

The Beatitudes

God's Radical Reconstruction of the Heart

BLESSED... It is *sacred* because only God can grant it. It is a *delight* because it thrills. Since it is sacred, it can't be stolen. And since it is delightful, it can't be predicted...It is God's gladness. It's sacred delight. And it is this sacred delight that Jesus promises in the Sermon on the Mount. Nine times he promises it. And he promises it to an unlikely crowd:

- "The poor in spirit." Beggars in God's soup kitchen.
- "Those who mourn." Sinners Anonymous bound together by the truth of their introduction: "Hi, I am me. I'm a sinner."
- "The meek." Pawnshop pianos played by Van Cliburn. (He's so good no one notices the missing keys.)
- "Those who hunger and thirst." Famished orphans who know the difference between a TV dinner and a Thanksgiving feast.
- "The merciful." Winners of the million-dollar lottery who share the prize with their enemies.
- "The pure in heart." Physicians who love lepers and escape infection.
- "The peacemakers." Architects who build bridges with wood from a Roman cross.
- "The persecuted." Those who manage to keep an eye on heaven while walking through hell on earth.

It is to this band of pilgrims that God promises a special blessing. A heavenly joy. A sacred delight. But this joy is not cheap. No, Matthew 5 describes God's radical reconstruction of the heart.. Observe the sequence.

- First, we recognize we are in need (we're poor in spirit).
- Next, we repent of our self-sufficiency (we mourn).
- We quit calling the shots and surrender control to God (we're meek).
- So grateful are we for his presence that we yearn for more of him (we hunger and thirst). As we grow closer to him, we become more like him.
- We forgive others (we're merciful).
- We change our outlook (we're pure in heart).
- We love others (we're peacemakers).
- We endure injustice (we're persecuted).

It's no casual shift of attitude. It is a demolition of the old structure and a creation of the new. The more radical the change, the greater the joy. And it's worth every effort, for this is the joy of God.... There is a delicious gladness that comes from God. A holy joy. A sacred delight.

Max Lucado

Morning Worship Services

February 15, 2009

Prelude	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	Sprunger
Call to Worship	<i>Sweet, Sweet Spirit</i>	Congregation
Welcome		Dr. Gambrell
Praise	<i>As the Deer Here I Am to Worship</i>	Nystrom Hughes
Invocation		Rev. Hayes
Children's Message		Rev. Hayes
	(11:00 a.m. Children 3 yrs. to kindergarten may leave for Children's Church)	
Responsive Reading 681	Life and Ministry	Dr. Gambrell
Hymn 217	<i>Oh, How I Love Jesus (vv 1,2,4)</i>	Whitfield
Offertory	<i>There Is None Like You</i>	LeBlanc
Sermon Text	Matthew 5:5	Rev. Hayes
Special Music	<i>When He Reached Down His Hand for Me Written In Red</i>	Choir Choir
Message	The Meek Are Strong	Dr. Gambrell
Hymn 438	<i>Heaven Came Down</i>	Peterson
Response 457	<i>Lord, Be Glorified</i>	Kilpatrick



The flowers on the altar are in celebration of Will and Shirley Lockamy's 23rd wedding anniversary.

The flowers in the baptistery are given by Dick Rothman in memory of Audrey. They would have celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary, February 16.



Welcome to Worship

Blessed are
the meek,
for they
will inherit
the earth.

Matthew 5:5

Evening Worship Service

February 15, 2009

Message	Talents and Rewards	Dr. Gambrell
<u>Morning Worship Greeters - 9:30 a.m.</u>		
Front Door:	Joyce and Charles Parker	
Side Door:	Sandy Hawley and CeCe McComb	
Drive-Thru:	Gene and Imogene Blackmon	
Welcome Desk:	Sadie Shannon	
<u>Today's Ushers</u>		
8:30 a.m.	Ray Mason and John Stinson	
11:00 a.m.	Gary Carroll, Russell Courtney, J.L. Dunlow, George Lowe, Ashley McLamb	
6:30 p.m.	Polly and Tom Parrott	
<u>Worship Nursery/Children's Church Volunteers - 11:00 a.m.</u>		
Nursery:	Nicole Smith	
Children's Church:	Charlotte Bruton	
<u>Security Duty Next Week</u>		
Feb 15-18:	Ralph Bussey and Dwain Spivey	

Notes

Building on Our Heritage

In our most recent newsletter our pastor recapped the status of the Building on Our Heritage campaign. We need to revive our enthusiasm and work diligently toward paying down our current debt. The Building on Our Heritage finance committee would be glad to hear any suggestions or ideas for increasing participation and contributions. We are planning to have opportunities for special offerings to the building fund. The first opportunity is planned for March 8th.

February Trip to Israel

Our pastor will be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land February 17-27. During his absence, Rev. Dwain Hayes, Rev. Charles Bullock and Ron Bruce, of First Baptist Church, and Rev. Peter Copeland, USC2 Missionary from the Waccamaw Baptist Association, will be speaking at our worship services.

Upward Basketball/Cheerleading Award Ceremony

The Upward Basketball/Cheerleading Award Ceremony will be Sunday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Entertainment for the event will include Vertical Kids and Greg Rowles. Please come and support our young athletes and thank them for a successful 2009 Upward season.

Dates to Remember

Monday, February 16

6:00 p.m.

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting

February 17-27

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

March 1-8

*Season of North American Missions
Annie Armstrong Church Goal: \$5,000*

Sunday, March 8

2:00 a.m.

*Daylight Savings Time Begins
(Set Your Clocks Up An Hour)*

Sunday, March 15

6:00 p.m.

*Upward Basketball/Cheerleading
Awards Celebration*

Monday, March 16

6:00 p.m.

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting

Friday, March 27

*Deadline for Edith Jordan, Aunt Mary Bellamy
and Isaac Case Scholarships*

Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Easter Cantata

Sunday, April 12

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Easter Worship Services

Sunday, April 12

No Evening Worship Services

Sunday, April 26

6:00 p.m.

*Louie Roberts— "Jammin' for Jesus"
Family Life Center*

July 12-18

Summer Youth Camp

Activities for the Week

Sunday

Chapel Choir Practice	8:00 a.m.
Worship Service	8:30 a.m.
Coffee, Donuts, Juice	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (for all ages)	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Children's Music	5:30 p.m.
Evening Service	6:30 p.m.
TeamKID	6:30 p.m.
Youth Worship	6:30 p.m.

Monday

Quilting Class	10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.
Handbell Choir	11:15 a.m.
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.
12 Step Program	8:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Discover Together Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Weekly Visitation	6:30 p.m.
Discover Together Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
ESL	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Prayer Service	6:30 p.m.
Youth Worship	6:30 p.m.
RAs and GAs	6:30 p.m.
12 Step Program	8:00 p.m.

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8:30 & 11:00 services are being broadcast live
on the church web-site: www.fbcnmb.com