

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

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THE CHRONICLE



The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

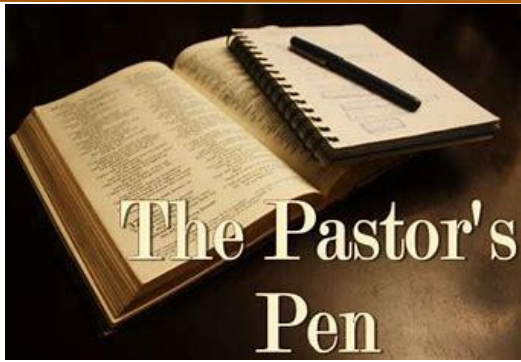
¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20, NIV

Inside This Issue:

The Pastor's Pen	2
Think on these things...	3
Thinking Out Loud	4
Health and Wellness	5
Outstanding Accomplishment	6
Foreign Mission	7
Sick and Shut-in	8
Foot Soldier	9
Congratulations	10
Children and Youth	11
Senior Outing	12
HBCU Sunday and Black History Program	17
Mark Your Calendar	26



As we enter the month of March, with its promise of renewal and the joy of spring, I am reminded of the excitement surrounding the season of basketball. The NCAA tournament captures the attention of many, showcasing the dedication, teamwork, and passion of young athletes striving for victory. However, as we embrace this season of "March Madness," let us also reflect on an even greater calling: the importance of evangelism in our lives and our community.

Evangelism is more than just sharing the good news of Jesus Christ; it is a vital expression of our faith. Just as athletes train tirelessly to achieve their goals, we too are called to prepare ourselves spiritually to reach out to those around us. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands us to "go and make disciples of all nations." This Great Commission is not just a suggestion; it is our mission as followers of Christ.

Why is evangelism so important? First, it is an act of love. Sharing the gospel is a way to show others the love and grace we have received. It is an invitation to experience the joy, peace, and salvation that comes from knowing Jesus. Every person we encounter is a potential recipient of God's love, and it is our privilege to share it with them.

Second, evangelism builds our community. As we reach out to others, we create connections that strengthen our church family. Each new believer adds to the tapestry of our community, bringing unique gifts, perspectives, and stories that enrich our shared faith journey. Together, we can support one another, grow in our understanding of God's word, and work toward a common goal of glorifying Him.

Finally, evangelism is essential for the growth of the Kingdom of God. The world is in desperate need of hope, and we have the answer. In a time when many feel lost and hopeless, our message of hope through Jesus Christ can transform lives. By stepping out in faith and sharing our testimonies, we become vessels of God's grace, bringing light to the darkness.

This March, I encourage each of you to em-

brace the spirit of evangelism. Whether it's through a casual conversation with a neighbor, volunteering in our community, or inviting a friend to church, every action counts. Let's work together to make this month not only a celebration of basketball but also a time of spiritual growth and outreach.

In closing, let us remember the words of Paul in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." As we engage in this "March Madness," may we be bold in our faith and passionate in our mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Victor Sinclair Lewis, Sr.



**REV. VICTOR SINCLAIR LEWIS, SR.,
PASTOR, TEACHER**

THINK ON THESE THINGS...



During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”

Fasting and feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad. I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



The
Newsletter Newsletter®

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edition

THINKING OUT LOUD

The price of perfection

“Then He embraced them and blessed them, placing His hands on them.” Mark 10:16

The first Council of Nicea, convened by Emperor Constantine in AD 325, was also known as the first worldwide Conference of the Christian Church. Many of the people attending this Conference had been severely maimed or crippled for their belief in Christ.

Today, many people pay a price for their belief in the Lord Jesus CHRIST. Many people have been ostracized and criticized and some have been fired from jobs because of their faithfulness to the LORD.

There are five things we must do in order to stand strong and firm in our faith to the LORD.

- Be steadfast – Life is hard but we must stick to it and know that God will bring us through it.
- Be faithful – When Julius Caesar invaded Gaul he did not ask for permission. In 1812, when Napoleon invaded Russia he did not ask for permission. Christians must be true to our calling of faith in the Lord Jesus. If Jesus brings us to it, He will bring us through it, but we must be faithful.
- Be active. As Christians we must take the initiative and start processes of action. Back in 1976, you may recall the first outbreak of Ebola occurred in Zaire, around the Ebola River. Over 284 people became infected. Over 53% of those people died, as there was no cure. Speculation said that many people in China, Guinea, Thailand, and even parts of Australia eat monkeys and bats. It is said that these animals were contaminated with the Ebola virus. This started a major move in the Health Organization to educate people about safety in the food industry. We must be active in our efforts to also educate people about Christ and the need to follow Him.
- Tell somebody about Jesus daily. As Christians we must evangelize daily. We must

spread the Word about Jesus. Know Him and tell others about Him.

