



CALHOUN

FIRST BAPTIST

news & views



July
2025



411 College
Street



706-629-7714



calhounfbc.org



FirstBaptistCalhoun

CELEBRATION SUNDAY



On Sunday, July 20th,
join us during the 11 AM
service as we celebrate paying
off our Faith Forward balance!

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Church Family:

Jerry Carroll, Candi Hawkins, Martha Miller, Harry Russell, Stephen Ralston, Carol Martin, Charlotte Beard, Brenda Hughes, Yvonne Elrod, Max Mashburn, Beverly & Baxter Burke, Donald Gallman, Clint Hayes, Geneva Owens, Rebecca Owen, Joan Holcomb, Bob Bullard, Mary Ann Berryman, Judy Thomason, Annette Thomas, Randy Mcentyre, Charlie Reeves, Jane Silvers, Harriett Koen, Dan & Pat Autry, Steve Warren, Carolyn Holbert, Norma Highfield, Madeline Erwin, Ron Hayes, Mike Miller, Grant Glaze, Milton and Carol Bryson, Helen Faw, Ginger Worde, Milton Kean, Kayanne Walraven, Nona Lunsford, Jim Lay, Sylvia Brumbelow, Ramona Reese, Wesley Daniel, Kyle Holbert Brown, Truett and Peggy Grogan

From Church Family:

Lowell McKinnon, Marlin Sullivan, Marla Flowers, Maria Sanchez, Tammi Faulkner, Kimberlie Mason, Juanita Smith, Tim Smith, Cody Henderson, Marie Jarrett, Daryl Goble, Bob Barton, Tim Nichols, Charles Avery, Jean Pulliam Moorehead, Monica Perkins, Bill Bryson, Julia Stansell, Drew Walraven, Herman Westbrook, Lisa McDonald Braden, Lou Helen Warren, Miller Creel, Darrell Goble, Penny Baker, Mike Earnest, Bubba Lewis, Randy McCorkle, Lisa Holden, Tom Ramsey, Wesley Burgess, Robert McConnell, Lloyd Pack, Larry Garner, Kurt Cowell, Mark Waters, Zoey Adolphi, Carol Cross, Jane Bennett, Alice Ann Mullins, Shirley Willis, Gail Rickett, Ava Price, Aaron Jones, Margie Moss, Robert Adams, Tricia Crump, Danny Elrod, Charlie Williams, Kaisley Miller, Elaine Powell, Evan Koen, Turner Rogers



CHURCH STAFF

Dr. John Barber

Senior Pastor

john.barber@calhounfbc.org

Dr. Lance Cole

Minister of Music

lance.cole@calhounfbc.org

Dr. Steven Waters

Minister of Discipleship
& Administration

steven.waters@calhounfbc.org

Rev. Andrew Crawford

Minister of Students

andrew.crawford@calhounfbc.org

Mr. Travis Hurd

Children's Ministry

travis.hurd@calhounfbc.org

Mrs. Emily Hurd

Preschool Ministry

emily.hurd@calhounfbc.org



Dr. John Barber **SENIOR PASTOR**

The month of June was a very good month for our First Family. Our attendance was up significantly (8%) over the month of June in 2024. We welcomed new families to our First Family and had a number of young people make professions of faith. Our Vacation Bible School enrollment and attendance was our biggest on record. We enrolled 277 children and 52 youth. We also had several children who accepted Jesus as their Savior. We will follow up with each of these children and their parents and will likely see many of them make their public profession of faith and be baptized. Doxology!

Speaking of VBS, many thanks to the 50 plus volunteers who made this week of ministry possible. And special thanks to Kelly Brittain who leads our VBS year after year. I believe we have the very best Bible School in our region because of Kelly's leadership and the work of our awesome volunteers!

