Living the Word

Pastor Micheal Benton

Once in Nazareth, He began to read the scriptures and deliver His homcoming message in the synagogue. After reading from the book of the prophet Esias, the Nazarenes were greatly impressed and praised Him for His eloquent words which were spoken with power and author- ity. It was only when He began to expose on those words that He was rejected. Understand that when Jesus explained that the scripture that He just read would be fulfilled, they recognized Him as the Messiah. They were hopeful that God had sent someone to re- store the kingdom to Israel. However, His mission was not to do in His hometown the miracles that He had performed in other places. His message was that He was not bringing the miraculous power of God to the Jews only, but to the Gentiles also. They expected the Messiah to raise up an army to defeat the Romans, instead Jesus likened himself to a prophet who brought healing to the leader of the Gentile army. In fact, in His explana- tion, Jesus cited two Old Testa- ment stories in which Jewish prophets did miracles for Gen- tiles while failing to bless their fellow Jews. Now His home- coming message was not wel- comed. The Nazarenes were infuriated to the point that they drove Jesus out of town and sought to push Him over the edge of a cliff. This story sounds eerily like our world today. We marvel at the beautiful and eloquent words of the script, but if they are not to our liking or reflect on us in an unflattering way, we reject them. We have made our relig- ion self-fueling. We want it to suit our personal belief and we only want it on Sunday morn- ings in the sanctuary. What we are really saying is that Jesus is alight in the church, but we are not willing to take Him home with us. When His teachings do not fulfill our expectations, we symbolically throw his over the cliff.

I’m Just Saying

First Lady Y’Vonne Benton

Maudie Norman used to delight in singing a song called “Let Your Light Shine”. The words to the song further proclaimed that “there maybe somebody down in the valley trying to get home!” What a strong, yet poignant and profound demand those words have. This song places a requirement on every Christian to show the beauty of holiness, to bring to light those good and constructive aspects of life, to demonstrate a posi- tive character and brighten the corner where you are. How do we let our light shine, and what does it mean that somebody down in the valley is trying to get home? The Bible teaches that the Lord is our light and the way we illuminate our world is by obeying His Will. The Bible also teaches that when we let our light shine, men will see our good works and glorify the Father in Heaven—our eternal home. As Christians, we are described as the light of the world. No one can be a secret Christian these days because light shines the best when it is dark and we know that the world in which we live is very dark. So keep shining through both positive and negative circumstances be- cause that is what light does. Let your light shine by the way you act, the way you dress, the way you live, the way you speak, the way you treat your fellow man and by conducting yourself properly (Godly) in every way. In other words, letting your light shine is a soul- winning phenomenon and illu- minates the path to a heavenly home.

I'm Just Saying

Rev. Micheal Benton

Let Your Light Shine

One of the cherished matri- archs of Fairfield Baptist Church, the late Mother

Don’t Forget About Trying A Healthy Lifestyle

Nurses Guild

Summer is a time when people are more active. There are vacations, increased outdoor activity, group gatherings and various other forms of activity. Summer time is also when you might say people are “on the go.” I know you will agree that these conditions increase the potential for many of us to grab fast foods. Please do not say Sunday dinner is the only cooked meal in your house for the week. Remember, you can still have quick meals that include healthy foods and do not forget the fruits and vegetables. Even snack foods can be healthy choices. I know you will agree that these conditions increase the potential for many of us to grab fast foods. Please do not say Sunday dinner is the only cooked meal in your house for the week. Remember, you can still have quick meals that include healthy foods and do not forget the fruits and vegetables. Even snack foods can be healthy choices. Summer time is also when you might say people are “on the go.” I know you will agree that these conditions increase the potential for many of us to grab fast foods. Please do not say Sunday dinner is the only cooked meal in your house for the week. Remember, you can still have quick meals that include healthy foods and do not forget the fruits and vegetables. Even snack foods can be healthy choices. I know you will agree that these conditions increase the potential for many of us to grab fast foods. Please do not say Sunday dinner is the only cooked meal in your house for the week. Remember, you can still have quick meals that include healthy foods and do not forget the fruits and vegetables. Even snack foods can be healthy choices. Summer time is also when you might say people are “on the go.” I know you will agree that these conditions increase the potential for many of us to grab fast foods. Please do not say Sunday dinner is the only cooked meal in your house for the week. Remember, you can still have quick meals that include healthy foods and do not forget the fruits and vegetables. Even snack foods can be healthy choices. Summer time is also when you might say people are “on the go.” I know you will agree that these conditions increase the potential for many of us to grab fast foods. Please do not say Sunday dinner is the only cooked meal in your house for the week. Remember, you can still have quick meals that include healthy foods and do not forget the fruits and vegetables. Even snack foods can be healthy choices.

