

Salt and Light

Lenten Series Will Explore Search for Faith

Each year, the Sundays following Advent, Christmas, and New Year's Day seem to pass more and more quickly! The last three have been impacted, to one degree or another, by weekend storms that have frozen the earth, at least temporarily, with snow and/or ice.

But we have been able to hold church services each time, including December 20, there has been wintry precipitation on the ground.

I am grateful to Jeff Willingham and to Tim Sawyer for their efforts, on various Saturdays of late, to scrape and shovel the parking lots, sidewalks, and steps so that we could have worship service on Sunday.

And I thank the hardy souls within the First Baptist Church family, along with a number of visitors, who have ventured out to church, especially on December 20 and January 31, when conditions were particularly bad.

I think that we are all about ready for springtime!

And spiritually speaking, Lent provides the bridge from the last weeks of winter into the first days of spring.

Lent is a journey that every serious Christian must take, at least once a year, from introspection to action, from questions to affirmation, from darkness to light.

Observed by Christians at least since the fourth century, Lent is the 40-day period (beginning Ash Wednesday) leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Traditionally, it is characterized by fasting and praying, sincere confession of sins and true repentance, and profound recognition of our desperate need for a Savior.

Beginning Sunday, February 21, I will begin a six-part series titled "Looking for Faith: Lenten Sermons from the Gospel of John." We will explore the search for faith in these times which, somewhat like the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, are characterized by many problems, numerous distractions, and a pervasive sense of anxiety about many things. We will discover anew, I believe, that Jesus holds the answer to all of our questions, concerns, and difficulties.

We will have the added aids to worship that over the past decade have come to distinguish our Lenten services: the Lenten cross, in the choir area, bearing candles, one of which is extinguished each Sunday, and the final one of which (the Christ Candle) is extinguished on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday; the "old rugged cross" carried in each Sunday and placed on the platform; the driving of nails each Sunday into that cross as we confess our sins; and special readings and distinctive music that support and amplify these themes of soul-searching, confession, and new and renewed commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

An added opportunity for Christian growth this year, as previously announced, is the "You've Got the Time" recordings of the New Testament, which are available free of charge in the church office or from our Minister of Education, Rev. Fred Schuszler. Fred has rightly encouraged all of us to commit to listening to the recording for 28 minutes per day during Lent, which will enable us to hear the entire New Testament by Easter.

I hope that you will choose to make these very special worship opportunities a high priority, as we all seek to draw closer to Jesus during these challenging but hope-filled times.

Love, Tom

Our Christian Education Ministry Announces

YOU'VE GOT THE TIME

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"
(Romans 10:17)

Challenge: Will you commit to listening to the New Testament for just 28 minutes for 40 days during Lent? Will you agree that

"You've Got the Time" to hear God's Good News for you?

If so, we will provide you with an MP3 download of the entire New Testament – absolutely free!

You can download the disc onto your Ipod/MP3 player, play it on an MP3 compatible CD player, or DVD player. You can listen at home, in your car, on your computer, or even while exercising!

We also have *audio Kidz Bibles* for children to use.

This amazing opportunity is by partnership with "Faith Comes By Hearing" Ministry and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship which, through a grant by the Lilly Foundation, is able to offer the recordings to us for no charge. Prayerfully consider this. We hope our entire church family will be a part of this!

ON MISSION

Michael Baden is on mission in Costa Rica/Guatemala. If you would like to get updates on Michael's work you can go to his blog: michaelbadendesign.blogspot.com

THANK YOU FROM THE LINEBERGER FAMILY

Thank you to our First Baptist Family for your generosity in prayers, cards, food and care in the death of Tom's Mother, Faye. We appreciate you.

Tom, Marsha and Matthew

DAY TRIP

Southern Spring Show
Thursday, March 4.

Call Bill Rotan at 437-2544 X16
to sign up.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MISSIONARY PARTNERS

Mark Hamblen – Ireland
Robert Dunlop – Ireland
Nunzio Loiudice – Italy
Annette Hall – France
Janos Katona – Romania

SERVICE MEMBERS IN ACTION

Michael Bradley	Pat Morrison
Nick Long	Johnny Franklin
James Gillon	Erienne Davidson
Roland Berger	Veronica Graham
Mark Scannell	Ryan Moya
Joshua Davidson	PJ Chapman
Zack Mayo	Wes Shuffler

ONE DISH MEALS/ CASSEROLES FOR PURCHASE

The Food Service Department would like to try something new to help out our church members and friends who don't want to cook for just one person.

We would like to start preparing a "One-Dish-Meal" or casserole of the week for purchase.

If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Suzette at 437-2544 ext. 18.

LASAGNA is this week's One Dish Meal. Orders will be taken until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 23.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, February 21

A.M.

9:45 – Youth Sunday Morning
Breakfast

Youth Ministry Info, and Prayer Time
9:55 – Sunday Morning Bible Study

A Study Series – Role Models of Faith

This Sunday's topic: *Speaking the Truth* (Esther 4: 4-17, 9:29-10:3)

P.M.

4:30 ish – Youth Arrive Home from Ski Trip

No Youth Super Session

**BIG Youth & Parent Info Meeting
Coming up Sunday, February 28 –
5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall**

What's comin' up, big summer plans, the shape of the new youth suite, what's up with youth ministry teams, and lots more!

Concise, thorough information you need to know about our FBC Youth Ministry!

Parents – plan on staying for a special supper created by Chef Mould!

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Alan LeCroy

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HAITI RELIEF

On March 6th, volunteers are needed to help package over 300,000 meals to be sent to Haiti's children. This will take place at the H. Clinton Foust Collette Street Recreation Center. You can choose which shift you would like to work: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. All ages are needed for various duties! Please come and help this wonderful ministry to ease the hunger and devastation in Haiti. Contact Suzette Pendleton at 437-2544 x 18 or Rev. Bland at 437-2544 x 12 to sign up.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Offering Received Feb. 14\$16,924
Budget Required to Date..... \$121,401
Received to Date \$111,355

TURNING DREAMS INTO DEEDS

Pledged \$807,000
Building Fund Rec to Date \$811,769
Building Fund Expenditures \$724,584
Building Fund Balance\$87,185

MEMORIALS

Memorials have been received to honor the memory of Mildred Whisnant and Katherine England.



YOUNG ADULTS CLASS

Have You Heard?

There's A New

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

For Young Adults

Co-teachers: **Chuck Benfield and
David Smith**

**First Study Series: UPRISING: A
Revolution of the Soul**

This journey guides you on your quest for Christian spiritual growth. It begins where your heart longs for freedom most. Go first where there is the greatest captivity and instigate an uprising – a revolution of the soul to a deeper commitment and greater understanding of the wonder of Jesus Christ our living Savior.

We meet in the Kistler Home Annex, first room on the right at the top of the last set of stairs.

CHURCH FAMILY NIGHT MENU FOR LOVEFEST

February 24, 2010

Chicken Marinara/Rice/Sauteed Veggies/Dinner Rolls/Beverage

Child's Meal - Chicken Filet sandwich/macaroni & cheese and any other
veggies from serving line/beverage

Veggie Meal - Baked Potato/assorted veggies/soup bar/beverage

Dessert - \$1 extra

Soup Bar for children - \$1 extra

DON'T FORGET:

To make reservations if your name is not on the permanent list. Please call Suzette at 437-2544 x 18 by 2:00 p.m. Tuesday. The cost of the meal is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Dessert may be purchased for \$1 extra.