

First Baptist Church  
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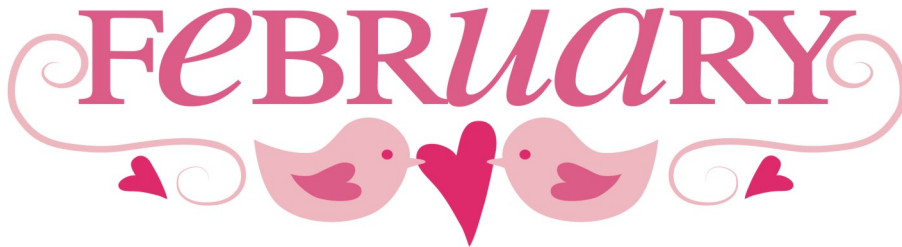


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GRAHAM

## THE CONNECTION

*Making Connections That Make A Difference*

### 2020 Newsletter and Calendar



### All are invited!

Saturday, February 15th,  
at 6:30 p.m., in the  
Ministry Center.

Menu:  
Steak, baked potato, salad,  
bread, and dessert.

\$12 per person.

If you would like to purchase tickets, representatives of our Baptist Men will be in the vestibule and in the main hallway following morning worship.

Tickets must be purchased by Sunday,  
February 9th.

**Make plans now to be  
a part of this fun event!**



### CELEBRATING BAPTIST WOMEN ON MISSION "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

On Sunday, February 23rd, we will celebrate Baptist Women on Mission during our morning worship service. Women of our church will lead in worship and share about missions opportunities and programs our church takes part in, and we will have a women's choir. All women and girls are invited to meet in the choir room that morning at 10:30 a.m. to rehearse our music for worship. Keep watch on weekly updates for information about this special time of worship.

**2020**

**Heck-Jones Offering**

**WEEK OF PRAYER**

**for WMU of North Carolina**

**February 9 - 16**

**Our Goal is \$400,00**

**FIRMLY  
PLANTED**

We see in 1 Corinthians 15:58 the admonishment to stay **firmly planted** so that we will not be shaken. Like trees with deep root systems that are exposed to the strong winds of storms but not uprooted, our lives should be so deeply rooted and grounded in Christ that the storms of life cannot upend us and make us ineffective in our goal to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world.

Supporting the Heck-Jones Offering allows the WMU of NC to work toward fulfilling the purpose of challenging, preparing, and equipping devoted Christ followers, as they share the great message and love of Jesus Christ. This offering is the primary source of funding for Habitat for Humanity building projects, military family ministries, prison ministries, ministries for the deaf and blind, and mission trips, just to name a few.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support these great ministries, as contributions to the Heck-Jones offering will be received through the month of February.

**Our church's goal is \$750.**



Sunday, February 9th  
in morning worship



February 12th  
6:00 p.m.  
Dixie Mann Room



February 26th  
6:00 p.m.

Join us as we enter the season of Lent, a time for reflection, repentance, and focusing on God. We will gather in the sanctuary for a time of prayer, singing and the imposition of ashes.

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

### December:

We provided 13 food boxes and 3 back packs to families in need; 24 back packs to Pleasant Grove Elementary School weekly; and 12 back packs to Graham Middle School weekly.

## Starfish Ministry



### December:

We served 24 homebound meals and 289 guests.

## TEAM 5



Thanks so much to all of our Starfish Teams for your continued commitment to this wonderful ministry. You all are awesome!

### A Gift of Love from Lib Culp

Elizabeth B. Culp Trust has made the following donations by making payments on church loan.

October 25, 2012	80,000.00
January 17, 2013	52,474.10
December 19, 2013	6,848.00
July 8, 2014	6,690.00
December 29, 2014	11,700.00
July 23, 2015	7,414.00
December 17, 2015	7,000.00
December 14, 2016	11,000.00
December 21, 2017	10,200.00
December 24, 2018	14,000.00
December 30, 2019	9,000.00

Items donated December 30, 2019:  
TV, Microwave, & Refrigerator for Children's Multiple Purpose Classroom.

**Total donations through 2019 \$216,326.10**

## 2020 CBF Annual Gathering

March 19-21  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Raleigh

To register or for more information, go to [cbfnc.org](http://cbfnc.org).

Keep watch in the weekly Updates and the March Newsletter for more information about this event.

