



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024, VOLUME 59, NUMBER 9

September is the last month of our church year. We have Deacon Election, Nominating Committee Report vote, Budget vote, Church Council, and Church Conference. Please join us on September 18 at 5:45 p.m., for a covered-dish meal before we have Church Conference (where we will go over some of this business.)



Events At A Glance

- September 1 - Parent/Child Dedication during worship
- September 2 - Church Office closed for Labor Day
- September 3-5 - Absentee Deacon Voting
- September 3, 10, 17, 24 - Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- September 4, 11, 18, 25 - Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
- September 8 - Deacon Election during worship
- September 9 - WMU Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- September 9, 16, 23, 30 - Book Study, 6:30 p.m.
- September 15 - Budget Distribution after worship
- September 16 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- September 17 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- September 18 - Covered-dish Meal and Quarterly Church Conference, 5:45 p.m.
- September 21 - Children's Missions Day, 9:00 a.m.
- September 22 - Budget vote after worship, Church Council, 3:00 p.m.
- September 28 - Church-wide Work Day, 8:30 a.m.



Children are invited to hear the story of the Good Samaritan and work on a project that they will deliver to their neighbors on September 21st at 9:00 a.m.

PASTOR'S CORNER



"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

Psalms 133:1

I love these timely words from Anglican evangelist George Whitefield, *"God forbid that I should travel with anybody a quarter of an hour without speaking of Christ to them."* Indeed. And I am convinced that right now, people are open to having God enter into our conversations. But what about those who aren't interested? It is my belief that we still have to look for gentle ways in which to bring Jesus to them. After all, isn't this what God clearly said that He expects of me? In her best selling book "Out of the Salt Shaker & into the World", author Rebecca Manley Pippert makes the following statement, *"Christians and non-Christians have something in common: we're both uptight about evangelism."* Sound familiar?

But oftentimes our discussions might not need to have anything at all to do with spiritual matters. Maybe it involves saying hello to someone for the very first time. Or perhaps I might be about reigniting an old friendship from a friend I haven't seen in a while. I honestly think that spiritual discussions are best handled when they are allowed to flow naturally and without much interference on our part. In other words, just let them happen. And much like everyone's favorite detective Columbo, if we are willing to listen, I have found that most folks will gladly share and provide us with answers. In fact, I would like for us to consider going on what I would like to call a *"First Baptist listening tour"*. It'll be fun - trust me. Here's how it works: My side-kick, Teresa, will soon be in the process of compiling an alphabetized list of all current church members who, for whatever reason, haven't been worshiping with us for some time. Keep in mind there are any number of reasons why folks may have decided to not join us for Sunday service. Health issues? Attending another church? Difference of opinion with a fellow member? Questions regarding the music? The preaching? And on and on it goes. Perhaps it's a combination of things. But I do know this: whatever the reasons, they are valid. Maybe there has been a disconnect and this person(s) may have reason to feel alienated from the rest of the church? As we all know, these things happen in everyday church life. Mistakes are sometimes made whenever we are dealing with extended family. And that's who we are - family.

Stay tuned, because in the very near future we will be putting together ideas in which to best reacquaint ourselves with those beloved members whom we haven't seen in a while. I think that we should let these folks know how much we love and miss them. Furthermore, their loving presence in God's House is of value to us all. Let us make time to invite them to come back and see us. Maybe tell them that we hope they can join us for our "Church After Church" fellowship lunch at an area restaurant immediately after the worship service. After all, they are a big part of who we are! As in all things, we are guided by the love of Christ and we VERY MUCH look forward to reconnecting with our 1st Baptist church friends. One of my favorite verses is from **Romans 10:15**, and I think that it's in keeping with our discussion: *"How beautiful are the feet of those that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*

We LOVE our church... We LOVE our God! Many blessings to you all!

With much love, yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

BOOK STUDY

Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m., we are meeting 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. Please feel free to join us. There are still books available in the church office.



