



God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

March 27, 2018
Volume I, Issue No. 13

From the Pastor's Heart

"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (Matt. 27:46)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Do you want to know what is so special about this? Something so horrific as Christ being separated from God for the first and only time for our sins. You want to know why this is so special? He experienced the agony that we feel almost on a daily basis, of absolute loneliness. He suffered what we all consider the greatest of all suffering. Christ felt alone in that moment he felt like his father wasn't there. Do you realize that means he can identify with us in any agony or pain in our life? It is more than realizing that he was alone, but the fact that he was alone so we don't have to be for eternity. Brothers and Sisters, we struggle with feeling like God is not there during the lows of our life. I encourage you to ask "Why?" just as Christ did. I have been asking "why?" a lot lately. I ask why my mother is the recipient of such an awful disease. The truth is, I don't know why, but I do know I can look at the time I have had with my mom and I can see the miracle. It may not be a loss for you but a lack of finances, relationship issues, a number of things. I encourage you to feel the emotions that the experience is giving you just as Christ did. Do not beat yourself up for feeling alone, for asking questions. This one statement shows that even Christ felt this way when he took on the sin of the world. The only mistake you can make is to stop talking to God and pretend that He doesn't know what you are going through. If we are made in God's image, then you know He is feeling what we are feeling every step of the way.

*Love,
Mark*

Prayer requests from Sunday:

- Diane Clapp will meet with her doctors this week and may have gall bladder surgery.
- Helen Bass is recovering from a broken arm.
- June Jones and her family continue to need our prayers.
- Thanks to Barbara Collins for organizing the Mystery Dinner.



David Walker

March 28

Spaghetti Dinner

On Sunday, April 15, immediately following worship service a spaghetti dinner will be held to raise money for the youth to attend Camp Bethel. Pasta and sauce are covered, items still needed are:

- Desserts
- Drinks
- Salad fixin's



Please let Mary Hagy know if you can help. The City of Norton first responders will be our guests for dinner and we want to feed them well.

Clean out your closets and help the youth!

Along with the spaghetti dinner on April 15 a silent auction will be held to raise funds for Camp Bethel youth. Donations may be dropped off at the church any time. All items except clothing are welcome.



Easter Sunrise Service

7 a.m. in Norton City Park



Rev. Adrian Dale, pastor at Norton First Church of God, will bring the message and First Baptist Church of Norton will provide music. Come join us for one of the year's most meaningful services.

Our dear friend Helen Bass fell recently and fractured her arm in two places. She is also recovering from cataract surgery. Helen is feeling homesick and is eager to return to her home in Wise. Let's show Helen some love and send her a card:

Helen Bass
4 Longfellow Place
Apt. # 3501
Boston, MA 02114

BCM Meals and Bible Study

Mark and the students meet at 6 p.m. to prepare dinner. If you would like to help cook or contribute food, please let Mark know the Sunday before the meeting. They usually have from 10-20 students. Below is their menu for the rest of the semester.

- March 27 ~ spaghetti tacos
- April 3 ~ ham, green beans, mac & cheese
- April 10 ~ gumbo
- April 17 ~ chicken casserole
- April 24 ~ Boston Butt, cole slaw, pasta salad
- May 1 ~ cheesesteaks, chips



Baptist Collegiate Ministry

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) is located in a building adjacent to The University of Virginia's College at Wise campus. As a part of the Virginia Baptist Collegiate Ministry, the mission of the UVA-Wise BCM is building community, making disciples for Christ, and developing Christian leaders. BCM has been a part of collegiate ministry at UVA-Wise since 1958.

Membership in UVA-Wise BCM simply requires a willingness to participate, Baptist affiliation is not necessary. Annually, less than one-third of active BCM members are Baptist.

