First Baptist Church
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JANUARY 2014

RENEWING THE VISION – RESPONDING IN FAITH

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

How was your 2013? Full of ups and downs like most people is my guess. I was again reminded to give thanks in all things, because in so doing, I demonstrate my faith in the Lord and acknowledge that God is in control. That certainly does not mean that everything that happened was good or pleasing to us. For example:

- *The birth of our first grandson, Jase Alexander Cox, was certainly a high and it continues to be.*
- *A family vacation to the Smoky Mountains with both girls and their families and the whole family together again for Thanksgiving and Christmas were right at the top of the list of great things in our lives.*
- *My heart ablation in July and the continued struggle with the heart arrhythmia is frustrating.*
- *My mom's move to assisted living, although good for her, has been stressful on the whole family.*
- *Add to that, the ice storm and so many without electricity for Christmas week and the cancellation of services the Sunday before Christmas and you can readily see that we had plenty of distractions that the Evil One uses to keep us from experiencing the joy that God offers.*

That is what is so good about giving thanks. In that act we acknowledge that God is greater than our circumstances and that we can trust Him with the very issues of life. The lesson of giving thanks in all things was and continues to be an important one indeed.

What do you want in 2014? I simply want to be in the center of God's will for my life. I want to be surrounded by people who desire the same. I want to grow in my faith and as a disciple of Jesus. I want to lead a church seeking the same thing.

There will be plenty of opportunities for us to trust God in 2014. We do not know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future. Let's not forget that in the successes and struggles of each day.

My prayer is that each of us would make our spiritual lives a priority. That we would make participating in worship and discipleship groups a priority. That leading our families to follow Jesus would be a priority. If we do that then nothing the Evil One throws at us will derail our growth as a follower of Jesus.

I look forward to following Jesus with you in 2014 and asking God to do great thing in and through us as we seek to make a difference in Charlotte and around the world for the Savior.

Robin

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GET CONNECTED IN 2014

- **Butternut Children's Ministry**
- **Care Shawl Ministry**
- **Church Work Days**
- **Choirs: Adult, KidzChoir,**
- **Youth, and Youth Praise Band**
- **Ducks in a Row Camping**
- **Fellowship Suppers**
- **Fun In The Son**
- **Golf League**
- **Labor of Love Ministry**
- **Ladies' Bible Study**
- **Little Dresses for Africa**
- **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

A Great Way to Get Connected Is be a helper with

UPWARD SPORTS

Games are on Saturdays
January 18 – March 8.

AREAS TO HELP
- Concession workers
- halftime speakers
- restroom service
- room setup.

SIGN UP AT THE FBC WELCOME CENTER.

- **NAEIR**
- **Operation Christmas Child**
- **Small Group Bible Study**
- **Softball**
- **Tide Me Over Ministry**
- **Upward: Concessions, Setup/Clean up, Maintain Restrooms**
- **Vacation Bible School**
- **Volleyball**
- **Women's Home Fellowship**
- **Wrapped In Love Quilters**
- **Youth Mission Trip**

JANUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **Happy New Year**	2 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:45 PM Praise Team (date change)	3	4 9 AM—6 PM Upward Practice
5 **THE STORY:** *A King Makes Bad Choices: David/Bathsheba* **COMMUNION** **BAPTISM** 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM CE Hour 11 AM Worship 4 PM Youth Praise Band 6 PM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Youth 6 PM Kidzchoir	6 5 PM Upward 6:30 PM American Heritage Girls 7 PM Ladies Book Club	7 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 5:30 PM Upward 6:45 PM Praise Team	8 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 4:30 Youth Choir 5:30 Supper 6:30 Discipleland 6:30 Club 56 6:30 Youth 7-12 6:30 Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:30 Volleyball 7:40 Adult Choir	9 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Upward	10	11 9 AM—6 PM Upward Practice
12 **THE STORY:** *The King Who Had It All – Solomon* **BABY DEDICATION** 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Brunch Fare-well for Ryan Manning 11 AM Worship 4 PM Youth Praise Band 4 PM Stephen Ministry 6 PM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Youth 6 PM Kidzchoir	13 5 PM Upward 6:30 AHGirls Parent Panning at Evelyn Bay 7 PM Women's Home Fellowship at Paula Drake Game Night	14 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 5:30 PM Upward 6:45 PM Praise Team	15 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 4:30 Youth Choir 5:30 Supper 6:30 Discipleland 6:30 Club 56 6:30 Youth 7-12 6:30 Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:30 Volleyball 7:40 Adult Choir	16 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 6 PM Upward	17	18 8:30 AM Board Meeting 8 AM—5 PM Upward Games
19 **THE STORY:** *A Kingdom Torn in Two* 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM CE Hour 11 AM Worship 4 PM Youth Praise Band 6 PM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Youth 6 PM Kidzchoir	20 5 PM Upward 6:15 PM Mother's Day Out Meeting 6:30 PM American Heritage Girls	21 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 5:30 PM Upward 6:45 PM Praise Team	22 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 4:30 Youth Choir 5:30 Supper 6:30 Discipleland 6:30 Club 56 6:30 Youth 7-12 6:30 Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:30 Volleyball	23 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Upward	24 American Heritage Girls Father & Daughter Pizza Party Game Night	25 8 AM—5 PM Upward Games
26 **THE STORY:** *God's Messengers – Elijah, Baal, Elisha* 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM CE Hour 11 AM Worship 4 PM Youth Praise Band 4 PM Jamaica Meeting 6 PM Adult Bible Study 6 PM Youth 6 PM Kidzchoir	27 5 PM Upward	28 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 5:30 PM Upward 6:45 PM Praise Team	29 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 4:30 Youth Choir 5:30 Supper 6:30 Discipleland 6:30 Club 56 6:30 Youth 7-12 6:30 Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:30 Volleyball 7:40 Adult Choir	30 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 AM Mother's Day Out 6 PM Upward	31	