



# First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

## THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025, VOLUME 60, NUMBER 2

BAPTIST MEN'S SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 2 AND  
WMU SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9.  
COME AND SUPPORT OUR MEN'S  
AND LADIES GROUPS.



**WMU Sunday,  
February 9**

### Events At A Glance

February 2 - Baptist Men's Sunday

February 5, 12, 19, 26 - Wednesday Prayer  
Services, 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

February 9 - WMU Sunday

February 9 - 90th Birthday Celebration for  
Charlotte Collins, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

February 10 - WMU Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

February 14 - Deadline for Index Card Verses

February 17 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

February 18 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

February 19 - Heck-Jones Meal and program with  
Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Brown, 5:45 p.m.

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



February 19, 5:45 p.m.  
With Dr. Wayne and  
Mrs. Joy Brown

Support  
wmu



## PASTOR'S CORNER



*After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So his master said, 'Go out into the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'* **Luke 14: 22 - 24.**

"Come to God's house at First Baptist, and see that *IT IS GOOD!*" While I may not say it EXACTLY like this, I do try to always roll out the welcome mat for folks that I come across in Whiteville. I especially like how the book of Romans puts it: *Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.* Some will take you up on your invitation, and many will not. But here's something that we all know: EVERYONE needs the love of Jesus Christ! Everyone. And what better way than in a wholesome, family-friendly, loving Christian environment? What better way to make life-long friends than in the holy house of God? In the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus says, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

I have always been enamored with the little book by authors Ken Hemphill and Mike James entitled "**V.E.L.C.R.O. CHURCH**" I think the catchy little title says it all. There's no real need for explanation here. Velcro, commercially known as being a "zipperless zipper" was originally designed by Swiss electrical engineer George de Mestral. George discovered that when nylon was sewn under hot infrared light, it formed nearly perfect hooks for the hook side of the fastener. Velcro got its first break when the aerospace industry used it for the purpose of helping astronauts to maneuver in and out of their bulky space suits. Skiers saw many similarities between their costumes and those of astronauts and introduced Velcro to the ski industry. Children's clothing makers would soon come onboard. And the rest, as they say, is history!

So what about the "**V.E.L.C.R.O. CHURCH**"? Wouldn't it be wonderful - wouldn't it be fantastic - if we could attach one side of Velcro to our church and the other to everyone who visits so that they would become permanently stuck to the body of Christ? WOW! But tragically, many churches (just look around our communities) more often resemble Teflon - rather than Velcro. People will come for a visit then simply not return. They come, but then quickly "slip away". Here are a few facts that help explain why we desperately need to "Velcroize" our churches.

### **FOUR VELCRO FACTS**

*FACT #1: Your church cannot grow without guests.*

*FACT #2: Your church cannot grow if your guests don't come back.*

*FACT #3: You never get a second chance to make a great first impression.*

*FACT #4: Your church cannot grow if people join, and then drop out.*

Moving forward, may we at First Baptist Whiteville consider using this simple acronym **V.E.L.C.R.O.** We **V**alue every person who steps foot in our church as being a gift from God. We **E**ngage every visitor with intentionality. Not only are we an extremely friendly church, **WE ARE KNOWN FOR IT!** With everything we say, and everything we do - we **L**ead our friends in the direction of Christ. We **C**onnect new visitors by introducing them to others within our church - suggesting a Sunday school class, inviting them to our "Church After Church" fellowship lunch, or one of our Wednesday prayer services. At First Baptist we **R**ecognize that establishing healthy relationships is what is key to fostering positive growth in God's House. At First Baptist we will also look for ways to **O**rganize small group activities within a healthy Christian context inside our church. The opportunities are endless!

Velcro creates a powerful bond that is difficult to break. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could "bind" visitors and new members to Christ in such a way that it becomes a permanent seal in Christian love and community? In 2025 I believe that we can make great strides towards doing this very thing! Much like a "**V.E.L.C.R.O CHURCH**", let us dedicate ourselves to making First Baptist Whiteville an ongoing opportunity to bring the great commission to every person who steps inside our walls.

May God bless you all. Jesus loves you and so do I.

