

# THE INFORMER

MONTHLY

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## Lay Ministry 2018

Equipping and  
Commissioning Weekend  
September 21 – 23

After such a wonderfully encouraging Lay Renewal Weekend in September of 2017, we are anticipating another great weekend this September as our church continues on the Church Renewal Journey. This month, on the weekend of September 21-23, we will take the second step in the renewal process. Last year's weekend focused on the principle that God knows us and desires to work through us in the world. This year's weekend, the Equipping and Commissioning Weekend, goes a step further and focuses on the principle that since God desires to use us in his reconciling work in the world, he has prepared us and "shaped" us for that work. We are going to have the opportunity to study and pray together toward understanding how God has gifted each of us to partner with him in a mission that is far bigger than we are – his eternal mission in our world today. There will also be special sessions for children and youth.

We will be receiving a team of lay leaders from across the country who will lead the teaching and facilitate our conversations. They come at their own expense but we are to provide hospitality! They will eat with us in our fellowship times and they will stay in our homes. Tebin McDowell is enlisting church members who will open their homes to our guests these two nights (contact him at [mcdowellth@gmail.com](mailto:mcdowellth@gmail.com) to volunteer.)

***This is the schedule for the Equipping and Commissioning Weekend – See you then!!***

### Friday, September 21

- 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper with our Church Family and Guests in the Gym
- 7:00 PM General Session in the Sanctuary with all ages
- 7:30 PM Children and Preschoolers dismissed to their classes  
First teaching session for adults and youth in Sanctuary
- 8:15 PM Small Group Time
- 8:45 PM Closing Reports in the Sanctuary with everyone

### Saturday, September 22

- 8:30 AM Coffee Groups at the Church
- 9:30 AM General Session in the Sanctuary for everyone
- 10:00 AM Children and Preschoolers to their classes  
Second Teaching Session for adults and youth
- 10:45 AM Small Group Time

*Continued on Page 2 --->*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Every Sunday Morning\*

9:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary  
10:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages

### Every Sunday Evening

5:00 PM Youth Praise Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Worship Team Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Youth Supper & Discipleship Groups

### Every Wednesday Evening

5:30 PM Fellowship Supper  
6:00 PM Youth Group & FBC Kids  
6:15 PM Mid-Week Prayer  
6:30 PM Sanctuary Handbells  
7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, September 1

All day Youth on Back-to-School Retreat at Awanita

### Sunday, September 2

9:30 AM Harvest Day – Bring a bag of white potatoes to worship

10:15 AM Church Conference following morning worship

10:45 AM Sunday School Year Begins for all ages

### Monday, September 3

Labor Day Holiday – Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, September 4

2:00 PM - 6:30 PM Blood Drive

### Wednesday, September 5

Fall Wednesday Evening Schedule Resumes

### Friday, September 7

12:30 PM Feed the Hungry – Body and Soul

*Continued on Page 2 --->*

# Equipping Weekend

# Community

# Compassion

# Service

## Search Committee News



### From the Lead Pastor Search Committee:

The Lead Pastor Search Committee met three times in July and twice in August. We have been working our way through a booklet on how best to go about a ministerial search process. Also, at this first stage, we have been reviewing the progress of the Future Story staffing initiative that has brought FBC this far and what has been learned through it. We are preparing how to go about soliciting further input from the congregation. The goal of this stage of the search process is to come up with an effective description of our church that can become a part of the eventual position posting. Also, team members have been sharing their faith stories – very edifying! Thanks to the church for selecting such a fine group to work with.  
*Bob Bass, Chairperson*

### From the Worship Arts Pastor Search Committee:

The Worship Arts Pastor Search Team has met 4 times since being elected by the church on June 24th. The team has reviewed the current job description of the position. Consideration is being given to the qualifications and level of experience being sought in a candidate. Research is in progress to identify resources available to assist with the search process. We invite and encourage your input into this endeavor.



For more info text Mary Renfer @ 704-466-5119

## FBC College and Young Adult Ministry

Wednesday Night College and Young Adult Group  
Time: 7 PM  
Location: Matt and Mary Renfer's home  
Address: 112 College Manor Drive across from GWU campus  
Topic: Community/Social Justice

Sunday Morning College and Young Adult Class  
Time: 10:45 AM  
Location: C-304 FBC 3rd-floor C-Building  
Topic: Theology/Spirituality

## English as a Second Language

Resumes  
September 10 at 6:30 PM  
Every Monday  
Spread the word!