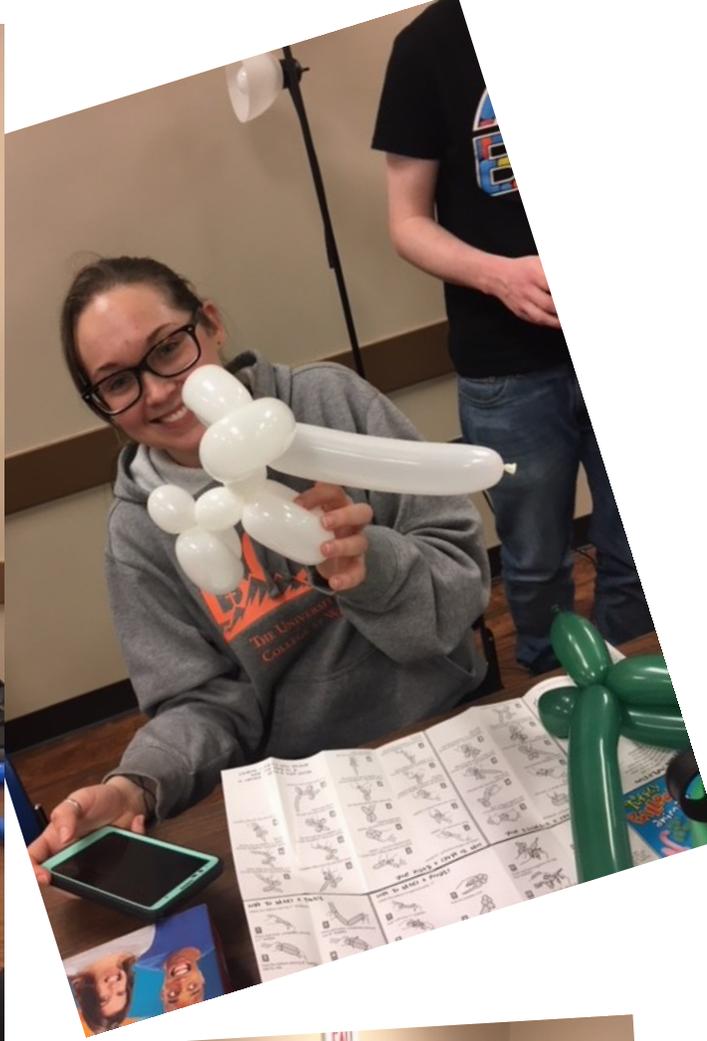
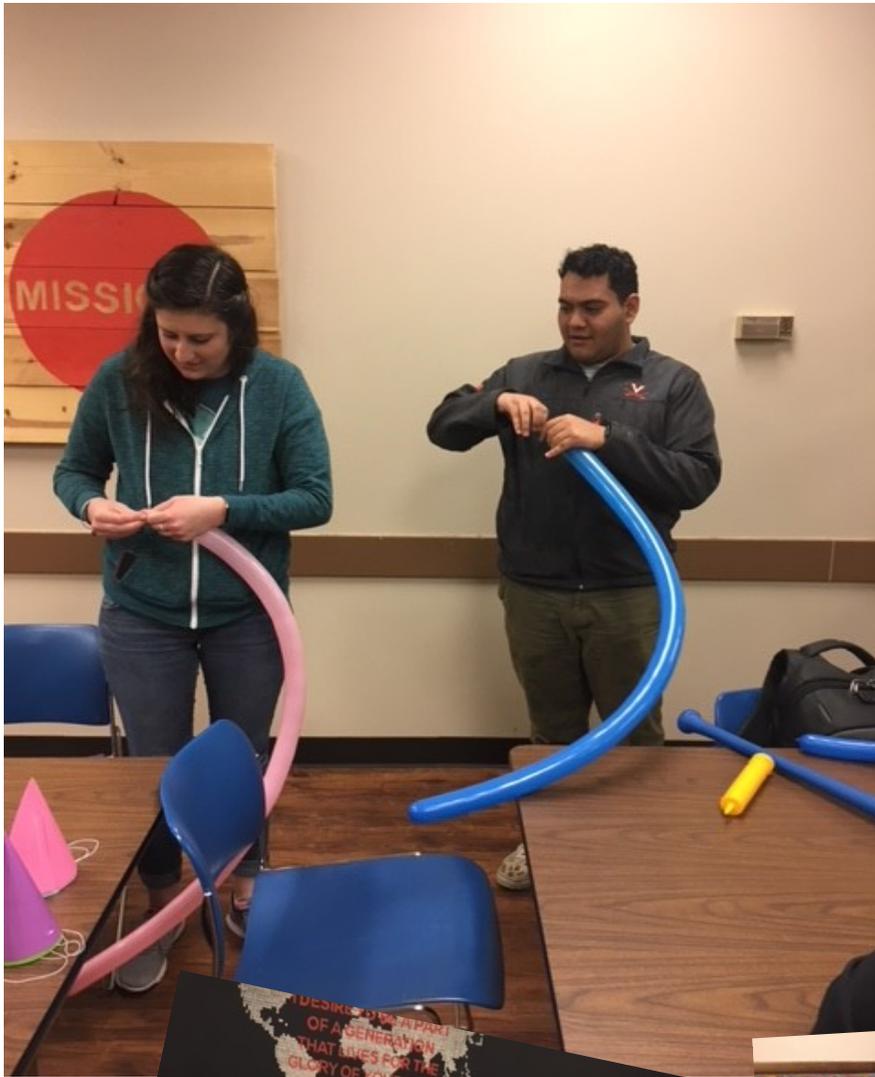
The BCM facility is open and available to students throughout each day and evening, and includes a prayer room, conference/meeting room, library/resource room, and a fully-equipped kitchen. Weekly opportunities include a home-cooked fellowship meal and Bible study every Tuesday evening.