*Pastor Chris*

# BE ENCOURAGED

## LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday is March 5th and it marks the beginning of Lenten Season. We would be remiss to wait until March to begin preparing our hearts for this very important time of remembrance. We generally think of it with a very somber attitude, and it is important to remember exactly what it cost our Savior and our Heavenly Father to bring us salvation, but we must not forget Christ's glorious resurrection on that first Easter morning. Lenten Season is not the end—it points to the most important event in Christian history. For without the resurrection, Christ would still be dead —just like any other religious leader, and we would have no hope. But He arose and He IS God! As we prepare our hearts we have to remember the inscription mentioned in the article below, "This I have done for thee; what has thou done for Me?" Is this time of year just a box we check off of our "To-do" lists, or will we let Christ's work at Calvary and His resurrection change our entire lives, all of our dealings with our fellow man, and our reverence for a holy God that loved us so much that he sacrificed His only Son so that we could have a relationship with Him? Let's make worship of God a daily mindset as we focus this Lenten season on all He has done for us. What an awesome God we have the opportunity to serve!

### **Take My Life and Let It Be**

*A Prayer Lived Out in Life*

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) of England began writing verse at age seven. Her insatiable thirst for the Bible led her to memorize the entire New Testament, Psalms, Isaiah, and the Minor Prophets. She was a concert contralto soloist and a brilliant classical pianist. She gave her life to Christ at age fifteen.

At age twenty-one she stood in the art gallery at Dusseldorf, Germany, looking at the painting of the crucifixion with the engraving beneath it "This I have done for thee; what has thou done for Me?" In the previous century the wealthy young Count Zinzendorf of Moravian missionary fame read these same words and was led to consecrate his life to Christ. As she stood there, her very soul was stirred. Tears cascaded down her cheeks. From that moment she dedicated her talents to the service of the Lord.

Throughout her life she was frail and delicate in health and died at the early age of forty-two. When she wrote "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee," it was for her a prayer. And when she penned the words, "Take my silver and my gold," she did exactly that! She gave fifty pieces of jewelry (heirlooms) to the Church Missionary Society, including a jewel cabinet that she said was "fit for a countess." She retained only a brooch for daily wear that was a memorial of her parents, and a locket with a portrait of her niece who had gone to heaven. Of that experience she wrote, "I don't think I need tell you I never packed a box with such pleasure." Despite the dark nights of frequent sickness and suffering, the dedicated life of this poetess can best be summed up in her own prayer lyrics.

### **Take My Life and Let It Be**

*Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love,  
At the impulse of Thy love.*

*Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee;  
Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King,  
Always, only, for my King.*

*Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.*

## FEBRUARY MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

2 Tina Sauls  
9 Jan Hinson  
16 TBD  
23 Beverly Pope

### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

2 Charlie Duncan / Ella Jo Sellers  
9 Lauren Cole / Jeff Mahanes  
16 Buster Carter / Bobby Hensley  
23 Willis Pinnell / Mary Alice Stanley

### HOSPICE MEALS

Genie Carter

### NURSERY WORKERS

2 Kate C. Lee  
9 Bobby & Wendy Hensley  
16 Keith & Jamie Beverley  
23 Dale Duncan / Genie Carter

### SOUND & VIDEO

2 Kirby Sanderson  
9 Eric Kronenwetter  
16 Kirby Sanderson  
23 Eric Kronenwetter

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

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

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

### BIRTHDAY CARDS

On Wednesdays during prayer services, we will have birthday cards in the fellowship hall for fellow members who have birthdays the following week. We ask that if you are attending Wednesday prayer services that you sign their birthday cards. We will take care of addressing and mailing them from the office. Thank you for your help in serving your fellow members.

