

WBBC MESSAGE

REFLEXIONS OF A PASTOR ABOUT HIS FIRST CHURCH

There is a great deal of significance about something or someone being a first. There is the first Christmas that we can remember, the first haircut, first day at school, first kiss, first big disappointment, etc. There can never be another first of anything. You can duplicate something, maybe even supersede it, but nothing can take the place of a "first" experience.

I remember it well in 1969 when Faith Baptist Church, near Lake Lure and Chimney Rock, NC, extended a call to me to be its pastor. I was 26 years old. While I was thrilled to have been called to a church, I felt that perhaps a mistake had been made, and I feared that at some point someone would say to me, "preacher, we DID make a mistake"! But miracles still occur and while some folks might have thought my coming was a mistake, no one said it! In fact, the wonderful folks of Faith Baptist believed they could have a part in helping prepare a young pastor for a lifetime of ministry. Not only did they believe this, but they did it! One of the ways they carried out this task was to really love their pastor and wife.

At that point in my ministry, everything I did was a first. My first Lord's Supper, first baptism, first wedding (YES, William and Judy Arledge are still married!) first deacon's meeting, our first child.... You get the picture. Everything was a first, and all those experiences happened at—guess where? They happened at my first church. Everything that happened at my first church set

the stage for what would happen for the rest of my ministry. A first church experience is similar to getting married. You will NEVER be the same (for better or for worse!), and the experiences that develop in either (church or marriage) set the mood for the rest of your life. I was blessed to have a wonderful first church and a wonderful first wife (two churches, but only one wife!).

In a matter of days our new pastor and family will begin their journey in ministry with us. Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church will be Keith and Amy's first church. Everything that happens here will be a first for Keith. His first Lord's Supper, first baptism, first deacon's meeting, first funeral (whose will it be?) first wedding (who will they be?) etc. While our Pastor Search Committee was in GA interviewing Keith and Amy, we went out to a restaurant for a meal and I sat across the table from their two sons, Austin and Hunter. Ellison, their daughter was just down the table. I thought about my children who were just "the preacher's kids". They were where they were, geographically and in some ways, spiritually, because of where their mother and father were. The experiences as a pastor's child, or a pastor's wife, are profound and indelible! The lives of all the Louthans will never be the same as they come and join us at WBBC.

In my mind I remembered my first church in western North Carolina. It was a praying church. I remember that it really prayed that Josh Burgess' donkeys would not bray too much when the Executive Secretary of NC Baptist Convention, Dr. Perry Crouch would come and speak to us

during the annual associational meeting!. It was a missions church, and its leaders promoted missions locally and internationally and in part because of this emphasis, Susan and I opened our hearts and lives to missions and served 30 years in Honduras. But my first church was something more than a praying church and even a missions church. It was a loving church and it was my first church! How different my ministry might have been had I not had the church I did for my first church. Lo these many years later, there is a close bond between Faith Baptist Church and myself. It all began there. Keith, Amy, Austin, Hunter and Ellison will soon be with us. They will become part of us and we will become part of their lives. Whatever happens next will be the first of a series of "firsts" for this family. As I looked at the Louthan family in that GA restaurant, I prayed that our church would be to them, what my first church was to Susan and me. May we minister to the Louthan family as did my first church to Susan and me, so that wherever they go in life, they will be able to say that their first church made all the difference in their lives. Whatever, or whoever Susan and I are in ministry, we are, in part, because of the investment of love, time and energy of our first church.

The Louthans are not our first Pastor family, but we WILL be their first church! Would you pray with me: "God, help us do it right! Amen"

Tommy Canady



WBBC is charting a new course

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WBBC MESSAGE

THE SHORE

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family. 2010 is almost here, it feels like 2009 flew by. The upcoming year holds a lot of very exciting changes for our students as well as our church as a whole. The first thing our students will be doing is getting together to watch a movie on Friday, January 15. We will be doing a lot of things this year that are a little different from last year but will be more

effective for our outreach and more fun for our students. Stay tuned to see what those things are. Have a safe and exciting New Year.

In Him,
Shaun

P.S. I'm out of the office Jan. 6-9th due to classes.

Business Meeting

WBBC will have a called business meeting on Wednesday, January 13th to vote on new committee members.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy New Year!!! 1 Chronicles 16:9 gives us a great way to begin the new year "Sing to Him, sing praise to Him, tell of all His wonderful acts". The music groups have had a couple of weeks off from rehearsals during the holidays, but it is time to get back into the swing of things. Adult and Children's choirs will resume on Wednesdays starting Jan. 6. All Adults (and older youth) are invited, encouraged and welcomed to join us for adult choir. Children 4 years through 5th grade, come sing with Children's choirs. K-5th grade will meet from 6:30 - 6:50. 4 year olds will meet from 6:50 - 7:10.

