

“The Caring Place”

I would like to thank everyone who had a part in the Gaston Family Fun Day 2011. It was an amazing day! Because of your efforts many lives were touched. All I can say is what is expressed in the Doxology: “Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above all ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”

A lady commented on WIS TV’s Website wall about how she was touched by the Fun Day. Here is her comment: *“this was an awesome event. I just moved to the area and decided to go to see what our new town is like. I enjoyed myself and so did my 3 year old son and his father. The staff was very nice and friendly especially to the kids...I applauded all sponsors and staff members. You all are very blessed for holding an event like that for everyone.”*

I wonder how many more could share similar words as this lady? All I can say is: “Thank You”.

Pastor Larry



FIT FOR A KING

A crown of thorns is around His brow, as if He were a king. And truly He was a king, and He never was more kingly than in that hour.

He was kingly in His bearing. He made no plea in His own defense.

He was kingly, too, in His love. There had not been a shade of bitterness in His heart, under all the cruelties and sufferings

He had endured. ...

He was kingly also in His suffering. His was a crown of sorrow, for He was the Redeemer of sinners.

Thorns were the fruit of sin, and He took our curse upon Himself — that we might receive a crown of life. He was subjected to shame in the eyes of the world — that we might be welcomed to glory. Never was He more kingly than He was on that dreadful, yet glorious day.

—J.R. Miller

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NEWS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL WARRIORS WITH HELEN KING, DIRECTOR

Have you ever called out to God but felt as though God didn't hear you? One of God's attributes is that He is a responding God, but yet, you didn't get a response when you cried out to Him in your need.

You are not alone; King David felt this way, too, and recorded his intense frustration with God's silence during a time of deep need. This is found in Psalm 13 and is a model prayer to follow when we feel that God may have turned a deaf ear to us when we needed an answer. David does not specify what his particular crisis was at this time; thus, it makes it easier to identify with Him when we have a need.

David has a threefold reaction to God's unresponsiveness. First the problem: God's unresponsiveness. David pleads with God four times, asking "How long?"

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and every day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?*

Second, David petitioned God, asking Him for a response. He's not only asking for God's favor, but appeals to God for His own reputation.

*Look on me and answer, O Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;
my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.*

Third, after expressing his problem and praying for a response, David praised God for His goodness and past blessings.

*But I trust in your unfailing love:
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
for He has been good to me.*

What a contrast we see as David moved from feeling frustrated about God's unresponsiveness to telling God his need, and then to a calmness that came from deliberately putting his confidence in what he knew to be true about God and His faithfulness. Praise can work wonders!

So when faced with your own problem and frustration because you think God has forgotten you, like David, tell it to Him, express your distress and struggles you are having. Second, pray amid difficult circumstances and ask Him for a response. Lastly, praise Him for who He is, despite how you feel in the midst of your problem. God has a purpose for everything, even what appears to be His silence. Recall His promise that He said that He would never leave you nor forsake you.


If you haven't been coming to the Spiritual Warriors luncheon at 11:30 the first Wednesday of each month, be sure and plan on coming this month on April 5. Ron Gibbs from Grovetown, Ga., will be here to sing and share his testimony about a time God did show up in his life and what a difference it made in him. Ron has sung all over Georgia and SC, joined Gabriel's Call, a traditional quartet out of Temple Baptist Church in Columbia, in 2004. He sings baritone and is an accomplished songwriter as well as a singer. You don't want to miss hearing him!

ATTENTION KIDS!!
Annual Easter Egg Roll
Saturday, April 16th ~ 10 AM - 12 PM
We would appreciate candy donations for the Easter Egg Run. Please bring individually wrapped candy. There is a donation box in the Welcome Center.

GRIEF SHARE A NEW GRIEF SHARE CLASS WILL BEGIN SUNDAY, APRIL 3 ~ ROOM 200 AT 5:30 PM.

Remember our Homebound members especially during the Easter Season. But for the grace of God, we could be homebound ourselves. A phone call, a card or a short visit would be appreciated.

Phyllis Templeton, Homebound Director



WOMEN ON MISSION NEWS WITH MARGIE RISH & CINDY FURTICK, CO-DIRECTORS

April is here, the sun is shining, flowers are blooming and God's beauty is all around us. There are many opportunities to share in mission projects throughout our community.

