

The Challenge: These responsibilities can be carried out in the wrong way and for the wrong reasons. First, instead of being compelled by outside pressure or love of praise, the elder must serve willingly - because he wants to! Second, instead of being motivated by greed or profit, but instead see serving as a privilege and glad responsibility. Finally, instead of exploiting the position as a means of power, the faithful elder serves as a Christ-like example to the flock that is under his care.

The Certainty: The promise to those elders who humbly and faithfully fulfill their charge is the certainty of a receiving the reward when Jesus returns. Until then it is the reward of joy – the privilege of seeing God’s people thriving in “the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God”, see them growing together in grace and seeing “*the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*” Ephesians 4:13–16

Applications for your life and your church today:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Nursery Ministry

09-17-23: 8:30 Dale Clayton, Elizabeth Gentry
11:00 Sandra & Jenna Seamons

Children’s Church: Bonnie Ogle, Baylee Long

09-24-23: 8:30 Stacey & Kelly Davis
11:00 Tonya Peterson & Girls

Children’s Church: Vickie & Lydia McKinney

**Operation Christmas Child
Shoebox Donations**

September is for gathering small stuffed animals for the OCC shoeboxes. *Thank you!*

Garrett and Natalie’s new address is:
501 Westover Drive
Roxboro, NC 27573

Church Picnic !

Join us for our annual Church Picnic at Olive Hill Ball Park on Saturday, September 30th. Bring you lawn chairs and/or blankets for sitting beginning at 3:00pm – 8:00pm. The gym and ballfield will be available for activities. The meal will be provided; however, we do ask that you bring your favorite dessert to share with everyone. In case of rain, we will move to the Fellowship Hall.

Received Sunday, 09-10-23
Regular Offering \$ 8,783.62
Building Fund
Memory of: Jo Carey \$ 100.00



Theresa Baptist Church

“Theresa Baptist Church exists to **Glorify** God through **Growing** Disciples who **Go** with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”



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Pastor Ben Francis
Cell: (704) 860-2727
Pastor Garrett Pope, Youth & Children
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September 17, 2023

Welcome & Opening Scripture Deacon

Opening Worship Congregation

Hymn: How Great Is Our God # 5

Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 96

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Garrett Pope

Special Music Adult Choir

O Come to the Altar

Message: “Elders, Shepherd the Flock of God That Is Among You” Pastor Gerald Hodges

Elders are called to the essential task of providing 1 Peter 5:1-4 for and overseeing the spiritual health of the church. Equally important is *how* and *why* they fulfill this calling.

Closing Hymn Congregation

Hymn: ‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus # 502

Benediction Pastor Gerald Hodges

What’s Happening This Week

Pastor Ben and Family on Vacation This Week

Sunday, September 17th

8:30/11:00am Worship Service

9:45am Sunday School

Monday, September 18th

10:30am Sonshiner’s Preschool - Grandparents Day Lunch

6:30pm “When You Pray” Women’s Bible Study (Room 007)

Wednesday, September 20th

9:30am Women’s “Sermon On the Mount” Bible Study in Couple’s Enrichment Room

6:30pm AWANA - Regular Club Night, Youth “Underground”

7:00pm Adult Bible Study

8:00pm Choir Practice

Sunday, October 1st

8:30/11:00am Congregational Vote on NT Elder Leadership

Visit our Welcome Center!

New visitor or veteran member, please visit our Welcome Center down the hall from the Sanctuary.

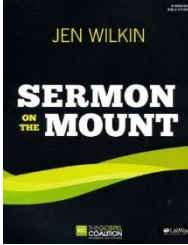
You can pick up copies of our current prayer list, monthly calendar, and various devotional magazines.

You may also check out a book, DVD, or Bible Study from our Media Center.

This Week’s Prayer Needs

A full prayer list is available in the Welcome Center.

DEATHS: Kathleen Whitfield (Sister-in-Law of Debbie Sue Clayton); Andrew “Andy” Simmons: 8-11-23, and Evelyn “Evie” Simmons: 9-10-23 (Infant Grandson & Granddaughter of Dennis & Helen Hackler); Sharon Strayhorn (GA) (Sister of Jeannie Carver)



We will be offering Jen Wilkin’s “Sermon on the Mount” for our Wednesday Morning Fall Bible study starting September 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the Couples Enrichment SS Class. Have a seat on the mountainside and accept the challenge to take familiar scripture and learn something new from three chapters in Matthew. This 9 session study will have individual study, videos and a group discussion to help learn what it means to be a citizen of the kingdom of Heaven according to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Call or text Jan Bowes by September 13 to reserve study book – 336-597-1995.

Upcoming NT Elder Leadership Vote !

The second Q&A session will be on Sunday evening, 9/24 at 6pm. We may have some Elders from a sister Church in town joining us that evening. As announced several times, we will be voting to adopt plural Elder leadership for Theresa Baptist Church on Sunday morning, October 1st during both morning services. The vote will be by secret ballot. If you are a member and are going to be out of town that Sunday, please reach out so we can make sure to work with you in getting your vote is counted.

Elders, Shepherd the Flock of God That Is Among You

I Peter 5:1-4

9-17-23

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:1–4 (ESV)

Main Point: Elders are called to the essential task of providing for and overseeing the spiritual health of the church. Equally important is *how* and *why* they fulfill this calling.

The Context: The certainty of trials and suffering is Peter’s repeated theme throughout I Peter. Equally certain is God’s promise that “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Pet 5:10) Until then “the chief Shepherd” has entrusted his flock to the care of under-shepherds (elders/overseers).

The Charge: The responsibility of these under-shepherds is comprehensive. They are called to the sacred task of shepherding (*poimēn* = feed) and overseeing (*episkopeō* = look after / guard) the flock that God has entrusted to their care.