

THE TABLE

Keeping Carmel Connected



WELCOME

March 2016

Dear Carmel Family & Friends:

Spring arrives this month! Leaves will begin to fill trees. Small buds appearing on bushes will soon bloom. Grass gone dormant for the winter will soon return to green. All around us in nature are beautiful reminders of God's promise of life after death. But best of all this month, we get to celebrate with gratitude and joy the prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. The Resurrection, my friend, is good news.

Read this month's edition of *The Table* and take special note of these items:

We've Just Begun Cultivating!

The past two months of the Cultivate Challenge have refreshed our commitment to our mission to make disciples - and to pour into the next generation. Thank you for heeding the call to PRAY, DISCERN and COMMIT. I am excited about all He has done and will do through us when we live life with open hands! Would you **please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 13 at 4:00 p.m. for a Special Called Business Meeting** where the Elders will recommend the next steps for creating dedicated space for Student Ministry. Oh, and check out Page 4 for a look back at the Cultivate Challenge.



Mark your calendar for Wednesday, March 9!

The pastoral team has an awesome **family Night of Worship** planned focused on "The Greatest Commandment." Everyone is welcome. Oh, and on those 3 other Wednesdays this month (March 2, 16 and 23), sign up to get equipped at a **Recharge** class.

HOLY WEEK

Do you ever buy a novel for a good summer read and start on chapter 12? I hope not. We always start with chapter 1 because the story makes most sense when read from beginning to end and the story in its entirety. In light of that, we will be **telling the story and remembering Holy Week this year** from Palm Sunday on March 20 until Resurrection Sunday on March 27. We want to give the greatest story the world has ever known the full attention it deserves!

This is going to be a great month.

Love you Carmel!

Pastor Alex





NEAREST

HOLY WEEK



March 20th – 27th

Do you ever buy a novel for a good summer read and start on chapter 12? I hope not. We always start with chapter 1 because the story makes most sense when read from beginning to end and when read in it's entirety. In light of that, we will be telling the story and remembering Holy Week this year from Palm Sunday on March 20 until Resurrection Sunday on March 27. We want to give the greatest story the world has ever known the full attention it deserves!

Palm Sunday - March 20

Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, one week before His resurrection. Come by the Gathering Space between services to pick up an interactive Holy Week devotional kit for your family.

Good Friday Night of Worship - March 25

Come remember Christ's suffering and death through music, scripture, art and the Lord's Supper. Join us at 6:00pm in the Worship Center. Childcare will be provided for children birth - 5 years old.

Resurrection Celebration - March 26 & 27

Come celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Saturday or Sunday! Carmel will host four identical services:

Saturday, March 26 at 5:00pm

Sunday, March 27 at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am

NOTE: There will be no Discipleship Communities on Sunday, March 27. Preschool classes, birth to 5 years, will be provided for all services (Saturday and Sunday).

Wednesday Nights @ Carmel are a time for adults to Rest, Reconnect or Recharge!

Rest

Spend time with God in our designated "quiet spaces."

Recharge

Recharge classes consist of three (3) Wednesday-night sessions and are offered monthly through April.

Recharge Classes Offered:

Kids' Brains and Screens:

Learn the developmental impact of smartphones, video games and social media on children.

Go Across the Street (For Women):

Be equipped and encouraged to make the most of a neighborhood Bible study in your home.

Developing a Spending Plan:

Learn Biblical principles of spending and gain tools to live with open hands.

Finding Your Nearest Place to Serve:

Explore how to use your gifts, abilities and experiences as part of a Carmel ministry team.

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

Explore God's Word in the Book of Philipians. (ongoing study is open to all; no registration required)

Reconnect

Linger after dinner and catch up with old friends or make some new ones.

Visit carmelbaptist.org and click on EVENTS for detailed class descriptions and to register.

