



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023, VOLUME 58, NUMBER 12



**Missions Breakfast,
December 3, 2023
9:00 a.m. with guest
speaker, Chasen
Hillman**

**You are invited to
Live Nativity on
December 21 at
6:15 & 7:00 p.m.**



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
December 24, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**



Events At A Glance

- December 2- FBC Float in Christmas Parade
- December 3 - Missions Breakfast with Guest Speaker, Chasen Hillman, 9:00 a.m.
- December 3 - Hanging of the Greens, 6:00 p.m.
- December 4, 11, 18 - Bible Study coordinated by Willis & Sue Pinnell and Robert & Kris Clyburn, 6:30 p.m.
- December 6, 13, 20, 27 - Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
- December 17 - Columbus Community Band Concert in the FBC Sanctuary, 3:00 p.m.
- December 18 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- December 19 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- December 21 - Live Nativity, 6:15 & 7:00 p.m.
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 5:00 p.m.
- December 25 & 26 - Office closed for Christmas

*Complete monthly calendar on back.
To add an event to our calendar,
please contact the church office:
(910) 642-2139*



PASTOR'S CORNER



“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.”

Philippians 1:3-5

Without a doubt, the Apostle Paul was very deliberate - very sincere - in the words that he chose to speak to us. Throughout his letters he would never fail to open (and close) with a heartfelt message of love, hope, and mutual respect. It's no small thing that Paul mentions the word “thanks”, some 50 times in his epistles. This is especially meaningful as we enter into the Thanksgiving/Holiday/Holy Advent season.

We recently celebrated the coming of the season in grand style with a gathering of area churches with a variety of different denominations. Much as they did in the days of old; we came together in Christian unity and fellowship. ONE church... ONE people... ONE God. There was indeed a warm glow all about!

Throughout his ministry, not only was Paul broadly engaged in a wide range of international mission work, he would also make every effort to encourage us to live the missional life. Alas, Thanksgiving may come once a year, but ThanksLIVING should be extended to us each and every day of our lives! And of course, this idea first came to us directly from the teachings of Jesus Christ. In John 13:15 Jesus lovingly shows us the way. After washing His disciples feet - an act of love, humility, and service - He gently prompts us to follow His lead and serve one another. “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you,” Jesus says.

On Sunday, December 3, my son Chase will be blessing us with his accounts from a mission trip we took to Slovakia in 2022. His job was to engage the Slovak youth in such a way that Christ's love was immediately accessible to anyone, and everyone. During his stay, Chase witnessed God's love first hand: to the Slovaks, the Tarsi community, and the Ukrainian refugees. I think that Chase will be quick to tell you that God enabled him to both, give and receive blessings!

According to that same ThanksLiving philosophy from Jesus and the Apostle Paul, may we continue to make every effort to live in their ways as we quickly approach the holy season of Advent.

May God bless you and keep you.... May He make His face to shine upon you... may He lift up His countenance upon you... and may He always give you His peace.

Pastor Chris

THANK YOU

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

As I think back over the last few months, I am overwhelmed by your generous outpouring of support and encouragement through your prayers, offers of help, cards, calls, and other acts of kindness.

I am so thankful to everyone for all you did and are still doing to see me through this very difficult time.

In Christian love,
Martha Watson



THANK YOU

!! WOW !! What a busy, fun-filled FALL season we have had at FBC and our Community. I am thankful and proud to be a part of our church congregation here at First Baptist of Whiteville. It truly takes a village, and as we know, many working hands makes light work for all. THANK YOU to all the participants that assisted our church in having a Fall Festival and a float in the Pecan Harvest Parade this year. It was a blessing to showcase our new pastor and his lovely wife. Sadly, the weather prevented the community from having the Veterans Parade, but there is always next year, and we are ready! As we gear up for the Christmas Parade we are filled with joy to share the news of our Lord and Savior!! We are working hard and look to see you there if the weather permits. Again, I greatly appreciate all donations, whether in giving plants, candy, decorations, funds, or labor; you have all helped to make it possible.

Drama Chairman, Kate C. Lee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Please Note: We appreciate everyone who participates in preparing the meals, as well as those who come to enjoy them. We hope to be able to continue to provide the fellowship meal at least once a month. The cost for the Wednesday Night Supper has increased to \$5.00. The increase is needed to cover the rising costs of food and paper supplies. Thank you for your understanding.

