

We offer Sunday School for all ages and would love to have you join us each week- 9:45am-10:45am. Also, join us for Worship, Sundays at 11:00am! Our Sunday service is heard on WCLN 1170 AM or StarVision cable, channel 16.

Don't forget to "LIKE" the First Baptist Church Facebook Page and "share" our page with your friends! Each one, reach one!

Phones

Church Office: 910-592-8124

Family Ministry Center: 910-490-1244

FAX: 910-592-6109

Visit Us On the Web:

www.clintonfirstbaptist.org

Our Mission

"The purpose of First Baptist Church is to honor God as we love and minister to all people, witness to them of our life-changing Savior, lead them into the fellowship of His church, and nurture them in Christian growth."

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First Connections



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FROM THE PASTOR

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But even if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you...? (Matthew 6:28-30, NRSV)

We have done enough gardening to know that not all perennials return. Many flowering plants, whether through seeds, seedlings, or buds do resiliently return and grace us with their seasonal beauty. Nonetheless, not all lilies, irises, dahlias, hydrangeas, peonies, or rhododendron, etc., bloom. Various disruptions or catastrophes may invade. There can be storms, fire, pests, and drought. In the summer of 2007, we almost lost a young magnolia tree to the drought of that unusually hot season. As the prophet Isaiah (40:8) asserted, "the grass withers and the flowers fade..." In distinctive seasons, as well, not all perennials return.

Fortunately, a majority of the time, we observe with wonder and gratitude the brilliance of buds, blooms, and blossoms that do reappear and resume their contribution to creation's phenomenon. Whether we consider "April showers bring May flowers" or realize the creative blessing of God's blessed creation, the colors and animated exuberance of earth's flowering, flourishing plant life is refreshing.

While nature's beauties may not necessarily be specific models for imitation, their existence is not about irresponsibility or laziness (*they neither toil nor spin*). They do what they have been created to do. They become what they have been sown to become. Significantly, they are symbols of God's love and great care for us. We are summoned to a relationship

of respect, consideration, and guardianship as well as admiration and wonder with God's natural work. We also share the opportunity and the commission to reflect God's glory and present God's grace. We can do this because, in spite of the various disruptions or catastrophes that may invade, we are planted within God's embrace, animated with God's breath, and held by God's everlasting love. "...will He not much more clothe you...?"

Blessings,
Ray

Sunday, May 21

BRICKS Campaign Renewal Lunch

Immediately following morning worship
In the Family Ministry Center
Everyone is invited to attend.

Special Sundays in May

Four special Sundays will be observed in the month of May. Every Sunday has a special significance and we want to encourage you to make each one a priority.

- **May 7 Senior Adult Day**
- **May 14 Mother's Day – Parent/Child Dedication**
- **May 21 Children's Day & Bake Sale Churchwide lunch and BRICKS renewal**
- **May 28 Memorial Day**

Please Remember in Prayer —

IN THE HOSPITAL

None at this printing

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Carlton Albritton, Charles and Mirjean Blackman, Ina Ruth Jones, Sandra Stafford, Mike Underwood, Carolyn Wrench

OUR HOMEBOUND

April Bisette, Joe Butler, Rufus Herring, Cristie Quakenbush, Juanita Rich

NURSING HOMES

Local

Lee Brown, Mary Gran 715B
Doug Warren, Southwood 208
Willie Ruth Watson, Mary Gran 704
Linda Wright, Southwood 104

Out of Town

Bobby Bunker, Cadence Senior Care, Garner
Faye McCullen, The Landing of Smithfield
Sue Miller, Rolling Ridge, Newton Grove

EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Bobby Beard (Ann Weeks' son-in-law)
Deborah Hamilton (Paula Peters' sister)

Our Soup Kitchen ministry

Tim's Gift Ministry

Life Line Sampson

Condolences

We express deepest sympathy to Becky Spell Vann and family for the death of her brother-in-law, Dwight Spell.

