

April 2017

Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland



He is not here:
he is risen!
Matthew 28:6

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THE THREE JESUS

The Gospel of Thomas is an early Christian non-canonical gospel that many scholars believe provides insight into the oral gospel traditions which was discovered near Nag Hammadi, Egypt in December 1945. It is among a group of books known as the Nag Hammadi library, which was written in the Coptic language containing 114 sayings of Jesus. Almost half of its sayings are recorded within the Canonical Gospels. The others sayings resemble a more Gnostic tradition which wrestled in understanding the identity of Jesus as both flesh and spirit. Among those sayings is this statement:

Jesus said, "I took my stand in the midst of the world, and in flesh I appeared to them. I found them all drunk, and I did not find any of them thirsty. My soul ached for the children of humanity, because they are blind in their hearts and do not see, for they came into the world empty, and they also seek to depart from the world empty."

There is a powerful truth to these words. In fact, as we approach Easter, we still wrestle with the person and nature of Jesus. From my perspective as a minister, I see that there are three identities or manifestations of Jesus in our world. Not everyone perceived Jesus the same way and not everyone relates to Jesus in the same manner. Even the most ardent followers of Christ struggle between these three manifestations of the person of Jesus as they attempt to grasp the true identity of Jesus the Christ, Son of the living God.

The first identity of Jesus is the most universal in scope. Let us call him, "Classical Jesus." Over these past two thousand years, the person of Jesus has been open to a wide range of interpretations across the history of countless kingdoms and a wide range of civilizations as the historic founder of a movement. Herein, Jesus becomes the subject of history, religion, and the center of discussions regarding theology and philosophy.

Classical Jesus is the person of archeology, sociology, and ethics through words and images that are found in icons, parchments and stained glass windows. He's the remnant and residue of Christian morals, values, and the legacy of past generations of those who once embraced His teaching. The crumbling cathedrals of Europe, the ancient libraries of the Vatican are examples

Pastor's Page

"Driven to encourage and support people in their search for deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

Rev. Dr. Gregg Franklin Burriss, Senior Pastor

of the man and movement which served as a catalysis of transition from the Roman Empire to the Holy Roman Empire, the Crusades, the Renaissance and the Reformation. This is the Jesus of world religion, Wikipedia and National Geographic.

Classical Jesus is the subject of great debate and interest from an objective point of view. He can be analyzed, dissected, and put together in various forms in much the same way that a person, a century removed from an epic battle, reviews the movements of the armies to gain a certain level of objectivity but loses the emotional attachments which propelled each to battle.

Classical Jesus is how a large part of our world looks to Jesus today as they drive past our churches and cathedrals. Scholars reflect on the impact of Christianity on earlier generations and the development of Western civilization. Classical Jesus rummages through the residue of prior generations without their passion looking to find anything of value.

Our second Jesus is "Cultural Jesus." This Jesus is part of our contemporary world. He is visualized with a robe and beard wearing sandals. A Saturday Night Live sketch shows actor Will Ferrell walking around in a white robe with brown long hair being 'cool Jesus.' He can be reduced to the baby in a manger at Christmas time, (sweet and non-threatening) or he can be found in the iconic Jesus as seen in the ninety foot statue of Christ the Redeemer by French sculptor Paul Landowski overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His outstretched arms creates a cross while embracing the city below. Cultural Jesus is embraceable. His love, humanity and approachability make Jesus a friend, buddy and person to call when you get into a really bad place in your life. Bruno Mars hit "24 Karat" includes a quick phrase "blame it on Jesus" Hashtag #blessed—to offer a quick shout out to Jesus. Cultural Jesus can be taken or left—when ever it is convenient. He's Easter and Christmas. He's forgiving and good. He non-judgmental and nonthreatening.

Herein, Jesus becomes a mirror's reflection of ourselves and what we conceive God to be. In other words, Jesus conforms to our image. Cultural Jesus does not reflect the power and significance of his death nor the ramifications of the resurrection. He lives in the background and is not a driving part of people's lives. People may wear a cross around their neck or recite the Lord's Prayer, but the value is limited to a piece of jewelry or self-medicating words rather than symbols of power and authority.