Class are offered monthly on these dates: March 2, 16 & 23 / April 13, 20 & 27

NOTE: Classes DO NOT meet on March 9 (Family Night of Worship) or April 6 (Pastor Alex's Monthly Prayer Gathering)



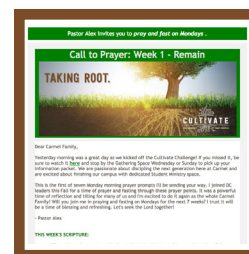
THANK YOU for praying,
discerning and committing.
We celebrate God's goodness -
what He has done and what
He is going to do!



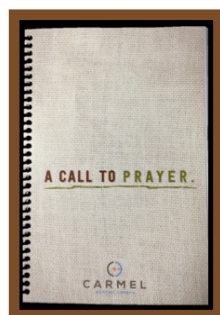
January 10 - The Cultivate
Challenge is launched.



The Gathering Space transformed.



7 weeks of unified
prayer



1,500 prayer journal/
Bible reading plans
were picked up from
the Gathering Space
so folks can invest in
the most important
conversation of
the day - way to go
Carmel!



We FILLED the Gratitude
Greenhouse with notecards
that celebrated the Kingdom
investment others have made
in our lives.



Cultivate stories shared - check out
more at carmelbaptist.org/cultivate



More than 80 people prayer
walked the Carmel Mile one
very chilly Saturday morning.



Students rally participation.



On COMMITment Sunday, 218
children from our Preschool and
Carmel Kidz Ministry brought
close to \$4,000 collectively.

Still DISCERNING? It's Not Too Late to COMMIT to Cultivate!

The entire Carmel Family is invited to be a part of investing in the next generation by COMMITting to help make the Student Discipleship Center a reality! COMMIT cards are available in the Gathering Space or commit online at carmelbaptist.org/cultivate. Even if you can't commit to a specific amount, but can commit to giving as you can over the next 3 years, let us know!

The Lord has and will continue to Cultivate!



NEAREST



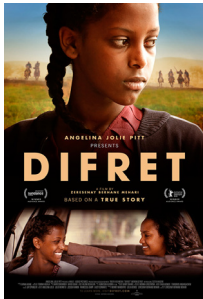
Family Night of Worship Returns! Wednesday, March 9

This evening of interactive worship and learning experiences is designed to remind all ages of "The Greatest Commandment" - loving God and loving people (Matthew 22:36-39).



Special Called Business Meeting - Sunday, March 13

Join the Elders on Sunday, March 13 at 4:00pm in the Worship Center to hear recommendations regarding the construction of a Student Discipleship Center.



Screening & Discussion - Thursday, March 17

Carmel's *Mosaic Ministry* will host a screening of the award-winning drama *DIFRET*, based on the inspirational true story of a young Ethiopian girl and a tenacious lawyer embroiled in a life-or-death clash between cultural traditions and their country's advancement of equal rights. Thursday, March 17 at 7:00pm in Uptown Auditorium. Open to the public. This film is NOT recommended for children under 9th Grade. Following the screening, Carmel's *Mosaic Ministry* and *For Freedom* teams will be on hand for discussion.

REMINDERS:

Nominations for Elders Due March 31: Please submit your nomination of 1-2 individuals to serve as part of the Elder Body by March 31. Paper ballots are available at the Welcome Desk or online on CarmelLeader.org. The Elder Body leads and shepherds the church body in all decision-making matters. A full description of responsibilities and qualifications are listed in the church bylaws which are available on CarmelLeader.org.

When is the Life In Christ Conference?! In lieu of a Life in Christ Conference to help us grow intentionally in our walk with Christ, this year we made a decision to focus our efforts on the **Cultivate Challenge**. Parent Summit will return this Fall and the Life in Christ Conference will return in 2017! Continue to grow in the Life in Christ essentials by participating in a Discipleship Community on Sunday mornings and one of our Wednesday Nights @ Carmel offerings.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Small Group for Those Who've Lost a Loved One: If you have lost someone you love, don't go through the grieving process alone. Carmel is offering a **GriefShare** small group Bible study on Wednesday evenings beginning March 2 at 6:15pm in Room A239. Join in any Wednesday. To learn more, contact David Dixon at davidd@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575.

