

**First Baptist Church**  
307 E. Jackson St.  
PO Box 97  
Gate City, VA 24251

Phone 276-386-3281  
Fax 276-386-6140

[www.fbcgatecity.org](http://www.fbcgatecity.org)

Pastor Andy Barnes  
pastor@fbcgatecity.org  
Cell phone 423-765-6300

Rev. Jeff DeBoard, Associate  
Pastor  
& Student Minister  
asstpastor@fbcgatecity.org  
Cell phone 423-963-6703

Andrea Sheppard  
Minister of Music and Children  
music@fbcgatecity.org  
Cell phone 423-341-9091

Susie McMurray, Secretary  
secretary@fbcgatecity.org  
Cell phone 423-335-1756

Pete Barbour, Custodian

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
GATE CITY, VIRGINIA

# THE BEACON

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

## From the Pastor's Heart

What is the ongoing issue in your life that attempts to discourage you? Is there a proverbial "fox that attempts to spoil the vine" from which the joy of your life is designed to grow? Is there any conflict in your life into which you are tempted to simply "throw in the towel" in a gesture of hopelessness and frustration? Most likely the answer to one or more of these questions in most, if not all of our lives is "yes," but the story does not end there. Read on.

I have a small plaque in my home that simply reads "Hope is because God is." I have become convinced that nothing is truly hopeless when exposed to the grace and power of our omnipotent Heavenly Father through His Son Jesus Christ. There are things that we may not understand, and there may be things which defy our explanation, but like the Apostle Paul who has walked before us we can echo his words in II Corinthians 4:8 "perplexed but not in despair." Our minds in their lack of understanding, will attempt to reason through the unreasonable and come only to a dead end. It is at this place that we have a choice; exalt the capacities of our minds which are in the process of being renewed, or believe that God is good and will work in and through the issues for His glory and our good.

Do you trust our Father? Do you believe that He is good? And do you believe that "it is He who is at work within you both to will and to do according to His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13) Oh for the grace to endure with steadfastness while He works in our lives and the lives of those we know and love. He is "wooing" the wayward child for whom our heart breaks, He is able to deliver the loved one we know who is bound by sin, addiction, and their own poor choices, and He is "watching over His word to perform it" (Jeremiah 1:12 NASB) in each of our lives! Regain your hope my friend, for nothing is too difficult for the Great Lord of glory who is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20)

Please remember and cling to the words of Isaiah the prophet, prophesying of the One Who was to come Who would, "Console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may

be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that He may be glorified." (Isaiah 61:3) These are not just words on a page. This is the Word of the Lord to those who "walk by faith, and not by sight." (II Cor. 5:7)

One author tells the story of a missionary family that lived on a large farm in the U.S. when not abroad. The family had several children, and on the farm was a large lake. One day the mother and father noticed that one of their sons was missing. Fearing the worst, they immediately ran to the lake's dock where the father dove in the water frantically looking for his son. His first attempt was unsuccessful, but instantly after coming up for air he plunged again into the murky waters. This time he went under the dock, and found his son alive, but still under the water with both arms tightly wrapped around one of the poles that supported the dock. The father grabbed his son, held him tightly in his arms, and rushed him to the surface. The son was now safe. His life had been spared.

After the trauma of the whole event had subsided, and the father was convinced it was okay to ask his son specifics, he asked the obvious question, "Son why is it that you were under the water with your arms tightly wrapped around the support pole of the dock?" His reply was simple, but revealed the heart of the son toward his father. He simply replied, "I was waiting for you Daddy."

In his fear, and the inability rescue himself, the little boy knew something that we would do well to know. He knew that he would be on his Daddy's mind, that his Daddy loved him, and that Daddy would give his own life if necessary to save him.

Such is our Father. While we or someone we love may still be "under water," vulnerable and afraid, our Father is the Master of search and rescue. Their final chapter is yet to be written.

We love you.  
Pastor Andy



Dear Church Family,  
May God bless each one of you for your prayers, visits, food and kind words of hope and love during mom's illness and passing of my mom, "Ms. Nadine". Each of you hold a special

place in my heart. Mom had the best Christmas present ever. She is with her precious Jesus, Savior and Lord. A special thanks to Bro. Jeff, Andy & Bro. Roc and the entire staff of First Baptist Church. Words cannot express the spirit of our Jesus during Mom's funeral service and graveside.

