

The First Baptist Evangel

September 7, 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...

The Deacons are leading a clean-up crew on Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 PM. The goal is to remove the overgrowth and clean up around the Educational Building air conditioning units.

Our first Family Night for Fall was great. 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.

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

The Nominating Committee will meet Wednesday night during supper.

Sign-up sheets for Nursery workers, PEW Ministry and Scripture readers are located 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: Stephanie McLane
Next Sunday: Karen Hill
September 21: Carolyn Scannell

PEW Ministry Leaders

Today: Jerri Bolton
Next Sunday: Ann Kerr &
Faith Graben
September 21: Phoebe Graben and
Lisa Tucker

Offertory Prayer Leader

Today: Jack Combs
Next Sunday: Chuck Smith
September 21: Roger Hales

Weekly Schedule of Activities

Sunday, September 7th

9:45—Sunday School
11:00—Worship

Tuesday, September 9th

6:00—Deacon-led clean up

Wednesday, September 10th

5:30—Prayer Meeting
6:00—Family Night Supper
Menu: Taco Salad
Nominating Committee Meeting
6:30—Team KID
6:30—Youth 4/12
6:35—Choir Practice

Sunday, September 14th

9:45—Sunday School
11:00—Worship

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

No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.

—Isaiah 54:17

Celebrating the Presence and Love of God in Worship

September 7, 2014

11:00 AM

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:

I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours
can be thwarted.

—Job 42:2

INVOCATION

TOM TUCKER

PSALM

BRAD McLAIN

Psalm 124

A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID.

¹ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—
let Israel now say—

² **if it had not been the LORD who was on our side
when people rose up against us,**

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger
was kindled against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ then over us would have gone the raging waters.

⁶ **Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their
teeth!**

⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

⁸ **Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

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 (#546)

SAFETY

“Love Lifted Me”

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 (#423)

GIFT OF LOVE

“Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

JACK COMBS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

FBC CHOIR

“Now I Belong to Jesus”

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

OLD 100TH

“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

Esther 4

¹When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. ²He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. ³And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. ⁵Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. ⁶Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, ⁷and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. ⁹And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, ¹¹"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

¹²And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. ¹³Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as

this?”¹⁵ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,¹⁶ “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”¹⁷ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

HOWARD BRYAN

Luke 12:4-12

⁴ “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

⁸ “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,⁹ but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.¹¹ And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say,¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON

HOWARD BRYAN

Acts 23:12-35

¹² When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.¹³ There were more than forty who made this conspiracy.¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul.¹⁵ Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near.”

¹⁶ Now the son of Paul’s sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.¹⁷ Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him.”¹⁸ So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, “Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you.”¹⁹ The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, “What is it that you have to

tell me?”²⁰ And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him.²¹ But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent.”²² So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, “Tell no one that you have informed me of these things.”

²³ Then he called two of the centurions and said, “Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night.²⁴ Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor.”

²⁵ And he wrote a letter to this effect:

²⁶ “Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings.
²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen.²⁸ And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council.²⁹ I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment.³⁰ And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.”

³¹ So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.³² And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him.³³ When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him.³⁴ On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia,³⁵ he said, “I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.” And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod’s praetorium.

SERMON

TOM TUCKER

“Living in God’s Hands”

HYMN OF RESPONSE (#469)

REVIVE US AGAIN

“Revive Us Again”

DEPARTING TO SERVE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND REACHING OUT

- Join us for Bible Study, Fellowship Supper and Activities each Wednesday night.
- Deacon-led cleanup on Tuesday at 6:00 PM.
- Sign-up for Nursery, PEW Ministry and Scripture reading

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

TOM TUCKER

THE CHARGE

TOM TUCKER

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

—Proverbs 3:5–6

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.

Sermon Notes

“Living in God’s Hands”

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. This Wednesday we begin 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 28th. 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 22nd and 23rd, 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.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

In memory of Ann Johnson

by: Dr. and Mrs. N. Tyrus Ivey
Dr. and Mrs. John Page

In memory of Betty Frazer

by: Shelia Long

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 Kerr
24—Michael Thompson
29—Bill Adams
30—Emma Myers

The week ahead:



Don't forget the Deacon-led cleanup on Tuesday at 6:00 PM.

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.

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