



CALHOUN

FIRST BAPTIST

news & views



October
2025



411 College
Street



706-629-7714



calhounfbc.org



FirstBaptistCalhoun

Calhoun First Baptist Church

is a *multigenerational*
family of faith

living in pursuit

of the Great Commandment
& the Great Commission.



We work together to

Gather & Grow

so that we can

Serve & Share

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CHURCH STAFF

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Dr. Steven Waters

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Mr. Travis Hurd

Children's Ministry

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Mrs. Emily Hurd

Preschool Ministry

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Dr. John Barber **SENIOR PASTOR**

September was a particularly good month for our First Family. Our attendance in Worship and Sunday School was strong. We continue to welcome new guests each week, and many are attending regularly. We had our best Sunday School attendance in two years on Friend Day. We also celebrated five professions of faith inside of this month. We have much to be grateful for. Doxology!

The church selected seven men (Wesley Alexander, Chad Crawford, Bill Dillard, Jason Holland, Gary Owen, Jeff Ruddell, and Tom Shanahan) to serve alongside our other active Deacons. I extend my thanks to the men who just finished their three-year term of service: Joe Cambell, Richard Fisher, Ritchie Harris, Jason Hawkins, Clint Hayes, and Brett Smith. I am especially grateful for the leadership demonstrated by Ritchie Harris as our Deacon Chairman.

On September 7th, the church approved a recommendation from your Pastor and the Deacon body to create a Facilities Team. Their task is to evaluate our current and future facility needs and partner with Rardin and Carroll Architects to make recommendations to the church on how to best meet these needs. Our Facilities Team consists of seven members: Aimee Blalock, Billy Brindle, Craig Mashburn, Gary Owen, Carol Shanahan, Bart Walraven, and Michael Wilson. Please be in prayer for this leadership team as they start this important process. My hope is they will be ready to report back to the church with recommendations concerning next steps before the end of the year.

In the month of July, we celebrated paying off our Faith Forward indebtedness. As we marked this milestone, I also challenged our First Family to continue our Faith Forward giving so we could accumulate monies for future building and property needs. Thank you First Family for hearing my heart on this matter and responding to this challenge. The last two months we have received nearly \$38,000 in Faith Forward giving. Doxology!

We have a special service this Sunday as we are ordaining Chad Crawford and Bill Dillard as they begin their service as Deacons in October. I hope you will join me in praying, preparing and gathering for another great day of worship with our First Family!

Pastor John

Dr. Lance Cole

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our fall music programs are off and running! Thanks to several of our amazing volunteers, the puppets have taken the preschool choirs by storm. It is amazing to peek in and see how those little ones connect with our puppets each Wednesday evening. Our children's choir has also continued to build each week as they play games, have fun, make music, and work towards being a vital part of our Christmas musical this year.

We kicked off our Adult Worship Choir Christmas season during the month of September, but it is definitely not too late to join the group. We rehearse each Wednesday at 6:45 PM in the Choir Room. At the present time, we are spending about half of the rehearsal on weekly worship music and the other half on Christmas. If you have an interest in singing with us, please contact me or simply attend a rehearsal.

We've been joking around the office about what costume to wear at the end of October and it brought something to mind. When we attend church each week, it is tempting to put on an imaginary mask that says to others, "I've got it all together," or "I'm a spiritual person," or perhaps, "I'm super happy all the time." While these looks may actually be authentic, over the years I've seen many people whose "look" says one thing while their real-life story is something very different.

The old invitation hymn implores us to come to Jesus, "Just as I am." There's truth in that lyric. God sees through any mask that we may try to wear in order to impress Him or others. He knows us and He loves us "warts and all." My message to you in all of this is that as you prepare to attend a time of worship each week, know that there are many in our First Family of Faith who can relate to whatever you may be dealing with. As brothers and sisters in Christ, it is God's design that we support and encourage one another in the good times and the hard days. No one has to pretend to be something they are not. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. Relax, and be who God made you to be as you worship Him alongside your Christian family.

