



The Courier

A Message from our Pastor...

November 2011

Points of Interest

- Community Thanks-giving Service
- Youth News
- Senior Events



Order your Christmas Cards today. Forms available in foyer.

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MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH

God is calling us to be a church that is *compassionate, serving, and accepting.* God is calling us to minister in ways that are *honest, loving, respectful, and faithful.*

One of my favorite passages of Scripture has always been Philippians 3:13-14: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

When I look at those words again, I realize that Paul says that God's call is the prize to strain for. We talk about prizes and rewards when it comes to God, and often our focus moves to the "treasures in heaven" that Paul talks about in another letter or the "streets of gold" in Revelation. And certainly I think that Paul is thinking of those treasures and bounties here in Philippians. Still, I can't help but notice that Paul says that the prize he is thinking of is not just Heaven but "the heavenly call". In other words, the prize is to hear God say, "This is where I want you to go. This is how I want you to get there."

I wonder: can we see the prize as the race to which God is asking us to run, or can we only conceive of the prize as what awaits us when we cross the finish line?

Very soon, you will be receiving a letter from the Stewardship Team and the Deacons. This letter is being sent in response to one of the Vision Team recommendations that our church adopted in June of 2010. In this letter, you will be introduced to a new stewardship initiative, *Moving Forward in Faith*. You will hear more information about this initiative during the morning worship service on Sunday, January 9. This initiative has a very clear goal: to throw off financial burdens so that we can move forward to accomplish the purposes of God's kingdom by being the church God is calling us to be. This initiative sets forward some very clear goals, and it is an invitation for everyone in our church family to join our time, talents, and resources together for a larger purpose.

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. When we had our congregational conversations, one of the highlights of our church's history that many people mentioned was the "Together We Build" campaign. When people explained why they considered it a highlight, again and again people talked about how the campaign was an opportunity for the church to come together and work together for a common purpose. In other words, the journey was as enjoyable as the finish line.

I keep thinking: what will our journey, our race, look like? There are some things that I know. As we press on toward the goal, there will be an opportunity to come together in small groups to discuss God's call on our individual lives (*Klesis*) and on our church (*It's Time!*). There will be an opportunity to join with other believers to discuss the shifting missional paradigm (February 1 at First Baptist Graham). These are just a few opportunities that will help us reach the goal of God's call on our church. 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!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith ..." (Hebrews 12:1-2a).
- Mark

Ministry Team News

Family Team



Book Discussion Group

Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7 PM at Barnes & Noble Café
“How Green Was My Valley” by Richard Llewellyn

Formations Team

Sunday School Great Light Seminars:

Prime Time: Time Management from a Spiritual Perspective presented by Deb Spivey wrapping up in November during the Sunday school hour

Fit 4: Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength – a study of Christian wellness led by Janie Brown and Alec French beginning in January



Fire Drill!

During Sunday school Sunday, November 6

Listen for the Sunday school bell ringing repeatedly and make sure you know where the closest exit is from your Sunday school classroom.

Missions Team

Homeless Shelter – Responsible for the meal for the Homeless Shelter for Wednesday, November 2: ADK Sorority.

The Mission Team is looking for volunteers to help serve the monthly meal at the Homeless Shelter. If you would like to help, please contact David King at 449-7824. Thank You.



The GA's are sponsoring Operation Christmas Child this year. Please pick up a brochure in the vestibule and share Christmas with children around the world. We are encouraging using plastic shoeboxes with lids to help with the wrapping process. These can be picked up at the Dollar Store. Remember to include \$7.00 per box for shipping. If you have any questions you may ask a GA or Amy Harrison, Liz Hill or Susan Harrington. Deadline is Sunday, November 13th. Thank you for sharing your love. Our goal this year is 75 boxes.

Our Toy Ingathering for the Orange County Prison Ministry is Sunday, December 4.

Resource Team

Thank you very much for all the kind comments made to our team concerning the church history display at Homecoming. We love to display our history in a way that helps us to remember where we came from to the present. We have wonderful church members, memories, and a great history! We appreciate at anytime, anyone who would love to share any pictures with us to continue to keep our history going. It is fun to look back and see the memories we have made together. Thank you again.

Remember to stop by the library and check out new releases. Reading is a great way to relax and a great way to spend family time!

Worship Team



Our annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be Tuesday, Nov. 22 at Shallow Ford Church.

Several of our choir members will join their choir for the anthem and our Men's Ensemble will sing "I Then Shall Live." The offering taken will go to Giving Hope and the canned food to Loaves & Fishes.



