





MAR. SUN, 27 Resurrection Weekend - Sunday Morning Worship Services 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00am	MON, 28	TUE, 29	WED, 30	<b>THU,31</b> Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (AM) Deadline for Elder nominations	APR. Fri, 1	SAT, 2
<b>SUN, 3</b> Elder Prayer Student First Step Class	MON, 4	TUE,5 Mothers of Preschoolers - MOPS	WED, 6 Monthly Wednesday Night Prayer Gathering with Pastor Alex FamJam	<b>THU, 7</b> Back to Bible Times Registration Opens Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (AM)	FRI, 8	SAT, 9 Justice Conference Charlotte
<b>SUN, 10</b> Student First Step Class "The Bridge" C2	MON, 11	TUE, 12	WED, 13 Wednesday Nights @ Carmel Recharge Classes	THU, 14 Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (AM) Monthly Luncheon	FRI, 15 6th Grade Boys Preteen Blessing Retreat	<b>SAT, 16</b> 6th Grade Boys Preteen Blessing Retreat
<b>SUN, 17</b> Student First Step Class "The Bridge" C2	MON, 18	<b>TUE, 19</b> Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (PM)	WED, 20 Wednesday Nights @ Carmel Recharge Classes	<b>THU, 21</b> Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (AM)	FRI, 22 6th Grade Girls Preteen Blessing Retreat	<b>SAT, 23</b> 6th Grade Girls Preteen Blessing Retreat
<b>SUN, 24</b> Student First Step Class "The Bridge" Joy Prom Training	MON, 25	TUE, 26	WED, 27 Wednesday Nights @ Carmel Recharge Classes Joy Prom Training	<b>THU, 28</b> Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (AM)	FRI, 29	SAT, 30
MAY SUN, 1 Elder Prayer Baptism "The Bridge" C2	MON, 2	in learning r The class cc on <b>April 10</b> (	WED, 4 mel? "The Bridge" is fo " is a Sunday morning nore about the church nsists of six sessions t at 11:00am in room A2 Bridge" at the NextSte	class for those who a , the Bible, and how to aught by Pastor Jay I 243. Come as you are	o get more connected Hancock, and a new se and join in any Sunda	at Carmel. eries begins



#### April 2016

Dear Carmel Family & Friends:

My bride has a milestone birthday this month - and to celebrate, I surprised her with an early birthday gift - a trip to New York City. We had a fantastic time. As I look at the April calendar for the Carmel Family two things I experienced on that trip come to mind. First, every city has 2 stories. And second, it is good to dress up and celebrate.

This month, I challenge you to learn Charlotte's OTHER story and to get dressed up and celebrate. Join me at these **two BIG events** at Carmel:

#### Justice Conference Charlotte - Saturday, April 9

A recent Harvard study of the 50 largest cities in the United States revealed Charlotte ranks FIRST with the most significant divide in the areas of race, quality of education, poverty and economic opportunity, level of social capital, and broken families. Give up a few hours on Saturday, April 9 to learn about the real needs and injustice plaguing Charlotte and God's heart for the church to meet those needs. Fellow believers from throughout our region will gather at Carmel for equipping, encouragement and connection. See Page 9 for details.

#### Joy Prom - Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30

This month we **celebrate 10** years of our full-scale prom for special needs friends and their caregivers. What started in 2007 as a one night event with 100 guests has grown to a 2-night event that fills up within minutes of registration opening and is left with hundreds on a waitlist. Get dressed up, SERVE at Joy Prom and celebrate how God has continued to build this community event. Check out the Joy Prom feature on Page 5, event details on the back page and sign up to SERVE at joyprom.org.

I also want to take this opportunity to **thank God for the great work He has done and continues to do - through the Cultivate Challenge**. Through the generosity of so many and His provision, we'll be breaking ground later next month on the Student Discipleship Center and Carmel Christian School Gym. I can't think of a better way to usher in the next 50 years of ministry here at Carmel than to make this type of investment in the next generation.

Love you Carmel!

Pastor Alex









# Sundays @ Carmel

Pastor Alex continues his study of the book of Matthew this month.

- April 3 Love God. Love People. (Matthew 22:34-40)
- April 10 Integrity (Matthew 23)
- April 17 Signs of the End Times (Matthew 24:1-14)
- April 23 *Tribulation and 2nd Coming* (Matthew 24:15-31)
- If you miss a Sunday, don't forget you can watch sermons online

- located under the Media tab on our website.







