



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023, VOLUME 58, NUMBER 9



ELECTION OF DEACONS

Absentee Deacon Voting—September 5-7
(in the church office)

Deacon Election—September 10
(during morning worship)



The Annual Church Conference is Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. We will vote on the Nominating Committee Report and discuss the Church Budget. Please make plans to join us.

Events At A Glance

- September 4 - Office Closed for Labor Day
- September 5-7 - Absentee Deacon voting in the church office
- September 6, 13, 27 - Prayer Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- September 10 - Deacon Election during the morning worship service, 11:00 a.m.
- September 11, 18, 25 - Bible Study coordinated by Willis & Sue Pinnell and Robert & Kris Clyburn, 6:00 p.m.
- September 12 - WMU Meeting, 10:00 a.m. (note date change)
- September 17 - Budget Distribution after the morning worship service, 11:00 a.m.
- September 18 - Finance Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- September 19 - Deacons' Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- September 20 - Covered-dish Meal, 5:45 p.m., Year-end Church Conference, 6:30 p.m.
- September 24 - Budget Vote and Communion during morning worship service, 11:00 a.m.
- October 1 - New church year begins

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



PASTOR'S CORNER



“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”

Philippians 3:13-14

“ARE WE THERE YET??” During our family vacations with me sandwiched in the smoldering black leather back seat between my two older sisters, oh how I remember uttering those tiresome words over and over (AND OVER!) again to my poor father. Somehow I don't recall us ever having air conditioning in any of our cars, this only serving to make Hillman family drive times that much more “fun.” My dad's 1966 Chevy definitely **DID NOT** have AC. Yes - I had a tendency to be an overly active, *energetic* young lad. And yes, my father wasn't always known to be among the most patient of people. I remember always being an “equal opportunity” kinda guy - equally picking on (ok, maybe tormenting?) my sisters on either side of me. If that wasn't enough, all this, with my dad also attempting to occasionally feel the need to wildly wave his meaty right arm in hopes of swatting me all the way in the back seat. Then there was quiet, dear sweet, devout Betty Rew (mom) always behaving very nicely next to my father. She was the family peacemaker, letting go with a timely “Christopher!!” as needed. I have every reason to believe that she was reverently engaged in silent prayer throughout the duration of most of our road trips. :-) So the hot summer days traveling from the outskirts of DC to Lord knows wherever would never fail to be quite interesting when it became time for our family vacations.

ARE WE THERE YET?? Fortunately, our heavenly Father possesses a seemingly endless amount of patience. And let's face it, from time to time His children were pretty rotten, also! Nonetheless, it's with no small measure of quiet cooperation that He expects us to carry on with the important work that we do. And best of all, I will remind you that there is nothing for us to have to earn. There is nothing for us to have to prove. As mentioned last Sunday, the wonderful use of our gifts and talents for God and the advancement of his kingdom is more of a “get to” than a “got to”. You might remember the old saying: “*Who you are is God's gift to you. What you do with who you are is your gift to God.*” Indeed. I have to wonder; can any follower of Jesus Christ even begin to consider not wanting to serve Him with everything they've got? Personally speaking, it's what I live for. And I hope it's what you live for, too. Again, it's not for us to know of the time or place of the Lord's return. But this, I do know: I will be doing His work right up until the last day... the last hour... the last minute until His majestic arrival. How about you?

So no, we don't have to be “THERE YET”. What we do have to know is that our mighty God has promised us that He's coming back. Let us prepare and always be at the ready for that time of His perfect choosing.

May God bless you all. September is going to be a great month at First Baptist Whiteville!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris

SEPTEMBER

September 3, 2023

Acts 6:1-7

Jesus Loves the Caregivers

September 10, 2023

Luke 8:24-25

Truth With a Capital “T”

September 17, 2023

Philippians 4:11

No Matter What

September 24, 2023

Mark 1:22

Words of Authority

Dear Friends at First Baptist Church of Whiteville,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your outpouring of love at our FAREWELL PARTY on Wednesday evening, August 2, 2023. It was a beautiful, memorable, delightful, and fun time of fellowship with all of the delicious refreshments including the wide variety of cookies and the tremendous variety of flavors of homemade ice cream! WOW!!! We certainly do realize that those events do not “just happen,” and we sincerely thank ALL who served along with the members of the Social and Family Life Committees who helped with the plans, preparations, decorations, refreshments, and sheer work to “make such a wonderful evening occur!”

