



# Forerunner

**First Baptist Church**  
1024 E. Stuart Drive  
Galax, VA 24333

**Volume 48, No. 02**  
**February 1—28, 2021**

## Our First Love...

### The Letter to Ephesus - Revelation 2:3-5

*<sup>3</sup> You also possess endurance and have tolerated many things because of My name and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*



As time continues to march on, it is so easy to forget about our first love. It happens frequently to couples the longer they are married. We make commitments to one another but easily

forget the depth of such a commitment when things go south in the relationship.

~ continued on page 2 ~

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### Sundays

- 9:45 am—Bill Davis' Sunday School Class  
- Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 am—Faith Explorers Class  
- Common Ground Classroom
- 11:00 am—Worship Service in Sanctuary  
(Live on Facebook & on 98.1 FM Radio)
- 6:00 pm—TruNorth (Youth Group)

#### Mondays

- 6:00 pm—Pastor Kevin's Bible Study  
on Facebook

#### Wednesdays

- 6:30 pm—TruNorth (Youth Group)
- 6:30 pm—Worship, Devotion & Prayer  
with Pastor Kevin

#### Thursdays

- 6:30 pm—Meditation & Devotion  
with Pastor Kevin  
On Facebook

#### **\*NEW\***

#### Tuesdays & Thursdays

- 6:30 am—Prayer for Nation/Community  
(Church Parlor)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### February 09

- 11:00 am—Women on Mission

#### February 12

- 6:00-9:00 pm—Children's Pajama Party  
(Youth Room)

#### February 14

- 12:15 pm—Annual Business Meeting

#### February 18

- 11:30 am—Grief Support Group

~ continued from page 1 ~

February is the month of love, and Hallmark demands that we spend all kinds of money on love for our significant other. We must remember that to love is not designated to one day a year only to abandon that same love, first love, when things get very tough.

Jesus holds this abandonment of love towards the Ephesus church. We can do lip service, we can do acts of service, we can stand for righteousness, but if we abandon the demands of the love of God into our lives, then we are no better than the church in Ephesus.

Let us not forsake our love for God for the sake of the world, for the sake of convenience, and for the sake of avoiding ridicule and turmoil. Let us repent and fall deeply, madly in love with God all over again, daily.

*In Christ's Love,  
Kevin*



**PRAYER FOR THE NATION**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays / 6:30 AM

Dear Church,

I would like to take this time to explain further our new opportunity to meet and pray together on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Kevin Spurlin and I talked about the importance of prayer and praying for our nation, our children, our schools, and our communities.

We currently have Wednesday evenings available at the church for prayer and wanted to offer a few more times during the week before people went off to work. So, every Tuesday and Thursday morning we meet at 6:30 AM. If you are running later that is fine, because the first half hour or so is floating for personal time in prayer. Around 7 AM, I will begin a directed prayer time and devotion and then allow everyone the opportunity to pray aloud if they would like. When you need to leave that is fine as well and there is no definitive starting and ending time for each individual. If you would like to stay later and continue to be in prayer the church is open for you. **Anyone in our community who would like to join us in this prayer time is also cordially invited to come whenever they feel comfortable and available.**

*In Christ's Love,  
Kevin*



Minister to  
Youth & Families

Hey FBC Family!

I pray you are all happy, healthy and enjoying all that Jesus has blessed us with! It can be easy sometimes to lose track of our blessings in the face of great difficulty. This month I wanted to talk about creating a safe place, the church, where kids and adults alike can explore the reality of faith in Jesus as well as the confusion the world throws at us all.

I will never forget the first time I went to my mom to ask what a certain explicit term meant. The moment the word left my lips I could see the look of shock and bewilderment that took up residence on her face! I remember thinking, "oh boy, grounded again and I don't even know why this time!!" She exclaimed, "Where on earth did you hear that?" I mumbled that I had heard it at school. Another boy had called me a name and I didn't know what it meant. Much to her credit, my mom took a breath, explained to me what the word meant and that I should never, ever use it.

Let's face it. Everyone has questions, especially kids. Have we done the work to create a safe space where these questions can be asked without fear of judgement or embarrassment? The old adage, it takes a village is especially true in the church. Whether we realize it or not, our kids and visitors are looking to all of us for cues on what it means to be a Christian. Also, it's up to the entirety of the church body to disciple others. It's OUR mutual calling! The problem with discipleship is that it is a relationship. Relationships are two-way and relationships require trust.