The Girls in Action (GAs) received a letter with their Camp LaVida information in February. If your daughter is in GAs and wants to go to camp this summer, the registration forms and fees are due no later than **April 3**. All information was explained in the camp packet as to dates and cost. If you have any questions, please contact Margie Rish or one of the GA teachers.

The WMU Associational Spring Meeting is **April 4** at Edmund First Baptist Church at 6:45 pm. They are featuring: **The West Virginia Ladies Trio**; Alice Edwards, Riverland Hills Baptist Church; Sandra Tapp, Associate, SC WMU Associational WMU Leadership Team. All organizations are invited to attend.

Cooperative Program Day is **Sunday, April 10**. This is a day of prayer for people and causes supported and ministered to through the Cooperative Program such as State Fair Workers; Disaster Relief Teams; Christian Women's Job Corps Program and many others. The Ladies home meeting will be **April 18** in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be announced at a later date.

It's time for the Health Kit Ministry. These kits are used by the Lexington Baptist Association in the following ministries: migrant workers, the homeless, State Fair workers, and disaster relief to name a few. We ask that you place the following items in a 2-gallon Ziploc bag:

1 toothbrush
1 bar soap (4.5 oz)

1 toothpaste
1 wash cloth

1 comb
1 bath towel

There will be a box in the Welcome Center. You may drop off specific items or make a monetary donation to the church for this project. Our church goal is 50 kits. The kits are due by **April 22**. Please pray how you can help with this project.

The Lexington Baptist Association Office has several mission opportunities available to everyone. Ms. Linda Hite will be coordinating many Prayer Walking events. Please keep the following dates on your calendar and be in prayer for how you may wish to participate.

Prayer Walking in Lexington, SC ~ Aug 3; Dec 7, 2011

Prayer Walking in Atlanta, GA ~ Nov 1-3, 2011

Prayer Walking in London, England ~ May 4 - 11; July 7-14; Oct 6-13, 2011

Prayer Walking in Halifax, Nova Scotia ~ April 1-7; June 2-8; Sept 2-8, 2011

Many of these events are both Prayer Walking and Mission Trips. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact Linda Hite or David Lee at the Lexington Baptist Association Office at (803) 356-2543.

Coming in May we have the Week of Prayer for Associational Missions and in **June** kids will be going to camp, World Changers will be here and, of course, VBS.

As always thank you for your support with all our mission projects and continue to be in prayer as to how you can become involved in missions.

Love in Christ, Margie Rish & Cindy Furtick


Youth Need!

Our new Christian youth are learning what it means to be a Christ follower, a true disciple. They are growing "babes in Christ". Through prayer, I feel this group needs the experience of SummerSalt Youth Camp. By faith, I have reserved 40 spots for our group. We will be attending this amazing week of youth ministry, worship and Bible study July 5th - 9th. We need your help! The cost for our group is a discounted \$180.00 per student. This covers all lodging & food at White Oak Conference Center. I am determined not to leave behind anyone who wants to go. This will require a wide scholarship initiative. If you are able to invest in one or more of our youth through partial or whole scholarship, please see either me or Adam Callahan.

Thank you! Bob



DISCIPLESHIP WITH DEBBIE SPIRES, DIRECTOR

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY KING JAMES!!

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:105 KJV

DISCIPLESHIP

Sundays at Six

One of our most popular Discipleship classes is *Diggin' Deeper*. This class is led by Terry Pound and begins where the Sunday morning Bible study ends. The purpose of the class is to offer an opportunity to go deeper in discussion and understanding of scripture than the scheduled Sunday morning hour could allow. It is also a great way to be involved in Bible study for those who are unable to attend the 9:45 AM group. Adults of any age are welcomed into this group which meets at Six o'clock on Sundays in the West Wing.

The essential tool for any Bible study group is, of course, a Bible. There is a smorgasbord of Bibles to choose from, for personal or group study. Terry shares, "I use the *King James Version* most of the time... this is what I grew up with ... the memory verses I learned as a child in Sunday School, Training Union, RA's, etc. were from the KJV." Because Terry has used the same Bible for '25 or 30 years', more than half of the current most popular translations were not yet written when he began using his Bible. Terry uses other versions to prepare lessons and also enjoys looking at Matthew Henry's commentary (available in our church library), which is from the KJV.

