



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024, VOLUME 59, NUMBER 10

Please join us for Sunday School Breakfast on Sunday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m.



All men are invited to Baptist Men's Breakfast on Sunday, October 13, at 8:00 a.m.

Events At A Glance

- October 1 - New Church Year Begins
- October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
- October 6 - Sunday School Breakfast with Dr. Fred Senter Teaching, 9:30 a.m.
- October 6 - Deacon Ordination during morning worship, 11:00 a.m.
- October 7, 14, 21, 28 - Book Study, 5:30 p.m.
- October 12 - Kenwood Royal 90th Birthday Celebration, 2:00—4:00 p.m.
- October 13 - Baptist Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
- October 14 - WMU Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- October 15 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- October 16 - Wednesday Night Supper, 5:45 p.m.
- October 21 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 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



"After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. A third time He asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."

John 21: 15-17

Happy October church family! The Autumn skies are crisp and clear and the air is so fresh! And just to think: The season of holy Advent will be right around the corner. My how time moves fast. But we won't rush it - one thing at a time, right? Pertaining to the scripture above, Peter knew that he had let Jesus down when he denied Him three times - this, just before the Crucifixion. But Peter also knew that Jesus had already forgiven him. Jesus tested Peter by asking him three times that probing, searching question, "Do you love me?"

Now, in the original language of this text, Peter's response to Jesus' questions has great significance. When Jesus posed the questions, he basically asked, "Peter, do you love me with a sacrificial, fully-committed kind of love?" But Jesus must have detected that Peter first responded with a different word for love: Peter essentially said, "Lord, I like you. I love you as a friend."

At least Peter was being honest. He told Jesus the truth about his commitment. But as we all know, God is not interested in our scraps or leftovers. In the long run, He has little use for our 'part-time when we feel like it' attitudes. But nonetheless - NOW WATCH THIS - out of HIS OWN unsurpassed love, Jesus **still chose** to enlist Peter into his service! So as this story implies, we must love God before we can serve Him faithfully. Here are five ways to tell if we really love God:

- 1. WE LONG FOR PERSONAL COMMUNION WITH HIM.** Can you relate to the words of the Psalmist, "As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O, God." (**Psalm 42: 1**)? When we really love God, we delight in praising and worshiping Him and enjoy spending time with Him and his people.
- 2. WE LOVE THE THINGS HE LOVES.** We know what God loves by what he has declared in his Word, the Bible. So if we love God, we will also love His Word. Bible study will not be a drudgery but a delight.
- 3. WE HATE WHAT HE HATES.** As the Lord's nature becomes our nature, His likes and dislikes become our likes and dislikes. In fact, His outlook becomes our outlook. We know from His Word that He hates sin. If we love Him, then we should also hate sin.
- 4. WE LONG FOR HIS RETURN.** Jesus described Himself as a groom. (**Mark 2:19**). His bride is the church - the body of believers (**Ephesians 5:23-29**). When Jesus returns, He will be united with His bride. If we love the Lord, we long for His return as a bride longs for her groom.
- 5. WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.** Jesus says, "If you love me, obey my commandments." (**John 14:15**). Though it is impossible for any of us who love God to go on an endless course of sin, we will still occasionally fall into individual sins. But if we love God, we will repent of those sins and seek His forgiveness. And our lifestyle will immediately conform to the truths we find in His Word.

First Baptist Whiteville, let us **FINISH SEPTEMBER STRONG** as we prepare to enter into an exciting, jam-packed October! We are one people, with one love, serving our **ONE BELOVED GOD!**

With much love, yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris

We were created to glorify God, so we should purpose to serve Him with our Time, our Talents, and our Treasures.

HOLINESS MATTERS

Holiness matters. According to God's word, Christians are to conform to the image of Christ, Romans 12:2 NLT, *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.* So the way we live our lives as Christians is very important. If the world around us can't see that Christ is changing our lives, why would they want what we have? Why would they feel like they even need a relationship with God?