So, how do we create such a space? First and foremost, I believe it starts with our relationship with Jesus and praying for the opportunities and wisdom to both be a disciple and offer discipleship to others. Second, we have to be willing to do the work of building trust in others. The old saying, people don't care what you know until they know you care, really fits here. We have to earn the right to pour into the lives of others. This is especially true with youth. Third, realize that we don't need to have all of the answers, to disciple another person. We only need to be willing to go on the journey with them. Help them find answers to issues that are outside of our knowledge or comfort

~ continued next column ~

~ Pastor Steve continued ~

zone. Help plug them with people who can meet their needs and follow up.

Lastly, listen as much or more than you speak and try not to let your face betray your intentions. If you allow yourself to appear shocked or disgusted by a question asked in trust, you may lose the opportunity before you've had a chance to show Jesus to that person. I find most people have some insecurities and often feel like something is wrong with them, especially in a stressful situation like asking for advice or even what a certain four-letter word means. If we allow ourselves to look shocked or disgusted, it's often taken as confirmation of what the asker fears most: there is something wrong with me.

In Jesus' name, let's be a safe harbor in the storms of life for all who are seeking.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Steve*



**GREETINGS  
FROM OUR  
HISPANIC  
CONGREGATION!**

A few months ago we invited a candidate pastor and his family from the Rio Grande Seminary in Texas to come and spend time with our congregation. We were finally able find a place for them to stay and scheduled their visit for December. He was here for a few weeks, preaching for our church and spending time with the families in our congregation.

Our congregation did vote for him to become our new pastor. When he graduates from the seminary in Texas in **mid-to-late-May**, his family will be coming to Galax to minister to us. We are so thankful for this, and we ask for your prayers that the Lord guide us in the times to come.

This family will need a place to stay when they come, so we will be looking for a house to rent in Galax or the surrounding areas, in case you know of a place available—we would appreciate that you let us know. The congregation is continuing to have good attendance every week and we thank God for that also.

*God Bless You,  
Daniel Sanchez*



## A WORD FROM THE MUSIC MINISTER

*"And He, bearing His cross, went to a place call the Place of a Skull, which is call in Hebrew, Golgotha."*  
John 19:17 NKJV

Most people, even though they are not music scholars, have heard of Fanny Crosby. She is the author of thousands of hymns, many of which we sing today. Because the season of Lent begins this month, I was studying the stories of hymns and was touched by **"Near the Cross"** in Robert J. Morgan's **THEN SINGS MY SOUL** (2011 edition, pg. 295). Many will remember that Fanny Crosby was blinded as a child but overcame this difficulty and eventually became a teacher for the blind in New York City. She wrote "remarkable poetry [that] brought widespread acclaim to the school, and she frequently recited her work for visiting dignitaries." But it was in 1850 while attending "a revival meeting at New York's Thirtieth Street Methodist Church [that she] felt something was missing in her life. On two occasions during this meeting, she prayed with counselors, but without gaining assurance of a personal relationship with God. On November 20, 1850, as the altar call was given, Fanny went forward and found Christ as her Savior. The congregation was singing Isaac Watts' great hymn **"At the Cross."**

"Shortly thereafter, Fanny turned her poetic skills to hymn writing, and many of her songs focused on the theme of the cross." **"Near the Cross"** was written "after a Cincinnati businessman, William Doane, gave her a melody he had written. She listened to it and felt it said 'Jesus keep me near the cross.' She promptly wrote the [following] words." Let us reflect on these verses during Lent:

**Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

**In the cross, in the cross  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my ransomed soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.**

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadows o'er me.**

CCLI Song # 3984280 Fanny Jane Crosby | Robert W. Thygeson | William Howard Doane © Words: Public Domain Music: 1979 Richmond Music Press, Inc. Assigned 1999 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 102567



**Donor Fund In Memory of:**  
Jim & Barbara Baxley James Baxley  
General Fund

Gardner Brannon Mary E Brannon  
Fran Creggar Fund



Dear Rev. Kevin & FBC of Galax,

I have been so grateful for your online church services during Covid. I look forward to Rev. Kevin's messages each week. On Christmas Eve, our outdoor service was canceled due to rain storms. I was especially thankful to be able to join FBC of Galax. What a blessing! Rev. Kevin's messages are heartfelt, meaningful, and provide direction during these difficult times. Recently, I appreciated Rev. Kevin's timely online devotion entitled, **"D.C., Our Nation & the Church."** His words provided comfort, guidance, and clarity at a time that is so needed. Thank you for your online ministry. It is greatly appreciated.

