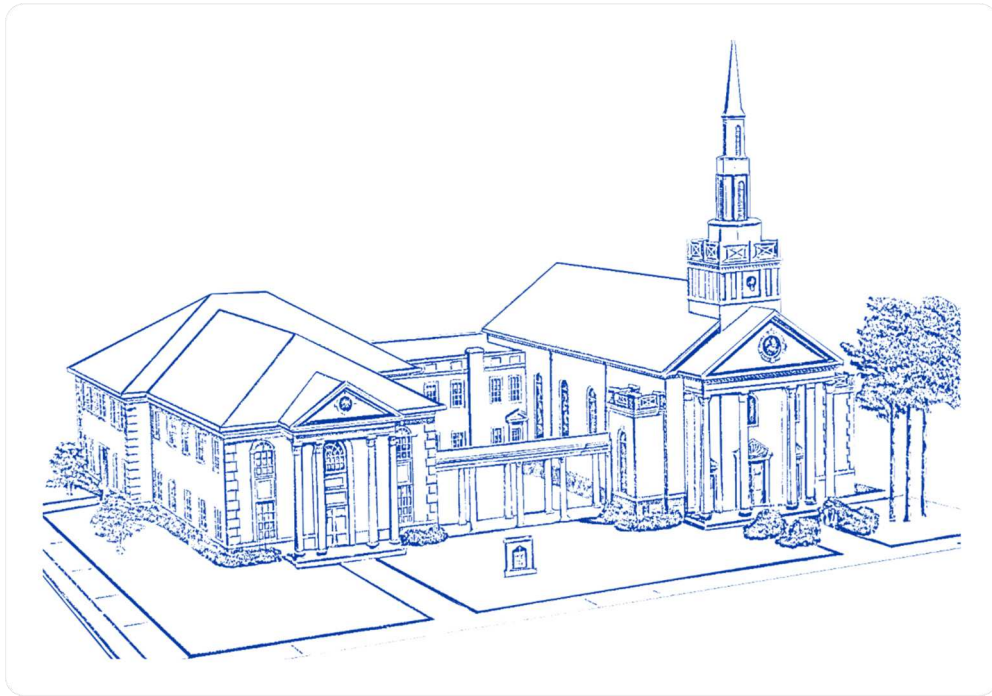




First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC



Homecoming Harvest Day
Celebrating 192 Years
November 1, 2026

The Church at Worship

Homecoming—Harvest Day

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Eleven o'clock

Let the word of God dwell in you richly . . . with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16 ESV

Prelude

In the Garden

Ms. Karen Dawsey

Welcome, Greeting, and Announcements

Dr. Christopher Hillman

100 Year Old Recognitions

Murline Britt, Doris Davis

Dr. Hillman

Invocation

Dr. Hillman

Memorial Recognitions

Mrs. Mary Alice Stanley
Mrs. Betty Jo Prevatte

Bobbie Suggs, Lois Willetts, Glenda Turbeville, Betty Carter

Hymn of Praise, No. 338

How Firm a Foundation

Congregation

The word of God . . . liveth and abideth for ever. 1 Peter 1:23 KJV

Responsive Reading

Congregation

Leader: O Lord, we come together in Your dwelling place, in memory of days gone by.

People: The building and the faces may have changed, but their influence continues to shape our lives.

Leader: Here, we were baptized into the community of believers, the body of our Lord.

People: With gratitude we recall the warmth of that welcome and the strength of the challenge.

Leader: Here, we were taught always to press on toward the goal of your upward call to Christ.

People: With gratitude we recall the depth of that lesson the diligence of our teachers.

Leader: Here, we were forgiven when we stumbled and given the will to rise again.

People: With gratitude we recall the pain of our separation and the joy of our reunion.

Leader: Here, we were sent forth on our own and assured that we would never journey alone.

People: With gratitude we recall the power of that promise and the grace of its fulfillment.

Leader: O Lord, we come together in Your dwelling place to renew our friendship with Your people and our faith in You.

All: MAY YOUR DWELLING PLACE ALWAYS BE A HOME FOR OTHERS, AS THIS PLACE HAS BEEN FOR US.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer		Dr. Fred Senter
Offertory Hymn, No. 141	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	Congregation
	<i>Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull. John 19:17 NIV</i>	
Offertory	<i>Precious Memories</i>	Ms. Dawsey
Offertory Prayer		Mrs. Carolyn Grainger
Doxology	Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavn'ly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.	Congregation
Worship Through Music	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Mr. Bridger Warlick
Reading of the Holy Scripture	Philippians 1:21	Rev. Linza Coffee
Sermon	Interrupted, BUT Not Finished	Rev. Coffee
* Hymn of Invitation, No. 515		Congregation
	<i>There's a Land That is Fairer Than Day</i> <i>The glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Revelation 21:23 NIV</i>	
* Benediction and Blessing of the Fellowship Meal		Dr. Hillman
* Organ Dismissal	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	Ms. Dawsey



The cornucopia arrangement is given to the glory of God and in memory of
Janice Memory, by Michael Memory and Madeline Long.

