

Birmingham, AL 35209  
2209 Lakeshore Drive



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



**SPECIAL GUEST**

February 26 is going to be a red letter day at First Baptist Church as we welcome a very special guest to our church. The missionary journeyman that we only know as "Jill" will be coming to join us in worship and to share with our church family about her experience in Africa. So many of our church have been so faithful to pray for her and rejoiced at the news of her freedom. We look forward to meeting her face to face on February 26.

**THE GOSPEL**

Throughout the month, we will keep our focus on the Roman Road. Several have asked me what that means. The Roman Road to Salvation are five basic scriptures you need to know in order to understand and to share what it means to know Jesus as Savior. Each Sunday, we will be focusing on one of those scriptures. I encourage you to plan to be present for every Sunday. Invite someone you know to join you. You can **tell them about your church**, and they can hear the timeless message of salvation.

**THE JOURNEY**

Sunday evenings are going to be focused on our Journey toward God's plan for our lives. The first eight weeks are going to be all about "Beginning the Journey." We are going to look at Who God is, who we are, and what God is calling us to be and to do. We will journey together each Sunday evening at 5:00. You will be blessed as we walk through this study of a powerful book by Dr. Billy Graham.

**FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR**

February 6	Apartment Ministry Training	Room 152	6:00pm
February 7	Missions Committee Meeting	Conference Room	6:00pm
February 10	Healing Hearts Ministry	Room G02	10:00am
February 12	Valentine's Soup & Chili Supper	Fellowship Hall	5:00pm
February 13	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 152	6:00pm
February 15	WMU Round Table Meeting	Room 152	9:30am
February 16	Discover the Magic City!		9:00am
February 19	Sojourner Banquet	Room 152	11:30am
February 26	Special Guest Speaker		10:15am
February 28	WMU Bible Study	Room G02	10:30am

**MENU**

**February 1**

Spaghetti Bolognese, Veggie Medley, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar, Dessert

**February 8**

Homemade Pizza (Cheese, Pepperoni, & Supreme), Caesar Salad, Cheesy Bread, Dessert

**February 15**

Classic Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Buttermilk Biscuits, Salad Bar, Peach Cobbler

**February 22**

Tomato Soup, Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwiches, 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  
205-901-3218

**Dr. Rich Hutchens**  
Associate Pastor  
205-401-0605

**Dr. Joe Hopkins**  
Minister of Music

**Rev. Nathan Lyon**  
Youth Minister & Music  
Ministry Associate  
334-301-8607

**Cyndy James**  
Pastoral Administrative  
Assistant

**Nancy Chesser**  
Financial Assistant

**Kellie Kema**  
Ministry Assistant

**Melvin Robertson  
& Ron Farms**  
Custodians

## CONNECTIONS MINISTRY (60+)

### Discover the Magic City!

Thursday, February 16, 9:00am-2:00pm

For the next two months, the FBC seniors will “Discover the Magic City!” On each third Thursday in February and March, we will take an excursion to a Birmingham attraction. On February 16, we will leave the church at 9:00am, explore our mystery destination (all activities will be indoors), eat lunch, 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.

**February Clue:** You'll be feeling *chipper* after this fun mystery excursion!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers after the loss of Mom. Please continue to pray for our family as we go through all the necessities of handling things after the loss of a loved one. It's been a blessing to us to know what a Christian influence and impact Mom has had on the lives she has touched. Thank you all again.

Susan Nagel & family  
Jim Slaughter & family

## YOUTH NATHAN LYON

Thank you for allowing the youth to serve you during last month's “Service Day.” We hope you were as blessed as we were.

What is Worship? This is our Wednesday night study for the month of February. We will be studying what the word “worship” means, what worship is, what it isn't, its purpose, and why we do it. In addition, a comprehensive look at specific aspects of worship will be taken. This will include such topics as offerings, prayers, preaching, music, spoken word, invitation, and Scripture.

All this will be done in preparation for March 5 – our youth-led Sunday morning worship service. Please pray for the youth as they prepare not only the liturgical aspects of the service but also their hearts and minds to lead the service. While this is viewed as an immense honor and privilege, it is also regarded as a very serious responsibility that deserves our best.

