



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025, VOLUME 60, 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 24 at 5:45 p.m., for a covered-dish meal before we have Church Conference (where we will go over some of this business.)



Deacon Election is September 14. In order to have time to pray and prepare for election, all the information concerning election and ineligible candidate names is on page 7.

Events At A Glance

September 1 - Church Office Closed for Labor Day

September 3, 10, 17 - Wednesday Morning Prayer Service, 10:00 a.m.; Wednesday Evening Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

September 7, 14, 21, 28 - Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

September 8-11 - Absentee Deacon Voting in the church office

September 14 - Deacon Election during morning worship

September 15 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

September 16 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

September 21 - Budget distributed during morning worship

September 24 - Covered-dish meal, 5:45 p.m.; Annual Church Conference, 6:30 p.m. & budget discussion

September 28 - Budget vote during morning worship

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

PASTOR'S CORNER



"Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins."

Matthew 9: 16-17

God's holy book uses phrases like *guard your hearts* (**Proverbs 4:23**), *be vigilant and cautious* (**1 Peter 5:8**), and *be on the watch* (**Hebrews 12:15**) for a very good reason. We don't need to fear, but we should be aware because there are saboteurs who are working to shipwreck our faith before we even leave the harbor.

It's through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can overcome any opposition, but in order to do so we must first know what that opposition is. Now don't get me wrong, I don't think that we should ever place our focus solely on our obstacles - our focus is always on Jesus - but our obstacles are still part of the question. For instance, gaining a victory means defeating an enemy; and moving into something new usually means moving out of something old, departing from something that's been keeping us down, or holding us back. And when we make a choice to do the good thing and actually begin doing it, this is when we overcome evil with what is good. Pretty straight forward, don't you think?

As a loving church body this is also when we noticeably develop good fruit. People all around us in our community will see it, they will feel it. The fact is, First Baptist Whiteville - in so many ways - isn't like ANY OTHER church out there. We are unique in the way that we worship, we stand alone in how we love one another, and we always put the *centrality* of Jesus before anything else. So fear not, because good days (VERY good days) remain ahead of us. However, it must be said that evil will still try to oppress and tempt us. No surprise here, we already know this. Perhaps this is why the apostle Paul felt it was important to include this phrase in **2 Corinthians 5:17**: ... *The old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away.*

And nestled between two phrases that speak to us of hope for something new, Paul carefully reminds us that letting go of the old is an important part of the process. So here is the entire verse:

Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ [the Messiah] he is a new creation [a new creation altogether]; the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Our old mind-sets, unhealthy relationships, lies of the devil, past hurts, defeated attitudes, and crippling habits? These are all obstacles within our discovery. And considering the fact that along the way mistakes will definitely be made, it is never too late to begin again. They are part of the "old" that Paul says has "passed away." The good news is that we no longer have to allow these hindrances of the past to affect our present or our future.

Our church is in the process of moving forward, not backwards. We will soon be approaching a brand new season where the selection of new deacons will be coming before us. Who will be called to serve? These are exciting times because First Baptist is on the move! **GOD BLESS YOU ALL. JESUS LOVES YOU!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Chris" followed by a stylized flourish.

P.S. HAPPY BIRTHDAY HUGS to Chasen Hillman who will be turning 18 on Thursday, September 4!

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU

I wanted to take a moment to say THANK YOU for your recent contribution to Families First, Inc. We would be unable to provide the services that are not only needed, sometimes life saving, to the survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Our agency serves from 50-75 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault each month. Additionally, we serve another 20-25 with shelter. These services include advocacy, support groups, trauma informed therapy, trauma informed yoga, financial assistance and accompaniment to hospitals, interviews and court, along with many others.

We are so grateful to have such wonderful friends in the community such as yourselves. Your financial support will help us provide services and your prayers lift us up and help us continue to do it each day with a joyful heart. Please be assured that your contribution will reflect the good stewardship of our agency and community funding.

Sincerely,
Vickie S. Pait
Executive Director of Families First, Inc.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Step right Up! Vacation Bible School was a rewarding four evening experience for participants of all ages! The circus theme provided a festive, fun, and colorful atmosphere and the Bible stories taught us valuable lessons on how God wants us to live. We learned from some fishermen that each one of us is unique and has been given special gifts and that we are to use those gifts God has given us to bring others to Him. We learned from a tax collector that Jesus loved those in society that the righteous deemed “unworthy” of love, to be the very ones for whom he came to save. We learned from a woman who was going to be stoned by the community because they judged her behavior, that Jesus realizes our sinful nature but loves us so much that He can forgive us if we simply repent and ask for forgiveness (and if He forgives us, then we should forgive others.) We learned from the women at the tomb where Jesus’ body was laid, that His death was not the end of Jesus. . . that He still lives and can live in our hearts if we trust and believe that His death provided us eternal life!



Sooo many people were involved in making our 2025 VBS a hit. We appreciate everyone that gave of their time and talents to minister to our children here at FBC and children in our community. We had a great turn out of volunteers and attendees. If you are interested, there is a bulletin board in the stairwell of the church building full of pictures of our VBS. Take time to stop by and see what was going on for our children. Our folks really came together to minister to our community. Praise the Lord!

SEPTEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

7 Tina Sauls
14 Jan Hinson
21 Beverly Pope
28 TBD

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

7 Willis Pinnell / Mary Alice Stanley
14 Donna Prince / Betty Jo Prevatte
21 Gina Morningstar / Kirby Sanderson
28 Leigh Cook / Mel Ray

HOSPICE MEALS

Betty Jo Prevatte

NURSERY WORKERS

7 Josh Williamson
14 Bobby & Wendy Hensley
21 Keith & Jamie Beverley
28 Dale Duncan / Genie Carter

SOUND & VIDEO

7 Kirby Sanderson
14 Eric Kronenwetter
21 Kirby Sanderson
28 Eric Kronenwetter

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

September 24—Covered-dish meal for
Church Conference

Thank you
VOLUNTEERS!

STEWARDSHIP

August 3, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,022.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$350.00
Total Budget This Week	\$2,372.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$100.00
Total Collections This Week	\$2,472.00

Under Budget This Week	\$3,051.08
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Budget Need to date	\$239,615.52
Budget Rec'd to date	\$210,619.50
Under Budget to date	\$27,996.02

August 10, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$4,456.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$1,850.00
Total Budget This Week	\$6,306.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$300.00
Total Collections This Week	\$6,606.00

Under Budget This Week	\$882.92
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Budget Need to date	\$244,038.60
Budget Rec'd to date	\$216,925.50
Under Budget to date	\$27,113.10

August 17, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$3,690.34
Budget Gifts Operational	\$547.00
Total Budget This Week	\$4,237.34

Designated/Other Funds	\$200.00
Total Collections This Week	\$4,437.34

Under Budget This Week	\$2,092.08
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Budget Need to date	\$227,769.36
Budget Rec'd to date	\$203,922.50
Under Budget to date	\$23,846.86

August 27, 2025

Budget Gifts Plan 1	\$0.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2	\$2,470.00
Budget Gifts Operational	\$250.00
Total Budget This Week	\$2,720.00

Designated/Other Funds	\$0.00
Total Collections This Week	\$2,720.00

Under Budget This Week	\$2,703.08
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Budget Need to date	\$254,884.76
Budget Rec'd to date	\$223,882.84
Under Budget to date	\$31,001.92

August 31, 2025

(will appear in October Contact)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

August 3, 2025 - 49
August 10, 2025 - 43
August 17, 2025 - 52
August 24, 2025 - 48
August 31, 2025

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: September 15, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Program / Call to Prayer: Betty Jo Prevatte

Mission Project: Red Box Ministry (Female inmates incarcerated in Raleigh)

Hospice Meal: Betty Jo Prevatte, (Contact: Karen: 910-642-9051)



WMU members are very appreciative for your contributions for school supplies. They will be delivered to the Whiteville City schools. Together, we can make a difference. Teachers are very glad to receive all the items. September is a very busy month in our church. Let us all work together to begin the new church year in October. God has much in store for each of us. Missions is alive in FBC, Whiteville.

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



WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

Please remember on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.**, (in addition to our Evening Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.), we are having Wednesday Morning Prayer Services. Everyone is welcome—and we would like for this to be an outreach into our community. If you know of anyone who would be better suited to meeting in the morning, we would love to have them come and meet with us. We usually have coffee and snacks. Please spread the word.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, September 1, the church office will be closed for Labor Day. Enjoy your day off.



CHURCH CONFERENCE

Wednesday, September 24 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 18.** At the conference you will receive and vote on the Nominating Committee Report and have a time to discuss the church budget for 2025-2026. Please note, the budget vote is not held at this meeting, but will happen on **Sunday, September 28** during the morning worship service.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



DEACON ELECTION

Deacon Election will take place during worship on **Sunday, September 14**. 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 29, 2025, 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 four (4) 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 14** for Deacon Election, there will be confidential absentee ballots available in the church office from **Monday, September 8 - Thursday, September 11**. All absentee ballots must be in by **4:30 p.m. Thursday, September 11**. The absentee ballots will be transferred to the Tally Committee on Sunday morning, September 14, 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 2024

Kate C. Lee
Stephen Prince
Hilda Ray
Glenn Waters

Term Expires 2025

Willis Pinnell
Betty Jo Prevatte
Mel Ray
Ella Jo Sellers

Term Expires 2026

Buster Carter
Brownie Cook
Charlie Duncan
Bobby Hensley
Kirby Sanderson

Term Expires 2027

Leigh Cook
Jeff Mahanes
Gina Morningstar
Donna Prince
Mary Alice Stanley

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 2025					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Church Office Closed	2	3 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 6:30 Prayer Service	4	5	6
7 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	8 10:00 WMU Meeting Absentee Deacon Voting in the church office	9 Absentee Deacon Voting in the church office	10 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 6:30 Prayer Service Absentee Deacon Voting in the church office	11 Absentee Deacon Voting in the church office	12	13
14 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship Deacon Election	15 9:30 Finance Meeting	16 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	17 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 6:30 Prayer Service	18	19	20
21 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 2025-2026 Budget Distributed	22	23	24 5:45 Covered-dish Meal 6:30 Annual Church Conference—Nominating Committee Report, Budget Discussion	25	26	27
28 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 2025-2026 Budget Vote	29	30	31 10:00 Wednesday Morning Prayer Service 6:30 Prayer Service			

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

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