A gracious welcome is extended to all who worship here today.
Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the morning service.

We are happy to welcome our guest speaker today - Rev. Linza Layman Coffee. Only people from Columbus County will recognize Linza as Linza Grace Smith! Not many people continue to use her double name, but she loves it when they do! Linza Grace loved growing up in Whiteville, and First Baptist Church is where her faith journey began. After graduation from Whiteville High School, she graduated from Meredith College with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education and Concentration in Piano. Through the years, many opportunities to minister have been offered beginning with several years at Boys Homes of NC at Lake Waccamaw, as well as many years serving on staff at First Baptist Church in Burlington, First Baptist Church in Mocksville and now at First Baptist Church in Morehead City, NC. Her academic path also includes Campbell University Divinity School. Linza was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by First Baptist Church in Burlington in 2007 and has continually served churches as a music minister and/or children's minister. She continues to have a private piano studio and loves the opportunity to teach the students God sends her way.

A Short History of the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WHITEVILLE, NC

First Baptist Church was constituted on August 17, 1834. The first pastor was the Reverend Dennis Lennon from the Lennon's Crossroads area. Services were held at the Court House Square until the church moved to its present location in 1866.

An attractive clapboard church with two front doors, bell tower and steeple was built in the 1870's. A brick addition was constructed behind this building in the 1920's. The clapboard building was torn down in 1932 and a new sanctuary was completed in 1932. This building became known as the old chapel building when the present sanctuary was built in 1952. The architect was Mr. H. C. Lenthicum who died the week construction was scheduled to begin. Mr. A. G. Carter, the contractor and a member, handled the entire building project. Dedication of the debt free sanctuary took place on March 17, 1957. The old chapel building was torn down in 1988 and the present education section on the north side of the sanctuary was constructed. Dedication of this building was on November 5, 1989.

Adjacent properties have been purchased. In 1882, the church purchased the property south of its first parcel from the First St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Until 1872 these congregations worshiped together. In 1913, the church purchased a parcel of land south of its property from the NC Black Methodist Association. This church is now known as St. Mark AME Zion Church. In 1958, the church bought land from the Baggett family just across Church Street on its north side; this area is now a parking lot. In 1965, the church bought the property on the east of the sanctuary where the Fellowship Hall was constructed in 1966. The F. M. White house was bought in 1988 and has since been removed.

A first parsonage was built in the early 1900's at what is now the corner of US Highway 701 Bypass (J. K. Powell Boulevard) and Business US Highway 74-76, known as the Washington Street or Chadbourn Road. A second parsonage was built on the south side of the sanctuary in the 1930's and razed in the spring of 2009. This area is now used as a children's playground.

First Baptist has had twenty-seven pastors: Dennis Lennon, C. T. Anderson, James W. Dickson, Haynes Lennon, George W. Hill, John Franklin McMillan, Carson Powell, A. W. Price, James A. Smith, John F. Tuttle, J. T. Betts, B. H. Phillips, J. G. Blalock, Charles Cook Smith, J. H. Poteet, I. T. Newton, B. T. Roach, Samuel N. Lamb, Dr. Robert C. Foster, Dr. Francis S. Chesson, Dr. Gwenn McCormick, Roy Walker, Dr. Roger B. Gilbert, Dr. L. Kendell Cameron, Jr., Dr. Ronald M. Hinson, Jr., Ryan Clore, and Dr. Christopher T. Hillman. The Reverend Eddie Fort served as our Minister of Music from August 2004 until February 2023. The church has had six interim pastors—Daniel Deaton, Dr. James F. Heaton, Dr. Frank Hawkins, Luther "Drag" Kimrey, Dr. Andrew Barnhill, and Dr. Wayne Brown.

Four pastors were foreign missionaries: Carson Powell (Africa), B. T. Roach (China) and Dr. Frank Hawkins (Brazil), and Dr. Christopher T. Hillman (national and international—Haiti and Slovakia). Two were Confederate officers in the Civil War: James W. Dickson and John Franklin Tuttle. The Reverend James A. Smith served as a private and later led in the effort to get Fort Fisher named a National Park. Several members have gone to the foreign mission field: Miss Mary Fannie Memory 1879; Mrs. Lela Memory (Harold) McMillan 1913 (China); Mrs.

Elaine Sheffield (Archie) Nations 1952 (Japan); Wallyce Todd (Slovakia); Dr. Mason Smith (Germany); and Mrs. Stephanie Underwood Hathaway (Adam) (Shenyang, China). First Baptist continues a strong emphasis on missions.

According to the information available, the church has ordained the following ministers: Archibald McMillan, Charles Glisson, Dennis Phillips, Kerry Peeler, Dr. Mason Smith, and Wallyce Todd. Several women have been ordained as deacons since Mrs. Gayle Powell was ordained in 1987. Linza Grace Smith Layman Coffee and Charles Lee Price who both grew up in First Baptist Church have been ordained to the ministry by their respective churches.

