

Thrive



“... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

Welcome to the first edition of “Thrive.” While this may look like a newsletter at first glance, we assure you that this is not a newsletter. This is a celebration.

First Baptist Roswell is more than just a body of people. We do more than just go through the motions. We are striving to make a difference and have an impact in everything we do. The activities and ministries that we have at this church are more than just events and commitments that fill up the spaces on our calendars. They are meaningful AND impactful. They make a difference here at First Baptist Roswell as well as beyond our walls.

We invite you to join us every other month as we celebrate the amazing things God has allowed us to be a part of as a church. God made us to “have life, and have it to the full.” We believe that taking this time to reflect on the life of our church not only serves as a reminder to us that we are a part of something much greater than the activities we participate in, but also provides us with inspiration as we move forward. Our hope is that we will be inspired to take advantage of every gift God has bestowed upon us, and by doing so, we will continue to grow in the spirit of the Lord. After all, we were intended to *Thrive*.

Beyond Our Walls

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). On February 10, 2018, First Baptist Roswell was blessed. Over three hundred forty people came together to give of themselves for our second annual Beyond Our Walls day of service. Despite the rain and the early start time, everyone showed up prepared to work and willing to give all they had to offer. Within a three-hour timespan, we completed over one thousand hours of service, enjoyed fellowship, and, most importantly, shared God’s grace.

From singing at nursing homes to repairing the steps on a woman’s porch, the acts of service were as varied as the people performing them. A day designed to include everyone and anyone with a heart to help, Beyond Our Walls included activities at over thirty locations across Roswell, all with differing skills required. Just as God creates each of us with different talents and gifts, he provides each of us with different opportunities to help. Our church is blessed with a congregation filled not only with beautiful, talented people, but also with a desire to share God’s love and grace in any and every way we can.

The outcomes of each of the six areas of service would be inspiring on their own, but together they are truly remarkable. Wreaths were made for Drake House residents. A retaining wall was rebuilt. Bingo and crafts were enjoyed by children and nursing home residents. Trees were trimmed, and leaves were raked. Food was provided for first responders. Buildings were painted, and songs were sung. All this and more, done for the glory of the Lord.

God has given us so much as a church family, and together we were blessed to be able to give even just a small portion of that to others. What an amazing way to not only experience God’s grace, but also to share it.

Courage for Life

On February 20th, FBR hosted over fifty women for an evening of fun, empowerment and pampering. The night was spent celebrating women, and women from both FBR and the Roswell community were in attendance. During the event, participants were treated to dinner, participated in a raffle, viewed a spring fashion show, received a door prize, and took part in a “lipstick profile” quiz. To round out the event, Ann White, founder of the Courage for Life Ministry, spoke on living courageously through God’s grace. This evening proved to be an incredible night of fellowship and inspiration for all who attended.

Young Musicians' Trip

Every spring, the Young Musicians Choir embarks on a trip to share God's love through song. The destination is different year to year, but the joy this experience brings never changes. This year, twenty-five 4th-7th graders headed to Winston-Salem, NC. Along the way they stopped at Cascade-Verdae Retirement Center in Greenville, NC. There, they put on a forty-five minute concert including special performances by individual children. Once they reached Winston-Salem, they were joined by children from United Baptist Church for Bible Study. On Sunday morning, they served as the service choir for United Baptist Church. Making this even more special, United Baptist is led by Pastor Will Watson, a FBR Young Musicians alumnus. During the service, the choir sang four numbers, and the Ensemble, a group of ten girls within the YM Choir, sang an additional two songs. Not only did these children take on a service attitude with a smile and a joyful heart, but they also created lasting memories with their peers. One mother commented that she couldn't get her girls to stop talking about the trip. The YM trip has always been proof that serving God and serving others can be meaningful, powerful, and lots of fun.

Hope for Grieving Children

Everyone deals with grief differently, and we often need a helping hand to guide us through this process. Dr. Doyle Hamilton and his volunteers with Hope for Grieving Children work to help children and their families express their grief and begin the healing process after the loss of a loved one. In its twentieth year, this program currently has nine families, consisting of fourteen children ages 3-15 and twelve adults, in attendance each week. Along with the help of four volunteers, Cheryl Bradley leads the children's program where art and play are utilized to help the children express their grief, while Dr. Hamilton facilitates the adult group. The program is open to anyone regardless of their ability to pay, and currently all of the participants are from other congregations and synagogues. What a beautiful example of FBR reaching out into the community with a helping hand and an open heart filled with God's loving grace.

March Mission Madness

Each year, March Mission Madness proves to be a great opportunity for our youth to serve and worship alongside other youth from around the state. This year, thirty-four young people and six adults from FBR traveled to Rome where they joined nearly two hundred youth from churches across the state. Over the course of the weekend, they worked alongside their peers to serve the community of Rome. Service projects included working at community kitchens, cleaning up a river site, working at the Davies men's shelter, organizing bags of food at the Bagwell Food Pantry, volunteering at a foster care facility, and working at several area schools. The attitude of service our youth exhibited is inspiring and hopeful, and we are incredibly proud as a church family to call these service-minded individuals our own.

S.A.L.T.

The S.A.L.T. life is the good life. Our Senior Adults have been busy since the beginning of the year. In January, a group of nineteen senior adults cruised the Caribbean for a week. Upon their return, the S.A.L.T. ministry hosted their quarterly luncheon, where the program focused on shopping for spiritual gifts in life like faith. In February, the S.A.L.T. group went to the High Museum and lunched at Mary Mac's. Most recently, twenty-nine individuals traveled down to Colquitt, GA for the weekend. While there, they attended a performance of "Swamp Gravy," a folk play. It is probably safe to say that these folks have much fuller social calendars than most of us!

Daddy/Daughter Dance

On February 3, 2018, the Brantley-Seymour Building hosted arguably the sweetest event of the year, our annual Daddy/Daughter Dance. This year we had over forty families in attendance. While many of the Daddy/Daughter duos attend our church, we also had several from our preschool as well as the Roswell community. The fun wasn't limited to just Daddy/Daughter duos. One little girl brought her granddad so that she didn't have to share her dad with her sister. Other daughters decided to ditch their dads for ones with better moves. One dad was so popular, he actually managed to dance with three girls at once! With ten trophies on the line during the dance off, the stakes were high, but the spirit was oh-so fun and sweet. The Daddy/Daughter Dance continues to be one of our families' favorites here at FBR. We're sure some of our pairs are already practicing for next year!