

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 24

12:00 Noon Bible Study/Johnathan Bryson
Chapel Class/Bring a bag lunch if you so desire

5:15 pm Family First Feast

Menu: Cold Plate: Chicken Salad/Tuna Salad/Macaroni Salad/Dessert/Drinks

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 28

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship/Rev. Johnathan Bryson

Church Council will meet immediately after worship service

5:00 pm The Chosen – Season 4

Wednesday, May 1

12:00 Noon Bible Study in the Chapel/Johnathan Bryson

5:15 pm Family First Feast

Menu: Baked Ziti/Salad/Roll/Dessert/Drinks

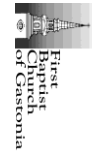
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 5

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship/Dwayne Burks/Graduate Sunday

5:00 pm The Chosen – Season 4



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The Builder

First Baptist Church of Gastonia

Volume XIII Number 17

Week of April 28, 2024

Homicide Family Support Group

As our community grows, so do the challenges we face, including a rise in violent deaths from domestic violence and homicide. To support those affected by these tragedies, First Baptist Church Gastonia (FBCG) is proud to partner with the Gaston County District Attorney's Office and Hope United to host a monthly support group.

Starting May 7, 2024, we will meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the church Parlor. This group provides a compassionate environment for sharing, healing, and connecting with others who have experienced similar losses.

2650 Union Road

Entrance through the front doors for easy access.

HOPE UNITED
Survivor Network

GASTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

GASTON COUNTY
HOMICIDE FAMILY
SUPPORT GROUP

THE HOMICIDE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
OFFERS SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST
A LOVED ONE TO VIOLENCE.

- FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
- 6:30PM - 8:00PM
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTONIA
- 2650 UNION RD, GASTONIA, NC

PLEASE CONTACT DAISY AT THE
GASTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.
704-852-3163

Worship Greeters

April:
Amy Avery
Art Queen

Welcome

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 21 - 30

23 – Bob Carter

24 – Ann Webb

28 – Karen Conway

29 – Ray Biggerstaff

WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Johnathan Bryson

Study Topic: Patience

April 24th: James 1:2-4

COMING SOON

A STUDY OF
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

— SUMMER 2024 —

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

Thelma Coleman

By: Frances Rhodes

In Memory of:

Dr. Charles Lowery

By: Frances Rhodes



GRADUATE SUNDAY

May 5, 2024

If you have a high school graduate or college graduate, please email Alice (am_foy2@yahoo.com) the information and a picture by Wednesday, May 1.

2650 Union Road Fax: 704-865-8579

First Baptist Church, Gastonia North Carolina

First Baptist Church 704-865-8576

A place to belong, a place to become, a place to bear witness
Gastonia NC 28054 -Mailing: PO Box 6298, Gastonia NC 28054-6018

**Hold on: Help Is on the Way
By Celeste Scott**

Have you ever been in a crisis and it seemed like there was no one around? Perhaps you tried to reach out to someone, and you thought they were listening just for them to ignore your situation and continue on in a conversation as if your problem did not matter. While we are here living on this earth, we are all going to experience some type of crisis. You may have gone through one, are currently in one, or just got out of one. It does not matter how much money you have, education you may have, how good of a person you may be. We are all going to face a crisis. The good news is, hold on; help is on the way.

The first point on receiving help is to stay prayed up. God hears our prayers, the ones that are spoken and unspoken. Prayer is simply a conversation between you and God. Even if you feel like you have nothing to say, just saying, "Lord help me" is good enough. I believe that is fair to say the reason that we are all here today is because somebody prayed for us when we could not pray for ourselves. The Bible instructs us that man should always pray and not faint. There is an acronym that I heard years ago, and it is simply P.U.S.H. This simply means pray until something happens.

My second point on getting help is to stand on the promises in the word of God. The Bible is where you will find answers to questions that we may not have for you. The Bible gives us hope, and with hope we can have that joy and peace in our lives. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says that the promises of God are yes and amen. What helps me is I take scripture verses and make them personal. God, you said to cast my cares on you, for you care for me. God, you said in times of trouble you will hide me. God, you said that you will supply all my needs according to your riches and glory. God, you said that there is nothing too hard for you, and with you all things are possible. When you begin to make scripture verses personal and stand on the word of God, you will begin to see a difference in your life. I dare you to trust God and hold on to God's unchanging hands. I am a witness; hold on because help is on the way.