Memorials

Memory of Dr. Dalton Mayo

Given by: Edith Raynor
Noel Thompson

BRICKS Campaign Update

BRICKS Update

Owed on Building (1,075,591.94)

Outstanding Pledges \$122,786.85

Senior Happenings

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day; nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121 NIV

Are you discouraged, heavy burdened, broken hearted, don't know which way to go or who to turn to? We all sometimes feel this way. We'd just like to run away and leave it all behind. But we can look up, believe, and have faith knowing there is someone who knows our troubles, our hearts, and still loves us unconditionally no matter what. This is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is always here with us, taking care of us even when we try to run. If you haven't given your all to Him, do it today! He will not let any harm come to you, just trust and obey, there is no other way!

Love in Christ,
Faye B. Warren, Senior Adult Director

Upcoming Senior Adult Events

Monday, May 1

Homebound Visitation, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 7 SENIOR ADULT DAY

Senior Adult Council, 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9

Nursing Home Visits, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 16

JOY Walk in the Gym, 9:15 a.m.

Precious Gems, 10:00a.m. FMC

Tuesday, May 23

Senior Adult trip—details to be announced.

Thank You

Dear First Baptist Missions Development
Thank you so much for blessing our food pantry at Sampson Middle School with the items collected from your "Souper Bowl"! Your generous outreach has helped to fill the hearts and stomachs of dozens of our students. Thank you so much for remembering us with your missions!
Mary Carol Todd, counselor
Sampson Middle School.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule						
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary 1:00 pm Haitian Worship in the Chapel 5:30-7:00 pm Youth Fellowship and Bible Study						
	1 10:00am Homebound Visitation Boy Scouts Troop 80 Court of Honor, 6:30 pm FMC 8:00pm AA, Social Hall	2	3 Regular Wednesday Activities	4 National Day of Prayer Soup Kitchen 4:00	5	6 Church Clean Up Day, 8:30am -12:00 noon
7 Sr. Adult Day Sr. Adult Council, 2:00 Youth Fellowship, 5:30-7:30 pm	8 8:00pm AA, Social Hall	9 10:00am Nursing Home Visitation	10 Regular Wednesday Activities	11 Soup Kitchen 4:00	12 Family Ministry Center Reserved	13
14 Mothers' Day Parent/Child Dedication NO Evening Activities	15 8:00pm AA, Social Hall	16 JOY Walk, 9:15 am FMC Gym "Precious Gems" 10:00am Fellowship Hall	17 Regular Wednesday Activities	18 Soup Kitchen 4:00	19 Family Ministry Center Reserved	20 Family Ministry Center Reserved
21 Children's Day Churchwide Lunch & BRICKS Renewal <i>Rise Up</i> Event, 5:00 -8:00 pm	22 8:00pm AA, Social Hall	23 Sr. Adult trip TBA Family Ministry Center Reserved	24 End of Year Celebration 5:30-7:00 pm	25	26	27
28 NO Evening Activities	29 Memorial Day, Office Closed 8:00pm AA, Social Hall	30	31 NO Wednesday Activities Choir Practice TBA	Wednesday Schedule		
				5:30 pm Wednesday Family Supper 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study 6:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6-7:00 pm Children's Missions and Choirs 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal		

May Birthday Wishes

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Todd Weeks | 11 Robert Little | 25 Linda Combs |
| 3 Pam Grider Smith | Olivia Chestnutt | 27 Lisa Nethercutt |
| Connie Case | 12 Bettie Williams | 28 Brent Stafford |
| 4 Carolyn Chestnutt | 16 Matilda Parker | 29 Susan Holder |
| Sylvia Miller | 17 Lindsay Matthews | 30 Margo Montgomery |
| Ben Wright | Joel Starling | 31 Phagan Hudson |
| 5 John Jackson | 19 Mabel Rose Parker | |
| 6 Zack McCullen III | 20 Norma Jean Jackson | |
| Debbie Finney | 21 W.A. Autry | |
| Joel Jones | 23 Sue Blanchard | |
| 7 Barbara Shook | 24 Leanne Jones | |
| 8 Dwight Jackson | Michelle Simmons | |

Youth Connections

The celebration and familial traditions of the beloved Easter season has seemingly come to a close. Quickly looking ahead in our calendars, anticipation of the end of another school year, and summer plans on the horizon, all vie for our attention.

