

**Fairfax Baptist Church**

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**March 2011**

# The SPAN

We're on the web:  
A Grace Place  
[www.fairfaxbaptist.com](http://www.fairfaxbaptist.com)

**Church Services & Bible Study:**

Bible Study — Sundays at 9:30 am  
Worship Services — Sundays at 11:00 am  
Bible Study & His Kids — Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
Bible Study — Thursdays at 10:00 am  
Church Office Hours — Mon-Fri, 10:00am-3:00pm

**Pastor/Choir Director:** Dr. Jim Hoffman, Th.D  
**Music Assist/Children's Coordinator:** Charlotte Balis  
**Organist/Pianist:** Dr. David Kosutic  
**Adult Education Coordinator:** Dr. Dick Thompson  
**Youth Director:** Joseph Mendez  
**Administrative Assistant:** Laura Jaumillot  
**Custodians:** John and Joann Jenkins

If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please send this sheet to FBC at the address above, call the office, or send an email to [ljaumillot@gmail.com](mailto:ljaumillot@gmail.com).

**March Nursery Schedule**

	<u>Nursery Room</u>	<u>Toddler Room</u>
March 6	Cherie Pratte	Ruth Blevins, Haley Skeins
March 13	Pat Coleman	Kristina Barlow, Sara Bedwell
March 20	Jessica Ferrell	Justin Ferrell, Sarah Mehaffey
March 27	Kristin Palmer	Sean Palmer, Taylor Dobbins

**Prayer & Praise List**

Baughman, Charles & Ruby	Kimball, Lew	Shrader, Mary
Berkery, Frances	Lavinder, Irma	Silver, Becky
Bruce, Frances & Carol	Lindsey, Frank	Smith, Bob
Campbell, Louise	Malone, Art	Smith, Peggy
Conger, James & Diane	McClure, Shonnon	Smith, Sherry
Cutchin, John	McRobie, Pauline	Stallings- Wood, Mandy
Darnell, Belinda	Moyer, Bea	Trivett, James (Slim)
Gurney, Iva & Charles	Pearia, Alicia	Wilkerson, Dennis
Doug Hall	Petrovich, Corey	
Harris, Virgil	Pratt, Clara	
Hoffman, James F. (Sr.)	Repass, Betty	
Hyde, Elizabeth	Richcreek, Clara	
Irvin, Odell	Rodman, Eiko	
Johnson, Julian	Rose, Anne	
Jones, Issac	Rutherford, Nancy	

**People Serving in the Armed Forces from Fairfax Baptist:** Pierre Epeé, Emerson Davis, Peter Knight, Matthew Reese and Sean Rodman.

*\* Anyone who is in "italics" has recently been added to the list or had a status change.*



Ash Wednesday  
**March 9th**

Daylight Saving  
Time Begins  
**March 13th**

St Patrick's Day  
**March 17th**

National Chocolate Covered  
Raisins Day  
**March 24th**

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**Pastor's Journal**  
by Dr. Jim Hoffman, Th.D

Half asleep I heard a groan from the bedroom of my father. He is every bit of 89 and his body is failing him. He cannot get out of a chair. He cannot stand erect. He cannot move a halting step unless assisted by his walker and the strength of human support. His body functions treat him with dishonor. I went to him to help him maintain his dignity as much as his rest. On Saturday of last week, he made a journey of such radical distinction that it would rival Dante's descent and it only took ten minutes to get there from his home to the rehab center. I looked on as EMTs, with great precision and efficiency, rolled Dad out the door. One thought like a jack hammer pounded in my head, "He will never come back to his home again".

As a child I watched him kick a football 50 yards with his sock foot. I saw him with grace and ease dive off a spring board while executing a perfect jack-knife. I once made a visit with him to see his father in a care facility. My heart and mind collided with uncomfortable hurt for Daddy Tom. What I did not know was the disturbing event was a rehearsal whose opening night would touch places in my soul I did not know existed.

