

# AFTERSHOCK...

Living the Life  
After the  
Decision is  
Made!

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First Quarter, 2012

NEWSLETTER FOR THE YOUTH & PARENTS  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DUNN, NC

WELCOME to

Aftershock... Living the  
Life After the Decision  
is Made !.

## A BRAND NEW YEAR..

When I began reflecting about all of the things our Youth Group accomplished during 2011, I remember a movie we watched, "Letters from God". The movie was a true story about an eight year old boy who went from an easy going, soccer playing child, to the darkest journey anyone could ever face when one simple word entered his world: Cancer. In the process of his battle with the deadly disease, he had to quit his beloved sport, lose his hair and eyebrows and face a daily battle with a reality that could crush the spirit of anyone. But, he had an unshakeable relationship with God... a childlike faith that turned his pain and discouragement into a community transformation. That's why the letters he writes to God are not about the "why" or even about him. He writes to God about other people and their problems, and in turn becomes a living letter to God to everyone around him.

Have you ever wanted to write a letter to God? Most of us probably have a list of "why's" that are a mile long..questions we want to ask God... Why did someone that we love have to die?... Why did I make a bad grade on a project I worked really hard on? ... Why did you make me this way? Why are my parents so strict? Why are things turning out like this? Why, Why Why??

These are all valid questions and also ones that God doesn't get upset with us when we ask. Life is sometimes, just plain and simply, crappy! It is human nature to point our finger at the sky and blame the One in charge... right? I can't honestly say whether or not I would have had the faith that this little boy had when facing a giant like cancer, but one thing I do have in common with him is that I, too, am a living letter from God to the people who are around me. Sometimes, I write pretty good letters and other times, I just can't seem to find the right words. If you have a relationship with God, the same is true about you. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink

But with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on the tablets of stone, but on human hearts." (2 Corinthians 2: 2-3). This truth formed the foundation of this young boy's outlook on life. He wrote letters to God on behalf of others; and in turn God used him to be a letter from Jesus Christ. His deepest wish was that the sad, hurting and broken people in his world would come to know God.

We've been given an unbelievable opportunity—haven't we? Every day God is texting the world through our eyes, words, attitudes and our actions. The ink from our heart bleeds onto the paper of our world, painting a picture of Jesus Christ.

As we begin a new year, what kind of living letter are you? The answer to this question can be found in another question: What kind of letters are you writing to God? Your prayers are your letters, so if they are generally composed of complaints, questions, self-focused requests, then that is the kind of God the people around you will see. How about we all start a new letter writing campaign in 2012? One that asks God to touch the lives and heal the pain in our corner of the world. One that begs God for the salvation of our friends who don't know Him because they haven't trusted in Jesus Christ as their only hope of salvation.

Remember, the ink that God is using to write His message to the world through you was paid for with the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. I would like to challenge each of you.. During 2012, don't waste this precious gift on selfish and self-centered prayers and living, rather make each day a day filled with great conversation with God. Then, watch Him write His message of unconditional love and salvation to everyone around you!

Please know that I am keeping each of you in my prayers and I am here for you if you need me!!

With Love in Christ,  
Jan Jernigan  
Minister of Youth &  
Children  
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**JANUARY:**

Carter Wood 13

**FEBRUARY:**

Taylor Phillips 9

Nicholas Parker 13



**MARCH:**

Jessica Jones 1

Sam Godwin 1

Rhett Sullivan 12

Clark Evers 17

Paige Glover 25

**PARENTS:**

Attached is a Calendar of Events for 2012. Please note that this is a tentative schedule and is subject to change. We are aware that many of you plan family activities in effort to enable your Youth to participate in as many activities as possible. However, when planning this far in advance, it may be necessary to reschedule. . It is our goal NOT to reschedule planned events, however, because of activities at school, sports, etc., (due to unavailability of scheduling), occasionally it may be necessary to reschedule. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

There will be other activities planned during the year, (e.g., bowling, movies, special event parties, etc) ; these are some of the things that are already on the calendar for 2012.

We are looking forward to a great year of Bible Study and fellowship as we serve our Lord, Jesus Christ!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

## JANUARY 2012:

**Saturday, January 7:** WINTER JAM CONCERT, RBC Center, Raleigh  
 Depart FBC at 9:00 AM COST: \$10 @ the door  
 We will stop for breakfast on the way. PLEASE BRING  
 A BAG LUNCH. Water and soft drinks will be provided.  
 We will stop at McDonald on the way back. Parents will  
 be called 30 min. prior to arrival at FBC (11:30 PM–12 AM)

**Sunday, January 8** SKI TRIP PARTICIPANT'S MEETING, 12:00 Noon  
 (Immediately following worship service)  
 Final plans will be made (e.g., departure time on the 20th,  
 rooming, meals, etc)

**Friday, January 20—  
 Monday, January 23** YOUTH SPONSORED SKI TRIP, Winterplace, WVA  
 (a schedule will be provided prior to departure on the 20th)

**Sunday, January 29** YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING: 5:00 PM  
 YOUTH PARENTS MEETING—5:45 PM

## FEBRUARY 2012:

**Sunday, February 12** VALENTINE LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

## MARCH 2012:

**Sunday, March 18** YOUTH & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

## APRIL 2012:

**(TBD)** SPRING BREAK MISSION PROJECT

## MAY 2012:

**Friday, May 27 -** RELAY FOR LIFE, Triton High School

**Saturday, May 28**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS: (CONT.)

## JUNE 2012:

**Sunday, June 3:** Graduate Recognition Sunday  
(Followed by lunch for graduates and immediate family at  
Yamato's Japanese House of Steak & Seafood)

**Monday, June 25 -** Youth Camp, Ft. Caswell, Oak Island, SC

**Saturday, June 30**

## JULY 2012:

**Monday, July 23—** VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (5:30—9:00 PM)

**- Friday, July 27**

## AUGUST 2012:

**Saturday, August (TBA)** Beach or Lake Day Trip

**Sunday, August 26, 11 AM, YOUTH SUNDAY**

## SEPTEMBER 2012:

**Friday, September (TBA), 9:30—11:30 PM, FIFTH QUARTER POST GAME PARTY**

## OCTOBER 2012:

**\*Saturday, October 20th—**Haunted House or Howl-O-Scream, Busch Gardens  
(TBD)

**\*Sunday, October 28th, 4PM** Fall Festival

## NOVEMBER 2012:

**\*Saturday (TBD)** In As Much Day

## DECEMBER 2012

**\*Friday, December 14,** Christmas Party, "Feeding Our Neighbors"

Missions Project and Lock-in