



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PROVO

*Proclaiming Christ, and Him Crucified, for the Joy of the Nations!*

**Winter  
2015 - 2016**

## Special points of interest:

- Gospel Community Groups
- Weekend Intensive
- BYU CrossSeekers

## FBC Provo Contact Information

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## Something New for FBC Provo

The winter is upon us and a new year is just around the corner. God, in His provisions and mercies, has been abundantly faithful to us this year at FBC Provo! As Psalm 100:4 so famously says, "Give thanks to Him; bless His name!"

This year we give thanks for the Lord allowing us to share with you this inaugural issue of our quarterly newsletter which we hope provides you several things.

**First**, we want to always share our thanks for what the Lord has done, and continues to do, through the people who gather as FBC Provo. **Second**, we hope this newsletter will keep you up to speed with future events. **Third**, with each newsletter we want to share with you some encouragement from God's Word as it pertains to the teachings of Scripture that are meant to transform our lives.

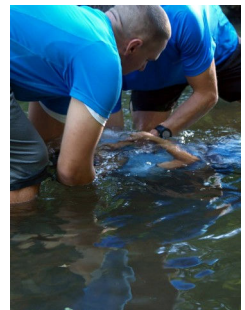
Last, we want the newsletter to give you a snapshot of what God is doing in the membership of FBC Provo. Therefore, in the future you will hear from pastors, deacons, Sunday school teachers, worship team members, treasurers, and everyone who co-labors for the gospel through FBC Provo.



*Pastor Russ Robinson*

## We Give Thanks . . .

- In 2015 the Lord allowed us to baptize four people at the South Fork Park in the Provo Canyon and there are at least two more who await baptism in the coming weeks!  
*(photo on right, Mason's baptism in South Fork Park)*
- This year we saw several new family units represented in our membership and attendance along with an unusual swell of weekly visitors who are wrestling with the true gospel.



*Summer Mission Team  
from Shelbyville, TN*



*Summer Gospel Community  
Group Outreach*

# Gospel Community Groups

When God, through Peter’s preaching, added 3,000 souls to the church (Act 2:41), we find there are four distinct things that took place for those believers to be disciple. These four things are necessary elements that we strive for in our Gospel Community Groups. They are found in Acts 2:42. *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

These disciples devoted themselves to:



Pastor Kirk Shull

- Apostles’ Teaching** - In our small groups, we go through questions about the sermon from Sunday morning. We discuss the implications of the sermon in our lives and answer the question, “What does it mean to/for me?”.
- Fellowship** - We gather to get into each other’s lives. This spans from talking about the week in general to asking questions that challenge us in our walk with God.
- Breaking of Bread** - Although the primary interpretation here is the Lord’s Supper, it could also include sharing a meal together. Good conversations often start while enjoying good food!
- Prayer** - We want to be a praying church, and we find that our Gospel Community Groups are a great place to pray! We pray for each other’s needs and for those who need Christ in our community.

# Core Principals of Worship



Worship means every element of the church service. The sermon, music, scripture readings, creeds, prayers and benediction are all forms of worship.

Worship Team during our Oct. 31 Reformation Day Celebration

- Worship must be biblical.** The Bible, as God’s Word, is the foundation of Christian worship.
- Worship must be a dialogue.** When we worship, we speak to God and God speaks to us. This is why the words used in worship are so important—they are used by God to speak, and they are also used to carry our prayer and praise to God.
- Worship must be covenantal.** In worship, we remind ourselves of God’s promises to us, and we recommit to our covenant with God.
- Worship must be Trinitarian.** We need to be clear which God we are worshipping. Every service should affirm that “...we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance.”
- Worship must be communal.** The Gospel brings us into a community of believers. In corporate worship we must approach God as one body, united by Christ.
- Worship must be excellent.** True worship cannot be half-hearted. We ought to offer God our best, whether we’re leading an element of the service or participating as part of the congregation.

# Upcoming Events



- December 24**  
7:00-8:00 p.m.  
*Christmas Eve Service*
- December 25**  
*Merry Christmas*
- January-February**  
*Be on the Lookout!*
- March**  
*New Members Class begins*
- Weekend Intensive**  
*“Atonement, Repentance and Good Works*  
*(Date TBA)*
- March 13**  
*Daylight Savings Time*  
*Spring forward one hour!*
- March 25**  
7:00-8:00 p.m.  
*Good Friday Service*
- March 27**  
*Easter Sunday*

# Education

At FBC Provo, we want to see more than just our members grow in regard to their knowledge of the Word of God. We want to see other believers throughout our area better equipped to evangelize, minister and teach. In November, we hosted **our first Weekend Intensive**, beginning on a Friday evening and continuing in the morning the following Saturday. This first event introduced **nearly two dozen people** to principles to help them better understand God's Word as part of their personal study and devotional lives.

Coming out of this first event, we learned a great deal about how to structure future events and how much material could be realistically covered in the available time. We plan to schedule the next of our Weekend Intensives in March of 2016 with the current subject planned to focus on **"Atonement, Repentance & Good Works"**, with a special emphasis on these themes in the context of evangelism. For this next event in March, we also plan to partner with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention to help with promotion, materials and other support that they are able to provide.

We're looking forward to the Spring all the more because we will also be launching **a new course for new members** to introduce them to the history and theological commitments of our church. In addition,



it will invite them into a deeper commitment to living in Gospel-centered community with one another. We will also make the material for this course available for our existing members to study on their own. We hope to **establish a model for using this course in multiple formats**, including training our members to be able to lead others through it without direct involvement from the church's pastors. Our goal in all of this is to fulfill the calling of Ephesians 4:11-13 and equip the members of our church and all willing believers in our area to minister faithfully and effectively within our peculiar context.

(Recordings of the **"Grasping the Word of God"** Weekend Intensive are being made available here: <http://bit.ly/gtwogaudio>)



*Pastor James Thompson*

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## BYU CrossSeekers - Ben Neiser

The BYU CrossSeekers fall semester has been a strong one. We have seen several new students attend. We have had a **core group of 10 students** that have attended each week with 5-10 other students that attend at least once a month and many more first time visitors. At the beginning of the semester, we had several outreach/fellowship events that brought in new students. We were also able to have, for the second year, our **Inter-Faith Symposium at BYU**. We had four different faith perspectives present on the topic of Heaven and Hell. This event gave the incredible opportunity for an Evangelical Christian speaker to clearly present the Gospel to **over 500 hundred students, faculty, and staff**.

We have a weekly **Bible study on Wednesday nights** on BYU campus and we are going through the Gospel of Matthew. We focus on a chapter each week. Each week we examine Matthew's argument for Jesus being the Messiah to those who had a great deal of scriptural knowledge, but missed the Messiah King Jesus. The Gospel is articulated each week in a clear manner. For our Christian students, it gives them the much needed community with believing peers. For our non-Christian students, it gives them a safe environment to ask questions and discuss matters related to the True Gospel. I truly believe that the CrossSeekers ministry strengthens the faith of believers and helps unbelievers connect to the True Gospel of Jesus Christ.