



God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

March 13, 2018
Volume I, Issue No. 11

(Ed. note: Sometimes the pastor will have a paper due or other pressing obligations, and this space will be filled with a devotional, interesting article or other item. If you would like to contribute something for those times please send it to Diane Cornett. I hope you enjoy the following.)

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it, he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother of pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out, "Excuse me, where are we?"

"This is Heaven, sir," the man answered.

"Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked.

"Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up." The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

"Can my friend," gesturing to the dog, "come in, too?" the traveler asked.

"I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets."

The man thought a moment, and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going. After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road which led through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

"Excuse me" he called to the reader. "Do you have any water?"

"Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there." The man pointed to a place that couldn't be seen from outside the gate.

"Come on in."

"How about my friend here?" the traveler gestured to the dog.

"There should be a bowl by the pump."

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree waiting for them.

"What do you call this place?" the traveler asked.

"This is Heaven," was the answer.

"Well, that's confusing," the traveler said.

"The man down the road said that was Heaven, too."

"Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's Hell."

"Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

"No. I can see how you might think so, but we're just happy that they screen out the folks who'll leave their best friends behind."

Prayer requests from Sunday:

- Mary Haynes fell and broke her arm.
- David Gibson is still sedated and on a ventilator (father of Beth Tipton).
- Wayne Harrison continues to receive treatment for a brain tumor.
- Kathy Osborne is not feeling well.

Praise:

- Sharon Hamblin's second cataract surgery was successful.
- Shelby Carico was accepted into a doctoral program at JMU.
- Thursday was Phyllis Still's one-year anniversary since her surgery; she is doing very well.

*"But as for me I will sing about your power.
I will shout with joy each morning because of your unfailing love.
For you have been my refuge,
a place of safety in the day of distress.
O my strength, to you I sing praises,
for you, O God, are my refuge,
the God who shows me unfailing love."*

Psalms 59:16-17



- Immediately following worship service this Sunday the Vacation Bible School Committee will meet. VBS will be held June 4-6. If you would like to help please stay for the meeting or speak with a committee member.
- Following this meeting Marty and Mary Hagy will take the Camp Bethel kids to lunch at Romano's. Parents are welcome to go, and the church will pay for the children's meal.
- On Sunday, April 15, our guests for worship will be the City of Norton's first responders.
- Also on April 15 there will be a spaghetti dinner following the church service. Donations will be accepted to support our youth who attend Camp Bethel. Let Marty or Mary know if you can help with this meal.
- The choir will perform "Redeemed" on Easter Sunday, April 1. There

will be no potluck that day.

We're having tea party!



Please join us for the Spring Women's Brunch potluck on Saturday, April 7, at 10 a.m. These gatherings are always a time of good food, fun, and fellowship. We'll be serving tea and all the goodies that go with it.

A tea party requires a hat! In addition to door prizes, there will be prizes for the most beautiful hat, the most creative hat, the tackiest hat and the People's Choice Award. You have plenty of time to get busy decorating your hat, or go shopping if you prefer.

If you have questions or need suggestions for the potluck, please speak with Cheryl Redman or Diane Cornett.

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 14 ~ chili
- March 20 ~ cookout
- 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).

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

David & Jewell Ball
Libby Bowman
Gail Buchanan
Jim Campbell
Dottie Chittester
Virginia Collins
Linda Cooke
Tim Cox
Jill Dixon
Rhonda Elliott
Wayne Harrison
Emma Harrod
Alana Hash
Mary Haynes
Sue Hobbs
Rosalind Hunt
Elee Large
Maddie Lewis
Jim Manicure
Rhonda Moody
Eugene Mullins
Tracy Ott
Donna Owens
Roberta 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

March Birthdays

8 ~ Michelle Buckley, Christiana Robinette
19 ~ Shirley Roberts
22 ~ Mark Dixon
26 ~ Little Ed Withrow
28 ~ David Walker

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

March Anniversaries

8 ~ Neil & Beth Walker

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

“Sing to the Lord, all you godly ones!
Praise his holy name.
His anger lasts for a moment,
But his favor lasts a lifetime!
Weeping may go on all night,
but joy comes with the morning.”

Psalm 30:4-5

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

Charlene Bates, 276-219-4251, charlenebates715@yahoo.com

Nancy Cox, 276-393-7010, ncox161@gmail.com

Marty Hagy, 276-219-9949, martyhagy@gmail.com

Phyllis Still, 276-679-0987, pwstill1@verizon.net

Linda Walker, 276-870-4889, lindawellswalker@yahoo.com

Contact Us

First Baptist Church
9th Street & Virginia Avenue
PO Box 499
Norton, VA 24273
276-679-1235 voice
276-679-3059 fax
celebratefbcn@comcast.net

Rev. Mark J. Dixon, Jr.
mjd8f@uvawise.edu
Phone: 276-393-9882

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.