Joyfully,
Lance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Adult Worship Choir

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:45 PM in the Choir Room

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal

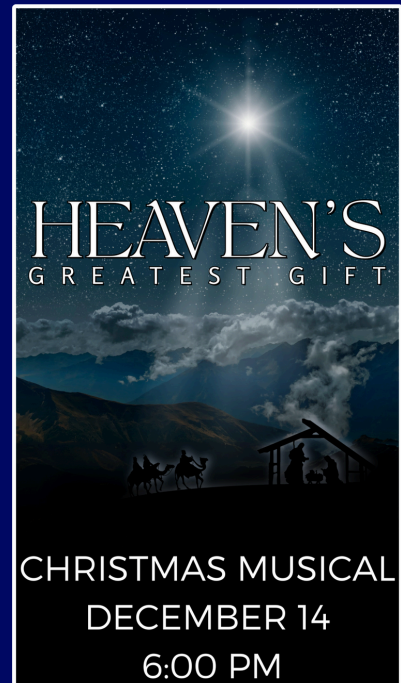
6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

Preschool Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal

6:00 PM in the CLC 2nd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

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IMPORTANT DATES

October 26

Educator Appreciation Day

October 31

Trunk-or-Treat

NEW MEMBERS

Banks Layson

Terri Denton

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

steven.waters
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Dr. Steven Waters **MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION**

Educator Appreciation Day Christ, the Master Teacher

On Sunday, October 26th, we will come together to host our local educators with an Educator Appreciation breakfast and morning worship service. As we gather to honor and celebrate the educators in our community, we are reminded that teaching is not just a profession—it is a calling. The Bible consistently lifts up the role of those who instruct, guide, and nurture. Proverbs 22:6 exhorts us to “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Educators live this calling daily, shaping not only the minds of their students but also their character and future.

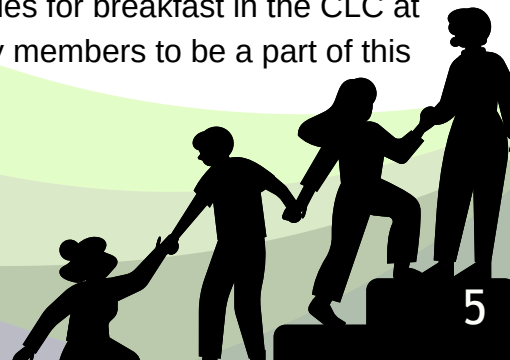
Jesus Himself was often called “Teacher.” Crowds pressed in to hear Him explain the Scriptures, paint pictures of God’s kingdom with parables, and guide His disciples in both truth and grace. In John 13, Christ knelt to wash His disciples’ feet, showing us that the greatest teaching is often lived out in humble service. His example reminds us that true education extends beyond books—it is about modeling love, patience, wisdom, and integrity.

On this Educator Appreciation Day, we thank God for those who pour into the lives of students in classrooms, Sunday school rooms, and homes. Just as Christ equipped His followers to carry the Gospel to the world, our teachers equip the next generation to live faithfully and courageously.

Let us pray for our educators: that they would have renewed strength, wisdom in the face of challenges, and joy in the fruit of their labor. May they always know that their efforts are seen, valued, and blessed by the Lord who said, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me” (Matthew 18:5).

The breakfast will start at 10:00 am followed by a special service to honor our educators at 11:00 am. All of our First Family of Faith educators are encouraged to join us with your families for breakfast in the CLC at 10:00 and everyone is encouraged to invite your educator friends and family members to be a part of this special day. Let me know if you have questions.

Steven



Rev. Andrew Crawford YOUTH MINISTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Activities

Wednesdays
5:45 PM on the 3rd Floor

Sunday School

9:45 AM on the 3rd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

October 8

No Activities / Fall Break

October 19

Sunday Night Pickleball

October 22

Fields of Faith

November 5

Bonfire Night

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church family, we've got an exciting lineup of opportunities for our students this October, plus a few important dates to note!

