



Vol. XXIX No. 35

First Baptist Church

The Focus

September 03, 2009

Special points of interest:

- September 13, Promotion Sunday for Sunday School and "Blessing of the Backpacks".
- September 20, 2009 at 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM BLOOD DRIVE in Thompson Hall



Make Someone smile

Wednesday Night Suppers begin again on September 16 at 5:00 PM. Don't forget you can also make dinner reservations online on the church's website:

Firstbaptistashland.org

Noteworthy News of the Week

Coming Soon! September 20, 2009

Fireproof Your Marriage

Mark your calendars to attend this special, life-changing class during the Sunday School hour this fall. Discover how to truly love your spouse while learning more about the design, nature, and source of true love.

Please sign up outside the sanctuary. Books are available for purchase at the first class. The class will meet in the Chapel.

The Preschool Department is in need of 2 Sunday School teachers. Extended session workers are also needed for 1 hour, once a quarter, during the 11:00 worship. Substitute teachers are always needed.. If you are willing to be called when a teacher is out, please let me know. If you are interested in working with preschoolers, we can find a place for you! Thanks, Tricia Dalton

From the Wednesday Night Supper Committee:

Angela Lloyd will not be returning this season. She has a full time position as a buyer for Whole Foods Market. We are very happy for her and wish her well.

The good news is that our own Kathy Powell has agreed to come back and Christine McClintock will be returning to help her. **We welcome them back!**

The Alpha Course is starting again! Alpha is a practical introduction to Christian faith and an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. A free Alpha Dinner will be held on Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 PM at FBC after which you can register if you want to attend the course. Please call the church to RSVP for dinner by September 8. Alpha meets every Thursday from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, including dinner, from September 17 to November 19. You can also register by calling the church office by Sept. 14. Any questions?— contact Larry Gilman (798-7460) or Jim Townsend (798-9014). Come and invite your friends.

SEPTEMBER 06 - 12, 2009

Sunday - 06

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Deacon-Led Prayer Time
 11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Youth Scavenger Hunt

Monday - 07

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday - 08

6:00/7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Groups

6:00 p.m. Men's Horseshoe Fellowship
Wednesday - 09
 6:30 p.m. "Standing in Grace" Women's Choir
 6:30 p.m. "O.K. Chorale" Men's Choir in Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. Youth
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday - 10

6:00 p.m. ALPHA Dinner

Friday - 11

10:00 a.m. Pearl Luck WOM

A Word From Our Pastor

I am so glad you are here today!

The baptismal service at the river was great last Sunday evening. The weather was good. The fellowship was great. About a hundred of us showed up to witness five baptisms. The Thomasson family is gracious to allow us to use their spot on the river for that sacred celebration. I have noticed in recent weeks that a number of churches are doing river baptisms. There's something about gathering at the river. Maybe next year we can have a picnic when we gather. I cannot wait.

Thank you for the food gifts you have brought today. What you bring will make a difference for some family who may not have the resources to put a meal on the table for their family. One of our callings as Christians is to invest ourselves in others. We are not responsible for how people respond, but we are responsible for how we invest ourselves in Kingdom work.

Our Family Night Dinners start on September 16. You can make reservations several ways: **call the church, use the website, or sign a card and place it in the offering plate.** Elsewhere in the Focus you will notice we will have a new cook this year because of a change in Angela Lloyd's work life. Plan to spend time with your church family around the dinner table this year.

This is the **last big "hurrah" before school begins** and I am sure many of our folks are traveling one more time. When I look out at our congregation on any given Sunday morning it is easy (if I am not careful) to get discouraged at all the "wood" I see. I think of all the people that would be present if we worked harder to at our outreach and inreach. Goodness, if we could get everybody here at the same time, it would make a difference. What do we need to be doing differently that will inspire and

encourage people to worship the living God? Lots of different thoughts travel through my mind and heart and I wonder are we doing our best when it comes to worship on a Sunday morning? And then my mind and heart will kick into another gear and I think of all the wonderful things God does with us when we worship and know that He does some great things in our midst. Lives are changed for ever, for an eternity in this very room. I'm not ready to give up! **Enough complaining and on with the mission.**

Next Sunday I will be preaching at my home church in Portsmouth, Va. They are celebrating their 110th anniversary and asked me to be their guest preacher. Make sure you are here for the "Blessing of the Backpacks" during worship. Have a great week and know I love you.

