

First Baptist Church

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JOY Group Trip

NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Raleigh, NC
March 23, 2017

Leave at 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Sanford
Tour Museum until 2:00 p.m.
Fast food meal on way home.

Cost: Meals and donation to bus fund

Movie Outing
The Shack
Asheboro, NC
Saturday, March 11

Leave at 10:30 a.m.
Early lunch
Movie begins at 12:15 p.m.

CHILDREN'S OUTING

Trip to Greensboro Science Museum
Saturday, March 18th
Leave at 9:00 a.m.

Cost: \$10 per person

PASSPORT
Empowering Students • Embracing the World • Extending Grace

July 3—8, 2017
Furman University
Greenville, SC

\$50 deposit due by March 12th

Informational Meeting Possible Mission Trip to Belize

Summer of 2018

Sunday, March 19th
4:00 p.m.

If you think you might like to go
or would just like to learn more about the trip,
please plan to attend the meeting.

IDEAS TO MAKE THE LENTEN SEASON MORE MEANINGFUL

- **Worship**

Worship with family and friends at Lenten services.

- **Serve**

Volunteer to help with a mission project; use your lunch hour to visit someone or share a meal; mow or rake someone's lawn...

- **Be generous**

Give to your church or other organizations that serve people. Leave your server an above-and-beyond tip. Buy the coffee of the person behind you in line. Find ways to bless others with that which God entrusts you.

- **Abstain/fast**

We often hear about "Giving something up for Lent" like a favorite food or a bad habit. But might we give up something else like... abstain from gossip or complaining? What about defensive attitudes, fear, or anxiety? Our struggles can lead us to prayer.

- **Pray your day**

Rather than setting aside special time for prayer, pray your day. Pray for people as you encounter them each day. Pray as you write a letter, email, or Facebook post to an old friend. Offer sentence prayers throughout the day thanking God for the blessings of life.

- **Be still**

We often find meaning in stillness. Try a practice like **centering prayer** by lighting a candle and pausing before the presence of God. Enjoy a cup of coffee on your deck. Listen for the wind, the birds, the voice of God.

- **Forgive and seek forgiveness**

As we pray for God's mercy and grace, we should also seek forgiveness from those we have wronged as well as to forgive someone who has wronged us. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us" (*Matthew 6:12 CEB*).

Lent

March 1—April 15

Lent is the forty-day-long season of the church year during which we take the time to strengthen our relationship with God, as we follow Jesus down the long road to Jerusalem, where he will sacrifice his mortal life for us.

During Lent, we also follow Jesus' example of prayer and fasting. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert where he was tempted by Satan. Lent teaches us that the world is saved through suffering; Jesus gives himself as a sacrifice, and because he does, we give ourselves also.

LENT DEVOTIONAL BOXES ...

For youth/older children and their families

The devotional boxes were distributed at the Ash Wednesday Service on March 1. In addition to 47 envelopes (*a guide for each day during Lent*), the box contains postcards, play dough, a puzzle, a mirror, bubbles, candle, stars and a journal to help participants along their devotional journey.

This devotional series walks through the 40 day and 7 Sunday journey of Lent by offering a number of prayer experiences and scriptural exploration that will allow youth and their families to dig deeper into their faith together. Through this time of Conversations with God, families will engage in many different methods of talking to God, strengthening their prayer life as they learn some of the most important stories of our faith.

Our thanks to Sylvia McAlister and Barbara Smith for their time and effort in putting these boxes together for our youth.

