

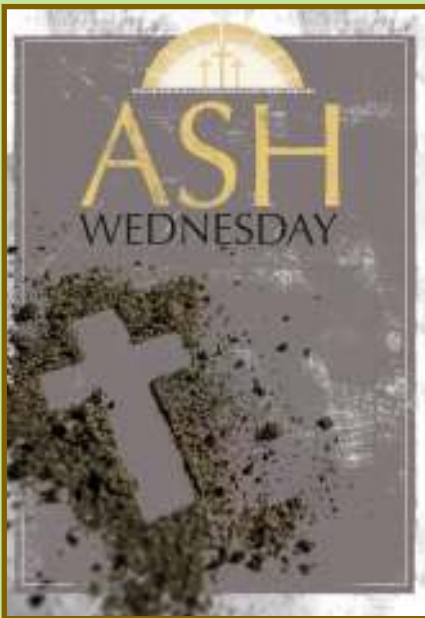


# First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

## THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025, VOLUME 60, NUMBER 3



Please join us on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, for one of the year's most meaningful worship services.

Community Lenten Services will be held at Whiteville United Methodist Church beginning at **12 noon, Wednesday, March 12**. Lunch will be served in their fellowship hall following the service.



### Events At A Glance

- March 5 - Wednesday Morning Prayer Service, 10:00 a.m.
- March 5 - Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.
- March 9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 10 - WMU Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- March 12, 19, 26 - Lenten Services, 12:00 noon at Whiteville United Methodist Church
- March 12, 19, 26 - Wednesday Evening Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
- March 17 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- March 18 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- March 19 - Wednesday Night Supper, 5:45 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



*"The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

**1 Samuel 16: 7, NLT**

So again let us be reminded: as followers of Christ we are each called to encounter a broad variety of others who are around us. And trust me when I tell you - they are there for a specific reason. One of the most difficult things to envision is the dark world into which Jesus has commanded us to *BE THE LIGHT* of the world. Here's a little food for thought: It's when the jar breaks, that our lamps will really begin to shine. That's right. Why? Well, it's because God does great things with broken pieces. He always has. And His Holy Word is replete with such stories that bear this out. Both the old AND the new. There's Joseph and Rahab. David, and Jonah too. And of course let us not forget our friends Peter and Paul, formerly Saul. To be sure, God specializes in allowing light to shine through previously broken pieces. It's the same thing He does with us!

Many people of faith become entrenched in *"doing faith"* through Bible studies, attending church, or reading Christian books and forget about *"living faith"* in order for them to shine for God. Now please don't get me wrong, the above described activities are wonderful resources in which we can further enhance our Christian witness. They are. But they should not attempt to replace what we read when **Matthew 5:14** tells us *"You are the light of the world"*. We must always remember that we have been formed (and so often re-formed) into being His light that shines.

Let's think of it this way: The world says *"How do you do?"* But Jesus says, *"How do you live?"* Because it's right here that I sincerely think makes all the difference. Right now, how do the citizens of First Baptist Whiteville live? Are we approachable? Are we interested? Are we accessible? Are we concerned? And as Jesus might ask, *"Are we disciples who are making other disciples?"* Now with all of this it sure sounds like we are each destined to be very busy people. It also sounds like we have our work cut out for us. And I think that we would be right ON BOTH ACCOUNTS. But this is a big part of what's really exciting about ministry. ONE: I (we) have a lot of work to do. TWO: I am (we are) very qualified to effectively get this work done. God already makes this imminently clear, as He wouldn't have placed us here otherwise. THREE: He never leaves us on our own. *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Not only does our God give us explicit directives in written form, He has also demonstrated each and every one of them in person. Remember, **GOD IS LOVE.**

And now, as a vibrant, living, breathing church body - it's our turn. It's our turn to do what He has already done! It's our turn to join in and do what He's continuing to do right now! For an encouraging rallying cry let us look to the words of Paul in **Romans 13:11**: *"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."* You are the light! So how do you live - as one who sets off the glow of God? Are we employed with the occupation of being disciples who make other disciples? Again, **THE TIME IS NOW.** First Baptist let us *"buddy up"*, because there is no need for us to feel that we have to do this on our own. On Sunday, March 2 **PREPARE FOR OUR HEART'S TO BE SET ABLAZE** as we begin to see the children in our church taking on a more active role within all facets of God worship. Why are they doing this? Why now? Because they asked to! Because they said they want to! **AND BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THEY NEED TO!**

I'm very excited, can you tell? And First Baptist Whiteville, **I HOPE AND PRAY** that you are excited too! Our days ahead are bright - because **YOU ARE THE LIGHT.**

In Jesus' holy name may we offer the love of His heart's content to someone who needs Him **RIGHT NOW!**

May God bless you all. Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Chris" followed by a stylized flourish.

# OBSERVING SEASONS

As Baptists, we are believers in freedom. We are not religiously obligated to observe Ash Wednesday, Lent, or any other season; instead we do so by free choice. We can *choose* to participate. That is what makes special services such powerful opportunities for worship—we *choose* to follow Jesus just like He chose to die for us.