God bless, Robert

youHeadlines

CHOSEN:

Creatively Helping Others by Serving Every Neighbor.

John 15:15 - 17

TODAY: Scavenger Hunt, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

This Wednesday Night: 6:30 PM Bible Study

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September:

- 6 Scavenger Hunt. We will need drivers for this event.
- 12 Youth Council Retreat. Meet at the church at 8:30 AM
- 23 See You At The Pole. At your school.
- 27 Staff Hunt. Short Pump Mall: Lunch after 11:00 Service at Jason's Deli.

Thought for the Day: *"As it stands, many Christians take their doubts about God into their weekly lives and then come to church to express certainty. It should be the other way around."* - Peter Rollins

College/Young Adults Events

Every Wednesday night Fellowship and Bible Study at First Baptist Church, 7:30 PM in the Chapel. Serendipity Bible Study

GRIEFSHARE starts Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 PM in Room # 216.

What is GRIEFSHARE? It's a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss a loved one. This seminar helps you on your journey from mourning to joy. This is for anyone in church, the community and beyond. Please help us to spread the word about GRIEFSHARE.

Parish Nurse

Our next **Blood Drive** will be **September 20** from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Thompson Hall. Register by calling the church office, or by signing up in the Commons Area the next two Sundays.

Ukrop's will have a Flu Clinic on Wednesday October 7 in Thompson Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Sign-ups begin the week of September 14, call the church office. The Swine Flu vaccine will not be available at church.

Thank You Notes

*To my church family,
Thank you for your prayers and cards, your visits to the hospital and my home, the phone calls, and food. I'm so blessed to have you all.*

Christine A. McClintock

Pearl Luck WOM

The Pearl Luck WOM group is selling a new Church Keepsake Ornament. Orders are taken in front of the Parlor Room. All proceeds to benefit WMU Ministries.

Grace Sightings . . .

"Power and authority can be seductive." - Laura McDaniel

CCDC News

It is time for school to begin. We will begin our fall program on Tuesday, but the preschool program will start on Monday, September 14. Everyone is looking forward to an exciting year. We wish everyone a safe and blessed school year.

Linda Ficklin, Director

Senior Adult News

September 15 Noon, Quarterly Luncheon, Menu: Chicken Florentine, Parsley Potatoes, Cranberry Congealed Salad, Rolls, Tailgate Apple Cake & Beverages. Program: "Wings of Hope" Call church to make reservations, please cancel reservations early or you will still be required to pay for the meal.

October 8 Book Fair. Mount Crawford, VA. Will leave church at 8:00 AM.

Congratulations

To Joe and Carrie Barker on the birth of their twin boys, Aiden Lee and Talon Lee, on Monday, August 31.

Their proud grandparents are Tammy and Henry Van Gils, and proud great grandparents are Pat and Buddy Gilbert.

STATISTICS - Financial - Attendance - Budget Requirements

Weekly Data:

Budget Requirements	\$ 15,907.00	BUS FUND (TD)	\$5,699.50
Budget Receipts (08/30/09)	\$ 11,936.00	Memorial Garden	\$55.00
Building Fund (08/30/09)	\$ 3,960.00		
(In memory of Billy Thomasson	\$1,410.00)		
Cost of New Sanctuary	\$4,675,000		
Current Loan Balance	\$ 615,000	<u>2009 Budget Requirements</u>	
Less Building Fund Balance	<u>7,460</u>	Needs to Date:	\$ 553,744
Additional Gifts Needed	\$ 607,540	Gifts to Date:	\$ 557,032

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Worship:

8:30	116
11:00	237

Sunday School:

Members	310
Visitors	11
Total	321

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

800 Thompson Street
Ashland, VA 23005
(804) 798-9014
Fax: 804-798-9043

Email: fbcashland@verizon.net
Website: firstbaptistashland.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Robert E. Thompson, Pastor
James F. Townsend, Associate Pastor
Frederick Horn, Minister of Music
and Family Life
Barbara H. Hollowell, Minister of Youth
and College Ministry
Betty F. Stadnick, Parish Nurse
Linda Ficklin, CCDC Director
Joanie L. Tompkins, Administrative Asst.
Lisa Reckley, Administrative Asst.
Kenneth R. LeFevre, Focus Editor

Attention Men!

Since there will not be a Promise Keepers Conference in the area this year, we are considering going to Norfolk on **Thursday, September 24** for "**An Evening with Dr. David Jeremiah**". Call the church office to sign-up!