Be sure to wish a Happiest of Birthdays to Clark Snow, Foster Snow, and Garrett Dunn.

## NOTES ON MINISTRY DR. JOE HOPKINS

The month of February is going to be filled with music, and you get to help lead! We will begin with our staff ministry team singing in the service on February 5. On February 12, we will ask all the men of our church to lead in music, and the women on February 19. On February 26, we will pack-the-loft with folks of all ages to demonstrate how we prize worship at FBC. I will share more about these special Sundays in the days to come, but please make plans to participate and show your support for the worship ministries of FBC.

While all of this is happening in February, our choir will be rehearsing each Wednesday evening at 6:00 and gearing up for a fantastic spring of music. This is the best time of year to join with us and start fresh on the new music for the season. Please consider becoming a part of the choir and helping us lead each Sunday. Thanks to all of you for your encouragement and assistance as we move into 2017.

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your outpouring of love and support during our recent loss. We find much comfort knowing that Will is now pain free and living with his Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that “He who began a good work in you will continue to perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

In Christ's Love,  
The William Floyd Family, Cheryl, Brian, & Bethany

## WMU

### Round Table Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 9:30am - G02

Karen Ott will bring to our meeting Karim Shamsi-Basha who will be sharing the story of his life as written in *Paul and Me...From Islam to Christ*. Karim was born in Damascus, Syria, and immigrated to the United States in 1984. His work as a photojournalist has been published in *National Geographic Traveler*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, *Coastal Living*, and *The New York Times*, just to name a few. You will be blessed by meeting Karim and hearing his inspirational story. We encourage both men and women of our congregation to attend.

### Bible Study

Tuesday, February 28, 10:30am - Room 152

“Building Walls” has been much in the political news this past year. Our Bible study will challenge us to break down walls, preparing us for God's next adventure. Isaiah 43:19 tells us that God is “about to do a new thing;” so, pick up the sledgehammer and get ready for God to do a new work in you.

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

Sojourner – *noun*, soh-jurn-er; late 13c., “one who stays temporarily, resides for a time; visits; temporary resident.” Alternate definition: Sojourner – *adjective*, early 21c., “ministry of First Baptist Church to University Students residing temporarily in Birmingham; a biblical mandate.”

Beginning in the Fall Semester of 2016 we at First Baptist began a ministry called SOJOURNER. Its focus was to fulfill a biblical mandate as old as the Bible itself: To care for the widows, orphans, and sojourners in our midst. We've always done a pretty good job with those who've lost their spouses, providing support and encouragement; and we've invested in the children separated from their families through the Alabama Children's Home and their initiatives (such as Angel Tree). But “sojourners” was fairly untouched territory...until recently.

What began in that Fall Semester with one lone student has now grown to around twelve! Our host families have done a superb job of reaching out to these ‘sojourners’ through dinners and lunches; through cards, letters and emails; through prayer sessions and gift baskets. They've worshiped together and worked together and have found that the Sojourner ministry has been a mutual blessing. Not just the students but the host families have been encouraged and blessed.

As the students return to campus, let me ask you to pray about this ministry. We need more hosts to provide a welcome for these young people. We could also use more chefs, to provide a main dish for the College Discipleship study each Thursday night. More workers for the apartment ministries (chock-full of students!) would also be a great boon to the Sojourner ministry.

Bottom line: “Love the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.” Deuteronomy 10:19

During their January meeting, the Deacons elected their officers for 2017:  
Adam Loudermilk, Chairman; Bruce Harris, Vice Chairman; & Tom Russell, Secretary.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This month we are focusing on our Sunday night Bible Drills led by Judith Cooley and Katherine Weakley for the elementary children. Some of you may remember being a part of Bible Drills when you were learning God's Word as a young child and how much fun you had!

The pictures below show the different stages of a Bible Drill. First, the children stand at “Attention,” then they “Present Your Bible,” and finally, they “Start” finding a book of the Bible or a verse. The children are learning the Books of the Bible and have learned many verses. They write down the reference on a card and then the scripture on the other side so that they can find it in their Bibles and read it. The children enjoy many fun activities during Bible Drills!

Don't hesitate to go in on a Sunday night and observe this special time with the children. Judith and Katherine will be delighted to have you join them!

