



The Courier

January 2012

Points of Interest

- Debt Free
- Celebrations
- Youth Events
- Senior Events



Psalm 37:5. NRSV

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DEBT FREE NOW!!

If your memory is pretty good, you will notice that my newsletter article for January of 2012 is the same as the article I wrote for January of 2011. The article focused on the new Stewardship campaign that we would be introducing, highlighted by our church's effort to be "Debt Free in 1-3". Back then, I wrote the following: *"Accomplishing these financial goals will certainly be a great reason to celebrate. Still, I would remind us that the prize is not just a positive checking account balance or a burned bank note. The prize is the journey getting there. ... Our journey will be about our values and how they bring us into contact with a world that needs to know the love of Christ. Our journey will be about coming together, working together, giving together, breaking bread together, learning together, worshipping together. What a great race we have to run!"*

One year later, where has our journey taken us? We are, for the first time in over 20 years, free of debt. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of so many within our church family, we paid off the \$220,000+ loan balance 16 months before our target. I want to thank all of you for your support of this effort, and I want to especially thank the combined Deacon/Stewardship Team that oversaw these efforts over the last year. In the face of trying circumstances, God invited us to follow His lead, and the result has been amazing. Thank you God!

Still, as rewarding as it is to reach this finish line, the greatest gift was the journey. The pride of parents who watched children sit at the kitchen table and figure out how much of their allowance they wanted to put in the "silver piggy" in Sunday School. The fellowship of standing out in a parking lot with Michael Allred, the Pickards and the Harrisons welcoming attendees to the Elon-Appalachian State football game. The blessing college students received getting one of our great Chrismon tree Christmas cards informing them that their church was praying for them. These are gifts that would have been completely missed had we never set out on this journey. Thank you God!

So here we are today, January of 2012, and we have so much from the past year to celebrate. Make sure you read every page of your newsletter, because throughout these pages you will hear our Ministry Teams sharing what they are celebrating at the close of 2011.

But as we look back and celebrate, we also must begin to *Move Forward*. We have been set free from debt, but for what purpose? I believe that at least one reason is so that we are free to fully live out as a church the values that Christ has called our church to embody: the values of compassion, service, acceptance, honesty, love, respect, and faithfulness. These are the touchstones that will help us identify the call God places on First Baptist Elon as we move into our future. On Sunday, January 8, we will have a special Sunday morning worship service that will focus on taking our first steps into the future that God has prepared our church for. I want to strongly encourage you to be here for our worship service at 10:55 as we celebrate what God has done and look forward to what God will do.

In that January 2011 article, I closed by quoting from Hebrews 12, where we are called to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." These words remind us that, as we move forward into this new freedom, we must never take our eyes off of Jesus Christ. That is why I am so excited about our new prayer ministry, The Center. Beginning January 15, everyone is invited to join together every Sunday morning at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary for a time of corporate prayer. Facilitated by our Deacons, this time will be so critical for lifting up our burdens as well as seeking God's leadership for our church. I am excited about this new ministry, and I hope you will be a part of it.

It is a new year, a year that begins with excitement and anticipation. It is time to celebrate, time to anticipate, and time to participate! Thank you God!

Mark

Ministry Team News

Children's Team

It's time to celebrate our activities from 2011! During our VBS "Panda-mania", we had over 100 children and adult volunteers. Every participant learned that God is WILD about us. Get ready for some high flying adventures at this year's VBS!

Our Trunk or Treat was well attended too. We had many new faces and volunteers!

We are looking forward to our next event, "Winter Wonderland"! Mark your calendars for January 28 from 2 to 5 pm! Bring your family and friends to compete in a snowman building competition. The Children's Team will provide the "snow" and basic decorating supplies. The entry fee is \$5 and 5 cans of food, which will be donated to the Homeless Shelter. Change will be used to judge the winners of the contest. This will also be given to the Homeless Shelter. There will be a sign up in the vestibule and in Sunday School classes. Please see a member of the Children's Team if there are any questions.

College Team

The College Team would like to ask the church to help with the meals in January for the BSU. The deacons are providing the meal on Jan. 5th.(Pizza Casserole). We need volunteers to help on the 12th and 19th. If you can provide food or go to serve please contact Kay McCloskey at 449-0274 or kaymcclosk@triad.rr.com. We will need to meet at the church at 4:30 with the food. Thanks for your help and support of this mission project to support the BSU students.

Family Team

Book Discussion Group

January 26 at 7:00 p.m. Barnes & Noble Café – "Steve Jobs" by Walter Isaacson

Formations Team

In reflecting on this past year and looking ahead to this next year, we find there is cause for much celebration!