December

No Meal

January 24, 2024

Group 5

Mary Alice Stanley, Chair

Conference Set up for

Covered-Dish

February 28, 2024

WMU

Meal and Program—

Heck-Jones Offering

Emphasis,

Guest Speaker

March 20, 2024

Group 6

Fred & Martha Senter,

Co-chairs

April 24, 2024

Group 7

Peggy Norosky, Chair

Conference Set up for

Covered-dish

May 15, 2024

Group 3

Myrtle & Haywood Corbett,

Co-chairs

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

He Gave Us a Sign

Isaiah 7:14

December 3, 2023

Hanging of the Greens Service, 6:00 p.m.

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Just Say Yes

Luke 1:38

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Greatest Gift of All

John 16:33

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service, 5:00 p.m.

December 31, 2023

A Brand New Song

Psalm 40:3

DECEMBER SERMONS

DECEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 3 Tina Sauls
- 10 Gina Morningstar
- 17 Tricia Sanderson
- 24 Grayanna Young
- 31 TBD

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

- 3 Kate C. Lee / Kirby Sanderson
- 10 Sandi Floyd / Mel Ray
- 17 Brownie Cook / Betty Jo Prevatte
- 24 Merle Worley / Hilda Ray
- 31 Buster Carter / Bobby Hensley

HOSPICE MEALS

Myrtle Corbett

SOUND & VIDEO

- 3 Kirby Sanderson
- 10 Eric Kronenwetter
- 17 Kirby Sanderson
- 24 Eric Kronenwetter
- 31 Eric Kronenwetter



“But you are my witnesses, O Israel!” says the LORD. “You are my servant. You have been chosen to know me, believe in me, and understand that I alone am God. There is no other God—there never has been, and there never will be. I, yes I, am the LORD, and there is no other Savior. First I predicted your rescue, then I saved you and proclaimed it to the world. No foreign god has ever done this. You are witnesses that I am the only God,” says the LORD.

Isaiah 43:10-12

What a MIGHTY God we serve!!

Harvest Day offering total collected is
\$4,201.

STEWARDSHIP

November 5, 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Budget Gifts Plan 1 | \$125.00 |
| Budget Gifts Plan 2 | \$5,027.00 |
| Budget Gifts Operational | \$2,168.00 |
| Total Budget This Week | \$7,320.00 |
| Designated/Other Funds | \$4,145.98 |
| Total Collections This Week | \$11,465.98 |
| Over Budget This Week | \$1,915.05 |
| Budget Need to date | \$32,429.70 |
| Budget Rec'd to date | \$32,428.00 |
| Under Budget to date | \$1.70 |

November 12, 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Gifts Plan 1 | \$410.00 |
| Budget Gifts Plan 2 | \$2,377.00 |
| Budget Gifts Operational | \$1,080.00 |
| Total Budget This Week | \$3,867.00 |
| Designated/Other Funds | \$275.00 |
| Total Collections This Week | \$4,142.00 |
| Under Budget This Week | \$1,537.95 |
| Budget Need to date | \$37,834.65 |
| Budget Rec'd to date | \$36,295.00 |
| Under Budget to date | \$1,539.65 |

November 19, 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Gifts Plan 1 | \$0.00 |
| Budget Gifts Plan 2 | \$5,339.00 |
| Budget Gifts Operational | \$140.00 |
| Total Budget This Week | \$5,479.00 |
| Designated/Other Funds | \$1,193.00 |
| Total Collections This Week | \$6,672.00 |
| Over Budget This Week | \$74.05 |
| Budget Need to date | \$43,239.60 |
| Budget Rec'd to date | \$41,774.00 |
| Under Budget to date | \$1,465.60 |

November 26, 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Gifts Plan 1 | \$0.00 |
| Budget Gifts Plan 2 | \$4,840.00 |
| Budget Gifts Operational | \$525.00 |
| Total Budget This Week | \$5,365.00 |
| Designated/Other Funds | \$1,050.00 |
| Total Collections This Week | \$6,415.00 |
| Under Budget This Week | \$39.95 |
| Budget Need to date | \$48,644.55 |
| Budget Rec'd to date | \$47,139.00 |
| Under Budget to date | \$1,505.55 |