We also thank and are grateful for all of you who were able to come and celebrate with us on that special evening. We sincerely appreciate your signing the thoughtful “large greeting card,” and for your personal cards, gifts, sweet remembrances, and the beautiful framed photograph of the stained glass windows of the sanctuary of First Baptist Church that will be a constant reminder to us of our blessed times of worshiping and praising God together with all of you in that beautiful and sacred place of worship! THANK YOU!

It truly has been our “joy” . . . blessing . . . honor . . . and privilege to serve . . . as your Interim Pastor at First Baptist Church for these past three and one-half years = March of 2020 until August of 2023! Please feel free to call on us (843-796-0397) if you **ever** need us in any way at anytime . . . and please be assured of our continued love, thoughts, and prayers for all of you as you serve Jesus together . . . and as you love, encourage and support your wonderful new pastor, Dr. Chris Hillman, and his devoted wife, Resa, and their delightful son, Chase. May God help all of you as you grow with the ministry and leadership of the Hillmans under the guidance of the Holy Spirit . . . and as you continue “to make Christian history together” in outreach to your community and to the entire world with the loving, powerful, and life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ!

The future really IS “as bright as the promises of God” and God has promised to be with us ALWAYS! We just KNOW that tremendous days of service, ministry, outreach, and blessings are ahead for you all and for First Baptist Church of Whiteville as you serve Him together as pastor, staff, and people united as ONE! May God continue to guide and bless you all today and always—in ALL ways!

We honestly do thank and love “you all” . . . and we humbly THANK GOD for allowing our lives and paths to cross in ministry together. We certainly will treasure you in our hearts, minds, and lives—FOREVER!

Joy and our entire family join me . . .

Gratefully and prayerfully, in Jesus’ love,

Wayne Brown



“I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR
YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS.”

EPHESIANS 1:16 NIV

SEPTEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 3 Tina Sauls
- 10 Gina Morningstar
- 17 Tricia Sanderson
- 24 Grayanna Young

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

- 3 Kate C. Lee / John Sauls
- 10 Janice Young / Mel Ray
- 17 Tricia Sanderson / Ella Joe Sellers
- 24 Merle Worley / Hilda Ray

HOSPICE MEALS

Myrtie Sellers

SOUND & VIDEO

- 3 Kirby Sanderson
- 10 Eric Kronenwetter
- 17 Kirby Sanderson
- 24 Eric Kronenwetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

- 3 Clint and Carolyn Grainger
- 10 Genie Carter
- 17 Rose Langston / J. C. Hyatt
- 24 Jolene Lewis

USHERS (Chairman: Charlie Duncan)

- 3 Buster Carter / Glenn Waters /
David Heath / Clint Grainger /
J. C. Hyatt
- 10 Bill Floyd / David Carter / Mitchell
Sauls / Willis Pinnell / Johnny Britt
- 17 Travis Harrison / John Sauls /
Mel Ray / Kenwood Royal /
Chris Blackmon
- 24 Harry Ward / David Tedder /
Haywood Corbett / Kevin
Williamson / Kyle Cook

STEWARDSHIP

August 6, 2023

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$125.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,625.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$660.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,410.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$215.00
Total Collections This Week	\$4,625.00
Under Budget This Week	\$2,256.58
Budget Need to date	\$299,996.10
Budget Rec'd to date	\$278,758.62
Under Budget to date	\$21,237.48

August 13, 2023

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$535.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$5,720.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$1,010.00
Total Budget This Week	\$7,265.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$140.00
Total Collections This Week	\$7,405.00
Over Budget This Week	\$598.42
Budget Need to date	\$306,662.68
Budget Rec'd to date	\$286,023.62
Under Budget to date	\$20,639.06

August 20, 2023

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$125.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,336.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$550.00
Total Budget This Week	\$5,011.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$110.00
Total Collections This Week	\$5,121.00
Under Budget This Week	\$1,655.58
Budget Need to date	\$313,329.26
Budget Rec'd to date	\$291,034.62
Under Budget to date	\$22,294.64

