

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK DR. JIM COOLEY**

**CELEBRATING EASTER**

The Resurrection of Christ is the central reality in all of human history. When Jesus rose from the dead, sin was forgiven, death was defeated, and we were redeemed. Because of Easter, we look forward to our own resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. I look forward to joining you in a powerful celebration of the Resurrection on April 16. We will worship through music, through praise, and through proclamation of the risen Christ. Remember that this is a perfect Sunday to tell someone about your church and to invite them to join you as we celebrate our Risen Lord.



**ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERING**

April 16 is also the Sunday when we will receive our Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions. Prayerfully consider how the Lord wants you to participate in sharing the gospel throughout North America. Our church goal this year is \$20,000.00.

**ANDY IN APRIL**

By popular demand, we will be returning to Mayberry again on Sunday evenings in April. We will enjoy episodes of the Andy show, then learn some spiritual applications from our visits to Mayberry. This year, I have invited some serious Andy fans from our church family to lead a Sunday. John David Owen, Brian Spraberry, Larry Byrd, and I will be leading sessions with Andy, Barney, Gomer, and the gang. As usual, we will conclude the study with an Aunt Bee's potluck supper on May 7, but this year there will be a special treat, because we will follow our meal with a special program by Lindsay and the Children's Choir. Come and be a part of it all, every Sunday evening at 5:00pm.

**APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR**

April 2	Facilities Committee Meeting	Conference Room	4:00pm
April 2	"Andy in April" Begins	Fellowship Hall	5:00pm
April 6	The Sounds of Music	Sanctuary	6:30pm
April 9	Children's Easter Egg Hunt	FH/Lawn	11:30am
April 10	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 152	6:00pm
April 13	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary	6:00pm
April 14	Good Friday - Office Closed		
April 16	Easter - No Evening Activities		
April 19	Church in Conference	Fellowship Hall Room G02	9:30am
April 19	WMU Round Table Meeting		9:00am
April 20	Discover the Magic City!		9:00am
April 25	WMU Bible Study	Room G02	10:30am
April 30	Combined Sunday School	Fellowship Hall	9:00am
April 30	Children's Ministry Lunch	Fellowship Hall	11:30am

Birmingham, AL 35209  
2209 Lakeshore Drive



**MENU**

**April 5**

Pork Chops, Black-eyed Peas, Collards, Cornbread, Blackberry Cobbler, Apple Cobbler

**April 12**

BBQ, Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese, Dessert

**April 19**

Hamburgers & Hotdogs, Chips, Dessert

**April 26**

Beef Tips with Rice & Gravy, Green Beans, Yeast Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert

**Like our page:** facebook.com /firstbaptistbirmingham

**Live stream our sermons:** fbcirmingham.org/live  
**Archives:** www.ustream.tv/channel/fbc-birmingham-worship

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Sunday**

8:45am Library Open  
9:00am Sunday School  
10:15am Morning Worship Service  
4:00pm Handbell Choir - 164  
4:45pm Library Open  
5:00pm The Gathering - 168  
5:00pm Children's Bible Drill - G02

**Wednesday**

10:30am Library Open  
11:00am Prayer Service & Lunch - FH  
5:00pm Family Supper - FH  
5:30pm Library Open  
6:00pm Prayer Service - FH  
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal - 168  
6:00pm Children's Activities - G02  
6:00pm Youth Ministry - 271

**OUR STAFF**

**Dr. Jim Cooley**  
*Pastor*

**Dr. Rich Hutchens**  
*Associate Pastor*

**Dr. Joe Hopkins**  
*Minister of Music*

**Rev. Nathan Lyon**  
*Youth Minister & Music Ministry Associate*

**Cynthia Watts**  
*Director of Children's Ministries*

**Cyndy James**  
*Pastoral Administrative Assistant*

**Nancy Chesser**  
*Financial Assistant*

**Kellie Kema**  
*Ministry Assistant*

**Melvin Robertson & Ron Farms**  
*Custodians*



## A WORD FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR DR. RICH HUTCHENS

As I write this (March 15) the cold weather has once again rolled across Alabama; by the time you read this, I sincerely hope that it's a very dim memory! My winter preference is 70 degree nights and warm days...probably a by-product of living so many years in Caracas, Venezuela. We called it the "City of Eternal Spring," which meant that we neither had air conditioning nor heating in our home. It was perfect! But now I'm ready for a "perfect" summer in Birmingham, and – like all of you – am making plans. So though this is "only April," I wanted to get two things on your radar for the summer. Both need concerted prayer, and both could use your participation.

First, June 4-10 (Sunday-Saturday) we'll be taking our second journey to Peru as part of our Partnership with Bethany Baptist Church. The focus of this trip can be summed up in an acrostic of PERU: Prayer, Exploration, Relationships, and Understanding. This team will be visiting the church-planting site, San Luis, to spend time prayer-walking the city, exploring opportunities for ministry, building relationship with city officials and ministry partners, and understanding more what our role will be in the years ahead. If you are interested in knowing more about how to pray for or participate in this trip, contact me or one of the missions committee members.

