



# CALHOUN

## FIRST BAPTIST

news & views



September  
2025



411 College  
Street



706-629-7714



[calhounfbc.org](http://calhounfbc.org)



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# 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

### **Dr. John Barber**

Senior Pastor

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### **Dr. Lance Cole**

Minister of Music

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### **Dr. Steven Waters**

Minister of Discipleship  
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### **Rev. Andrew Crawford**

Minister of Students

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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**

Our annual Friend Day and Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. We are planning for our best attendance of the year (except Easter) in Sunday school and Worship. Thanks in advance to all our Sunday school classes who have contacted their class roll/ministry list and have invited guests. Remember, we are

targeting those in our relationship circle who are unchurched or “under-churched” to be our guests. More times than not, someone who has received a personal invitation from someone they know will say yes to coming to church.

Our picnic will take place at the City Park. We will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone and we will begin serving food at 5:30 PM. There will be cornhole boards, 9 square, and gaga ball set up for the kids. There will also be a concert towards the end of the evening. The only thing you will need is a smile and a lawn chair. I also want to say a big “THANK YOU” to our Fellowship committee for all their hard work in setting up and cleaning up for this event.

On Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have our annual Deacon election. All church members 16 years and older are eligible to cast one ballot selecting 7 men from this list of 10. Once the ten men who will appear on the ballot has been determined through our nomination process, the church will be notified by way of church wide email. Ballots will be distributed in the worship bulletins and will be collected at the end of the service. Absentee ballots will be available through the church office as of Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to prayerfully participate in this important process of positioning good and godly men to serve the church.

I also want to thank our Nominating Committee (Sharon Alexander, Laura French, Eric Jackson, Laura Jones, Terri Robbins, Anita Russell, and staff representative Steven Waters) for their work in filling out the various committees and leadership positions within the church for the upcoming church year that begins in October. The church will be asked to approve the Nominating Committee Report during a Called Conference scheduled for Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, during the 11 AM service. I am grateful for every role of service, whether big or small, filled by faithful members of our church because they love the Lord and want to further the impact of our ministry.

I hope you will be present with your First Family this Sunday as we consider the question, “What Kind of Worship is the Right Kind of Worship?” On Sunday evening at 6 PM in the Sanctuary, we will have a Called Conference to discuss our present and future facility needs and to take action on a recommendation offered by your Pastor and the Deacon body.

Blessings!  
Pastor John



# Dr. Lance Cole

# MUSIC MINISTRY

First things first, our CFBC Preschool and Children's Choirs are ready to go this coming Wednesday with an amazing group of leaders ready to love and lead your little ones. Our preschoolers will all begin with a puppet show in the classroom above the kitchen in the CLC. They'll go their separate ways after the puppets, followed by Mission Friends.

Our children will dive right into their Christmas music in the Kid's Room and are geared up for an awesome year! It all begins at 6 p.m. and the children will move from choirs into Team Kids!

If you aren't a part of the preschool or children's group, you might just be interested in joining our Adult Worship Choir. We have already begun preparations for our Fall Christmas Kick-off on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> in the Choir Rehearsal area. Wear your favorite team gear (local, college, or pro) and we will enjoy some tailgating treats, listen to some great new music, and then sing a bit. Please, if you have any questions at all, reach out to me and ask. We would love to have you join us!

I've experienced two "stop and be blown away" moments these past two Sunday mornings. On August 24<sup>th</sup> as I was leading the choir in our pre-service rehearsal, I could see our church van dropping off a large group of people who had volunteered to park in off-campus parking so that we would have enough spaces for others to park near the church entrance. At the same time I spotted two vehicles literally parking on sidewalks because they could not find a regular space. Do you know what a blessing this is? Our church is truly experiencing a time that many churches never know. To God be the glory!

Then again this past Sunday, I witnessed our choir and instrumentalists match the highest attendance in worship leadership for the month of August. On Labor Day weekend, we had 48 singers and players lead us to the throne of worship! I am so thankful to serve where so many are committed to their Lord and their church. Great things He has done, and continues to do! May the Lord richly bless you this Fall season.

