



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

# THE TIE

**JANUARY**  
**2015**  
**SPECIAL**  
**EDITION**

**300 WEST MAIN ST**  
**LAURENS, SC 29360**  
**864.984.7500**

### MINISTER ON CALL

December 29-January 4  
Rickey Letson—678-230-8341

January 5-11  
Adair Rogers—864-923-1631

January 12-18  
Carl Tolbert—229-798-0620

January 19-25  
Tommy Cox—864-684-7424

January 26-February 1  
Rickey Letson—678-230-8341

**THE TIE**  
First Baptist Church  
300 West Main Street  
Laurens, SC 29360

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 70  
Laurens, SC 29360

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## JANUARY 2014 BIRTHDAYS

1 Linda Lanford Kevin Luiz	9 Rusty Cox, Jr.	17 Sidney Lee Jackie Coggins	25 Margaret Ellison Kimberly Martin Jacob Griffin
2 Bette Hood Ricky Poole	10 Patricia Mahon	18 Nolan Burns Hatchell Hardy	26 Bill Ellison
3 Jeff Owings	11 Doris McCall Bob Sumerel Peter Lindley Polly Franks	19 Margaret Crews Seth Crow	27 Nellie Hill
4 Don McIntyre	12 Blanche Pulley Corey Munden	20 Eloise Hughes	28 Bev Kennedy
5 Albert Sharp Wanda Strawhorn Kim Holman Wells Croker Feagin Hardy	13 J.C. Byers Kathy Crotts	21 Janet Garrett Betsey Holmes	30 Pat Leopard Jerry Garrett Christian Griffin Lance Putnam
6 Ann Marie Letson	15 Buddy Hudson Julia Craig Wayland Sherman Tommy Marchman	22 Ed Cox	31 Margaret Lee Ruth Garrett David Crotts Michele Dickens Lauren Moyd
7 Carroll Thompson Nathan Lindley	16 Buddy Crow Laura Brown	23 Jimmy Garrett Seth Strickland	
8 Billy Wilson		24 Will Bryan Neal Culbertson	

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE WINTER DATES

Sunday Evening Restart, January 11      Sunday School Leaders Meeting, January 11 @ 8:45am  
Wednesday Evening Restart, January 14      Youth Winter Retreat, January 16-18  
Youth Super Bowl Party, February 1

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

## *A Small Step for a New Year...*

When I was serving at Johns Creek before coming to Laurens, our congregation had an emphasis one year called *Small Steps*. The idea was both simple and good. We encouraged everyone to take a moment to stop and evaluate where they were in their spiritual lives. As they did, we invited them to ask themselves what it would look like to take a small step forward by doing something new. In other words, if they were coming to church only on Sunday mornings, what would it look like to make the small step of also coming on Sunday nights or Wednesday nights? If they were not doing anything missions wise, what would it mean to get involved in at least one new way of serving the community? Or if they were giving 5% of their income in offerings each week, could they give 6% or 7% instead? Again, we were after small yet measurable steps toward our all being more Christ-like.

Sometimes the challenge of taking huge leaps of faith can be overwhelming or more than we can get our minds around. But, the practice of a small step seems more doable, not quite as daunting and like something that is more able to be accomplished. Yet, even a small step is a positive movement in the absolute right direction. As 2015 dawns, what would it look like for you and I as individuals or as families to take small steps of faith? How would our faith change for the good if we added an additional hour to our church week, one ministry to our acts of service, 2% to our tithes or made sharing our faith with at least one person a goal? As we enter a new year, let us all welcome the idea that even a small step in the right direction is much, much better than no step at all...*Rickey*

## **Bob Brownlee & Ernie Johnson Set Retirement Dates**

In December, two of our longtime staff members set their retirement dates. Bob Brownlee, who has provided FBC with maintenance and supervision of our custodians for ten years, chose to make the end of December his last day with us. Ernie Johnson, who has served our church for sixteen years will continue with us into the new year before retiring at the end of April. For many years, Bob and Ernie have served our church well. As you see Bob and Ernie at church or around town please thank them for all of their dedicated and hard work.

At the same time, our Personnel Committee and Fellowship of Deacons have approved the hiring of Everette Robbins and his cleaning company based in Clinton to begin to compensate for Bob's hours starting in January. If all goes well, we hope to be able to expand our use of Everette's team when Ernie retires to also assume his hours. Contracting with Everette will provide us with both maintenance work and custodial support from his crew. Tim Cook, our other custodian, will continue in his normal role but will be under Everette's supervision as the new year begins.

# WINTER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

## **Wednesday Nights**

Wednesdays are a wonderful time at FBC. Dinner begins each week at 5pm and activities for Preschoolers, Children, Youth and Adults start at 5:45pm and continue until 7pm. In January, we will be offering two new studies for Adults. Both studies will begin when our Wednesday night schedule resumes on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

•***The Life You've Always Wanted*** – offers a modern perspective on the ancient spiritual disciplines. This DVD curriculum is by the beloved author John Ortberg. Study guides are \$8 and the full copy of Ortberg's book will be available for \$14. Tommy will lead the class in the Conference Room.

•***The Book of Acts*** – picking up where our fall study of the twelve disciples left off, we'll look at the story of the beginnings of the early church with the disciples at the helm. As we do, we'll discover how the lessons of the early church speak to us today. Rickey will lead this class in Bobo Hall.

## **Sunday Nights**

Beginning Sunday evening, January 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll be offering a four week study of Adam Hamilton's book ***Christianity & World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask***. In 2014, we live in a world where the religious beliefs of those outside the Christian family impact us in far more personal ways than in the past. Whether this is the result of Islamic extremists or simply living and working with people from other parts of the world who practice different faiths, we all find ourselves asking critical questions. All of us want to understand what these various groups believe, how their beliefs differ from our own and what it means to share our own Christian faith with them. Over the course of the four weeks, we will spend a week each on Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism. Our group will meet in Bobo Hall and will be led by David Corley, John Topping, Philip Dean and Rickey Letson. Books will be available for purchase on the first night of the study and childcare will be available for those who may need it.