



Newsletter of Fruitland Baptist Church

Craig Stepp, Senior Pastor
William C. Hardin, Assoc. Pastor, Chris Pace, Discipleship Pastor

Pastor's Perspective

Dear Fruitland Family,

I come to you so excited because of an event that I was just a part of. Literally just a few minutes ago there were people whose lives were changed for eternity. People whose lives went from death to life.

Fruitland Baptist Church hosted an event today (Saturday, April 24th) called Equip America that was sponsored by Evangelism Explosion which many of you are familiar with. First of all, as we gathered early Saturday morning, we began to learn the tool that we would later use to share the Gospel. Then after breaking for lunch, with much anticipation, we all went out broke up into ten groups of three or four people each to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our community.

Now as many of you know, there is a lot of anxiety that may come with sharing your faith. Thoughts of denial, rejection, and reaction all stem from fear. However, today we learned through on the job training that we can put those fears to rest as we learned that God goes before us.

The Bible teaches that every time God calls us to a task and we are obedient, He will go before us, preparing people and places so that He may be glorified. Today, as we went out in obedience, we learned that scripture is true.

It was so great going out and intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. God went before us and prepared the hearts of two people in a local neighborhood close to the church. Two gospel

conversations took place. One man said he was not ready to put his trust and faith in Jesus, and a young woman bowed and prayed and said yes to Jesus.

Fruitland, I share this with you by way of encouragement, to let you know that people are willing to hear what we have to say about the Good News of Jesus Christ if we are willing to take the time and share it. Don't know how? How do I start? Why am I scared? These are questions that are often asked until we make the decision to be obedient.

But once we do step out, we are often able to see a transformation take place right before our eyes. That transformation happens when a new believer goes from death to life, transferring their trust from themselves over to Jesus Christ. The joy that comes from sharing and watching this take place is indescribable. It's like the first time every time.

Fruitland, please ponder the words that you have just read and ask yourself, "Am I ready to be obedient to what God has called every believer in Jesus Christ to do? Am I ready to share Jesus with others?"

May God Bless You!
Written in love,
Pastor Craig



Summer is Coming...Save These Dates

- June 1st - 4th: Look Up Lodge Children's Camp*
- July 12th - 16th: Youth Journey Camp*
- June 28th - July 4th: Summer Mission Trip*
- July 25th - July 30th: Vacation Bible School.*

"To know Christ and to Make Christ known"

Summer Mission 2021

Our Summer Mission Trip will be June 28-July 4th. The first two days, June 28-29 will be here (at Fruitland Church) completing preparation work for the rest of the week. We realize not everyone can attend Summer Mission but may want to be a part, learn how you can help minister for the trip these two days from the information sheet. June 30-July 4th we will travel and work with North Raleigh International Baptist Church doing construction, backyard Bible clubs and working with youth. Please begin praying to see your part in reaching the nations. Part of NRIBC Mission Statement and Motto is Rev. 5:9, "To preach God's Word to every nation, every tribe, every tongue..." Currently they have worship with 12 different nationalities. Jesus calls us to Follow Him. Please help at the car wash on Saturday, May 29th from 9 AM until Noon. Also there will be one information meeting on Sunday May 30th at 4 PM in the sanctuary. To learn more, please pick up an information sheet outside the office or in the vestibule. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Your prayers are coveted for servants, leaders and those we will be ministering to in the Raleigh Area!



End of School Year Celebration

Wednesday, May 26th 6:30 PM Outside

We will have a cookout for the entire Fruitland Family at 6:30. Hamburgers and hotdogs, chips, cookies and drinks. There will be games for Parents vs. Students! This year has been like no other but we are finishing strong!

Vacation Bible School

July 25th - July 30th

Volunteers Needed! Planning meeting Sunday, May 23rd at 3:00 PM. See The Fruitland Friends Flyers for information about each days Bible Story and this years theme: Destination Dig is based on Jeremiah 29:13.

Graduation Sunday

May 23rd, 11 AM Worship Service

We would like to recognized our High School and College graduates Sunday, May 23rd during the 11 AM Worship service. Please get your information to Joy Jones at: joyehjones@yahoo.com or text 828-388-1702. She needs this information ASAP! Please call the church office to let us know if you are participating, 685-8990.

Summer Mission Trip Car Wash Fundraiser

Saturday, May 29th 9 AM until Noon

First Citizens Bank at the Blue Ride Mall in Hendersonville. We need 'all hands' to help get the cars washed. We take up donations as we wash and share the love of Jesus! This is a time of bonding and getting to know others going on the trip. If you can't attend the car wash but are willing to make a donation, just mark your envelope, summer mission trip! Thanking you in advance for participating.

Youth Event

Sunday May 2nd 5-8 PM

Outside fellowship hall please come and join us for a time of food, fun and fellowship. Holey board tournament! Can you beat Austin Rhodes? Let's find out, see you there! Please bring your friends.

WMU Missions Extravaganza

Online for 90 days!

Relentless! If you weren't able to participate in Missions Extravaganza 2021 online, there is still time! The cost is \$20 and you have full access to all breakout sessions and a timely message from Kendra Graham! visit: <https://www.wmunc.org/missions-me-2021> and sign up! Watch it with friends and or family for a time of wonderful Bible Study and individual spiritual growth.