- Be thankful. All over the world there are people being killed, maimed, becoming ill, losing jobs and even killing themselves. We must be thankful that we belong to the LORD, and He is taking care of us.

There is a price to pay for perfection. We don't live in a perfect world, but if we expect perfection, it will cost us. It cost Jesus His life, what are you willing to pay for a perfect world?

By: Sis. Helen P. Smith

March, 2025



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

March is **National Kidney Month**

Get to know your hard working kidneys

6 WAYS KIDNEYS KEEP YOU HEALTHY



Regulate fluid levels

Activate Vitamin D for healthy bones

Filter wastes from the blood

Directs production of red blood cells

Regulate blood pressure

Keep blood minerals in balance

8 PROBLEMS KIDNEY DISEASE CAN CAUSE



Nerve damage

Cardiovascular disease

Heart attack

Stroke

Anemia/ low red blood cell count

Weak bones

High blood pressure

Kidney Failure

4 RISK FACTORS

Diabetes

High blood pressure

Age 60+

Family history

7 SYMPTOMS



Swelling: face, hands, abdomen, ankles, feet

Blood in urine
Foamy urine

Puffy eyes

Difficult, painful urination

Increased thirst

Fatigue

2 TESTS YOU CAN TAKE (BLOOD AND URINE)



Urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio estimates the amount of a type of protein, albumin, that you excrete in your urine.

Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) tells how well your kidneys are working to remove wastes from your blood. It is the best way to check kidney function. Doctors measure blood creatinine (waste build up) levels and perform a calculation based on race, age and gender.



National
Kidney
Foundation®

Learn more at kidney.org

OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT

Max Transit and WBHM Radio Honor Dr. Adrienne Starks

Dr. Adrienne Starks was honored in February by Max Transit and the local public radio station WBHM-90.3 FM. Dr. Starks is described as an innovator and catalyst for STEM education. Approximately 10 years ago after returning from obtaining a PhD in Baltimore, Adrienne had a passion for helping the underserved children in Alabama excel in STEM subjects.

STREAM Innovations, based in Birmingham, was founded by Dr. Starks to address the disparities in STEM education for minorities and the underserved. STREAM stands for Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. STREAM Innovation has touched the lives of hundreds of young people – innovators - in Alabama.

On many occasions, Adrienne has stated that God gave her the vision and has provided guidance in accomplishing her work. Countless students have shared how attending STREAM programs have enriched and changed the course of their lives.

Max Transit honored Dr. Starks by placing her picture on a bus that will be traveling throughout the Birmingham Metro area for one year. WBHM radio sponsored a fundraiser to contribute to STREAM Innovations' work in Alabama. The program and fundraiser will be broadcast in the future on WBHM. Keep your ears open for information on the date. The fundraiser was well attended in the Woodlawn Theatre. A special thank you to FBCF members who attended the fundraiser and donated to STREAM Innovations.

Dr. Starks grew up in First Baptist Church Fairfield and is currently a member. She has a long family history – parents, grandparents, and great grandparents - of membership at FBCF.

If you want to help Dr. Starks with her work, please visit STREAM Innovations on the web. Many opportunities are available – donations, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Praise God for blessing Adrienne's work.



FOREIGN MISSION

National Baptist USA Incorporated 2025 First Baptist Church, Fairfield



The National Baptist USA, INC. serves eight African countries and three Island nations. Foreign Mission is still a priority at our Church. Our focus today is on Mission work.

The missionaries are very busy this year as there is so much need throughout the world. Some years ago there was a virus, the Ebola virus, that decimated some 1,500 people, mostly in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. The virus began spreading to other countries rapidly, causing death and destruction. It was widely believed that this virus came from the eating of contaminated monkey meat, and bat soup that had been infected with bat droppings. While this may repulse us here in the U.S., eating monkeys and bats is very common in these third world countries. Even in parts of China, Thailand,

Guinea, and Australia.

There is much work being done by Missionaries in these countries, and this disease has been contained. In the U.S. we have not had an outbreak of this disease since 2014. We must continue to support foreign mission.

