

January 13, 2016

the SPIRE



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years



Widening Our Welcome Dinner

On **Tuesday, January 26, at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, you are invited to come and talk about Widening Our Welcome, to affirm the process, to reflect on the welcome statement that will be added to the First Baptist website and to discuss how we move forward as a church where all are welcomed and included in the body of Christ. Child care will be provided and dinner will be available for \$5.00 per person. Please make your reservations for dinner by contacting Madison Reynolds, Administrative Assistant, at churchinfo@fbc-columiba.org.

Volunteer Now for Room At The Inn

You don't have to wait until February to help with Room at the Inn, sign up today. Visit <http://www.roomattheinncomo.org/> for training times and to find out how to help. All volunteers are asked to attend at least one training session before serving. Room at the Inn is a winter shelter designed to provide a warm place to sleep for those in need from 7:00pm- 7:00am through March 4th. Check out how you can volunteer for one of the many ways to serve those in need this winter.



*Join us for our Ash Wednesday
Worship Service: February 10, 6:00 pm*



Community News



Lent is the season in the Christian Year that begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 10 this year, and ends on Easter morning. Essentially, it's about one-tenth of a year, which makes it like a tithe of time. It is modeled after the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism. You remember, after Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days.

During this time, he was tempted by Satan. Yet, he found the clarity and strength to resist temptation. Then, he was ready to begin his ministry. Perhaps, Jesus needed some time with God to sort through all the changes that were happening in his life. As Pastor Penny Ford says, in an article entitled Lent 101, "Maybe Jesus needed the opportunity to get away from his family, friends and the familiar routine in order to see God (and himself) more clearly. Maybe he wanted some intentional time with God as he searched for direction and answers."

Like Jesus, we may need to take some serious time to pray and listen for God. Our lives are filled with distractions that keep us from living a life with Christ. Lent is a great time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40-day opportunity to change our lifestyle and let God change our hearts.

You might try one of these practices during Lent:

-FASTING: Some people go without a particular food during Lent like dessert or meat. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from things like soft drinks, caffeine, cigarettes or alcohol as a way to purify their bodies and lives. But that's not the only way to fast. You can also fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. For instance, you might give up Facebook, video games or television and devote the time saved to prayer or another spiritual practice. Ask yourself: what do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life?

-SERVICE: Some Christians take on something for Christ. You can collect food or other items for those in need or you can volunteer once a week in our community. You can commit to helping a co-worker or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is another way we serve God.

-PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or spend some time learning a new way to pray like The Jesus Prayer or Lectio Divina.

How will you use Lent as a time to grow closer to God?

Cain McEntyre

Prayers & Concerns:

Harry Cathy is at Boone Hospital.

Bob Smith is receiving hospice care at the Neighborhoods.

Moray Kiehl is at Boone Hospital with pneumonia.

Jone Huggins is at Boone Hospital for rehab.

Joyce Riley is at The Neighborhoods.

Barry Kausler is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer.

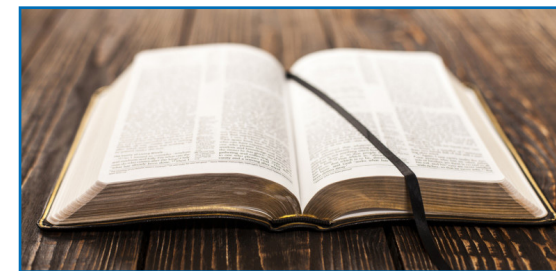
Marsha Randell is grateful to God for the relatively easy stent replacement in the bile duct last Friday. This week she begins two weeks of chemo.

Ann Judson Christian Action Circle Meeting

This group of women meet on the first Thursday of every month at 1 p.m. to talk about ways to promote mission work, hear from guest speakers and walk through life together. During the next two meetings (**February 4, and March 3**) we will join together in the 2nd floor conference room to roll bandages.

Upcoming Events

The Bible: Many Books, One Book



Beginning **Monday, January 25 at 1:00 pm**, in the parlor, First Baptist will offer a 12-week overview of the Bible, our sacred Scriptures, as we have received them, taught by new member, David Gifford. We will consider the texts in their original oral as well as written settings with some discussion of the ancient world of the Bible.

Financial Peace University



Five families have already signed up to take Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University at First Baptist, which will be offered Wednesday evenings beginning **January 27 from 6-7:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! The class lasts for 9 weeks. Class materials are \$102.30, which includes shipping. For more information or to sign up email Amanda Stone at Amanda@jacobsrealty.com or call her at 573-239-2777.

New Sunday Morning Small Group

We are kicking off a discussion/support group for young adults on **Sunday, January 31**. We will gather around the fireplace in the Fellowship Hall after the Awakening Service (approximately 9:50 am) and begin this new journey. Randy and Sherry Wyatt are looking forward to meeting with you, learning more about you and growing with you in life and in spirit.

Odyssey Concert



Odyssey Chamber Music Series presents "Kids @ Heart: Carnival of the Animals" on **Saturday, January 16 at 3:00 pm** in the First Baptist sanctuary. An instrumental "Petting Zoo" will be open at 2:00 pm.

Fellowship Adventures



Fellowship Adventures: opportunities for the First Baptist family to gather for fun and fellowship! During January, our adventure will be dinner at Kobe's on **January 29**. It is always fun to sit around a hot grill in the middle of winter and have food thrown at you! We need to have RSVP's by January 27 as tables are limited and we will need to reserve them ahead. Meal prices are \$16.00 and up, per person. Contact Paula Thomas, Fellowship Chair, at paulalou52@gmail.com with questions, and to RSVP.



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“Return Service Requested”



On **Sunday, January 17**, join us for All Church Worship at 11:15 am followed by a Celebration of Ministry Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. 2015 was a great year at First Baptist. We want to pause to look back over the year and celebrate all that God has done in and through us. We will see some highlights of the year in photographs and hear from our ministry teams about what they accomplished in 2015. We will also vote on our 2016 Church Budget.



10:15 am Adult, Youth and Children's Small Groups will meet as usual. Then, we will gather for All Church Worship at 11:15 am in the sanctuary.

Parents, please pick up your children from extended session and the nursery after worship and bring them to lunch. After they have eaten lunch, Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry will take the older children upstairs for some fun activities, and the nursery will be reopened.

Reserve your spot for lunch by contacting Madison Reynolds at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org. Lunch will be \$5.00 per person and will include chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and a biscuit.