



# Faith Is Alive

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## Pastors Desk

*Dr. Clarence E. Williams*

My Dear Church Family,

Sitting here in my study thanking God for all He has done, I am overwhelmed on how the blessings just keep on flowing through our youth as they participate in the Kids Café Summer Program. Right now, we must focus on our children in so many ways. During the summer some children are left alone while their parents are employed. Because of this, we need multiple literacy initiative in every community for these respective ages. First Baptist Church is empowered to take the each-one teach-one action and embrace it as a mandate for the community. We need a substantive educational engagement with all cultures.

I am so proud of Kids Café Summer camp because the staff is focusing on the welfare of the children. We want our children to grow up to be healthy, productive, critical-thinking citizens. Kids Café summer camp is only six weeks, and during those weeks we will create an environment to nurture the development of our youth. Let us consider the single

parents for a moment. They are trying their best to make ends meet, they are preoccupied with trying to keep food on the table and a roof over their families heads. Our desire is to let the youth know that we care about them, and we encourage the positive dreams they are trying to fulfill through Christ Jesus.

Annually I will stay committed to this ministry, because it is our future as well as the present help that God has given to us as a gift.

Your Humble Servant In Christ. ◇

## Editors Thoughts

Terrence L Hearn Sr

*Faith Is Alive Ministries*

I am hoping to get more input from our congregation. Starting in the next newsletter we will have submission from the congregation of things you would like to see in the newsletter. The main theme will stay the same but by more input we can have a much better newsletter. There are things our church body does that others would like to know about. The important things to you and your children that are outside of FBC life. For example for job or different organizations you are a part of. Pictures are appreciated as well as old articles. Thank you for your support in this venture. ◇

*Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid of standing still.*

## Good News

The first thing that started the year off was the last thing ending in 2008. We were on our knees in prayer as the new year came in. It is always good to be with loved ones when the new year comes in. But it is better to be in fellowship in prayer praising the lord from the things he brought you from to the things you hope to obtain in the coming year. The 1<sup>st</sup>

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Sunday of the year was Holy Communion. That Sunday was busy because the officers were reinstalled for the year. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the year Bible study resumed. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Church meeting of the year was held January 10<sup>th</sup>. It ended the 2008 projects and functions and set the tone for the coming year. In the meeting Deaconess Ramona Rogers was given help from the administrative side of the house. The New Admin staff for the pastor consist of Sis. Camilla Washington, Sis. Tonya Wallace, Sis Karen Thomas and Deaconess Ramona Rogers. During the meeting it was brought to everyone attention that Deaconess Rogers had been hospitalized but was home recovering Rev Al Brandon was worship leader on January 11<sup>th</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> Lady announced a Kid's Café' Board. She wants more participation from members and the men of the church. Deacon Bailey made an announcement that Sis. Karen Thomas would be printing new church directories. The Children had a 2<sup>nd</sup> Practice for Martin Luther King Jr. Program for church services on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The children did a wonderful job for the program. They recited a part of MLK Jr. "I Have a Dream" Speech and a piece of President Barack Obama Democratic Party acceptance Speech. Speakers were brought in to do the service. Minister Walter Riley of Macedonia Baptist Church gave the morning message "I Need You." Minister Linda K. Heartley of First Baptist Church Manassas, VA gave reflections for MLK Jr. Day. The reflections "Courage to Hope" was very inspirational to all of us. A Touch of Macedonia provided the music for the service. A Taste of Spirit and A Touch of Macedonia sung together at the end of the service. It was a good time had by all. On Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> the NAACP sponsored a MLK Jr Program at FBC. FBC Voices of Praise provided the music. 1<sup>st</sup> Lady and Elaine Blakey were in the local newspaper from the MLK Jr. program. President elect Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. The Women had another fellowship on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. 1<sup>st</sup> Lady had a Birthday Bash held at the church for her on the January 25<sup>th</sup>. Sis. Pat Blakey has been in the hospital and rehab due to her foot. She has gone to Avante for rehab. Let's not forget about our sisters and brothers in their time of need. A wonderful surprised happened on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Walter Ghant former Pastor of FBC attended service. Please keep him in prayer. Our Men were responsible for the local Men's Breakfast on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Evangelist Janice Robinson preached on February 15<sup>th</sup> on "Making Choices." There are many things we do in life but the choices we make can affected our relationship with

the Lord. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lady was under the weather on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February and missed being with us. Please keep the pastor and his family in your prayers. We sometimes forget the things they do to travel 2 – 3 times a week. Our Women's Seminar ended the newsletter cycle at the end of February. ♦

