

stayCONNECTED



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A publication of First Baptist Church Leesburg

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are in need of volunteers
for a few maintenance
painting projects.
If you can help, please contact
Tabitha Branch 229-894-3501

April 14th
Fundraiser for MS/HS Camp

Spaghetti Lunch after morning
service in the fellowship hall.
Donations accepted.

Dear Church Fam,

Have you ever been given a terrible nickname? Not something cutesy, clever, or generic . . . but just HURTFUL. Perhaps your nickname was based on your personality, a past embarrassment, your appearance, or a nickname someone thought was clever or funny and you were the undeserving recipient. Nicknames often last a lot longer than we want, don't they? They can "stick" to us.

Here's a doozy of a nickname: **Doubting Thomas**. Isn't that terrible! Of all the words that could be used someone chose the word "doubting" for this guy. Thomas walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, ate with Jesus, served with Jesus, learned from Jesus, and prayed with Jesus. Thomas was one of twelve men . . . one of ONLY twelve men . . . to be selected by Jesus to be in His special group. Of all the nicknames . . . of all the experiences . . . of all the traits that could've been chosen . . . he gets "doubting." Bless him!

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:24-29 ESV

Did Thomas doubt Jesus' resurrection? Yes. Did he establish an ultimatum for his belief? Yes. Was he wrong to doubt and act the way he did? Absolutely! As a follower of Jesus, he really didn't have any justifiable reason for this. Did Jesus call him out for his doubt? He sure did! But I sense that Jesus was less focused on condemning Thomas for doubt and more focused on firming up Thomas' belief.

We find Jesus inviting Thomas to "see" and to "touch" the crucifixion wounds and to verify for him that he is, in all truth, the Jesus he knew. What we might overlook is Thomas' response. Jesus makes the offer to Thomas, but we aren't told if Thomas accepts the invitation to "see" and "touch." What we DO find is that Thomas had all he needed to believe Jesus was "Lord" and "God." We find **Doubting Thomas** transforming into **Believing Thomas** after he met the Risen Lord. That **Belief** is what "stuck!"

We may not be able in this life to change our past failures, regrets, or embarrassing moments and that's ok. His story isn't over. The old nicknames don't have to stick. Jesus doesn't call us to be better versions of who we were but new versions in Him . . . to believe in Him for all things. He doesn't give us a new nickname . . . he gives us a New Name: Child of God.

Blessed to be your Pastor,
Pastor Josh

GROW DEEP

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CURRENT EVENTS

April 28th

Volunteer Lunch after the morning service (FH)
To recognize Mission Friends, RA and GA volunteers

5:00P to 7:00P
1st to 5th Grade

Pizza and Swimming at the Newsome Home
Bring a Dessert

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8th—last night of Mission Friends,
RA'S and GA'S

May 15th—5:30P Chehaw Cookout

May 22nd

K-5th Grade pickup after school
Water Night
\$15 per child / pick up @7:30P

May 24-27 Children's Summer Camp at
Lookup Lodge in South Carolina
\$60.00 deposit due April 21st
Completed 2nd to 5th Grade

June 17th—Mission Monday
1st to 5th Grade
The Salvation Army

June 18th—Travel Tuesday
1st to 5th Grade
Infantry Museum Columbus

June 20th—Bible Study & Swim
1st to 5th Grade

5:15 to 6:00 PM
Fellowship Hall
Adults \$6.00
Children or Salad Only
\$4.00
Hot Dogs & Chips \$2.00

04-03 No Meal
Spring Break

04-10 Hamburger Steak,
Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans, Roll,
Salad, Dessert

04-17 Chicken & Rice,
Peas, Roll, Salad
& Dessert

04-24 Taco & Nacho Bar
& Dessert

STUDENT MINISTRY

CURRENT EVENTS

April 12th 6:00P-8:00P
MS/HS PM Bible Study
Girls at the Jordan's Home
Boys at the Turoski's Home

April 7th —Meet to Eat with
High School Students
after the morning service

April 17th 6:00P-7:30P
Color Wars @ The Dungeon

April 26th -28th —MS/HS Boy's
Camping Trip to Pine Mountain

Sunday Night Series
by Sadie Robertson Huff
April 14-Choose Love Over Likes
April 21-Get Glory for God
April 28-Say Grace
May 5-Refuse to Just "Do You"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mfuge - Student Summer Camp
June 24th-29th

ADULT MINISTRY

HAPPY HEARTS (Adults 50+)

Thursday's 11:00 AM (FH)
Bible Study and Lunch

April 4th Meeting
will be at Big Chris in Leesburg
at 11:00 AM

INSPIRE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MONTHLY MEETING

April 9th
at 6:30PM (FH)
Choosing to Serve Others
Dinner and Guest Speaker, Deanna Ladley

MONTHLY MISSION:

Bring your new or used books for a Book
Swap. All extra books collected will be
donated to the
Lee County Library System

BROTHERHOOD MINISTRY

MONTHLY MEETING

April 15th at 7:00PM in the
Fellowship Hall—Devotion & Dinner (Ribeye)
Speaker, Marty Northcutt

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting May 20th
7:00P (FH)



