



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JULY 2024, VOLUME 59, NUMBER 7

Summer



July 9—August 1, Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 9:00 a.m.—12 noon, for children ages 6+,
with Mr. Gus Cothorn—invite your friends and neighbors—
all are welcome.



*Baptist Men's
Breakfast*

All men of the
church are invited
to attend the
Baptist Men's
Breakfast on July
14 at 8:00 a.m.

Events At A Glance

- July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- July 4 - Church Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 10, 17, 24, 31 - Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
- July 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 - Children's Summer JAM, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
- July 14 - Baptist Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
- July 14 - Church Council Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- July 15 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- July 16 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- July 24 - Covered-dish Meal, 5:45 p.m. and Quarterly Church Conference, 6:30 p.m.
- July 26 - Family Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
- July 27 - Celebration of Life Service for Betty Jackson, 11:00 a.m.
- July 28 - Communion during morning worship, 11:00 a.m.

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

PASTOR'S CORNER



So whether on the evening news station, in the local barber shop, or perhaps even during small talk as we await the beginning of our Sunday School class - when was the last time you heard the statement *"American Christianity is dying"*? My guess is that it probably wasn't all that long ago.

And we only have to take a quick look at the pews of our sanctuaries in our houses of worship in order to bear this out, right? Maybe, maybe not. But just hear this: I happen to believe that the Good News of Jesus Christ is just as alive and well as it has ever been!

Our demographics might be changing—this we cannot deny. Society itself is definitely changing. But here's the best news of all: While we might want to look in the mirror and consider any changes that may be appropriate regarding our church's particular *"Christian Brand"*, or even how we go about our usual style of Sunday worship as it pertains to meeting the needs of God's children in our community... **WE SERVE A GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES!** Yes, He's the ONE constant throughout.

So moving forward, perhaps we might want to ask the question, *"How can I love my neighbor even better than I do now?"* I think this is a good question for us to ask.

Summertime is finally here. Hard working people everywhere are looking to include a little bit of fun in their lives. I happen to be a pastor who believes that although we don't attend church in order to *have fun*, fun is definitely able to be found in church. Or at least, plug in the word enjoyment for fun if that makes us feel better!

"American Christianity is dying." I am here to tell you that nothing could be further from the truth - *especially right now*. People everywhere are looking for His Spirit. And we are His messengers. Again, every few months this headline rings out in secular and religious newspapers, during the nightly news, and on social media. Bolstered with studies that reveal Americans less willing to identify with traditional religious groups, Christians and non-Christians alike claim we are witnessing the long-awaited collapse of American Christianity. And this is one of the deceivers greatest tools. But we won't fall for it - because we know better.

Just remember when I once told you that **"THE TRUTH COMES IN THE SHAPE OF A CROSS."** Let's hang onto my previous question because I think it's very important: *"How can I love my neighbor even better than I do now?"*

For answers to these questions we can go directly to the Word of God. Paul encourages us with this reminder: *"imitate me, just as I imitate Christ"*. **(1 Corinthians 11:1 NLT)**. Here's our answer... We are to *act* like the One whom we want to *seem* like. And I am CONVINCED that numerous folks all around us are going to respond. We will see this in brand new visits to church on Sunday mornings, folks showing up for our "movie nights", Tuesday night Bible studies, Wednesday evening prayer service, and on and on.

In conclusion, many bemoan the decline of the church. But new research reveals that unchurched Americans are surprisingly more receptive and open to the Christian faith than is commonly assumed. And as far as our neighbors go? **LOVE THEM! INVITE THEM! AND ENJOY THEM!** This might just be what they have been needing all along.



Graphic from [You Found Me](#), by Rick Richardson

It's a new day and there's great cause for excitement in God's House at First Baptist. Be a part of it - but don't be content to keep it just to yourself. Show off your church! And love your neighbor SO MUCH that you have to BRING YOUR FRIEND!

"Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her." **(Ephesians 5:25)**

Pastor Hillman

JULY MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

7 Tina Sauls
14 Jan Hinson
21 Tricia Sanderson
28 Beverly Pope

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

7 Merle Worley / Hilda Ray
14 Buster Carter / Bobby Hensley
21 Willis Pinnell / Glenn Waters
28 Stephen Prince / Betty Jo Prevatte

HOSPICE MEALS

Myrtle Corbett

NURSERY WORKERS

7 Brad & Anna Johnson
14 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
21 Keith & Jamie Beverley
28 Brenda Carter / Genie Carter

SOUND & VIDEO

7 Kirby Sanderson
14 Eric Kronenwetter
21 Kirby Sanderson
28 Eric Kronenwetter

On Wednesday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m., during Wednesday night Prayer Service, we will begin our study of the book of I Corinthians. *A church had been established in Corinth, but the problem was keeping Corinth (their pagan lifestyle) out of the church.* Please join us as we study Paul's letter to his Christian brothers and sisters in Corinth.



