



The Good News Letter

November 2011

A monthly publication of First Baptist Church, Gaston

Vol. 37 Issue 11

Nuggets of Truth:

“Faith, like light, should always be simple and unbending; while love, like warmth, should beam forth on every side and bend to every necessity of our brethren.”

—Martin Luther



“No man ever got very high by pulling other people down... Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself.”

—Alfred Lord Tennyson



“A child of God should be a visible beatitude, for joy and happiness, and a living doxology, for gratitude and adoration.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon



“Your Temper will improve the longer you keep it.”

—Anonymous



LEARN TO FORGET

In the waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, we find the lobsters which many people find delicious to eat. The lobster can furnish us not only a tasty meal, but also a valuable lesson if we study its habits. We are told that lobsters grow in size only when they discard their shells. In the first year, this happens eight times, in the second year, five, and in the third, three. After this, the male sheds twice a year and the female, once.

Many of us have grown certain kinds of shells that we must discard if we want to continue to grow spiritually. The reason many people stop growing spiritually is that they refuse to shed shells of prejudice, selfishness, injustice, past sins, and many others. We will never be able to grow in Christ-likeness unless we discard these shells. It is not good to harbor injuries, irritations, and unimportant unpleasantness. We should shed them like a lobster sheds its shell. After we repent of our sins, we must discard them, if we are to grow. If we hold them in our minds, they will hamper our growth.

Paul said wisely, “Forgetting those things which are behind...” It was not easy for him to forget to shed some of his hurts, but he dropped them and pressed on. And because of this, Paul grew into a greater Christ-like person.

—Pastor Larry

TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

If you would like to place a poinsettia in honor or memory of family and/or friends or just to beautify the Worship Center, envelopes are available at the white box in the Welcome Center. Please complete the envelope, enclose payment and drop it in the white box. The cut-off date for orders will be Wednesday, November 16.

The cost is 11.25 per poinsettia.

SHOE BOXES NEEDED!!

We are collecting shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse. We now have the actual Samaritan's Purse Box available if you would like to prepare a box for a needy child. There is a sample box in the Welcome Center. Please see Anna Laura Rawls or Margie Rish for the boxes. Start collecting your items early.

Deadline to have shoe boxes to the church is November 13.



MUSIC NOTES WITH SHERRELL OTT, WORSHIP LEADER

NOVEMBER MUSIC NOTES

"The Christian who walks with the Lord and keeps constant communion with Him will see many reasons for rejoicing and thanksgiving all day long."

Warren Wiersbe

What people see in our lives every day is our testimony, whether we plan for it to be or not.
What we actually live out is what others judge us by.

As Christians, we should be a living testimony of what Christ has done for us each day.
He blesses us so much out His goodness and grace.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let us focus more this year on all that we have to be thankful for... and live with an attitude of gratitude. When others see us, I hope they begin to wonder why we are different from other people... I really like one of the definitions of Thanksgiving...

a public acknowledgment or celebration of divine goodness.

Make sure this year that people know why you are so thankful...
because of the divine goodness of God!!!

ETERNALLY
GRATEFUL



Joyfully Serving,

Sherrell ☺



NEWS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL WARRIORS WITH HELEN KING, DIRECTOR



Lexington Baptist Association Fall Festival for Adults and Senior Adults will be held Thursday, November 10 from 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM at West Side Baptist Church. Adults can meet at the church at 10:00AM to pool ride together. The cost of the catered meal by Shealy's BBQ is \$10. If you would like to have your ticket picked up for you, please place the amount in an envelope marked Fall Festival and place in the offering plate or give your payment to Helen King by Sunday, November 6.

Music will be provided by the Jubilant Singers and the speaker is Alan, an IMB Missionary.

Adults and Seniors, make every effort to attend this exciting festival and fellowship. It is always a blessing and most enjoyable.

