



First Baptist Church

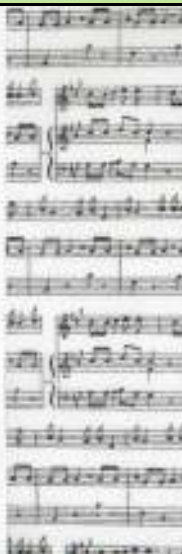
Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2024, VOLUME 59, NUMBER 5



**Columbus
Community Band
Concert,
May 19, 3:00 p.m. in
the FBC Sanctuary.
Everyone is invited to
support the band at
this free event!**



Events At A Glance

- May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
- May 7, 14, 21, 28 - Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- May 9 - Growing Our Church, 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.
- May 12 - Mother's Day
- May 13 - WMU Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- May 15 - Wednesday Night Supper, 5:45 p.m.
- May 19 - Columbus Community Band Concert in the sanctuary, 3:00 p.m.
- May 20 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- May 21 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 27 - Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 31 - Family Movie Night, 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



I serve the Lord with great humility and with tears. Acts 20:19

What a wonderful day we all had on Saturday, April 27, as we gathered in God's house in celebration of *Operation Inasmuch*. I use the word "celebrate", because it's just that—we get to celebrate being people who are called upon to be God's hands and feet for the 'least of these' within our community. Taken from their website, ponder these words and let them fill your hearts: *"In addition, we also run the Able-Life Program in our 40-bed men's facility. We hope to help lead men back to the path God called them to walk. Thus far, dozens of men have gotten jobs, made professions of faith, and moved out into their own homes."* To God be the glory!

I want us to pause and think for just a minute about the butlers and maids who have been hired to work in Buckingham Palace. The Greek word here, *doulos*, is sometimes translated as "bondservant." A bondservant is a slave, a person whose entire life is lived at the whim of another person. What does a slave do? They obey their master. Period. No arguments. No personal agendas or priorities. When Paul told the elders that during the three years he spent in Ephesus, he served the Lord (**Acts 20:19**), he was telling them that's what it looks like to be a slave of Jesus Christ. Now, slavery is typically a miserable existence, unless of course your master happens to be Jesus—the One who died for you, loves you, and cares about everything in your life. Then it becomes the most glorious life in all the world!

The church God is building is not a democracy. It's not a government of the people, by the people, for the people. We have that form of government here on earth. But the Kingdom of Heaven is just that: a kingdom, an absolute monarchy. By calling himself a bondservant, in essence, Paul was merely saying, "I belong to Christ. I am under His orders. I only want to fulfill His will for my life. I'm not in it for fame or fortune. It's not people I want to please. My only goal in life is to hear Him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'"

While being a minister is beyond challenging, it's also a tremendous privilege. I would hope that we all realize this. As I have said before, those of us who have been called into membership at First Baptist Whiteville—we have already been chosen to join up with God in His ministry. In short, we are all fellow participants in this sacred profession! And I think that we should always remember that whatever is happening today in the White House, in Congress, or on Wall Street pales in comparison to the vitally important work that God has given for each of us. Indeed, our sacred work—unlike all other forms of service and leadership—has eternal consequences. We've all probably seen the painting of Jesus standing next to the United Nations building, knocking to get in. But Christ's great aim is not to get into the United Nations. What He most wants, I believe, is to be more welcome in our churches. And you and I are perfectly suited to help make this come about. All that's necessary is for us to surrender to His plan for our ministries and congregations.

This is why *Operation Inasmuch* is so critically important in our day. Here, God gives each of us the unique opportunity to showcase Himself into those areas of the community that need Him most. So may we please always remember this: Ministers are who we are, and His ministry is what we do.

Praise Him for the sacred work He entrusts us with. May we continue to serve Him—and serve Him well!

Pastor Hillman



90+ CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 21, was a wonderful celebration for our special members who are in their golden years. A special thanks to all those who helped make it memorable, especially those who so willingly prepared food for the luncheon. When you make phone calls asking for help and you are told "Thank you for asking me to help," you realize what a wonderful church family you have.



To all who helped with the 90 Years of Age and Older Recognition Celebration: Thank you for giving your time, energy, talents and LOVE to honor those of us in our sunset years; a wonderful day that I will always remember with a grateful heart.