Our busy tank is at full capacity!

As a Youth Ministry, we continue to talk about what it means to live out our faith; truly living as followers of Christ, sharing his love. Laughter and the simple joys of fellowship are inevitable, and we look forward to what comes next. What is the activity tonight? What are we learning about today? What's for dinner? Where are we going next?

The excitement of what is yet to come builds within us and we rush ahead, unintentionally overlooking or bypassing the ever present joys.

In the gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, Jesus says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." (Matthew 6:33-34a)

In this moment, Jesus is teaching the art of trust in God's provisions; to not worry about what will be provided. This scripture can also serve as a reminder to be more present with God in seeking him, and less on what is around the bend. As the Lord provides for the birds, so he will care for us too.

In the Sundays that have followed Easter Sunday, the cross, now draped with a white cloth to symbolize our Risen Savior, stands beautifully in our sanctuary, as well as the front porch of our church. We are still in the season of celebrating and rejoicing the resurrection of our Lord! In spite of another page turned in our calendars of events and activities, perhaps we can lessen the pace and rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord, every season.

Minister of Students: Lauren E McCollister

SAVE THE DATES

FBC YOUTH SPRING SCHEDULE

- +Sundays-YOUTH FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY 5:30-7:30pm
- +Wednesday-SUPPER & SERVE 5:30-7:00pm (*mission focus*)
- +Sunday, May 7th: Senior Adult Lunch
*Youth help serve after worship (12 noon)
- +Sunday, May 14th: No Youth Fellowship! Mother's Day
- +Sunday, May 21st: Rise Up! @ Hubb's Farm 5:00-8:00pm
- +Wednesday, May 24th: End-of Year Celebration 5:30-7:00pm
- +Sunday, May 28th: No Youth Fellowship (*Memorial Day Weekend*)
- +Sunday, June 4th: Graduate Sunday! 11:00 Worship
- +VBS: *Ready, Set, Move* June 18-21 5:30-8:00pm
*Youth volunteers needed

SUMMERTIME YOUTH

- +Sunday, June 11th: Summertime Youth Kick-off 6:30-8:30pm
- +2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 12 noon: Lunch w/ Lauren (June, July & August)
*MORE SUMMER EVENTS TBA



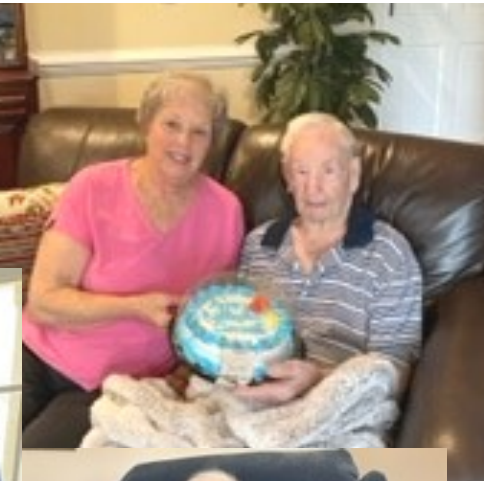
Graduate Sunday

Graduate Sunday will be **June 4**, at which time we will recognize our high school graduates. If you have a recent graduate who would like to participate, please contact Lauren McCollister or the church office as quickly as possible. Also, our high school and college graduates will be recognized in the June newsletter.

Senior Happenings



Birthday Visits!
Congratulations to these seniors who are 90+ years old in April.



Trip to Rudy Theater Easter Show in Selma, NC



Seniors received Easter "Blessing Bags."



Kids' Page



Palm Sunday Events



Tenebrae Service on April 6



Our Adult Choir presented their Easter Cantata on April 2



Youth girls sang "Love Crucified Arose."



Youth complete their "Benevolence Blankets".



What's Up May?