## STEWARDSHIP

### January 5, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$100.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,080.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$300.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$2,480.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$2,624.86
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$5,104.86</b>

**Under Budget This Week     \$2,943.08**

Budget Need to date	\$75,923.12
Budget Rec'd to date	\$71,799.50
Under Budget to date	\$4,123.62

### January 12, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$110.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,750.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$380.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$5,240.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$280.54
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$5,520.54</b>

**Under Budget This Week     \$183.08**

Budget Need to date	\$81,346.20
Budget Rec'd to date	\$77,039.50
Under Budget to date	\$4,306.70

### January 19, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$1,305.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$180.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$1,485.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$80.00
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$1,565.00</b>

**Under Budget This Week     \$3,938.08**

Budget Need to date	\$86,769.28
Budget Rec'd to date	\$78,524.50
Under Budget to date	\$8,244.78

### January 26, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,897.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$3,222.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$6,119.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$235.00
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$6,354.00</b>

**Over Budget This Week     \$695.92**

Budget Need to date	\$92,192.36
Budget Rec'd to date	\$84,643.50
Under Budget to date	\$7,548.86

**Global Missions   \$3,070**  
**Lottie Moon     \$630**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Marie Wheatley  
3 Beverly Pope  
4 Willis Pinnell  
Alston Prince  
5 John Sauls  
7 Jennifer Williamson  
9 Olivia Crawmer  
10 Charlotte Collins  
11 Pat Hyatt  
Louise Underwood  
Bridger Warlick  
13 Ronald Walters  
Wallyce Todd  
16 Caroline Bonner  
17 Jeanne Britt  
20 Martha Watson  
Hadi Ipekyun  
David Jordan  
23 Helen Monroe  
24 Bill Floyd  
27 Peggy FormyDuval  
28 Josh Williamson

## OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

January 5, 2025 - 47  
January 12, 2025 - 51  
January 19, 2025 - 37  
January 26, 2025 - 48

Average attendance for January  
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:** February 10, 2025 10:00 A.M.  
**Program / Call to Prayer:** Myrtle Corbett  
**Mission Project:** Heck Jones Week of Prayer and Banquet  
**Hospice Meal:** Genie Carter (Contact: Karen: 910-642-9051)



**Choose Joy!** February is WMU Focus Month, and we will “Focus on Joy” at the annual Heck Jones Banquet on February 19. Beginning at 5:45 p.m., we will enjoy fellowship, a delicious meal followed by a joyful time of worship with Dr. Wayne and Mrs. Joy Brown and their daughter Mollie. The WMU will provide the meal at no cost, but we encourage attendees to “pay” with a contribution to the Heck Jones Offering. This offering supports the work of WMU in North Carolina. The 2025 offering goal for First Baptist is \$3,000; the goal for North Carolina is \$325,000.



**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

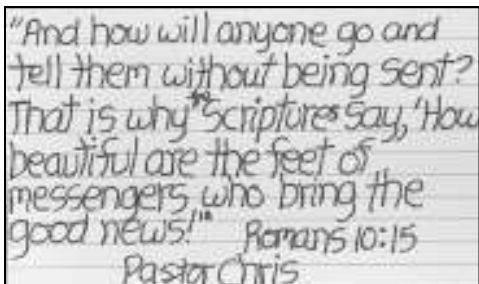
...is to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ.

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

## SCRIPTURE EXERCISE

Pastor Chris has offered all of us a challenge as we begin the new year: During Wednesday Prayer Service, Sunday School Classes, and in the vestibule in the sanctuary . . . 3”x5” index cards are going to be distributed TO EVERYONE, for the purpose of you writing down **YOUR PERFECT 2025** scripture verse!

This is a FUN exercise that you don’t have to do on your own! You might want to begin by asking God to help guide you in your choice of scripture. Sometimes He may immediately direct you to that ONE SPECIFIC VERSE that He has in mind—or maybe just slowwww down and take time to discern just what your special 2025 verse will be.



Either way, please be on the lookout for your 3”x5” index card to include your verse because I think we will have lots of fun with this meaningful exercise! When all cards, complete with verses and names, have been completed, we will showcase them along the walls throughout our church. I CAN’T WAIT! IT’S GOING TO BE A GOOD YEAR AT FIRST BAPTIST WHITEVILLE!

## CELEBRATE

The family of Charlotte Collins would like to invite you to her 90th birthday celebration **Sunday, February 9,** from **2:00-4:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. No gifts please, cards are welcome.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

## ATTENTION ALL PRAYER WARRIORS

*For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Psalm 34:15 KJV*

We are enjoying a good response to our 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Service. We are glad that this extra service is helping bond our church family together in prayer and fellowship in God's word. We understand it can be difficult for some of our folks to get out in the evening while we have these short winter days. Of course, we will also be meeting at our usual time of 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Everyone is welcome.