## New Sunday School Year

Begins on September 2!  
This is a great time of year to join a Sunday School class as we study the Bible together each week!

Continued from Page 1, Upcoming Events ---->

### Sunday, September 9

9:30 AM Celebrating Christian Baptism and Harvest Day (white potatoes)  
12:00 PM Parent/Youth Lunch in Gym  
5:00 PM Fall Youth Schedule Resumes

### Monday, September 10

6:30 PM English as Second Language Classes Resume

### Wednesday, September 12

6:15 PM Prayer Seminar: *The Power of Prayer with Dr. Tracy Jessup*

### Friday, September 14

12:30 PM Feed the Hungry – Body and Soul

### Sunday, September 16

9:30 AM Testimony in Worship and Prayers for NC State Mission Offering

### Tuesday, September 18

9:30 AM The Other Side of 50 Picnic

### Thursday, September 20

8:00 AM Equipping Prayer Vigil Begins

### Friday, September 21

12:30 PM Feed the Hungry – Body and Soul  
6:00 PM Equipping Prayer Vigil Ends  
6:00 PM Lay Ministry Weekend Gets Underway

### Saturday, September 22

8:30 AM Coffee Fellowships begin the day  
11:30 AM Fellowship Lunch and Film  
6:00 PM Fellowship Supper begins the evening

### Sunday, September 23 NOTE TIME CHANGE\*

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship and Commissioning Service  
6:00 PM Celebration and Evaluation Service

### Friday, September 28

12:30 PM Feed the Hungry – Body and Soul

### Sunday, September 30 NOTE TIME CHANGE

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Celebrating the Lord's Supper

## NC State Mission Offering

FBC Goal: \$5,000



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11:30 AM Fellowship Lunch in the Gym  
12:30 PM "Kevin Can Wait" in the Gym  
1:30 PM Free Time  
6:00 PM Fellowship Supper in the Gym  
7:00 PM General Session in the Sanctuary with all ages  
7:30 PM Children and Preschoolers dismissed to their classes  
Third teaching session for adults and youth in Sanctuary  
8:15 PM Small Group Time  
8:45 PM Affirmation Service in the Sanctuary with everyone

### Sunday, September 23

9:30 AM Fourth teaching session via Combined Adult and Youth Sunday School FIRST this morning  
Regular Sunday School for Children and Preschoolers  
10:45 AM Worship and Commissioning Service in the Sanctuary  
6:00 PM Celebration and Evaluation Service in the Sanctuary for everyone

**Make your plans now to be part of this important weekend!**







## FBC Kids

Then and Now

By: Missy Smith

Throughout sixteen years in ministry, I have had many first-time experiences where I have been able to have something happen, and I learn from it and then move on. However, this year I had a first-time experience that still has me in shock. My oldest daughter, Bella, turned 11 years old this year. As she completed the



5th grade, the realization came to me that soon she would be leaving not only her elementary school to move on to middle school, but she would also be leaving my children's ministry to move on to youth ministry. For the first time in her life (due to my role as a minister of children), I realized we would be giving her freedom to fully grow spiritually without my leadership.

As we loaded the bus for our last field trip this summer and the realization hit me that she would no longer be in my ministry, a sadness came over my heart. As we went about our day, I had that sickening feeling in my stomach that reminded me that my personal children were growing up. I was comforted by the Bible verse that we were studying that day as our theme for the day, WALK IN FAITH. Our verse came from Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see." I don't know what the future holds for my Bella in the next steps of her journey, but I certainly have FAITH in the ONE who walks with her. I am also so thankful that I get to pass her on to an amazing youth minister and FBC Youth as I know they will indeed encourage her next steps of her faith.

## Backpack Dedication

At the backpack dedication we use our backpacks as a representation for all that God will do in our lives this school year. It is easy to get distracted by the activities in our lives as school starts back, however, the most important thing to remember is that God is our source of strength and we need to dedicate this school year to HIM.



