

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SERVICES,
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED THROUGH
THE END OF MARCH**

In order to help slow the spread of COVID-19, President Trump has asked Americans to not gather in groups of more than 10 for the next 15 days.

- We will be recording messages and putting them on the internet in the coming days. Visit our church website www.fbcwoodruff.org this weekend for a link to those messages. (At our church conference this past Sunday night the church approved the purchase of equipment that will help us to live stream and/or post our services regularly on the internet once we are able to resume public gatherings.)
- Check on each other. During this time that we are not able to meet together, reach out by telephone to those in your Sunday School class and others that God places on your heart. Contact our pastor, church staff or deacons if you discover ways our church can be a channel of God's love and care. If you are in an "at risk" category and need help picking up groceries or items from the pharmacy, please contact us. We are very happy to help.
- Pray! Pray for families and individuals who have this virus as well as those in care facilities and other places who are separated from support networks because of quarantines. Pray for researchers, doctors, nurses and others who are on the front lines of this pandemic. Pray for our leaders on all levels who are having to make difficult and unprecedented decisions. Pray for our students and teachers who are having to find creative ways to minimize the disruption of educational opportunities. Pray for those whose financial livelihood and jobs are threatened by this crisis. Pray for churches across our country who are working in creative ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus in these troubled times. Pray that God's people would continue to give faithfully even if their church can not have services so that ministries can continue in the future. Pray for the individuals and families that make up our church. Pray and look for ways that God will bring good from evil and life from death and use the difficulties of these days to draw us closer to Him.
- Remember to give faithfully (through the mail or online or through the church office) so that our church will have the resources to continue to pay bills, meet obligations, enable ministry and serve effectively.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our love and prayerful support to **Johnny Osborne** and family in the death of his sister in law and **Kim McAbee** and family in the death of her aunt, **Mildred Osborne**.

IN HIS ARMS

Life is complicated and filled with the unexpected. Years ago a mother of eight, came home from a neighbor's one Saturday morning to find her five youngest children huddled together, concentrating intently on something. As she slipped near them, trying to discover the center of the attraction, she couldn't believe her eyes. Smack in the middle of the circle were several baby skunks. As calmly as she could she screamed for the children to run. And they did. Each kid grabbed a skunk and ran!

Trouble does seem to come in bunches. The ducks swarm around our heads. Jesus said, **"In this world you will have trouble."** *John 16:33* In the Book of Job we find... **"Man that is born of woman is a few days and full of trouble."** *Job 14:1* Dr. Klaus Festermann, an able German scholar who has done extensive study of the Hebrew says that the phrase **"full of trouble"** is the image of a parade. You stand watching a parade, and one segment goes by ... and another... and then another... **"Man who is born of woman is of few days, and trouble passes before him like a parade."** It is one thing after another.

Where is our refuge? Who is our strength? **From whence cometh our help?** If we are wise, we run to God's arms. As a child I remember the security of my parents' embrace. God longs to draw us into His everlasting, strong arms. **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1) His rod, His staff they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)**

He is **"The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."** *2 Corinthians 1:3* The English word "comfort" comes from two Latin words that together mean **"with strength."** The comfort of God is not a word of pity but of power. God's comfort does not weaken us; it strengthens us. God is not indulging us but empowering us.

I. God is greater than our Fears.

The admonition not to be afraid appears 365 times in the Bible. What God offers is not a hollow whistle in the dark, but a solid conviction that through Christ, **"all fear is gone."** There are times when nothing but faith will drive those dark doubts away. We can climb out of the lap of fear and into the arms of God and experience a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

II. God is greater than our Circumstances

Paul writes, **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."** *Romans 8:28* These verses are as important for what they do not say as they are for what they say: They do not say that everything that happens is good – it isn't. They do not say that everything will turn out okay for everyone – it won't. It does say that God is at work in the world, especially in the lives of His children. His glorious purpose is to make us like His Son, Jesus Christ. And to that end, God can and does use all things - the good and the bad - that which He causes and that which He only permits. The words **"work together"** – bring the idea of mixing chemicals in the right proportion for a healing effect.