2011 marks the 400th Anniversary of the *King James Bible*. The *King James Version* is the word-for-word translation from the best manuscripts available in 1611. While we treasure and place great value on many other very old books, some think *the King James Version* is outdated. This has led to three new versions of the Bible in the past decade. So how do you know which translation is right for you? Comparing specific verses in several different translations will help you decide. Knowing how you will use your Bible, whether for just reading or for digging deeper into God's word, is also important.

To learn more about choosing a Bible, the history of *the King James Bible*, and to see how it looked originally, visit the Discipleship page on our church web site. www.firstbaptistgaston.org

COLLEGE & CAREER MINISTRY WITH PAM SPIRES AND SHAWN STINTON

2011 Columbia Great Strides Walk

Saluda Shoals Park ~ 9:00 AM, Saturday, May 14th



2011
GREAT STRIDES
CYSTIC
FIBROSIS

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a devastating genetic disease that affects tens of thousands of children and young adults in the United States. We continue to lose precious lives to CF every day. That's why your help is needed now more than ever to ensure that a cure is found sooner - rather than later.

Again this year, The First Baptist Gaston: The Caring Place Team will walk in honor of Morgan Spradley. Morgan is the 3 year old daughter of Edwin and Freedom Spradley. If you would like to be a part of the team you can register to walk by going to the following web site [http://www.cff.org/Great Strides/PamSpires](http://www.cff.org/GreatStrides/PamSpires) (note there is an underscore between Great and Strides) and click on the Join My Team button. Once you register, you can set up your own personal site for friends, family and co-workers to donate online. If you cannot walk but would like to make a donation, you can go to the website and click on the Click to Donate button. If you do not have access to the Internet to register or make a donation or do not wish to donate online, you can see Debbie or Pam Spires to make a donation to the team.

Saluda Shoals park offers a number of activities (Splash Zone, canoe and kayak rentals and guided trips, hiking and biking trails, horse trail rides) that you can enjoy after the walk. Check out their web site at www.icrc.net/saludashoals for more information on amenities, activities and prices. Lunch is provided after the walk, so make plans to spend the afternoon at the park. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to support a good cause and spend quality time together. Please support this worthwhile cause and give evidence that we truly are "The Caring Place". Together we can make a difference in the lives of those with CF.



The 'Man'date

Every time we have an election and elect a majority of candidates from the party that we threw out at the last election, we start hearing about the 'mandate' of the people. The way the 'mandate' typically works is that the newly elected believe or convince themselves that everything they promised to do is exactly why the people voted them into office. They never seem to consider that the people did not care for either choice and were 'voting the scoundrels out'.

The definition of mandate is: *to receive authority from a higher power to act on behalf of the higher power.* The root of 'mandate' is from the Latin word *mandatus* which literally translates as 'putting something in the hand'. *Mandatus* is also the root for 'mandatory' which means a non-negotiable, non-modifiable responsibility or obligation. Oddly the etymology of the English word 'man' is from Old English and Old German 'mannian', which is a 'garrison' or 'a lot of hands'. This word it seems probably came into usage about the time of the Roman occupation of Britain. (i.e. prior to 500 AD), which makes it part of OE and OG for etymological purposes.

The second chapter of Genesis tells us that God created man from the dust and prepared Eden for man. Verse 15 says God 'placed man in the Garden of Eden to work it and to watch over (protect) it.' At this point 'woman' had not been created, so the responsibility to work and protect was put in Adam's hands. We know, sadly, that Adam shirked his responsibility by not removing the serpent from the garden (working) and he did not protect Eve from the serpent's influence. Then he tried to blame both God and Eve for his failures.

Adam's failures continue to effect men today, which is evident in the way that women and children (family), the church, the government, and the earth suffer from neglect and indifference by men (and I do not mean 'men' in the general sense, but specifically we male humans).

I am not an advocate of 'a life verse' that is a verse that a person uses to guide them in most of life's circumstances. Some people like John 3:16, Roman 8:28, I John 1:9, or Philippians 4:13. I tend to think that it takes the whole Bible to cover my need for guidance, instruction, reproof, and training. Nevertheless there are some verses which are like familiar landmarks in an otherwise featureless landscape of choices that govern the course of our lives. One such verse is Micah 6:8: 'He has told you men what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: only to act justly, to love mercy (or faithfulness), and to walk humbly with your God.'