This month we celebrate Ash Wednesday. It is the first day of the season of Lent, and Lent is the forty days, excluding Sundays, before Easter. Its name comes from the imposition of ashes on the head which reminds us that we are dust. It has been traditional in the church to have a service that day in which we spend time taking spiritual stock of our lives. The service is meant to be a time of spiritual reflection and confession as we think on the reality of Easter.

Ash Wednesday is March 5 this year. On Ash Wednesday, we typically give up something to show our love for Christ. Perhaps this year, we can DO something more in Jesus' name rather than giving up something that is easy. We also invite you to attend Lenten services at Whiteville United Methodist Church as a way to focus attention on Christ and His sacrifice for us.

## AM I REALLY GOING TO HEAVEN?

If you don't know the Lord as your personal Savior, wouldn't this be the perfect time of year to begin your relationship with Him? Just because you are a member of a church does not mean that you will go to heaven when you pass from this life. *Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of My Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to Me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in Your name and cast out demons in Your name and performed many miracles in Your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from Me, you who break God's laws.'*

*Matthew 7:21-23*

### 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

1 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.

## MARCH MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 2 Tina Sauls
- 9 Jan Hinson
- 16 TBD
- 23 Beverly Pope
- 30 TBD

### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

- 2 Donna Prince / Betty Jo Prevatte
- 9 Gina Morningstar / Kirby Sanderson
- 16 Leigh Cook / Mel Ray
- 23 Brownie Cook / Betty Jo Prevatte
- 30 Lauren Cole / Jeff Mahanes

### HOSPICE MEALS

Betty Jo Prevatte

### NURSERY WORKERS

- 2 Brad & Anna Johnson
- 9 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
- 16 Keith & Jamie Beverley
- 23 Dale Duncan / Genie Carter
- 30 Resa Hillman / Julie Hillman

### SOUND & VIDEO

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

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

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

**April 23**—Group 6 - Chairs Fred & Martha Senter

### 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

February 2, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$100.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,990.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$700.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$3,790.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$1,705.00
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$5,495.00</b>

**Under Budget This Week \$1,633.08**

Budget Need to date	\$97,615.44
Budget Rec'd to date	\$89,433.50
Under Budget to date	\$8,181.94

February 9, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$300.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,767.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$952.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$6,019.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$175.00
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$6,194.00</b>

**Over Budget This Week \$595.92**

Budget Need to date	\$103,038.52
Budget Rec'd to date	\$95,452.50
Under Budget to date	\$7,586.02

February 16, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$100.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$1,997.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$352.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$2,449.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$250.00
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$2,699.00</b>

**Under Budget This Week \$2,974.08**

Budget Need to date	\$108,461.60
Budget Rec'd to date	\$97,901.50
Under Budget to date	\$10,560.10

February 23, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$110.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,201.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$311.00
<b>Total Budget This Week</b>	<b>\$3,622.00</b>

Designated/Other Funds	\$515.00
<b>Total Collections This Week</b>	<b>\$4,137.00</b>

**Under Budget This Week \$1,801.08**

Budget Need to date	\$113,884.68
Budget Rec'd to date	\$101,523.50
Under Budget to date	\$12,361.18

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Janis Hinson  
Gina Morningstar
- 3 Coburn Powell  
Byron Ward
- 4 Pastor Hillman  
Jason Wheatley
- 6 Haywood Corbett  
Nick Griffin  
Tricia Sanderson  
Pierson Young
- 7 Gary Bass
- 9 Anna Ezzell
- 11 Justin Faulk
- 12 Rachel Powell
- 13 Tanya Clark  
Charles Lytle  
Glena Turbeville
- 14 Terri Powell  
Melissa Priest
- 17 Brenda Carter  
Wil Ezzell
- 18 Chris Blackmon
- 21 Ann Sauls
- 22 Joe Cook  
Howard Tew  
Lois Willetts
- 24 Clint Grainger  
Wendy Hensley  
Ken Waters
- 25 Hilda Butler
- 27 Johnny Britt

## OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

February 2, 2025 - 49  
February 9, 2025 - 59  
February 16, 2025 - 50  
February 23, 2025 - 63

Average attendance for February  
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]

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WMU

**WMU Meeting:** March 10, 2025 10:00 A.M.  
**Program / Call to Prayer:** Betty Jo Prevatte  
**Mission Project:** Saving Sons, Whiteville NC  
**Hospice Meal:** Betty Jo Prevatte (Contact: Karen: 910-642-9051)



**Choose Joy!** What joy it was to celebrate WMU Focus Week with Dr. Wayne and Mrs. Joy Brown. "Thank you" to everyone who assisted with the arrangements and all of you who attended. Our church goal for the offering is \$3,000. Please continue to give to support North Carolina missions.