Also, in the month of June, we paid off our Faith Forward indebtedness. Let me say that again. WE PAID OFF OUR FAITH FORWARD INDEBTEDNESS. Praise the Lord! We began giving to Faith Forward in November of 2015. Through our Faith Forward campaign, 165 families committed to give 1.4 million dollars over a 3-year period, over and above their tithes, to fund this building project. Many continued their Faith Forward giving beyond the first three years, as the overall project cost was 3.9 million. God's blessings and our obedience has seen this obligation met. We will celebrate this accomplishment on Sunday, July 20th, during the 11 AM service. I hope you will make every effort to be present as we celebrate this accomplishment and look toward our First Family's future!

Our next big ministry event is Christmas in July and will take place the week of July 23rd. This ministry is a cooperative effort of many churches and community organizations to assist 100 families in our community with food, clothing, school supplies, and household essentials in the middle of the year. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve and share, in Jesus' name, with those in need from our community! We have the privilege of hosting the event in our CLC as well as providing gift cards for groceries to be shared with each of the 100 families. Many thanks to Sunday school classes and individuals who have helped us provide these gift cards. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Steven Waters through the church office.

This Sunday we will return to our "Questions" series and address the question, "What Is So Important About Baptism?" With several baptisms scheduled in the weeks to come, I hope this will be a timely message about what the Bible teaches about the meaning and importance of baptism.

Blessings!
Pastor John

Dr. Lance Cole MUSIC MINISTRY

A new favorite song of our church seems to be, “Trust in God,” written by Brandon Lake and friends. The lyrics are unique in the way they state the certainty of God’s faithfulness from the point of several scriptural truths. All the while, this comes while paying homage to the old hymn, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine.”

There is too much in the song to dissect in this short article, but one poignant statement says, “I know the author of tomorrow has ordered my steps.” This is a direct reference to Psalm 119:133 where the Psalmist writes, “Order my steps in Your word.” Note that God has ordered our steps; but how? Answer: According to HIS WORD that we find in scripture. As you consider this, think on how we can know His word. It’s by reading and meditating upon scripture and putting it into practice.

A second truth comes in the repetition of, “I sought the Lord, and He heard, and He answered, that’s why I trust Him.” One of our members asked me about this recently as he wondered aloud if we should trust God only because God had answered our prayers. While it is true that God is trustworthy whether we have seen Him answer our prayers or not, our faith is certainly strengthened when we do see God at work in our lives. Multiple biblical characters give evidence of trusting God after seeing His faithfulness in their lives.

The final scripture that the well-known singer of this song, Chris Brown, alludes to, is found in Psalm 125:2 (which is written below). Amen and amen! I encourage you to look up “Trust in God” and sing along in your private worship this week.

Joyfully,
Lance

*“Just as the mountains surround
Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his
people, both now and forever.”*
Psalm 125:2



GENERAL INFORMATION

Adult Worship Choir
Wednesday Rehearsal
6:45 PM in the Choir Room

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714
lance.cole@calhounfbc.org

“Sing to the LORD
a new song;
sing to the LORD,
all the earth.
Sing to the LORD,
praise his name;
proclaim his salvation
day after day.”

Psalm 96:1-2



Dr. Steven Waters

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION

We often say that we count people because people count. I want to give everyone a sort of “mid-year” update for Sunday School and where we stand through the first six months of the year.

And yes, 2025 is halfway over now!

Through June, we have averaged over 300 in Sunday School this year. Actually, we have averaged 312 each week. That is an 8% increase over the first half of 2024. Thank you all for your faithful attendance in our Discipleship time and what a testament to the work that God is doing here at First Baptist! As a matter of fact, we have only had 2 Sundays all year when we did not have over 300 in Sunday School!

On another note, we had great attendance in our quarterly teachers meeting. We have challenged all of our teachers to look to have an apprentice in class. Apprentices will be our key to future growth in Sunday School. It will be hard to have new classes start without new leaders who are trained up and ready to go!