Also, the Men's Bible Study group will meet again Wednesday nights starting September 16 at 6:15 PM in Room #205 with study of the Book of Revelation!

Beth Moore Bible Studies:

"Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman"

- **Wednesday mornings**, starts September 9 at 9:30 AM in Room #208 at church. Childcare provided. Contact Peggy Shelton at 798-2008 for info & book order.
- **Wednesday nights**, starts September 16 at 6:00 PM in Room #208 at church. Contact Tammy Van Gils at 798-7802 for info & book order.

"The Inheritance"

- **Tuesday nights**, starts September 15 at 7:00 PM at Earlene Mitchell's home.
- **Sunday afternoons**, starts September 13 at 4:00 PM in Room #208 at church. Contact Diana Chappell at 883-6260 for info & book order (\$5.00)

Prayer Concerns

OUR MEMBERS: Barbara Cochran - St. Mary's; Nancy Nordin, Robert Crowder, Betty McLaughlin, Polly Hollins, Margaret J. Caudle, Charles Baltz, Nancy Melton, Doris Yowell.

FOR OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS: Barker twins (Joe & Carrie); David Carter (Lydia Collins); Norris Dyke (Opal & Logan Dyke); Kenny Allanson (Roy Saettel); Lizzie Powell (Peggie Haley); Katherine Correll and Brandon Rawlings (Gloria Horne); Walter Gibson (Harold Brooks); Linda Platt (Jackie Dougherty); Dick McGrew, Charlene Dillard and Kayla Nunnery (Peggy & Rob Dillard); Jerry McGraw, Evelyn Smith and Lee Grant (Pat Ross); Ken Kuniak and Sherri Pollick (Geri Gleeson); Nancy Miffleton (Marti Glave); Carolyn Powell (Luke Powell); Francis Hurdle (Dot Lee); Deb Williams (Lydia Collins); Victor and Elizabeth Sarna, Cindy Richmond (Kay Rooke); Gail Glave (Brandon & Hunter Glave); Jim Hilton (Sara Hilton); Ballard Jewell (Ann Bales); Norma Hopper (Crystal Hopper); Wesley Smart (Lemoine Smart); Doni Williams (Jeff Gerhart); Gary and Beverly Cash (Derek LeFevre); Polly Raines (Venetia Redd); Joan Nevel (Delores Tignor & Linwood Garris); Ricky Dingus and Gracie Mabery, John and Marie Johnson (Charlotte DeLuke); Frankie Sutton and Rick Ivey (Dick and Lois Ivey); Barry Craig, Sharon, Delvin & Lily Roberts, Thurston & Fairchild families, Shirley Starner, Carrie Harper and Dorothy Bynum (Nancy Melton); Jori Heckman (Tom Ficklin); Wanda Anderson (Bernie Marsh); Don Cunningham (David Snipe); Lenora Cook (Grace Robinson); Adriel Edwards (Bill Chisholm); Charlotte Reynolds (Horn's & Wendy Farmer); Janet Brannon Phillips and John Carwile (Jane & Rob Wait); Web Buchanan (Dot Buchanan); Julie Chapman & family (Travis Edwards); Don Lahy (Steve Owen); Sandra Anderson (Jane McAlexander); Scott Towne (Randy Howard); Chanel Hobbs (Tricia Dalton); Al Willett (Gilmans); Richard Bagby (Jim & Betty Ellis); Ruth Hall (Watson Hall); Shyanne Shane; William Sumner (Freida Bryant); Jonni Farish and VeraLee Leigers (Caroline Jablonskis); Melissa Chapman (Judy Futch); Scotty and Dottie Scott (Ginger Collison); George Glenn (Roy & Peggie Haley); Angela DeVoe (Kim Hutcheson); Denver Bridwell (Buddy & Myra Weston); Tammy Trapani (Susan Glisson); Rose Parsley (Joyce Parsley); Jim McLean, Jr. (Jim & Mary McLean); Karen Snyder (Beth Mallory); Zach Fields (Don Fields); Diane Ballard (Kathy Powell); Margaret Oberholtzer (Gail Dail); Ed Walinsky (Mick & Carol Outten); Tommy Clemons (Alison Clemons); Robert Blanchard (Terri Cook); Ryan Southworth (Elsa Gray Thompson). **Our military personnel and especially our country.**