## WINTER BOWLING DAY

**Sunday, February 9**

Country Club Lanes, Burlington,  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



\$10 includes pizza, drink, bowling and shoe rental!

Sponsored by Children & Youth Activities Council and Adult Activities Council.

## TULIPS FOR EASTER

In order to brighten our church as we worship and celebrate our Risen Lord, we would like to place tulips in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Keep watch in the weekly updates on when to place your order.



Thank you!  
The Worship Team

## PASSPORT 2020

Our children and youth are registered for PASSPORTkids and PASSPORTmissions this year. Several fundraising opportunities are coming up. On Saturday, February 1, 15, & 22, from 2:00 - 4:00, FBCG youth and children who are signed up for camp have the opportunity to go to the Burlington Artists League Fine Arts Gallery (inside Holly Hill Mall) to begin working on art projects that will be sold at our annual craft fair (April 18). Patsy Godwin is our church's liaison for this fundraising project. Also, on Sunday, March 22, following worship, we will have our annual PASSPORT Fundraiser Meal in the Ministry Center. We will serve soups and salad, and all are welcome to attend. We will gratefully receive donations in any amount, with all proceeds going toward PASSPORT Camps tuition.

### PASSPORT Camp Dates:

PASSPORTkids at Montreat—July 6-9  
PASSPORTmissions at Averett University  
June 28-July 3



Don't forget to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before going to bed on **Saturday, March 7th!**

## **FROM OUR PASTOR**

Rev. Chris Howe

During my time in seminary, I attended a class which focused on the reality and characteristics of God. One morning we were beginning our discussion when a seminary student stood up in the middle of class and announced, "I don't believe in God!" The classroom fell dead silent as everyone waited to see how the professor would respond. Clearly unshaken and in a calm voice, the professor replied, "Okay, please describe this God that you don't believe in." The student began this long tirade, filled with anger and emotion, describing a god who is vengeful and unloving; a god who is distant and unjust. After the student was finished, the professor confessed, "Well, I don't believe in that god either. My God is Love."

Too often we think of God as the illusive one, far away and disconnected from our daily lives. Maybe we believe in the reality of God, but we have difficulty bringing that reality into our personal lives each day. We read in the scriptures of a God who loves us, but we also know that there have been people around us who also once claimed to love us, and then treated us unkindly. The power of love can become diluted and disarmed in a world that strives to love but then falls dreadfully short of the mark.

It is important to remember that love is not just an attribute of God or one of his great abilities. Love is not just an emotion that God occasionally feels toward one of us based upon our level of obedience. Love exists because of God. Love is because God is. God doesn't fall in love with you. The love existed first, then came you. 1 John 4 says it all so clearly. "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Do you love someone? Of course you do. We all have family and friends we love. What else do you love? Maybe you love pizza or a good book or chocolate? The term love is used in many different contexts. Certainly, my love for chocolate is not the same as my love for my children. (Although, some days it may run a close second).

The various ways we use the term love can make it difficult for us to understand the very specific love that is God. God is love without barriers or qualifications. God is love that is unconditional and independent of how we look or act or respond. Even if we choose not to love God, it will not change the fact that God is love.

It is difficult for us to comprehend that depth of love because we humans always qualify our love. You may love pizza, but not with anchovies. You may love a good book, but not science fiction. You may love other people, but not ones that look like that or act this way or live the other way.

February is the month when we typically celebrate our love. Maybe this February we should try something new. Let's commit ourselves this February to truly love one another. Not with qualifications or conditions. Not just those who are closest to us. They are easy to love. But to love even that stranger, with the unconditional love that is God. Can you imagine the changes that would occur in a church or a community that took that short verse in 1 John to heart? Dear friends, let's love one another. For God is Love.

