



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024, VOLUME 59, NUMBER 12

First Baptist Church Giving

As we enter the season of giving, let us give with cheerful hearts. Tithing is an act of worship, joy, and gratitude toward God. When we tithe, we acknowledge the blessings we have received and share our abundance with others. Through our tithes, we invest in something far greater than ourselves. Our contributions go toward supporting the ministry of our church, outreach programs, and humanitarian efforts. By investing in God's kingdom, we become partners in spreading love, compassion and hope to those less fortunate. Just as we have been blessed by God, we are called to bless others with our tithes and offerings. Let your giving reflect God's love and grace in your life.

Malachi 3:10 NIV

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this", says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Events At A Glance

December 1 - Missions Breakfast with guest speaker, Rev. Wallyce Todd, 9:00 a.m., Hanging of the Greens service during morning worship, 11:00 a.m.

December 4, 11, 18 - Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

December 16 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.,

December 17 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

December 22 - Columbus Community Band Concert, 3:00 p.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 5:00 p.m.

December 24 & 25 - Church Office closed for Christmas

December 25 - Merry Christmas!

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



PASTOR'S CORNER



"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name!" **Psalm 100:4**

Praise Him, indeed! Give thanks to Him, indeed! Friends, we are quickly approaching the holiday season. The excitement is building as we will soon be decking the halls in God's House here at First Baptist. What a celebration! We just finished enjoying a very successful tribute to 190 years of dedicated worship. Again, thanks to everyone for their hard work, participation and involvement with this incredibly meaningful milestone within our church. What a beautiful day we all had! New friends and old - everyone turned out.

And now as we enter into the Thanksgiving holiday, we look forward to spending another blessed Advent season together. I can hardly wait. The Poinsettias are currently being ordered, and the Hanging of the Greens is right around the corner. So between now and then - let us prepare to spread the word! In medieval times, do you know how you got your good news? A herald blew a trumpet. The herald would blow the trumpet to let you know *"The battle is won!"*

Good news is telling you that something great has happened - something so wonderful that when you hear it, it fills up your heart with incredible joy. The Bible calls the true stories about Jesus's life "Good News like a herald would send." And why are they Good News, you might ask? Because they're telling us what Jesus has done to bring us home to God. They're telling us that our Rescuer has finally come! They're telling us that the battle is won!

So it's true - we have **SO MUCH** to be thankful for. Pastor Jonathan Edwards once famously said, "There are three things that we can hope in if we belong to Jesus:

1. God will turn even the bad things around for your good in the end.
2. Your good things can't ever be taken away from you.
3. The best things are yet to come."

This doesn't mean that everything in our story is happy today. But what it does mean, is that God is in the process of making the story end happily for the entire world - for **ALL OF HIS CHILDREN!**

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope..." **Romans 15:13**

Let us rejoice as the Holidays are upon us! **Thanksgiving Blessings to EVERYONE.** And let us set our hearts toward a beautiful Advent season ahead!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE



Beginning in January, we will begin having Wednesday Morning Prayer Service at 10:00 a.m. This service will be in addition to our regular Wednesday Evening Prayer Service and is open to everyone. Winter time can make it more difficult for some folks to get out after dark, and we don't want them to miss out on prayer time and fellowship over God's word because of the short days. We want to be sensitive to the needs of our church family and hope this earlier service will minister to them at a time that is more suitable to their needs.



GROW IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. Make a public profession of your faith.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 10:32

2. Be baptized.

Then they that gladly received His word were baptized: And the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41

3. Read your Bible daily.

Thy word is a lamp unto me feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

4. Pray every day.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

5. Attend a Bible-believing church.

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1

6. Share your experience with others.

Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. Mark 5:19

7. Start giving to God's work.

Give and it shall be given unto you. Luke 6:38

8. If you fail, confess it to God.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

THANK YOU!



To my church family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, cards and calls during my recent hospitalizations. I was blessed and there is really power in prayer. Thanks all of you and I love you all.

Keith Watson

Dear First Baptist Church Whiteville,

Thank you so much for your incredibly generous donation to our Hurricane Relief Fund. In the new year we will be paired with individuals who need help rebuilding. Your donation will help us purchase equipment to begin to rebuild. We are so grateful for the connection between our churches through Scott & Hanna Hagaman.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Jennifer Jennings, Associate Pastor
First Baptist Church
Marion, North Carolina

*If you live for the next world, you get this one in the deal.
But if you live only for this world, you lose them both. — C. S. Lewis*

DECEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 1 Tina Sauls
- 8 Jan Hinson
- 15 TBD
- 22 Beverly Pope
- 29 Tricia Sanderson

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

- 1 Lauren Cole / Jeff Mahanes
- 8 Buster Carter / Bobby Hensley
- 15 Willis Pinnell / Mary Alice Stanley
- 22 Brownie Cook / Betty Jo Prevatte
- 29 TBD

HOSPICE MEALS

Myrtle Corbett

NURSERY WORKERS

- 1 Kate C. Lee
- 8 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
- 15 Keith & Jamie Beverley
- 22 Dale Duncan / Genie Carter
- 29 Carlton & Mary Jean Prince

SOUND & VIDEO

- 1 Kirby Sanderson
- 8 Eric Kronenwetter
- 15 Kirby Sanderson
- 22 Eric Kronenwetter
- 29 Eric Kronenwetter

WNS SCHEDULE

December 18—No Meal

January 22—Group 4 - Chair Genie Carter (Conference)

February 19—WMU - Meal & Program - Heck Jones Offering

March 19—Group 5 - Chairs Mary Alice Stanley & Beverly Pope

BIRTHDAY CARDS

On Wednesday evenings, we will have birthday cards in the fellowship hall for fellow members who have birthdays during the week after that particular prayer service. We ask that if you are attending Wednesday evening that you sign their birthday cards. We will take care of addressing and mailing them from the office.