My last point is after you stay prayed up, standing on the promises of the word of God, I encourage you to seal that situation with a praise. Psalms 34:1 says I will bless the Lord at all times, and his praise shall continually be in my mouth. Regardless of what you are going through, it may be health challenges, how if

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Let me make it personal because I cannot speak for you; I can only speak for Celeste. The doctors told me in August of 2016 at the rate I am going I will be dead in 5 years. We are in 2024, and guess what, I am still here 8 years later. Even in that hospital the doctor informed me I had signs of kidney failure, but, three months later I went back to the doctors and there were no signs. Who would not serve a God like this? I owe him my best praise. Praise God in the good and praise him in the bad.

Finally, as I bring this to a close, I want you to know that there is nothing too hard for God. Just put your trust in him. God is not a man that he shall lie. Back in January, Pastor Dwayne spoke on who God is. To me God is my all and all. God is everything I need Him to be. If you stay prayed up, stand on the promises in the word of God, and seal your situation with praise, watch God intervene in your situation. God is no respecter of persons; what he did for others he will do for you. I watched God do some miracles not only in my life, but others around me. For some it took months, while for others it took years. I want to remind you to hold on because help is on the way.

Mission and Method

I wish I had a dime every time I heard a church ask for the young pastor with the 3.5 kids, and maybe our church will grow. It seems that with each generation, there is a cry for more young people to be in leadership in various sectors of life. How should we view this in the body of Christ? I would challenge us not to fulfill quotas but to discern a person's anointing. When I would consult with congregations that asked for the proverbial young pastor with children so that children could be added to their numbers, I tried to bring it back to the mission of the church. We have the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and within us. The Holy Spirit hears from God and reveals the word of God to us. "Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." (1 Corinthians 2:10 HCSB).

I would ask the congregation, "What is your mission?" After reviewing their mission, we would discuss what spiritual gifts are needed to lead in this mission. Afterward, time is spent in prayer and

**First Baptist Gastonia's Own Charlotte and Dottie Eddings Are Headed to International Choral Competition
Excerpted from Chloe Collins' Gaston Gazette Online 4/9/24**

Charlotte and Dottie Eddings of Gastonia and Claudia Crist and Charis Moody of Mount Holly traveled to Concord last month to compete against roughly 15 other choral groups of vocalists from Atlanta Georgia to Washington, D.C, Charlotte Eddings said.

The choruses are judged by music choice, sound, expressive singing and presentation, including choreography.

The Charlotte-based chorus sang All the Way and Yes Sir, That's My Baby, and ultimately earned a spot at the International competition set to take place late in 2025.

"The reason it takes so long is that choruses work really hard to get better between their regional contest and international, but also, it takes a lot of money to transport, for us it'll be 60-65 women from here to Columbus Ohio," Eddings said. "Now we have a year to raise money to go to international. You have extra coaching, you buy more costuming, you know, there's just many things that you do to prep, to increase that score."

The Queen Charlotte Chorus is directed by Debbie Lovelady, who is an international champion quartet singer, according to Eddings.

"That's the gold medal of everything, the best four singers internationally every year get crowned and are our international queens," Eddings said.

The extended time between the regional and international competitions also gives Lovelady a chance to determine the best choral pieces to use during the big performance, Eddings said.

When it comes to raising money, the chorus prefers to sing for pay. We don't sell stuff, we sing," she said. "That's how we generally raise our money by taking and making performances.

"Locally, we've sung for the Honey Hunters in the past, and First Baptist Church, we did a Christmas concert there this past year. Coming up we're doing things like Charlotte Shout, and we're singing at someone's birthday party, you know, we'll sing anywhere."

On the International level, the Queen Charlotte Chorus will be competing against 24 total regions of the Sweet Adeline's International organization.

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Eighteen of those regions are in the U.S. Three of those regions the U.S. shares with Canada: two regions in Canada, one region in Great Britain, one region in Sweden, one region in Australia, and one region that includes Hawaii and Japan.

Mission and Method

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discernment. It is essential to look for the anointing in the person with the giftedness to lead in specific areas of their gifting.

When we seek this pattern of discernment for leadership and appointments, we are led into diversity of age, gender, ethnicity, and nationality. As it is in heaven, so shall it be on earth. The heavens are already displaying this beautiful, rich diversity. Earth needs to catch up.

By Rev Angela Pleasants

... A Child Shall Lead Them

When Connor inquired about how to know more about God, Pastor

Dwayne gave him an age appropriate book. He promptly took it home. Corralled his brothers and read it to them. The future of the church is in capable hands!

