

THE OUTLOOK



8:30 A.M. TILL 1 P.M.

MARCH 17

SATURDAY

Be here!



WORKDAY

Inside This Issue

First Baptist Church of Decatur, Georgia

Ann Lamott

Acts for Teachers

Driver Safety

Wednesdays in March

Consignment Sale

Yard Sale Donations



Page 3

Page 3

Page 3

Page 4

Page 4

Page 5

AMONG FRIENDS



Two months from now, April 19-21, First Baptist Decatur will host what is shaping up to be a significant and memorable gathering in contemporary Baptist life: [A \[Baptist\] Conference on Sexuality and Covenant](#).

Co-sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Mercer’s Center for Theology and Public Life, the conference aims to provide Baptists and other interested Christians an opportunity for honest, prayerful dialogue around matters and questions of sexuality. You may register online at www.thefellowship.info/conference. Cost is \$50 (\$25 for students of CBF partner schools).

Conferences on sexuality are not everyday occurrences in Baptist life! In fact, to my knowledge, this is a first of its kind. Last year, in the spring of 2011 when we were asked to serve as the host site, I brought the conference prospectus to our deacons, asked them to read it, pray for a month and discern whether or not we should host. They came back a month later and said yes.

“Imagine what God could do if churches became comfortable discussing sexuality. Imagine the reconciliation God might work in and through us...”

~ Daniel Vestal

This conference is about the most significant issues in contemporary sexual ethics:

- What does it mean to date or “court” in our 21st century context?
- What is the significance of the rise of cohabitation?
- What do we make of the growing population of unmarried senior adults?
- What is going on with marriage today, and how can we help people succeed in marriage commitments that they make?
- And, yes, a quality discussion must include consideration of issues related to sexual orientation. Though this conference is more about sexuality than homosexuality, lesbian and gay Christians will be represented among plenary speakers and group facilitators.
- One thing the conference is **not** about is public policy. No matter of law or public debate, such as gay marriage, will be on the agenda.

I hope that many of you will participate, *and* help to give a warm FBC welcome to all who will be on our campus. Several FBC folk will be speaking and leading at the conference: Melissa Browning, Sharyn Dowd, David Gushee, Emily Holladay and Lynyetta Willis.

Blessings,

Julie



*Sign up
and be here!*

WORKDAY

Calling all strong backs & willing hands

Spread pine straw and spruce up the front grounds of our church for Easter. We need you! 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. If you would like to help, please contact Deborah Garrard at (404) 851-0000 or chairmail@mindspring.com.

250 bales of pine straw needed!

Buy a bale—spread a bale! If you would like to help with cost of the pine straw project, you can do so by donating \$10 for 3 bales, \$20 for 6 bales, \$100 for 30—you get the idea—it would be a great help in defraying the cost of the pine straw. Make your checks payable to the church & write **buy a bale** in the memo line. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

Another way to help:

Donate bales of pine straw — \$3.33 per bale
Donate 3, 6, 10 or 100 bales!

Sponsored by PPI—

Property Preservation and Improvement Committee

4th Sunday
of Lent



ONE
WORSHIP

March 18

11:15 a.m.

In the
Sanctuary

Followed by a
POT LUCK DINNER

The annual Marathon Race will take place on March 18, which impacts the traffic flow around the church. As is our custom, we will have one service on that Sunday.

FreshStart and Sanctuary worship will be combined.

A POT LUCK DINNER will follow the service.

Families are asked to bring 2 generous dishes to share, and individuals are asked to bring 1 generous dish.

Congregational Life



Study of Acts

One-day course on Acts for lay Bible teachers and students

Bill Mallard Lay Theology Institute Presents: Disciple Scholars—Reading Acts
Dr. Carl Holladay, Teacher

Saturday, March 10, 2012
9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Room 102
1531 Dickey Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
(404) 727-1276

Cost: \$35 includes continental breakfast and lunch

Register at <http://www.candler.emory.edu/litspring2012>

How did the church begin? What were the most pivotal events during its first three decades? Who were the most influential leaders of the early Christian movement? How did the earliest followers of Jesus cope with his violent death and his physical absence? Why were Jerusalem and Rome the two defining geographical centers for Luke's story of Christian origins? These questions, and more are addressed in The Acts of the Apostles.

In the morning session, we will explore some of the interpretive issues currently debated by Acts scholars. After lunch in the second session, we will look at the ways in which Acts can shape the church's understanding of its mission and ministry.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Don't forget to use the bulletin board in the hallway going to the finance office for offers to buy, sell, or give away goods and services.