Spiritual Warriors Luncheon Wednesday, November 2 ~ 11:30

A special Thanksgiving meal will be provided for the Spiritual Warrior's Luncheon on Wednesday, November 2 at 11:30. Meat and dressing will be provided; bring your favorite dish to go with the meal.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

A HERITAGE HYMN OF THANKGIVING

O God of all, Who hears the prayers of every generation, Accept the thankfulness we feel for those who built our nation, For frontier path with oxen cart, for circuit rider station, For simple joy, for vision, for hope and inspiration.

We praise You for those saints of old who listened to Your call, Who weathered storm and sacrifice to serve both great and small. They left a legacy of love; a church that needs no wall — But takes your Gospel through the world and shares the Faith with all.

Walk city street and foreign shore with us, Your Church, today. Lift us to new horizons; show us Your Will, Your Way. Be in our thoughts, our hopes, our dreams, in all we do and say. Grant us Your benediction now, O Lord, our God, we pray. Amen.
—Peggy Ferrell



It's time for giving thanks and we can spread God's love through many mission opportunities.

The **WORLD HUNGER DAY** collection was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We collected \$714.01 and all funds will go to the GPS Center to help purchase food.

We will conduct our annual Connie Maxwell Food Drive the entire month of **November**. The Youth Group and Life Sunday School Class will organize this mission project and deliver the items to the Connie Maxwell Home the first weekend in December. More details will be in the bulletin during November. Remember our own Patrick Callahan and his wife Dawn are parents to a house of girls at the Connie Maxwell Facility. Let's show our support of this ministry.

November 7 is the **Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer**. We have been invited to participate with Christian Fellowship Baptist Church on Hwy 321 in their Day of Prayer service. The service will be from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Please be in prayer about **Operation Christmas Child and the Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes**. Shoe boxes are due to the church by November 13. Shoe boxes are available from Ms. Anna Laura Rawls or Margie Rish. Let God lead you as to how you can be a part of sharing Christmas with a child.

The ladies home meeting will be at Sherrell Ott's house on November 21 at 6:30 pm. We will be working on putting items together for the **Prison Packet Ministry**. If you would like to prepare a packet, items needed are listed below. When our ladies went to the Women's Prison Picnic they were told how much the Prison Packet Ministry means to the inmates receiving them. These packets are distributed among the Women's and Men's prisons throughout the state. We ask that you fill a 1-gallon zipper plastic bag with the following items:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 - black non-retractable pen (no wire clip) | 1 - 6 oz. or larger toothpaste |
| 1 - 4 to 6 oz bar of soap | 1 - adult size toothbrush (individual/factory sealed) |
| 1 - junior legal pad or 50 page writing tablet (NO WIRE BOUND) | 2 - rolls of LifeSavers, Breath Savers or Mentos |
| 5 - first-class stamp embossed envelopes (purchased at Post Office ~ No Metered or Stamped envelopes) | 1 - gallon size Ziploc Bag (all items must fit inside) |

These are due to the church by Wednesday, November 30 and will be delivered to the Lexington Baptist Association Office before the weekend. Last year our church collected 54 packets and the goal this year is 60. There will be a collection box in the Welcome Center. If you would like to make a donation for the packets, please see Cindy Furtick, Margie Rish or Jane Pound.

The church wide Thanksgiving Dinner will be **Tuesday, November 22**. We will have our **Project Angel Tree/ Adopt a Family** Christmas tags ready for pick-up. We ask that you help make a child's Christmas wish come true as this may be the only Christmas that child will have. Please be in prayer about this project and how you can help. Michelle Cox and Shawn Stinton will be coordinating this project.

The Lexington Baptist Association Office still has mission opportunities available to everyone.

Prayer Walking in Lexington, SC...December 7, 2011

Prayer Walking in Atlanta, GA...November 1-3, 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 December: Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering; GA & RA IMS Mission Study; Lottie Moon March; and the Lottie Moon Mail Box ministry. Please pray how you can be a part of these mission opportunities.

