



# First Look

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Loving  
God,  
Loving  
People

## “Learning Curve”

May 17, 2017

Do you remember when you had all the answers to the big questions in life? I do. I found myself dressed up in a silly orange robe with an even funnier looking hat I could barely keep on my head at my high school graduation. As I sat surrounded by my peers buzzing with excitement of finally finishing high school high on anticipation and a variety of other foreign substances, I knew without doubt I had this game of life figured out. Humility had not yet taken its helpful toll on my heart and life just yet. I had the answers to life all figured out from the depths of theology to the mysteries of true love. At least I thought. Now, I realize that did not have all the answers because I did not even know all the questions yet.

If Mark Twain had been one of my classmates, I sensed that I would have had the same discovered he experienced when he noted:

**“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”**

Yes, it staggers the imagination how much a parent can learn in such a short time! Life has a wonderful way of opening our eyes and deepening our understanding if we have a heart to learn, and ears to listen.

In a few days, our high school seniors will cross the stage to receive their diplomas celebrating years of hard work, fun, and life experiences to descend the steps into the next chapter of their lives. When I held the diploma and my hand and headed back to my seat scanning the crowd to wave at mom and dad, little did I know the adventures, complete with trials and tribulations that awaited my just around the corner. Remember at this point I still had all the answers. So, I thought lost in my own illusions fueled by the idealism of youth.

Graduation commencement ceremonies seem to be filled with long speeches which few remember waiting for those three electric seconds when your name is read (properly you hope) and your heart races as you cross the stage. I remember hardly anything about my high school graduation. I wish I could have had a guest speaker like George W. Bush, for

mer president of the United States, who to a packed crowd of graduates, faculty, family, and friends at S.M.U. graduation who opened his remarks saying:

**“To those of you who are graduating this afternoon with high honors, awards and distinctions, I say, ‘Well done.’ And as I like to tell the C students: You too, can be president.”**

Praise the Lord for “C” students who will one day run the world while the “A” students teach!

During this season of the year when we reflect on the rites of passage that usher in the major chapters of our lives, let me point you to the wise words of Moses, the man of God, who learned life lessons often the hard way by the guiding hand of His Heavenly Father, who spoke to him “face to face” as one speaks with his friend. **“For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?” (Psalm 90:9-11 ESV)**

Charles J. Sykes, in his rules for life, stated it his number rule slightly differently yet with the same point, **“Rule No.1: Life is not fair. Get used to it.”** In the light of this kind of world Moses added: **“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12 ESV)** Make every day count. Be a lifelong student. Pray for a heart wise enough to trust the Lord no matter what life may bring. Graduates congratulations for a job well done. Welcome to the real world, we have been looking forward to your arrival.

# Prayer Concerns, Weekly Statistics, & Announcements

## Announcements:

### **Senior Recognition**

Join us as we honor our high school graduates during the morning worship service. We are proud of you!

### **Library Summer Reading Program**

You are challenged to join our Reader's Hall of Fame by reading 2 books from FBC Library before August 31. See our display table for "Good Reads"!

### **Paraguay Project Support**

We are collecting a special offering to help Esperanza Viva Church in Paraguay. We have a team from our church helping them this week to repair their roof. If you would like to help fund this project, please mark your offering with "Paraguay Roof".

### **Paypal Kiosk**

A payment kiosk is available at the Kidz Connection counter in the foyer for your tithes and offerings. Thank you for giving to the ministries at First.

## Financial Statistics

### **Tithes and Offerings**

Received May 14: **\$20,823**

Month-to-date Received: **\$53,059**

### **Building Fund**

Received May 7: **\$2,250**

Month-to-date Received: **\$6,253**

## Weekly Attendance Report

Sunday School Attendance: **384**

Worship Attendance: : **527**

### **FBC Leadership Team**

Dr. David Lowrie, Pastor: david@firstdecatour.us

Mike Stallworth, Executive Pastor: mike@firstdecatour.us

Gerre Joiner, Senior Adult Pastor : gerjoiner@gmail.com

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