- 2 Benlyn Sauls
Katherine Scott
Vann Underwood
Jillian Young
- 3 Jeff Mahanes
Jennine Sellers
- 4 Hannah Clark
- 8 Philip McCulloch
- 12 Laurie Batten
Joe Hooks
- 13 Roger Chestnutt
- 16 Anna Smyth
- 17 Sally Grace Cook
- 19 Kiesha Crawmer
- 21 Lauren Lynn
- 23 Julie Hillman
- 24 Peggy Walters
- 28 Sandi Floyd
- 29 Charles Austin
Jennifer Bowling
Myrtle Corbett
Kate C. Lee

NOVEMBER

- November 5, 2023 - 41
- November 12, 2023 - 49
- November 19, 2023 - 46
- November 26, 2023 - 46

Average attendance for November
Sunday School is 46.

Please join us each week for Sunday
School at 9:45 a.m.

OFFICE CONTACT INFO

Ministerial Staff

Dr. Christopher Hillman, Pastor
pastorhillman@fbcwhiteville.com
804-301-2580

Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Organist

Ministry Assistant Staff

Mrs. Teresa Malpass, Ministry Assistant
[office@fbcwhiteville.com]

Mrs. Dinah Reaves,
Financial Ministry Assistant
[fbcwhite@fbcwhiteville.com]

OFFICE HOURS

Church Office Hours 8:30 A.M. — 4:30 P.M.,
Monday—Thursday
Phone: 910-642-2139 Fax: 910-642-5874

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WMU

WMU Meeting: No December Meeting
Mission Project: Lottie Moon and Global Christmas Offerings
Hospice Meal: Myrtle Corbett (Contact Karen: 910-642-9051)



The WMU will not meet in December but will assist the Missions Committee with the Missions Breakfast on Sunday, December 3, at 9:00 A.M. We look forward to this annual opportunity to fellowship and hear presentations from those who have served through foreign and local missions. This year we will be blessed to hear Chasen Hillman, son of Dr. and Mrs. Chris Hillman and nephew of Julie Hillman.

The missions projects for this month are the Christmas Missions Offering for Lottie Moon (Goal \$1,000) and Global Missions (Goal \$6,000). Envelopes are included in members' offering envelope package or you may use a plain envelope and designate your offering in writing.

2022-24 Watchword: *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* Romans 12:12

Our Mission

...is to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ.

Myrtle Corbett, WMU Director
Betty Jo Prevatte, Co-Director



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FLOAT

Our float will be in the Whiteville Christmas Parade on **Saturday, December 2**. We will not have riders this year, but candy and/or monetary donations are appreciated. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kate C. Lee (910)234-0261.

HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

You are invited to worship with us on **Sunday, evening, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.** for our Hanging of the Greens service. We will walk through the significance of the Advent Wreath, the Greenery, the Poinsettias, and the Chrismons. This is an interactive service with opportunities for everyone to take part in worship with readings, responsive readings, and Christmas carols. We look forward to this meaningful service every year to start off Advent season. We hope you will come out and join us.



"Your eternal word, O Lord stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created. Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans."
Psalm 119:89-91 NLT

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

BAPTIST MEN ACTIVITIES

- Baptist Men will meet at First Baptist Church at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 9**, to build a ramp for Resa Hillman.
- The next regular meeting for Baptist Men will be **Sunday, January 14 at 8:00 a.m.** for Baptist Men's Breakfast.

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY



December is missions month. We will begin the month with our Missions Breakfast on **Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m.**, followed by a program presented by Chasen Hillman. Chasen will share the experience of his trip to Slovakia. Dr. Fred Senter will give an overview of the Sunday School lesson. Please join us.

Our offering goal is \$6,000 for Global Missions and \$1,000 for Lottie Moon. The little roadside food pantry is now up outside of the church office entrance on Church Street. You are encouraged to drop off staple food items. We would like to have no more than 10 items in the box at any one time.