If you consider that each of these requirements has the aspect of work and protecting, you end up with a 'mandate' matrix that looks like this:

	Work	Protect
Act Justly	Honesty	Integrity
Love Mercy	Gentleness	Forgiveness
Walk Humbly	Faithfulness	Self-Control

Over the next six newsletters, I will expand on the mandate matrix. (Ladies you can skip this if you like, but you are responsible for helping men and helping raise men.)



YOUTH WITH BOBBY SPIRES

Galatians 6:9 ~ "I Shouldn't Be Surprised..."

But, yet I am. I guess that would be an indication of our proclivity to view circumstances within the constraints of our finite & fallen minds instead of seeing with eyes of faith...with God's eyes.

The FBCG Youth ministry has been abundantly blessed with a harvest of young people over the last 18 months. As you may know, we relocated our meeting space about two years ago to allow Children's Worship to make better use of an area that was physically much larger than what a group of eight needed. Even in the "lean times", the ministry team continued to stay the course in our teaching & reaching. And we continued to pray for a harvest. Of course, as is often the case, when the answer came, we still found ourselves surprised!

Currently we are ministering to 35-45 youth every Wednesday night & we are nearing 20 for CrossTraining on Sunday nights. The space we were in? Well, we very quickly outgrew it. And, you, our church family, generously provided us with a new space. We moved into our new youth room this past month. The youth are very excited & thankful. I, as well as my ministry team, am extremely humbled. Thank you for your very generous support & for the many words of encouragement & prayer, especially during the times where no harvest was being seen. Many youth have come to salvation through Christ over the last year! God has blessed us with the harvest we so diligently prayed for. And we continue to pray for even more!

Don't ever give up or grow weary! Sometimes the harvest doesn't come when we expect or when we desire. But, it comes! **Praise be to our awesome God, it comes!**

Privileged to be Serving, Bob



He is risen... He is alive!!!! Shout it out... Tell the Good News.. Jesus is Alive!

Wow, I waited till after the Community Fun Day to write this article because I knew we would have much good news to tell.. and we do!

Lives were touched... changed... some eternally!!!! It was so exciting to be a part of such a special day!

Several people have commented about the cooperative spirit and generosity they saw... the selfless acts of standing in the sun for 6 hours with traffic and crowd control... feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, giving books to excited children, walking on water, handing out endless sno-cones and cotton candy... painting faces, sharing home-made baked goods, giving out balloons, hydrating the thirsty (smile), and telling people the great news of Jesus Christ. People were genuinely appreciative of what was done for our town and for God's kingdom on Saturday, March 19th! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We are looking forward to an exciting Easter season ~ Our children will be presenting their musical celebration on the morning of April 17th! This will be Palm Sunday.. and what a way to begin our Easter Week.

On Easter Sunday, we will have our Sunrise Service @ 6:30 AM! Bring your yard chairs and dress comfortably. Weather permitting, we will be outdoors. We will move indoors if necessary. Breakfast will be served following our Sunrise service. Please sign up in the Vestibule so we can have a headcount.

Then we will have our regularly scheduled Sunday School and Worship. During the 11:00 AM Worship service, the Adult Worship Choir will be leading worship with "*My Savoir, My God*" Easter cantata.

We will not have evening services on Sunday, April 24. We hope you enjoy time with family and friends.

Praying for you... love you!

Joyfully Serving, Sherrell ☺



Have movie night on us. Get a bag of popcorn and we will provide the movie. These DVDs are just in and we have many other new ones. In addition, others will be arriving weekly. We have different ones to suit different taste. ENJOY!!!

CLANCY

Pain is Inevitable. Misery is Optional.

Clancy Miller is an abused girl with the faith of an angel. In order to avoid social workers, she runs away to the streets of the city. Once there, she meets up with Nick, an ill-tempered, homeless veteran.

The Book of Ruth Journey of Faith

The Book of Ruth, is a triumphant love story in the face of adversity. A Biblical Cinderella story.

The Perfect Stranger

Based on the bestselling novel, The Dinner With a Stranger. The man told the lawyer he was Jesus Christ. The lawyer decided to call his bluff.