STEWARDSHIP

June 2, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,683.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$440.00
Total Budget This Week	\$3,123.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$360.00
Total Collections This Week	\$3,483.00
Under Budget This Week	\$2,281.95
Budget Need to date	\$194,578.20
Budget Rec'd to date	\$218,223.00
Over Budget to date	\$23,644.80

June 9, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$610.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,094.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$700.00
Total Budget This Week	\$5,404.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$4,458.70
Total Collections This Week	\$9,862.70
Under Budget This Week	\$0.95
Budget Need to date	\$199,983.15
Budget Rec'd to date	\$223,627.00
Over Budget to date	\$23,643.85

June 16, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,721.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$200.00
Total Budget This Week	\$2,921.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$585.50
Total Collections This Week	\$3,506.50
Under Budget This Week	\$2,483.95
Budget Need to date	\$205,388.10
Budget Rec'd to date	\$226,548.00
Over Budget to date	\$21,159.90

June 23, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,417.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$1,320.00
Total Budget This Week	\$3,737.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$375.00
Total Collections This Week	\$4,112.00
Under Budget This Week	\$1,667.95
Budget Need to date	\$210,793.05
Budget Rec'd to date	\$230,285.00
Over Budget to date	\$19,491.95

June 30, 2024

(Will appear in next month's Contact.)

JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 Jamie Beverley
7 J. C. Hyatt
8 Doria Davis
Christie Hogeboon
9 Jason Schoolcraft
15 Donna Prince
20 Delores Harrison
Grace Mishoe
24 Jim Warlick
31 Catherine Cook

MAY SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

June 2, 2024 - 51
June 9, 2024 - 42
June 16, 2024 - 38
June 23, 2024 - 53
June 30, 2024 - TBA

Average attendance for June
Sunday School is 46.

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

*Until we meet Jesus face to face in
Heaven, there is no end to our spiritual
growth.*

Rick Renner

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



CHURCH AFTER CHURCH

We had lunch at Chef and the Frog on Sunday June 23. We had a good crowd, good food, and lots of fellowship. You are invited to join us Sundays after the morning worship as we take the love of Christ out into the community.

BOOK STUDY

Beginning Monday August 5, at 6:30 p.m., we will meet together to discuss author, professor, pastor, Amy DiMarcangelo's Go And Do Likewise, A Call To Follow Jesus In A Life Of Mercy And Mission. This powerhouse of a little book is guaranteed to ignite robust group participation as it pertains to the further development of our Christian walk.

Sign up now! For details on how to order your copy of the book, please contact the church office. **Put this on your calendar** for summer fun, fellowship, and learning as we look forward to gathering together on Monday evenings.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

I Thessalonians 5:11 KJV

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

OFFICE CLOSING

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, July 4th** in observance of Independence Day. We hope you have a safe weekend!



BAPTIST MEN

On **Sunday, July 14**, Baptist Men will meet at **8:00 a.m.** for breakfast and fellowship. All men of the church are invited to join us!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Committee Chairs, please mark your calendar for our Church Council meeting on **Sunday, July 14** at **3:00 p.m.** This meeting will help us plan together for upcoming activities.



QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE



Please plan to attend our next quarterly church conference on **July 24**. We will begin the evening with a covered-dish meal at 5:45 p.m. If Committee Chairs have committee **reports** to turn in for their committees, please have those in by **Thursday, July 18**. Thank you.

COMMUNION

We are planning to celebrate the Lord's Supper on **Sunday, July 28**, during morning worship.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us for Sunday School each week at 9:45 a.m. We have classes for every age group. Let's grow our Sunday school ministry.