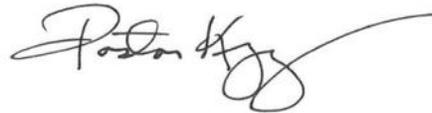
Then there is "Communal Jesus." At the last supper, Jesus held up the bread and said, "This is my body, broken for you. Eat, in remembrance of me" and the cup saying, "This is my blood. Drink, in remembrance of me."

Communal Jesus requires a relationship. It is the call to Peter to follow and the request for each of us to hunger and thirst for Jesus. This Jesus demands something from us. He requires faith and commitment. Communal Jesus expects us to be agents of social change and examples of genuine compassion.

The other forms of Jesus are objective. Communal Jesus requires us to look deep within ourselves, our place in this world, and to wrestle with the implications of following His teachings in our world.

This Easter, my prayer is that we might experience the Communal Jesus. The story of His death is relevant as our death in Him. The story of His resurrection reveals God's power to raised us from the stench of death and opened our minds, hearts and body to renewal. We look into His eyes and see the heart of God. We feel the touch by His Spirit and we know Him. We drink and eat of Him and are filled and are satisfied. We forgive and embrace ourselves and others because He calls us to live a life of humility and forgiveness. The other forms of Jesus are just imagines and reflections of the reality of the Communal Jesus. The genuine follower of Jesus becomes one with God allowing this knowledge to incorporate our daily life and human experience. In this, others begin to see a fourth Jesus—one who is living in us.

Sincerely,



Beautiful Music Planned for FBC Holy Week



PALM SUNDAY ~ April 9, 9 and 11 am

The Contemporary Service will include the praise songs, *Prepare Ye the Way*, *Hosanna Praise is Rising* and the new song *My Victory*. The Traditional Service will include the Chancel Choir anthem *Ride on King Jesus* with Lauren Wright as soloist and a special Palm Sunday processional on *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*.

MAUDNY THURSDAY SERVICE ~ April 13, 7:30 pm

Our communion service will include the *Story of the Passion* in Contemporary word and song. The praise Team will sing new contemporary songs including Lauren Hill's *Father Forgive Them*, Brad Paisley's *New Again* and Crowder's *My Victory*.

EASTER SUNDAY ~ April 16, 9 and 11 am

The Contemporary Service will include *Forever*, a new song, *Arise*, lead by Jae Williams, and *Arise My Love* with the entire Praise Team, band and organ.

The Traditional Service will include the festive anthem, *Easter Hymn* from the Italian Opera, *Cavallaria Rusticana* by Mascagni with Angel Zawada as soloist.

The HandBell Choir will play *Easter Bells* and service will open with the two piano setting of *The Bells* by Williams Byrd and conclude with the traditional organ *Toccata* by Widor.

Monday Night at the Movies!

Robert Shaw: Man of Many Voices

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

7 PM Monday, April 10, 2017

Pre-Film Concert by the Shaker Heights High School

A Cappella Choir, Mario Clopton-Zymler, Director

This feature length documentary takes an in depth look at Robert Shaw as one of the world's most beloved classical music icons, from his serendipitous introduction in the world of music, through to the many challenges and remarkable successes in his 60 year career. The film traces the journey of a small town California boy who planned to be a minister like his father, but instead became the greatest conductor of choral music the world has ever known.



At the heart of the film is the mystery of Shaw's genius. With no formal musical training, he achieved a stunning early success in popular music and later became legendary for his interpretations of classical music's great choral masterpieces. From Director of Chorus of the Cleveland Orchestra in the 60's, Shaw went on to become Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony and Chorus where he changed the course of musical history through the many voices he set on fire with an enduring love of music.