Second Chances

A story of understanding, giving, and love. Based on a true story, an uplifting tale of a little girls' physical and emotional reawakening after a car crash claims her father and her spirit.

God Made You Special Veggie Tales

Join Bob, Larry and all the Veggie Tales friends for a fun-filled collection of stories that helps kids learn that they are special just the way God made them. Filled with laughs and lots of surprises!

Sweetpea Beauty Veggie Tales

Sweetpea Beauty knows that what's on the inside is what matters most! Find out in this fairy "Veggie" tale about the real meaning of true beauty.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Jody Griffin Peter Jumper Elizabeth Miller Crystal Pound	2 Pearl Dowd
3 Colleen Burrows Melody Cartee Richard Koller McKenzie Platt ♥Harry & Linda Wilson	4 Freddie Brant	5 Mallory Deaver Jeremy Gleaton Destin Hellard Jacob Hull Samuel Woods	6 Erik Painter Brian Pound, Sr. Robbie Stabler <i>Spiritual Warriors Luncheon 11:30 All Missions</i>	7 Robin Anderson Brandy Ramey ♥Ricky & Kathy Sturkie	8 Lureen Marks Ken Nelson	9
10 Lena Clark Kirstin O'Stein	11 Jane Pound ♥Devin & Sherri Miller	12 Kathryn Gunter Erin Miller Carl Reynolds Amelia Sightler Roy Skinner	13 Patricia Hidebrand Edward Joseph ♥Jody & Karen Griffin	14 John Ridgeway Mary Jane Spires	15 Britt Drawdy Robert Munsell Carlie Reynolds Daniel Spears Vickie Vick Kelly Watts	16 Cynthia Furtick Kenny Saunders
17 Stephanie Brown Alisha Sirianni <i>Children's Easter Musical 11:00 AM</i>	18 Jim Cox	19 Kippy Watts	20 Dawn Cole Judy Johnson Kristen Kirkham Kadence York	21 Tatum Cox Lisa Hinson	22 Lenora Johnson Daniel Rabon ♥Ned & Jo Ann Frownfelter	23
24 Hoyt Fallaw T. W. Reynolds <i>Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:30 AM Adult Cantata 11:00 AM (No evening Service)</i>	25 Linda Jackson William Keadle Debra Kyzer ♥Tommy & Carol Furtick	26 Sunnie Gail Pound ♥L. H. & Amelia Sightler <i>Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	27 Hannah Edwards Leonard Thomas	28 Todd Ayer Denise Knight	29 Irma Dowd Ronald Winstead Melissa Yandle ♥Buddy & Jeannie Harley	30 Sara La'Due

**"MY GOD,
MY GOD,
WHY
HAVE YOU
FORSAKEN
ME?"**

Two places in the Bible, one in the Old Testament and one in the New, feature the following words: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"

The New Testament account is found in Matthew 27:46, when Jesus is hanging on the cross. Where are the words found in the Old Testament?

- A. 1 Kings 19:4
- B. Jeremiah 38:9
- C. Psalm 22:1
- D. Lamentations 1:20

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He's Alive!!



Weekly Schedule

Sunday
9:45am.....Sunday School
11:00am.....Worship
11:00am..Children's Worship
6:00pm.....Adult Choir
6:00pm.....Discipleship
7:00pm.....Worship

Monday
3:00pm....Ladies' & Men's
Prayer Time

Wednesday
6:00 PM Joyful Noise, Jr &
Youth Choir practice
7:00pm.Prayer Service
7:00pm.....GA, RA &
Mission Friends Meetings

Monthly Meetings:

1st Wednesday all mission
groups meet 7:00PM
3rd Wednesday Conference/
Prayer Service 7:00PM
3rd Monday Women on
Mission Home Meeting 6:15
Last Tuesday Deacons Meet

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON WELCOMES YOU!!

"THE CARING PLACE"

We are here to minister to you and your loved ones and to help strengthen your faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. If you are not currently attending a church, we invite you to join us. See our weekly schedule to the left of page.

Coins

The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins — usually shown with a bag or purse — represent Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus' teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last "mite" (Mark 12:41-44).



IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY,
PULL.
(THIS DOES NOT
INCLUDE THE
SERVICE
RUNNING PAST
NOON.)



Campbell.