## *Thank You!*

*Dear Church Family,*

*It would be impossible to adequately express my sincere thanks to you for all of your support and love during Reade's declining health and death. You are an incredible church family and have been such a blessing in our lives. Reade loved this church and was so sad when he could no longer attend.*

*Thank you for the beautiful plant basket. Thanks so much for the wonderful, delicious food that you prepared after Reade's service. It was greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Thanks also for all of your faithful prayer support. You are the best and I feel so blessed to be a part of such a special church family.*

*Love,  
Lorraine Allen*

*To The First Baptist Bereavement Team Members, Please know that your kindness and generosity were very much appreciated. Dad would be so honored to know of the support his fellow congregation members shared with his family following his passing. From the delicious dishes prepared to the kind words expressed, my family is so honored to have enjoyed your support.*

*Thanks again to all,  
Mike & Patty Allen*



*The First Baptist Church family extends our love and concern to  
Lorraine Allen in the loss of her husband, Reade Allen.  
Esther Brantley in the loss of her sister, Eunice Pierce.*

Visit our website –  
[www.fbcgraham.org](http://www.fbcgraham.org)

**Church Staff**  
**Rev. Chris Howe, Pastor**  
**Rev. Shannon Hall, Associate Pastor of Music & Family Ministries**  
**Ann Holt, Organist**  
**Diann Clapp, Administrative Assistant**


**Tune in to Station**  
**920-AM or 104.5-**  
**FM WSML**  
**at 11:00 AM,**  
**for a live broadcast**  
**of our service.**






# FEBRUARY - 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Starfish Ministry Team 1  <b>2:00-4:00 pm</b> Youth & Children Burlington Artists League, Holly Hill Mall
<b>2</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Ministry 714 <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School, Open Assembly, Dixie Mann Room  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship Service No Evening Activities	<b>3</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> AIM	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 am</b> FOM, Ministry Center  <b>6:00 pm</b> Properties Team Meeting, Library	<b>5</b> <b>12:00 noon</b> Mid-Week Bible Study  <b>6:00 pm</b> Mid-Week Bible Study  <b>7:00 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Starfish Ministry Team 2
<b>9 COMMUNION</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Ministry 714 <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School, Open Assembly, Dixie Mann Room  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship Service  <b>4:00 pm WINTER BOWLING</b> <b>CHURCHWIDE</b> Country Club Lanes, Burlington	<b>10</b> <b>2:00 pm</b> Stewardship Team Meeting Library	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>NO MID-WEEK</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> Church Conference, Mid-Week Prayer Service  <b>7:00 pm –</b> Chancel Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Starfish Ministry Team 3  <b>2:00-4:00 pm</b> Youth & Children Burlington Artists League, Holly Hill Mall  <b>6:30 pm</b> <b>VALENTINE'S</b> <b>BANQUET</b>
<b>16</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Ministry 714 <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School, Open Assembly, Dixie Mann Room  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship Service  <b>5:00 pm</b> Celebration Choir <b>5:45 pm</b> Spark <b>6:00 pm</b> Handbell Choir Meal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>NO NOON</b> <b>Mid-Week Bible Study</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> Mid-Week Bible Study  <b>7:00 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Starfish Ministry Team 4  <b>2:00-4:00 pm</b> Youth & Children Burlington Artists League, Holly Hill Mall
<b>23 Celebrating Baptist</b> <b>Women on Mission</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Ministry 714 <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School, Open Assembly, Dixie Mann Room  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship Service  <b>5:00 pm</b> Celebration Choir <b>5:45 pm</b> Spark	<b>24</b> <b>Deacons' Retreat</b> Camp Chestnut Ridge, Efland	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>NO MID-WEEK BIBLE</b> <b>STUDY</b>  <b>6:00 pm</b> Ash Wednesday Service  <b>7:00 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Starfish Ministry Team 5

## Those Serving This Month

	<b>FEBRUARY 3</b> Lori Ann Self	<b>FEBRUARY 7</b> Linen Faucette Betty Vines
	<b>FEBRUARY 9</b> Melody Watkins	<b>FEBRUARY 12</b> Becky Pollok
<b>FEBRUARY 15</b> Brittney Moody	<b>FEBRUARY 18</b> Don Miller	<b>FEBRUARY 21</b> Gaylene Fogleman Bill Henderson
<b>FEBRUARY 23</b> Dina Grinstead Ruth Rogers	<b>FEBRUARY 27</b> Katherine Chatman	

### Deacon of the Week

2 - Greg Euliss  
9 - Lenora Saunders  
16 - Earl Foster  
23 - Jerome Naylor

### Deacon Greeter

Gaylene Fogleman

### Usher Captains

Jerome Naylor & Jerry Peterman

### Nursery

2 - Carolyn Roberts & Robin Self  
9 - Brian Faucette & Linda Naylor  
16 - Debbie Farrell & Sharon Steele  
23 - Mary Faucette & Joyce Martin