August 27, 2023

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$125.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,071.94
Budget Gifts Operational	\$1,550.00
Total Budget This Week	\$5,746.94
Designated/Other Funds	\$1,245.00
Total Collections This Week	\$6,991.94
Under Budget This Week	\$919.64
Budget Need to date	\$319,995.84
Budget Rec'd to date	\$296,781.56
Under Budget to date	\$23,214.28

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

- 1 Kris Clyburn
- 2 Carl E. Butler
- 3 Ella Jo Sellers
- 4 Chasen Hillman
- 8 Carlton Prince
- 9 David Heath
- 10 David Coble
- 11 Janie Briggs
- 12 Barbara Whitson
- 15 Traci Bright
David Carter
Karen Dawsey
- 16 Patricia Coble
- 17 Brad Johnson
Trent Young
- 18 Betty Gail Kronenwetter
Grayanna Young
- 19 Haley Wayne
Grace Wheatley
- 21 Sylvia Walker
- 23 Pat Davis
Lauren Clark
Olivia Clark
- 25 Fred Obrecht
Melvin Ezzell

AUGUST

- August 6, 2023 - 54
- August 13, 2023 - 50
- August 20, 2023 - 47
- August 27, 2023 - 47

Average attendance for August
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

Dr. 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



DEACON ELECTION

Deacon Election will take place during worship on **Sunday, September 10**. According to the FBC Bylaws, revised January 27, 2021, voted/approved at church conference, we have changed how deacons are elected. Since this voting process Bylaw change is still new, we are including the information concerning deacon election verbatim from the Bylaws, Section 5. Deacons, 3. Election -

3. *Election.*

a. *The election for deacons shall be held on the second Sunday in September during the morning worship service. At that time, the membership of the church shall list five (5) names for deacons. Following the counting of the votes the moderator shall talk to each of them and determine their willingness to serve.*

b. *To enhance and expedite the deacon election process, the Church for a three to four week period preceding the election of deacons will use the Church newsletter and announcements at appropriate worship services to emphasize the prayer, study, and obedience to God's will needed in the deacon election process. Church members are encouraged to prayerfully consider persons they wish to recommend for deacons and are encouraged to talk with those persons whose names they wish to submit to determine if those persons would serve as deacons.*

c. *The election of deacons by absentee balloting shall be permitted by any member desiring to do so. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Church office by such member, or by a designee of any member, at any time prior to the closing of the church office on the Thursday preceding the day of the election of deacons. The Church ministry assistant shall keep a record of all absentee ballots issued.*

Please spend significant time in prayer about whom you feel God would have serve as the spiritual leaders of our church. Also, please reach out to those folks whom you believe God is putting on your heart, and ask their permission prior to writing their names down to serve as deacon.

For anyone who knows they cannot attend worship service on **Sunday, September 10** for Deacon Election, there will be confidential absentee ballots available in the church office from **Tuesday, September 5 - Thursday, September 7**. All absentee ballots must be in by **4:30 p.m. Thursday, September 7**. The absentee ballots will be transferred to the Tally Committee on Sunday morning, September 10, so they can be included with the other ballots. Please note the following people are ineligible for your vote as they are currently serving on the deacon body or rotated off last year:

Term Expired 2022

David Carter
Lauren Cole
Haywood Corbett
Brad Johnson
Mary Alice Stanley

Term Expires 2023

Genie Carter
Tricia Sanderson
John Sauls
Peggy Underwood
Dr. Ron Walters

Term Expires 2024

Kate C. Lee
Stephen Prince
Hilda Ray
Glenn Waters
Janice Young

Term Expires 2025

Willis Pinnell
Betty Jo Prevatte
Mel Ray
Ella Jo Sellers
Merle Worley

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins.”

Ephesians 1:7 NLT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WMU

WMU: Tuesday, September 12 (note date change) 10:00 A.M.

Call to Prayer and Program: Mary Jean Prince

Hospice Meal: Myrtie Sellers (Contact Karen: 910-642-9051)

Women Prison Inmates Red Box Ministry



Thank you to everyone who provided school supplies for our August ministry. This is a thoughtful way to encourage our teachers and assist our children and youth. They are very appreciative, and it is a blessing to those who give.

The September ministry project is funding the Red Box Ministry to women prison inmates. The funds are used to purchase red boxes to be filled with useful, personal items and treats for women inmates. This presents an open door to share the gift of the gospel and the love of Christ. You may donate by check payable to First Baptist Church designated for WMU.

Please note the date change for the September meeting.