## FBC Kids End-of-Summer Party

FBC Kids had an amazing End-of-Summer fellowship at the Ruby Hunt YMCA in Boiling Springs. We learned about how we can trust God to lead us into the new school year while having fun swimming together.



## Wednesday Nights with FBC Kids

We start back on Wednesday nights with FBC Kids on September 5 at 6:00pm on FBC Kids Hall. Join FBC Kids on Wednesdays this school year for music, Bible study, scripture memorization, and missions opportunities. You will be amazed at how your children grow in the Lord this school year while walking with FBC Kids.

## FBC Youth

Senior Retreat Reflection By CA

I made it through senior retreat with my son by my side and the dear seniors that I have walked with since they were born. This year, I was surprised that I did not shed a tear on the trip. We simply laughed, ate, played, prayed and told stories of the years gone by. God blessed this trip to encourage, renew and prepare these students for what lay ahead in the next step of their journey. Now remember...I did not shed a tear on the trip. It did not hit me that they were moving on until the moment I unloaded all the students and they pulled out of our bus lot for the very last time. As I closed the gate and locked it behind them, the reality hit me that this chapter is done for them....the gate is closed and locked. That's when the tears began to flood down my cheeks. We pour into these students' lives and invest tirelessly so that their foundation in the Lord will be solid, then I must let them go. God has plans for them far greater than mine and I trust him. I am thankful to have been able to journey with them through the good and the bad. I am excited about what he has in store in their days ahead and how they will soar on eagle's wings as they fly with HIM! "But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31



## Wilderness Trail Reflection

By Linh Nguyen

I've never been an outdoorsy person. You could say that walking for miles carrying a heavy pack and camping in the wilderness are not exactly my kinds of things. So, of course, I disregard this entirely and decide to go for it anyways. Going into Wilderness Trail, I knew that my own insufficient strength would fail me. If I made it through the week, it would be through faith and strength drawn from the Lord. I also felt that I was testing my faith in this way, and wasn't sure whether or not it was something to be doing. Taking this leap of faith led to things far greater than the uncertainty I felt beforehand. On the trail was one of the times I got to experience the kind of life to the full that Christ brings [John 10:10]. This is what it looks like: great highs and deep lows in the form of trekking literal mountains and valleys, not showering for days, mountaintop views, sweating buckets, swimming in cold lake water, sore feet, pitching tents, sharing meals, and talking around campfires. Doing all this in fellowship with others and with God is living a most full life. Throughout the week, God worked in my life pouring out His strength and love through the beauty of his creation and through the people he sent on the trip. It was by experiencing and knowing that God was working in these ways that I ended the week with a renewed and greatly strengthened faith in Him. As a new season of change going into college has been quickly approaching, I worried earlier about the certainty of my faith and that it could be susceptible to be altered or somehow even lost in this change. These worries seem distant to me now, because the Lord has shown me His goodness working on Wilderness Trail and in these last few days spent with church family that radiate His love. I have faith in Him, and I know He will sustain me. He has already shown me this!



## Youth Fall Luncheon

Youth and parents, join us for a luncheon that will inform you of all the things we have going on this year. Join us after church Sunday, September 9th in the gym. We will serve lunch and kick-off the fall and upcoming activities for 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to seeing you there.







## Out with the old, in with the New

Last Christmas, we got a new Smart TV to replace a TV so old even Goodwill wouldn't take it. It looks great (but it didn't take much to improve that old one)! However, it took a while to figure out how all the bells and whistles worked, thus imposing a learning curve that sometimes caused a bit of frustration. It's no problem making it do what we want now, but that wasn't the case early on, and so today we're happy with our choice and glad we bought it.

I anticipate a bit of that when we move back into the sanctuary. There are a lot of shiny new pieces of equipment that will aid in the worship services, but learning how all of them work, and teaching those "playing" with the equipment how everything works, will most likely create a bit of frustration with those on both the platform and pews. It's going to take time. There will be glitches. There will be head-scratching. There will be irritations. But, eventually there's going to be a satisfaction that all that new equipment and those running them are in sync. I've often said that I feel sorry for instrumentalists and technology folks – if they do everything right, no one seems to really notice, but if they don't, everyone becomes the critic. Please be patient with all involved. Just like my TV, you'll be enjoying the updated sanctuary soon. **By: Paul Etter**