Sr. Adults (55+) - It's Not Too Late to Enjoy Theatre and Brunch: Come enjoy Carmel Christian's Upper School production of *James and the Giant Peach* in the Uptown Auditorium followed by brunch in the Gathering Space on Thursday, March 10 at 9:00am. Cost is \$8.00 per person and seating is limited to 50. The deadline to register is Tuesday, March 1 (or when seating capacity is met). Contact Robin Davis at robind@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575.

James and the Giant Peach (March 10 - 12)

Enjoy this Carmel Christian School production AND a meal (catered by Mama Ricotta's)! This family-friendly musical is an immersive theatrical experience - if you're in the theater, you're in the show! Visit <http://carmelchristian.org/> to buy individuals tickets - or a whole table!

Women of Carmel: Plant a Bible study in your neighborhood! Sign up for the *Go Across the Street* Recharge class on Wednesday Nights! Details on Page 3.

Update Your Contact Info Online via Carmel Community: Is your contact information up-to-date? Don't forget to let us know if you move or get a new email address! Visit carmelbaptist.org and click on Carmel Community at the top of the page or under the Resources tab to update your contact information online.

NEW College-ish/Young Adult-ish Discipleship Community (9:30am/A107): Feeling too old for the college class but too young for Intersect? Seeking encouragement and equipping as you make your faith your own? This is your class! Join leaders Ed Woodall and Belinda Schrenker on Sundays at 9:30am!

NEAREST



Sunday Morning Overview

Lower Level Preschoolers:

God's Plan to Save the World

This month our youngest of preschoolers will begin to learn about the true meaning of God's sacrifice. We will spend the month focusing on the events leading up to Resurrection Sunday and end with the Good News of our Risen King!

This Month's Special Words:

We will praise King Jesus!

Bible Stories:

March 6 - The True King
March 13 - The Last Supper
March 20 - Jesus died on the Cross
March 27 - Jesus is Risen!

Threes - Kindergarteners:

Jesus' Last Week on Earth

Holy Week was a busy one for Jesus. On Friday, Jesus would be arrested, crucified, and buried. All hope seemed lost. But this is God's Story! In 1-2-3 days, Jesus came back to life! Best of all, He is still alive today!

This Month's Special Words:

We will praise King Jesus!

Bible Stories:

March 6 - The Widow's Mite
March 13 - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet
March 20 - Hosanna - It's Palm Sunday!
March 27 - Jesus is Alive - A Resurrection Celebration!

MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers) - March 1 & April 6

Enjoy a night of encouragement - along with crafts and games, fellowship and food, interesting conversations and challenging speakers. MOPS meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Uptown Auditorium. Free childcare is available with a reservation. Email MOPSatCarmel@gmail.com for more information. Upcoming speakers include:

Tuesday, March 1 - Dr. Alison Litttaufer will be teaching us about *Giving Your Kids Spiritual Vision*.

Tuesday, April 6 - Jay & Jody Hancock share their *Top 5 Tips for Parents of Preschoolers*.



Opportunities for Preschoolers this Summer

• June - Day Camps

Looking for a morning adventure for your child age 2 through Kindergarten? During the month of June, the WEE School offers 16 different themed morning camps. Each camp costs \$30. Pick up a camp brochure at the preschool desks or visit carmelbaptist.org, beginning March 15. Registration begins Sunday, April 3 in the preschool area.

• June 27 - 30 - Back to Bible Times Camp

Children 3 years through completed Kindergarten can enjoy 4 days of fun, fast-paced, hands-on learning about the life of Jesus. Amazing Journey Back to Bible Times (Carmel's one-of-a-kind take on Vacation Bible School) is June 27-30 from 9:00am - 12:00pm and offered at no cost to the Carmel Family and community. Online registration begins Thursday, April 7.