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, Cindy Furtick & Margie Rish



Help & Hope for Single Parents

DISCIPLESHIP

Sundays at Five

If you're a single parent, you're probably tired, overwhelmed and feeling a bit underappreciated. **Single & Parenting** groups share tips and parenting wisdom that will help you find rest, hope and encouragement. Every single parent in the community is invited to attend. If you know a parent who is dealing with single parenting invite them, bring them, and pray for them.

At a **Single & Parenting** group, you'll participate in video seminars that explain how to:

- Wisely encourage your kids to obey
- Help your hurting child
- Eliminate debt
- Deal with verbal onslaughts
- Figure out what your emotions are telling you



Plus, you'll develop meaningful friendships with other single parents, who, like you, are tired of hectic mornings and chaotic evenings, the kids fighting, and a never-ending to-do list. Facilitated by Pastor Larry, **Single & Parenting ~ Date to be announced.**

Child care will be provided. You may contact Pastor Larry or Debbie Spires through the church office if you have questions or concerns.



It's Here!

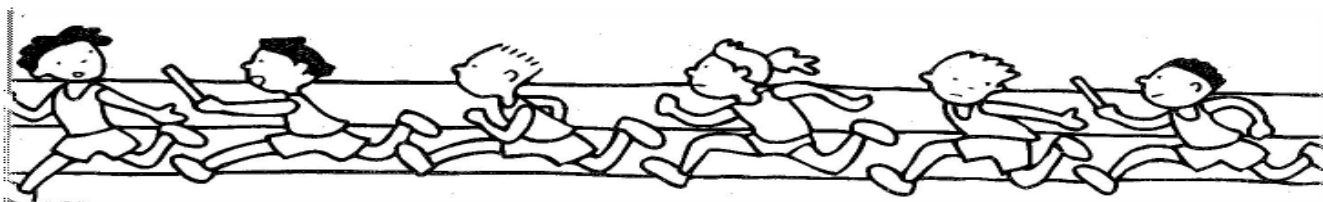


Raising Up Spiritual Champions Discipleship Course




Children in 1st through 6th grade GET READY for an intensive eight-week discipleship adventure with a sports theme. The course includes eight sessions of creative Bible study, meaningful discussion, and fun activities. Creative homework involves family members and Bible verses to learn.

Raising Up Spiritual Champions begins November 6th at 5 PM on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building. Parents, it's up to you to encourage your child by making the commitment to bring them each Sunday and to be available to help with scripture memorization and other fun activities at home. Contact Sunnie Gail Pound or Debbie Spires through the church office for further information.




Please
WELCOME
These New Members!

Brittney Walker
Joshua Stabler



VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2011
FREEDOM COMES AT A VERY
COSTLY PRICE...
IT IS NEVER FREE!
EXPRESS YOUR THANKS TO A
MILITARY PERSON, RETIRED OR
ACTIVE...THEY DESERVE YOUR
EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE!!

THE SOURCE

"One day I read in the 10th chapter of Romans, 'Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.' I had up to this time closed my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since."
—D.L. Moody

YOUTH NEWS WITH BOBBY SPIRES, YOUTH DIRECTOR

"Give your Facebook page a new face-lift and every status you post will compliment who you are. The whole world's dark while you shine like a star. Then bring hatred to an end and watch the honor of our generation come alive again."

"Let's Go" by Group 1 Crew with tobymac

Song lyrics are often idealistic. I know the impact of Christians doing this wouldn't necessarily "bring hatred to an end", but imagine the encouragement and testimony we could bring to a social medium often full of drama and angst. Of course, this doesn't apply just to Facebook. We all must live with an awareness of the impact of our words. Do they encourage and edify? Or do they discourage and tear down?

What are They Doing Up There?