March 3: \$ 20,902.00

March 10: \$ 13,670.00

March 17: \$ 6,146.00

March 24: \$ 7,137.00

March 31 \$ 13,598.00

Online Giving: \$ 23,844.96

ANNIE ARMSTRONG

\$ 6,566.43



IN LOVING Memory

Bob Wilson

By

Johannes & Nan Meens
Sarah Liebold

Jerry Bolton

By

Caroline Caldwell
Jeffrey & Scarlett Cox

Aubrey McDonald

By

Darlene Wallace
Joy Breeden's SS Class

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Mike and Dale Cox and Family in the death of his sister, Sharon Fisher
Paul and Pam Thorne and Family in the death of his father, Ron Thorne

THANK YOU

We are deeply touched by your donation in Daddy's memory. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. The Family of Bob Wilson

Dear Church Family, I would like to thank you for your prayers, calls, cards and visits. I love my church and the fellowship we have with one another. Keep praying as I am not use to sitting around. Thanks again. Barbara Jean Bush

Dear FBCL, Your generosity and kindness in providing food (gift cards) during this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Anne Bolton

HONORARIUM

Aimee Stucke (Missionary) by FBCL GA's

CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES

Purchase your Church Cookbook for \$30 each.

The coupons are available in the Education Building at the Welcome Desk, the Sanctuary Hallway or the church office.

FMI Contact the church office

April 6th–Sew-to-Serve Meeting–10:00A to 12:00P in the Sewing Room of the Education Building. Join us for a time of fellowship and sewing for our Local and International mission projects. Materials are provided.

FMI contact the church office.

April 13th–A Common Thread–FBCL Widow Ministry meeting at 10:00A Tina Brown's Home, 1341 Pinewood Rd, Guest Speaker is Katie Sheffield with The Red Bird Love Mission. RSVP to Tabitha Branch 229-894-3501

April 19th-21st–Father/Son Camping Trip to George T. Bagby State Park (sign up space limited)

FMI contact Missy Newsome.

April 23rd–New Ladies Bible Study at 9:00 AM in the Church Library–FMI contact the church office.

Lord, I Want To Know You: A Devotional Study on the Names of God

May 1st–Deadline to sign up for Baby/Child Dedication (Children 2 and under)

May 12th–Baby/Child Dedication during the morning service

FMI contact Missy Newsome.

Memorial Day Flags–If you would like to purchase a flag for \$30 in memory of a deceased loved one that served in the military, please contact the church office. The flags will be displayed May 27-June 3.

June 9-12: Vacation Bible School–classes for all ages–Hometown Nazareth: Where kids will learn to stand up for their faith among people who doubt that a carpenter's son is really God's Son.

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GROW OUT

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APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUPPORT STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 6:00A: Men's Prayer Breakfast NO PM SERVICE	4 11:00A: Adult Bible Study Group meeting at Big Chris Restaurant for lunch	5	6 Sew to Serve (Ed Bldg) 10:00A-12:00P
7 9:00A: Sunday School 10:15A: Worship/ HS Meet to Eat following worship NO PM SERVICE	8	9 6:30P: INSPIRE Women's Ministry (FH)	10 6:00A: Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15P: Fellowship Meal 6:00P: RA's & GA's (FLC) Student Ministry 6:30P: Mission Friends (FLC) Prayer Meeting 7:45P: Praise Team Rehearsal	11 11:00A: Adult Bible Study & Lunch (FH)	12 6:00P-8:00P MS/HS Girl's Bible Study at the Jordan's Home MS/HS Boy's Bible Study at the Turoski's Home	13 10:00A-12:00P A Common Thread Tina Brown's Home
14 9:00A: Sunday School 10:15A: Worship/Spaghetti Fundraiser for MS/HS Camp 5:30P: Growth Tracks Children's Bible Study Student Service 6:45P: Quarterly Church Conference	15 7:00P Brotherhood (FH)	16	17 6:00A: Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15P: Fellowship Meal 6:00P: RA's & GA's (FLC) Student Ministry-Color Wars 6:30P: Mission Friends (FLC) Prayer Meeting 7:45P: Praise Team Rehearsal	18 11:00A: Adult Bible Study & Lunch (FH)	19 Father/Son Camping Trip to George T. Bagby State Park leaving at 3:30P	20 10:00A-12:00P Motherhood Mtg (FLC)
21 9:00A: Sunday School 10:15A: Worship/ Student Leadership Mtg in Youth Room following service 5:30P: Growth Tracks Begin Children's Bible Study Student Service	22	23 9:00A: Women's Morning Bible Study (Library)	24 6:00A: Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:15P: Fellowship Meal 6:00P: RA's & GA's (FLC) Student Ministry 6:30P: Mission Friends (FLC) Prayer Meeting 7:45P: Praise Team Rehearsal	25 11:00A: Adult Bible Study & Lunch (FH)	26 MS/HS Boy's Camping Trip Pine Mountain	27 MS/HS Boy's Camping Trip Pine Mountain
28 9:00A: Sunday School 10:15A: Worship / Volunteer Lunch for Wednesday Night Volunteers of Mission Friends, RA's & GA's (FH) 5:00P: Kid's Swimming at Newsome Home 5:30P: Growth Tracks Student Service MS/HS Boy's Return from Camping Trip Pine Mountain	29	30 9:00A: Women's Morning Bible Study (Library)				