For more information please contact the director, Pastor Mark Dixon (mjd8f@uvawise.edu) or BCM student president Ahliyah Gavin (acg4r@uvawise.edu).



The BCM students helped Pastor Mark celebrate his birthday.





**As you pray this week,
please remember the
following.**

David & Jewell Ball
Helen Bass
Libby Bowman
Gail Buchanan
Jim Campbell
Dottie Chittester
Diane Clapp
Virginia Collins
Linda Cooke
Tim Cox
Jill Dixon
Rhonda Elliott
Rue Gembach
Wayne Harrison
Emma Harrod
Alana Hash
Mary Haynes
Sue Hobbs
Rosalind Hunt
Elee Large
Maddie Lewis
Jim & Wanda Manicure
Eugene Mullins
Tracy Ott
Donna Owens
Robertta Owens
Wilma Redman
Leah Riley
Margaret Riner
Bea Simmons
Tammy Sturgill
Glenn & Marilyn Teasley
Joseph Thomas
Mike Todd
Beverly Viers
Susan Gillenwater Wells
Brenda Whitaker
Little Ed Withrow
Our country's leaders
First responders, volunteers
Armed Services men and women
Missionaries
Nursing home patients



Please send prayer requests to
lindawellswalker@yahoo.com

Announcements

- CONGRATULATIONS to Shane Burke, Heather Marchant, and the Eastside High forensics team on winning the State Championship!
- Our study of Jonah continues Wednesday at 6:30. Please read Session 3: Jonah Preaches and Nineveh Repents.
- The Women on Mission will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, April 2, at the Prime Sirloin in Norton.
- Vacation Bible School will be June 4-6; let Mary Hagy know if

Join us for tea!

Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Our guest speaker is Rev. Sandra L. Jones, pastor at Williams Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.
- ◆ Entertainment provided by the "We're So Bad We're Good" repertory theater ensemble. Don't ask—the rest is a surprise!
- ◆ We will sing
- ◆ Bring a door prize
- ◆ Bring a dish to share.
- ◆ Wear a hat



Springtime in VA

If this keeps up, I may
need your help next
weekend!



First Baptist Church of Norton gives anyone the chance to come together and worship with like-minded congregants as members of a strong, loving community. Whether you're looking for peace of mind, a way to give back, or simply want to be a part of a loving family — First Baptist Church of Norton welcomes you. Join our community, and start your journey to God-centered growth with us!

How to join FBC Norton

- Baptism—You desire to express faith in Christ through baptism.
- Transfer—You wish to transfer membership from another church.
- Statement of Faith—You are a baptized believer and come on statement of faith.
- Watch Care—You would like to be connected to our church family without official membership.

Deacons

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Visit us on the web at
www.fbcnorton.com or
connect with us on
Facebook.

Or better yet, come and visit
us in person!



This newsletter is published every Tuesday morning on the church's web page. Please send news, photos, and announcements to cornettdiane@gmail.com.