



Renewal.

It's what happens when the sun hits a tree branch, dormant all winter, and suddenly green buds appear. It's the way one line from a Wednesday night prayer can give you a new view of that verse you memorized on a youth trip ages ago. And it's the way you can look at a church newsletter and see that it holds the potential to tell the story of our FBC family in new and beautiful ways.

That last flavor of renewal? That's what you've got in front of you as you read this first edition of the new *First Foundations* magazine. It's more than a newsletter. It's our stories and art, a chance to look more deeply at the people we are and the things we do as a family of faith. Each issue will center on a theme, with this first one focusing on the spirit of renewal.

Scripture tells us of God making all things new, but we are also called to participate in that renewal — renewing relationships, renewing our own faith, finding new ways to connect with God and neighbor. The stories you'll find in this issue tell how those in the First Baptist family are doing just that. Kati Gardner finds renewal in the jokes that second-graders tell their Sunday School teachers; Pam Powell sees the face of God when she holds a newborn baby. You'll see evidence of renewal through bluegrass music and watercolor butterflies. The wide range of voices among our congregation comes shining through.

We hope you'll love it. In fact, we hope you'll love it enough to share it with a friend who might feel at home visiting a church like ours — a church where the people are always in search of growth and renewal. 🌸

— Jen Foster