

February 2011

IN THE KNOW

The Newsletter
of the Student
Ministry of First
Baptist Church of
Asheville

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Did you
know that in
Malawi, 70% of the
population live with
a perpetual food
shortage?

WATERING MALAWI: BY MATT PRICE

Here's a challenge: how much water do you use in a day? What if you had to walk a mile to get it, and it wasn't even guaranteed clean water? Watering Malawi seeks to provide sustainable, clean water for villages.

For the second straight year, our youth group is working towards raising money and awareness for the nonprofit, Watering Malawi. Watering Malawi is an organization that provides water for thousands of Malawians who, otherwise, would have incredibly limited access to the necessary water that sustains their lives.

We've set a goal of \$500 which would provide a fish farm for a village within the country. The fish farm provides not only food, but a source of income, a rarity in a country facing enormous economic problems, especially for those outside of the major cities. January 23 we kicked off our first fundraising endeavor and will be selling water droplets and fish cutouts for \$1 each.

We would love to be able to fill up the fourth floor with water droplets and fish and achieve our goal of purchasing a fish farm! We hope that through your continued support and commitment to this cause that we can make a true difference in the lives of people who lack access to even the most basic of human needs.

For more information on Watering Malawi, including photos of villages that the charity has provided access to clean water, other projects undertaken by the organization, or other ways to help, please visit their website at www.wateringmalawi.org or speak to a member of the Watering Malawi group.



Clean Water For All!

Here's an example of a conduit flowing into a Malawian village, giving its people access to clean water!

Keep visiting our church website at www.fbca.net so you can keep up on the latest events in all of First Baptist's ministries.

THE BIG GAME



Save the Date for CBFNC General Assembly!

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina is hosting a mission experience here in Asheville, NC during the CBFNC General Assembly on March 25th through 27th.

The Big GAME (which stands for General Assembly Mission Event) will be an opportunity for you to serve our neighbors, experience Bible study and worship, and enjoy fellowship with students from all over North Carolina. You will have the opportunity to work with homeless people, do construction, or work with WNC's Slavic population.

The cost of this weekend event will be **\$35 due March 1**. This cost includes a t-shirt, meals on Saturday and Sunday morning, and ministry costs. Be on the lookout for more details very soon, including a schedule and housing information.

Clark's Corner

Last Sunday in Youth Choir we warmed up with the refrain from Taio Cruz's "Dynamite":

*I throw my hands up in the air sometimes
Saying AYO! Gotta let go!
I wanna celebrate and live my life
Saying AYO! Baby, let's go!*

I like the energy of those words and the "abandon" and celebration of life they illicit. To me, it is the same sense of joy in living that sacred music should create. Whether we are singing a gospel song or a Latin motet, I hope our Youth Choir will always let our entire spirits sing with a holy "AYO!" We have great opportunities in the months ahead to do just that:

Youth Choir Get-A-Way, February 4-6
Concert with Wingate Chorale, February 20
Youth Sunday, March 20
Easter Sunday, April 24
Eastertide Worship, May 15
Chicago Mission Tour, June 13-19

See you in church,
Clark

**Are
you ready for
the Chicago trip?
Information about
payment due dates
are coming
ASAP!**



Winter 2011 Calendar

February 2010

3: Youth Council Meeting; 9:00 am, Youth Assembly Area

4-5: Youth Choir Getaway; Gatlinburg, TN

6: Stupendous Superbowl Spectacular; 6:15 pm, Youth Assembly Area

13: Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet; See below for times/information

18-19: State Handbell Festival; Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC

20: Parent Education Forum; "Sex and Relationships", 4:30 pm, Youth Assembly Area

20: Wingate University Choir here

27: Watering Malawi fundraiser ends

March 2011

4-5: Youth Council Leadership Retreat

6: Watering Malawi celebration (during Koinonia)

9: Ash Wednesday

13: Parent Education Forum; "Being Present with your Adolescent", 4:30 pm, Youth Assembly Area

20: Youth Sunday

25-27: The Big GAME; See page 2 for information

April 2011

10: Parent Education Forum; "School and Academic Pressure", 4:30 pm, Youth Assembly Area

9: Seder Meal

22: Youth-Led Tenebrae Service; 6:30 pm

28-30: Asheville First

SENIOR ADULT VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Don't forget we need all students to help serve at the Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet! The event will run from 6:00 until 8:00 pm on Monday, February 14th. Sign up in the Youth Assembly Area.

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP!

- The entire month of February our Watering Malawi group will be collecting money to help build a fishpond in Malawi. Fishponds provide food and money for locals. Our goal is \$500!
- Are you ready for some football?! February 6, instead of our regular Koinonia, we'll eat yummy food and fellowship while we watch the Superbowl. Meet in the Youth Assembly Area for the 6:30 kickoff and bring a snack to share.

Have you made it to an FBCA Youth League Basketball game yet?

Come support our team on Thursdays and Saturdays as they participate in the annual church league!

STRENGTH AND STRENGTHS

By Jenny Lee

Last year, I worked through a devotion book by Scot McKnight that focuses on "The Jesus Creed" found in Mark 12:29-31 (NASV):

Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

I started thinking as I was reading those verses that it would be a lot easier

to love if Jesus had said that we ought to love God with all of our **strengths**.

Wouldn't it be great if Jesus had just asked us to love God with all the things that we're good at? You know, just use your talents for God. That's it; much easier than this whole "Love the Lord your God with all your strength" business. That sounds like work. However, that is what God commands. We are to give every ounce of power in our muscles, in our brains, in our souls to God. Yikes.

Loving God with all of our **strength** means loving God through our **weaknesses**. Loving God, using everything that makes us who we are,



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whether we like it or not. Nothing less than everything is acceptable.

Grace & Peace,
Jenny

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