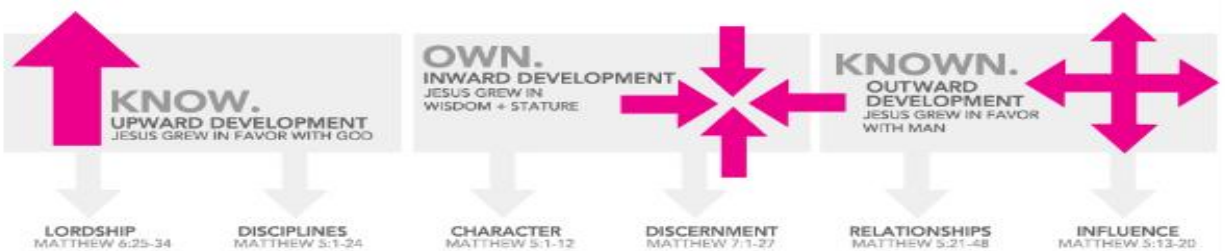
October was an awesome month! Youth attendance remains strong and growing in all three regular weekly meetings. We hit a high-mark number this month of 54 teens for Wednesday Night Youth (Wednesdays, 6:45 pm)! God is AMAZING! The youth helped with the church's "Truck or Treat" project by providing a "trunk" and by working in different areas with food and activities as needed. In November we will be collecting items for Connie Maxwell and we will also open the annual Lottie Moon Express Christmas card "mailroom" on Sunday, November 27th.

We are in the process of registration for the winter youth conference, Chillipepper, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. This takes place in late January and never fails to have a great influence on the youth. If anyone would like to sponsor, or help sponsor, a teenager for this worship weekend, please see Bobby or Adam. The cost per youth is \$75.00. Thanks!

Youth Sunday School and CrossTraining



We are utilizing the KNOWN strategy during our two Sunday sessions. This is a student Bible study curriculum with a holistic approach to spiritual development helping students to *KNOW* God, *OWN* their faith, and make their faith *KNOWN*. We study topics from spiritual development areas such as lordship, disciplines, character, discernment, relationships, and influence.



All youth are invited to join us for Sunday School (9:45 am) and Sunday CrossTraining (5:00 pm) as we fellowship around the Word and as we learn how to apply it to our lives as disciples of Christ.

Come to Youth!

—Bobby

SHELF LIFE WITH PETER JUMPER, MEDIA LIBRARY DIRECTOR~FILLING IN THIS MONTH IS PHYLLIS TEMPLETON

VISIT THE MAIN LIBRARY



The books displayed in the Welcome Center is just a few of the many books in the main library. There are many books by great men, such as Billy Graham, Chuck Swindoll, Max Lucado, Dr. Charles Stanley and Dr. David Jeremiah. There are children's books, books for tweens, Christian fiction, autobiographies, and biographies, (such as *THE HIDING PLACE*, by Anne Frank, and Joni Erikson Tada's biography.) There are some cook books, books on family relationships and on dealing with finances. There is something for everyone! So take a few minutes to browse, you may be surprised at what you find.

Phyllis Templeton, Media Assistant



MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

Sunday mornings in November we will learn from the book of Exodus how to make our lives count. Weekly lesson topics are:

November 6- **Accept the Call** – The call of Moses at the burning bush and the principle that God has a calling for each of us.

November 12- **Stand for the Lord** – Moses’ intercession for the Israelites when they committed idolatry, as well as Moses’ passion for the Lord’s holiness.

November 20 – **Respond to Difficult Situations** – Israelites’ complaint of a lack of water and how Moses responded to the complaint in a way that dishonored God.

November 27 – **Adopt the Right Perspective** - The song Moses recited at the end of his life, a song that centers all of life in knowing and living under the greatness and grace of God.

As Christians our focus should be on the grace and greatness of God as we celebrate Thanksgiving. Although Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks for sufficient and even abundant provision, our rejoicing and thanksgiving should not be focused on what or how much we have, but on God’s grace in always providing for our needs. When we exhibit evidence of adopting the right perspective , even in difficult situations, our stand for the Lord will be evident to the world.

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”

1 Thessalonians 5:18




CHILDREN’S NEWS WITH RHONDA PARRISH, CHILDREN’S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Being Thankful

K When someone does something nice for you, what do you do? You say, "Thank you." Sometimes that just doesn't seem to be enough. Has someone ever done something for you that was so nice that you wanted to do more than just say, "Thank You." When that happens, you can send them a "Thank You" card. Everyone enjoys receiving a "Thank You" card.