On that note: teachers, leaders, Sunday School veterans, remember that the annual SPARK conference is coming up August 23rd in Ringgold. The SPARK conferences are always great educational opportunities for teachers and leaders and even those who may grow into leadership positions in the future. If you are interested in attending, let me know. We will have signups soon!

Thanks again for your dedication to all things Discipleship here at CFBC!

Blessings,
Steven

WORSHIP AVERAGE

June
429

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE

June
312

IMPORTANT DATES

July 26
Christmas in July

NEW MEMBERS

Tracy & Christine Bennett

Peyton Epps

Seth & Andrea Smith

CONTACT INFORMATION

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steven.waters
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Rev. Andrew Crawford

YOUTH MINISTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Activities

Wednesdays
5:45 PM on the Third Floor

Sunday School

9:45 AM on the Third Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

Fuge Camp

Berry College
July 7-11

Squad Wars: Pickleball Edition

July 9

Color Wars

July 16

Back to School Splash

Red Clay Resort
July 23

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church family,

I want to begin by thanking you from the bottom of my heart for your faithful support and prayers during our recent mission trip to Germany. Our students stood in the heart of Munich and shared the Gospel with boldness and joy — you would've been so proud! It was a powerful reminder that when we send our teens into the world with the Good News, God shows up in mighty ways. Thank you for being the kind of church that invests in the next generation.

We're not slowing down! This coming **Monday at 1:00 PM**, we'll be departing for **Centrifuge Camp**. Please continue to pray for our group as we head into a week packed with worship, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Your encouragement and partnership make these moments possible.

For those not attending camp: don't worry, we've got something for you too! **Next Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the CLC**, join us for *Squad Wars: Pickleball Edition*! It's been an amazing summer already, with **107 Middle and High School students** joining us for Squad Wars so far. Let's keep the momentum going!

A couple more updates:

- **Color Wars** is coming up on **July 16**. You won't want to miss the craziest, messiest night of the summer. Bring a towel and wear clothes you don't mind getting very messy.
- **Back to School Splash** has been moved to **July 23**! We'll be heading to **Red Clay Resort**. The **bus leaves at 5:00 PM and returns at 9:45 PM**. If students need a ride, be sure to sign up at linktr.ee/calhounfbcstudents.

Let's keep pressing into what God is doing through laughter, Bible study, worship, messy games, and moments that will shape lives for eternity. Thank you for walking with us every step of the way.

In Christ,
Andrew



Travis & Emily Hurd

CHILDREN'S & PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Parents,

We had a wonderful month of June with Squad Wars, Camp, and VBS. I'm very excited about the spiritual decisions that have been made by some of our kids, and we hope to continue taking that momentum into the month of July just before school kicks back up in August.

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- **July 9th** Squad Wars Event Kickball at Bernstein Field
- **July 16th** Squad Wars Event Color Wars
- **July 23rd** Children and Youth party at the Red Clay Resort
- **July 30th** Squad Wars Event OMC with children and parents

We will continue to communicate through our new GroupMe app, so if you are not receiving messages please contact me at 678-986-5060.

May God Bless,
Travis

Parents,

We have moved to a new messaging/announcement app. If you have not gotten an invitation from me through the new GroupMe app, please let me know. Make sure to turn on the notifications so you can stay up to date on everything going on in the life of our church.

Mark your calendars, the Back to School Bash is scheduled for Sunday, August 24th. Watch for more details.

God bless,
Emily

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kids for Christ

Wednesdays
6:00 PM on the
Second Floor

Children's Sunday School

Every Sunday
9:45 AM on the
Second Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

Squad Wars Kickball

Bernstein Field
July 9

Squad Wars Color Wars

July 16

Children & Youth Party

Red Clay Resort
July 23

Squad Wars OMC

July 30

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

emily.hurd@calhounfbc.org

travis.hurd@calhounfbc.org





GROW WITH US

We also offer Sunday School classes for every age group!