Be sure you continue to **support Foreign Mission with your donations in 2025. Our goal is to raise \$10,000. You can do that by simply donating \$25.00 every fifth Sunday.** By the end of the year, you will have donated \$100.00. We can do this. Let's continue to give.

SICK AND SHUT-IN MEMBERS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD

Sick Or Shut In List - March 2025

Sis. Hattie Aikerson
5295 Cedar Creek Drive
Bessemer, AL 35022

Sis. Eunice Barnes
7309 Earlwood Drive
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Martha Bennett
732 60th Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Eloise Bunkley
2215 Broughton Sprgs Rd.
Southside, AL 35907

Sis. Kimberly Caldwell
2752 20th Place Ensley
Birmingham, AL 35208

Sis. Virginia Chandle
2325 15th Street West Ensley
Birmingham, AL 35208

Sis. LaSondra Chavers
Town Village Vestavia Hills
Room 205 W
2385 Dolly Ridge Road
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

Bro. Erskine Copeland
49 Freda Jane Lane
Birmingham, AL 35215

Sis. LaTonya Cox
P. O. Box 734
McCalla, AL 35111

Sis. Dorothy Delaine
5601 Court I
Birmingham, AL 35208

Sis. Alquina Dickey
1400 Lexington St.
Birmingham, AL 35224

Bro. William Evans
312 59th Street
Fairfield AL 35064

Sis. Essie Flanagan
724 Vaughn Circle
Birmingham, AL 35235

Sis. Eunice Goldsmith
101—57th Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Bama S. Gray
528 53rd Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Gracie M. Guerry
Cherry Hill Healthcare Ctr.
1250 Jeff Germany Pkwy
Birmingham, AL 35214

Sis. Lillian Jones
1363 Rock Creek Lane
Pleasant Grove, AL 35127

Sis. Ruby Harris Jones
403—58th Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Barbara Lloyd
144 Cornerstone Ct.
Bessemer, AL 35022

Sis. Carlean McClure
837 60th Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Elaine Meeks
321 Jerry D. Coleman St.
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Veltina Melton
316-66st Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Lillie Merritt
1512—1st Ave. W
Birmingham, AL 35208

Sis. Vicky Modica
1900 ML King
Birmingham, AL 35211

Bro. Henry Moton
2801 Snavely Avenue SW
Birmingham, AL 35211

Sis. Susie Powell
1480 Cambridge Blvd
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Mary Ravizee
609 Jerry D. Coleman St.
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Olandria Rhoden
305 Claredon Terrace
Bessemer, AL 35020

Bro. Elliott Ryce, Sr.
500 10th Street, Pratt City
Birmingham, AL 35214

Sis. Lois Scott
841 60th Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Bro. Albert Taylor
316—58th Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Eva Turner
501 54th Street
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Flora L. Waller
5725 Marchester Circle
Pinson, AL 35216

Rev. Alex Washington
7405 White Oak Road
Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Katie Lee Watts
241 Nabir Court
Tracy, CA 95377

Bro. Darnell Williams
2616—15th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35024

LILLIE DAVIS-FOOT SOLDIER

Lillie Davis—Foot Soldier

I was one of the first five ladies to be hired in Selma on the Police Force as "School Walking Guards" through a program funded by the government and supervised by Mr. Jim Stallings. Mr. H. D. Griffin, Principal, met with the P.T.A and asked for volunteers. We were chosen by the principals of the schools. The other four ladies were: Mrs. Edith Ferguson, Mrs. Louise Shelton, Mrs. Mary James, and Mrs. Elnora Dixon.

We worked three hours for the city and five hours with the neighborhood centers. While working at East End School, we would go to the East End Center on Mulberry St., where Mrs. Emily Butler was the Directress. Some years later, Mr. Stallings moved us to the districts where we live. I was moved to Clark School on Lawrence St. where Mr. Gardner was principal. I then worked at the Carver Center where Ms. Carrie Marshall was supervisor. I later retired from the sewing factory. I am also a licensed beautician. My beauty shop was located on Division St. in East Selma where it was opened afternoons and on Saturdays.

I am also a Foot Soldier and received an award on the 50th Year Anniversary at Brown Chapel Church.



CONGRATULATIONS



Exciting Finish to the 2025 High School and Middle School Cheerleading Season at American Cheerleading Center

The 2025 school cheerleading season ended on a high note for local school teams who competed in recent events, with impressive performances at the **Nfinity America's Cup Nationals** in Orlando, FL, and the **Birmingham City Schools Cheer Competition** at Huffman High School. The hard work of athletes and coaches at American Cheerleading Center, Home of Bama All Starz, truly paid off.