If we claim to be Christians, another responsibility we have is telling others about Christ and what He has done for us and for them. We must realize that there are people who need the Lord and don't even know it. In his book, *Share Jesus Without Fear*, William Fay says of himself, "Somehow I believed I wasn't that bad, that I was in the "middle" and therefore deserved to go to heaven. That was a lie. The Bible states that either God is your father or Satan is your father. Either you are in a relationship with Christ, or you're not; either you are born again, or you're not." It is our job to share the gospel with the people we come into contact with. Here's the simple plan of salvation that we can all share with the lost. We know that:

1. **"All have sinned"** - Romans 3:23—"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."
2. **"The wages of sin is death"** - Romans 6:23—"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."
3. **"All must be born again"** - John 3:3—"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.'"
4. **"Jesus is the way"** - John 14:6—"Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'"
5. **"We must confess"** - Romans 10:9-11—"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, 'Anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced.'"
6. **"We must no longer live for ourselves"** - 2 Corinthians 5:15—"He died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them."
7. **"Jesus is standing at the door"** - Revelation 3:20—"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

If they realize they are a sinner and believe that Christ died for them so they can have a relationship with God, they may be ready to pray a sinner's prayer asking God to save them. That might sound something like this: "Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you. I want to repent for my sins and get forgiveness for them. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me and rose again. I turn from my sins and invite you into my heart and my life. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen."

If in your witnessing, you have someone that does ask Christ into their heart and life, encourage them to share that with a pastor and their friends and family. If they don't have a pastor, we would love to have them visit with us at First Baptist.

We want to encourage you in your walk with Christ and be a part of the growth process. How we live our lives outside of this church matters because the world is always watching and so many people around us need Christ. **Holiness matters!**

OCTOBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

6 Tina Sauls
13 Jan Hinson
20 TBD
27 Beverly Pope

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

6 Betty Jo Prevatte / Brownie Cook
13 Mel Ray / Charlie Duncan
20 Ella Jo Sellers / Bobby Hensley
27 Lauren Cole / Kirby Sanderson

HOSPICE MEALS

Mary Jean Prince

NURSERY WORKERS

6 Kate C. Lee
13 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
20 Keith & Jamie Beverley
27 Brenda Carter / Genie Carter

SOUND & VIDEO

6 Kirby Sanderson
13 Eric Kronenwetter
20 Kirby Sanderson
27 Eric Kronenwetter

WNS SCHEDULE

October 16—Group 2, Chairs, Myrtle & Haywood Corbett
November 20—Group 1 - Chairs, Myrtle Corbett & Pat Davis
December 18—No Meal
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

September 29, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$1,000.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,363.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$790.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,153.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$3,811.28
Total Collections This Week	\$7,964.28
Under Budget This Week	\$1,251.95
Budget Need to date	\$286,462.35
Budget Rec'd to date	\$336,948.00
Over Budget to date	\$50,485.65

STEWARDSHIP

September 1, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,792.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$1,000.00
Total Budget This Week	\$3,792.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$2,903.14
Total Collections This Week	\$6,695.14

Under Budget This Week **\$1,612.95**

Budget Need to date	\$264,842.55
Budget Rec'd to date	\$321,506.00
Over Budget to date	\$56,663.45

September 8, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$220.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,836.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$875.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,931.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$175.00
Total Collections This Week	\$5,106.00

Under Budget This Week **\$473.95**

Budget Need to date	\$270,247.50
Budget Rec'd to date	\$326,437.00
Over Budget to date	\$56,189.50

September 15, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$200.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,493.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$300.00
Total Budget This Week	\$3,993.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$380.44
Total Collections This Week	\$4,373.44

Under Budget This Week **\$1,411.95**

Budget Need to date	\$275,652.45
Budget Rec'd to date	\$330,430.00
Over Budget to date	\$54,777.55

September 22, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$110.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,155.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$100.00
Total Budget This Week	\$2,590.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$225.00
Total Collections This Week	\$2,590.00

Under Budget This Week **\$3,039.95**

Budget Need to date	\$281,057.40
Budget Rec'd to date	\$332,795.00
Over Budget to date	\$51,737.60

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Peggy Underwood
- 3 Anna Johnson
Marie Sellers
- 4 Bobby Hensley
Butch Pope
- 8 Alex Tison
- 9 Sarah Austin
- 10 Jaech Austin
Buster Carter
Tina Sauls
- 11 Clint Grainger
Kenwood Royal
Laura Senter
- 14 Franklin Davis
Diane Tison
- 15 Doris Harwood
Ellis Jordan
Keith Watson
- 17 Mikayla White
Kevin Williamson
- 19 MaryEllen Williamson
- 20 Jennifer Hall
Jessica Hill
- 22 Gray Cook
- 26 Kyle Cook

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

September 1, 2024 - 52
September 8, 2024 - 48
September 15, 2024 - 48
September 22, 2024 - 50
September 29, 2024 - 50

Average attendance for September
Sunday School is 50.

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: Monday, October 14, 10:00 A.M.

