

Today we celebrate paying off the \$4,000,000 debt on the church. In 2005, we secured the construction loan for our Worship Center (which includes preschool & children's route 66/upstairs). We moved into the downstairs Christmas 2006. We tapped out the \$4 million loan and raised the extra to complete the upstairs (which cost an additional \$750,000). We begin to pay the loan back in January of 2007. Originally we were paying 6.5% interest, we renegotiated a couple times and actually got the rate down to less than 2% for a time. In addition to the \$30,000 monthly mortgage, we begin to attack the principal by making extra payments (thanks to you who gave toward the debt and Chest of Joash). We paid the loan off in 11 years (9 years early) and saved approximately \$750,000 in interest.

We are currently debt free and are now saving funds for the Family Life Center (to include children, student ministries and a gymnasium). Our goal is to set aside \$250,000 this year for this facility. We would like to raise \$2 million before beginning this project. By paying the debt off early, we plan to designate an additional \$69,000 to missions.

**Ralph Schneck, Lead Pastor** Follow me on Twitter...  
 ralph@fblex.org | ext. 103 @RalphSchneck

9:00 AM Celebration Service  
 10:30 AM Contemporary Service

*Please help us create an atmosphere for worship...*

- Take a moment to silence your mobile devices.
- We have a safe and loving environment for your children where they can learn about God. Take advantage of our Preschool & Children's Ministry.

**New to FBC?**

**How to become a Member**

Before joining FBLEX, we ask that you attend our "Discovery Class." In this class you will become familiar with our history, beliefs and different ministries. Next class is March 18th from 9:00 - 11:45 AM. One day class, meeting in Student Center Conference Room. Sign up at fblex.org.

**Small Groups - Join one today!**

Pastor Sims begins a new Life Group, "Diverse" this evening at 5 PM in the Upper Room.  
 Alison Myers begins a new Women's Life Group "Bloom" today at 9 AM in Modular 4

Together 4 Ever, (meets in Modular 8 at 9 AM) continuing a challenging series "Love and Respect." Great inspiration for married couples!  
 COPS Valentine's dinner being held at the church. February 16th at 6:30 PM

Need help, meet with our friendly staff at Connection Point in the Lobby. Someone would be happy to guide you. We can also be reached at (803) 957-0686 Ext. 115 or Reynold@fblex.org

**This Wednesday Night at FBC**

Menu: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy and green beans.  
 Dessert | Marcos Pizza, Potato Bar, Salad Bar and Hot Dog Bar.  
 Prices: \$4 (ages 13 and above), \$2.50 (ages 6-12), \$1.50 (ages 3-5)  
 2 and under are free. (Family max of \$15.00)

Preschool - Puggles & Awana Cubbies..... 6:30 PM  
 K5-4th Grade - Disciple Zone ..... 6:30 PM  
 5th - 6th Grade - Area 56..... 6:30 PM  
 Jr./Sr. High - the Fallout (Student Center) ..... 6:30 PM  
 Adults - Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)..... 6:30 PM  
 Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal (Worship Center) ..... 6:30 PM

**DIVORCE Care** Divorced? Separated?  
 WE CAN HELP!

Tuesdays from 6:45 - 8:15 PM  
 February 13 - May 8, In the Upper Room  
 13 week support group...Workbook - \$15

Contact us for more information!

Find Help ~ Discover Hope Experience Healing  
 Chip Jefferson 803-360-0491

**O.W.L.S.**  
 Older. Wiser. Loving Seniors.



All seniors 60+ "OWLS" are invited to join us on Valentine's Day, Wednesday February 14th for our ANNUAL Soup and Sandwich Luncheon following 10:30 AM Bible Study w/ Reynold. Luncheon at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall then special music with FBLEX Worship Team. Bring soup, sandwiches and/or dessert to share.

**STONE TABLETS**  
 IN A WIRELESS WORLD  
 GOD'S BIG 10  
**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM  
 TAUGHT BY PASTOR REYNOLD

**Look Up Lodge 2018**

Parents of 2nd-4th graders, save the Date! We have set our summer camp dates at Look Up Lodge for August 3-6. The total cost will be \$249 per child. Deposit of \$83 is due February 18th to reserve your spot. Remaining payments are due March 18th and April 15th.



**Ladies Event - March 1 at 7 PM**

You're invited to the "Glocal Girls: God's Work, Our Hands" evening in the FBLEX Fellowship Hall. Come hear from some of our own FBLEX ladies about their "global and local" missions experiences. Speakers will be Makayla Keisler, Debbie Scott, Christi Farley, and Rebecca Appling. This is a free event. Sign-up will be needed & will be available in the foyer on Sunday, February 18 & 25. Questions: women@fblex.org



**Protecting Our Future**

There will be a Protecting Our Future class TODAY, February 11. A refresher will be taught at 9 AM in Green Room 2. A full course for those who have never taken a class will be offered in the Route 66 kitchen at 10:30 AM.



**Spiritual Spotters**

Proverbs 31 & John 1-4. Reading schedule and Spiritual Spotters group list is available at the Men's Table in the side Lobby. Join in on one of the groups!



**Cafe' Wednesday - 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM**

Wednesday Bible Study 10:30 AM (Student Center) and 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall) will continue this week on lessons from the Ten Commandments. We have titled our series, "Stone Tablets in a Wireless World." Our focus is on the 5th commandment, "honor your father and your mother."