Come join what has become a Heights area tradition, **Monday Night at the Movies!**

The film is FREE and open to the public! **POPCORN WILL BE AVAILABLE!**

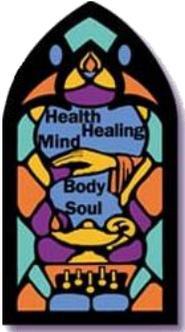


Please consider joining FBC and The Children's Center in the 29th annual Run/Walk for Hunger. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 13, 2017. There will be entertainment by Rock the House, Cleveland Mascots and more.

The Run/Walk for Hunger steps off at 9:30 am and is a competitive 5k run and non-competitive 5K walk through Downtown ending back at the Great Lakes Science Center with music, refreshments and entertainment for the entire family. It's a one-of-a-kind day in Cleveland with treasured memories created every year.

All money raised goes towards feeding the hungry in Cleveland. You can meet us beforehand at the church and carpool or at the Great Lakes Science Center prior to the walk. Donations are also accepted. Please visit www.hungernetwork.org and search for our team "First Baptist Church and Children's Center".

For questions, please contact Wendy Chaney at 216.906.7861 or via email at wendychaney@yahoo.com.



by Nurse Debbie

Nutrition Basics: Reading the Label

| Amount Per Serving | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Calories 100 | Calories from Fat 30 |
| %Daily Value* | |
| Total Fat 3.5g | 5% |
| Saturated Fat 0g | 1% |
| Trans Fat 0g | |
| Cholesterol 0mg | 0% |
| Sodium 290mg | 12% |
| Total Carbohydrate 18g | 6% |
| Dietary Fiber 6g | 25% |
| Sugars 2g | |
| Protein 4g | |

In these days of hurry up, stressed out and just plain have no time convenience foods, have dominated the dinner tables of millions of families. Ironically, and perhaps even frightening to us all, is the nutritional information that is available. Some you can find on the company's website for burgers, pizza, chicken etc...you probably will not believe the contents.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Paul tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, which we have received from God. He also says that we do not own ourselves; we were bought at a price. Therefore, it is vital that we nourish our bodies with the best dietary plan that we are able to create. In order to accomplish this monumental task, we should start by learning to read nutritional labels on food products. We must make the best choices that we are able to make. Knowing how to read a nutritional label gives us the opportunity to make good choices.

The first thing that we should look for is a minimal amount of ingredients in the food item. Choose foods that have 5 ingredients or less; ones that are fresh, organic and have minimal additives. The items that we don't want to see listed include partially hydrogenated oils, high fructose corn syrup (now called corn sugar), added preservatives, artificial colorings (food dyes) and artificial flavorings. Other important information on the label include serving size, fats, sugar, fiber, cholesterol and calories.

Foods should be high in fiber and low in the other components. There can be more than one serving in a package. Make sure that one serving will go along with your meal plan. The nutrition list shows the information for only one serving but there may be more than one serving in a package. Look for items that are low in calories (40 or less), moderate calories (100 or less). Avoid high calorie foods (100-400 calories or more).

Saturated and Trans fats are associated with heart disease, as is cholesterol. Cholesterol is found in foods of animal origin. Sodium is notable for raising blood pressure and causing water retention. You may see sodium depicted as several types, but the word sodium is the key word to look for and avoid in your food choices. Sodium free foods can contain up to 5 grams of sodium. Very low sodium contains 35 grams or less and low sodium has up to 140 grams of sodium. Many sugars end with the letters "ose" (glucose, fructose, dextrose and sucrose). Other sources are honey, corn syrup and cane juice. Look for offerings with low sugar levels, this includes natural sugars and added sugar. If the ingredient list does not list any added sugars, then the sugar content is natural product sugars.

Percentage (%) daily values of nutrients are calculated on a 2000 calorie diet (and some at 2500 calories) which is considered an average daily adult calorie intake. Low nutrient percentage is 5 or less; high percentage is 20 or more. Any number below 5 and above 20 are not considered healthy selections... look for higher amounts of fiber and lower amounts of fat, sugar and sodium.