Tribal News

The Twelve Tribes of Israel of FBC have been very busy. In addition to the instruction of Wednesday night Bible Study, the tribe has taken on several church projects. The Tribe of Issachar spear- headed the “The Soul Project”. This project en- courages and serves people, children especially, who are less fortunate and underprivileged locally and internationally. Their primary focus is to col- lect new and slightly worn footwear to provide to those who don’t own a pair of shoes. The Fairfield family assisted by providing hundreds of pairs of shoes to be given to the people of Ghana. The tribal leaders also came together to welcome and serve our guests from Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Phoenix City, Alabama. They provided hosts, hostesses and a delicious meal before our fellowship worship service on Sunday, July 28.

Once again, our annual homecoming celebration began with our Tribal Fest. Fun, games and plenty of food, sponsored by each tribe, was shared with all in attendance. It was a wonderful way to begin our homecoming festivities. A memorial service was held in memory of tribal leader Clarence David Van Lear. Brother Van Lear passed away in June and was the leader of the Tribe of Asher, a member of our Welcome Committee and the New Vision Choir.

All members of FBC are assigned to Tribes by the first letter of your last name. You may sign up-at the kiosk to be contacted by your Tribal Leader. Tribes may submit their news to Sister Marilyn Dukes, mdukes210@yahoo.com by the 15th of each month for publication in the Lighthouse.

Tribal News

Don’t Forget About Trying A Healthy Lifestyle

Nurses Guild

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What is Homecoming?

"Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." - Robert Frost

Homecoming fills a great need in our lives. It is a time and an occasion to consider the past, our heritage, to go back to those wonderful memories and to be grateful for the blessings of God in our lives! We honestly believe it is a God-given gift to be able to remember and long for those “good days,” and it is His gift to help us forget those days that were not so great. It is a quality that is distinctly human, to be able to consider our days in light of eternity, and to celebrate the goodness of God.

This idea of homecoming is nothing new. It goes way back to the Old Testament, at least two thousand years ago to the days of the Babylonian exile. The book of Nehemiah 8, we can read about the Great Homecoming! Our gathering to celebrate Homecoming 2013 here at Fairfield Baptist Church is only a foreshadowing of the great Homecoming of all time, which will happen in just a few more days. Sooner than we can imagine or tell, we will all gather home to meet our Lord face to face. We will see our loved ones again according to God’s word…

And as shall we ever be with the Lord! It will be the Homecoming to end all homecomings! It’s what we are longing for today.

Thoughts on Faith

Homecoming is a time when we look back at what has happened in Fairfield Baptist Church all the happy times and all the sad times; all the people that have passed through the doors of this church and all those that have passed through the Gates of the Kingdom of Heaven. Fairfield is not just a building. It is a place of refuge, a place of fellowship, and for some a place to find Jesus Christ.

At Homecoming, we all gather to remember old times and to see people that we have not seen in a while, but most importantly, we are in God’s house. A house where we should always feel welcome, a place we should be able to be ourselves, a place where we can meet God for the very first time or find our way back after a long journey away from Him. So it is that Homecoming, a special time for all of us to feel the peace we had when we were first saved. It is a time to rekindle a fire or a time to re-energize our batteries.

In Nehemiah 8, we can read about the Great Homecoming! Our gathering to celebrate Homecoming 2013 here at Fairfield Baptist Church is only a foreshadowing of the great Homecoming of all time, which will happen in just a few more days. Sooner than we can imagine or tell, we will all gather home to meet our Lord face to face. We will see our loved ones again according to God’s word…

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JoAnn Williams-West

Deacon Les Anderson

Pastor’s Engagements

*Pastor Benton will be the guest revivalist August 8-9, 7:30 PM at the Double Spring Baptist Church, 2704 N. Hightower Trail, Conyers, Georgia. The Reverend J. DeLand Shorter is the pastor. Gospel Choir and Usher Trinitarians are on duty.

*On Sunday, August 11, 3 PM Pastor will preach at First Norman Grove Baptist Church for their Deacon and Deaconess Anniversary. The church is located at 613 Glendale Road, Scottsdale, Georgia. Reverend L.E. Ellison serves as pastor. Male Choir and Usher Board No. 1 are on duty.

*Pastor Libbie Liggin and the Mulberry AME Church, 2758 Mt. Carmel Road (Highway 822), Abbeville, South Carolina will welcome Pastor Benton as their guest revivalist August 12-14, 7 PM.

*On Friday, August 16, 7 PM, Pastor will preach at Bald Rock Baptist Church, 2284 Old Covington Road, NE, Conyers, Georgia. The Reverend Chris Shippe serves as pastor. New Vision Choir is on duty. Ushers to be announced.