## BAPTIST MEN'S SUNDAY



**Sunday, February 2**, will be our annual Baptist Men's Sunday. We look forward to this every year when the men of the church lead the entire service—reading, singing, children's sermon, and preaching. They'll do everything but play the organ. Please join us as we support the Baptist Men in action during our morning worship service.

## WMU SUNDAY

**Sunday, February 9**, will be WMU Sunday. This will give us an opportunity to see what projects the WMU is working on and help us to prepare for the upcoming Heck-Jones week of prayer and the annual banquet on February 19 at 5:45 p.m.



## SPREADING THE WORD

In his article for *On Mission* magazine, "Faithful to Share", president of the North American Mission Board, Kevin Ezell, states, "So often we miss opportunities to share our faith because we worry that we won't say the right things. While we do need to know the basics, using eloquent words has never been a prerequisite to leading someone to Christ. Many years ago, at a church I pastored, we used an evangelism tool call *FAITH*. It teaches believers to share the gospel by walking through an acrostic." (pictured at left)

Sharing our faith is exactly what the Lord would have us do. He leaves us here after He saves us so that we can bring more people into a believing relationship with Him. He wants us to share the faith and hope we have in Him with a world that does not know or may not understand that they need a relationship with God to go to heaven.

If you would like to read more stories about the way missions monies are being used to change lives for Christ by the Southern Baptist Convention, you can visit the North American Mission Board website at [www.namb.net/on-mission](http://www.namb.net/on-mission) and download a PDF copy of their magazine or stop by the office for a copy.

<p><b>F = FORGIVENESS</b> We can't have eternal life in heaven without God's forgiveness.</p> <p><b>A = AVAILABLE</b> Forgiveness is available for all but it's not automatic.</p> <p><b>I = IMPOSSIBLE</b> It's impossible for God to allow sin into heaven.</p> <p><b>T = TURN</b> Turn means repent.</p> <p><b>H = HEAVEN</b></p>
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# SPREADING THE WORD

## SHARING YOUR FAITH

While you are “Spreading the Word” to those around you, we thought it would be helpful to have a quick reference list of Bible verses that explain salvation from *why we need salvation* to *how we can receive God’s free gift of salvation*.

### 1.) We are all Sinners

Romans 3:23—For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God

### 2.) Our payment for sin is death

Romans 6:23—For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 3.) There is hope through the blood of Jesus Christ

Romans 5:8—But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

### 4.) Repent (change your mind) and Believe on Jesus Christ

Acts 16:30-31—And brought them out, and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Johns 3:18—He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I Thessalonians 1:9—For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

### 5.) It’s everlasting, It’s a Gift! You have not earned it!

Ephesians 2:8-9—For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.

### 6.) Now you know how to get to heaven

1 John 5:13—These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

### Ask God to save you in the name of Jesus!

Romans 10:10—For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of everyone at Families First, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your continuing donations to the program. Your commitment to this cause helps provide critical services to individuals in need, and your kindness truly makes a difference in their lives.

Thank you again for your compassion and generosity. Together we are creating a safer, stronger community.

Sincerely,  
Families First, Inc.

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Baptist Men's Sunday</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	3	4	5 10:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Prayer Meeting	6	7	8
<b>9 WMU Sunday</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 2:00-4:00 90th Birthday Celebration for Charlotte Collins in the fellowship hall	10 10:00 WMU Meeting	11	12 10:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Prayer Meeting	13	14 Deadline for Index Card Verses	15
<b>16</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	17 9:30 Finance Meeting	18 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	19 10:00 Prayer Meeting 5:45 Heck-Jones Meal and Program with Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Brown	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	24	25	26 10:00 Prayer Meeting 6:30 Prayer Meeting	27	28	

**FBC contact information:**

Phone - 910-642-2139

Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com

Web - www.fbcwhiteville.com

Facebook - First Baptist Church Whiteville

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**Whiteville, NC 28472-3298**  
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