



Vol. XXIX No. 36

## First Baptist Church

# The Focus

September 13, 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**

### **From the Wednesday Night Supper Committee:**

Kathy will be out of town the first Wednesday Night Supper on the 16th. However, we have a **Mystery Cook** for that night. Hope to see you there!

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

**[Firstbaptistashland.org](http://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

**The Alpha Course is starting!** Alpha is a practical introduction to Christian faith and an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. 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 13 - 19, 2009**

#### **Sunday - 13 "Promotion Sunday"**

8:30 a.m. Worship  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:45 a.m. Deacon-Led Prayer Time  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
**4:00 p.m. "The Inheritance" Bible Study (#208)**  
**5:00 p.m. "Praise in Motion" Bell Choir (#246)**  
 6:00 p.m. Youth

#### **Monday - 14**

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

#### **Tuesday - 15**

6:00/7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Groups  
**7:00 p.m. "The Inheritance" Bible Study at Mitchell's home**

#### **Wednesday - 16**

**9:30 a.m. "Esther" Bible Study (#208)**  
 5:00 p.m. Supper  
**5:45 p.m. Youth Choir**  
 6:00-7:45 p.m. Library Open

6:00 p.m. Banner/Sewing/Knitting (#201)  
 6:00 p.m. GA's, RA's (Girls Gr. 1-2: #203; Girls Gr. 3-4: #215; Girls Gr. 5-6: #230; Boys: #217)  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer & Share (Robert)  
 6:00 p.m. GriefShare (#216)  
**6:00 p.m. "Esther" Bible Study (#208)**  
 6:15 p.m. Men's Bible Study (#205)  
 6:30 p.m. "Standing in Grace" Women's Choir (#135)  
 6:30 p.m. "OK Chorale" Men's Choir (#241)  
**6:30 p.m. "Fred's Follies" in Ellis Hall**  
 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir (#130)  
 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. College Bible Study (Chapel)  
**7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee**  
**7:40 p.m. Sanctuary Choir**  
**Thursday - 17**  
**5:00 p.m. ALPHA Course in Ellis Hall**

## A Word From Our Pastor

### We miss being with you today!

We are worshipping with the **Port Norfolk Baptist Church** in Portsmouth, Va. This was my home church. My mother carried me there when I was six months old and those folks nurtured and loved me for eighteen plus years and some of them still love me! They're celebrating their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are a wonderful body of Christ and God has used them in great ways.

**Your food gifts last Sunday are making a difference!** We brought 180 cans of food and there was also money donated. That amount of food will be able to feed a good number of people. Thank you for what you have done. Our next opportunity to bring food gifts in worship will be **October 4. On that Sunday at 4:00 p.m. we will have our first "Blessing of the Animals" service.** We will meet in the front of the sanctuary. This

service is a time to give thanks for some of the family members we leave at home when we come to church...our pets. Bring your pets and share a time of thanks for all of God's creatures. In the creation story, God created all the animals and as He created, He called them good. Come share with us.

I was reading another church newsletter and was reminded that 2009 is the year of celebrating 400 years of Baptist influence in our world. Our Baptist history began in 1609 when the first Baptist Church was formed. The article referenced Walter Shurden's book, "*The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms.*" Dr. Shurden identified four freedoms in Baptist life. They are **Bible freedom, Soul freedom, Church freedom and Religious freedom.** Bible freedom says the scriptures are to be central in our Christian lives and that we are free and obligated to study and obey the

scriptures. **Soul freedom** reminds us that it is the right and responsibility of every person to form a relationship with God "without the imposition of creed, clergy or civil government."

**Church freedom** that the local church is free to determine their direction, worship, work, and who they choose to participate with in the larger Body of Christ. **Religious freedom** is the "affirmation of freedom of religion, freedom for religion and freedom from religion." Those freedoms make me glad I am a Baptist. Happy Birthday to us!

Make sure you **sign up for our Family Night Dinner** and take advantage of the Bible Studies and other opportunities on Wednesday nights.

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:** Volleyball, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**This Wednesday Night:** 6:30 PM Bible Study

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **September:**

- **23 See You At The Pole.** At your school.
- **27 Staff Hunt.** Short Pump Mall: Lunch after 11:00 Service at Jason's Deli. All you need is money for lunch.

**The Chosen Award** this week: to Lisa Horn, Jeff & Bernie Marsh, Maria Howard, Ruth Marks, Anna Olson and our Youth for a great Scavenger Hunt. Thanks for the giving of your time with us!

### **College/Young Adults Events**

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

## **WED-NITE SUPPER**

### **Menu for September 16**

Chicken with Stuffing  
Green Beans, Tossed Salad & Rolls  
Fruit Cobbler w/ Ice Cream  
OR Sugar-free Jello

### **Child's Special:**

Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans,  
Ice Cream

All meal reservations, cancellations and changes to standing reservations must be made by Monday at Noon, unless an emergency occurs after that deadline.

### **Ellis Hall**

"Fred's Follies"

The Exploring Christianity Class will provide volunteers for September 16.

### **Upcoming Programs:**

**Sept. 23: Canada Mission Report**  
**Sept. 30: Italy Mission Report**

## 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.

## Congratulations

*To Robert Thompson on his 17th Year Anniversary on September 8 as Pastor - First Baptist Church, Ashland.*

*To Georgia Johanson on her 2nd Year Anniversary in September as Nursery Worker.*

## Pearl Luck WOM

The Pearl Luck WOM group is selling a new Church Keepsake Ornament. Orders are taken in front of the Parlor Room on Sundays, and in the hall outside the kitchen on Wednesday nights. All proceeds to benefit WMU Ministries.

## Grace Sightings . . .

*"So much has been given to me; I have no time to ponder over that which has been denied."*  
- Helen Keller

## CCDC News

The childcare had a lot of new faces this week. We have openings in all age groups. If you know of anyone who needs childcare, please tell them about us. We welcome all children.

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.



*Our deepest sympathy and love goes to Grace Robinson in the death of her sister, Lenore Cook; AND to Jack Brunton in the death of his sister, Darlene Henderson.*

## STATISTICS - Financial - Attendance - Budget Requirements

### Weekly Data:

Budget Requirements	\$ 15,907.00	BUS FUND (TD)	\$5,699.50
Budget Receipts (09/06/09)	\$ 19,293.35	Memorial Garden	\$50.00
Building Fund (09/06/09)	\$ 3,305.00	State Missions (TD)	\$445.00
(In memory of Billy Thomasson	250.00)		
Cost of New Sanctuary	\$4,675,000		
Current Loan Balance	\$ 615,000	<b><u>2009 Budget Requirements</u></b>	
Less Building Fund Balance	<u>10,765</u>	<b>Needs to Date:</b>	\$ 569,651
<b>Additional Gifts Needed</b>	<b>\$ 604,235</b>	<b>Gifts to Date:</b>	\$ 576,326

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday, September 06, 2009

#### Worship:

8:30	120
11:00	215

#### Sunday School:

Members	301
Visitors	09
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>

## 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 - *Health South*, Jim McLean - *Memorial Reg.*; Nancy Nordin, Robert Crowder, Betty McLaughlin, Polly Hollins, Margaret J. Caudle, Charles Baltz, Nancy Melton, Doris Yowell.

**FOR OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS:** Ben Hutcheson (Phillip Hutcheson); 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); 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 (Gilman); 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.**