*Sunday, August 18, 6 PM, Pastor is the guest of Higher Dimension Church International. The church is located at 2856 Belvedere Lane, Decatur, Georgia and Bishop Kevin B. Nick serves as pastor. New Vision Choir is on duty. Ushers to be announced.

The New Beginning Church welcomes Pastor Benton as their guest speaker on August 21, 6 PM. Reverend Ernest Colvin serves as pastor and the church is located at 909卢ella Road, Locust, Georgia. The Sanctuary Choir is on duty. Ushers to be announced.

*Pastor Benton will preach the 3 PM worship service at New Salem Baptist Church, 787 New Salem Church Road, Jefferson, Georgia on Sunday, August 25. Reverend Hazzel Quaries is the pastor. Gospel Choir and Male Usher Board are on duty.

*August 26-28, Pastor Benton will be the guest revivalist for Pastor Eddie Collier and the Towaliga Baptist Church, located at 153 Short Road, Jackson, Georgia. Sanctuary Choir is on duty. Ushers to be announced.

*On August 30, 7:30 PM, Pastor Benton will be the guest revivalist of Pastor Marvin L. Crawford and the St. Paul AME Lithonia Church. The church is located at 2687 Klondeik Road, Lithonia, Georgia. Male Chorus on Ushers Trinitarians are on duty.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 4, 4 PM Worship Service Pastor James Ward Antioch-Lithonia Baptist Church, Lithonia, GA

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Community Thanksgiving Fellowship Thursday, November 21 FBC get ready to welcome our guests. The Community Thanksgiving Fellowship will offer an array of services: health screenings; personal grooming and the distribution of goods, food boxes. FBC members are asked to begin bringing items to be distributed. More information to follow.
**Around FBC...**

**save the date...**

**September 22, 2013**

**Celebrating Pastor Micheal Benton’s 36th Pastoral Anniversary**

**More details to follow in the coming weeks!**

It is a time to show your love and appreciation to our Pastor. All members are asked to give a donation of $36.00 which represents the number of years that Pastor Benton has been the Shepherd of Fairfield. Auxiliaries and ministries are asked to contribute $360.00. However, if you feel led to give more, please do so.

The G. L. A. D. Dance Ministry is looking for an experienced dance choreographer to create dance routines. Practices are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 PM. The G. L. A. D. Dancers minister through dance on the 4th Sunday or 5th Sunday of every month. The position is voluntary. If interested, contact the church secretary, Sister Shirlene King, at (770) 482-7660, Ext. 101 for more information.

Fairfield is seeking experienced drivers to join our transportation team. Candidates must have a CDL license and passenger endorsement, DOT card, Medical Examina-

*The FBC Hallelujah Carnival Is Coming Soon!* We are looking for volunteers to help with our annual carnival this year (Ages 13 to adult – high school students can obtain volunteer hours). If you are interested, please let us know by contacting Carol Franklin at cfranklin@bellsouth.net.

**Journey Through the Bible**

- **Bible Study**
  - **Wednesdays**

  **Neon Day**
  - **Book of Revelation**
  - **Apostle John, Author**
  - **Jesus Christ’s Second Coming and Satan’s Defeat**

  **Key Verse**
  - "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."
  - Revelation 1:3

  There are two books in the Bible that Satan does not want us to read. These books are Genesis and Revelation. He doesn’t want us to read Genesis because it establishes who God is and His will for mankind. Also, he wants us to ignore the book of Revelation because it in-

  **More details to follow in the coming weeks!**

**1885-2013**

**Homecoming**

As we celebrate Homecoming, one hundred and twenty-eight wonderful years. There must of been some heartaches, And I’m sure there were some tears.

I know there’s been lots of shouting, Singing praises to His name. And when someone comes to the altar, Their life is never again the same.

Welcome to our homecoming, Come in and make yourselves at home. As we all shout Hallelujah! To our God upon His throne.

This is only just a sample, A tiny taste of what’s to come.

When we have that Great Homecoming, With the Father and His Son!

We’ll worship in His presence, Giving praise forevermore. And we’ll meet our loved ones, Who have gone this path before.

Ah Yes! That Great Homecoming, So awesome and so grand. When Jesus steps out on a cloud, And takes us all to Glory Land!