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

You are invited to the Columbus Community Band Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.** in the First Baptist Church sanctuary. Please come out and show your support for this musical group as they promote the arts in our community. You are sure to see several faces you already know and hear familiar tunes as well as some new Christmas music. The Band is always looking for more musicians. If you would like to be a part of the band, or know someone who would enjoy being part of the band, we will begin practice again in January on Monday nights from 7:00 –8:30 p.m. (Date TBD). All skill levels are invited to join us. Check our Facebook page - "Columbus Community Band" or contact one of the band members for more information.

LIVE NATIVITY



It is time again for our Live Nativity! **Thursday, December 21**, we will host two shows—one at **6:15 p.m.** and one at **7:00 p.m.** We are looking for volunteers to participate in the Nativity, to make donations for renting the animals and miscellaneous supplies, and to feed the cast and crew. If you would be interested in helping with this year's Live Nativity, please contact Kate C. Lee at 910-234-0261 or the church office at 910-642-2139.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service is one of our most beloved services of the church year. Join us Christmas Eve **Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.** for a time to share in carols, candles, and Communion.



ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

OFFICE CLOSING

The church office will be closed on **Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26** in observance of Christmas. We hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family and friends.



Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons at the church are incredibly busy. Even though everyone is busy with family and friends at this time of year, they took time to make sure the church has been beautifully decorated and meaningful services have been planned. The staff of First Baptist Church would like to thank everyone who has a part in making Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons beautiful here and those who participate in our worship services to make our celebrations of

Thanksgiving and the Advent of Christ meaningful. It takes a lot of people to take care of all the details this time of year. Thank you for your dedication to the Lord's work and to His congregation!

THANK YOU

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT - 205TH ANNIVERSARY

The story of *Stille Nacht* is one of the most endearing and enduring in Christian hymnody. Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) was an Austrian cathedral chorister in Salzburg as a boy. He was ordained into the Catholic priesthood in 1815. He spent most of his life ministering in the parishes near Salzburg. Living a simple life, he died in poverty after giving away what little he had to the poor.

In 1816, Mohr penned the poem that would overtime be sung around the world. He was serving as an assistant priest in Oberndorf in the Austrian Alps. Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863) was an Austrian cantor and school teacher, holding church positions near Salzburg including Oberndorf. While a prolific composer, little was published and none known now save this Christmas carol, composed for a text by his assistant priest Joseph Mohr for the Christmas Eve Mass in Oberndorf in 1818. It was first accompanied on guitar because, as tradition has it, the organ was not in working order. Some stories blame it on rats that had eaten the bellows. This story cannot be verified. We do know, however, that Joseph Mohr had a guitar. Though this was not the normal instrument for the Mass, it was used in this case. Joseph Mohr's guitar is housed at the Hallein's Franz Gruber Museum.



Karl Mauracher, an organ builder, traveled to Arnsdorf in 1821, during which time he obtained a copy of the manuscript. The carol was taken to the Leipzig trade fair in 1831 and was published in 1838. The melodic version that we now sing is somewhat different from Gruber's original, having taken on more of the characteristics of an idyllic folk song of this region.

We will celebrate the 200th anniversary of *Silent Night, Holy Night* accompanied with guitar on Christmas Eve. Plan now to join us for this meaningful service.

Copied : Michael Hawn is University Professor of Church Music, Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

| December 2023 | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------|--|-----|------------------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 FBC Float in Christmas Parade |
| 3 9:00 Missions Breakfast and testimony with Chasen Hillman & SS by Dr. Fred Senter 11:00 Morning Worship 6:00 Hanging of the Greens | 4 6:30 Bible Study | 5 | 6 6:30 Prayer Service | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship | 11 6:30 Bible Study | 12 | 13 6:30 Prayer Service | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 3:00 Columbus Community Band Concert in the FBC Sanctuary | 18 9:30 Finance Meeting 6:30 Bible Study | 19 6:30 Deacons' Meeting | 20 6:30 Prayer Service | 21 6:15 Live Nativity 7:00 Live Nativity | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion | 25  <i>Office Closed for Christmas</i> | 26 <i>Office Closed for Christmas</i> | 27 6:30 Prayer Service | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship | | | | | | |

| January 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

FBC contact information: Phone - 910-642-2139, Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com, Web - www.fbcwhiteville.com
 Sunday Morning Worship Live on WTXY AM 1540, FM 103.9, kool1039radio.com—*Listen Live*,
 and First Baptist Church Whiteville Facebook page

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