

Ministers

Paul Baxley	<i>Senior Minister</i>
Frank Granger	<i>Minister of Christian Community</i>
Randy Brittain	<i>Minister of Music</i>
Janet Cleland	<i>Minister of Children, Families, and Outreach</i>
Brandon Pendry	<i>Minister of Youth and Mission</i>
Emily Harbin	<i>Minister of College Students</i>
Anne Brittain	<i>Organist and Music Associate</i>
Alan McArthur	<i>Pianist</i>



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 OPEN

To Love To Serve To Explore For You

May 6, 2018
11:00 a.m.

*The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Children's Sunday*

Creative Brooding

Do you remember the day you first held your child in your arms? Did you have any idea you could love that tiny baby so much? Parenthood does something deep inside of us, it opens us up to love in ways we had not ever imagined. It gives us a glimpse of how much God loves us.

Lisa Miller in her book, “The Spiritual Child” writes these words: “The foundation for a personal spirituality is laid in the first decade of life. From birth through about age twelve, we’re hardwired to learn about the world and ourselves in it as a spiritual experience and in the context of relationship. Love is the medium and the field of love is the context. When we feel love from our parents and others, we experience ourselves as one with a loving universe, connected with others and part of the larger world.”

God created us for Himself, He takes delight in us and loves us beyond measure. As you love and delight in your children be reminded that God is loving and delighting in you. We are all on a journey of receiving love from God and giving love back to God. Truly this adventure begins at conception and continues until our last breath. God commands us to love Him with all that we are and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are commanded to teach our children to love God and others. May you and your family always strive to be Open to Love!

“Beloved, let us love one another; because love is from God...”

I John 4: 7a

*First Baptist Church is a thriving community in Christ
where we all participate in worship
and are transformed by mission.*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, May 6

8:30 a.m. Nominating Committee— Farrall Conf. Rm.
9:15 a.m. Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — 3rd Floor Gathering Area
9:45—10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages— throughout the building
11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Next Steps Team — 3rd Floor Gathering Area
4:30 p.m. Youth Meet at FBC for Funopolis

Monday, May 7

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting — Farrall Conference Rm.

Tuesday, May 8

7:30 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast — Em’s Kitchen
12:00 noon Bible Study — Rm. 324
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #22 — Rm. 337/339

Wednesday, May 9

5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper — Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Property Management Team — Farrall Conf. Rm.
6:00 p.m. Children’s Choirs and Mission Kids Recognition — Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir — Choir Rm.

Thursday, May 10

9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study — Church Library

Friday, May 11

5:30 p.m. Foundation Mtg. —Farrall Conference Rm.

Sunday, May 13

9:15 a.m. Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — 3rd Floor Gathering Area
9:30 a.m. High School Graduate Breakfast and Recognition — Fellowship Hall
9:45—10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages— throughout the building
11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary

Recent Prayer Concerns

- We extend our Christian love and sympathy to:
- the family of Virginia Appleton who died on April 26.
 - Kim Smith and her family in the loss of her father, Bill Carson on April 28.
 - Carol Haynsworth — The Oaks, Rm. 503
 - Abby Hayes — Anna Randa’s sister, cancer
 - Zuzanna Kotchuchova and newborn daughter Tereza
 - H.D. Lambeth — John Lambeth’s father
 - Jack Ramsay — home

The Sunday Messenger

Community Notes

Join us this Wednesday, May 9 to recognize our **CHILDRENS CHOIRS AND MISSION KIDS**. At the end of the Wednesday Night Dinner, the children will have an opportunity to make ice cream sundaes. At 6:00 p.m., children will be recognized for their participation in choir and mission.

Register online for the **2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** on June 11-14 from 9 am to noon. "Lights, Camera, Action!" is the theme for this year's VBS, open to children who are rising Kindergartners through seventh grade. Please register on the FBC website.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING for Vacation Bible School will be held on Wednesday, May 16. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and childcare is available by contacting Heather Swank in the church office (heather@firstbaptistathens.org).

Online registration is also available for our **FINE ARTS CAMP** on July 16-19 from 8:00 am to noon. This camp is open to children who have completed Kindergarten through rising seventh grade. The cost of the camp is \$25/child or \$20/sibling if more than one sibling attends together.