### NEW Sunday Morning Parking Designations

In efforts to provide safety, hospitality and convenience, please note the NEW Sunday morning designations: Parents of Preschool Children in the **Orange lot**, Guests ONLY in the lower **Green lot**, Handicap and Special Permit ONLY in the **Green lot** closest to the building, and all Church Leaders at Elizabeth Lane. All other areas are general parking.



#### Next Step Path

Our Next Step ministry helps connect people to Christ. If you want to talk with someone about trusting Christ for salvation, baptism, or membership, please stop by the Next Step area outside of the Worship Center on Sunday morning. Information is also available on the church website.



#### New to Carmel? "The Bridge" is for you.

"The Bridge" is a Sunday morning class for those who are new to Carmel and are interested in learning more about the church, the Bible, and how to get more connected at Carmel. Check out details on page 1.

# **Adult Ministry Updates**

#### NEW! Young Adult Discipleship Community (9:30am/A107)

Feeling too old for the college class but to<mark>o young for Intersect? Seeking encouragement and eq</mark>uipping as you make your faith your own? This is your class! Join leaders Ed Woodall and Belinda Schrenker on Sundays at 9:30am!

#### NEW! Parents with Younger Children Discipleship Community (11:00am/A100)

This groups welcomes parents with younger children into a mentoring, encouraging community.

#### NEW! Single Parents Connection - Sunday, May 1

We are hosting a gathering for single parents in the Uptown Auditorium on Sunday, May 1 at 11:00am. This will be a time of encouragement and sharing of ideas for future ministry with single parents. Join us!

## Can you SERVE June 27 - 30?

Parents, students, grandparents, empty nesters - Join Carmel's Preschool and CarmelKidz ministries in creating and carrying out a biblical environment that is sure to provoke discovery of our Amazing Jesus. To learn more about serving during this week, contact the ministry leads below for the age group you wish to serve:

#### Preschoolers

(3 year olds - Kindergarten) - Debbie Vanhoy (debbiev@carmelbaptist.org) **CarmelKidz** 

(1st & 2nd Graders) - Sean Lee (seanl@carmelbaptist.org) NOTE: Younger children (birth - two) may attend if the mom or dad are serving.

# Looking Ahead:

# Wednesday Nights in May:

#### May 4

Prayer Gathering with Pastor Alex May 11

Local Missions Presentation by the Carmel GO Team

#### May 18

Quarterly Church Business Meeting May 25

Begin Summer Schedule (Dinner/Wed Night Bible Study)

# Wednesday Nights @ Carmel





Classes consist of three (3) Wednesday-night sessions.

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#### April is your LAST CHANCE to sign up for a Recharge class!

This month's classes are held April 13, 20 & 27. Visit carmelbaptist.org and click on EVENTS for detailed class descriptions and to register.

# 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 Philippians. (ongoing study is open to all; no registration required)

# **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE!**

We're Building a Student Discipleship Center!

On March 20 the Carmel Family voted to move forward with construction of the Student Discipleship Center and Carmel Christian Upper School Gym.

Construction efforts will begin later this month and we'll begin using this new space in August 2017 (we'll keep you updated on the progress through Enews, The Table and our social media).

We overflow with thankfulness and praise at His provision through the open-handed generosity that is making it possible to complete our Birth - 12th Grade discipleship space.

Stay tuned for Cultivate updates!



# SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

# Senior Adult (55+) Events

#### Monthly Luncheons - 2nd Thursday of the Month Thursday, April 14 @ 11:30am - Loft

Come hear from the younger generation at Carmel and enjoy entertainment by WEE Schoolers and the CCS *Voices of Praise* Choir. Cost is \$5 per person. Deadline to register is April 7.

#### Thursday, May 12 @ 11:30am - Loft

Come for fellowship and lunch followed by visits to some of Carmel's home-bound members. Cost is \$5 per person. Deadline to register is May 5. If you are not able to go with us on the visit after lunch, please note that when registering.

#### Day Trip

#### Flat Rock to see The Music Man - Thursday, June 23

Enjoy this long awaited, highly requested musical featuring such Broadway standards as *Till There Was You* and *76 Trombones*. The bus will depart Carmel at 8:30am and return around 9:30pm. Lunch and dinner stops will be provided, but not included in the cost of \$50 per person. Deadline to register is May 26. Register early - space is limited!

To register for these Senior Adult Ministry opportunities, either register online or contact Robin Davis at robind@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575







Joy Prom Over the Years! 2007: 125 guests 2008: 324 guests; Grand Staircase 2009: 402 guests 2010: 410 guests 2011: 748 guests; Went to 2 nights; 5 year anniversary; 1800 volunteers 2012: 756 guests 2013: 768 guests 2014: 772 guests 2015: 816 guests; guest registration was full within 6 minutes of going live

2016: Registration opens April 1st.