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 that 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!**

SEPTEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 1 Tina Sauls
- 8 Jan Hinson
- 15 Tricia Sanderson
- 22 Beverly Pope
- 29 TBD

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

- 1 Buster Carter / Bobby Hensley
- 8 Willis Pinnell / Glenn Waters
- 15 Stephen Prince / Betty Jo Prevatte
- 22 Kate C. Lee / Kirby Sanderson
- 29 Sandi Floyd / Mel Ray

HOSPICE MEALS

Mary Alice Stanley

NURSERY WORKERS

- 1 Brad & Anna Johnson
- 8 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
- 15 Keith & Jamie Beverley
- 22 Brenda Carter / Genie Carter
- 29 Carlton & Mary Jean Prince

SOUND & VIDEO

- 1 Kirby Sanderson
- 8 Eric Kronenwetter
- 15 Kirby Sanderson
- 22 Eric Kronenwetter
- 29 Kirby Sanderson

STEWARDSHIP

August 4, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,166.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$450.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,616.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$1,025.00
Total Collections This Week	\$5,641.00
Under Budget This Week	\$788.95
Budget Need to date	\$243,222.75
Budget Rec'd to date	\$253,143.00
Over Budget to date	\$9,920.25

August 11, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,912.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$300.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,212.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$275.00
Total Collections This Week	\$4,487.00
Under Budget This Week	\$1,192.95
Budget Need to date	\$248,627.70
Budget Rec'd to date	\$257,355.00
Over Budget to date	\$8,727.30

August 18, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,663.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$300.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,963.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$1,257.98
Total Collections This Week	\$6,220.98
Under Budget This Week	\$441.95
Budget Need to date	\$254,032.65
Budget Rec'd to date	\$262,318.00
Over Budget to date	\$8,285.35

August 25, 2024

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,171.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$100.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,271.00
Designated/Other Funds	\$400.00
Total Collections This Week	\$4,671.00
Under Budget This Week	\$1,133.95
Budget Need to date	\$259,437.60
Budget Rec'd to date	\$266,589.00
Over Budget to date	\$7,151.40

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kris Clyburn
- 2 Carl Butler
- 3 Ella Jo Sellers
- 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
- 18 Betty Gail Kronenwetter
Grayanna Young
- 19 Haley Wayne
Grace Wheatley
- 23 Olivia Clark
Lauren Clark
Pat Davis
- 25 Melvin Ezzell
Fred Obrecht

AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

August 4, 2024 - 51
 August 11, 2024 - 46
 August 18, 2024 - 50
 August 25, 2024 - 48

Average attendance for August
 Sunday School is 48.

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, September 9, 10:00 A.M.
Call to Prayer and Program: Mary Alice Stanley
Mission Project: Red Box Ministry
Hospice Meal: Mary Alice Stanley (Contact: Karen: 910-642-9051)



Albert Einstein said, *“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.* As we turn our calendars to the month of September, we already see the seasons of summer ending and fall beginning. Crops are being harvested, the school year has begun, plant and tree foliage shows a different hue, and summer flowers are fading. Just as nature changes, our lives change also. Children grow up, and elders grow down! We work a little harder – and slower – to get our work done, but we get it done!

Many items were donated for the August school supply collection for Whiteville City Schools, and they were received with gratitude and thanks. Thank you, FBC members, for your support!

The WMU works diligently and faithfully to share the Gospel of Christ through missions. We begin a new year of missions in September with a donation to the **Red Box Prison Ministry for Female Inmates in NC.** On Saturday, **September 21**, the WMU will sponsor a **Children’s Missions Day.** Please let us know of children you would like to invite to participate in this fun-filled, educational day of doing missions

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

CHURCH AFTER CHURCH



On Sunday, August 25, Church After Church met at San Jose’s for lunch. As you can see by the pictures, we had a sell-out crowd. We appreciate the folks who join us for these meals as it gives the community a chance to see First Baptist Church (God’s people) and how we fellowship together as members of His family. Our testimony is so important as Christians. We would like for the community to see that if they come to God’s house (in this case FBC), they will be greeted with the same kind of friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

We will continue to meet for CAC going ahead unless we have holidays and/or special occasions. We will communicate with the church family via our mass communication system so everyone will know where or if we are meeting each week. Thank you for investing in your church family and your community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Wednesday, September 18 is the date for our church year-end conference. We will meet in the **fellowship hall** for a covered-dish meal at **5:45 p.m.**, and **conference** will follow at **6:30 p.m.** If committee chairs have committee reports to turn in for their committees, please have those in by **Thursday, September 12**. At the conference you will receive and vote on the Nominating Committee Report and have a time to discuss the church budget for 2024-2025. **Please note**, the budget vote is not held at this meeting, but will happen on **Sunday, September 22** during the morning worship service.

