



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025, VOLUME 60, NUMBER 1



BAPTIST



Men, mark your calendars - **Sunday, January 12, 8:00 a.m.** for Baptist Men's Breakfast. All the men of the church are invited to attend! We would love to share breakfast and fellowship with you, and update you about any projects the Baptist Men are working on.

Events At A Glance

January 1 - New Year's Day—Church Office Closed, No Wednesday Evening Prayer Service.

January 8, 15, 22, 29 - Wednesday Morning Prayer Service, 10:00 a.m.

January 8, 15, 22, 29 - Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

January 12 - Baptist Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

January 13 - WMU Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

January 15 - Committee Chair Report Deadline

January 19 - Church Council Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

January 20 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

January 21 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

January 22 - Wednesday Night Covered-dish meal, 5:45 p.m., Quarterly Church Conference, 6:30 p.m.

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

PASTOR'S CORNER



"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! There is great significance in this first "Contact" of 2025 as we say goodbye to the previous year, and make preparations for the new one ahead. Needless to say, there have been great strides and holy accomplishments that we have seen in 2024. Just to name a few, I am so proud of the way First Baptist responded to the calamity that fell upon our brothers and sisters in Western NC. We lead with both our hearts, and our pockets. We also had representation on the ground. And this work must carry on, because it isn't over. In addition, let us remember to thank the Lord, while also giving ourselves a quick pat on the back for the launching of our successful "Summer JAM" program. This was an exciting initiative with the impetus of bringing children back into His House. JAM "Jesus And Me!" I think that says it all! With music, crafts, games, bible study and prayer... the children saw Jesus as not only being present among us - but also **LOTS OF FUN!** We are now in the process of doing a Winter Jam, so stay tuned. This is to name just a few of our endeavors during 2024, but together we should all be proud of what we have set out to do on behalf of our Lord and Savior.

The text for one of our final sermons for 2024 was from the book of **Revelation, 21:4**. I felt that it was very appropriate in keeping with the difficult tasks that lie before us. And it's not just us, but for all houses of God where Jesus Christ is worshipped. Indeed, God has come to wipe every tear from our eyes. We see this in the work of that precious little baby Jesus whose birth we just finished celebrating. His life was triumphant - His life was hard. In His book, God tells us that the same will be true for us. And you know what? Bring it on because First Baptist is up to the challenge. I look forward to worshiping, celebrating, and working alongside **EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU** in the coming new year!

So it's during times like these when we look back to what we accomplished, what could have been... and the prayers for what's just ahead. In **Isaiah 41:10** God's Word gives us great hope: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you with My righteous right hand."*

He loves us! He cares for us and guides us every step of the way!
In Jesus Christ our God is **SO GOOD!**

My beloved at First Baptist Whiteville, may you have a **JOYOUS ADVENT SEASON & A FANTASTIC 2025!**

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Chris" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Pastor Chris

"What changed these very ordinary men (who were such cowards that they did not dare stand too near the cross in case they got involved) into heroes who would stop at nothing? A swindle? Hallucination? Spooky nonsense in a darkened room? Or Somebody quietly doing what He said He would do—walk right through death?"

J. B. Phillips

BE ENCOURAGED

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



CHRISTMAS JOY

How grateful I am to be a part of our thoughtful and giving First Baptist Church. It's obvious that we love to share and do for others! I had the sweetest blessing bestowed upon me, Wednesday, December 10, when I heard my door bell ring. I went to answer the door and there stood a plethora of beautiful friends with smiling faces, waving, wishing me a "Merry Christmas", and ready to shower me with beautiful Christmas carols. My, what an angelic sight! I wish I had a picture of them to share with you. The light from the porch was shining on their happy faces as they sang those glorious songs of the season. My

heart was overflowing with "joy" as I received this gift from our brothers and sisters. They also shared with many other of our members that same evening. Again, what a treat for us who cannot drive at night anymore, and who are loved and blessed by others. I must not forget to tell you they left with us a delicious bag of homemade "sweet treats". Thank you, thank you, thank you! And may God bless you this special season with this same sweet joy that we felt that evening of caroling.