On February 14th I stopped by K-Mart and bought two bags of Tootsie Pops, my dad's favorite food choice of late. His favorites are the chocolate ones. I found him in the bed weary, frail and a bit anxious of the day's boredom punctuated by exhausting rehab. It was his usual, "Hi, Junior". I showed him the marvelous booty. He gave me a faint but authentic smile. I ripped open the bag as if I was about to release the first stars from the mind of God. I unwrapped and handed him his favorite. He took to his mouth as if he was about to taste succulent Kobi beef perfectly prepared. The ball of the Tootsie Pop bulged out his sunken cheeks as he said with a sigh of complete satisfaction, "Now that is delicious".

As I was easing my way out with closing conversational clues, he looked up from the bed, and with tears in his eyes, uttered words that ripped my heart into pieces which are still unassembled.

"It is just unfair," I stroked his calf and echoed back, "It is unfair". I then mumbled out words that were neither comforting nor spoken with resolution. I said the 23rd Psalm with him and he prayed with me partial phrases from his tattered memory. I left with an I will bring Mom back this afternoon and we will hang out.

As I walked down the hall, I looked at each citizen of that world to which I was an alien for now. And, for the first time I looked into their eyes and saw them as complete human beings and not the appearance of their particular deterioration. "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see." I walked down the long hall and took a right to the front door. I punched in the code to allow me to leave and keep others from leaving. I made it that far. I walked on to the outdoor carpet beneath the covered entrance. I made it that far. I stepped on the black southern asphalt that breathes in the summer heat as if it were alive. I made it that far. I arrived at my parents Honda compact SUV and collapsed on the roof of the vehicle crying with the fierceness of rage and total brokenness.

This is the place for the comforting cliché. One does not exist. This is where you either trust God or not. No answers. No solutions. No resolutions. I am in the process of trusting God.

Trusting, your pastor

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm  
upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you  
in the palm of His hand.

## Noteworthy News

By Charlotte Balis



**FRIENDSHIP SINGERS  
GUEST CONCERT  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6th  
7:00 pm**

We look forward to the **Friendship Singers of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Missouri**, bringing a concert of hymn arrangements and gospel music to us on April 6th. This delightful group of singers are the senior choir from Bob and Fran Dugger's church in Jefferson City.

Bob and Fran lovingly requested they sing at their "home church" while visiting in the Washington, D.C. area. How we want to open our doors with our unique Fairfax Baptist hospitality and support! Plan to come for an evening of worshipful music, to visit with Fran and Bob, and to meet their church friends from Jefferson City.



**Join a choir – we have something for everyone!**

### **Chancel Choir**

Adults of all ages  
Tuesdays, 7:00 pm  
Dr. Hoffman, director

### **Chapel Choir**

Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sundays, 9:30 am  
Charlotte Balis and Jenifer Kerns, directors

### **Cherub Choir**

Toddlers and Preschoolers  
Sundays, 10:45 am  
Jessica Ferrell, director

## The Family of God

*When one has a heartache, we all share the tears,  
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.*

Thank you to the observant reader who noticed "heartache" had been incorrectly replaced with "headache." This thoughtful member remarked, "one could easily lead to the other".

Have you ever wondered about the inspiration behind the song we sing every Sunday? *The Family of God* was inspired by the healing power of prayer. Bill and Gloria Gaither's home church in Anderson, Indiana formed a prayer chain to pray for a member severely burned from a garage explosion. When church members gathered the next day, Easter Sunday, they were told of the young man's miraculous survival. As Bill and Gloria Gaither went home after church, they talked of the joy of being a part of a family of believers who pray together. Thus, a new gospel song was born: *The Family of God*.

## News from The Upper Room Class

By Sharon Martin

Twice each year, our class members choose a Christian-based book to read and discuss. Our last book discussion was held on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> during our class time. We met at 9:00 am for a delicious breakfast and time of fellowship followed by a discussion of *A Day with a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory. Thank you to Kimberly Smith for leading that discussion. This book was the sequel to our last book, *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by the same author, which we discussed last fall.

