



# BRANCHES

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19; ISSUE 18

August 27, 2025

### WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Last week I began something new. Through robust programming and amazing technology made available by the McAfee School of Theology, I'm able to audit an online course this fall every Tuesday evening. The course is entitled "Pastoral Care in Times of Crisis" and although we're only two weeks in the readings, lectures and discussions have already begun to have a profound effect on me. One of the insights that has been an early theme is the need for cultivating "communities of care." That is to say, not only do hurting people need sound, spiritual guidance from an individual, but they also benefit greatly when they are a part of a broader network ("community of others") to assist them in getting the support they long for. I truly believe our church provides a caring community, particularly during times when our brethren need caring the most; may we continue to pursue this end and also look to God in seeing how He might lead us to open new doors for even more opportunities to further do what the Scriptures teach us and Christ models...caring. As I visit people each week in their homes, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, businesses, for a meal, in my office or even a conversation over the phone, it's a true gift from God to know I am sharing with others in His loving and gracious care for us all (I Peter 5:7). If the Labor Day weekend takes you away be safe and enjoy the rest, for those of you staying home I hope to see you Sunday as we worship together and consider the unique biography of another saint. You are loved, appreciated and prayed for!

*Blessings, PV*

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Church in Conference this Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup> as well as the Deacon Election.**
- **Church Office Will Be CLOSED on September 1, 2025.**
- **Food Bank:** We need your help! Food bank is in need of **canned goods and boxed food**. Drop off at FBC during church office hours, food can be dropped off in the bins near the elevator.
- **Budget Presentation:** All members are encouraged to attend The Gathering on Wednesday, September 10th at 6 PM as the Finance Committee will be presenting the proposed 2025-2026 Budget.
- **Hearts to Hearts IV:** Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> for a time of church-wide fellowship, conversation and prayer for the upcoming church year. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5 PM and this year Hearts to Hearts will be centered around 'goals' set forth by the church.
- **Meals on Wheels: Volunteer needed!** We are looking for a volunteer to pick up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month. Please reach out to Bess Stanford if you would like to fill this position.

### SERVANTS @ A GLANCE

**Deacons:** August 31/ Bob Harper & Cameron Shirley

September 7/ Terry Canup

**Greeters:** August 31/ William Westbrooks

September 7/ Paula Langston

**Ushers:** August 31/ Matt Shirley, Tracy Wilson & Others

September 7/ Marilyn Henderson, Paula Langston, Ann Rhoads, Trell Wilson, Bob Greco, & Vickie McElroy

**Nursery Team:** August 31/ Jennifer Sanders & Tricia Massey

September 7/ Pam Canup & Tracy Wilson

**Children's Worship:** August 31/ Renee Chandler & Carleigh Chandler

September 7/ Mandy Byers & Ann Shirley

### BIRTHDAYS

8/31: Merritt Shirley

9/1: Gloria Seabolt & Steven Beardsley

9/3: Vince Buchanan

9/4: Judy Farr

9/6: Patsy Simmons

9/9: Chas Hardy III, Carleigh Chandler,

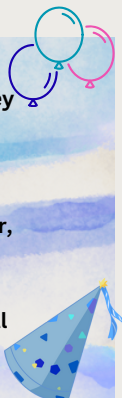
Michael Sinquefield

9/10: Vickie Yaughn, & Gladys Gary

9/11: Melissa Vestal, Peter Harvin, Bill

Studdard, Johnny Eubanks, & John

Terry Brown



### MEALS ON WHEELS

8/28: Carol Hodgkins

8/29: Sheila Powell

9/1: **CLOSED**

9/2: Bess Stanford & Ann Garner

9/3: Bob Harper

9/4: Jon Massey

9/5: Becky Gary

9/8: Jean Montrose

9/9: Kathy Thomason & Janis Miller

9/10: Beverly George

9/11: Carol Hodgkins

9/12: **Need Volunteer**

### MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

General Budget in memory of Mike Rhoads

Children's Ministry in memory of Mary Byers

Food Bank in memory of Jim Farr

General Budget in memory of Charles "Bootsy" White

*Dear FBC Family,  
Thank you for your many  
expressions of sympathy at this sad  
time. Sincerely,  
Gail Allen*



### FOOD BANK DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS

Week of September 1: Jeanie Whitener

Week of September 8: Ann Rhoads

Week of September 15: Sharon Highsmith

Week of September 22: Mark Beardsley



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly Giving Required: \$40,117

Monthly Giving as of End August: \$40,183

YTD Giving Required through August: \$417,983

YTD as of End August: \$425,066.29

**Women's  
Conference**

At Maysville Baptist Church

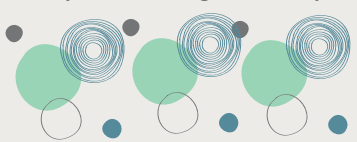
September 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

(with breakfast at 8:30 am)

Guest Speakers will be Ashlee Colvert and Tabitha Howard from the **"Purposeful Women of God"** podcast.

Cost: \$25

*Welcome*  
**LET'S WELCOME OUR  
NEW MEALS ON  
WHEELS  
COORDINATOR  
BESS STANFORD!**  
Bess can be reached  
at **(423)-304-0806**.  
Please reach out to  
her if you are unable  
to make the delivery  
for your assigned day.



### IN OTHER NEWS



#### Wednesday Night Suppers

RSVP via REALM or Contacting  
the church Office

\$8 Adults and \$5 Kids

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>** -Chicken & Dumplings,  
Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Carrots,  
Biscuits and Dessert

**September 10<sup>th</sup>** -Bar-B-Que Sandwiches,  
Stew, Chips, Cole Slaw, & Dessert

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** -Lasagna,  
Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert



**Are you over the age 55?**

**Come JOIN in on the FUN!**

**JOLLY AGERS MEETING**

**September 2, 2025**

**12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall**

**Event is FREE**

**Just bring a dish to share  
and if you can a friend or two!**

### A Love Basket for a Precious Little Girl

Our church has the opportunity to bless a sweet 8-year old girl in our community who is currently undergoing a bone marrow transplant.

Let's surround, **Maisy**, with love, encouragement, and little reminders that she's not alone in this journey.

We're putting together a huge **"Love Basket"** filled with thoughtful gifts, fun surprises, and comforting treats just for her. Her favorite color is **pink**, she adores **pigs**, and loves **arts & crafts!**

**How you can help:**

- Small toys, puzzles, coloring books, art supplies, or crafts
- Cozy socks, barbie dolls, or plush animals
- Fun hair accessories
- Hard candies
- Gift cards for Amazon, books, or a streaming subscription
- Cards with hope and encouragement

**Please bring your donations  
to the church by: September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Together, we can make this little girl's heart smile and remind her she is deeply loved by God and her church family!