- First, we want to celebrate the overwhelming participation in our Klesis small group study and hope that people will remember the positive things they discovered about themselves and their personal ministries as we embark on new adventures in this new year.
- Second, we want to celebrate the success and participation in the Re-Union Sunday that was hosted by the New Beginnings class almost a year ago and challenge other classes to volunteer to lead one of these events, as well. It is an exciting opportunity to bring different people from different Sunday school classes together and experience different teaching styles.
- Third, we want to celebrate our focus on prayer in the past year. We had much excitement over the Sunday night study Mark recently led, as well as, increased numbers at Wednesday night prayer services and great participation in the newly started Thursday morning prayer time. This emphasis on prayer will not soon be forgotten, and we are looking for new ways to make prayer an even more important part of our congregational time in this new year.
- Fourth, Deb Spivey's Great Light Seminar on time management was such a meaningful time for the women involved in that study which makes us even more excited about the Fit 4 study beginning on Sunday, January 8 at 9:45 in the fellowship hall. This will be a study of wellness of the heart, soul, mind, and strength and will be presented by Janie Brown, Alec French, and Colleen Russell. What better way could there be to start the new year than to resolve to be more well!

Resource Team



The Library has really grown a lot this year. We have added almost 100 books for your reading enjoyment. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and donations. So please come by and check out a book while you're staying warm this winter.

Missions Team

Homeless Shelter – Responsible for the meal for the Homeless Shelter for Wednesday, Jan. 4: Celestial/Disciples Class

Thank you for donating toys to the Orange County Prison Ministry. We collected 90 toys.

Stew Total: \$1,644.25 With your help we were able to make donations to Christmas Cheer, Loaves & Fishes & help with the Career Net Christmas Party. Thank you.

CBF Total for December: \$887.00

Senior Adult Team

The Senior Adult Team has much to celebrate from 2011 and looking forward to in 2012! The Senior Adult ministry had 4 excellent luncheons during 2011 with GREAT attendance, GREAT speakers/entertainers, and GREAT food! We are excited about our luncheons coming up in this new year with our first taking place on February 14 - Valentine's Day! Our Fun and Fellowship Trips to 5 different locations took us around the state and more! Our team celebrates the birth of two new ministries, "Circle of Friends" and "Coupon Club", and the witness that both ministries have for our church family, both inside these walls and outside in the community. As "Circle of Friends" has emerged, we have seen interest and growth in the number of church members participating and being visited. Our team celebrated a wonderful Senior Adult Sunday in September with Rev. Diane Cox coming to speak on hope! Our team is excited about continued growth in these new ministries and the opportunity to continually grow towards a mission-minded ministry at FBC Elon!

Senior Adult Breakfast - Tuesday, January 3 8:30 am Ramada Inn

"Circle of Friends" - Wednesday, January 4 9:30 am

Senior Adult Team Meeting - Friday, January 13 10:00 am

January Birthday Luncheon - Wednesday, January 18 12:30 pm Ramada Inn



Worship Team

Your Worship Team has worked diligently this year to nurture the worship life of our church. Our responsibilities cover areas not only of special worship services but also details for baptism, flowers, ushers and communion. This year we have secured several more ushers, more people ready to help with baptism and communion. We also set up a sub-team to take care of flowers. Last spring our ladies experienced an inspirational Women's Tea with guest speaker Dee Melnyk. Our theme was God, Me and a Cup of Tea. For Homecoming in October this year Rev. Norman Harris' message on Hope lifted our spirits.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are always special times in the life of the church with all music groups participating in the music of the season.

We always welcome any volunteers who are interested in helping in any area and we welcome your input and suggestions.

Your team members are Bonnie Kerr, Becky Franks, Reggie Vick, April Riley and Margaret Miller.

MUSIC NOTES

Music groups will not meet until January 2012.

- Jan 4 Worship Choir at 7:30 pm
- Jan 8 PraizKids at 5:30 pm
- Jan 16 Joyful Ringers at 6:30 pm
- Jan 16 Elon Bronze at 7:00 pm
- Jan 17 Happy Hearts at 10:00 am

My family and I want to thank you for all the cards, gifts and good wishes during this season and we wish you and your family good health and a great year ahead. May your year be blessed and may our church be blessed as we seek to be Christ's light in our community.

