

MARCH 2021  
Vol. 63 No. 3

# The Messenger



## FROM THE PASTOR

A few years ago, my family and I decided to go to one of those 'Escape Rooms'. Escape Rooms are an interactive adventure experience where a team is 'locked' in a room and must solve riddles and use a series of clues to 'break out.' It's a bit like being inside a video game. As my family began working through the clues and riddles, I found it fascinating how much energy we generated. With great momentum we were committed to beat the clock and 'escape'. I also learned that some in my family are far better at clues and riddles than I am, (but don't tell them I admitted that.)

One of the insights our family gained from the Escape Room experience was that we did better when we worked together and utilized the strengths of each person. My daughter-in-law was great at figuring out the riddles. My son was fearless in trying things and didn't get discouraged when we had to regroup and start again. My daughter kept encouraging us to stay focused on one task at a time. Melinda kept reminding us that we didn't need to get distracted because the clock was running.

As I reflect on that enjoyable time in my family, I think about our family of faith at FBC. 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us that the church functions as a body. Christ is the head and gives gifts to us. These gifts help us with the important responsibilities of His work. Verse 12 says, *"For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ."*

Every Christian brings something to the Body of the Church. We hamper the work of the church when we refuse to get involved or think we don't matter. We also hamper the work of the church when we neglect the giftedness of each person.

Most of us have never been in a church fellowship that functioned as 1 Corinthians 12 describes. I'd like for First Baptist to be that kind of church.

1 Corinthians 12 teaches us that we don't have to go to an Escape Room to know we do better when we work together. Let's be about the things God calls us to do together in unity.

Don



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662.234.3515 • [connect@gotofirst.org](mailto:connect@gotofirst.org) • [gotofirst.org](http://gotofirst.org)

[f fbcxford](https://www.facebook.com/fbcxford) [@fbcxford](https://www.instagram.com/fbcxford) [@firstbaptistoxford](https://www.youtube.com/fbcxford)

# March

See **gotofirst.org** for event updates  
and the latest safety guidelines.

## MARCH 3

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's
- 4 p.m. Griefshare
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Bible Drill
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

## MARCH 5

- 6 p.m. Parents' Night Out (*Registration required*)

## MARCH 7

- 8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 5 p.m. Life U for Kids in the CLC
- 5 p.m. Life University
- 6 p.m. Sunday PM for Youth

## MARCH 10

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's
- 4 p.m. Griefshare
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Bible Drill
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth



## EXPLORER'S BIBLE STUDY

**In person groups will return to meeting  
at First Baptist on March 3.**

## MARCH 13

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry Workday

## MARCH 14

*Move clocks forward an hour for Daylight Savings*

- 8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 5 p.m. Life U for Kids in the CLC
- 5 p.m. Life University
- 6 p.m. Sunday PM for Youth

## MARCH 16

- 8 a.m.-noon Student Ministry volunteers  
at the Pantry

## MARCH 17

- 8 a.m.-noon Student Ministry volunteers  
at the Pantry
- 4 p.m. Griefshare

## MARCH 18

- 8 a.m.-noon Student Ministry volunteers  
at the Pantry

## Check out Sunday Bible Study options at [gotofirst.org/sunday](https://gotofirst.org/sunday).

We will have in-person and online options for worship and Sunday School. Worship Service link available at [gotofirst.org](https://gotofirst.org). Sunday School Zoom meeting numbers are sent out through church-wide email prior to each meeting. If you would like to be added to our email list to receive meeting access, send a request to [pcarter@gotofirst.org](mailto:pcarter@gotofirst.org).

# Our Family

## MARCH 21

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8:30 a.m.	Senior Adult Worship Service
9:45 a.m.	Worship Service/Sunday School
11 a.m.	Worship Service/Sunday School
5 p.m.	Life U for Kids in the CLC
5 p.m.	Life University
6 p.m.	Sunday PM for Youth

## MARCH 24

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6:30 a.m.	Men's Explorer's
9:30 a.m.	Women's Explorer's
12 p.m.	Men's & Women's Explorer's
4 p.m.	Griefshare
5:30 p.m.	Youth Bible Drill
6 p.m.	Prayer Meeting on Zoom
6 p.m.	Women's Explorer's
6 p.m.	Midweek for Youth

## MARCH 27

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10 a.m.	Preschool Eggstravaganza
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## MARCH 28 *Palm Sunday*

