



First News: Monthly Vision Issue

March 4, 2020

Lenten Journey by Randy Shepley

By the time this article is published, we will have moved through our first week of Lent. I am so grateful for the meaningful Ash Wednesday service we shared last Wednesday together, but now, one week later, I, and perhaps you as well, are asking the question: "How do I participate in a meaningful Lenten experience?" Sure, maybe all of us have given something up, but giving something up is not the essence of Lent. Lent is a season of repentance, recalibration and renewal. Lent is where we refocus our lives on Jesus. We prepare to enter his suffering and rejection during Holy week. After all, we only experience the full joy of resurrection out of the forsakenness of crucifixion.

Here is the pattern I am following during this Lenten season. If you have not prayerfully constructed your own Lenten practice, I invite you to do so. For the Lenten season, I am allowing the 3 E's of our church mission statement to serve as my life outline. The 3 E's (Embracing God, Equipping Christ-followers, Engaging Our World) are much more than a mission statement - they offer a pattern for my spiritual journey, an organizing mechanism for my growth as a disciple. The following questions and thoughts are guiding me deeper and closer to Jesus:



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Vision & Lead Team Contact Information

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Vision and Lead Team Updates (cont'd.)

Embracing God

What holds my focus and attention ahead of God?

Where do I need to repent?

How will I practice deeper adoration for God?

How will I surrender more of me to listening to God?

Equipping Christ Followers

How will I encourage and serve my family this Lenten season?

Who is God leading me to specifically disciple and encourage?

Who is God calling me to challenge out of their comfort zone?

How will I wash my soul with the Word of God to prepare for pouring into others?

Engaging Our World

What, specifically, will I do to serve and love, the poor?

How will I begin new conversations and friendships with persons who are not followers of Jesus?

How will I grow a more loving heart for our city?

Lot's of questions. . . way more than I can fully address during Lent. That's ok. The singular goal of life is to grow deeper in connection with Jesus and to love others as He loves them. This is more than enough for one Lent. It is more than enough for one life.

God Centered Worship Lead Team

The God Centered Worship team met for the first time this year on February 23rd. Our team is planning to explore the concept of worship through a study of the book, *Worship Like Jesus: A Guide for Every Follower* by Constance M. Cherry. Through the study, we hope to expand our own understanding of worship and work to facilitate a church-wide emphasis or season of worship moving forward. Our hope is that the emphasis will be multi-generational, incorporate some unique worship experiences, and foster a better understanding of the theological foundations upon which we worship as a congregation.

Investment in Next Generations

Passport Camp Sign Up

It's time to sign up for Passport Kids Camp! We will go to Eagle Eyrie (Lynchburg, VA) June 17-20 for a fun week of worship, Bible study, music, games, swimming, and more. See Susie, swebb@fbcnn.org, to sign up. A non-refundable \$50 deposit is needed to reserve your spot. Camp is for children currently in grades 3-5 and costs \$295 per child. If you are interested in sponsoring a child for a life changing week of camp, please mark your donation as "Children's Camp Scholarship". Thank you!

Staff Anniversaries for March

Randy Shepley - March 23 - Congratulations on 5 years!

Nikki Reid - March 26 - Congratulations on 8 years!

Thank You Notes

Thank You for a Wonderful One City Marathon

Six years ago, Yvette Williams, a Volunteer Coordinator for One City Marathon, stopped by the Church Office to see if we would be willing to man the Water Station across the street for the first One City Marathon in Newport News. Seeing this as an opportunity to be active in our community and our city, we said “yes” and have said “yes” each consecutive year. This year, volunteers and those who came out to cheer braved the cold weather (it was 28 degrees when we set up the Water Station) and gave the runners the refreshment and encouragement they needed. I personally would like to thank all the volunteers, encouragers, Coastal Strength and Fitness who partnered with us, and businesses who donated their time and resources. A special thanks to God for the beautiful sunshine



and calm weather!