Because of Him,
Glenda

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

December was an extremely busy month for the Children's Department. We started off the month with a visit from Carrie who came to teach the children about International Missions and the Berber people. We also made Lottie Moon banks to put our change in to help with the Lottie Moon Fund. The children collected \$53.00 in change for Lottie Moon. They practiced many hours for the Christmas Program which was an exceptional performance by all. We want to thank Ms. Glenda and Ms. Jean for working so hard with the children. We could not visit and sing Christmas Carols at Brightmore Assisted Living due to the flu. We decided to send Christmas Cards and candy canes with the candy cane poem with them. The children sent out

over one hundred cards to different Care Centers. On December 20th we had a Jesus Birthday Party with games and cake, and the children brought food, diapers and presents for a mom and her two young children. The mother was so appreciative for the gifts and especially the food.

I want to personally thank each of you for helping with the Angel Tree and giving 21 children a wonderful Christmas.

In His Service,
Jody Roney
And The Children's Ministry

"Head to...2010"



January 8th - 9th Men's Retreat

"Head to ..." a common term in boating, a reference to heading into the wind. Brace yourself in God's word. Prepare yourself with the teachings of Jesus.

Contact:

Walter Smith
619-0045
Jay Robinson
538-9988

Friday, January 8th

Noon – 5:00 free time
-driving range
-fishing (bring your own)
-shooting range
-hiking
-paint ball (bring your own)
-Frisbee
-stoking the fire
4:00 pm – van leaves WBBC
5:00 – 5:30 Meet @ the fire
5:30 – 6:00 Opening activity
6:00 – 6:45 Dinner
6:45 – 7:00 Music
7:00 – 7:15 Large group
7:15 – 8:15 Breakout sessions
8:20 – 8:40 Large group
8:45 – 9:15 Small groups
9:20 – 9:30 Closing activity
9:30 van leaves for WBBC

Saturday, January 9th

5:30 – 7:00 A.M.
-hunters go hunting
-sunrise @ the river
-hiking
7:30 – 8:30 A.M. Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00 Clean up
9:00 Camp closed

(Spending the night is optional)

Directions

-Take Hwy 74/76 south go approximately 15 miles.
-Take a right on Hwy 87 to Elizabethtown/Riegelwood, go approximately 6 miles.
-Take a right on Hwy 11, go approximately 1 1/2 miles.
-Last house on right, before the bridge
(Total trip 40 minutes)

**ATTENTION
ALL FISHERMEN
AND
MARINERS**

It's time to start up for the 2010 year. Fishermen will have their first meeting of the year Monday January 11th. Mariners will meet Monday, January 25th. Both will meet at WBBC.

**DYNAMIC
ADULTS**

**January 18th,
2010**

Save the date and watch the bulletin, website and announcements in the foyer for details!

WOMEN IN TOUCH-MINISTRY KICK OFF

Kick-off: an act, instance or time of commencing

Ladies, get ready, the 2010 year of **Women in Touch** is preparing for a new year and we want you to be a part of it! Please plan on attending the Kick off meal (breakfast prepared by our own WBBC men) and meeting on Thursday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If childcare is needed please sign up at the Welcome Center don't let that be a reason not to come!



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**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS –
WE HAVE MET OUR GOAL--BUT!**

In a year when money is tight and the whole world seems to be coming unglued, we praise the Lord that you, WBBC, have seen the need of sacrificial giving to assist our international missionaries who are making a difference as they share Christ with those who do not yet know Him.

Our church set as a goal, \$8,500, for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and we are very pleased to report that we now have reached \$11,000! This amount will pay 25% of the needed cost to keep a missionary family on the field for the year 2010. **THANK YOU!**

Last year the national goal for the LMCO was not met and as a result, there are many missionary families that are ready to go to the field but there is not, at this time, the money to send them. If the national goal for LMCO is not met this year, our missionary force will have to be cut from 5,600 to 5,000 missionaries. This will be an unprecedented and eternally tragic move.

Although we have met our church goal, due to the extra generosity of some people, please do not let the meeting of our goal keep you from doing your part. Please give that our new missionaries who are ready to be deployed, may go. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering books are not closed!

Remember, there will never be “Peace on Earth” until the world first says “Glory to God in the Highest”.