I Another way you can show your thanks when someone does something really nice for you is by doing something nice for them in return. If someone invites you to spend the night and you have a really good time, you should return their kindness by inviting them to come and spend the night with you.

It is always important to show our appreciation when someone does something for us.

 I don't know anyone who has done more for us than God has. God provides food when we are hungry and water when we are thirsty. He heals us when we are sick and He comforts us when we are sad. The Bible tells us that He is always with us in times of trouble.

D Because of all God has done for us, we say, "Thank you." But somehow that doesn't seem to be enough. We could write Him a "Thank You" card, but I don't think the Post Office could deliver it!

S Jesus told us how to do it. Jesus, said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do it for me." That means when we share our food with someone who is hungry, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we visit someone who is sick, it is the same as doing it for Jesus.

Dear Jesus, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving. Thank You for all You do for us everyday.



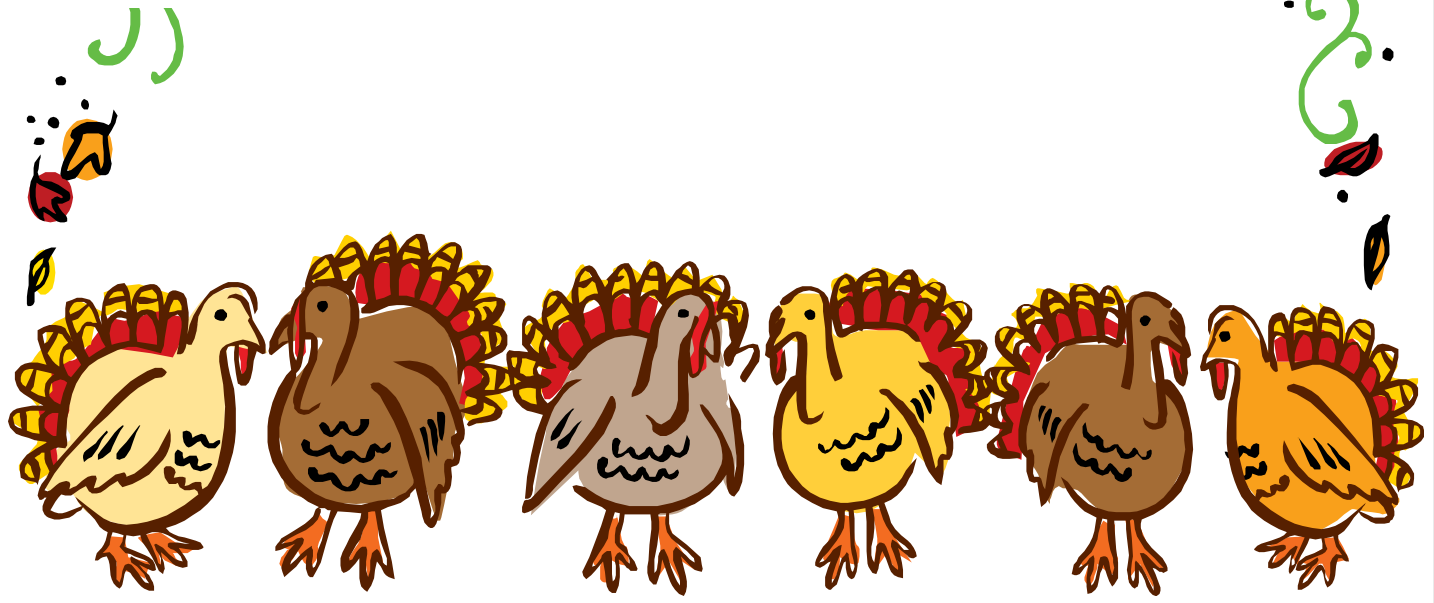
The Sonshine Sunday School Class is again sponsoring the sales of “**Keep Christ in Christmas**” auto magnets and decals with 100% of the profit going to the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. The magnets are \$5 each and a sheet containing 3 decals will also be \$5 per sheet. For more information or to purchase please contact the church office at 794.0377 or any member of the Sonshine Class.
Thanks, David Rish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>November 2011</i>		1 Tiffany Chaffins Pamela Summers	2 ♥Eric & Mary Koller Spiritual Warriors Luncheon 11:30 All Missions 7:00 PM	3 Dorothy Williamson	4 Curtis Carson Sherri Miller Chris Pound Michael Pound ♥Arnold & Margaret Corne	5 Jimmy Loftis ♥Edward & Kay Joseph
6 Betty Lou Pound Jessica Skinner- Chase Starnes 	7 Allie Cole ♥Rick & Cheryl Cartner	8 Gabriel Bolt Bertha Hutto Veronica Spradley	9 Marie Branham Guyeula Bryant Billy Callahan Tiffany Cooper Jadyn McKay Chad Pound Meghan Rampey	10 Kimberly Byers Christiana Childers Jerry Fallaw ♥Eddie & Dawn Cole	11 Earlie Mae Davis Margie Rish ♥Shawn & Heather King	12 Tyler Austen Steve Dawkins Tim Fanning ♥Michael & Jackie Hart