Anne Lamott to Speak

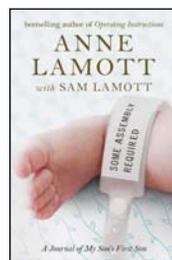
Sponsored by the Conversations Ministry and GA Center for the Book

Friday, March 23,
7:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

Anne Lamott will lecture on the topic of her new book, *Some Assembly Required: A*

Journal of My Son's First Son. Lamott is the author of more than a dozen bestselling books and this delightful new nonfiction



work is a vibrant, sweet and often funny account of a new and unexpected chapter in her life--- grandmother hood. This program is sponsored by Georgia Center for the Book in partnership with the FBCD Conversations Ministry Team. No tickets

or reservations required; doors will open at 6 p.m. Books will be for sale and Lamott will be signing books after the lecture.



Women on Mission

Ann Murphy speaks on Thailand
March 13

The March meeting of the Women on Mission will start at 10 a.m. on March 13 with a leaders' meeting. Groups will meet at 10:30 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. Ann Murphy will present a program on Thailand Mission 2012.

AARP Driver Safety Course

March 12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Carreker Hall

You will receive a certificate which helps to reduce your car insurance premiums upon completion of the course. New course content includes information on how to buy a car, which can save you serious money. Sign up by calling the church office at (404) 373-1653. Costs: \$12 (AARP member), \$14 (non AARP mbr.)



Vital Signs 2012 FINANCIALS

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN (M.A.P.)

Through February 26, 2012

Offerings last week	\$20,120
(average needed per week \$26,346)	
Offerings received Year to Date (YTD)	\$207,691
Offerings YTD (behind) budget	(\$24,950)

YTD through January 31, 2012

Offerings and other income received	\$101,422
Church expenses	\$(118,972)
Expenses paid over income received	\$(17,620)

PROGRAMS OUTSIDE OF M.A.P.

YTD through January 31, 2012

MISSION GIVING

Benevolence Giving	\$1,479
Special Missions	\$2,827
(2011 yearly goal \$32,000)	

Bank Account Balances January 31, 2012

Designated Funds	\$126,538
Rainy Day Fund	\$89,848
Checking Account	\$15,424

February 26, 2012

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPATION

Preschool & Children	55
Youth	31
Adults	276
Total	362

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

Fresh Start 8:45 a.m.	149
Sanctuary 11:15 a.m.	298
Total	447

Collection for Kentucky Mission

Donate items for the team to use in Kentucky during spring break week.



Look for the Kentucky blue donation bins in the downstairs hall.

The Kentucky Mission team will be working with folks in the one of the poorest counties of the country. We will be helping people transition to their own homes and apartments and they will need just about everything to setup a household.

Things the team can use:

- Toiletries
- Cleaning supplies
- Cleaning equipment
- Rubbermaid style products
- Small kitchen tools
- Towels
- Small hand tools
- Kid's items

Cash is certainly welcome, but please, DO NOT leave cash or checks in the bins! Place monetary contributions, clearly designated, in the offering plate, or drop it off during the week in the front office.

ALL SENIOR ADULT BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Sponsored by Young at Heart

Sunday, March 25 following 11:15 worship Luncheon in Carreker Hall



Featuring entertainment:

Hicks with Picks

The Bluegrass group Hicks with Picks formed a group of friends at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church in Atlanta in 2002. They continue to lead a "Bluegrass Sunday" once a quarter, and released their first CD of original tunes in 2005—"A Monkey Who Can Dance." Channel 2 News Reporter, Jeff Dore, plays in the band.

Make your reservations now to celebrate your birthday, and the birthdays of **all seniors** at FBCD. The cost is only \$6 for the luncheon with birthday cake. Reservations can be made by calling the church office at (404) 373-1653.

FBC **NEW** community WEDNESDAYS **SPRING 2012**

4 Wednesdays in March
6:30 p.m. Choose your class:

The Church Has Left the Building
Becoming a missional church means serving the community around the church. But how? This series will begin with a study of Matthew 25:31-46 on March 7. For the next two Wednesday nights we will hear from representatives of the police, the housing authority, and the schools about the needs of Decatur. On March 28 we will spread out throughout the city to serve our neighbors. Come be a part of this adventure!

Christian Responses to Evil and Suffering
In his new book, *What Shall We Say?* (Eerdmans, 2011) Thomas G. Long explains in easy-to-understand language how Christians have responded to the question of why a good and powerful God allows innocent suffering. Order the book or just come and listen to the discussion.