One of FBC Whiteville's most distinguished members in the field of Religious Work is Dr. H. I. Hester, who was a member and Sunday School teacher here from 1909-1914 when he left for Wake Forest University.

The Woman's Missionary Union was organized in 1879. A ministry to the deaf was begun in 1948. The church started the Columbus Baptist Mission in 1953, and this congregation evolved into Trinity Baptist Church, now located on South Thompson Street.

The Church History Room was officially opened and dedicated on the 175th Anniversary of First Baptist Church celebrated on November 1, 2009.

The church accepts persons for membership who profess a Christian faith and who have experienced a believer's baptism or requests a baptism by immersion. Others join by promise of church letters from another Baptist church or by their statement of Christian faith and prior baptism.

Over the years, a broad range of activities has been offered, including weekly Bible study and Sunday School; Mission groups for men, women and children, ministries to Senior adults, children, youth, and families, a graded choir ministry, Vacation Bible School, Mission trips, Operation Inasmuch, and weekly Wednesday night supper before prayer service. Favorite special activities have included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Hanging of the Greens, The Youth Progressive Dinner and the Christmas Eve Communion. The Community Thanksgiving Service is also a highlight. Another special event is the exchange worship service and receptions between First Baptist, First St. Paul Missionary Baptist, St. Marks AME Zion Church, and First St. Paul Missionary Baptist. These congregations worshiped together through 1872.

As of November 1, 2026, First Baptist Church Whiteville has a membership of 329, of which 261 are resident members. The Church is a warm, inviting, relevant, caring fellowship. The congregation worships God with a music emphasis, a strong proclamation of God's Holy Word and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Submitted by Carlton Prince, Chair of the History Committee

Sources: Church and Associational minutes, newspaper accounts, *Contacts*, bulletins, letters, etc. All of these are in the History Room.

REMEMBERING OUR HERITAGE

**First Baptist Church
Whiteville, North Carolina**

Fifty or More Years of Membership

Murline Britt (101 years old)	Donna Massengale
Carl E. Butler	Michael Memory
A. G. "Buster" Carter	Jennifer Moranz
Brenda Carter	Janet Plasky
Genie Carter	Betty Jo Prevatte
Michael Cole	Carlton Prince
Charlotte Collins	Ann Sauls
Joseph W. Cook	Lewis Sauls
William Brownie Cook	Ella Jo Sellers
Doris B. Davis (100 years old)	Myrtie Sellers
Charles L. Duncan	William D. Smith, Jr.
Dale Duncan	Carolyn Southerland
Sandra Floyd	Nancy Lytle Stapp
Peggy FormyDuval	David Tedder
Yvonne Gold	Rita Todd
Doris Harwood	Joanne Vereen
David Heath	Peggy Walters
Joe Hooks	Dr. Ronald M. Walters
Doris Hughes	Harry D. Ward
Patricia Hyatt	Glenn Waters
Billie Jayroe	Ken Waters
Betty Gail Kronenwetter	Barbara Whitson
Rose Langston	William Wilson
Charles Lytle	

MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Cathleen Y. Applegate - August 13, 2026

Holden Justus - April 5, 2026

Mike Schachnuk - November 2, 2025

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED SINCE NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Lois Willetts - January 15, 2026

Bobbye Suggs - January 17, 2026

Glenda Turbeville - October 14, 2026

Betty Carter - October 22, 2026

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, November 1

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Homecoming Harvest Day with guest speaker
Rev. Linza Coffee
12:00 noon Lunch in the fellowship hall

Wednesday, November 4

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Prayer Service

Saturday, November 7

11:00 a.m. - Fall Festival
2:00 p.m. -

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, November 8, 15, 22, 29

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Monday, November 9

10:00 a.m. WMU Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 18

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Prayer Service

Monday, November 16

9:30 a.m. Poinsettia Order Deadline
Finance Meeting

Tuesday, November 17

6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, November 24

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. Night Prayer Service

Wednesday, Thursday, November 25 & 26

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:30 p.m. Church After Church
5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

Deacons of the Week

11/01	Donna Prince / John Sauls
11/08	Gina Morningstar / Tricia Sanderson
11/15	Leigh Cook / Mary Jean Prince
11/22	Keith Beverley / Jan Hinson

Church Staff

Ministerial Staff

Dr. Christopher T. Hillman, Pastor

Ministry Assistance Staff

Mrs. Teresa Malpass, Ministry Assistant

Mrs. Dinah Reaves, Financial Ministry Assistant

Church Office Hours 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Monday—Thursday

Phone: (910) 642-2139 Fax: (910) 642-5874

Web Site: www.fbcwhiteville.com

Email: office@fbcwhiteville.com

(Live Stream on our First Baptist Church Whiteville Facebook Page)

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