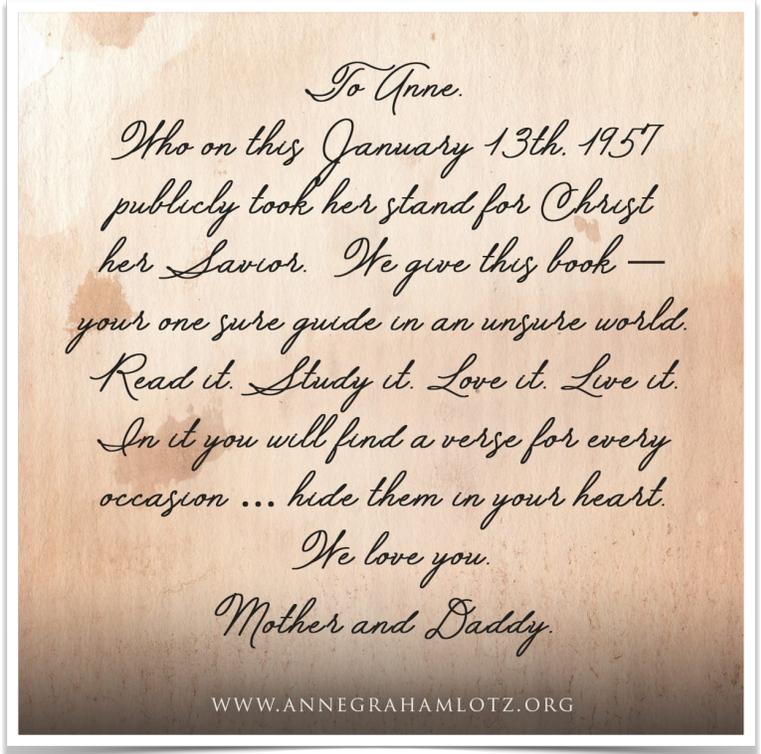
Encouragement from Anne Graham Lotz

"I want to share with you...my mother gave me a Bible the day I was baptized. I used it through my marriage until I started teaching the Scriptures and then I moved to another one. To the right is what she wrote in the flyleaf.

I have taken her counsel. I have done my best to read God's Word, to study it, to love it, to live it out. And it has been counsel that has been lasting and of benefit to me for my entire life.

I want to challenge you to think about the legacy that you are leaving to your children and your grandchildren. Be intentional about the way you are seeking to lead them to the Lord and impress them with a love for His Word."

Anne is the daughter of the late Billy & Ruth Graham, you can sign up for free e-mail devotionals and more at www.annegrahamlotz.org.



Ways to Celebrate Family at Home

Use these ideas for Mothers, Fathers or just a fun day with family:

- ★ Make a list of reasons you love Someone and post them up for all to see
- ★ Color a picture, make a homemade card or sign and post it on the refrigerator or mail to a shut in that needs encouragement
- ★ Sing Karaoke with everyone's favorite songs (If you don't know them, it's a good time to share songs with other family members that you enjoy!)
- ★ Bake a favorite Treat
- ★ Tell Funny Stories
- ★ Let each family member pick a movie and everyone participates in the others movie, share what you enjoyed most and least
- ★ Make a mini-scrapbook together
- ★ Play their favorite board game
- ★ Play their favorite outdoor game
- ★ Go for a Walk
- ★ Have a Picnic (in the yard or a special location)
- ★ Build something in the garage or make a craft
- ★ Wash the Car / Truck together
- ★ Make a Photo Slide show and view together
- ★ Serve them Breakfast in Bed

Spring Cleaning - Clothing

Summer Mission Trip and Christmas in WV

If you are spring cleaning and have good, wearable clothes, coats and other items you would be willing to donate for either of these events, please bring them to the fellowship hall. We also need ladies willing to sort, fold and organize them. Please put in white trash bags and mark them children, youth or adults. We can use 'new like' shoes only. Please do not bring stained, torn or items that cannot be used. If you have costume jewelry or other items for ladies that you do not use, we would like these also for our summer mission trip, see Jaime Hare, Cassie Casto, Raneer Stepp, Candi Mains if questions.

Bible Drill

Each Sunday at 11 AM

We have several students participating in Bible Drill this year. Please pray for these students, grades 4th - 6th, as they study, prepare and grow in God's Word. Ms. Linda Pressley has faithfully taught, encouraged and loved on our students to Hide God's Word in their hearts. Bible Drill is beneficial to these children as they learn: Key Passages / Memorize Scripture / Books of Bible / Proper Handling of the Bible / Locating of Books in the Bible.

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MAY 2021

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May Mission Offerings

This month our missions offerings will be divided between the **Mother's Day offering for Baptist Hospitals** and the **Women's Missionary Union for North Carolina**. Two worthy offerings to honor missions. We are grateful for Candi Mains service to WMU NC state board the past three years.

Baptist Hospitals offering last year was down from \$400,000 in 2019 to \$40,000 in 2020. Since 1924 this offering has helped relieve families burdened with medical bills. This offering is a symbol of hope.

Isaiah 41:20: *That they may see and know and consider and understand together that the hand of the Lord has done this and the Holy One of Israel has created it.*

WMU NC Offering - Relentless Growth

2021 Scripture: *"What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."* (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)



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