Managing Stress
Our Verdery Counseling Center therapists will lead us in a holistic approach to the stressful situations of life involving body, mind, and spirit. A new relaxation technique will be taught each week.

Decatur Consignment Sale

Shopping Days are Here!

Friday, March 9 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday, March 10 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Gently used children's clothing (sizes newborn – junior 7), books, bicycles, puzzles, videos, shoes, strollers, swings, bedding, scout uniforms, costumes, baby equipment, indoor/outdoor toys, maternity, etc... everything your child could need at great bargain prices.

If interested in more information, go online at www.decaturchildrensal.com or call Jeannie Lippy at 770-414-6099.

Youth Spot

Our Youth Ministry is open to all youth in grades six through twelve:

Sundays

Breakfast and Bible Study at 10–11 a.m.
Worship at 8:45 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.

Wednesdays

Church Dinner at 5:00–6:30 p.m.
Walk at 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Graduation Sunday Plans

April 29
 Recognizing high school graduates on Sunday morning April 29.

Lunch for all of our youth and their families following Sanctuary Service.

We are trying to collect *senior pictures* of all our graduates by Sunday, March 4. Please submit a wallet size photograph to Kurt or the church office.

THE YARD SALE



**Gearing up for
 The Yard Sale
 Start your spring
 cleaning and call
 for a yard sale
 pick up.
 Call Kurt at
 (404) 219-3920**

Kid's Zone

Meeting This Sunday Morning

Please plan to attend a parent informational meeting for parents of all children at 10 a.m. The meeting is in the Beyond Sunday classroom—E318 (in Education Building)

Thank you, teachers!

Thanks to those teaching Preschool Bible Study in February, March, and April.
 Infants—Jen Castleberry and Maris Mann
 1s—Dot Wood and Ruby Langford
 2s—Justin and Lee Ann Anand
 3s—Courtney Mwangura and Katie Howard
 4s—Beth Smith and Octavia Wilborn
 5s—Milton and Lou Ann Brown

These volunteers are currently teaching grade school Bible Study.

1st —Mary Beth Lively and Stacey Jones
 2nd—Wendy Williams
 3rd—Carla Stanford and Amanda Davis
 4th & 5th—Amy Keown, John Johnson, and Brad Jones
 Storyteller—Fran Frantz
 Floater—Jim Duke

PASSPORTkids! DEADLINE THIS WEEK



June 25–28
 For children who have completed 3rd–5th grade. Get excited for a great week of camp. For information, email Pastor Debbie dbritt@fbcdecatur.com or check out: www.passportcamps.org. If your child would like to attend, a \$150 deposit for your child is due by March 4.

Wednesday Dinner

March 7

BLUE PLATE LINE: Chicken Fingers
SALAD BAR LINE
KID'S MEAL: Chicken Fingers

March 14

BLUE PLATE LINE: Taco Bar
SALAD BAR LINE
KID'S MEAL: Taco Bar

Sharing in Prayer

Congratulations

Congratulations to Matt and Lindsey Hicks on the birth of Wesley Ross Hicks, born on February 20, 2012.

Christian Sympathy

To the family of Miriam Skelton, who passed away on Sunday, February 19 in Greenville, SC.

Pray for the World

Please follow the daily prayer guide for all the countries of the world at www.operationworld.org.



Tuesday Prayers in Parlor

Every Tuesday
 Noon to 1:00 p.m.
 Pray for our church, for Decatur, Atlanta and the world. All are welcome to join in this time of prayer.



Contact Us

Main Office—404-373-1653
 First School—404-370-7688
 Activities—404-373-2442

Website—www.fbcdecatur.com
 E-Mail—fbcd@fbcdecatur.com

308 Clairemont Avenue
 Decatur, Georgia 30030

Staff on call

To reach a staff member for weekend pastoral emergencies, please call 404-373-1653 and select option 8.

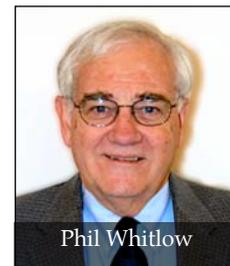
March 2–4—Bob Williamson

March 9–11—Debbie Britt

Deacon on call

March 2–4—Phil Whitlow

March 9–11—Courtney Mwangura



Phil Whitlow



Courtney Mwangura

New Members

Welcome



Damon Corn **Lizbeth Mohler**
Transfer of Letter Statement of Faith



Ben and Ashley Neal
Transfer of Letter

