frank and Pat have given of themselves to make our faith community better than we were before they arrived. The last day of April will serve as the eve of Dr. Hawkins’ seventy-eighth birthday. He has made the decision that that will be his last day as a member of the professional staff of our church. They intend to remain in Wilmington and as members of First Baptist Church so we will continue to enjoy fellowship with them and to drink deeply from their spring of life, love and ministry. There is an ancient adage that says, “Even a dwarf on a giant’s shoulder see farther of the two.” Thank you Frank and Pat for raising us up to stand upon your shoulders and allowing us to see into a hopeful future.
Our Vision:
“...a community of believers...”

Our Mission:
“...to become, and help others to become, fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.”

A Word From Matt
There are a lot of things that make a group of people feel like a family, but two things in particular come to mind at this moment in our church’s life. The first thing is when people sacrifice on others’ behalf and the second is when a group finds a way to bless someone that is saying goodbye. Both of these things are coming to mind right now because two wonderful ministers are leaving our church staff: Stefanie Riley and Frank Hawkins.

Many of you already knew that Frank Hawkins, our Minister of Pastoral Care was retiring (again) as of the end of April. Our church is a big enough place that you might not have had much opportunity to get to know Frank, but if you or anyone you know is in the retirement stage of life there’s a good chance that Frank has put his arm around you, prayed for you, shared some wisdom, or reminded you that God loves you. Much of Frank’s ministry has touched those who aren’t able to get out and physically come to worship or Bible study any more due to the challenges of age. For the past couple of months, Frank has been taking me to meet all these wonderful members of our church, and while they’re happy to meet the new pastor, they light up like a Christmas tree when they realize that it’s Frank that has come to see them. Frank was a pastor for many years and has brought that wealth of experience to his ministry, and we will sorely miss him in that role (though not in our church, as thankfully he and his wife Pat will still be a part of the First Baptist Family).

By now, you should also know that Stefanie Riley is leaving our staff. Her resignation letter was mailed to you this week, and I urge you to take a look at it. Stefanie has an adventurous spirit, and a willingness (even a passion you might say) to live on the edge. It’s one of the many things that I, and so many other people in our church, appreciate about her. That adventurous spirit is leading her southward to a new season of life and ministry in sunny Florida. Stefanie started off eleven years ago working as a part-time administrative assistant, and the longer she was in our church, the greater the recognition of her many gifts and talents. Our church has been very fortunate to be the beneficiary of her creativity, her authenticity, and her servant’s spirit. We will miss her greatly when she completes her work with us at the end of this month.

I hope that you’ll take the opportunity in the weeks to come to thank both of these wonderful ministers for what they’ve done for our church. They have sacrificed on our behalf, pouring their lives into ours, so let’s take the opportunity to bless them with our hugs and words so that they’ll know how grateful we are.

Grace and Peace,
Matt

Our First Baptist GPS (go passionately serve) college group spent their Spring Break in Miami, Florida ‘giving their life’ away in Jesus name. We divided into two groups and spent time in 6 different mission projects. We fed 800 homeless with the Miami Rescue Mission, the Mother Theresa’s Inner City Homeless Project in Little Havana, and the Camillus Homeless Agency. We tutored at-risk children with the Haitian Yvonne Learning Center and the Branches of Miami which ministers to a Bahamian community of very poor families. We installed a kitchen work sink and did 20 hours of yard work in the Open House Ministry in Hometead, Florida. Open House is a terrific CBF ministry to the gang environment teens of south Miami. Our CBF missions donations help construct their youth center which is ‘changing lives’ to the children and teens in Miami. Our lives were changed as we ‘loved the least of these’.

Spring and Strings!
It was great to see the FBC community come out for Spring & Strings on Sunday, March 10. Over 500 people enjoyed a delicious spaghetti meal and clapped along to some wonderful bluegrass music led by a group of CBF members. Ernest T. Bass stole the show along with students of the FBC Youth Ministry who played out a popular scene from The Andy Griffith Show. The FBC Youth Ministry would like to thank all those involved in making Spring & Strings a great evening, and are very appreciative for the love offering received that will go to help further the youth ministry’s mission efforts. (Pictures courtesy of Mark Stedman)
Special Offering Inner City Missions, Goal: $6,000

The special mission offering for April will be our Easter Offering for Inner-city Missions. Money received in the specially designated offering envelopes will be used to enhance and expand the ministries of the Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center. Ministries housed in the center currently assist children with their social, emotional and educational needs, provide training and guidance for people seeking employment, encouragement for women who have been abused, assistance with home repairs for elderly and disabled people in our community, protect the natural resources in the Cape Fear region, educate new and expecting parents with their infants and provide hope and healing for people recovering from substance abuse and drug addictions. The Harrelson Center is a place where needs are met, dreams are fostered and hope abounds.