**Umbrella Group**

The Umbrella Support Group will be hosting special guest speaker Dr. Terry Powell of CIU on Thursday, February 15th from 6:30-7:45 pm in Room 213. Dr. Powell will be discussing strategies and tools for fighting depression.



**This Week's Schedule**

**Sunday Morning**

7:45 SonRise LIFE Group  
 9:00 Celebration Service  
 Life Groups  
 10:30 Worship Service  
 Life Groups

**Monday Evening**

7:00 Men's Night (Modular 5)

**Tuesday Evening**

6:30 Celebration Station  
 6:45 Celebrate Recovery  
 6:45 The Landing

**Wednesday Evening**

5:00 Dinner  
 6:30 Preschool Cubbies & Puggles  
 6:30 K5-4th Grade Disciple Zone  
 6:30 5th-6th Grade Area 56  
 6:30 Jr./Sr. High "the Fallout"  
 6:30 Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal  
 6:30 Wednesday Bible Studies

**Thursday Evening**

7:30 College & Career Night

**Financial Peace**

If FBLEX offered Financial Peace, would you be interested in attending? We need a minimum of 12 people. Class would be offered on Sunday evenings from 5 - 7 PM.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual or Couple: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bookstore Sale**

All books are 40% off at the FBLEX Bookstore. Stop by before or after either morning service.

**Prayer Need?**

If you have a pressing prayer need, fill out a prayer card (pew pocket) and place it on the altar at the invitation. The prayer team will lift your request to the Lord. If you would like to be a part of the prayer team, email Noel Fields (fun4fields@aol.com).

### Connect Card

Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the Welcome Desk to receive a gift of chocolate covered pecans.

I/We attended worship at:

9:00 AM  10:30 AM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Sub-division: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_

His: Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Hers: Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Children's Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Did your children attend with you today?

Yes  No

Please check all that apply:

First-time Guest  Returning Guest

Regular Attender  FBC Member

Visiting Family/Friends

New to the Community

Looking for a New Church Home

Married  Single  College

How did you hear about us?

I would like information about:

Beginning a relationship with Christ

Baptism

Membership at FBC/Discovery Class

Life/Home Groups



### Lay Counselor

Are you interested in learning some skills as a lay counselor? Contact Paul at: 803-957-0686 ext. 130 or email paul@fblex.org for more information.

### Kids and Social Media

Technology has completely transformed the world we live in. So many of those changes are wonderful! Unfortunately, many of them are not. In fact, they're wrecking the lives of our kids. Your kids! You're invited to check out a new movie that will be shown for one night only, February 27, in our area. Log onto www.connectmovie.com to get all the details. Real Help For Parenting Kids In A Social Media World.

### Stewardship Focus

Giving is one of the ways we demonstrate our love for the Lord. Everything we have comes from God and when we give back to Him we express gratitude and further God's work on earth. We encourage you to give a tithe of your income to the general fund and an offering to missions. We have been blessed so we can bless.

### Your Contributions Statement

FBLEX has closed its financial records for 2017 and Contributions Statements can be obtained in two ways:

1) Realm Registered User - Statements can be printed by the member. Statements are available from the Giving section of your Realm Profile. Instructions on how to do so are on the Giving portion of our web site. Statements will not be mailed to registered Realm users.

2) Not a Realm Registered User - Contribution Statements will be mailed next week.

If any discrepancies are found, please contact our auditor in writing: Harry D. DeLoach, CPA, The Brittingham Group, LLP, Post Office Box 5949, West Columbia, South Carolina, 29171-5949.

### Weekly Update

#### Last Week's Attendance:

Worship AM.....920  
Life/Home Groups.....589  
First Time Guests.....6

#### Last Week's Giving:

General Fund ..... \$33,046.36  
Budget Goal to date..... \$170,000.00  
Giving to date ..... \$151,643.78  
Missions ..... \$4,052.00  
Missions Budget Goal to date..... \$20,000.00  
Missions Budget Given to date..... \$16,820.50

### Message Series: The Gospel of John Today's Message: "The Joy of the Vine"

One reason people want no part of Jesus, or His Church, is because we often perceive and portray him as \_\_\_\_\_.

In the middle of sadness, Jesus communicates \_\_\_\_\_.

John 15:1-10

God is a happy, joyful God

Zephaniah 3:17, Nehemiah 8:10

God is interested in the happiness of His children.

Psalms 16:11, Psalm 30:11, Galatians 5:22, John 10:10

All men seek \_\_\_\_\_. True happiness is found in an enduring relationship with Christ.

Logic:

- Joy comes from abiding.
- Abiding means keeping Jesus' commandments.
- Jesus' command is to love God & others.
- Love is an action word, demonstrated in service.
- Therefore joy comes from loving God and others, demonstrated by selflessly giving of themselves.

**Next Week: Surviving Difficult Days (John 16)** Jesus said, "now you see me, now you don't." Where was Jesus going? What did He mean? Who was this "New Helper" and what would He do? A dark cloud hovered above them, the storm was building and soon all hell would break loose. How would they survive difficult times like these?

Listen to sermons online at [fblex.org/resources](http://fblex.org/resources)

OUR PURPOSE  
LOVING AND LIVING FOR GOD



# The Gospel of John