With sincere appreciation and love,
Martha Watson

On behalf of all of the members who were honored at the 90+ celebration on Sunday, April 21, I wish to express appreciation to everyone who helped to plan and orchestrate the event. The thoughtful planning, preparation, and hard work were evident in every part of the day. All of the honorees with whom I have spoken expressed that it was the most significant recognition they could have received. The beautiful flowers, music, and message, followed by a delicious meal and fellowship combined to make it a wonderful day. Thank you to Dr. Wayne Brown, Dr. Patricia Slomanski and the choir, and Molly Brown Howard for blessing us with beautiful music, and to Dr. Chris Hillman for his very thoughtful and timely sermon. It was truly a joyful, spiritual, and worshipful day in God's house!

Haywood Corbett

Mrs. Doris Harwood also came by the office to let us know how much she and her son enjoyed the service. They also enjoyed the food that was taken to them at her house.

MAY MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

5 Tina Sauls
12 Jan Hinson
19 Tricia Sanderson
26 Beverly Pope

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

5 Sandi Floyd / Mel Ray
12 Charlie Duncan / Ella Jo Sellers
19 Merle Worley / Hilda Ray
26 Buster Carter / Bobby Hensley

HOSPICE MEALS

Resa Hillman / Julie Hillman

NURSERY WORKERS

5 Brad & Anna Johnson
12 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
19 Keith & Jamie Beverley
26 Brenda Carter / Genie Carter

SOUND & VIDEO

5 Kirby Sanderson
12 Eric Kronenwetter
19 Kirby Sanderson
25 Eric Kronenwetter

WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICES

On Wednesday evening, we take the opportunity to praise the Lord for answered prayer and pray for specific needs of the church and community as we review and update our Ministry of Encouragement prayer concern sheet. After we have a time of prayer, we spend some time in scripture together. This month we are studying the book of **Romans**. You are invited to fellowship over God's Word with us each **Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.** for Wednesday Night Prayer Service.



STEWARDSHIP

April 7, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$100.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,500.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$150.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,750.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$1,083.54
Total Collections This Week	\$5,833.54
Under Budget This Week	\$654.95
Budget Need to date	\$151,338.60
Budget Rec'd to date	\$160,953.00
Over Budget to date	\$9,614.40

April 14, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$210.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$6,314.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$500.00
Total Budget This Week	\$7,024.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$1,354.76
Total Collections This Week	\$8,378.76
Over Budget This Week	\$1,619.05
Budget Need to date	\$156,743.55
Budget Rec'd to date	\$167,977.00
Over Budget to date	\$11,233.45

April 21, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$5,105.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$1,270.00
Total Budget This Week	\$6,375.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$930.00
Total Collections This Week	\$7,305.00
Over Budget This Week	\$970.05
Budget Need to date	\$162,148.50
Budget Rec'd to date	\$174,352.00
Over Budget to date	\$12,203.50

April 28, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$1,700.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,495.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$500.00
Total Budget This Week	\$6,695.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$630.00
Total Collections This Week	\$7,325.00
Under Budget This Week	\$1,290.05
Budget Need to date	\$167,553.45
Budget Rec'd to date	\$181,047.00
Over Budget to date	\$13,493.55

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Sue Pinnell
5 Maggie Williamson
Mary-Gregg Williamson
6 Janet Plasky
8 Betty Jo Prevatte
11 Leah Sanderson
15 Leigh Cook
17 Marty Ezzell
20 Glenn Waters
25 Carly Sanderson
26 Hilda Ray
27 Myrtie Sellers
30 Mary Jean Prince
31 Heath Watson

APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Average attendance for April
Sunday School is 45.

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

Special Offerings

Annie Armstrong \$325.00
Global Missions \$1,050.00

*It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not
consumed, because His compassions fail
not. They are new every morning: great is
Thy faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

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

The Nominating Committee at First Baptist Church has developed a survey to assist us as we recruit and assign members to committees for the 2024-2025 church year. We ask that you review the survey and respond to the areas where you might be interested in participating. These could be committees or activities where you currently serve or something new. The survey also provides an opportunity for you to decline participation on a committee or ministry. We ask that you complete these surveys by **Thursday, June 1**. You may return them to the church office; place in the offering plate on Sunday morning; return to a Sunday School class or at another meeting that might be held at the church such as Bible Study, Growing our Church, or WMU. The Committee appreciates your attention to this survey and please call Lauren Cole at 910-840-3785 with any questions or concerns.