Imagine that your brothers & sisters threw you into a big hole & then sold you to some dudes riding camels. That's what you call "a really bad day" & "a family with some big problems". The sad thing is, many families have big problems just like this family. God didn't create families to fight & hate, but rather to love & help each other. Family is something to celebrate, not hate. Take a look at the rest of the story about the boy in the hole and you'll get the idea. Joseph was the favorite child of his father, Jacob. He even gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors. (Mistake #1: Parents shouldn't play favorites.) When Joseph started telling his brothers about his dreams of them bowing down to him, things got a little sticky. (Mistake #2: Never tell your siblings they will bow at your feet.) Jealous rage filled the hearts of Joseph's brothers. (Mistake #3: No matter what, avoid jealous rages.) They tossed him into the hole, & then (you guessed it) sold him to some dudes on camels who then sold him as a slave in Egypt to a man named Potiphar. You can read the whole story in Genesis, chapters 37-46, but for now, let's skip ahead. Many years later, Joseph, who stayed faithful to God, ended up second in command of all Egypt. (Right thing #1: Be faithful to God even when things go wrong.) Believe it or not, a dream about a famine (no rain, no food) got him there. Joseph required everyone in Egypt to save lots of grain, so when the famine came, there was plenty of food stored up. When his brothers ran out of grain, they came to Egypt looking for food. Who did they run in to? Joseph. After everyone had cried & said they were sorry, Joseph & his brothers celebrated. (Right thing #2: Be forgiving.) Jacob & the rest of the family soon joined Joseph in Egypt where they had lots to eat & many good times together. (Right thing #3: Eat lots of meals together.)

May 14- Parent/Child Dedication- 11:00am, Sanctuary

May 21- Children's Day- 11am, Sanctuary - BAKE SALE- 12:00pm (Rehearsal during Sunday School- 9:45am)

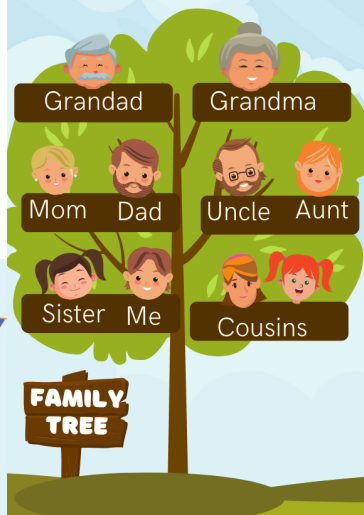
May 24- End of School Year (CHURCH-WIDE) Celebration- 5:30pm-7:00pm, Church Grounds- Food Truck/Bounce House

Each Sunday, we have Sunday School for Birth -5th Grade children, 9:45am-10:45am- Children's Wing

Childcare is provided Sundays, during Worship, for children, Birth-4yrs. 11:00am-12:00pm- Children's Wing

Quiet Bags are available during worship for Pre-K - 5th Grade children. Each bag contains resources to keep children engaged & focused during worship.

Wednesday Night Activities include Dinner, Music & Missions for children 2yrs-5th Grade. 5:30pm-7:00pm, FMC



END OF SCHOOL YEAR FOOD TRUCK & FUN!
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023- 5:30PM
 It's a CHURCH WIDE Celebration!
 Bring your yard chair & join us for dinner & fun as we wrap up another successful school year!

May Nursery Schedule	
May 7 11am-	Shantel Jackson
May 14 11am-	Mothers Day! The QUIET ROOM is available today instead of the NURSERY.
May 21 11am-	Megan Powell
May 28 11am-	Laura Glover

PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION

May 14, 2023 - 11:00am Worship

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him." Parent/Child Dedication is a time for us to celebrate and thank God for the gift of your child. If you would like your baby dedicated contact Margo, 910-990-1242 or the Church Office. We look forward to celebrating in this special day with your family.

READY, SET, MOVE!

FOLLOW JESUS HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL~ 2023
Dinner, Bible Lessons, Music, Worship, Recreation & Crafts
Children- 2yrs-5th Grade

LIKE TO HELP? CONTACT MARGO 910-990-1242

JUNE 18-21

SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY 5:30-8:00PM

Children's Day

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023 11:00AM

JOIN US AS OUR CHILDREN LEAD IN WORSHIP!

PLEASE SUPPORT FBC'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023, 12:00PM

BAKE SALE

ALL DONATIONS WILL HELP SEND OUR 1ST-5TH GRADERS TO ROCKFISH MEADOWS CHURCH CAMP JULY 23-28, 2023!