HIGHLIGHTS

- **October 8** – No Student Ministry Activities- We'll pause midweek gatherings for Fall Break. Enjoy the time with family and friends!
- **October 19** – Sunday Night Pickleball- Join us at Pickleball 706 from 6–8 PM for a combined event with Meadowdale and Trinity Baptist. Drop-off/Pick-up: Pickleball 706 (beside Cici's Pizza). Come ready for friendly competition, laughter, and fellowship.
- **October 22** – Fields of Faith at Calhoun High School- Meet at the CHS parking lot (between the field and school) at 5 PM for the tailgate. The event kicks off at 6 PM and wraps up around 8:30 PM. Need a ride? A shuttle will leave CFBC at 4:45 PM. This is a powerful night of worship, testimony, and community – don't miss it!
- **November 5** – BIG Night: Bonfire at the Walraven's- Mark your calendars now! Details will be sent out soon, but expect a fun night to connect with friends, eat some good food, and study the Word. Bring friends!

Thank You, Church Family

We are deeply grateful for the way you love, pray for, and invest in our students. Your encouragement fuels their growth in Christ and creates spaces where they can belong, believe, and become who God has called them to be. Thank you for being a church that champions the next generation!



Travis & Emily Hurd

CHILDREN'S & PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Parents,

I cannot stress to you enough the importance of having conversations about your relationship with Jesus with your kids. Our relationship with Jesus should be the foundation of our lives. My encouragement to you is that you will make it a priority to simply talk to your kids about Jesus – who He is, what He has done for you, and why He is so important. I promise you, if you make Jesus a priority in your life you will see Jesus working in your kids' lives.

We are excited about some upcoming events with our FBC Kids. Please mark your calendars for the following events:

October 8th - No Wednesday night activities. Enjoy your Fall Break!

October 31st - Trunk-or-Treat @ 6:00 PM. Please contact me you would like to host a trunk.

December 7th - Walk-through Bethlehem

June 8 - 12th - Camp Fort Bluff. Please contact me if your child is interested in going.

May God Bless,
Travis

Hello parents!

We have enjoyed being back in the swing of things on Wednesday nights! We have had a great turnout for our music and missions programs, and we hope that you continue to join us each week. If you haven't tried our Wednesday night programs yet, we would LOVE to have you join us. Everything begins at 6:00 PM!

Mark your calendars for our annual Trunk-or-Treat event on Halloween night in the CLC parking lot. This night is always a fun night of fellowship for our church. If you would like to host a trunk, please let us know. We are now accepting donations of individually wrapped candy to give out at the event. If you have any questions feel free to reach out! Have a great week!

God bless,
Emily

GENERAL INFORMATION

Children's Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal
6:00 PM on the 2nd Floor

Team Kids

Wednesdays
6:45 PM on the 2nd Floor

Preschool Choirs

Wednesday Rehearsal
6:00 PM in the CLC 2nd Floor

Mission Friends

Wednesdays
6:45 PM in the Preschool

Children's Sunday School

9:45 AM on the 2nd Floor

IMPORTANT DATES

October 8

Fall Break / No Activities

October 31

Trunk-or-Treat

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

emily.hurd@calhounfbc.org

travis.hurd@calhounfbc.org





Sunday School Information

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 begins at 9:45 AM on Sundays and will dismiss just before the Worship Service starts at 11:00 AM.

We have classes for every age – from babies to our wisest of senior adults, there is a small group that is perfect for you!

We also have a nursery service for our youngest members and visitors.

See the welcome desk for more information!

Monthly Church Information

Deacon of the Day

Oct.	5	Mike Hall
	12	Ron Hammontree
	19	Eric Jackson
	26	Steve Nelson

Usher Group of the Day

Oct.	5	Group IV: Brad Brown
	12	Group V: David Repp
	19	Group VI: Jason Hawkins
	26	Group I: Ritchie Harris

Building 'B' Greeters

Oct.	5	Mary Sterling
	12	Tom & Carol Shanahan
	19	Harry & Jean Russell
	26	Mary Ann Berryman

CLC Greeters

Oct.	5	Mike & Camille Hall
	12	Dena Wright
	19	Kim Hall
	26	Wes & Logan Alexander

OFFERING UPDATES

Offerings for September 2025

Budget Requirement Monthly	\$ 106,802.08
Budget Offering	\$ 114,111.56
Faith Forward Giving September.....	\$ 21,847.00
Other Designated	\$ 5,427.00
Total	\$ 141,385.56