Nfinity America's Cup Nationals

Shades Valley High School's Small Varsity Coed team earned **2nd place** in their division, showcasing their skill and consistency on a national stage.

Birmingham City Schools Cheer Competition at Huffman High School

- **Wilkerson Middle School** took **1st place** in Small Middle School Game Day and **Runner-up** in Small Middle School Traditional.

- **Huffman Middle School** earned **Runner-up** in Large Middle School Traditional.
- **Woodlawn High School** finished **Runner-up** in both Small Varsity Game Day and Small Varsity Traditional.

Phillips Academy had an individual cheerleader win **1st place** in the Individual Cheerleader competition.

Tristan Twyman, member of First Baptist Church Fairfield, is the owner of American Cheerleading Center and school cheer director. He expressed pride in the athletes' dedication. "It's been a busy season, but seeing our teams succeed makes it all worth it," Twyman said.

With such a successful season, the future looks bright for American Cheerleading Center as they continue to build on their success in the upcoming year with their school cheer teams!

 Tristan Twyman, Band Director
 Bessemer City Middle School, Bessemer, AL
 "Leadership, Legacy, and Pride"

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY



ROLL AGAIN

Our theme for the month of March is *Roll Again*. In board games, the player takes bad turns sometimes. But the next roll of the dice or spin of the wheel might have you in a good position again. As long as the game is going, there are always second chances. It is the same with God. Our sin and bad decisions are not the end of the story. God offers us second chances, do overs, and a chance to roll-again.

The youth are invited to join us on 2nd Sunday for Mission Basics and the Roll Again Bible Lesson. The Children and Youth will be divided into the following groups: Sunbeams, Jr. Reds, Sr. Reds, Jr. Crusaders, and Crusaders. In their groups they will study the tenets of mission and then move on to the bible lesson.

We will also meet on the 4th and 5th Sunday for Children's Church and the *Roll Again* Bible Lesson focused on ages 3 -11. The children will be divided into the following groups: Beginners (3-5), Primaries (6-8), and Juniors (9-11).

March's Schedule is listed below:

1ST SUNDAY

1st Sunday Family Worship

Children's Church will not be held

2ND SUNDAY

GENERATIONAL SUNDAY

Angelics and Ambassadors Worship Through Song
Mission Basics and Bible Lesson

3RD SUNDAY

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUNDAY

Chuck Nevett Usher Board
Children's Church will not be held

4TH SUNDAY

SUPER SOUL SUNDAY

Youth Usher Board
Children's Church

5TH SUNDAY

FOREIGN MISSION EMPHASIS SUNDAY

Youth Usher Board
Children's Church

In His Service,

Sis. Lori Ryce-McCray

Children's Church Coordinator

Growing Larger by Growing Smaller

Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

In want of much-In need of Him

SENIOR MINISTRY OUTING



FBCF Senior Ministry

February 2025 Outing

*Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
The Pizitz Building
Birmingham Negro Southern League Museum*



March Outing:

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 11:00am
Miles College President Dining Hall