2022-24 Watchword: *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, WMU Director

Betty Jo Prevatte, Co-Director

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Please Note: Effective in April 2023, the cost for the Wednesday Night Supper increased to \$5.00. This increase is needed to cover the rising costs of food and paper supplies. We hope to be able to continue to provide the fellowship meal at least once a month. We appreciate everyone who participates in preparing the meals, as well as those who come to enjoy them. Thank you for your understanding.

September 20

Group 1

Pat Davis/Janice Young
Co-chairs

Conference Set up for
Covered-dish

October 18

Group 2

Hilda Ray, Chair

November 15

Group 4

Brenda Carter/Genie Carter,
Co-chairs

December

No Meal

January 27

Group 5

Mary Alice, Chair
Conference Set up for
Covered-Dish

February 24

WMU

Meal and Program—
Heck-Jones Offering
Emphasis,
Guest Speaker

March 20

Group 6

Fred & Martha Senter,
Co-chairs

April 24

Group 7

Peggy Norosky, Chair
Conference Set up for
Covered-dish

May 15

Group 3

Myrtle & Haywood Corbett,
Co-chairs

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Wednesday, September 20 is the date for our church year-end conference. We will meet in the **fellowship hall for supper at 5:45 p.m., which is a covered dish meal,** and **conference at 6:30 p.m.** If committee chairs have committee reports to turn in for their committees, please have those in by **Thursday, September 14.** At the conference you will receive the Nominating Committee Report and have a time to discuss the church budget for 2023-2024. **Please note,** the budget vote is not held at this meeting, but will happen on **Sunday, September 24** during the morning worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANKS

LET'S TAKE A TRIP

How would you like to see the ark exhibit with friends without having to drive, book lodging, or planning meals? Now you can! We have a tour planned for The Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter on **Monday-Thursday, November 6-9, 2023**. What an incredible opportunity! If you would like to be a part of this trip, please contact the church office so we can get a count of those interested. Forms are available on our church website, www.fbcwhiteville.com under "Events", in the sanctuary, and in the church office and include the full itinerary and financial information.



The Creation Museum &
The Ark Encounter

General information from the tour printout:

Price per person: Double-\$939; Triple-\$879; Quad-\$849; Single-\$1119.

A deposit of \$200 per person is due with each individual's reservation. Final payment will be due 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation penalties will begin 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended. Insurance payment is due with deposit at time of booking. Insurance prices are as follows: Double, \$101 per person; Triple & Quad, \$81 per person; Single, \$20 per person. Contact your group leader if you have questions: Wayne Brown, 843-796-0397 or email him at wayne@wayneandjoybrown.com.

LET'S TAKE A TRIP

Dear First Baptist Family,

We would like to thank everyone for your thoughtfulness and support during J.C.'s unexpected illness. Your prayers, cards, flowers, food, concern and kindness have meant so much to us. We're thankful for our church and each one of you.

Love all,
Pat, J. C., and Family

Dear First Baptist Family,

We want to say thank you to everyone for all the calls, visits, and food. Please continue to pray. We really appreciate it.

Carl & Hilda Butler

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, October 3, from 2:30-4:30 p.m., The Blood Connection bus will be in our parking lot for a blood drive. All donors will receive \$50 in rewards. Scan the code to set up an appointment. Thank you for helping us spread the word.



September 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	4 No Bible Study 	5 Absentee Deacon Voting	6 6:30 Prayer Meeting Absentee Deacon Voting	7 Absentee Deacon Voting	8	9
10 Deacon Elections 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	11 1:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bible Study	12 10:00 WMU Meeting	13 6:30 Prayer Meeting	14 Committee Reports Due	15	16
17 Budget Distribution 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	18 9:30 Finance Meeting 1:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bible Study	19 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	20 5:45 Covered-dish Meal 6:30 Year-end Conference, Budget Discussion, Nominating Committee Report	21	22	23
24 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship Budget vote and Communion	25 1:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bible Study	26	27 6:30 Prayer Meeting	28	29	30

October 2023						
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	31				

FBC contact information: Phone - 910-642-2139, Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com, Web - www.fbcwhiteville.com
 Sunday Morning Worship Live on WTXY AM 1540, FM 103.9, kool1039radio.com—*Listen Live*,
 and First Baptist Church Whiteville Facebook page

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