Turn to back page to see how you can SERVE at Joy Prom 2016!







## Did you know?

- The concept for Joy Prom came from an event hosted by Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh.
- Joy Prom began as a Student Ministry event.
- Online registration for Joy Prom began in 2010.
- Our "furthest" guest over the 10 years traveled from Canada!
- Approximately 1-3 percent of the global population is considered Special Needs as many as 200 million people.

"When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:12-14

# Sunday Morning Overview

#### Lower Level Preschoolers:

This month our youngest preschoolers will learn about Jesus' final days on earth before He ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us. They will hear that one day He will return for us and what a glorious day that will be!

#### **Threes - Kindergarteners:**

After Jesus's death and resurrection, He was on the earth for 40 more days before going back to Heaven. This month, preschoolers will learn about some of the things Jesus did during that time.



#### **Bible Stories:**

Thomas Sees Jesus
Breakfast on the Beach
Jesus Returns to Heaven
A Lame Man Walks

#### **Bible Stories:**

April 3Jesus Appears to ManyApril 10Feed My Sheep: Jesus Teaches PeterApril 17Go and Tell: The Great CommissionApril 17Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes

# This Month's Special Words: Go and tell the world Jesus is alive!



#### Milestone 1 - Parent/Child Dedication - May 15

Milestone 1 is a time when mom and dad acknowledge they are their child's primary faith trainers and commit to be intentional about the child's faith training. If you desire to participate in our Parent Child Dedication service scheduled for Sunday, May 15, contact Cindi Baker at cindib@carmelbaptist.org. or 704.847.8575.

#### MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers) - April 6 & May 3

Mores

Carmel's MOPs is a ministry led by moms for moms with children ages 0 to 5. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Uptown Auditorium. Join us this month or next before we break for summer! Free childcare is available with a reservation. If you would like more information, please email MOPSatCarmel@gmail.com.

April 5 - Jay and Jody Hancock share their *Top 5 Parenting Tips for Parents of Preschoolers* May 3 - Hands-on canvas painting instruction with Camille Jones

## Summer Opportunities for Preschoolers

- June Day Camps Morning fun for children age 2 through Kindergarten. Camp brochure available at the Preschool and online. Registration begins Sunday, April 3 in the Preschool area.
- June 27 30 Back to Bible Times Camp Hands-on learning about Jesus for children age 3 years through completed Kindergarten (9:00am 12:00pm). Online registration begins Thursday, April 7.
- July Mother's Morning Out A summer WEE School experience for children ages Birth through completed Kindergarten. This Tuesday - Thursday (9:30am - 1:00pm) program runs 5 weeks and costs \$375. Online registration begins March 30.

#### What is the WEE School?

WEE School is a half-day preschool experience for a child 6 weeks through TK. WEE stand for Weekday Early Education. This ministry of Carmel Baptist meets the needs of both church families and the community. Hundreds of unchurched families have come to know the Lord and even joined Carmel as a result of their children being in WEE School.





Limited spots remain for the 2016-2017 school year. Inquire at the Preschool desk.



# Just two months before school is out. Kids are tired and parents are tired.

## Everyone needs a good dose of Perseverance this month!

Parenting is like a long marathon where runners need to show perseverance. Being followers of Christ, we often have to show perseverance in our faith. In fact, Jesus showed perseverance through the worst: rejection, violence, heartache, and even death itself - all to rescue us. That is why the author of Hebrews told us to "fix our eyes on Jesus." So parents, run the race set before you, fixing your eyes on Jesus. We are in this together with God's help.

## **Sunday Mornings:**

1st Grade:	Sermon on the Mount
2nd Grade:	Show Me the Shepherd
3rd Grade:	The Transformation and Power You See When You Follow Jesus
4th Grade:	The Armor of God
5th Grade:	The New Testaments (Jesus' ministry, death & resurrection)
Preteens:	Unlocking Your Spiritual Gifts
Special Needs:	The Sermon on the Mount

# Sign Up for Summer Discipleship Experiences!

#### 1st & 2nd Graders: Register NOW for Amazing Journey Back to Bible Times June 27 - 30 (9:00am - 12:00pm)

Amazing Journey Back to Bible Times is 4 days of hands-on learning and experiences created just for those who have completed 1st and 2nd Grade. This unique DISCIPLESHIP experience is designed to help young grade schoolers develop a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. Participants will SEE Bible time places, TASTE the food, LEARN Bible time trades & dances, HEAR amazing stories of people who met Jesus, and much more. Register online beginning April 7.