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8:30 a.m.	Senior Adult Worship Service
9:45 a.m.	Worship Service/Sunday School
11 a.m.	Worship Service/Sunday School
2 p.m.	Church Bible Drill
4 p.m.	Brazil Mission Trip Meeting
5 p.m.	Holy Week Services begin
6 p.m.	Sunday PM for Youth

## MARCH 31

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6:30 a.m.	Men's Explorer's
9:30 a.m.	Women's Explorer's
12 p.m.	Men's & Women's Explorer's
4 p.m.	Griefshare
5:30 p.m.	Youth Bible Drill
6 p.m.	Prayer Meeting on Zoom
6 p.m.	Women's Explorer's
6 p.m.	Midweek for Youth

## Budget February 1-21, 2021

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Budget	\$110,487.54
Building	\$1,930.00
Designated	\$15,831.94
Total	\$128,249.48

## Deacons of the Week

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**Feb. 28-** Dave Miller, Daniel Denton,

**Mar. 6** Kevin Bain

**Mar. 7-13** Lanny Shackelford, Jason Simon, Gary Carter

**Mar. 14-20** Brad Golmon, Jeff Busby, Paul Hale

**Mar. 21-27** David Erhart, Bobby Clanton, Lane Wilson

**Mar. 28-** Fred Johnson, Jim Rose,  
**April 3** Nelson Little

## New Members in February

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Roger and Regina Miller, Kaitlyn Traylor, Emily Smith

## Our Sympathy

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To Mrs. Kristy Wilson after the loss of her sister, Mrs. Dolly Henry Young.

To Mrs. Debra Bryson after the loss of her sister, Mrs. Virginia Metzger.

To Mr. Keith and Mr. Jason Woodard and family after the loss of their nephew, Mr. Neil Buchanan.

To Mrs. Billie Trott after the loss of her sister, Mrs. Katherine Westbrook.

To Mrs. Rhonda Hickman and Mrs. Marybeth Lowrey after the loss of their mother, Mrs. Sue Young.

# Discipleship



## CONNECTING DAILY WITH THE FATHER

50 day challenge to spend  
15 minutes in prayer and  
Bible study every day until  
Easter Sunday. Resource  
available at [gotofirst.org](http://gotofirst.org).

## LIFE UNIVERSITY



**Sundays at 5 p.m.** In Person in the Sanctuary  
and online: [gotofirst.org](http://gotofirst.org), YouTube, Facebook

**LIFE for Kids** in the CLC for kids in K-6th grade



We will also have preschool care available in the Preschool area.



But grow in the grace and  
knowledge of our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ. To him be  
glory both now and forever!  
Amen. — 2 Peter 3:18

Search the catalog and reserve  
books at [gotofirst.org/library](http://gotofirst.org/library).



**FBC LIBRARY**

## Help at the Food Pantry

**Beginning Tuesday, March 2, FBC will manage and staff the Oxford Food Pantry.** Helpers are needed to stock shelves and serve clients. We will work each week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Procedures have changed to protect workers and clients. Masks are required. For information contact Jim Propes (236-4758, [jp65monza@att.net](mailto:jp65monza@att.net)) or Brian Smith (601-594-1165, [brianhs@bellsouth.net](mailto:brianhs@bellsouth.net)).

## Food Collection for the Food Pantry

**FBC will collect food items for the Oxford Food Pantry during March.** Collection bins and information sheets will be in the atrium Sundays and Wednesdays during March. In 2015, we collected our record: over 2000 items! Let's do better this year! For information contact Jim Propes (236-4758, [jp65monz@att.net](mailto:jp65monz@att.net)) or Brian Smith (601-594-1165, [brianhs@bellsouth.net](mailto:brianhs@bellsouth.net)).



## THURSDAYS in MARKS

Leave church at 2 p.m. and return at 6 p.m.

Helping with tutoring, homework, and recreation with kids. Contact Pam Carter at [pcarter@gotofirst.org](mailto:pcarter@gotofirst.org) or 662-234-3515 with questions.