Thank You for School Supplies for Yates

Thanks to all who contributed school supplies to Yates. We filled up a car with supplies and each grade level's requests were met. As usual, FBCNN has been unbelievably generous!!

More News from FBCNN

Young Couples and Agape I Game Night · Sunday, March 8 · 4pm

These two classes will be joining together for a time of fellowship and fun.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast · Saturday, March 14 · 8:00am · Payne Fellowship Hall

Contact Clark Lamp, clark.g.lamp.ii@jci.com, or Larry Nester, ctryengr@gmail.com, for more information. Sign up sheets will be available in Sunday Bible Study classes and at the Welcome Center.

Romania Fundraising Luncheons · Sunday, March 15 & Sunday, May 31

These luncheons are one of the ways to help our Romania Mission Team this year. There will be a seating at 11:15am for those who attend the 8:30am service and 12:15pm for those who attend at 11:00. The Swingin' Singers will present their Spring musical at the 12:15 luncheon on May 31.

Menu: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Banana Pudding

Remember to mark these dates on your calendar!

BARF (Bring A Real Friend) for the Ladies · Friday, March 20 · 6-9pm

This is the first ever all girl BARF! There will be games, prizes, food, activities and much more!

First Baptist Preschool Fundraiser · Sunday, March 22 · 11am-2pm

Stop by Chihuahua's Mexican Grill (309-B Oyster Point Road) after worship on Sunday and help support our preschool.

Please be sure to tell your server that you are there for the fundraiser.

Mark Your Calendar- March



THURSDAY 5	FRIDAY 6	SATURDAY 7	SUNDAY 8	MONDAY 9	TUESDAY 10	WEDNESDAY 11
Hispanic Praise Team 6:00pm	Swingin' Singers 10:00am	Deacons' Meeting 8:00am	Traditional Worship 8:30am	Prayer Group (Prayer Rm.) 2:00pm	Compassion Ministries 8:00am	Family Night Dinner 5:00pm
Transformed Praise Team 7:30pm		Romania Mission Team Meeting 9:00am	Bible Study 9:45am	The Bridge Young Adults 7:00pm	Biblical Proportions 6:30pm	Children & Youth Activities 6:00pm
		Prayer Group (Rm. 130) 10:00am	Contemporary Worship 11:00am	Delta Mission Circle Meeting 7:00pm		Prayer & Bible Study 6:15pm
			Hispanic Worship 12:30pm			Sanctuary Choir 7:30pm
			Young Couples & Agape I Game Night 4:00pm			

Tithes and Offerings Received as of March 1, 2020

<u>Budget Need</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Hope 127 Year to Date</u>	<u>Debt on Educational Building</u>
\$205,131.78	\$201,951.36	\$9,310.00	\$464,705.24

Donation Opportunity for those with IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Congress has approved a permanent charitable giving tax break, known as the "IRA charitable rollover". The rollover is available for those who are 70½. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required minimum distribution.

The distribution is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. With the change in the recent Tax Legislation, the Standard Deduction has doubled thus itemized charitable deductions will no longer be needed to be kept track of. By donating all or part of your IRA RMD to the Church, you receive the benefit of a reduced Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in that the RMD to charity is not taxed, which helps the opportunity of obtaining lower costs for your Medicare Part B and Prescription Drug premiums.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the Church not through you the owner of the account. Let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund. Rick Eloffson, Treasurer FBC

Wednesday Night Menu

March 4, 2020

Beef Tips & Rice, Peas, Rolls, Salad
Dessert: Banana Pudding

Kids: Chicken Nuggets, Corn on the Cob, Applesauce

March 11, 2020

Chicken Casserole, String Beans, Apples, Rolls, Salad
Dessert: Brownies

Kids: Chicken Nuggets, Corn on the Cob, Applesauce

Cost: Grade 5 & below \$3 Grade 6 & up \$5