13 Tony Kelly Anthony Sightler	14 Irma Hudson Britta Kelly	15 Emily Cole Chad Hall Donald McBride Ricky Sturkie	16 Michael Orta Stephanie Sharpe Justin Stinton Linda Wilson ♥Bobby & Pam Spires	17 Bryan Barwick Rosa Harsey Pamela Hite Teresa Oliver Eric Mack Emily Moler ♥Will & Kim Reynolds	18 ShyAnn Gilstrap ♥David & Patricia Hildebrand ♥Eugene & Clara Thomas	19 Kim Hoover Zach Howard
20 Leigh Chavis ♥Kippy & Regina Watts	21 Tommy Furtick Wiley Jackson Angela Laird ♥Donnie & Karen Dowd WOM Home Meeting	22 Paul Smith Kathy Stabler ♥Heyward & Carolyn Kelly  Sign-up by November 20	23 Lisa Buchanan Daniel Clark No Prayer Service	24 ♥Chad & Robin Hall ♥Ricky & Vickie Vick Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	25 Heather Hendricks Ann Calk Matt Drawdy Amber Herron Lauren Mooney ♥Jimmie & Karen Pound ♥Frank & Hazel Settle ♥Edward & Terry Smith Office Closed	26 Beth Cope
27 Tiffany Clayton Amanda Hagood C. Hall Tiffany Hellard Cheyanne Koller Jo Lynn Martin Sarah Rawlinson Casey Rish ♥Mark & Beth Snyder	28 Sabrina Koller Edward Smith	29 Amanda Boyce Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM	30 James Herring Andrew Randall Robert Richardson ♥Johnny & Suzanne Gregory ♥Dennis & Ginny Henderson ♥Mike & Peggy Mills	 November 7 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer November 30 Prison Packets due to the church November 13 Shoe Boxes Due Coming in December Season of prayer for International Missions		

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Weekly Schedule

Sunday
09:45am.....Sunday School
11:00am.....Worship
11:00am...Children's Worship
05:00pm.....Adult Choir
05:00pm.....Discipleship
06:00pm.....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

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 of Month
Deacons Meeting
Check bulletins & website for
additional activities.

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.



Some churches observe National Bible Week in November. According to 2 Timothy, which of the following are ways that God intends for us to use Scripture?

- A. Teaching and training in righteousness
- B. Equipping God's children for good works
- C. Reproof and correction
- D. All of the above

Answer: D (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

BLESSED ARE...

Blessed are those who have learned to admire but not envy; to follow but not imitate; to praise but not flatter; and to lead but not manipulate.



"Before I tell you what happened, Mom, remember...The Lord will never give you more than you can handle."