*In His Service,  
Suzy Thomas, Moseley, VA*

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Dear FBC Family,

We want to thank each and every one of you for your sympathy cards and the comforting calls of condolence at the loss of our son & brother, James. With the help of friends and family like you, we will get through these trying times. Thanks again for your thoughts and prayers.

*The Baxley Family*



... to Tori Vaughan Ruiz on the death of her mother-in-law, **Patricia Ruiz**, who passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021.

... to Lewis Porter on the death of his sister, **Frances Easterling**, who passed away Sunday, January 10, 2021.



WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) is a Southern Baptist organization which provides opportunities for congregations to participate in ongoing missions for each age group and for families. Our Women on Mission group (WOM) is a missional organization for adult women which is under the auspices of WMU.

**The WOM meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am in the Common Ground Classroom.** This month's meeting is on February 9th. Women of all ages are always invited to join us. Come and learn about the missions from around the world as well as mission opportunities available in our own community.

**February's Monthly Focus** to learn and pray about missionary's around the world: the mission focus this month is the state of Washington, and the missionary workers are John and Xue Bai. The Bais are from Beijing, China, but moved to Washington to start a new church for Chinese families. Pray for John and Xue Bai, and their children Cherry\* and Shuai\*. Pray that many Chinese families will go to church to learn about God. (\*Names changed for their protection.) **James 5:16—Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.**

The global pandemic was one of the many challenges that 2020 brought to the Bai family. Despite the rough spots of 2020, God is working in lives, and Mr. Bai reports that church members are continually growing in the spirit. Their prayer request is for the church members to continue to stand strong on the truth of God's word. To learn more about these Washington state missionaries, go to <https://wmu.com/missions-discipleship/thismonth/>



## First Impressions Team



Feb 07 Johnny & Karen Dickson  
Feb 14 Marty & Cathy Parks  
Feb 21 Phil Helms & Gay Zachary  
Feb 28 Basil & Nancy Carpenter

## Security Team Schedule



Feb 07 Paul Walker / Scott Hall  
Feb 14 Basil Carpenter / Jack Bryant  
Feb 21 Gerald Cox / Phil Helms  
Feb 28 Royce Easter / Johnny Dickson

## CURRENT WORSHIP STATISTICS

	01/03/2021	01/10/2021
Evening Attendance	61	33
Sunday School	79	78
11:00 A.M. Worship Service	82	106
Hispanic Worship Service	45	39
Total Worship Attendance	127	145

BUDGET REQUIRED	\$ 9,384.04	\$ 9,384.04
BUDGET RECEIVED	13,514.85	10,917.05
REQUIRED TO DATE	9,384.04	18,768.08
RECEIVED TO DATE	13,514.85	24,431.90
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	3,630.31	729.01
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 17,145.16</b>	<b>\$ 11,646.06</b>

% Required Yrly Budget Rec'd	144%	130%
% Required Wkly Budget Rec'd	144%	116%

### Facebook Views

11:00 A.M. Worship Service	535	517
Bible Study/Prayer Mtg/Other	1228	703

	01/17/2021	01/24/2021
Evening Attendance	51	21
Sunday School	77	84
11:00 A.M. Worship Service	106	104
Hispanic Worship Service	36	38
Total Worship Attendance	142	142

BUDGET REQUIRED	\$ 9,384.04	\$ 9,384.04
BUDGET RECEIVED	9,353.23	5,462.82
REQUIRED TO DATE	28,152.12	37,536.16
RECEIVED TO DATE	33,785.13	39,247.95
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	634.48	345.18
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 9,987.20</b>	<b>\$ 5,808.00</b>

% Required Yrly Budget Rec'd	120%	105%
% Required Wkly Budget Rec'd	100%	58%

### Facebook Views

11:00 A.M. Worship Service	527	298
Bible Study/Prayer Mtg/Other	581	155



### Monday - Thursday

8:30 to 5:00

### Friday

8:30 to 12:00

## CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Kevin Rosenfeld ..... Senior Pastor  
(Office) 236-5185  
Rev. Steve Goatley ..... Minister of Youth & Families  
(Office) 236-5185  
Mrs. Wendi Pemberton ..... Minister of Music  
(Office) 236-5185  
Mrs. Marlene Tipton ..... Administrative Secretary  
Mrs. Marie Combs ..... Financial Secretary  
Mrs. Nancy Hazelwood ..... Organist  
Mrs. Patty Davis ..... Pianist  
Mrs. Marian Porter ..... Weekday Preschool Director  
Preschool/Extended Session  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Spurlin ..... Sunday School Co-Directors  
Mrs. Penny Adams ..... Bus Ministry Director  
Mrs. Martha Easter, RN ..... Volunteer Health Nurse  
Mr. Scott Bedsaul ..... Sexton