Joyfully,  
Lance Cole

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Adult Worship Choir**

Wednesday Rehearsal  
6:45 PM in the Choir Room

### **Children's Choirs**

Wednesday Rehearsal  
6:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **Preschool Choirs**

Wednesday Rehearsal  
6:00 PM in the CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

## IMPORTANT DATES

### **September 10**

Christmas Choir Kickoff

### **September 14**

Friend Day / Church Picnic

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

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# Dr. Steven Waters

## IMPORTANT DATES

**September 14**

Friend Day / Church Picnic

**September 21**

Deacon Election

## NEW MEMBERS

Tom Graves

Julie Graves

Janey Graves

Josephine Graves

John Graves

Bryn Bone

Jett Jones

Audrey Lee

Emma Walraven

## AUGUST BAPTISMS

Jett Jones

Bryn Bone

Emma Walraven

Audrey Lee

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 706-629-7714

steven.waters  
@calhounfbc.org



# MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION

I am still trying to get my mind around the fact that summer has come and gone. We are already in September! The end of summer is always the start of busy times here at First Baptist. While we had a wonderful summer, back to school means back to all of the Wednesday evening activities campuswide! From music to Teeny Tykes to Adult Choir and everything in between, we have something to help everyone grow and develop as disciples! Yes, while the activities can be a blast, let's not forget that they are all centered around Christ, HIS mission for us, and how we can grow in our walk with HIM. The night starts (unless you are working in the kitchen) at 5:15 for supper and then 6:00 for music for the children. We also have an adult ladies Bible study that meets in the Faithseekers room close to the covered drive-thru entrance off Fain Street. Come join us and grow!

Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> is our annual Friend Day. If you are in a Sunday School class, make sure to invite a guest. Surely you have a friend or relative who needs to be plugged in somewhere. This is a perfect Sunday to bring them to your class. Have you noticed some of your regular members who have gotten out of the habit of coming for Sunday School? This is an outstanding opportunity to get them back in the fold! And if you don't have a class, let me know and I will find the perfect fit for you! Sunday School is such an important part of our mission to "Live in Pursuit of the Great Commandment and Great Commission", make sure you're a part of it! And then to cap off our Friend Day, we will have our annual picnic in the City Park downtown. Just bring a chair and we will make sure you have an evening of fun, music, and fellowship (and FOOD).

Blessings,  
Steven





# Rev. Andrew Crawford

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Youth Activities**

Wednesdays  
5:45 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### **Sunday School**

9:45 AM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

## IMPORTANT DATES

### **September 24**

See You at the Pole /  
See You at the Party

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## **Midweek Is Back and We're Diving Deep into Psalm 119!**

We're excited to announce that Midweek Student Ministry is back every Wednesday night! This fall, we're walking together through Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, but also one of the richest treasures for anyone who wants to know God's Word more deeply.

Our goal is simple but life-changing: for students to fall in love with Scripture and learn how to study their Bibles for themselves. Each week, we'll unpack a section of Psalm 119, discovering how God's Word shapes our hearts, guides our steps, and fuels our faith. Whether you've been reading the Bible for years or you're just starting out, this series will help students see Scripture in a whole new light.

## **See You at the Pole: September 24<sup>th</sup>**

On Wednesday morning, September 24<sup>th</sup>, students all over the nation will gather around their school flagpoles to pray for their friends, teachers, and communities. We encourage every student to take part in this powerful moment of unity and faith.

But the day doesn't end there...

## **See You at the Party: That Night!**

After See You at the Pole, join us that Wednesday night at church for See You at the Party: a night to celebrate, connect, and refocus.

We'll have:

- Great food
- Fun games
- Hangout time with friends
- And most importantly, a time to center our lives through prayer

It's the perfect way to end a day that's all about seeking God together. Mark your calendars, bring a friend, and come ready to grow, have a blast, and be encouraged. This month is all about God's Word, God's people, and God's mission, don't miss it!



# Travis & Emily Hurd

## CHILDREN'S & PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Parents,

We are excited to be back in school and that means the start of our regular programming. Make a note of our weekly Wednesday night events. Children's Choir starts at 6:00 pm, and Team Kids start at 6:45 pm.

Also, to encourage our kids to bring as many friends as possible on Friend Day, I have told them that whoever brings the most friends (at least 5 ) will get to pie me in the face. This should be fun!

May God bless,  
Travis



Hello parents,

Mark your calendars for important events going on in the life of our church. We have been blessed with increasing attendance, but there's always room for more! Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have a high attendance Sunday in Sunday School. Please join us for Sunday school and bring a friend. That afternoon we will have a churchwide picnic in the Calhoun City Park!

