

the first word

Love God ♦ Love people ♦ Serve others



first baptist **duluth**

2908 Highway 120, Duluth, GA 30096

September 8, 2011

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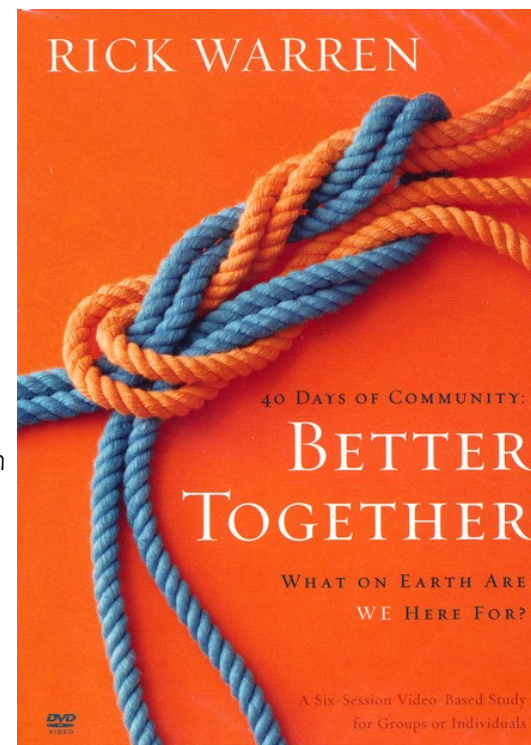
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Better Together

Several years ago all of the adult Sunday School classes had a great experience as we studied Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. That book answered the question – "What am I here for?" This fall, we are offering the next 40 day emphasis, *Better Together*. That small group study answers the question – "What are we here for?"

From the beginning, God planned for us to fulfill his purposes in community with other people, in our church family, in small groups and the world as a whole. He did this because we're "better together".

Better Together begins with the Pastor's sermon on September 18. The small groups will begin after that. Please see the chart below for the small groups. If your Sunday School class is not participating, you may sign up for the small group of your choice on the Bridge Foyer. Books are not required but are helpful. They will be available in the Library or the website. Study Guides are \$7.00 and Devotional Journals are \$8.00.



Schedule of Events

- August–Women's Weekly Book Club
Unlocked by Karen Kingsbury
- August–Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study
Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby
- August–Wednesday Evening Ladies Bible Study
Ruth by Kelly Minter
- October 22–Ladies Breakfast & Mission Action Day
- January 27–Ladies Movies Night
- February 17 & 18–Women's Conference at First Baptist Atlanta, Speaker: Kathy Troccoli
- April 27-29–Ladies Retreat, Callaway Gardens
Speaker: Ann Graham Lotz

See church publications for more detailed information as the dates draw near or see Jennifer Harrison or Grace Woodard.

Open Budget Meeting

In accordance with the church financial policies, members of the Stewardship Finance Committee will be available in the Conference Room today from 2:00 - 4:00 pm to receive input from church members in regards to the 2012 Church Budget. This allows you the opportunity to discuss with committee members your perspectives as they work to formulate the 2012 budget. Over the next several weeks, the committee will be working with the various ministry groups to prepare next year's budget for presentation in October.

Wednesdays for Kidz

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. Luke 2:52 (HCSB)



SURGE is our mid-week ministry for kids through fifth grade. It is a time for children to increase in knowledge and faith through music and various creative arts; as well as, learn about other countries and cultures and people who work and live there.

SURGE began on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 and runs through Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM

For child safety purposes we require a completed **2011-2012 Ministry Participation Form** on each child who attends our programs for kids. You can get a paper form at any of the welcome desks OR you may submit the form online at www.duluthbaptist.org.

ETC Schedule

We are working on a new ETC schedule. ETC is a time when our children under Kindergarten age are cared for during church time. It will be one week, every other month or just six times a year! If you would like to help, even if you can't commit to six times a year, please contact Leigh Waller via email at Lifebrite@duluthbaptist.org or (770) 402-4361, by **September 13th**. We need loving people to help our children grow in the Lord and your time will be rewarded with smiles and hugs!

Youth Fall Retreat

The FBCD Student Ministry went on our annual Fall Retreat over Labor Day Weekend. We had over 80 students and adults participate in the Fall Retreat. The weekend was led by a guest preacher, Brian Burgess, and guest worship leaders, Exodus. Brian Burgess preached on our theme for the weekend, "Free to Serve", based out of Galatians 5:13. God used Brian's sermons and worship through Exodus in some great ways. There were seven students that committed their lives to Christ during the weekend! Praise God! The Fall Retreat was a great time to be able to connect with God and others. We are looking forward to a great year in the FBCD Student Ministry and are excited to see how God continues to work in our youth. Thank you so much for your prayers for our adults and students!