Learning to read and understand nutritional labels can be daunting in the beginning, but will soon become second nature as we bring our food consumption into manageable perimeters. We will also honor God by caring well for His temple. Good luck and good health!!

Heroes Headquarters



On the Road to the Cross is FBC's Easter Project. We are building a life size Cross and Bridge made from Lego's. Because we are a Christian environment designed with our children and youth in mind, who better to introduce the Life of Christ and the road to the cross to our children and youth than First Baptist Church.

Since there are several components to our FBC's Easter project, we need your help:

- ◆ Lego Donations
- ◆ Words of Wisdom: "One Word" and a short explanation (at least a sentence) and/or scripture regarding your word of wisdom.
- ◆ Join Us Saturday, April 1, 1 pm—5 pm for "The Master Lego Building Party" , Wheaton Center
- ◆ Join us for our Road to the Cross Special Family Bible Study Lesson on the "Life of Christ" on April 5 in Morrison Room 6:30 pm— 7:30 pm

Heroes Monthly Bible Reading

"You can't grow in your Christian life if you keep the Bible closed all week long. No one lives on one meal a week, therefore, First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland continues to spiritually feed our children"

**Heroes Headquarters base its April curriculum on the following Scriptural references.
We encourage ALL families to be active participants in learning.**

Heroes Headquarters' Monthly Challenge:

During the month of April, Thank God everyday for loving you and allowing you to be apart of His Big Love story for the world.

April 2

- ⇒ Jesus is Arrested: Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-18
- ⇒ Peter Denies Jesus: Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-62, John 18:15-27
- ⇒ Jesus is Tried, Mocked and Beaten: Matthew 27:11-31, Mark 14:53-15:20, Luke 22:63
- ⇒ Jesus Died on the Cross: Matthew 27:32-50, Mark 15:21-40, Luke 23:26-43

April 9

- ⇒ Jesus Opened the Way to God the Father: Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38
- ⇒ Jesus Was Buried: Matthew 27:57-61, John 19:38-42, Luke 23:50-56, Mark 15:42-47
- ⇒ Jesus is Alive!! Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-9

April 16—Easter, 10:15 am

- ⇒ East Egg Hunt

Youth Page

ignite

We are presenting a Talent Show for Middle School and High School Students in the surrounding areas.

Auditions are Saturday, **April 22**, 3pm -7pm in the Spahr Center (There is no fee to audition).

Talent Show will be held on **Friday, May 19**

Youth will need to bring the following to auditions: all props, accompaniment for music; sheet music, instruments, etc., necessary for your act. A Youth may perform ONE solo act and be part of ONE group performance for no more than a total of two acts.

RULES FOR ENTERING TALENT SHOW: NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THESE RULES!

- ⇒ Acts will be allotted to no more than **FIVE (5) MINUTES** to perform.
- ⇒ Acts will be **PENALIZED** if time is exceeded.
- ⇒ **NO** profanity or vulgar lyrics in any vocal performance or dance music. (This is a family show)
- ⇒ Attire Must be respectful and at a tasteful level.
- ⇒ **NO** alcohol, tobacco, or drug advertisements are to be shown on any clothing.
- ⇒ A Sound Technician and microphone (s) will be provided. Acts **MUST** provide their own recorded music, instruments, props, etc., if needed. Recorded music **MUST** be on a CD or USB flash drive in an acceptable format (i.e. MP3 or WAV file).