Love in Christ,  
Dennie L. Haynes  
Dakota L. Haynes

Dearest Church Family,  
Thank you all so very much for your many comforting words, prayers, cards and other expressions of sympathy that each of you shown during our loss. Our hearts will forever be grateful for all that you did. We thank God for each and ever one of you.  
Sincerely with love,  
Stan & Ruby



### March Birthdays

2–Ryland Mullins  
5–Jane Bailey  
8–Linda Clark  
8–Becky Collier  
8–Nathan McConnell  
10–Delaney Herron  
10–Taylor Smith  
11–Judy Baker  
12–Sherry Perry  
13–Ernie Barker

13–Brianna Jennings  
14–Kay Herron  
15–Mechelle Salyers  
16–Duane Scott  
17–Sandy Jenkins  
19–Dennis Fritz  
21–Santana Lane  
23–Bob Perry  
23–Joel Jenkins  
27–Paula Mullins  
28–Jordan Barnes  
29–Lesia Worley  
30–Venice Yoakley  
30–Devon Matthews  
30–Griffin Head  
31–Frank Tomlinson



March 13–Sherman & Rhonda Cox  
March 25–E.C. & Nelda Hill

**THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES**

**“GOD’S GREAT ADVENTURE”**

**ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
is back!! Beginning Sunday, February 5  
We will begin a journey studying the  
Prodigal Son for 5 weeks!

Children’s Classes (grades 1-6) will begin promptly at 9:15 and end at 10:15 in order for the kids to experience and learn all that is planned for them!!!

**THE BIG GAME NIGHT FOR KIDS**

Sunday, February 12, 6:00-7:30 pm

During Huddles for grades K-6

GAMES, FOOD, FUN IN THE GYM!!

**UPWARD FLAG FOOTBALL** is coming in the Spring. Please pray about how you can help in this ministry!!!

**CENTRI-KID CAMP**

June 18-22 grades 3-6

Campbellsville College, Campbellsville, KY

Cost \$186 Deposit of \$70 Due Feb 12

Make checks to First Baptist Church

**---WORSHIP KIDSTYLE---**

For Grades 1-4 beginning Sunday February 5 we will offer Children’s worship the first three Sundays of each month. Children will exit the sanctuary before the morning message.

**LADIES NIGHT OF W.O.W ! “NEW LIFE”**

Tuesday, March 6, 6:30-8:00 pm

Come join your sisters for dinner & fellowship & leave refreshed!!!

**HEARTS FOR MISSIONS BREAKFAST**

Sunday, February 26, 8:30 am

All adult Sunday School classes will meet in the family life center beginning at 9:15 am. We will have special guest speakers joining us to share some exciting things God is doing.

COMING.....Sunday evening March 18

“Brothers 4Ever” Christian Music 6:00pm



Super Bowl Sunday!  
(Watching the game at the home of David & Amy Smith!)  
DATE: Sunday, February 5  
TIME: 6:00pm



Planning Meeting for Student Life Camp – Daytona Beach  
DATE: Sunday, February 12

TIME: Immediately after the a.m. worship service  
NOTE: A \$50 “non-refundable” deposit will be required. This meeting is for ALL those planning to attend Student Life @ the Beach

Childcare Youth Fundraiser  
DATE: Tuesday, February 14  
LOCATION: FBCGC Gym  
TIMES: From 5:00 to 10:00pm



\*Donations will be accepted  
\*Pizza and snacks will be provided for the kids

We will need to reserve spots 2 weeks prior so that we can arrange child care.



PLEDGE 2 PURITY RALLY

DATE: Saturday, February 18  
TIME: 6:30 to 8:30pm  
LOCATION: Viking Hall, Bristol, TN  
COST: To be determined

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>.**

The Building and Grounds Committee will be conducting a “church work day” with goal to be: paint the foyer, hallway and the three restrooms upstairs in the old building. We will also be replacing the toilets in the three restrooms. It is the last day of Upward Basketball, so volunteers can come and go as they need to in order to fulfill their Upward obligations. If you can help, please let one of the following committee members know: Travis Horne, Brandon Webb or Craig Chapman.



**February Birthdays & Events**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Janet Hensley Stan Rogers  Ladies Bible Study Begins “James: Mercy Triumphs” 9-11am Deacons meet at 7:45pm	2	3	4
5  Youth at the home of David & Amy Smith for Super Bowl game	6  6:30 Circle of Friends at Family Bakery	7	8 Wilma Price	9 Lucy Herron Austin Arwood  7:00 Maude Stallard Circle	10	11 Parker Cox  Building and Grounds Work day
12 Evan DeBoard  6:00 Sunday Huddles	13  7:00pm Upward Awards Night at Higher Ground Baptist Church	14 Margaret McConnell Keith Davidson Ashley Carter  Noon: The Agape Group Youth Childcare Fundraiser 5-10	15	16 Jonathan McCullough	17	18  6:30 Youth Pledge 2 Purity
19 Missy Smith	20	21 Arthur Street	22 Janet Hill	23 Brandon McDavid	24 Edwin Cox	25
26 J.C. Pendleton Rindi Perry	27 Chad Fore	28 Margaret Pendleton Kim Peters Jerry Lane	29			