PHOTOS BY MELVA MOORE

SENIOR MINISTRY OUTING



PHOTOS BY MELVA MOORE

SENIOR MINISTRY OUTING



SENIOR MINISTRY OUTING



SENIOR MINISTRY OUTING



HBCU SUNDAY AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAM MOTON'S FB PAGE, NICOLE MASSEY, AND DEANNA MITCHELL

HBCU SUNDAY AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



HBCU SUNDAY AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



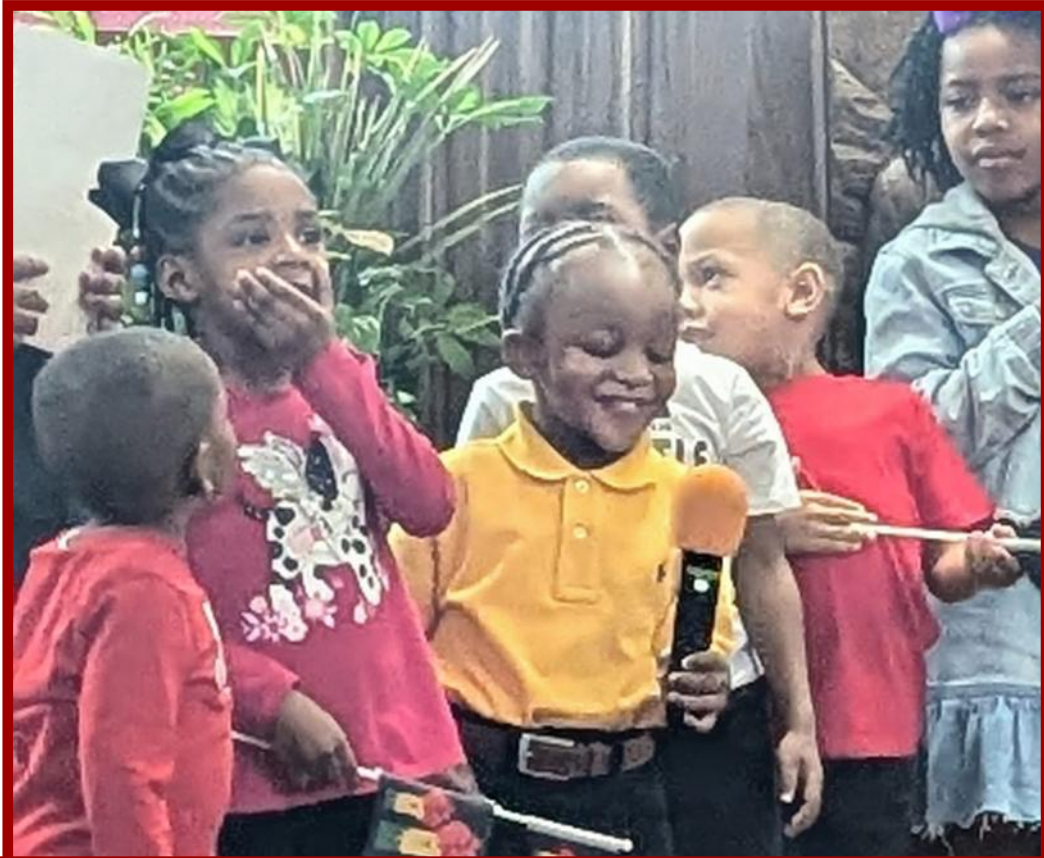
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HBCU SUNDAY AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



HBCU SUNDAY AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



HBCU SUNDAY AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



LIVING LEGENDS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MRS. ANN NILES, MR. CHARLES WILLIS, SR., MR CHRIS COLEMAN, MRS. CYNTHIA FRAZIER



HBCU SUNDAY AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WEEKLY

- Sunday (s)** **9:00am Sunday School (In person)**
10:00am Morning Worship (in person and Facebook Live, YouTube)
10:am Children's Worship– 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th
- Monday (s)** **6:00 pm Laymen's Study Conference Call**
1-425-436-6349
Access Code 788-1875
- Wednesday (s)** **Bible Study (551) 258 -6609. No access code.**
6:00 pm
- Thursday (s)** **Prayer Ministry Conference Call**
6:15 pm. 1 978 990 5000 Access Code 297873



MARCH

- 2 Lord's Supper Worship Service and Baptism
- 5 Wednesday Night LIVE 5:30 PM - Monthly – Christian Education Ministry
- 8 Foreign Mission Workshop – 9am – 12 noon – Foreign Mission Ministry
- 9 Generational Sunday and Daylight Saving Time Begins – Spring Forward
- 15 Bible and Sunday School Teacher Education Workshop – Semiannual – Christian Education Ministry 10:00 AM - 11:30AM
- 16 Scholarship Giving Sunday and Friends and Family Sunday
- 22 Annual Health Fair and Conference – Health Ministry
- 23 Super Soul Sunday - Evangelism
- 30 5th Sunday Foreign Mission Emphasis

The Chronicle

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APRIL

- 2** Wednesday Night LIVE 5:30 PM
- 6** Lord's Supper Worship Service and Baptism
- 13** Annual Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert G. Twyman Love Day
- 18** Good Friday - Church Office Closed
- 20** **Easter Sunday School Program**
First Fruit Sunday
Easter Sunday PAM Drama Presentation
- 23** Women's Conference
- 26** Women's Day Fashion Show
- 27** 64th Annual Anniversary Women's Day—Rev. Nicole Salter

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Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.



Proverbs 6:6

Psalm 78:45

Matthew 23:24

Judges 14:8b

Acts 12:23

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22

Deuteronomy 7:20

Exodus 16:20

1 Samuel 24:14

Isaiah 50:9

Isaiah 59:5

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHURCH THEME:

**“GROWING LARGER BY
GROWING SMALLER”**

MATTHEW 18:20

**The
Chronicle**