Margaret

Stewardship Team



The Stewardship Committee would like to extend a very special thank you to our church family for your faithfulness and support of the "Debt Free in 2013" building campaign this year. As announced in our December 18th worship service, we have great cause to celebrate. Through God's hands, your generous giving has allowed us to not only meet our 2011 goal, but to completely pay off the building loan balance of \$153,017.28. God has truly blessed our church by enabling us to be free of this debt through the commitment and generosity of everyone who has donated to this campaign.

As we transition into 2012, the Stewardship Committee looks forward to the amazing opportunities that God has in store for our church as we continue "Moving Forward in Faith".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Address for Tyler Watkins Stationed in Afghanistan

LCpl, Watkins, Tyler
2/9 ECHO Company
Unit 74120
FPO AE 09510-4120

Members who visit an Anna Maria's Restaurant after Sunday service & present the church's bulletin for that day, they will forward 10% of your purchase back to the church.



A New Year's blessing

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

—Author unknown

Sunday Night Ministries resume on January 8th.

Youth News

Just a thought...

In Roman mythology, the god Janus is pictured as a two faced god - one that looks back at the past, and the other looking forward towards the future. The New Year begins with the month of January and Janus is the namesake for this month. And when we think about it, the month of January directs us to both look back at the past year and remember while also looking forward to the New Year in anticipation and preparation.

Over the past few weeks, I have used two faces to look at the youth ministry of FBC Elon. One face has looked back over my 11 years of ministry at FBC Elon, but specifically the past year and the celebrations that our youth have had. At the top of this list has to be our mission trip to Louisville, Kentucky. God guided us to this beautiful, needy city and we poured out our souls on that community through our work and presence. I celebrate those youth who have graduated and moved on down God's path and journey for them. I celebrate the insurgence of energy that our new youth have made on the group, seeing the largest group of 6th graders join our program since our present junior class. I celebrate the conversion experience of Austin Evans, who gave his life to God and was baptized. I celebrate the blast that was Youth Week where we had over 75 youth visitors for our week of outreach and the growth our group has seen since then. I celebrate the seeds of a family ministry that has taken shape, with opportunities for our youth parents to meet during "Think Tanks" and planned, intentional family activities. I celebrate God's presence with us in 2011.

My second face looks forward to 2012 and the anticipation of how God is going to move through our group. I am excited about a fund-raiser our youth will be doing during March Madness for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. I am excited about a family white water rafting trip taking shape possibly in May. I am excited about the mission opportunities that will take place through our Task Force monthly mission projects and hopes of spreading that into a church-wide ministry. I am excited about intense Bible studies that will take place in Emerge, Consuming Fire, and into our summer Intensity studies. I think everyone is excited about our Summer Beach Retreat and Mission Experience coming up in July!

I want to encourage you between now and the beginning of the New Year to look back like I have and reflect on the memories of 2011. But do not stay looking back - turn your eyes forward to 2012 and how God will speak to and move you in this New Year!
- David

Upcoming Youth Ministries...

Summer Beach Retreat/ Mission Experience

July 21 - 28, 2012

Sign up Deadline is **January 8!**

Don't forget your \$50 Deposit!

Youth and Parent Luncheon Sunday, January 8

12:00 pm
FBC Elon Fellowship Hall

Parental Consent Forms,
2012 Youth Ministry Teams,
2012 Beach Retreat Sign Up
and Discussion!

January Youth Ministries

Emerge!
Sunday, January 1 (To Biscuitville), 8,
15, 22, 29
9:45 am

DEADLINE - Summer Retreat Sign Up
Sunday, January 8
\$50 Deposit Due!

Youth and Parent Luncheon
Sunday, January 8
12:00 pm

Consuming Fire!
Sunday, January 8, 15, 22, 29
5:30 pm

Youth Parent "Think Tank"
@ The Hines' Home!
Saturday, January 21
5:00 - 7:00 pm

"The Breakfast Club"
Wednesday, January 25
6:45 am
@ The Bville on Huffman Mill!

Winter Jam Concert 2012!

Saturday, February 4
Greensboro Coliseum
\$10 @ the Door!

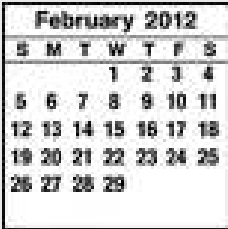
Skillet, Newsong, Sanctus Real, Peter Furler, Kari Jobe, Building 429, Group 1 Crew, Dara Maclean, For King and Country, We as Human, Illusionist Brock Gill, Speaker Nick Hall

****Sign up in the Youth Room!****

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS...



