

HEART

SOUL

MIND

STRENGTH

# THE TIE

SEPTEMBER 2017

*An Update from Long Range  
Planning and our Deacon  
Fellowship inside. . .*



calendar

## An Important Update

### From Our Long Range Planning Committee & Deacons

For several months now, our Long Range Planning Committee, Deacon Officers and Fellowship of Deacons have been exploring the idea of a Capital Campaign to assist us in responding to several needs around First Baptist that have emerged as top priorities for our congregation to address. These conversations are the result of numerous visits with Sunday School classes, our church staff, Deacon Leadership and others in the life of our church where the future of First Baptist has been discussed.

In the process, we have also consulted with Ruben Swint, who is a Capital Campaign expert and who has worked with our congregation numerous times in the past on similar campaigns. This summer as our list of priorities began to take shape, Ruben spent time in Laurens interviewing 24 families in our church as a way of gauging their response to the projects under consideration and their commitment to participating in a possible campaign. In July, Swint reported on his work to our Deacons, Long Range Planning Committee and Staff giving a very favorable opinion of a possible campaign.

After much conversation, thought and prayer, our Long Range Planning Committee and Deacons have unanimously approved a motion to be made to the congregation to enter into a Capital Campaign in the first quarter of 2018. Beginning September 17, we will move into an intensive three week period of education about the projects we want to tackle and the proposed campaign. On Sunday, October 8, we will invite the congregation to affirm the recommendation of a Capital Campaign in worship.

Rest assured that between now and October 8, we are committed to sharing with you as much as we can about the proposed projects as well as the overall campaign. Our most important times for information sharing will be as a part of worship on September 17, 24 and October 1 so you will want to be present if at all possible those three Sundays. Over those weeks, members of the Long Range Committee will talk about each item we hope to address as well as about how we see the Campaign itself unfolding. Outside of worship, we want you to ask your questions be it through seeking out a member of the Long Range Committee or one of our staff members.

Let me close by sharing some basic information about the proposed campaign at this juncture. We have four top priorities. First, we desire to convert the current racquetball courts to dedicated youth space with a lower level large group room and the reconfiguration of the space above the courts to be four classrooms rather than two. Second, we desire to update and refurbish the third floor education space in the Powers and Cooper Buildings as well as the lower floor in Powers. This is primarily grade school children and adult Sunday School space as well as rooms used for children's choirs. Third, we would like to address structural issues with Easterby Chapel and refurbish the chapel. Finally, we hope to create a small useable kitchen in the FLC that can service the meals and functions that regularly take place in our gym. As we move through the three weeks of education in September and early October, we will also talk extensively about our goal for the campaign and how the campaign itself would work.

For now, please be in prayer about this time together this fall in worship. Our church has grown in many ways over the last several years. In turn, we are at a pivotal point as we plan for future ministry to all ages and for the exciting work that we believe that God has in store for us to do...

Rickey

## Ministry Opportunity

The following Sunday School Classes or other groups are scheduled to provide meals for the staff of the Good Shepherd Clinic during the month of September:

September 7	Bobby Smith Class
September 14	Seekers Class
September 21	FBC Women's Ministry
September 28	Pathfinders Class

Thank you for your service in this ministry. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tommy.

## Fall Studies for Adults

### Sunday Evening Beginning September 10

- *Paul*, by Walter Wangerin: This book, written as a novel, offers a unique look at Paul's life as well as the time in which he lived. Wangerin is well known for writing similar adaptations of other Biblical figures' lives that he has offered in the form of novels. This particular book was the winner of the Golden Medallion book award in 2000. The study will meet in Bobo Hall from 6-7pm.
- *True Courage* by Steve Farrar: This Men's Study will focus on the life of Daniel as well as how we too can find courage to rise above any circumstance while trusting in God who never abandons us. The cost of the book is \$10. The study will meet from 7-8 pm in the Conference Room.
- *Wisdom for Mothers*: This study, based on Proverbs 31, will help mothers find biblical answers to important questions about marriage, parenting, and priorities. In addition to the Bible study, we'll find helpful mothering tips designed for moms of all ages at the end of each lesson. Kate Orcutt will lead this study. Cost is \$15. Sign up by pew pad or a call to the church office.

### Tuesdays Beginning September 12

- *True Courage* men's study is offered from 7-8am and again from 12-1pm.

### Wednesday Evenings Beginning September 6

- *The Beatitudes*, led by Tommy Cox, 6pm in the Conference Room. This study reveals to us eight qualities that bring God's blessing. Jesus highlighted these to offer encouragement and instruction on living distinctly.
- *What Happens When We Die*, led by Ricky Letson, 6pm in Bobo Hall. What happens when life is over? What does the Bible say and not say about the afterlife? These and other common questions about life after death will be discussed in this study.

### CWAs

Our Senior Adult group called CWA (Comfortable with Age) will have its first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, September 26, at 11:00am in Bobo Hall. We are thrilled to have Rock of Ages Family Music (The Rankin family) providing our program for our first meeting! The Rankins are a talented musical family: mom and dad and 7 children who sing and play strings, brass, woodwinds, accordion and the harp! To hear some of their beautiful music go to [rockofagesfamilymusic.com](http://rockofagesfamilymusic.com) and click on the "music" tab. Lunch will be \$7 per person and will be prepared by Til Culbertson. You may call the church office to sign up or sign up on the pew pads.

### It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

I'm not talking about Christmas! The most wonderful time of the year for me is when ALL of our choirs, from 2 year olds through senior adults swing back into action! It's an exciting time, and I hope that you will get involved! Here is the schedule:

#### Beginning Wednesday, September 6:

- 2-3 year old Choir and Kids on Mission 6:00-7:00
- 4-5 year old Choir and Kids on Mission 6:00-7:00
- 1st-3rd Grade Choir 5:45-6:30 Kids on Mission 6:30-7:00
- 4th-5th Grade Choir 5:45-6:30 Kids on Mission 6:30-7:00
- The Sanctuary Choir (Adults of ALL ages) 7:00-8:15

#### Beginning Sunday, September 10:

- Youth Handbell (6th -12th grades) 4:15-5:00
- Youth Choir (6th-12th grades) 5:00-6:00

#### Beginning Monday, September 18:

- Adult Handbells 6:00-7:00

#### Beginning Tuesday, September 19:

- Handbells, Choirchimes and Steel Drums for 1st-5th Grade 3:00-4:30

### MINISTER ON CALL

One of our ministers will be on call every weekend, so if you have a need, please don't hesitate to call us! The minister on call schedule is:

October 2-8	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424
October 9-15	Adair Rogers	864-923-1631
October 16-22	Rickey Letson	678-230-8341
October 23-29	Carl Tolbert	229-798-0620
Oct 30-Nov 5	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424

### THE TIE

First Baptist Church  
300 West Main St  
Laurens, SC 29360

### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### FOR THE RECORD - FBC IN AUGUST

Average Sunday School: 357

Average Worship: 403

Average Worship & Extended Session: 428

### OFFERING TOTALS - AS OF AUGUST 29

Giving Needs YTD: \$704,016.24

Given YTD: \$705,022.73

### WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

September 3

*An Appeal to Heaven*  
Nehemiah 1:4-11

September 10

*When We Fear*  
Mark 4:35-41

September 17

*By Faith*  
Genesis 12:1-9

September 24

*Abraham's Imperfection*  
Genesis 12:10-20



**FBC FALL PICNIC AT RABON  
OCTOBER 8, 2017**