

# *The First Baptist Evangel*

*September 14, 2014*



**First Baptist Church of West Point** is seeking to be a caring community of faith under the leadership of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***Celebrating*** the presence and love of God in worship,

***Nourishing*** persons in faith and discipleship, and

***Reaching Out*** to the community with Christ's unconditional love.

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CCLI #2561039

## *Welcome*

We welcome you to worship at First Baptist this morning. Please help us be more faithful in our ministry to you, and get to know you better, by taking the time to put your name on the attendance pad found on your pew.

Visitors, please feel free to provide as little or as much of the information requested on the pad. We promise to only contact you if you ask us to, and to only send information as you request.

Members, if you have had a change to your mailing address, email, or telephone number please let us know by supplying that information on the pad.

## *Please Especially Note for Today...*

**Sunday School teachers** are needed. If you are interested please sign your name by the position of interest on the sheet on your pew.

**Sign-up sheets** for Nursery workers, PEW Ministry and Scripture readers are located throughout the church.

**WOM will meet** at Dianne Hester's home on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Please bring paper products and cleaning supplies for Hannah Home.

**Please join us this week** for Prayer Meeting at 5:30, supper at 6:00 and other activities after supper. You can still make a permanent reservation by calling or emailing the church office. Remember, we need to know if you will be coming for the meal.

**The Deacons** will meet next Sunday at 9:00 AM in the library.

**There will be a CPR class** immediately after morning worship on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided. Sign-up sheets are located in the Sunday School classes, Café, Gold Room and other locations throughout the church.

**October is FBC's month** to help in the food closet. Sign-up sheets are located in the Sunday School rooms, the Café and the Gold Room.

## *Ministry Leaders*

### *Nursery Workers*

Today: Karen Hill  
Next Sunday: Carolyn Scannell  
September 28: Dale Frazer

### *PEW Ministry Leaders*

Today: Ann Kerr & Faith Graben  
Next Sunday: Phoebe Graben and  
Lisa Tucker  
September 28: Jeri Smith and  
Emma Dallas

### *Offertory Prayer Leader*

Today: Chuck Smith  
Next Sunday: Roger Hales  
September 28: George Hester

**Phil Abercrombie** is responsible for the opening and closing of the church during the month of **September** followed by **David Kerr** in **October**.

## *Weekly Schedule of Activities*

### *Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>*

9:45—Sunday School  
11:00—Worship

### *Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>*

5:30—Prayer Meeting  
6:00—Family Night Supper  
Menu: Chicken Pie  
6:30—Team KID  
6:30—Youth 4/12  
6:35—Choir Practice

### *Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>*

9:00—Deacons' Meeting  
9:45—Sunday School  
11:00—Worship

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,  
“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as  
in the rebellion,  
on the day of testing in the  
wilderness...”

—Hebrews 3:7-8

# *Celebrating the Presence and Love of God in Worship*

September 14, 2014

11:00 AM

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM TUCKER

## **ENTERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP

TOM TUCKER

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

**All the earth worships you  
and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.**

—Psalm 66:1-2,4

PRELUDE

DANIEL SMITH

*For your meditation:*

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

—Hebrews 3: 12-15

INVOCATION

TOM TUCKER

PSALM

DEBRA DOWNS

*Psalm 119:105-112*

- <sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.  
<sup>106</sup> I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to keep your righteous rules.  
<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O LORD, according to your word!  
<sup>108</sup> Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,  
and teach me your rules.  
<sup>109</sup> I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget your law.  
<sup>110</sup> The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I do not stray from your precepts.  
<sup>111</sup> Your testimonies are my heritage forever,

for they are the joy of my heart.  
<sup>112</sup> I incline my heart to perform your statutes  
forever, to the end.

*This is the word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

GREETING THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS

To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ gathered here  
today: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

—based on Colossians 1:2

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE (#2)

NICAEA

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

CONGREGATION

**God—the great creator of all things—upholds, directs,  
disposes, and governs all creatures, actions, and things,  
from the greatest even to the least.**

**He exercises this most wise and holy providence  
according to his infallible foreknowledge and the free and  
unchangeable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the  
glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.**

—from *The Westminster Confession of Faith in Modern English*, 5.1

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

TOM TUCKER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TOM TUCKER

The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works. The  
LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed  
down.

—Psalms 145:13b-14

GOD’S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

TOM TUCKER

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your  
heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the  
great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love  
your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all  
the Law and the Prophets.”

—Matthew 22:37-40

OFFERTORY HYMN (#333)

SHOWALTER

*“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

CHUCK SMITH

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

DANIEL SMITH

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

*“Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow”*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Children ages 3-5 may leave for PEW Ministry during this hymn.)

**GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

TOM TUCKER

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JOE DOWNS

*Isaiah 55:10-13*

- <sup>10</sup> “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup> “For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

THE GOSPEL LESSON

JOE DOWNS

*Luke 8:4-15*

<sup>4</sup> And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, <sup>5</sup> “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup> And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup> And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

<sup>9</sup> And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup> he

said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’<sup>11</sup> Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.<sup>12</sup> The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.<sup>13</sup> And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.<sup>14</sup> And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.<sup>15</sup> As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON

TOM TUCKER

*Acts 24:1-27*

<sup>1</sup> And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul.<sup>2</sup> And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying: “Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation,<sup>3</sup> in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude.<sup>4</sup> But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly.<sup>5</sup> For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.<sup>6</sup> He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him.\*<sup>8</sup> By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

<sup>9</sup> The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so.<sup>10</sup> And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: “Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense.<sup>11</sup> You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem,<sup>12</sup> and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city.<sup>13</sup> Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me.<sup>14</sup> But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,<sup>15</sup> having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.<sup>16</sup> So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.<sup>17</sup> Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings.<sup>18</sup> While I was doing this,

they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia—<sup>19</sup> they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. <sup>20</sup> Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, <sup>21</sup> other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’”

<sup>22</sup> But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.” <sup>23</sup> Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.

<sup>24</sup> After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.” <sup>26</sup> At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. <sup>27</sup> When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

*\*Some manuscripts add and we would have judged him according to our law. <sup>7</sup>But the chief captain Lysias came and with great violence took him out of our hands, <sup>8</sup>commanding his accusers to come before you.*

SERMON

TOM TUCKER

HYMN OF RESPONSE(#416)

OLIVET

*“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”*

## **DEPARTING TO SERVE**

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND REACHING OUT

- WOM will meet at 6:00 PM Monday at Dianne Hester’s home.
- Sunday School teachers are needed.
- Sign-up for Nursery, PEW Ministry and Scripture reading.
- Deacons will meet in the library next Sunday at 9:00 AM.
- Volunteer for the Food Closet in October.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

TOM TUCKER

THE CHARGE

TOM TUCKER

...[H]e appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart.

—Hebrews 4:7

THE BENEDICTION

TOM TUCKER

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

—2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

POSTLUDE

DANIEL SMITH

The pastor is available after the service at the front of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to talk more about today's message, learn about faith in Christ, church membership or for prayer. You may also make an appointment by calling the church office at 706-645-2969 or emailing him directly at [tucker@bcwestpoint.com](mailto:tucker@bcwestpoint.com).

## Sermon Notes

# *Nourishing Persons in Faith and Discipleship*

## *Caring for One Another*

As you intercede for others this week please lift up these particular concerns from here in our own congregation

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ● Mildred Shaver               | ● Emma Myers            |
| ● Geneva Bartlett              | ● Sara Jones            |
| ● William & Margaret Breedlove | ● Lillian Barber        |
| ● Florine Henderson            | ● Charles & Mary Clark  |
| ● Dot Jacobs                   | ● Richard & Pat Kemp    |
| ● Byron & Mary Ann McEachern   | ● Paul and Ann Fiquette |
| ● Jessica Bolton               | ● Dan McLane            |
| ● Margaret Bartlett            |                         |

**Be sure to join in** our Family Night Activities on Wednesday evening. We'll have Prayer Meeting at 5:30 followed by our Family Night meal at 6:00. Choir practice, TeamKID and Youth 4/12 will meet after the meal. Please call the church office if you plan to eat supper.

**Wednesday night Prayer Meeting** offers us a chance to share our concerns and join together in prayer over them, as well as a few minutes of focused Bible study. This fall we will be exploring the Beatitudes. Come join us in the chapel at 5:30.

**Youth 4/12** is back in full swing for the fall. We have begun a 5-week study entitled *Faith Commander* with the children from the TV show *Duck Dynasty*. Join us upstairs at 6:30.

**Handbells will resume on September 28<sup>th</sup>**. Joyful Noise will meet from 4:00-4:45 PM. Adults will meet at 5:00 PM. New players are welcome. Joyful Noise players are from first grade up. Let Debra Downs know if you are interested.

*Reaching Out to the Community with Christ's Unconditional Love*

**On September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Dr. Claude King, who co-wrote the book, *Experiencing God* will be at Troup Baptist Association Missions and Ministry Center, located at 1301 Washington Street in LaGrange. He will lead in a time of Spiritual Renewal entitled "Fresh Encounter."

The Monday night session from 6:30-8:30 PM, will be a condensed version of the presentation Dr. King will lead on Tuesday from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM.

During the Tuesday session, we are requesting that all who can and will come prepared to "fast" lunch. We will have nutritious snacks for those with medical conditions that might prevent you from fasting.

There is no charge for either of the two days of "Fresh Encounter." However, we do request that each church RSVP the number that will attend.

## *The Bulletin Board*

### ***September Birthdays***

1— Susan Norman  
9—Brian Scannell  
11—Steve Thompson  
13—Debbie McLane  
17—Debbie Thompson  
18—Carolyn Hill  
23—Janice Dallas  
23—Beverly Bohem  
24—Michael Thompson  
29—Bill Adams  
30—Emma Myers

### ***Looking ahead:***

A CPR class will be held immediately after the worship service on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will also be provided. Sign up sheets are located in various places throughout the church.

### ***Will you use your gifts to serve Christ's church this year?***

It is time to sign up to assist in the nursery, to lead or assist with PEW ministry and to volunteer to read Scripture on Sundays during the worship service. All of these minister to the people of FBC. Please prayerfully consider in which of these areas you feel you can use your time, gifts and abilities. Sign-up sheets are located in the Sunday School classrooms, the Café and the Gold Room.

*Church Staff*

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