CHURCH PHONE 276-236-5185

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Website: [www.fbcgalax.org](http://www.fbcgalax.org)

[www.facebook.com/FBCGalax](https://www.facebook.com/FBCGalax)

*We Believe In The Power Of Prayer*



Teagan Fell (Lisa Siegle's Granddaughter); Chip Haydt (Michelle Holt Haydt's Husband); Max Brown, leukemia (Martha Dozier's great-grandson); David Peterson; Charlotte Frye East; Sharon Garrett, cancer; The Lou Ann Brock, broken hip, pneumonia (Betty Parrish's daughter); Linda Cooley, knee replacement; Tony & Marie Snead Baldwin; Rubye Edwards (Kristin McMickle Burnette's Grandmother-in-law); Joe Soles, cancer; Our Preschool Department; Dr. Bill Eddings; Everett Bryant; Judy Hennis; Mark McMickle; Miles Compton, lung cancer; Hilda Hodges; Cami Gathercole & her daughter (Cami is daughter of Joe & Barbara Sizemore); Stanley Armstrong, cancer; Johnny Hodges, cancer (Hilda Hodges' brother); Chad Trent, cancer (Linda Riddle's nephew); Barbara Baxley; Laila Cox; Alice Hasbrouck (Susan Honaker's sister); Kim Kinser, cancer (Mary Dotson's daughter); Mike McMillan; Juan Rios; Geraldine McMillan (Rhonda McMillan's mother); Fran Halsey; K.T. Carico; Betty Walker, Stage IV cancer (Penny Adams' sister); Stanley Meador (Marie Combs' son); Nell Bartlett; Judy Fayne, cancer (Eugene Fayne's daughter); John & Debby Stringer; Ronald Cummings (Dolly Moss' brother); Betty Fender (Ann Roberts' mother); Our Country; The Unemployed; USA Military and other coalition forces

**NURSING HOMES:** **Hillsville Health & Rehab** - Martha Combs, Rm 203 (Dennis Combs' Mother); **Waddell Nursing Home** - Glennis Morris, Rm 118-B; Helen Robinson, Rm 209-D



**First Baptist Church**  
**1024 E. Stuart Drive**  
**Galax, VA 24333**

# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin's Bible Study on Facebook	<i>2</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 10:00am-Staff Meeting	<i>3</i> 6:30pm-Worship, Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Kevin	<i>4</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 6:30pm-Meditation/Devotion with Pastor Kevin on Facebook	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service	<i>8</i> 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin's Bible Study on Facebook	<i>9</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 10:00am-Staff Meeting 11:00am-Women on Mission	<i>10</i> 6:30pm-Worship, Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Kevin 6:30pm-TruNorth	<i>11</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 6:30pm-Meditation/Devotion with Pastor Kevin on Facebook	<i>12</i> 6-9pm-Children's P.J. Party Youth Room	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service 12:15pm-Annual Bus. Mtg 6:00pm-TruNorth	<i>15</i> 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin's Bible Study on Facebook	<i>16</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 10:00am-Staff Meeting	<i>17</i> 6:30pm-Worship, Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Kevin 6:30pm-TruNorth	<i>18</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 11:30am-Grief Support Grp 6:30pm-Meditation/Devotion with Pastor Kevin on Facebook	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service 6:00pm-TruNorth	<i>22</i> 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin's Bible Study on Facebook	<i>23</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 10:00am-Staff Meeting	<i>24</i> 6:30pm-Worship, Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Kevin 6:30pm-TruNorth	<i>25</i> 6:30am-Prayer Time 6:30pm-Meditation/Devotion with Pastor Kevin on Facebook	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service 6:00pm-TruNorth						



**February 4**

*Gilberto Sanchez*

**February 20**

*Jacob Lawson*

**February 9**

*Gary Heslep, Sr.*

**February 17**

*Ann McMillan*

**February 25**

*Henry Zatarain, Jr.*

**February 10**

*Frank Merrill*

**February 18**

*Keith Barker  
David Roberson*

**February 27**

*Anne Vaughan*

**February 13**

*Edit Pineda*

**February 19**

*Bill Vaughan*

**February 28**

*Pat Fielder  
Bart Turner*

**February 14**

*Lisa Shaw*