Two other highly recommended books we have read are *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom and *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper.

Our book discussions give class members the opportunity to read some great inspirational and thought-provoking books!

Fairfax Baptist Church is hosting a **Hypothermia Shelter March 9th-15th** from 5:30 pm to 7:30 am each day. **Volunteers and donations are still needed.** Contact Lorie or Doug Dobbins, Margie Urano or the church office for more information.

## Children's Corner

by Charlotte Balis

### Children's End-of-Winter/ Beginning of Spring Outing

An outing is being planned for Saturday, March 19th. Please be on the lookout for details, and highlight that date on your calendar!

### Children's Bible Study Rooms

Thank you, Pat Skeins and John Balis, for helping with cleaning out the closets and shelving in the children's Bible study rooms. Thank you to the Board of Administration for plans of installing shelves.

### His Kids

Our children are invited to join Vicky Zehring every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm for a special midweek opportunity in learning about God's Word. *His Kids* have been enjoying activities involving the *Ten Commandments* and *Psalms 23*.

### Youth Group Attends Fusion & IMPACT

By Joseph Mendez

Fusion is a joint youth event that takes place every month with three other churches in the Northern Virginia area. This event gives our youth an opportunity to meet with other teens in the area, play games, worship together and hear a Bible message from God's word.

Fusion happens on the second Sunday of every month and it is open to students in grades 7 through 12. We meet in the Fairfax Baptist Church parking lot between 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm and arrive at the Fusion event at 6:00 pm. We are back at the Fairfax Baptist Church parking at 8:00 pm for parent pick-up. Students enjoy attending this Fusion event so much, they are even bringing their friends along. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, you are more than welcome to join us.

IMPACT 2011 Epic Youth Conference is being held in Ocean City, Maryland, March 25-27. Our youth grades 7-12 will be able to discover how their story and God's story can impact their lives. The conference features inspirational speakers, bands, an illusionist and a comedy performance. Students brought home information for parents. If you have questions, or need more information, contact the church office.

## Congratulations!

There's a new Palmer in our midst. Evan James was born on February 3rd at 1:22 pm, weighing in at 9.6 oz. Proud parents Sean and Kristin and big sister and brother Katie and Ryan ask for your continued prayers for their family and especially pray for God's blessings on their new baby boy, Evan.

## Women's Fellowship Circle

By Linda Davis



The Women's Fellowship Circle started the new year with a great blessing. With the help of the entire church body, we received \$625.00 toward our worldwide blanket drive.

In February, we enjoyed baking cookies which were taken to a local assisted living facility. I am sure it brightened a gloomy afternoon for the residents during the snack time. For our February meeting, Pat Skeins did a very interesting program demonstrating what can be accomplished by a child with a goal and \$0.57 pennies. (Wish you had been there.)

In March, we will be donating money, supplies, and time to support the Hypothermia Shelter at the church. The March meeting is on the 8th at 10:00am. All are welcome to attend.

*On behalf of Alan's family, we are so grateful to the generous ladies of Fairfax Baptist Church. The spread of food was unbelievable! According to my count of visitors who signed the register, there were more than 80 people in addition to our family members. Instead of hugs which I wish I could give each of you, I will send my thanks through prayer for the kindness of the "angels" of Fairfax Baptist.*

*Thank you, also, to the members of FBC for the beautiful floral arrangement provided for Alan's memorial service. The warmth and fellowship felt by Alan's parents as members was clearly evident to our family. With deep appreciation.*

*Anita Beard and family.*

## Shepherd's Center Lunch N' Life...

Thursday  
Mar. 17, 2011  
12-2 PM  
Fairfax

Church of the  
Good Shepherd

### Program:

Joanna & Bruno  
Walker

*Trekking the Annapurna  
Circuit in Nepal*

Call for reservations  
by March 10th  
(703) 620-0161  
\$8.00