To find out more about the Harrelson Center and their nonprofit partners, visit www.harrelsoncenter.org

Children’s Lock-Ins Loaded with Fun!

Fun and games, laughter and great times were shared by our boys and girls this year at the FBC Crosstraining Kids Lock-Ins!

Boys Lock-In

Girls Lock-In

Camp Registration Now Open!

Don’t miss out on these great camps - Hurry and sign up since camps fill quickly!!

APRIL 26-28

Beautiful Fort Caswell is the setting for this discipleship retreat designed for our current 5th and 6th graders April 26th-28th. We’ll leave on Friday, April 26th at 4:00 p.m. Games, competitions, treasure hunts and physical challenges are all planned to help kids grow in their faith toward becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ. Our 5th graders will return on April 27th, while 6th graders will stay overnight to have a special introduction into Youth Group by Nathan Tuttle on Saturday night. Cost for 5th graders is $70; cost for 6th graders is $90. Registration deadline is April 1st.

JUNE 24-28

Camp Jonah is a high energy day camp for children rising 1st-6th grade. “Shipwrecked” is the theme for Camp Jonah this year where our children will learn that it is important to give second chances and encourage one another. Camp Jonah will be held June 24th-28th from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Activities Center. EXTENDED CARE from 2-4 p.m. will be offered for an additional camp fee of $55. Pre-registration is a MUST for extended care. Lunch, snacks, keepsake crafts, camp t-shirt, special Friday activity and all materials are included in the fee. Cost: rising 1st-6th grades $60; Extended care is an additional $55. Registration deadline is June 3rd. (Note: 1st grade registration is closed.)

JULY 15-19

Beautiful Fort Caswell is the setting for this discipleship retreat designed for our current 5th and 6th graders April 26th-28th. We’ll leave on Friday, April 26th at 4:00 p.m. Games, competitions, treasure hunts and physical challenges are all planned to help kids grow in their faith toward becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ. Our 5th graders will return on April 27th, while 6th graders will stay overnight to have a special introduction into Youth Group by Nathan Tuttle on Saturday night. Cost for 5th graders is $70; cost for 6th graders is $90. Registration deadline is April 1st.

JULY 9-11

Fine Arts Camp (FAC) is a camp experience for rising 1st-6th graders where faith and arts collide! With our theme “Under the Sea”, children can explore their creative expression through visual arts, drama, music and other mediums in the context of a Biblical foundation. Camp is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Activities Center. Cost is $50. Registration deadline is July 1.

FAC sign up

A camp of your very own! Camp Creation is planned for July 9th-11th at the FBC Activities Center from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Camp Creation is a mini-camp designed especially for our youngest disciples, ages 2 years rising Kindergarten. We are so excited to announce that due to the high interest in this camp, registration is already full! But we are always in need of volunteers to share a warm hug and a smile with our little ones. If you are interested in volunteering for Camp Creation, contact Jeannie Troutman at jtroutman@fbcwilmington.org.

Registration is now open!

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Go to www.fbcwilmington.org to register

(under the calendar of events tab)
Chris & Lisa Bevins
Lisa and Chris Bevins have found community in our congregation and transferred their membership from a sister church in Wilmington. They have been worshipping with us for the past few weeks and recently took part in our Connections Class for new and future members. They have made a point to introduce themselves to us.

Jennie and Tim McNeill
Jennie and Tim McNeill have been fixtures in The Journey worship service for several years and are now "official" members of our church community. We have been blessed to celebrate the birth of their daughter, Maddy (4), and son, TJ (8 months), with them. They join us by transfer of their membership from Baptist churches in Cleveland, Alabama (Jennie) and Shelby, NC (Tim). Jennie and Tim are both employed by UNCW, Jennie in Student Affairs and Tim in Campus Recreation.

Erica and Jeff Sypole
Erica and Jeff Sypole have welcomed new friends in our community by transfer of their membership from Baptist churches in Wilmington. Erica is a member of our deacon team. She teaches at South Brunswick high school. Jeff is a security officer on Bald Head Island. The Sypoles have a two-year-old son, Bradley.

Lauren Evans
Lauren Evans has joined us by transfer of her church membership from Harmony Baptist in Dothan, Alabama. She is new to Wilmington having enrolled recently in graduate school at UNCW. She is a long way from home so she needs to be adopted by new friends within our church home. Welcome her to Wilmington and FBC when you see her.