NEW BABY

Mrs. Betty Jo Prevatte would like to announce that her great niece, Mrs. Nicole Land Mathias, who grew up here at First Baptist Church and was active in the Youth Choir, along with her husband, Kevin, on June 24, 2024, had a baby boy, Henry Craig Mathias. Congratulations and best wishes to Nicole, Kevin, and Henry Craig Mathias!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

WMU

WMU Meeting: No Meeting in July

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



JUNE ACTIVITIES:

On June 9, the WMU was pleased to recognize two of our outstanding young women on their college graduation. **Leah Sanderson**, daughter of Kirby and Trish, graduated from NC State University with a BS in Nutrition and a minor in Psychology. **Hannah Clark**, daughter of Tom and Tanya, graduated from High Point University with a BA in Biology and a minor in Psychology. They were given congratulatory cards and gift cards from the WMU. FBC and the WMU will continue to support them with our love and prayers.

On June 10, several WMU members had a "Missions Outing". We enjoyed lunch at Captain Nance's Seafood Restaurant in Calabash before delivering items collected for Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. (CRCI) to its newest location in Sunset Beach NC.

On Sunday, June 30, the WMU will lead the church in a worshipful, patriotic service to commemorate America's Independence Day. We are truly grateful for the privilege to live in a free country and to worship God, who gives us true freedom through Jesus Christ. "Thank You!" to everyone who helped plan and participate in the service.

The 2022-24 Watchword is: *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, Director

Betty Jo Prevatte, Co-Director



CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM

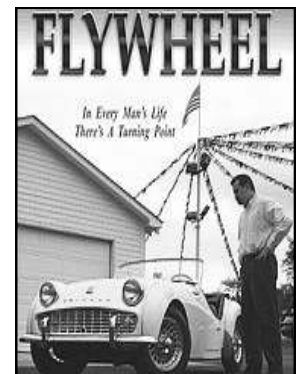
Get ready for an exciting Summer JAM! Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 9-August 1, from 9 a.m.—12 noon. Please begin working in the community inviting children to come and participate in Bible stories, crafts, music, and games. Mr. Gus Cothern (some of you may know him from the music program at Edgewood Elementary) will be leading the music for the summer program for our children. We look forward to reaching our community's children and their families through our Children's Summer Program. Please spread the word!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Come in out of the heat and enjoy Family Movie Night with us on Friday, July 26. We will have popcorn, fellowship, a movie, and plenty of air conditioning for everyone.

This month we will watch "Flywheel" -

Jay Austin wants to sell used cars in the worst way. . .and that's exactly how he does business at his dealership. Promising much more than he can ever deliver, he'll do whatever it takes to sell a car. His manipulative ways permeate all of his relations-even his wife and son don't trust him. But as Jay works on restoring a classic convertible, he begins to see that God is working on restoring him as well. Coming face-to-face with the reality of how he truly conducts himself, Jay Austin begins the ride of his life as he learns to honor God with his business, his relationships, and his life!



ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Students who have been awarded college scholarships for the upcoming school year will need to contact Dinah Reaves, Financial Ministry Assistant, in the church office with their school's address and their student ID number by Tuesday, July 30, in order to have the scholarship mailed to their school financial office. She will also need a copy of the *Thank You* letter you mailed to the Holt family for awarding you the scholarship so it can be included in Endowment records. Students can bring all this information to Dinah in the church office on Mondays or Tuesdays, or submit by email at fbcwhite@fbcwhiteville.com

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank the church family for the incredible love, prayers, and support you gave us during the recent illness and loss of our mother, Juanita Stanley. All four of us were raised in this church and coming home to celebrate our mother's life was made special because of all of you. From the loving words, songs, and music at the service to the beautiful reception afterwards to the details covered by the office, we felt embraced. You will all forever be in our hearts.

Love,
Deborah, Sammy, Kathy, and Gretta

Dear First Baptist Family,
Carlton and Mary Jean Prince appreciate your thoughts, prayers, kindnesses, cards, texts, and calls following Carlton's emergency surgery June 8. His healing process continues on schedule.

With thanks and gratitude,
Carlton and Mary Jean Prince

To the Grief Committee and each individual who worked to put together the refreshments for Muriel's Celebration of Life—We Thank You!


You gave us time to visit with friends and family . . . time to hug and cry; laugh & remember and pause for a moment to honor her, our mom, Muriel. So again, we say thanks for all you did. We are grateful.

Sincerely,
Teresa, Pat & Keith (Muriel Hill's three children)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for recognizing me during Graduation Sunday and for the lovely devotional you gave me. I am excited for this new journey and I am grateful for the prayers and encouragement from this wonderful church congregation.

Sincerely,
Leah Sanderson

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FBC contact information:
 Phone - 910-642-2139,
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