Much love,
Hilda Ray

JANUARY MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

5 Tina Sauls
12 Jan Hinson
19 TBD
26 Beverly Pope

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

5 Willis Pinnell / Mary Alice Stanley
12 Donna Prince / Betty Jo Prevatte
19 Gina Morningstar / Brownie Cook
26 Leigh Cook / Mel Ray

HOSPICE MEALS

Martha Senter

NURSERY WORKERS

5 Brad & Anna Johnson
12 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
19 Keith & Jamie Beverley
26 Dale Duncan / Genie Carter
29 Carlton & Mary Jean Prince

SOUND & VIDEO

5 Kirby Sanderson
12 Eric Kronenwetter
19 Kirby Sanderson
26 Eric Kronenwetter

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

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. Thank you for your help in serving your fellow members.

STEWARDSHIP

December 1, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,947.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$350.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,297.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$675.00
Total Collections This Week	\$4,972.00
Under Budget This Week	\$1,126.08
Budget Need to date	\$48,807.72
Budget Rec'd to date	\$46,729.00
Under Budget to date	\$2,078.72

December 8, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,802.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$100.00
Total Budget This Week	\$2,902.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$753.69
Total Collections This Week	\$3,655.69
Under Budget This Week	\$2,521.08
Budget Need to date	\$54,230.80
Budget Rec'd to date	\$49,631.00
Under Budget to date	\$4,599.80

December 15, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$110.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,815.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$2,150.00
Total Budget This Week	\$7,075.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$370.50
Total Collections This Week	\$7,445.50
Over Budget This Week	\$1,651.92
Budget Need to date	\$59,653.88
Budget Rec'd to date	\$56,706.00
Under Budget to date	\$2,947.88

December 22, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,329.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$2,900.00
Total Budget This Week	\$6,229.50
Designated/Other Funds	\$2,395.00
Total Collections This Week	\$8,624.50
Over Budget This Week	\$806.42
Budget Need to date	\$65,076.96
Budget Rec'd to date	\$62,935.50
Under Budget to date	\$2,141.46

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Dale Duncan
18 Martha Senter
20 Kimberly Worley
22 Jo Anne Vereen
25 David Tedder
27 Kirby Sanderson
29 Charlie Priest

OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

December 1, 2024 - 50
December 8, 2024 - 45
December 15, 2024 - 62
December 22, 2024 - 52
December 29, 2024 - 50

Average attendance for December
Sunday School is 52.

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

December 29, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$1,400.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,734.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$950.00
Total Budget This Week	\$6,084.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$5,233.73
Total Collections This Week	\$11,317.73
Over Budget This Week	\$660.92
Budget Need to date	\$70,500.04
Budget Rec'd to date	\$68,519.50
Under Budget to date	\$1,480.54

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WMU Meeting: January 13, 2025 10:00 A.M.

Program / Call to Prayer: Martha Senter

Mission Project: Soup Ministry

Hospice Meal: Martha Senter (Contact: Karen: 910-642-9051)



December was filled with many opportunities for *Peace and Goodwill!* We thank the church family for your participation in the annual Missions Breakfast and your gifts to the missions offerings. You may continue to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and/or the Global Missions offering.

The WMU mission project for January is the Soup Ministry to our shut- in members and Madison Hill residents. If you know of a member of our church or community who needs this love gift, please let a WMU member know.

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

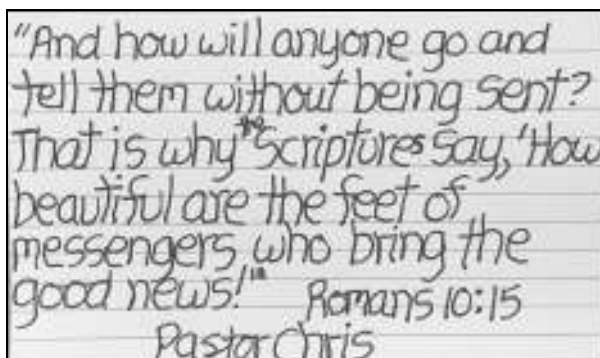
...is to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ.

Myrtle Corbett, Co-Director

Betty Jo Prevatte, Co-Director

SCRIPTURE EXERCISE

First Baptist **LOVES THE WORD OF GOD!** We are ALL so excited to begin 2025 in grand fashion, so in keeping with this vision, Pastor Chris has an exciting challenge to offer all of us 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!