Katie and Sam Caffee
Katie and Sam Caffee have made Wilmington home as they begin their life together as husband and wife. One of the first things they did upon arriving here was to seek a church with which to wor- ship, develop friendships and serve. They enjoy The Journey worship service and have com- pleted our Connections Class. Katie came to us from a Methodist congregation in Alpharetta, Georgia and Sam has joined us from a Catholic congregation in Newport News, Virginia. Katie works at the Brunswick Nuclear Plant in Southport and Sam is employed by GS/Hitachi in Castle Hayne.

Brittany and Ray Caffee
Brittany and Ray Caffee have made new friends in the Coastal Couples Sunday school class and decided to make FBC their new church home. Brittany grew up in Clinton, and Ray is from Southport. They have a daugh- ter, Rebecka, who is two years old. Brittany is employed by PPD, and Ray works for Trust Building Group. Welcome to First Baptist Church.

Lindsay Prickett
Lindsay Prickett teaches 2-year-olds that Jesus loves them by giving herself as one of our teachers in Sunday School each week. Lindsay has been doing this for three years and recently became a member of the team of volun- teers that manages our Activities Center at night. She has been a gift to us since she and her husband, Warren (who grew up in FBC), were married. We are delighted that she is now an "official" member. Lindsay and Warren are parents to Ella, their five-year-old daughter who attends the FBC Christian Preschool.

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Kim, Tony & Luke Theodorakis
Kim, Tony and Luke Theodorakis have joined our church community. Kim comes to us by transfer of her membership while Tony and Luke look forward to being baptized on Easter Sunday. Kim is currently employed in Bank of America, and Tony is employed by the Star News. Kim is a junior at Ashley high school. Tony and Kim grew up in Whiteville, NC, and have numer- ous friends within our church family that have roots in Whiteville. The Theodorakis family takes part in Cross Training on Wednesday nights, and Kim and Tony have found a home in the Friendship Sunday School class while Luke enjoys our Youth Ministry. Welcome to FBC.

William and Rebecca Evans
William and Rebecca Evans have joined us by transfer of their membership from First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. They have been worshipping with us for the past several months. They have recently completed our Connections Class and are looking forward to becoming involved in our community and meeting other FBC folk who have retired recently.

In Memory of Beverly Ann Wachtel
In memory of Beverly Ann Wachtel by Edward and Ann Wachtel
In memory of Beverly Wachtel by Jim and Carol Wachtel
In memory of Beverly Wachtel by Chris and Mary McKethan
In memory of Beverly Wachtel by Martha G. Smith
In memory of Beverly Wachtel by Mr. and Mrs. Gene McIntyre

Memorial Gifts
The following memorials have been given generously, and we are deeply grateful:

General Fund
In memory of Ed Martin by Fred and Janet Nelson
Ed and Nancy Eby
In memory of Beverly Ann Wachtel and Florence Gordy by Fred and Janet Nelson
In memory of Marilyn Miller Evans by FBC Discrim

Guatemala Mission
In memory of Major Canady by Harold Jacobs

Youth Ministry
In honor of Kimberly and Gary Harris by Ann and Gene Brown

WMU of NC
Heck Jones Offering
In honor of Betty Stike by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fisher

Music Fund
In memory of Deborah Miller by David Miller
In memory of Jack Cunningham by Wills and Ann Brown
In memory of Beverly Wachtel by Carol and Jim Carroll
Chris and Mary McKethan
Martha G. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Gene McIntyre

Baptist Children’s Homes
In memory of Dick Gough by Mrs. Mary Gough

Community Life
New Members

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In Sympathy
Christian sympathy is extended to Catherine Padgett on the death of her father, Robert Reed, on January 13, 2013 in Texas.
Donn Evans on the death of his mother, Marilyn Evans, on her death on March 1, 2013.
Ed Crumpler on the death of his mother Dorothy on March 1, 2013.
Margaret Lopata on the death of her mother, Edith Russell, on March 1, 2013.
Jean Anderson on the death of her mother, Sue Hayworth, on March 15, 2013.
Kurt Wachtel on the death of his mother, Beverly Wachtel, on March 19, 2013.

Giving
March Requirements $162,408.35
March Receipts $184,919.52
March Shortfall/Overage $22,511.17
YTD Requirements $487,235.65
YTD Receipts $453,690.69

Attendance
Worship
March 3 785
March 10 714
March 17 681
March 24 654
March 31 1148
Sunday School 512
March 3 459
March 10 527
March 17 529
March 24 529
March 31 392

Samm Tanner
Samm Tanner has confessed faith in Christ and was baptized on Easter Sunday. He is in the second grade at Parsley el- ementary school. Sam enjoy playing basketball, soccer and pulling for the NC State Wolfpack. He has been a part of FBC since birth like his older brother, Parker, and younger sister, Maddie. Maddie’s parents are Amy and Jeff Tanner.