Call to Prayer and Program: Mary Jean Prince

Mission Project: Donayre Cancer Center, Hygiene Bags for the Patients

Hospice Meal: Mary Jean Prince (Contact: Karen: 910-642-9051, Angel House)



Please, don't forget to sign the calendar in the kitchen to help with the Hospice Meal. We provide this meal on the third Friday of every month. If anyone in the church would like to participate with this meal, please contact Myrtle Corbett or Betty Jo Prevatte.

2024-26 Watchword is: *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

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Please join us for Sunday School breakfast on **Sunday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m.** as we begin a new Sunday School year. Dr. Fred Senter will be teaching our combined Sunday School class lesson.

BAPTIST MEN

A special thanks to the men who helped on Saturday, September 21 to build the ramp and install handrails for Tommy Thompson.

Our next meeting will be at **8:00 a.m. on October 13**. Our breakfast crew will be providing another delicious breakfast. I encourage you to reach out to men who are inactive and invite them to this meeting.

Fred Senter

MISSIONS REPORT

We are now packing 20 bags for the Whiteville Challenge Academy. We could use donations of items for the bags: breakfast bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, small cans of pork and beans, ravioli, spaghetti, or cash. Give through the church office and mark "Backpacks".

We recently received a request through the church office for uniforms. This came from a mother who had a stroke and was not able to work. The young girl was entering high school at Whiteville High and needed uniforms. We enjoyed visiting with this mother. She was very appreciative.

We received a thank you and an update on their work from the Podgaiskayas. These are the missionaries who used to be in Ukraine, but now are in Poland working with the Ukrainian refugees. Please pray for Gennady and Mina Podgaiskaya.

If you know of a need, please call the church office or Martha Senter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The family of Kenwood Royal would like to invite you to his 90th Birthday Celebration on **Saturday, October 12, from 2:00—4:00 p.m.** No cards or gifts, please, just come prepared to visit with Kenwood.

THANK YOU!

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Thank you to all the church family that took the time to call, text, or send cards in the recent passing of my father. God's love was felt through your actions.

In Christ,
Keith Beverley



A Pastor's Personal Prayer Requests

About 100 years ago, someone asked Charles Spurgeon the secret of his overwhelming success as a pastor. Gesturing toward the prayer room of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, he answered, "My people pray for me." Over and over again in the Epistles, the apostle Paul exhorted his readers to pray for him. I would like to ask each of you to pray for your pastor every day. Would you specifically request in your prayers the following things for your pastor:



That God would -

- Give him a growing love for the Lord and His Word.
- Bless his family that it might provide a model Christian family, for all who observe their lives.
- Give him physical health and strength, moral courage, and spiritual power to faithfully proclaim God's Word.
- Give him wisdom in all the decisions which need to be made.
- Bind the satanic forces which attack and tempt him.
- Keep and protect him from wicked and unreasonable persons.
- Glorify Himself in everything he thinks, does and says.
- Anoint him with the power of the Holy Spirit to teach, lead and oversee the ministry of His church.
- Give him a genuine love for people.
- Touch and fill his wife with His Spirit as she ministers to their family and the women of this fellowship.
- Give wisdom and power to the officers and other staff members as they assist in the ministry to which God has called them.
- Keep him from discouragement.

MINISTRY AT FBC



CHURCH CLEANUP

Thank you so much to everyone that came and helped clean in and around the church on Saturday, September 28. We appreciate your service to the Lord as you helped take care of some much needed work on the property.



CHILDREN'S MISSIONS DAY

We have already heard testimony of visitors who came to church Sunday after Children's Missions Day on September 21st, because they were visited by one of our Children's Missions Teams. God is still working on hearts in our world today! When we reach out, we will find there are plenty of people that are on the bubble that just need a little encouragement to bring them within earshot of the gospel. Because we know that "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;" 1 Timothy 1:15. Christ isn't looking for church members, He is trying to reach those that do not know Him as their personal Savior—and guess what, we are His tool for reaching those people. Thank the Lord for everyone who came and helped reach our neighbors!



September 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Church Year Begins	2 6:30 Prayer Service	3	4	5
6 9:30 Sunday School Breakfast with Dr. Fred Senter Teaching 11:00 Morning Worship with Deacon Ordination	7 5:30 Book Study	8	9 6:30 Prayer Service	10	11	12 2:00—4:00 Kenwood Royal 90th Birthday Celebration in the fellowship hall
13 8:00 Baptist Men Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	14 10:00 WMU Meeting 5:30 Book Study	15 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	16 5:45 Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 Prayer Service	17	18	19
20 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	21 9:30 Finance Meeting 5:30 Book Study	22	23 6:30 Prayer Service	24	25	26
27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	28 5:30 Book Study	29	30 6:30 Prayer Service	31		

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