Sr. Adult Activities

September 15th & 16th

AARP Driver Safety Classes at FBCD – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The cost for AARP members with card is \$12 and the cost for non-members is \$14. The classes are open to ages 18 and up. Upon completion of the class, most insurance companies offer a discount on your automobile insurance for the next 3 years.

Thursday, September 22

Senior Adult Association Rally at FBC Lilburn at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is \$5.

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Triple L Gathering-The program will be led by Sarah Borek from Wellspring Living.

For more information and/or to sign up for these activities, see the Senior Adult Bulletin Boards in the hall by room 210 and in the hall by room 229.

Office Hours

We will be staffing the front desk with volunteers throughout the week. In order to accommodate their schedules, we will be changing the open office hours. We will be open on Monday through Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and will be closed during lunch from 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call Susie Butler in the church office.



\$45,724.83 received through 9/4



Dr. Hearn, the staff, and church family extend congratulations to Preston and Jessica Humphries in the birth of their daughter, Makayla, on August 21.

Bible Study Attendance

	8/21	8/28
Members present	495	521
New members	2	0
Guests	16	14
Nursing Home	13	11
Total present	526	546

Financial Report

Received 8/21 and 8/28
Budget receipts \$72,018.43

Current Building Debt
\$259,574.81

Soccer Season Off to a Great Start



The Recreational Committee would like to thank the membership of First Baptist Church Duluth for the support it has received as it began the fall soccer season this year. The season is off to a successful start and the committee would like to share the following items of praise:

- Each of the 10 soccer teams are being coached by at least one First Baptist Church Duluth member. This allows our church to better touch the lives of the kids and parents that are coming to play.
- There are 79 kids that are 4 through 8 year old playing in the soccer league this fall.
- Each week, all 79 kids are participating in a Bible Based devotion.
- At this time 4 families that we are aware of have joined our Wednesday night activities as a result of the soccer outreach.
- Many families that need a church home are coming to our campus every week allowing us to reach out and welcome them.

Please continue to pray that God will allow our church to reach out to families through recreation to ultimately bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



September 4, 2011



Sharon Clemons joins by statement.

Singles' Ministry Mission Trip Report

Amanda Humphrey shares about a recent Singles' Ministry Mission Trip to assist the Special Family Retreat organized by Developmental Disabilities Ministries. -

Near the entrance to the Dining Hall, a message board read "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:29". It was a verse especially fitting for one group of people settling in for the weekend at Epworth by the Sea Christian Conference & Retreat Center on St. Simons Island.

The Special Family Retreat was designed to provide a much needed vacation to special needs children, their siblings and their parents. The majority of these families rarely – if ever – have the opportunity to "get away". In addition to the regular childhood activities, their days are filled with extra challenges, i.e. getting wheelchairs in and out of cars, doctor appointments, behavioral therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, meetings at school for educational plans, surgeries, hospitalizations, etc. Coming together at the Retreat, these families were able to really experience the message brought in Matthew 11:29.

In the mornings and afternoons, parents dropped off their children with volunteers who included four members of First Baptist Duluth's Singles group. The children's days were occupied with arts and crafts, Bible stories, songs and recreation in a Vacation Bible School-themed setting. I couldn't help but think of God's grace as I watched the children play. Surrounded by kids with similar disabilities, they didn't have to worry about being "different." They didn't have to be embarrassed of their limitations. Through the Bible stories, they learned that God sees and loves everyone the same, and that everyone – no matter their circumstances – has a special role in His plan.

While the children were under the care of volunteers, their parents assembled in another building. In their sessions, they discussed a variety of issues they faced with their children with special needs. They shared stories and resources, and listened to special speakers. Being with the children all the time, I didn't get to experience these sessions for myself. It was evident, however, how beneficial this time was for the parents. In the short period from Thursday night through Sunday morning, I could see a change in the parents. They laughed, and they cried. At the last minute, they were still exchanging phone numbers and email addresses. God has blessed and entrusted these parents with great responsibilities in their children, and He used their time away to restore and revive their faith in He who strengthens and loves with unwavering support.

In one of the last moments of the Retreat, the children were given "medals". These weren't fancy medals as they were simply white ribbons with buttons attached. The button simply read, "Jesus Loves Me". As they were presented, each child was told how special they are and reminded that Jesus loves them. One teenaged boy looked down at the medal hanging around his neck and, with great sincerity, told the presenter, "I will never forget this day." And that is exactly what I hope for all of those families – that they never forget their experiences from the retreat and above all, the message of God's steadfast love, acceptance and support.

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