#### Can you SERVE at Amazing Journey?

Parents, students, grandparents, and empty nesters - why don't you join in creating and carrying out a biblical environment that is sure to provoke discovery of our amazing Jesus. Contact seanl@carmelbaptist.org if you want to invest your time being a leader or character.



# Wednesday Nights: Hangin' Tough

This month, we will spend time in the book of Hebrews. CarmelKidz will DISCOVER more about what the Bible says about perseverance and a "don't give up" attitude. Persevere in your faith and trust God no matter what. If you believe in what God can do and what God can do in you, you can persevere!

they will

run and not

grow weary.

200

not be faint

They will soar on wings

like eagles;

#### Carmelkidz 4th Grade telling the story of God's unstoppable love that took Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb.



#### **Key Dates:**

Wednesday, April 6: Famjam (Hangin' Tough)
Wednesdays, April 13, 20, 27: Kidjam
April 15 - 17: Boys Preteen Blessing Retreat
April 22 - 24: Girls Preteen Blessing Retreat
Register for the May First Step class
April is the last month to take advantage of

the Wednesday Nights @ Carmel Recharge adult classes. Check out all the details @ carmelbaptist.org.





ACKSON PARK



# **Charlotte Mission Trip**

When most people consider going on a mission trip they instantly think about leaving their own city and going somewhere else. However, **there is much work to be done** right here in our own city. All 7th and 8th Grade students are invited to be a part of our Charlotte Mission trip June 19-24, 2016.

We will join together with one of Carmel's "Least of These" Ministry Partners, Jackson Park Ministries, where we will both serve and stay throughout the week. Students will work with Jackson Park Ministries to share Christ through their summer camp program.

We need a lot of hands and feet to make this mission trip as successful as possible. If you or your middle schooler is interested, please head to carmelstudents.org for all the details.



# Survivor - 8th Grade Retreat



This past month 52 students participated in the

Survivor: 8th Grade Retreat. This retreat equipped students to thrive in the transition from middle school to high school. Students had a great time participating in challenges, worship, learning and hanging out with friends. This event is designed to be part of the church celebration of the Purity for Life Milestone.



# Milestone 4 - Purity for Life

Has your 8th-12th Grade student made a commitment for Purity for Life in the past year? We will recognize and pray blessing for students that have made a commitment on Sunday, April 10. Please let us know of your students' commitment by registering at carmelstudents.org



#### Key Dates:

April 6 - Fuel Worship

April 10 - C2

April 10 - Mexico & Kenya Mission Trip Training

April 13 - Fuel Worship

April 17 - C2

April 20 - Fuel Worship

# 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! Camp registration ends April 30! Hurry and sign up today at carmelstudents.org.

# NEIGHBORS

We celebrate and invite you to join what God is doing through Carmel to Love + Serve our Neighbors.





In 2014, Harvard University and UC Berkeley released a nation-wide Upward Mobility Study of the 50 largest cities in America asking the question: What are the chances of a child succeeding in life, independently of family status and where they grow up? What they found is that **Charlotte ranked dead last, 50 out of 50 in America in upward mobility**. When you break down the key components of the study, it reveals deep systemic injustice plaguing our city.

The study showed that Charlotte is deeply divided by race, quality of education, poverty and economic opportunity, level of social capital, and broken families. These "Stubborn Facts of Charlotte" sent shockwaves across our community, forcing city leaders and government agencies scrambling to ask how we can change Charlotte's last place status.

**So why does this upward mobility study matter to the church?** As the Church of Jesus Christ, we have a Biblical mandate to seek the full peace and prosperity of our city, and to fight injustice wherever it may be. We are the only institution set apart by Christ to be the agent's redemption and reconciliation that our city needs. The Justice Conference Charlotte exists for you to learn about the real needs and injustice plaguing Charlotte and God's heart for the church to meet those needs. This conference provides a table where you can connect to real relationships with those already engaging these needs.

Come to the Justice Conference Charlotte on April 9, 2016 to learn how "The Church" in our city can engage these injustices together. Hear from leading local voices in our city speak into the church's response to injustice, as well as the key ministries in our city engaging these injustices.

**What:** Justice Conference - Charlotte, sponsored by the For Charlotte Mission Network

Where: Right here - at Carmel!

When: Saturday, April 9, 2016, 9:00am- 3:00pmCost: \$25 (includes breakfast, lunch and conference materials)

To learn more and to register visit www.justiceconferencecharlotte.org.