III. God is greater than our Hearts.

As long as trouble and sorrow are absent from our lives, we can be proud and confident, egotistical and independent. But when our lives are troubled we may learn that we are creatures before the Creator, and we are dependent on Him. God is never so near as when we have come to the end of our resources. In the valleys of our dark moments we can learn that we are not gods but we are God's people. We are not independent beings but dependent personalities. We are not creators but creatures made by a Creator. We are not the captain of our soul but we have been redeemed by One who desires to be.

Do you know the comfort that comes from God? He is able to supply your needs. He is greater than our fears, greater than our circumstances, and greater than our hearts. Let Him draw you into His arms. Place yourselves in His hands. It requires faith and trust but there is no better place to live or to die. Let Him strengthen your heart right now.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Ruby Rhodes**, 3-22 **Ben Bailey**, 3-22
- Chad Webster**, 3-22 **Rayni Wilson**, 3-23
- Julia Howard**, 3-25 **Sandy Farmer**, 3-25
- Lynn Harrill**, 3-26 **Kathy Soza**, 3-26
- John Michael Soza**, 3-27 **Rowan Elliott**, 3-27

ONLINE GIVING

Secure online giving is available on our church website: www.fbcwoodruff.org Giving online is easy and convenient but if you need assistance, Carol Morgan, our Church Secretary, is able to help. Feel free to give her a call, 476-8171.

OVER AND ABOVE PROJECT

\$85,440.56 has been contributed!

CHURCH LOGO CONTEST

We would like to have a unique and identifiable logo for our church. Our deacons are willing to award \$100.00 to the person who designs the logo the church chooses. Please help us reach out to folks who have been blessed by God with artistic gifts. Entries need to be submitted by Sunday morning, April 19.

FUGE

June 8-13 * North Greenville University Join us for FUGE (summer youth camp) as we discover how to dwell with God, rest in His presence, push past distractions and focus on His peace. Spending time with the Lord changes everything! See Bryan Thompson as soon as possible if you would like to take part.

GOD'S PEACE

From a prison cell uncertain if he would live or die, Paul writes, **"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** *Philippians 4:4-7*

**MOLLY GRAYSON LAWSON,
ERYN BEELER & RHEA WILSON**

Serving this Summer at Look Up Lodge

We celebrate Molly Grayson Lawson, Eryn Beeler, & Rhea Wilson who will serve this summer on the staff of Look Up Lodge. They will have an incredible opportunity to make an impact on the lives of hundreds of children & youth from across the country. Pray for them as they prepare. They will be raising their own support. **If you would like to contribute simply write "Staff – Look Up Lodge" on the outside of the envelope.** They have each been asked to raise \$1,800.00 before April 5.

DAWSON SKINNER

To Serve on the staff of Camp McCall

We are excited for Dawson Skinner as he serves and commit to pray for him as he ministers in Jesus' name. Since 1960 Camp McCall, located in Pickens County, has ministered to Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and men of all ages. Many, many people from our church have benefited from the chapel services, missions education and recreational adventures. In the off-season, Camp McCall has been the location for numerous youth retreats and workdays. Several folks from our church have served on staff including, Todd Deaton, David Hix, Ben Brown and Patrick Elliott. We are grateful for the incredible difference the camp makes in people's lives and look forward to the way Dawson will use the gifts God has entrusted to him through his service this summer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE		Mar 15
Nursery		3
Children		9
Youth		4
Adults		70
Total Attendance		86
BUDGET		Mar 15
Needs	\$ 8,821.10	\$ 97,032.10
Offering	\$ 15,914.44	\$100,164.67
Over/(Under)	\$ 7,093.34	\$ 3,132.57
Additional Offerings Given for Special Accounts		
Annie Armstrong Offering		\$ 45.00
Wednesday Night Supper		\$ 81.00
Children's Nerf Wars		\$ 10.00
Theology Class		\$ 1,000.00



**ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING**
For North American Missions
Church Goal: \$3,500.00
Received: \$520.00

Being used by God to share His love & to see someone receive Jesus as their Savior is one of life's greatest blessings. Believers often play a critical role in sharing God's word as the Holy Spirit draws people to Christ.

Pray for the Lost: Pray that God inspires the lost to seek out the true meaning of life. Pray that God reveals to them the origin of their spiritual discontent. Pray that God will surround them with reminders of His love and people who can help them. Pray that God gives them the courage to acknowledge and turn from their sin. Pray that God will grant them the humility to ask for His help.