The mission project for March is to provide supplies for Saving Sons, a safe haven for men who need encouragement and spiritual help to overcome unwise life choices. They need our prayers and support. Helpful items that we can provide are laundry and kitchen detergent, paper products, trash bags, hand and bath soap, shampoo, etc. These items can be placed on the Missions table in the fellowship Hall or the small table in the church foyer.

**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

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

We have been requested by Whiteville Challenge Academy to provide 5 additional backpack bags. We are now packing 15 weekly. If you would like to help with this mission, you can make a donation to Backpacks through the church or provide some of the following items: any of the pop top cans that have some protein, peanut butter crackers, pudding cups, fruit cups, protein bars, granola bars. We make an effort to provide healthy snacks. Thank you for helping us meet this need.

If you know of a need, please contact the church office or a member of the Missions Committee.

## BAPTIST MEN

A special THANKS to all the men who helped build the ramp for Kenwood and Sam Royal. The added dimension of fellowship among the men plus the hard skilled work made for a very good experience. The Royals were very appreciative and have been using the ramp. GOOD JOB MEN!!

We also thank Jeff Mahanes for accepting the position of Director of Baptist Men for next year.

Our next Baptists Men's meeting will be **Sunday, April 13**. Think of a member who is not attending and invite him to this great breakfast and meeting.

Fred Senter, Director

# ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

## A.M. PRAYER SERVICE AND LENTEN SERVICES

*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., and we would like to encourage you to invite friends and family to join us.



Whiteville United Methodist Church is hosting Lenten Services again this year beginning **Wednesday, March 12 at 12 noon.** They will also serve lunch after the service. While we have Lenten services at the Methodist church, we will not meet for our Wednesday Morning Prayer Service at 10:00 a.m., that way everyone will have the opportunity to attend Lenten Services without being rushed.



## MEMORIES

Guess what our church family has been doing! This is just a sample of the activities that have been taking place lately. These pictures are from a ramp build, Charlotte Collins' birthday reception, Church After Church, and Heck-Jones Meal and Program. Thank you for taking part in these events. It sure looks like a "good time was had by all."



# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

## JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly version of the Bible, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



**DAY 1**  
Genesis 3:15

**DAY 2**  
Isaiah 7:14

**DAY 3**  
Matthew 1:20-21

**DAY 4**  
Luke 2:11

**DAY 5**  
Luke 2:52

**DAY 6**  
Mark 1:9-11

**DAY 7**  
Matthew 4:10

**DAY 8**  
Matthew 4:18-20

**DAY 9**  
Luke 6:27-31

**DAY 10**  
Matthew 11:28-30

**DAY 11**  
Luke 4:40-41

**DAY 12**  
Luke 8:24-25

**DAY 13**  
Matthew 12:8

**DAY 14**  
Mark 6:41-42

**DAY 15**  
Luke 9:20-22

**DAY 16**  
John 3:16-17

**DAY 17**  
John 6:35

**DAY 18**  
John 8:12

**DAY 19**  
John 10:14-15

**DAY 20**  
Mark 10:13-16

**DAY 21**  
Mark 9:2-3

**DAY 22**  
Matthew 20:17-19

**DAY 23**  
Luke 19:9-10

**DAY 24**  
Matthew 14:25-27

**DAY 25**  
Luke 10:36-37

**DAY 26**  
John 11:25-27, 43

**DAY 27**  
John 12:3

**DAY 28**  
Matthew 21:8-9

**DAY 29**  
Mark 11:15-16

**DAY 30**  
John 17:17-19

**DAY 31**  
Luke 22:3-6

**DAY 32**  
Mark 14:22-24

**DAY 33**  
John 13:3-5

**DAY 34**  
Matthew 26:39

**DAY 35**  
Luke 22:63-65

**DAY 36**  
Mark 15:22-26

**DAY 37**  
Matthew 27:50-54

**DAY 38**  
John 19:40-42

**DAY 39**  
Luke 24:1-8

**DAY 40**  
Matthew 28:19-20

March 2025																																																							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
						1																																																	
2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	3	4	5 10:00 Prayer Meeting  6:30 Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary	6	7	8 																																																	
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship  Daylight Saving Time Begins	10  10:00 WMU Meeting	11	12  12 noon Lenten Service @ Whiteville United Methodist Church with lunch to follow  6:30 Prayer Meeting	13	14	15																																																	
16 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	17  9:30 Finance Meeting	18  6:30 Deacons' Meeting	19  12 noon Lenten Service @ Whiteville United Methodist Church with lunch to follow  6:30 Prayer Meeting	20	21	22																																																	
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	24	25	26  12 noon Lenten Service @ Whiteville United Methodist Church with lunch to follow  6:30 Prayer Meeting	27	28	29																																																	
30 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	31				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">April 2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		April 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	29	30			
April 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	29	30																																																				

FBC contact information:  
 Phone - 910-642-2139  
 Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com

**First Baptist Church**  
**412 North Madison Street**  
**Whiteville, NC 28472-3298**  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

<p>Nonprofit Organization          US Postage Paid          Permit #88          Whiteville, NC 28472</p>
--