• June 27 - 30 - SERVE at Back to Bible Times

Adult and Student volunteers make this camp a success! To learn more about helping with this great week for preschoolers, contact Debbie Vanhoy at debbiev@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575. Volunteer training is Thursday, June 9 from 7:00 - 8:00pm. NOTE: Younger children (birth - two) may attend if the mom or dad is teaching in camp.

• July - Mother's Morning Out

Mother's Morning Out (MMO) is a summer WEE School experience designed for children ages birth through completed Kindergarten. MMO runs the month of July (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) from 9:30am - 1:00pm. This 3-day a week program runs for 5 weeks and costs \$375. Online registration begins March 30.



Preschoolers Experience Cultivate Challenge

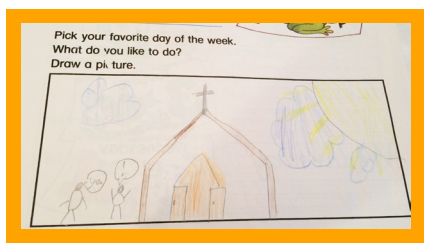
Preschoolers participating in Wednesday Night GROW learned that cultivate means to help something grow stronger. These Preschoolers have been collecting money in their green banks and cheerfully brought their first offerings on Sunday, February 21.





Camp Registration for 3rd - 6th Grade Opens March 3

Beginning Sunday, March 3, register your 3rd - 6th Grader for this summer's CarmelKidz Camp: *Covenant God*. This one-of-a-kind camp experience can help deepen your child's faith. *Covenant God* will be July 17 - 22 at Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, South Carolina. If you have not received an email about CarmelKidz Camp, please contact Janice Mumpower at janicem@carmelbaptist.org.



A 1st Grader brought this home from school!

Sunday Mornings:

1st Grade:	Get Ready for Easter
2nd Grade:	Show Me the Shepherd
3rd Grade:	Jesus' Last Days
4th Grade:	Armor of God
5th Grade:	The New Testaments (John the Baptist-Disciples)
Preteens:	A Closer Look at Jesus' Last Week
Special Needs:	Get Ready for Easter



68 Preteens and leaders learned how to make wise choice.

***Famjam (March 2) will focus on the Resurrection and Carmel
*Family Night of Worship
(March 9) will be all about
"The Greatest Commandment."
Do not miss these opportunities!**



Don't miss Famjam (March 2) and Carmel Family Worship (March 9)!



Famjam crew worked together to create Balloon Trees for the "Cultivate Challenge."

Key Dates:

Sundays, March 6, 13, 20, April 10
First Step Class (pre-registration required)

Wednesday, March 2: Famjam*

Wednesday, March 9: Family Worship*

Wednesdays, March 16, 23: Kidjam

Resurrection Sunday, March 27: No Discipleship Community

Wednesday, March 30: No Wednesday Night Activities

Wednesday Nights This Month: HOPE

Our Wednesday Nights focus this month is HOPE. We want our CarmelKidz to understand that God is in control, loves them and will carry them through the dark and difficult times. Hope is like a tiny LED light that penetrates darkness. The words of Jesus, His death and resurrection give us HOPE.

- Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.
- Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.
- Whatever happens, remember God is still at work.
- Whatever happens, remember God loves you.





Survivor - 8th Grade Retreat

The shift from middle school to high school is tough with all the pressure, stress, and demands! Friends, teachers, coaches and parents have expectations and difficult questions. Survivor 8th Grade Retreat helps prepare students for this transition through many challenges, worship, survival tips and time to hang out with friends. This event is designed to be part of the church celebration of the Purity for Life Milestone. **Dates are March 18-20.** Details and registration available at carmelstudents.org. **Deadline to register is March 9.**



MILESTONE 6

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Milestone 6 - High School Graduation Celebration

Each year, Carmel celebrates the Milestone of High School Graduation with an event intended to honor our graduates' accomplishments and launch them into the next phase of life. We want the culmination of Milestone 6 to be a special moment in the life of your family, and we are going to do some exciting things that weekend. **Make sure you save May 14 and 15 to celebrate with your student here at Carmel.**



Student FirstStep

Student FirstStep is an interactive, 4-week class for students in grades 7-12. The class is designed to prepare students for Baptism and Membership by equipping them to understand the what, how, and why of joining the body of Christ here at Carmel. We'll cover essentials of the gospel, baptism, telling our story, membership, the Lord's Supper, and Carmel's vision and mission. Completing this class is required for students wishing to be baptized, as well as a required part of the membership process for students.