Our annual Trunk-or-Treat celebration will take place on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, in the CLC parking lot! Please let us know if you plan to host a trunk. We are now accepting candy donations to help us with this event. We are excited about everything going on in the life of our church. If you ever have any questions about how to get more involved, don't hesitate to reach out.

God bless,  
Emily

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **Children's Choirs**

Wednesday Rehearsal  
6:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

#### **Team Kids**

Wednesdays  
6:45 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

#### **Preschool Choirs**

Wednesday Rehearsal  
6:00 PM in the CLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

#### **Mission Friends**

Wednesdays  
6:45 PM in the Preschool

#### **Children's Sunday School**

9:45 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **September 14**

Friend Day / Church Picnic

#### **October 31**

Trunk-or-Treat

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# 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

Sept.	7	Mike Hall
	14	Ron Hammontree
	21	Eric Jackson
	28	Steve Nelson

## Usher Group of the Day

Sept.	7	Group VI: Jason Hawkins
	14	Group I: Ritchie Harris
	21	Group II: Harry Harwell
	28	Group III: Wes Alexander

## Building 'B' Greeters

Sept.	7	Tom & Carol Shanahan
	14	Harry & Jean Russell
	21	Mary Ann Berryman
	28	Bill & Teresa Bishop

## CLC Greeters

Sept.	7	Kim Hall
	14	Wes & Logan Alexander
	21	Clint & Jenny Hayes
	28	Dennis & Sharon Alexander

## OFFERING UPDATES

### Offerings for August 2025

Budget Requirement Monthly .....	\$ 106,802.08
Budget Offering .....	\$ 129,924.79
Faith Forward Giving August .....	\$ 15,184.10
Other Designated .....	\$ 10,392.98
Total .....	\$ 155,501.87

### Year-To-Date

Budget Requirement thru 8/31/25 .....	\$ 854,416.64
Budget Offering Given as of 8/31/25 .....	\$ 908,842.67
Faith Forward Fund Balance as of 8/31/25 .....	\$ 18,053.87

## 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: 428**

**AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE: 309**





# Prayer List

## FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Rickey Harris, Dot Broome, William White, Greg Gallman, Linda Ruddell, Chet Utz, Gary Reese, Shirley Harwell, Rebecca Brown, Sylvia Brumbelow, John Lord, Marty Holt, 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

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, Tim Nichols, 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

# Events & Updates

## FRIEND DAY / CHURCH PICNIC

September 14<sup>th</sup> is Friend Day! We are encouraging all Sunday school classes to set a goal for the highest class attendance by inviting folks who have either never been to a Sunday school or those who have attended less frequently to join us on this fellowship-focused day.

That evening, we will also gather at Calhoun City park for our annual church-wide picnic! The church will supply the food — all you need to do is bring a folding chair!

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will have a church conference in the sanctuary at 6:00 PM.

## DEACON ELECTION

Deacon election ballots have been collected as of September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Deacon Election will take place on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

All previous digital newsletters can be accessed in the online library at [calhounfbc.org](http://calhounfbc.org).

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

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



[www.calhounfbc.org](http://www.calhounfbc.org)



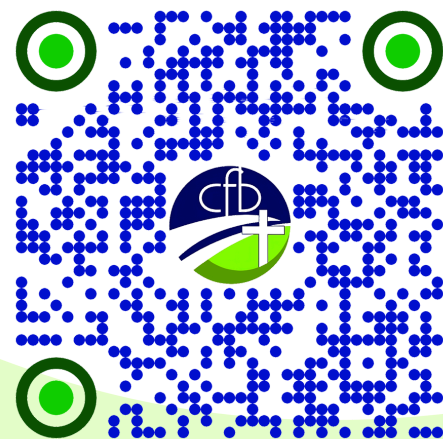
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@cfbcxstudents







# Notes of Thanks

**Dear First Baptist Church,**

As I step into my next chapter of life, I look forward to the new opportunities the Lord will provide to me.

I will carry the morals and values of a Christian with me for the rest of my life because the church and my church family has taught me them.

Thank all of you for everything you've taught me about God.

**Carson Harwell**

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**Dear Church Family,**

Thank you so much for the cards and prayers of support during this time of grief as I deal with the sudden passing of my husband, Larry Holbert.

To everyone who has called, visited with me, and prayed for me, thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are all so very precious to me.

**Love, Luanne**