STEWARDSHIP

November 3, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$200.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,114.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$400.00
Total Budget This Week	\$2,714.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$3,747.50
Total Collections This Week	\$6,461.50

Under Budget This Week \$2,709.08

Budget Need to date	\$27,115.40
Budget Rec'd to date	\$16,717.00
Under Budget to date	\$10,398.40

November 10, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,240.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$200.00
Total Budget This Week	\$3,440.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$444.83
Total Collections This Week	\$3,884.83

Under Budget This Week \$1,983.08

Budget Need to date	\$32,538.48
Budget Rec'd to date	\$20,157.00
Under Budget to date	\$12,381.48

November 17, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$16,060.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$650.00
Total Budget This Week	\$16,710.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$625.00
Total Collections This Week	\$17,335.00

Over Budget This Week \$11,286.92

Budget Need to date	\$37,961.56
Budget Rec'd to date	\$36,867.00
Under Budget to date	\$1,094.56

November 24, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$110.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,985.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$470.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,565.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$460.00
Total Collections This Week	\$5,025.00

Under Budget This Week \$858.08

Budget Need to date	\$43,384.64
Budget Rec'd to date	\$41,432.00
Under Budget to date	\$1,952.64

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Benlyn Sauls
- Jillian Young
- Vann Underwood
- 3 Jeff Mahanes
- Jeannine 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 Sandra Floyd
- 29 Charles Austin
- Myrtle Corbett
- Kate C. Lee

OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

November 3, 2024 - 60

November 10, 2024 - 49

November 17, 2024 - 56

November 24, 2024 - 55

Average attendance for November
Sunday School is 55.

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

MISSIONS BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 1, at 9:00 a.m. we have Missions Breakfast. Please make plans to join us for food and fellowship. After breakfast we will have a combined Sunday School class with guest speaker Rev. Wallyce Todd. Sunday, December 1, Missions Emphasis Day, is the kick-off for our December Missions offerings. Invite your friends to share breakfast with us—everyone is welcome!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

The evergreen tree, garlands, and wreaths are symbols of the eternal life available when Jesus comes into our lives. The wreath itself, a never-ending circle, also reminds us of the endless love of God. We hang the greens to reflect our joy in the abundant life we find through Christ. Hanging of the Greens Sunday marks the beginning of Advent Season. We look forward to the day we set aside as the birthday of our Savior Jesus Christ who came into the world to make a way for us to have a relationship with God the Father.

This year our Hanging of the Greens service will be held on Sunday, December 1, during our morning worship service at **11:00 a.m.** During this service we will adorn the church and other buildings with evergreens, add Chrismons to the Chrismon tree, and recognize the beginning of the Advent Season. Please join us to share in this reflective service to worship our heavenly Father and thank Him for making a way of salvation for us.

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 Tuesday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.** for a time to share in carols, candles, and Communion.



OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed **Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24 & 25,** in observance of Christmas. We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday with friends and family. Merry Christmas from the church office!

The church office will also be closed on **Wednesday, January 1,** for New Year's Day.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

With 2024 coming to a close, please have all contributions in to the office by December 31 so that you will be able to get credit for giving in 2024.



ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

WMU

WMU Meeting: No December Meeting

Mission Project: Christmas Missions Offerings

Hospice Meal: Myrtle Corbett (Contact: Karen: 910-642-9051)



The WMU will not meet in December, but will assist with breakfast for Missions Sunday on December 1st. The missions emphasis for December are the offerings for Lottie Moon (\$1,000) and Global Missions (\$4,000). Prayer guides and offering envelopes will be inserted in the December 1st bulletin. Please use the prayer guide to pray for the missionaries; they appreciate our offerings, but prayer is their most urgent request.

WMU Emphasis for 2024-2026: *What Joy!*

2024-26 Watchword: *Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. – 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

Our Mission

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

Myrtle Corbett, Co-Director

Betty Jo Prevatte, Co-Director

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT



The Columbus Community Band is a concert band that is designed to give musicians of all ages and skill levels the opportunity to make music together in the band setting. Some members played in grade school and high school and went on to play in college. We have band directors, professional musicians, and some folks who have never played in bands before. The common denominator is that we all love making music, and CCB provides that opportunity. We always need 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) in the First Baptist fellowship hall. 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.

Our December performances:

Saturday, December 7, at the Whiteville Tree Lighting - around 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 22, First Baptist Church Whiteville - 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 22, Calvary Baptist Church (Pleasant Plains Church Road) - 6:30 p.m.

We appreciate the opportunity to practice in the church fellowship hall.

Please come out and show your support for this group as CCB promotes 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School is awesome! We have a class for every age - we have a place for you! Please make plans to join us each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. as we fellowship and study God's word together. We would love to have you join us!



December 2024																																																							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
1 9:00 Missions Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship with Hanging of the Greens	2	3	4 6:30 Prayer Service	5	6	7																																																	
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FBC contact information:
 Phone - 910-642-2139
 Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com
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