Children / Youth

- Babies
- Toddlers and 2's
- 3's and Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- First Grade
- Second Grade
- Third Grade
- Fourth Grade
- Fifth Grade
- Sixth - Eighth Grade Girls
- Sixth - Eighth Grade Boys
- Ninth - Twelfth Grade Girls
- Ninth - Twelfth Grade Boys

College / Adult

- College & Careers
 - Young Single Adults
- Young Married Adults
 - Young Adults Co-ed
- Fish Finders
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Vine and Branches
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Genesis
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Cornerstone
 - Median Adult Co-ed
- Joy
 - Median Adult Ladies

Senior Adult

- Fishers of Men
 - Senior Men
- Mary-Martha
 - Senior Ladies
- Becomers Co-ed
 - Senior Co-ed
- New Men
 - Senior Men
- Faithseekers
 - Senior Co-Ed
- Mattie Lou Strain
 - Senior Ladies
- Becomers Ladies
 - Senior Ladies

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday School classes meet every Sunday at 9:45 AM.

For more information about a class or for directions to a class,
please visit the Welcome Desk!

Deacon of the Day

July	6	Ritchie Harris
	13	Joe Campbell
	20	Richard Fisher
	27	Brett Smith

Usher Group of the Day

July	6	Group III: Wes Alexander
	13	Group IV: Tom Shanahan
	20	Group V: David Repp
	27	Group VI: Sam Harwell

Greeters of the Day

"B" Bldg.

July	6	Harry & Jean Russell
	13	Mary Ann Berryman
	20	Bill & Teresa Bishop
	27	Mary Sterling

CLC

July	6	Sharon & Dennis Alexander
	13	Camille & Mike Hall
	20	Dena Wright
	27	Kim Hall

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

Please extend Christian sympathies to the families of:

Sheila Henderson

Larry Holbert

Mary Jean Sisson

Gene McEntyre

Please keep these families in your prayers
during this time of bereavement.

OFFERING UPDATES

Offerings for June 2025

Budget Requirement Monthly	\$ 106,802.08
Budget Offering	\$ 124,505.58
Designated Faith Forward	\$ 11,315.00
Other Designated	\$ 10,683.97
Total	\$ 146,504.55

Year-To-Date

Budget Requirement thru 6/30/25	\$ 640,812.48
Budget Offering Given as of 6/30/25	\$ 670,290.45
Faith Forward Balance as of 6/30/25	\$ PAID OFF

SERVE WITH US

Give

- Blewer Food Bank
- Backpack Buddies
- Christmas in July

Serve

- Worship Choir
- Nursery
- Women on Mission
- C.R.O.S.S. Team

Share

- Vacation Bible School
- Mission trips
- Youth programs
- Adult International Trips

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“Calhoun First Baptist is a multigenerational family of faith living in pursuit of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).”

NOTES OF THANKS

First Baptist Church,

Thank you for providing food for our family after my grandmother's funeral, and for the bouquet of flowers that you sent. We greatly appreciate your help during this difficult time.

*The family of Elizabeth Gillespie,
Cassie Ferguson*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to Lance Cole for a warm hospital visit to us when Jerry had his surgery. We sincerely appreciate the phone calls, texts, cards, food, visits, and prayers. We are truly blessed.

Jerry and Teri Carroll

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the Bible, support, prayers, and scholarship as I begin my next journey. Thank you for your support as I seek after God's will for my life. I love my church family.

Hope Hudgins

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Bible, lunch, and scholarship. I appreciate those who took the time to write or highlight something in my Bible. I would also like to give a special thank you to Brett and Shea for their help organizing and decorating for the lunch. Please keep me in your prayers as I prepare to enter this new chapter of my life.

*Love,
Ross White*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your generous scholarship, Bible, and luncheon. It was a very special day. I appreciate your love, guidance, and prayers throughout my childhood and as I begin my college career.

*Sincerely,
Tyler Banta*