Tell Your Story: As God's instrument be prepared to give the reason for the hope that you have and be willing to share your testimony so that others may experience the wondrous love of Jesus. Be honest about the impact the Lord has had in your life as you have grown in your relationship with Christ.

Be Patient and Understanding: Don't be disappointed if the person you are trying to lead to Christ isn't immediately moved by the Holy Spirit or doesn't show the response you expect after discovering the Word of God. You'll need to be patient and answer questions and continue to lift Jesus up until the person's heart is transformed by Christ. God often uses a multitude of different experiences in a person's life.

Nurture the New Believer: New believers need your help to grow in spiritual maturity and become multiplying disciples themselves who bring others to Christ. Pray for new believers and ask God to work in their lives and solidify their new convictions and beliefs. Read the Bible together and share your knowledge of the Gospel. Introduce new believers to other Christians who can provide additional support and guidance in this new phase of their life. Encourage new believers to talk about how God has changed their lives.

Personal Evangelism Tools: Participating in the practice of personal evangelism doesn't require anything more than an open heart and the Word of God, but it may be helpful to become familiar with a couple of useful resources. Take a look at the tools gathered on the NAMB website: www.namb.net/evangelism.

Support Missionaries: Like you, missionaries serving through the North American Mission Board are committed to leading others to Christ. The offering provides financial support to train and resource missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries throughout the United States and Canada. Prayerfully consider your gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.



DAY BY DAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 – 1 Timothy 3
THURSDAY, MARCH 19 – 1 Timothy 4
FRIDAY, MARCH 20 – 1 Timothy 5
SUNDAY, MARCH 22 – 1 Timothy 6
MONDAY, MARCH 23 – 2 Timothy 1
TUESDAY, MARCH 24 – 2 Timothy 2
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 – 2 Timothy 3
THURSDAY, MARCH 26 – 2 Timothy 4
FRIDAY, MARCH 27 – Titus 1



GREAT START WOODRUFF

Great Start Woodruff is a community effort to provide book bags, school supplies, Bibles, haircuts & other resources to the students in District 4 as they prepare for the new school year. (Presently District Four has 2,933 students – 64% at Woodruff Primary received free or reduced lunch, 69% at Woodruff Elementary, 69% at Woodruff Middle and 53% at Woodruff High.) **Be praying about this & let us know in the church office if you have contacts with businesses or other organizations who could help.**

SUMMER CAMP!

Help our kids attend camp this summer. Write "Kids Summer Camp" on your donation envelope or on the designation line in on-line giving.

GA CAMP

Camp LaVida, Winnsboro, SC

Monday – Wednesday * July 13-15 * 2nd Grade & up
Call Lisa at 476-8171 as soon as possible if you would like to go. A \$50.00 deposit is due at sign up. The cost of camp is \$130.00. The balance is due by May 15.

RA CAMP

Camp McCall, Sunset, SC

Sat. - Mon. * July 25-27 * Completed 1st grade & up
Call Lisa at 476-8171 as soon as possible if you would like to go. A \$50.00 deposit is due at sign up. The cost of camp is \$140.00. The balance is due by May 15.

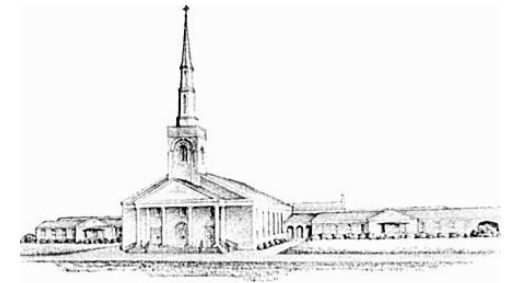
HAVE YOU LEARNED THE SECRET?

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:11-13

**THE
ENCOURAGER**

"...to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian Service to build up the body of Christ."

www.fbcwoodruff.org



First Baptist Church * Woodruff, South Carolina

March 18, 2020



C. Andrew Shull, Pastor
Bryan C. Thompson, Associate Pastor for Youth
John C. Carroll, Minister of Music
Lisa C. Abercrombie, Ministry Coordinator
Carol R. Morgan, Secretary
Kay M. Young, Pianist
Tommie Jo McAbee, Site Manager
Randy C. Rhodes, Site Manager

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