**Ministry Interest Survey
2024-2025**

To prepare for our upcoming year, the Nominating Committee needs your help. This Ministry interest Survey is designed to help you begin to consider where you might like to serve. The nominating Committee will use your survey to recommend people for committees and leadership positions based on your interests and the church’s needs. Please be aware that completion of this survey does not automatically place you on any committee or commit you to any area of service. We need everyone to complete these important surveys by June 1, 2024.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

What are your talents/hobbies/skills/trades? _____

Do you prefer to work with/lead people or manage/ complete tasks?

Check all that apply:

- Work with people (group efforts)
- Manage/Complete tasks (as an individual)
- Manage/Complete tasks (lead others)
- Planning (short term events)
- No Preference
- I do not wish to serve.
- In the future I will be willing to help.

With which age group do you prefer to serve?

- Babies to Toddlers (0-2 years)
- Young Children (3-5 years)
- Older Children (6-11 years)
- Youth
- Adults



Check all that apply:

- I prefer to do “behind the scenes” work
- I use a computer frequently
- I use a computer only when necessary
- I do not use a computer
- I can help answer phones in the church office on occasion.
- I am willing to do the following in worship:
- Children’s Sermon
- Operate Sound System
- Pray
- Readings

COMMITTEES & MINISTRY TEAMS

Our church uses the following committees to carry out its ministries. You need to be a member of First Baptist church to serve on most of these committees. Descriptions of each committee's tasks are available in the church office.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism/Lord's Supper | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds/Properties | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws | <input type="checkbox"/> History/Long Range Facility Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship/Finance/Endowment/
Transportation/Offering Teller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's/Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen/Wednesday Night Supper | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama/Flower/Hanging of the
Greens | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life/Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Night Meal Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grief | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Volunteer | |

MUSIC & WORSHIP MINISTRIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool Choir Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Pianist (for special events or to substitute) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Choir Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Choir Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Activities—Homecoming, Easter, Fall Festival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Choir Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio Visual |

LIFEGROUPS

Current teachers & workers, please use this opportunity to indicate your desire to teach for the 2024-2025 year. This is also for those who are not currently teaching to indicate a desire to be involved.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Morning Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Morning Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute Teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WMU

WMU Meeting: Monday, May 13, 10:00 A.M.

Call to Prayer and Program: Ella Jo Sellers

Mission Project: Snacks for SCC Students

Hospice Meal: Resa and Julie Hillman (Contact Karen: 910-642-9051)



The WMU enjoyed participating in Operation Inasmuch 2024 on April 27, preparing and delivering soup luncheon bags to our homebound members and others in our community. We also served lunch to the event workers. It was a rewarding opportunity!

The Mission Project for May is providing snacks to Southeastern Community College students during the week of final exams May 1-7. An encouraging note card with a scripture verse is included. Our goal is to support and encourage these future leaders in their educational and spiritual journey.

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



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

We have had a lot of fun with Family Movie Night. We have had good crowds, lots of popcorn, and good fellowship. Family Movie Night will be the last Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. bi-monthly moving forward. This month movie night is Friday, May 31. The movie is *To Dance with the White Dog*. We hope you will come out and fellowship with us over a family-friendly movie. Next movie night will be July 26.



Peace, grace, love, to my Whiteville First Baptist Family.

I love you agape. I thank Jesus Christ for each of you.

Thank you for all your generous expressions of love, caring, concern, and prayers of healing for me.

Thank you for your cards, visits, delicious food, phone calls, more prayers, cheer of laughter, and transportation to help me through another challenge of life.

I miss you! I hope to be back as soon as I can.

Forever grateful,

Shalom,

Jolene Fowler Lewis

	May 2024					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Prayer Service	2	3	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	6	7 6:30 Bible Study	8 6:30 Prayer Service	9 6:30 Grow Our Church	10	11
12 Mother's Day 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	13 10:00 WMU Meeting	14 6:30 Bible Study	15 5:45 Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 Prayer Service	16	17	18
19 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 3:00 Columbus Community Band Concert in the Sanctuary	20 9:30 Finance Meeting	21 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	22 6:30 Prayer Service	23	24	25
26 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	27  <i>Office Closed</i>	28 6:30 Bible Study	29 6:30 Prayer Service	30	31 6:30 Family Movie Night	

FBC contact information: Phone - 910-642-2189, Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com,

Web - www.fbcwhiteville.com

First Baptist Church Whiteville Facebook page

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