## Leading Edge Worship Service Model – October 7, 10:45 AM

These past few years we have used the term "Leading Edge" service to describe a type of worship service that we have not as yet employed in our church. The strategy behind it is to reach out to folks in our community who are not currently a part of a church so that we can engage them with the gospel. The service is band-driven in terms of worship leadership. Our assumption in this conversation has been to "think" leading edge so as not to live behind the currents of our times but to evaluate and consider those currents for our ministry. Ten years from now "who knows" what leading edge will look like, but if we are "thinking" and planning for ways to reach the current day, then we will always be in position to know and respond appropriately. Our definition has included:

1. No pre-requisite knowledge of church culture is needed to participate.
2. Not uncommon to use secular music hooks to introduce biblical themes.
3. Judgment-free Zone as we welcome our neighbors before the Lord in worship.
4. Ethos of the service: High Energy, greater use of lighting and electronics and tech as communication tools in a visual culture, louder, lights dim on congregation to encourage participation, corporate feel (audience participation) vs. reflective feel (traditional worship styles)

Still, many of our members wonder what we have been talking about. While such a service can vary from place to place, we are planning on modeling this type of service on Sunday, October 7. Sunday School will be at 9:30 am and the service will be in the Sanctuary at 10:45 am led by guest worship leaders who will be with us for the morning.



Thank You...

Dear FBC Family,  
Lib and I cannot express in words our thanks and appreciation for all the expressions of love from you folks. The cards, the gifts, THE CELEBRATION, the personal comments from you and the memories we've made will be on our hearts forever. Our thanks to EVERYONE who has made this part of our journey so rich and rewarding. God bless you all! Some of you have asked for our new address. It is 704 E Park Dr., Lincolnton, NC 28092  
Serving Him with you, Perry & Lib Holleman



## Staff Anniversaries



Holly Hicks  
Deaf Interpreter  
September 22, 2000



Dianne Spangler  
Membership Coordinator  
September 1, 2015

## Bringing in the Taters!

### Harvest Days at FBC! September 2 & 9

On Sundays, September 2 and 9, we are asking for all our members to bring a bag of white potatoes with you as you come to worship. There will be pickup trucks around the perimeter of our buildings into which you can deposit the potatoes.

**Here's the thing:** The Cleveland County Potato Project is working hard on the sweet potato crop, BUT the white potato crop was a BUST this year. Weather conditions and beetle threats caused the plots to produce "0" white potatoes. However, our neighbors are still hungry and the distribution points are still in need of potatoes (a food that goes a long way to help deal with acute hunger!). So, let's keep the potato project vision rolling by filling these trucks with 5,000 pounds of potatoes on September 2 and 9. That's a half-acre we contribute to care for folks who are hungry in our town. They will then be distributed to the sound points of ministry through which they become a blessing to others through the love of Jesus!!



## Join with Us on Wednesdays for Fellowship Dinner

September 5: Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad bar and dessert.

September 12: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad bar and dessert.

September 19: Creamy Chicken over rice pilaf, vegetable medley, yeast rolls, salad bar and dessert.

September 26: Ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, biscuits, salad bar and dessert.

*Gluten Free options are always available upon request.*



120 North Lafayette St.  
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## STAFF DIRECTORY

Tony Tench, Pastor.....pastor@fbcshelby.org  
Carol Ann Hoard, Minister of Students & Activities.....youth@fbcshelby.org  
Missy Smith, Minister of Children.....children@fbcshelby.org  
Paul Etter, Interim Minister of Music.....music@fbcshelby.org  
Penny Corn, Weekday Ministry Director.....childcare@fbcshelby.org  
Donna Dryden, Financial Coordinator.....finance@fbcshelby.org  
Dianne Spangler, Membership Coordinator.....membership@fbcshelby.org  
Ashley Pearson, Publications Coordinator.....publications@bcshelby.org  
Jene' Baxter, Operations Coordinator.....operations@fbcshelby.org  
Jim Corn, Deacon Chair.....deacons@fbcshelby.org

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## CHURCH INFORMATION

Check out our website and blog:  
[www.fbcshelby.org](http://www.fbcshelby.org)

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

120 N. Lafayette St, Shelby, NC 28150  
(p) 704.482.3467 (f) 704.482.1137



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