Nov. 27 First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 18 Choirs present "A Song in the Air"
6:00 PM - Refreshments to follow

Dec. 21 Churchwide Christmas Caroling - 6PM

Dec. 24 Candlelight Christmas Communion
5:00 PM

Dec. 25 Carols and Scripture Service - 10:00 AM

Music Notes



Reminder to both Joyful Bells and Elon Bronze: We will play for the service on Nov. 20 and Dec. 18 and Cedar Ridge on Dec. 12 at 7:00 PM.

The Worship Choir invites you to sing and be a part of the Christmas presentation "A Song In the Air" which will be presented on Dec. 18 at 6:00 PM. Practices are every Wed. at 7:30 PM. The first 30-45 minutes of each practice will be dedicated to the Christmas music. I hope several singers will join us. There is still time. If you have any questions, please contact me. - Margaret

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Senior Adult Breakfast - Tuesday, November 1 8:30 am @ Ramada
"Circle of Friends" - Wednesday, November 2 9:30 am

Senior Adult Luncheon - Tuesday, November 15 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Entertainer - Singer Don Waugh

Menu - Turkey, Dressing, Green Beans, Cranberry Salad, Sweet Potato Casserole,
Bread, Dessert, and Drink Cost - \$3/person (Sign up by Sunday, November 13)

Birthday Luncheon - Wednesday, November 16 12:30 pm @ Ramada

Senior Adult Team Meeting - Friday, November 18 10:00 am

Community Thanksgiving Service - Tuesday, November 22 7:00 pm Shallow Ford Christian Church

UPCOMING FUN and FELLOWSHIP TRIP

Tanglewood Festival of Lights - Tuesday, December 6

Enjoy eating out, playing golf, or having a good time? Stop by the "Coupon Club" in the church communication center to check out the many coupons that are available for pick up and use! We appreciate all those who have been donating their unused coupons - keep it up and if you could cut them in advance, that would help out a lot! If you take a few coupons, right your name down on the clipboard so we can see how this ministry is going! Thanks, Senior Adult Team



Youth News

Just a thought...

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I have been reflecting on the many blessings God has bestowed upon me through the years and I wanted to share some of them with you today. First, I am thankful for a wonderful wife, who loves me despite all my imperfections. I am thankful for two healthy sons who bring so much excitement into my life. I am thankful for my parents, a mother and a father who raised me to be a mature young man. I am thankful for my brother and my entire family, who brings a reminder of the past and hope for the future. I am thankful for the numerous friends that I have had a chance to develop since my early years until now. I am thankful for a church family, who allows me to serve them on a daily basis. I am thankful for a wonderful group of youth, who challenge me and give me a chance to nurture their spiritual growth. I am thankful for a group of youth parents who are always there to lend a hand, some food, or a car! I am thankful for a group of senior adults, who bestow wisdom on me every chance they get. I am thankful for a wonderful staff here at First Baptist Elon, who works alongside me doing God's work. I am thankful for my health, despite all the issues that I have had over the past few years. I am thankful for Alamance Community College, who gives me the opportunity to stretch my mind academically.

But most importantly, I am thankful for a God who loves me, challenges me, and inspires me. What makes you thankful? Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

David

Upcoming Youth Ministries...

**"A Christmas Carol"
Dinner
Saturday, December 10
6:00 - 8:00 pm
FBC Elon Fellowship Hall**

****Come experience a night of food, music, and fun!****
*****Donations will be accepted to support the FBC Elon Youth*****
******Invite Your Friends and Family!******



Brandi Brenner November 11
Nigel Carlton November 22
Emily Swing November 23

November Youth Ministries

"The Breakfast Club"
Wednesday, November 2 and November 30
6:45 am

Task Force: Yard Work for our Seniors
Saturday, November 5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Youth Parent "Think Tank"
Saturday, November 5
5:00 - 7:00 pm @ The Allred's Home

Emerge
Sunday, November 6, 13, 20, 27
9:45 am

Consuming Fire!
Sunday, November 6, 13 (Middle Schoolers Only), 20
5:30 pm

Youth and Parent Meeting: Christmas Fund-raiser and 2012 Beach Retreat
Sunday, November 6
7:00 pm
Continued on next column....