Second, I'd like you to note the dates July 13-16, Thursday through Sunday, for our missions conference with special guests, Nik and Ruth Ripken, authors of *The Insanity of God*. I am excited that First Baptist is getting to host this amazing couple! We'll have multiple opportunities to hear from them, along with a number of other missionaries from around the world, about how God is at work in His people. In preparation for the celebration of missions, we have copies of Nik's book available through our church office (\$9 cost) and will also be showing the film, "The Insanity of God," based on the book and the Ripken's experience with the persecuted church in over 157 countries.

As you plan your summer, be sure to mark these dates as important times to be "home" at First Baptist!

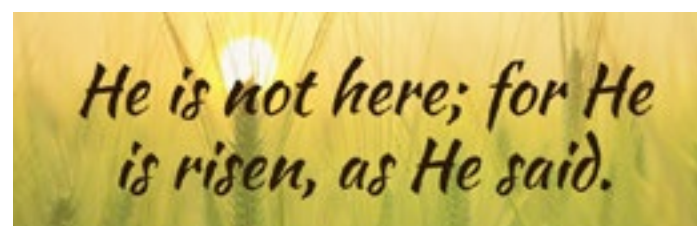


## NOTES ON MINISTRY DR. JOE HOPKINS

The next month will be a particularly special time in worship for FBC as we anticipate and celebrate Easter. We are preparing music for Palm Sunday and Easter worship services, but this year we will add a new service to this Holy Week of remembrance.

On April 13, we will have a Maundy Thursday service at 6:00pm. This traditional Christian service is a reflection on the first Lord's Supper and Christ preparing Himself to be the sacrifice for our sins. As we look to the hope and excitement of Easter, it is right that we should also think about the price Jesus paid to conquer death and sin. Our music intern, Joe Marchetti, has done a wonderful job preparing this service, and I hope we will all be able to participate.

Please place these dates on your calendar, and we look forward to seeing you in worship.



## WMU

**Round Table Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 19, 9:30am - Fellowship Hall

We will be blessed to welcome Phyllis Walton back to First Baptist. Phyllis will review the book, *My Morning Walks with God* by Greg Lane. This young man lived with the Waltons for a year. He is a Sunday School teacher and worship leader. His thoughts and reflections are awesome. She will read excerpts and expand upon them. Come join us and welcome this amazing woman who continues to bravely battle Parkinson's.

**Bible Study**  
Tuesday, April 25, 10:30am - Room G02  
Lunch to Follow

Have you had your ears checked lately? The wisest man on earth recorded, "Let the wise listen and add to their learning" (Proverbs 1:5). Almighty God instructed the disciples early in His son's ministry, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him" (Mark 9:7). Jesus taught in John 10, "I am the good Shepherd, I call my sheep by name, My sheep hear my voice." Come let us learn together why we need the awesome power of listening. "He who has ears..."

## YOUTH MINISTRY REV. NATHAN LYON

Thank you for your support of the youth-led Sunday. March 5 was a wonderful, reverent, and moving service. I am so proud of the hard work, preparation, and seriousness our students put into that day. I was tremendously blessed and have heard the same from many of you as well. Be sure to drop a card, a note, or a word of thanks and appreciation.

Beginning this month through school ending, we will be doing new studies on Wednesday night. The girls will begin studying *Liked (Who are You Living For?)* by Kari Kampakis. This will be led by Kathryn Justice. The guys will launch a study into the book of James and how to be men of God.

Lastly, thank you for all you have done to make Choir Tour 2017 to Cincinnati a possibility. Our trip to Daphne (see pics below) was a great success! We spent the weekend fellowshiping, leading in worship, and rehearsing – all in preparation for Tour. It will cost \$12,000-13,000 to go on tour and we are still about \$3,000-4,000 short of that figure. If you would like to give to this life-changing week, there is still time!!

(Happy birthday, Joseph Hopkins!!)



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry is growing, and we are looking for volunteers to get involved! It is a real joy to work with the Children's Ministry at FBC. If you would like to volunteer to work in Worship Care or in other areas, we would be glad to have you! Please contact Robin Rose (rrose1032@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank you, adult Sunday School classes, for praying for and staying in touch with your "adopted" children. This is such a blessing for them and for you!

The Children's Ministry is excited about the days ahead! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 9 and VBS this summer (June 21-23).



## CONNECTIONS MINISTRY (60+)

**Discover the Magic City!**  
Thursday, April 20, 9:00am-2:00pm

For the past few months, the FBC seniors have been "Discovering the Magic City!" In April, we are going to the Lyric Theatre and the Pizitz Building! We will leave the church at 9:00am and return to the church by 2:00pm. The cost is \$10 plus the cost of lunch. We will be taking a 15-passenger bus with a center aisle. Sign up in the front office if you would like to attend.



At Olexa's on Thursday, March 16