Our Church on Mission

Emergency Food Bank Needs: Saltines, Macaroni & Cheese, Hamburger Helper

Golfers are invited to participate in Mercy Health Center's **PAR 3 FOR PATIENTS** golf tournament on Monday, May 21. The entry fee for the scramble is \$100 per person and includes green fees, cart, range balls, swag bag and a ticket for the cookout and concert following the tournament. Sign up online: goo.gl/hGUUwS. Proceeds benefit Mercy Health Center.



Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in memory of Janey Cooley and in honor all the teachers and helpers who graciously give of their time and love to work with the children of our church by Jess, Fay, Amy, Zachary and Reagan Rawls.



The Worship of God

Chiming of the Trinity		Jack Gulley
Prelude	<i>Amazing Grace</i> <i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i> Owen, Charlotte, and Emily Gertsch	arr. Martha Mier arr. Mier
Celebration of Believer's Baptism	Sarah Mendes	Paul Baxley
Call to Worship	<i>Praise Him! Praise Him!</i> Brownie Bears, Young Musicians, and Joyful Singers	Carey Bonner
Anthem	<i>I Will Praise the Lord</i> Brownie Bear Choir; Sarah Deal, Director	Joanne and Milton LeDoux
Invocation		Jon Millians
*Hymn 341	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	DIX
Parent/Child Dedication	Child: Elizabeth Greene Bryson Parents: Caroline and Danny Bryson Brother: Henry Bryson	Paul Baxley
Litany of Dedication	Minister: Lord, you have blessed this couple with the gift of this child. We welcome her in the same spirit that you welcome us, your children. We give thanks for all of our children and the joy they bring to our families.	Janet Cleland
	Parents: We thank you, Lord, for the gift of our child.	
	Minister: I pray that you will draw upon all the resources of faith, love, and discipline to aid her on her journey through life. This life is a special gift of God that is meant to be lived in an attitude of praise. Do you promise to raise Elizabeth in an environment of faith and love?	

Parents: We do.

Minister: Will you as family members freely give of yourselves to Elizabeth, nurturing her and loving her in the special ways that only you can supply?

Family: We will.

Minister: Will this congregation receive this child into our church family to love and nurture? Will you seek to provide her and her parents with opportunities for worship and spiritual growth?

People: We will.

Congregational Prayer:

Help us, O God, to joyfully nurture Elizabeth within your Church. Bring her by your grace to baptism, that Christ may dwell in her heart through faith. Give power to Elizabeth and to us, that we may grasp the breadth and length, the height and depth, of Christ's love. Enable us to know this love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 685 *Children Are a Gift from Heaven* HARLAN

Verse 1: Lily Gordon

Verse 2: Maria Baxley

Verse 3: Danielle Williamson

Verse 4: Skylar Randa

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain after each verse.

First Lesson I John 5: 1-6 Charles Millians and Dawson Sporn

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Anthems *Amen Siakudumisa* Vicki Hancock Wright

You Are There Joanne and Milton LeDoux

Music Makers Choir; Jennifer Baxley, Director; Emily Gertsch, Accompanist

Prayers of the Children Melina De la Vega, Danielle Williamson, and Maria Baxley

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Testimony Lily Gordon

Anthems *Alleluia, All Creation Sing* Sandy Wilkinson

Higher Than the Heavens Marion Gerow

Joyful Singers Choir; Teresa Granger, Director; Margaret Earnest, Accompanist

Second Lesson John 15: 9-17 Zachary Rawls and Sam Lumpkin

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Open to Love* Paul Baxley

***Hymn 603** *Jesus Loves Me* CHINA

***Prayer of Stewardship** Skylar Randa

Offertory *What a Friend/Blessed Assurance* Converse/Knapp

Elinor Ellis, Piano

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Beethoven

Zachary Rawls, Flute

***Response of the People** *Doxology* OLD 100TH

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

***Recognition of Commitments** Paul Baxley

***Benediction** *An Irish Blessing* Lee Turner

Melina De la Vega, Soloist

**Please stand, if able.*