Year-To-Date

Budget Requirement thru 9/30/25	\$ 961,218.72
Budget Offering Given as of 9/30/25	\$ 1,023,837.67
Faith Forward Fund Balance as of 9/30/25	\$ 36,400.87

SERVE WITH US

Give

- Blewer Food Bank
- Backpack Buddies

Share

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

Serve

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

AUGUST WORSHIP AVERAGE: 430
AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE: 315



Prayer List

FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Laura Jones, Dale Hollis, Elaine McDearis, Andrea Smith, Rickey Harris, Dot Broome, Greg Gallman, Linda Ruddell, Chet Utz, Gary Reese, Shirley Harwell, Rebecca Brown, Sylvia Brumbelow, John Lord, Doris Brown, Martha Miller, Harry Russell, Charlotte Beard, Brenda Hughes, Yvonne Elrod, Max Mashburn, 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, Helen Faw, Ginger Worde, Milton Kean, Kayanne Walraven, Nona Lunsford, Jim Lay, Ramona Reese, Wesley Daniel, Kyle Holbert Brown, Truett and Peggy Grogan

FROM CHURCH FAMILY

Harold Crump, Francis Payne, Charlene Henderson, Nicole Carter, Tony Crunkelton, Chris Mulkey, Ben Flanagan, Marlin Sullivan, Maria Sanchez, Tammi Faulkner, Juanita Smith, Tim Smith, Cody Henderson, Marie Jarrett, Daryl Goble, Bob Barton, Charles Avery, Monica Perkins, Bill Bryson, Julia Stansell, Drew Walraven, Herman Westbrook, Lisa McDonald Braden, Lou Helen Warren, Miller Creel, Darrell Goble, Penny Baker, Mike Earnest, 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, Ava Price, Aaron Jones, Margie Moss, Robert Adams, Tricia Crump, Danny Elrod, Charlie Williams, Kaisley Miller, Elaine Powell, Evan Koen, Turner Rogers

Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Eddie Reeves. Eddie's services are handled through Thomas Funeral Home. Visitation will be on Thursday, October 2nd, from 4:00 - 8:00 pm at the funeral home. His memorial service will be here at First Baptist on Saturday, October 4th, at 1:00 pm. Please keep this family in your prayers during this time of bereavement.

Events & Updates

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY

Educators: we are thankful for you! On October 26th, we invite all our First Family educators, their coworkers, and all their fellow educator friends to join us for a special breakfast and worship service in their honor. The breakfast will be held in the Christian Life Center (CLC) at 10:00 AM, and the Worship Service will follow the event promptly at 11:00 AM.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Our annual Trunk-or-Treat will be held on October 31st at 6:00 PM in the CLC parking lot! If you would like to volunteer a trunk for this event, please contact Travis Hurd at 678-986-5060. We are also accepting donations of individually-wrapped candy for this event!

OCC PACKING PARTY



It's almost time to start packing those shoeboxes! Mark your calendars for November 16th – we will meet at 6:00 PM in the CLC.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST

August

Eloise Elizabeth Dia
Ronald B. Bentley, IV
Sophie Crawford Smallwood
Carter Loy Hester
Justin "Baker" Thompson

September

Elizabeth Ruth Baker

Find Us Online



www.calhounfbc.org



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@cfbcxstudents



Notes of Thanks

Dear First Family,

Words are inadequate to express my gratitude for the care and concern I've received from my church family during my ongoing health challenge. The hospital visits from the staff, the prayers, cards, texts and phone calls, along with many other kindnesses shown to me have meant the world. I covet your continued prayers as I find the right treatment in the days ahead.

**Sincerely,
Rebecca Owen**

To our Church Family,

We are blessed by your prayers, texts, calls and just for your Christian love and fellowship through my recent medical procedure and recovery.

Ricky & Susan Boswell

All previous digital newsletters can be accessed in the online library at calhounfbc.org.

(Under the **CONNECTIONS** tab, click **Newsletters**.)

You can also scan this code to access the library on your mobile device!