*But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth He has promised,
a world filled with God's righteousness. 2 Peter 3:13 NLT*

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

ATTENTION ALL PRAYER WARRIORS

The eyes of the LROD watch over those who do right; and His ears are open to their cries for help.

Psalm 34:15

Some folks are unable to attend our 6:30 p.m. prayer service due to the early arrival of darkness during the winter season. Truth is, we want EVERYONE to be able to come and pray with us! God's gift of prayer is vitally important to us here at First Baptist, and to ring in the New Year, beginning on **Wednesday, January 8**, at **10:00 a.m.** we are going to add another prayer service to our weekly calendar. This will hopefully accommodate some folks who are unable to attend our evening service. Of course, we will also be meeting at our usual time of 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. We are just adding the new 10:00 a.m. slot to our Wednesday schedule. PLEASE COME JOIN US!

We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy.

Daniel 9:18

BAPTIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

Baptist Men will have their quarterly meeting on **Sunday, January 12, at 8:00 a.m.** We will have breakfast in the Fellowship Hall and get an update on the activities of last quarter and discuss projects for the upcoming quarter. We would like to encourage **all men** of the church to come out for breakfast and to have part in the projects undertaken by the Baptist Men as we band together to serve our community.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Committee Chairs, please mark you calendars for our next church council meeting on **Sunday, January 19 at 2 p.m.** **Remember that all committee/organizational reports need to be turned in to the church office by Wednesday, January 15.**

COVERED DISH MEAL AND QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE



Our next Quarterly Church Conference is scheduled for **Wednesday evening, January 22, at 6:30 p.m.** For Conference, we meet after Wednesday Night Supper, which is a covered dish meal, to discuss the changes/activities during the last quarter. If you are looking for service opportunities, this will be the perfect time to get the full overview of church activity. Please join us to get a better view of how our church is ministering to its members and to the community.

SERVING OTHERS



CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

What a fine group of carolers we had on Wednesday evening, December 18! Thank you to everyone who participated. All together we had 15 people singing with us. If you want to know if it is worth it to brave the weather and the ride from house to house, just look back on Mrs. Hilda Ray's letter of thanks on page 3. What a blessing it is to us to be able to serve our fellow members. Praise the Lord for

the health and the motivation to be able to share His word with His people. Ask around to some of the folks in this picture and some one will have a video to share that shows how much everyone involved was blessed by this event—singer and recipient. Thank you, Jesus, for coming to make a way to God for us, and thank you for letting us work in Your ministry.

Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

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	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79

Grassy area behind a house

Blooms that have petals

Spring precipitation

Puffy and white in the sky

Soil

Lawn

Must be weeded and tended

Tiptoe through these

Baby sheep

We need food and this

God made this from nothing

A sign of God's promise

These, in April, bring May flowers

1	10	13	15	25	39	38	2	7	13	5	22	23	12	73	11
17	31	39	45	22	63	7	9	70	56	5	22	23	58	46	
							4	18	19	30	26	22	49	22	9
30	63	26	1	47	55	72	78	39	26	60	77	59	5	74	23
12	73	20	73	23	40	35	13	56	64	70	75	9	11	65	
5	63	25	75	18	10	47	1	76	72	48	61	27	34	9	44
26	1	43	55	72	78	76	24	2	7	15	5	52	23	75	73
22	12	59	38	45	64	63	52	9	22	58	5	76	42		
52	44	10	47	10	2	23	35	73							

Answers: Backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, herbs, water, creation, rainbow, showers; Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed Happy New Year! 6:30 No Prayer Service	2	3	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship with special guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Pat Slomanski		7	8 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 6:30 Prayer Service	9	10	11
12 8:00 Baptist Men's Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	13 10:00 WMU Meeting	14	15 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 6:30 Prayer Service <i>Deadline for Committee Reports</i>	16	17	18
19 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 2:00 Church Council Meeting	20 9:30 Finance Meeting	21 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	22 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 5:45 Covered Dish Meal 6:30 Quarterly Church Conference	23	24	25
26 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	27	28	29 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 6:30 Prayer Service	30	31	

February 2025						
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	

FBC contact information:
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