FBC Oxford partnership  
(re)claimed  
PROJECT

# Missions

## Links Connections

FBC Oxford Ministry to  
the Links Apartments

**BIBLE STUDY** Sundays at 5 p.m. Bldg. 28, Apt. 7

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE MINISTRY

**Beginning Class for Men and Women**

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. & Sundays at 4 p.m. Bldg. 28, Apt. 7

**Intermediate Class for Women on Zoom** Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

**English Conversations**


Become a conversation partner for an English Language Learner.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Craft Day for Kids** Saturday, March 6 from 10-11:30 a.m.  
on the Tennis Courts. *Weather Permitting*

**Breakfast at The Gate** Wednesday, March 24 from 6-8:00 a.m.  
Drive-thru breakfast in a bag.

*Email [lynndyfthurdle@gmail.com](mailto:lynndyfthurdle@gmail.com) for more information  
about any of these ministry opportunities.*

 [linksconnections](https://www.facebook.com/linksconnections) • Check out volunteer opportunities at [gotofirst.org/links](https://gotofirst.org/links)

## NEW ORLEANS PARTNERSHIP

**Block Party Outreach with Lakeshore Spanish Church**  
**April 7-10.** Cost is \$40 per person plus a few meals. Contact  
Jeff Holeman if you want to claim a seat on the bus.

## OAXACA MISSIONS PARTNERSHIP

**WOMEN'S TRIP May 22-28, 2021.**

\$850 per person (\$250 for FBC Oxford members.) Contact Liesa  
Holeman ([Liesa.Holeman@gmail.com](mailto:Liesa.Holeman@gmail.com)) to claim a seat on the plane.



# MISSION TRIP TRAINING

**Saturday, April 3 | 8 a.m. - noon**

**First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall**

This training is required for anyone to receive financial help for mission trips. Cost: \$45 per person. FBC Oxford members attend free. Limit of 40. Contact Pam Carter to register at (662) 234-3515 or [pcarter@gotofirst.org](mailto:pcarter@gotofirst.org).



## MISSION TRIP TO THE AMAZON RIVER (PERU)

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP IN VILLAGES **MAY 9-19**

\$2400 includes all costs except meals to/from field.  
FBC members/College students get \$800 discount.  
Email Jeff at [wigtake@gmail.com](mailto:wigtake@gmail.com) if you want to go.

## BRAZIL MISSION TRIP JUAZEIRO DO NORTE, STATE OF CEARÁ July 15-25, 2021

Construction, Medical, and Children's ministry teams.

**Meeting March 28 at 4 p.m.**  
on Zoom and in the FBC Oxford Choir Room

### OUR USA AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS:

**NEW ORLEANS** / Lakeshore Spanish Church

**OAXACA** / International Mission Board

**BRAZIL** / Pioneer Missions

**PERU** / International Mission Board

**ITALY** / Campus Crusade for Christ

## PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS

# Preschool Eggstravaganza

Saturday, March 27 at 10 a.m. on the Preschool Playground



Preschool & Children's Departments

**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**  
**March 5 & April 9 • 6-9 p.m.**

For all kids  
preschoolers (infants-4 years) and children (K-6th grade)

Sign up preschoolers with Jennifer at [jwoodard@gotofirst.org](mailto:jwoodard@gotofirst.org)  
and children with Whitney at [wsimon@gotofirst.org](mailto:wsimon@gotofirst.org)

**babydedication** April 18  
Sign up with Jennifer ([jwoodard@gotofirst.org](mailto:jwoodard@gotofirst.org))

**AMBASSADORS**

**Children's  
Mission Camp  
JULY 8-10, 2021**

open to the first 30 kids,  
2nd-6th grade. Cost: \$120/child

**Register at [www.centralhills.org](http://www.centralhills.org)**

Parents will need to create an account and use the GHR ID Code: fbcoxford  
Payment should be made to FBC Oxford. *Please register by June 30.*

Central Hills Baptist Retreat, West, MS 39192





FBC OXFORD CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



# DEFINED

WHO GOD SAYS I AM

**KIDS DISCIPLE NOW 2021**

**with Gary Permenter**

**and worship leader Joanna Word**

**April 10 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**4th-6th grade**

**Disciple Now is an incredible day of fun, Bible study, and worship.** "Who am I?" is a question that many kids are being challenged to answer. The Bible tells us that we are each made in God's image, but that image has become distorted by sin. The only way to restore what was broken is through a relationship with Jesus. Through **Defined: Who God Says I Am**, kids will discover who God created them to be and what is true about their identity because of their relationship with Jesus.

**Early Bird Registration \$20. After March 29, \$25**  
includes program, Bible study leader, T-shirt, food and fun!

**For more info, contact Louis Zinc ([lzinc@gotofirst.org](mailto:lzinc@gotofirst.org)) or Whitney Simon ([wsimon@gotofirst.org](mailto:wsimon@gotofirst.org)).**

## Stock the Food Pantry Competition

**During March.** Kindergarten-6th grade Sunday School classes will compete to see who can bring the most donations for the Oxford Food Pantry. The winning class will get a surprise!