## Deacons Korner

*Deacon Anthony Bailey*

This years Valentine's Fellowship was sponsored by our Deacon's. It was a fun filled night of fellowship. See our deacons do know how to have fun. Now back to the real business that our deacons handle. They have continued to visit the sick and shut-in. They have been giving communion to our members and others where our members are located. They are still giving the baptism classes and attending to the needs of the church body. As the Pastor as said before our deacon should be ready at all times. Also during this time, they help Deaconess Betty Sampson move. ♦

## Choir Loft

*Bro. John Butler*

The Voices of Praise have been rather busy during this hallelujah cycle. Bro. Charles Washington joined the Choir along with two other ladies. The Choir is still looking into getting new robes. Our youth Choir has a new name. It is the 'Junior Voices of Praise.' We must always encourage our youth because they feel as though they are left out. We sponsored another extravaganza. It was a night of praise and worship featuring the New Stars of Central Virginia on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The program was at 3:30 PM and had a meal served between the morning service and the program. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> our men's group "A Taste of Spirit" was in concert at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Staunton, VA for a Black history Program. It was a joyous time in the Lord. To end the month of February, the Choir sung at the local community center behind the church on the 28<sup>th</sup>. ❖

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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PLACE **MT CARMEL - WINCHESTER, VA**  
TIME **MAR 8 2009 11 AM**  
87<sup>th</sup> Usher Anniversary. Pastor Preaching, ATOS providing music

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PLACE **BETHEL AME**  
TIME **MAR 15 2009 3 PM**  
Men's Day Bethel AME. Pastor preaching, FBCVOP providing music

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PLACE **FIRST BAPTIST**  
TIME **MAR 22 2009 3 PM**  
Deacons & Deaconess Day. Rev. Dekle from St Luke Berryville, VA is speaker.

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PLACE **FIRST BAPTIST**  
TIME **MAR 28 2009 9 AM - 2 PM**  
After Six marriage Seminar. Rev. Owen Johnson & New Heart, New Spirit.

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PLACE **FIRST BAPTIST**  
TIME **APR 12 2009 6 AM & 10 AM**  
Easter Sunrise & Regular Easter Worship Service. Breakfast after Sunrise Service.

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PLACE **FIRST BAPTIST**  
TIME **APR 26 2009 3 PM**  
100 Men in Black Service.

### Today's Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, I sing praise to you this morning. You have carried me through another year. You have blessed me and taken care of me. You have comforted me and guided me. You are my ever-present help. I praise you, God, from whom all blessings flow. I praise you above all heavenly hosts. I praise you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are the greatest. You are magnificent. You are worthy. I love you. In the name of Jesus I offer this praise, amen.

## Live As Though You Are Dead TGIF Today God Is First Volume 2, by Os Hillman 03-30-2009

*"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:11-12).*

"How will I know when I am going to come out of my adversity pit?" said the woman sitting across from me. "When it doesn't matter anymore," I replied. It brought back memories, when I also sat across from a mentor who said to me, "The only problem you have Os is you are not dead yet. You need a good funeral." He was talking about my carnal flesh life.

When Joseph was elevated to be ruler over the entire kingdom of Egypt after years of slavery and imprisonment, my guess is that it didn't really matter that much to him. He thought he was going to get out of prison years earlier when he successfully interpreted the cupbearers dream only to remain there two more years. "Why should this situation prove any different?" he must have thought to himself. I believe Joseph had come to a place with God where he resigned himself to remain wherever God had chosen to keep him. He had become dead to his circumstances. It does not mean we can't have a longing for better days, but there is a Godly contentment that allows us to remain in any condition with a peace that passes all understanding.

The Bible says we are to live as though we are dead. This does not mean we do not have emotions or dreams. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them (Mark 14:34). That sounds like anxiety to me, yet we know Jesus never sinned. So, we can conclude that we can have concerns and emotions without crossing over into sin. God has given us His Spirit to allow us to operate inside the storms of life without sinning. Place your faith today into the hands of the One who can calm any storm in life.



Church Email: [fbcharrisonburg@verizon.net](mailto:fbcharrisonburg@verizon.net)  
Church Website Address: [firstbaptisthbg.org](http://firstbaptisthbg.org)

### Newspaper Staff

**Terrence L Hearn Sr**  
**Tonya Wallace**  
**Marcus Hearn**

**Editor**  
**Asst Editor**  
**Reporter**

## Let's Never Forget Our Sick and Shut-in with Prayer.

If someone is left off our sick and shut-in list please let the Deacons and Pastor know as soon as possible.

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