Abby Allred January 2
Chase Briggs January 19

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>New Year's Day</i> No PM Ministries	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3 8:30 AM Senior Adult Breakfast at Ramada Inn	4 8:30-10 AM Career Net 9:30 AM "Circle of Friends" 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 11:30 AM Prayer & Praise 5 PM BSU Meal	6	7
8 Note Burning Service—AM Children's Church 12 PM Youth & Parent Luncheon 4 PM Church Council	9	10	11 8:30-10 AM Career Net 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 11:30 AM Prayer & Praise 5 PM BSU Meal	13 10 AM Senior Adult Team Mtg.	14 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
15	16 <i>M L King Day</i> 6:30 PM Joyful Ringers 7 PM Elon Bronze	17 10 AM "Happy Hearts" Rehearsal	18 8:30-10 AM Career Net 12:30 PM Sr. Adult Birthday 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30 AM Prayer & Praise 5 PM BSU Meal	20	21 5-7 PM Youth Parents "Think Tank" to Hines' Home
22 8:45 AM Deacons Mtg. Children's Church	23 6:30 PM Joyful Ringers 7 PM Elon Bronze	24	25 6:45 AM Breakfast Club 8:30-10 AM Career Net 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 11:30 AM Prayer & Praise 7 PM Book Discussion at Barnes & Noble Café	27 6 PM FH reserved	28 8-2 PM Cub Scouts 2-5 PM Children's Winter Wonderland Activity
29	30 6:30 PM Joyful Ringers 7 PM Elon Bronze FH reserved 5 PM	31			Sunday Worship Opportunities 9:30 AM Deacons' Prayer 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Morning Worship 4:00 PM SHINE! 5:00 PM Fellowship Supper 5:30 PM Youth - PraizKids & Missions 5:45 PM Adults 6:15 PM RA's & GA's	
2 nd Abygail Allred 3 rd Jo Gattis 3 rd Vivian Stowe 3 rd Carnell Summers 5 th Linda Barefoot 6 th John Moody 7 th Doris Kelly		10 th Tyler Johnson 15 th Sharon Brenner 20 th Mary Roach 22 nd LaVonne Wyrick 23 rd Jane Crabbe 23 rd Dave Harris 23 rd Noah Mofield		25 th Janet Lanphear 25 th Chip Ferguson 26 th Jonathan Spivey 28 th Eules Wyrick 28 th Marissa Olson 31 st Suzanne Roof		



First Baptist Church of Elon

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Fax: 336-584-5181

Rev. Mark Mofield, Pastor
pastor@fbc-elon.org
Rev. David Durham, Associate Pastor
youth@fbc-elon.org
Margaret Miller, Minister of Music
music@fbc-elon.org
Janice Somers, Adm. Assistant
secretary@fbc-elon.org

We're on the Web!
www.fbc-elon.org

Gifts & Memorials...

The church appreciates the following gifts.

Building Fund:

Anne Uzzell In honor of our Church Families, January Birthdays & Anniversaries. In memory of Susan Reinheimer's uncle, John Moody's aunt, Lydia Bryant & Donna Carter's sister, John Jennings' mother.
M/M John Dawson In memory of John Jennings' mother.
M/M Garland Tickle In memory of John Jennings' mother, Lydia Bryant's sister, Colleen Russell's cousin.
M/M Bobby Roach In memory of Earline Mann's sister, John Jennings' mother, Lydian Bryant & Donna Carter's sister.
FBC, Elon In memory of John Jennings' mother, in lieu of flowers.
Emily B. Lambert Women on Missions Endowment Fund:
M/M David Lambert In honor of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
In memory of Dewey & Emily Lambert.

Music Fund:

M/M Dave Harris In memory of John Jennings' mother.
Nancy Bowling In memory of Bobby Bowling & Jennifer Benware.
Regular Fund:
M/M Bill Mann In memory of Lydia Bryant's & Donna Carter's sister, John Jennings' mother.
Sylvia Hayes In memory of John Jennings' mother.
Disciples SS Class In memory of W.H. & Burney Bryant's sister-in-law, John Jennings' mother.
FBC, Elon In memory of Earline Mann's sister, in lieu of flowers.
Tony Coble, Jr. Scholarship Memorial Fund:
M/M Tony Coble In memory of Tony Coble, Jr.
Youth Fund:
Darryl Jones In memory of Wayne Hughes & in honor of Delrees Hughes.
Memorial sent to Hospice in memory of Lydia Bryant & Donna Carter's sister.

2012

January 8

NOTE BURNING

Service



January 15

9:30 am

**Time of Corporate
Prayer
in Sanctuary**