**Church Bible Drill** Sunday, March 28  
2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



[gotofirst.org/awana](http://gotofirst.org/awana)

for handbook how-tos and weekly videos

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 7-11**  
**9 a.m.-noon**

Volunteers and participants can register at [gotofirst.org/vbs](http://gotofirst.org/vbs).  
Contact Whitney for more info at 662-832-3236 or [wsimon@gotofirst.org](mailto:wsimon@gotofirst.org).



First Baptist Oxford presents

## Unchangeable GOD

**SUMMER DANCE CAMP**

**June 21-25, 2021**

**9-11:30 a.m. - entering 3rd-6th grade**

**12:30-3 p.m. - entering 7th-12th grade**

Details and registration at [gotofirst.org/dancecamp](http://gotofirst.org/dancecamp)

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS** [wmin@gotofirst.org](mailto:wmin@gotofirst.org)

**Monthly Book Club** Email [wmin@gotofirst.org](mailto:wmin@gotofirst.org) for more info.

## **MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS** [mm@gotofirst.org](mailto:mm@gotofirst.org)



### **SATURDAY WORKDAY: MARCH 13**

*Email [mm@gotofirst.org](mailto:mm@gotofirst.org) to sign up!*

Meet at the Christian Life Center at 7:30 a.m.

## **STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS**

Connect with FBC Student Ministry: [@Studentsgoto1st](https://www.instagram.com/Studentsgoto1st) [@studentsgotofirst](https://www.instagram.com/studentsgotofirst)



Sundays at 11 a.m.  
in person and on Zoom



Sundays at 6 p.m.  
in the CLC



Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
on the 3rd Floor

## **Food Pantry Service**

**March 16-18.** Students volunteer to work at the Oxford Food Pantry 8 a.m.–noon Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of Spring Break week.

## **COLLEGE NEWS** [Facebook/Instagram: @fbcxcolleage](https://www.facebook.com/fbcxcolleage)

**Sunday School** Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center

**Free Coffee @ Common Ground**

Wednesday, March 3 from 1-4 p.m.

## **SUMMER 2021 STUDENT MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES**



**Gallito, Peru (Amazon River)**  
June 1 - July 31 / \$2600 per person

**Oaxaca, Mexico**  
June 1 - 30 / \$1400 per person



*Interested in going? Contact Jeff Holeman at [wigtake@gmail.com](mailto:wigtake@gmail.com).  
Want to support a student financially? Contact Jeff Holeman at [wigtake@gmail.com](mailto:wigtake@gmail.com).*

# FBC OXFORD STAFF

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**Rev. Don Gann**, Senior Pastor  
dgann@gotofirst.org

**Dr. Robert Allen**, Administrative Pastor  
rallen@gotofirst.org

**Jeff Holeman**, Minister of Discipleship  
& Missions Strategy  
wigtake@gmail.com

**Louis Zinc**, Student Pastor  
lzinc@gotofirst.org

**Jack Schultz**, College Pastor  
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**Steve Roark**, Minister of Marriage  
and Family Pastoral Care  
steve.roark56@gmail.com

**Rev. Slater Murphy**,  
Interim Minister of Music  
smurphy@mbcb.org

## SUPPORT STAFF

**Dina Addy**, Financial  
Administrative Assistant  
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**Corie Miller**, Pastoral and Publications  
Administrative Assistant  
cmiller@gotofirst.org

**Pam Carter**, Education and Student  
Administrative Assistant  
pcarter@gotofirst.org

**Linda Glaze**,  
Director of Weekday Education  
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**Whitney Simon**,  
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**Jennifer Woodard**,  
Director of Preschool Ministries  
jwoodard@gotofirst.org

**Kristen Overall**,  
Director of Mother's Morning Out  
koverall@gotofirst.org

## COLLEGE MINISTRY INTERNS

Nicholas Dukes	Sage McNamara
Cassidy Porter	Ansley Myers

## MUSIC MINISTRY INTERNS

McKenzi Massey	Peyton Schiller
Joanna Word	

## YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNS

JR Wilbanks	Alyssa Lee
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## BUILDING

Maria Thompson	W.C. Certion
Carl Pettis	Synthia Gilliam

How may we pray for you?

Scan the QR code and let us know.





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