CHILDREN'S MISSIONS DAY

No matter where you live we all have neighbors! This **September 21st**, the children of our church can share God's love with their community as they realize who their neighbors are, invite them to church, and share a special treat or gift. We will meet at **9:00 a.m.** to hear the story of the Good Samaritan and work on a treat or gift that we will deliver to our "neighbors".

Adult participants are needed. If you would like to volunteer, please call Genie Carter 910-840-2266 or the church office 910-642-2139. This day can be a blessing to all involved.

CHURCH-WIDE CLEANUP DAY

On **September 28, at 8:30 a.m.**, we are having a cleanup day—*outside and inside*.

For **outside** work, please bring rakes, gloves, clippers, hand trowels, and any other yard tools you might need to help with outdoor cleanup.

For **inside** work, please look around inside our building to find places you see that need our attention, for example, pew backs, window sills, etc, and bring products you need to do the job.

COME—Enjoy the fellowship while working beside fellow church members. There will be something for everyone to do!

Dear friends and fellow church members:

It has recently come to my attention that someone wants to know "Why are our church members not attending church?" It has been suggested that the deacons need to find out and let the church body know the answer. We currently have 15 deacons. Each individual deacon receives a list of his or her families to call, send cards, write letters, emails or texts. Each month each person shares information with all deacons concerning their families. This is the best method for connecting with every member of the church. I am willing to share my list of some reasons a person is not coming. No names will be listed. Some are home bound. Some reside out of town. Some have small children and they take them to other local churches that have activities for children. Some left when they did not agree with a business decision. They do not wish to remove their membership. Now, on my list, I am very fortunate to have some of the most dedicated Christians I have ever known. They join in on the work. They serve on committees. I am so thankful. I am not sure that the deacons can complete this task without your help and input. Feel free to let the church office know if you have a report on anyone, that would help us to do a better job. All of us want to do a better job for God and the church.

Sincerely, Betty Jo Prevatte, Chairman, Board of Deacons
910-642-7321
bettyjoprevatte@gmail.com

DEACON ELECTION

Deacon Election will take place during worship on **Sunday, September 8**. In order to allow ample time for prayer and the seeking of God's will in the election of our church deacons, we wanted to get the necessary information to you in this edition of the newsletter.

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 8** for Deacon Election, there will be confidential absentee ballots available in the church office from **Tuesday, September 3 - Thursday, September 5**. All absentee ballots must be in by **4:30 p.m. Thursday, September 5**. The absentee ballots will be transferred to the Tally Committee on Sunday morning, September 8, 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:

<u>Term Expired 2023</u>	<u>Term Expires 2024</u>	<u>Term Expires 2025</u>	<u>Term Expires 2026</u>
Genie Carter	Kate C. Lee	Willis Pinnell	Buster Carter
Tricia Sanderson	Stephen Prince	Betty Jo Prevatte	Brownie Cook
John Sauls	Hilda Ray	Mel Ray	Charlie Duncan
Peggy Underwood	Glenn Waters	Ella Jo Sellers	Bobby Hensley
Dr. Ron Walters	Sandi Floyd	Merle Worley	Kirby Sanderson

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

James 1:5

September 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship with Parent/Child Dedication	2 No Book Study 	3 6:30 Bible Study Absentee Deacon Voting	4 6:30 Prayer service Absentee Deacon Voting	5 Absentee Deacon Voting	6	7
8 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship Deacon Election	9 5:30 Book Study 10:00 WMU Meeting	10 6:30 Bible Study	11 6:30 Prayer service	12	13	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship Budget Distributed	16 9:30 Finance Meeting 5:30 Book Study	17 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	18 5:45 Covered-dish Meal 6:30 Quarterly Church Conference with Budget discussion and Nominating CMTE Report Vote	19	20	21 9:00 Children's Missions Day
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship with Communion 3:00 Church Council Meeting Budget Vote	23 5:30 Book Study	24 6:30 Bible Study	25 6:30 Prayer service	26	27 6:30 Family Movie Night	28 8:30 Church-wide work day
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	30 5:30 Book Study	31 6:30 Bible Study				

October 2024						
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:
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