- Carrie Kinyon
  Revised for FBC 2013

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**ORDER OF SERVICE**

- **Sunday, August 3, 2013**
  - 10:00 AM Worship Service

  **Master & Mistress of Ceremony**
  - Minister Terrell and Sister Tiffinee McGilberry

  **Devotion**
  - Deacon Ministry

  **Welcome, Occasion & Family Recognition**
  - Mother Gwen Fluellen & Family

  **Praise in Song**
  - FBC Mass Choir

  **Prayer of Thanks and Intercession**
  - Reverend Ronald Clark

  **Praise in Song**
  - FBC Mass Choir

  **Grace of Giving**
  - The Johnson Family

  **Worship in Giving**
  - Deacon Ministry

  **Praise in Song**
  - FBC Mass Choir

  **The Spoken Word & Invitation to Discipleship**

  **Pastor Micheal Benton**

  **Holy Communion**

  **Benediction**
**WINGS’ News**

The ladies of Fairfield recently took a break for our annual Women’s Retreat. We cruised to Cozumel, Mexico and we had a BLAST! We took a getaway from Thursday - Monday. We cruised from the Tampa Florida pier and had perfect weather each day. A total of 51 ladies cruised to Cozumel. We enjoyed great food, shopping, relaxation at the beach and really good fellowship with each other. We had so much fun that we unanimously all decided that we would cruise again in 2015. So ladies, mark your calendar for summer, 2015…we are cruising again and we plan to let you know early in 2014 so we can plan accordingly. You don’t want to miss it.

**Kingdom Kreation**

Kingdom Kreation Youth ministry continued our H.Y.Y.P.E. days in July with a Remote Control Car Derby. The theme for our upcoming August Freedom Sunday youth service is Back-to-School. Everyone is requested to wear his/ her school colors, paraphernalia or dress as their future career aspiration. The service will feature a parade of various youth ministries. We hope that all youth will join us Sunday, August 25, at 10:45 AM in the C.L. Nall Chapel. We ask all the young people of Fairfield to come “home” and unite with the Kingdom Kreation family.

**Women’s Day**

Pastor Tanda Canion
October 20
Pastor Wendy Smith Martin, 7:30 AM
Greater Victory Christian Center
Pastor Tanda Canion, 10:45 AM
Assembly of Truth Ministries

Each woman is asked to donate $50 for our October Celebration. Please use special envelopes provided. Weekly installments may be made. Attire: Shades of Purple and Gold
Join the Women’s Choir—Rehearsals TBA

**Revival**

October 16-17, 7 PM
Co-Pastor Bernita Grosian, Wednesday
Restored Life Ministry
Pastor Juanadolin Stokes, Thursday
Deeper Life in Christ Ministries

Girls Gone Wild
October 18, 7 PM
(women only)
Pastor Tanda Canion
Assembly of Truth Ministries

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**School Homecoming**

August is here and with it comes two very important moments for students across Georgia. August marks the time for summer vacation to end and the new school year to begin. As parents and their children draw closer to the first day of school, they are both met with anxiety as they anticipate what is waiting beyond the outer walls of the school building. Many things cross the minds of parents and their children. Questions and concerns about routines, teachers, classmates, safety, and curriculum plague their minds. However, regardless of what parents and children are wondering, the inevitable is near and it is important to accept that fact because preparation must begin.

Prior to the first day of school, parents and children should begin changing from the summer routine to the school routine. Practicing nighttime and morning rituals is helpful. Communication is another key factor in preparing for the new school year. Parents can connect with parents from the last school year if possible and children can connect with friends from the previous school year. Parents and their children should also talk to each other about any concerns or fears they may have before beginning school. Getting back into the eating healthy routine, instead of indulging in fun summer snacks like ice cream and chips, is a great way to get the child’s body and brain in shape for the new school year and this will also help parents prepare for the taxing job of being involved in their child’s school life. Setting up quality time with less time watching TV and using electronics for entertainment is a great way to focus on the beginning of the new school year as well.

The first few weeks of school will prove to be challenging but soon parents and their children will be back in the flow of things. However, that does not mean that the rest of the school year will be a breeze or that parents and children will begin lacking in their diligence to succeed. In fact, as the year progresses the need for parents and children to focus on school matters becomes more prevalent. Proper communication between parents and children should continue throughout the school year. Parents should try other ways to get information from their children outside of the normal “how was your day?” question. Parents should try asking children about what the child learned, specific things teachers taught, and the worst or best part of the school day. Good communication builds trust and fosters problem solving skills in children. Parents and children could also do simple things like avoiding morning mayhem by preparing things for school at night. Society places much emphasis on test scores, curriculum, teaching strategies, bullying, and the general well being of children in schools. There are many factors that play into the success of young people in school. Parents, please remember that your child’s best chance for success. Be an advocate for your child at all times. Be involved with your child’s school and your child’s teacher. I am a parent and a teacher and I know how much a good relationship between the home and school helps.

I pray everyone entering the new school year in 2013 will have a blessed school homecoming!