We believe that parents bear the primary responsibility for training their children to be disciples of Christ. Student FirstStep is designed to equip parents to continue the conversations begun during class at home. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in Sessions 1 and 4, which will cover the essentials of Christian belief (Session 1) and the primary ways for students to connect at Carmel (Session 4).

FirstStep will be offered on the 4 consecutive Sundays in April (3, 10, 17, 24) during the 11:00am DC hour. To sign up for Student FirstStep, visit carmelstudents.org.

Key Dates:

March 6 - C2

March 13 - C2

March 18-20 - Survivor: 8th Grade Retreat

March 20 - C2 (Except 8th Grade)

ECamp 2016

All students, grades 7 - 12, will unite together for our summer camp experience at Crowder's Ridge July 11 - 15, 2016.

Crowder's Ridge is the perfect place for students to get out of their summer routines and have an adventure that will change their lives forever. From the first step through its gates, Crowder's Ridge is a fun and unique experience with a strong emphasis on relational and spiritual growth. From incredible nightly worship and teaching times, to exhilarating activities, including a lake with water slides, students will have the best week of their life!

Early camp registration will save you \$50!!!
Hurry and sign up today at carmelstudents.org!
Early camp registration ends March 23.





NEIGHBORS



Life - preborn and pregnancy

Joy - persons with special needs and their caregivers

Mosaic - adoption and care for orphans

Poverty - those without food, shelter or resources to escape poverty

Second Changes - those escaping addiction or transitioning out of prison



Carmel's *Mosaic Ministry* will host a screening of the award-winning drama DIFRET, based on the inspirational true story of a young Ethiopian girl and a tenacious lawyer embroiled in a life-or-death clash between cultural traditions and their country's advancement of equal rights. Check out all the details on Page 5.

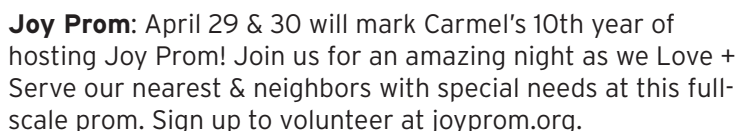


For specific ways you can pray, participate or engage in Voice for Life and For Freedom ministries, email conniec@carmelbaptist.org to be added to the distribution list for these monthly communication tools.



Join churches from all over Charlotte as local leaders and pastors in Justice ministries engage and equip us on topics like racial division, breakdown of family structure and education inequality. To learn more or to register, visit forcharlotte.org.

Love + Serve



Want new ideas for how you can engage your bible study, DC or family in service opportunities with Carmel's local partners? Visit on the Serve tab on Carmel's website or email angelas@carmelbaptist.org for more details

Is Short-Term Missions For You?

Short-term missions is one of the greatest and most life-changing experiences a believer can have in their walk with the Lord. Those who come back from serving on a mission trip have an expanded worldview, discovered gifts and callings they never knew they had, formed new relationships and friendships, and been used to strengthen and encourage both those who serve overseas as well as local believers. Read the following testimonies and be encouraged to take that step of faith. Allow the Lord to use you in ways you have never imagined and to show you things you never dreamed possible.