Rules are subject to change at the sole discretion of First Baptist Church Youth Department

For more info call 216 932 7480 ext. 24 or jwilliams@firstbaptistcleveland.org

Ms. Naskia Starks, Project Chairperson; Jae Williams, Youth Director



Camille Fielding on her Mission Trip to Europe

Congratulations to our Youth



Evon Gocan, who attends University School, Shaker Campus, shaved his head for St. Baldrick's

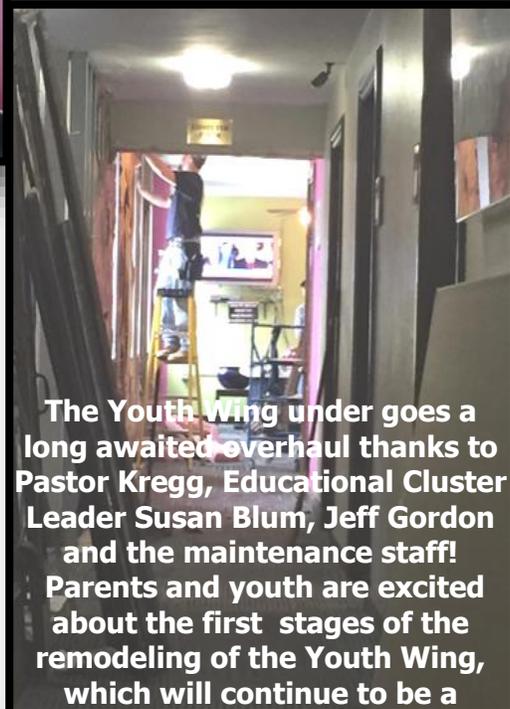


Rachel Blum for her Certificate of Achievement, Outstanding Attorney; 2017 Ohio Mock Trial State Competition



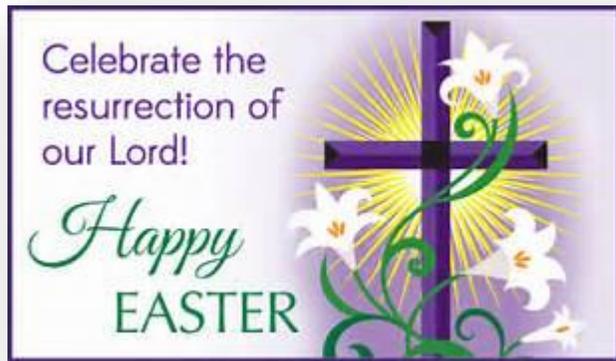
Tara Capers scoring a #1 with her Trombone presentation

The Youth Wing Gets a Facelift



The Youth Wing under goes a long awaited overhaul thanks to Pastor Kregg, Educational Cluster Leader Susan Blum, Jeff Gordon and the maintenance staff! Parents and youth are excited about the first stages of the remodeling of the Youth Wing, which will continue to be a safe space for you to be, to learn and to serve.





A Look Inside FBC

Good Friday Services

Rev. Dr. Gregg F. Burris will be preaching at the Mt. Sinai Ministries Friday, April 14 starting at noon. He will preach from the Seven Final Words of Christ. His message is from the third phrase of the last words of Christ, "Woman, Behold your son."

Dr. Mary Jo Odom Dull will be preaching at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Friday, April 14 starting at noon and is preaching from the Seven Final Words of Christ. Her message is the fourth phrase of the last words of Christ, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"

24 Hour Prayer Vigil

The Church will hold a Prayer Vigil following the Maundy Thursday service 7:30 pm and continuing in the Fireside Room until Good Friday 8:00 pm. This corresponds to the request of Jesus to come and pray with Him in the garden of Gethsemane before He was betrayed and taken away to be crucified. Come and join us as we pray through the night and prepare our hearts for Easter. There will be a sign up sheet/board available near the church office.

Baptismal Service

We have a request for baptism on Easter. If you would like to join in our baptismal service, please see Pastor Gregg. Baptism is a personal, outward expression of our inward living faith. Easter has long held an important time for individuals to experience baptism in that it symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ in our lives. *"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4.* You may request either the first or second service. Once a request is made, a pastor of the church will meet with you and shares our faith regarding baptism, this can be done in a single meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 216.882.8555 or at kfburris@gmail.com. You may also call the church office with any questions or concerns at 216.932.7480.