High School Fall Retreat
November 11 - 13

Community Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 22
7:00 pm
Shallow Ford Christian Church

Upcoming December Dates

Christmas Cheer Shopping
December 17

Christmas Break Hang Out
December 23

Ronald McDonald House Mission Project
December 28

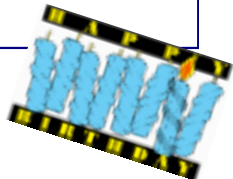
Youth Christmas Party
December 29



Ushers/Greeters: NR Franks, Alec French, Kevin Harrington, Mike Harrington, Paul Harris, Dale Harrison, John Jennings, Ronnie Ledbetter, Faye Naylor, Billy Thompson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Adult Study 6:15 PM RA's, GA's		1 8:30 AM Senior Adult Breakfast at Ramada Inn 10 AM "Happy Hearts" to Blakey Hall	2 6:45 AM "Breakfast Club" 8:30-10 AM Career Net 9:30 AM "Circle of Friends" 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh.	3	4	5 9 AM-12 PM Task Force: Yard Work for Seniors 5-7 PM Youth Parent "Think Tank" at All-red's Home
6 <i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i> 4 PM Church Council Mtg. 7 PM Youth/Parent Mtg.	7 6:30 PM Joyful Ringers 7 PM Elon Bronze <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Fellowship Hall in use for Election Nov. 7-9</div>	8 <i>Election Day</i>	9 NO Career Net 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh.	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">High School Fall Retreat Nov. 11-13</div>	12
13 Children's Church <i>Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due</i>	14 6:30 PM Joyful Ringers 7 PM Elon Bronze	15 <i>Newsletter Due</i> 11:30 AM Senior Adult Luncheon	16 8:30-10 AM Career Net 10 AM "Happy Hearts" Reh. (note change) 12:30 PM Sr. Adult Birthday Lunch at Ramada Inn 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh.	17 7 PM Book Discussion Group at Barnes & Noble Café FH reserved 6:30 pm	18 10 AM Senior Adult Team Mtg.	19 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast with Special Guest
20 8:45 AM Deacons' Mtg. Handbells Play	21 FH reserved 6pm 6:30 PM Joyful Ringers 7 PM Elon Bronze	22 7 PM Community Thanksgiving at Shallow Ford Christian Church	23 No Services	24 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Church Office Closed 	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Children's Church NO PM Ministries	28 6:30 PM Joyful Ringers 7 PM Elon Bronze FH reserved 5pm	29	30 6:45 AM "Breakfast Club" 8:30-10 AM Career Net 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh.			

1st Margaret Miller 1st Shirley Holland 1st Jacob Prichard 4th Scott Durham 5th Bill Gailey 6th Jeff Howard	7th Ed Swing 10th Paula Hensley 11th Brandi Brenner 13th Betty Stallings 15th Betty Justice 16th Billy Thompson	17th Matt French 18th Bill Mann 19th Judy Tickle 19th David Wall 22nd Linnea Allred 23rd Emily Swing 25th Mark Mofield
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First Baptist Church of Elon

621 E. Haggard Ave.
P.O. Box 778
Elon, NC 27244

Phone: 336-584-2735
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, November Birthdays & Anniversaries. In memory of Earline Mann's sister, Susan Reinheimer's uncle.
FBC, Elon	In memory of April Riley's mother, in lieu of flowers.
M/M James Allison	In memory of Earline Mann's sister.
M/M NR Franks	In memory of Earline Mann's sister.
Shirley Holland	In memory of Earline Mann's sister.

Music Fund:

Allene Atwood	In memory of Reggie Vick's brother-in-law, & April Riley's mother.
M/M Bill Newell	In memory of April Riley's mother.

Regular Fund:

Doris Kelly	In memory of April Riley's mother.
Truth Seekers SS	In memory of Earline Mann's sister.
Allene Atwood	In memory of Earline Mann's sister.
Laney Mofield	In memory of Earline Mann's sister.

Tony Coble, Jr. Scholarship Fund: In memory of Tony, Jr.

Bob Scott	M/M NR Franks
Carol Neece	M/M Mike Harrington

"A Christmas Carol" Dinner **Saturday, December 10**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

FBC Elon Fellowship Hall

**Come experience a night of food, music,
and fun!**

**Donations will be accepted to support the
FBC Elon Youth.**

Invite Your Friends and Family!

CARD OF THANKS

To My Special Church Family,
I will never be able to express to you my appreciation for your many acts of love & compassion as shown to me during my illnesses. May God continue to bless all of you & keep you in His loving care. I will always treasure your friendship.

Love & Prayers,
Anne Uzzell