# How can you 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.









# Want to learn more about what Carmel is doing to make disciples of the Nations? Visit the SERVE/NATIONS page on **carmelbaptist.org.**



**300k** Russians in South Florida and only **1** small church



### Important Meeting Dates for Carmel Mission Teams Sunday, April 10:

Kenya Mission Team Training Meeting 1 @ 12:15pm (U215/216)

Mexico Mission Team Training Meeting 1 @ 12:15pm

(Fitness Room)

Albania, Guatemala &

**Ukraine Teams** 

Group Orientation @ 2:00pm (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, April 13:

Cuba Mission Team Group Orientation @ 7:00pm (D169)

# The Goncharov Ministry - Reaching Slavs in South Florida

Carmel missionaries, Konstantin and Angela Goncharov, have been ministering to Russian speaking people in Charlotte through missional communities (small groups) and outreach events. Recently, God opened a door for them to a new mission field in South Florida to help reach the Russian speaking population in that area. After meeting with the leaders of the Florida Baptist Convention the Goncharovs learned the Russian speaking population (between 200,000 and 300,000) is the most unreached group in the Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Even more daunting - there is only one Slavic church of about 50 people for all of **South Florida.** God has already equipped the Goncharovs for this challenge. Their training and experience has been in reaching the un-churched through relational methods of evangelism and they have experience in starting a new church in Ukraine. The Goncharovs will partner with Family Church in West Palm Beach. Family Church is committed to reaching their city through church planting, and they have the infrastructure in place to support the Goncharovs in reaching Russian-Ukrainian speaking people. The Goncharovs vision and passion for evangelism fits perfectly in the Family Church strategy and with the task of reaching the lost in this largely un-churched region of our country. The strategy is simple: personal evangelism, missional communities (small groups) and church planting in all cities and big towns.

As the Goncharovs begin to make plans to move to South Florida and begin this new ministry, please pray for their spiritual and physical strength, for the power of the Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of people to receive the gospel and for temporary housing for the next several months as they look for a permanent place to live.

### Alicia (Robbins) Kramer - Carmel Missionary serving in East Texas at the International Operations Center (IOC) with Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships operates hospital ships that deliver free, world-class healthcare services in developing nations. More than 1,500 crew members from around the world serve annually to fill Mercy Ships' mission of bringing God's hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor. As Director of Staff Development for Mercy Ships, **Alicia leads a team that facilitates the training of staff and crew working both on land and onboard with Mercy Ships**. Much of what she does is overseeing curriculum development at two locations, teaching, exhortation, and discipleship. Please pray for Alicia and her husband, Jeff. You can write to Alicia at alicia. kramer@mercyships.org. To learn more about Mercy Ships visit mercyships.org.



# The Aguri in India

With a population of 465,000, only 0.13% of the Aguri profess to be Christians. The Aguri have a spiritual hunger and come by the hundreds to watch the Jesus movie which teams from the Joshua Project have shown. Their basic needs are education, medical facilities and water wells. Pray that many more Aguri families may come to know Jesus Christ. Pray that schools are opened so education will reach the poor. Pray for access to clean water and a good harvest. To learn how you can be involved in praying for unreached people groups on a daily basis, visit Carmel's website, click on "Serve," and then on "Unreached People Groups."

# SERVE

Joy Prom cannot happen without LOTS of volunteers over 1,500 volunteers each night. Can you SERVE as a Host, Hostess or Server? Visit joyprom.org to sign up.

## **Volunteer Training Dates:**

April 24: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm April 27: 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm

(volunteers - new and returning - must attend one training session)

# DONATE

- Glitz & Glamour Room: Donate new or gently used costume jewelry - the sparklier the better! Simply drop it in the Joy Prom Basket at the Main Welcome desk!
- Caregiver Hospitality Suite: To serve the hundreds of people that flood the Caregiver Suite, we need 70 trays of food each night. Sign up to provide a food tray at carmelbaptist.org - visit EVENTS section of website.

# PRAY FOR JOY PROM

Father.

We know every person is created in your image, fearfully and wonderfully made.

May each guest feel cherished, loved and treasured. May each caregiver feel renewed and encouraged. May both nights be filled with love and laughter. May a sweet memory be etched in every heart. May our hands be Your hands, our words be Your words. May we honor and serve the least of these with great JOY! Amen



APRIL 29&30

> For details on how you can SERVE and DONATE visit joyprom.org.





# **Carmel Baptist Church**

carmelbaptist.org 704.847.8575

Schools weeschool.org carmelchristian.org **Carmel Counseling Center** carmelcounselingcenter.org