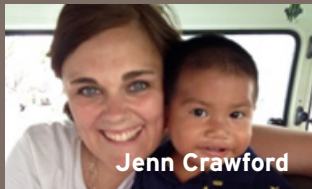
Kristi Buttles

"Short-term missions completely changed my life. **It has taken me to the end of myself**, and there I found a life in Jesus Christ I didn't think was possible. It is a life without fear and limits and a life now full of grace, freedom, and unconditional joy. **My only regret is that I waited so long to take a leap of faith and just go!**"



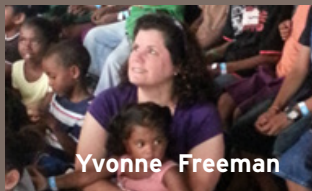
Suzanne Jewett

"Being a part of a short term missions trip gave me **a fresh glimpse into the body of Christ working together**. I forged friendships across cultural, racial, socio-economical, and language boundaries. **I watched my children grow spiritually and emotionally**, learning to love and serve and becoming better versions of themselves. Christ changes lives when you go where He sends you."



Jenn Crawford

"**Going on a short term mission trip will change you**. For me, my faith was tested and strengthened in Guyana. God allowed my path to cross a country/people group that my family will be forever connected to and with."

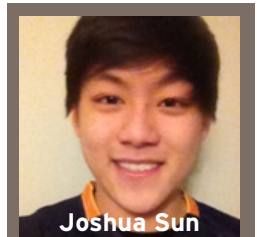


Yvonne Freeman

"When God called me on a short term mission trip to Guyana, **I felt like He was asking me to take hold of His hand and walk with Him into a strange country** where I would meet strange people, be exposed to a strange culture, eat strange food and be asked to share the gospel in really scary places! What I didn't anticipate was falling in love with these strangers or the **pure joy of experiencing God in a new way** as He allowed me to serve on a team that shared His love with prisoners and orphans. What a privilege to walk this journey of faith with my Lord! Can't wait to go back!"

"Saying that my mission trips to Cuba changed my life would be an understatement; Cuba, a nation that has absolutely nothing, taught me that the tangible items of the world are not needed to live a life of joy and fulfillment. Each time I have gone to Cuba, **I went with the mentality to bless them, but every time I returned, I came home blessed by their vibrant faith.**"

"Each time I've been to Guatemala, I forged bonds and friendships that remain with me today, both on the team and among the people of Comitancillo. **The thing that surprised me most, however, is how much of a great witness a mission trip is here at home**, that I gave of my time, talent and treasure to serve in the name of Jesus in a far-away place. **It creates so many easy opportunities to share Christ in a secular workplace.**"



Joshua Sun



Rick Johnston

Upcoming Mission Trips / Dates / Application Deadlines

Visit carmelbaptist.org, click on the SERVE tab and select Mission Tips under the Nations tab for additional information and to apply.

TRIP / DATE / DEADLINE
 Guatemala / June 11 - 18 / March 24
 Albania / June 17 - 25 / March 24
 Cuba / June 16 - 24 / March 1
 Ukraine / June 17 - 25 / March 24

TRIP / DATE / DEADLINE
 Mexico / June 18 - 25 / March 1
 Guyana / July 23 - 30 / March 1
 Guyana / July 30 - August 6 / March 1
 Kenya / June 16 - 27 / March 1

On the first Sunday of every month, we celebrate the ordinance of baptism.

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Romans 6:3-5 (ESV)



Want to learn more about the ordinance of Baptism?
Stop by the Next Step area on Sunday mornings to talk with one of our team members.

HOLY WEEK NUMBERS	2	PIECES THE TEMPLE CURTAIN TORE INTO WHEN JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED	1	HOURS OF DARKNESS IN THE LAND AFTER JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED	1 EMPTY TOMB ON THE 3RD DAY
	3	YEARS OF JESUS' MINISTRY ON EARTH	4	RESURRECTION SERVICES AT CARMEL	
				3	
	7 STATEMENTS RECORDED IN THE BIBLE THAT CHRIST SAID FROM THE CROSS				



Carmel Baptist Church
carmelbaptist.org
704.847.8575

Schools
weeschool.org
carmelchristian.org

Carmel Counseling Center
carmelcounselingcenter.org

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