The Daniel Plan Update

We had a great kick off to the Daniel Plan with approximately seventy individuals signing up and attending our kick off meal and presentation on Ash Wednesday, March 1, to start our season of Lent. For many following the program, there has been a 'giving up' of dairy, breads, caffeine and processed foods. There are several groups which have been meeting throughout the weeks and going through the video, workbook and classroom discussions. Most everyone has experience improvements in the way they feel and weight loss. The program will conclude with a return of the Cleveland Clinic biometric reading team on Saturday, April 22, 8—11am, Fireside room and Spahr Center. Keep up the good work.

Pastoral Visits and Hospital Calls

If you are in the hospital or are homebound and you would like to have a pastoral visit and/or communion, please contact the church office. Pastor Gregg enjoys home and hospital visits as part of his ministry to provide quality pastoral care for the members and friends here at First Baptist Church. If you request a visit, just make a call, text or email pastor Gregg to let him know where you will be and when you will be going. If you are in the ER, you may text him at 216.882.8555; include your name in your text.



If you or someone you know is going through a challenging time in life and could use someone to talk to, FBC has Stephen Ministers that may be able to assist you.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential Christian program named after St. Stephen designed for us to help one another.

Please contact Pastor Gregg or Mari Schroeder-Jenkins through the church office at 216.932.7480 or the church website for more details.



Join us Easter Sunday: 9 & 11 am
Stay for Refreshments and Fellowship
during our coffee hour

April Birthdays

- 2nd Marla Evans
- 4th Virginia Alt
- 7th Shaina Brewer
- 8th James Brightup
- 8th James Shelley
- 9th Barbara Baus
- 11th John Negus
- 12th Ashley Dyer
- 13th Sarah Gray Murphy
- 13th Lavinia Raffoul
- 13th Phyllis Ruppert
- 15th Leslie Brown
- 17th Lindsey Evans
- 17th Robert Schneider
- 17th Sarah True
- 19th Algo Stanard
- 20th Julie Stern
- 22nd Francina Cardwell
- 23rd Lissy Gulick
- 24th Gwen Dyer
- 26th Jennifer Bopple
- 27th Joan Parajon
- 27th Laura Parajon
- 29th James Knauf
- 30th Vincent Tillman

Happy Birthday!



Tower Tidings

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Dated Material: April 3, 2017
Thanks for prompt delivery!

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-  **First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland**
-  **First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland**

2017 FBC Lay Leadership

Moderator: Victor Bull

Vice Moderator: Kim Kidd-Collins

Treasurer: Ralph Hise

Clerk: Lynne Liu

Children's Center: Martha Lant

Communication & Outreach: Angela Fielding
*Greeters, Welcome Center, Marketing,
Communications*

Discipleship: Suzanne Blum
*Discipleship Classes, Children's Ministry,
Youth Ministry, Covenant Groups*

Fellowship and Nurture: Tina DeBlaey-Cicco
*Stephen Ministry, Deacons,
New Member Orientation*

Stewardship: Tony Peebles
*Property and Finance, Stewardship
Campaign, Endowment and Audit*

Missions & Social Concerns: Jessica Chapman-
Martinez

Worship and Fine Arts: G. Michael Skerritt

Serving in Ministry

Rev. Dr. Gregg F. Burris, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeff Gordon, Associate Pastor/Church Administrator

Dr. Robert Schneider, Director of Music and Organist

Betty Meyers, Associate Director of Music

Dr. Mary Jo Odom-Dull, Director of Christian Education

Minister Jae Williams, Director of Youth Ministries

Jeff Chaney, Director of Children's Ministries

Jane Pernicone, Director of Children's Center

Star Knuckles, Executive Assistant/Office Administrator

Margo Jerome, Accountant

Greg Beckner, Graphic Designer

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Editors: Star Knuckles, Gregg Burris

Thank You! to the many volunteers who help assemble the Tower Tidings mailing each month!

Next Tower Tidings Deadline: APRIL 15

The next issue will be mailed: April 27, 2017

Please submit articles or news via e-mail to Star Knuckles:

sknuckles@firstbaptistcleveland.org

