

The Messenger

February 2021

First Baptist Church

Volume 16, Issue 2

Souper Bowl of Caring



SOUPER BOWL

FOR CRO

Our community needs our help. How can we help during a pandemic? It's so easy...The next time you head to the grocery store pick up some extra cans and drop them off at our drive thru SOUPER BOWL event to benefit the CRO! A truck will be parked in the underpass at church on Saturday, February 6th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and you can safely leave your bags of food in the back. It will be delivered right after to the CRO. It's times like these that we need to step up and help others as much as we can.

Thank you and we hope to see you in the drive thru!

*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers, you did for me.
Matthew 25:40*

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE PICKUP

Spring Sunday School Literature will be distributed on February 24th from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the church underpass.

We also have a lot of older lesson books, Open Windows and Mature Living magazines that can be picked up. If you, or someone you know, would like to have these, contact Paige at alto2lady@gmail.com and she can arrange a time for those to be picked up.



Embrace Life – Lent 2021

Over the past year, we have all given up so much. It has been, in many ways, the hardest year of our lives for most of us. The political divisions and the loss of life have been horrific. And now we come to the season of Lent.

Lent is the 40 days (minus Sundays) that precede Resurrection Day, Easter Sunday. Traditionally, it is a time of confession and reflection to prepare oneself and to examine oneself. The season starts with Ash Wednesday when we hear the words of King David in Psalm 51: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*



The season is meant to be a time for us to align ourselves with God. It is often a time of somber reflection, and that is why over the years many people have “given up something for Lent.” The idea was simple: Give up something that matters to you to remind you of what matters most, God’s abiding love in Jesus Christ.

But it all seems inappropriate this year. We have all given up so much for over a year. How much more can we give up? It seems like the question of Psalm 13 comes to the forefront for us: *How long O Lord?*

When we moved to online worship last March, many people asked if we would be back in worship by Easter. I felt like both a pessimist and a pragmatist as I said I thought it would be more like Memorial Day; however, I, like everyone else, had no idea we would still be doing this almost a year later. And the sad reality is, even though we see the light at the end of the tunnel, we know there are tough days ahead.

For that reason, I’ve been rethinking Lent this year. I took a long hike the other day along the trail that borders the South Fork of the Catawba River near McAdenville. As I was hiking and listening for what God had for me, Lent came to my mind. As I looked at the stillness of winter along the river, I began to think of the life that will be blooming soon in that very same stark landscape. I felt strongly that God was calling us to look to a brighter day and to new life - the very meaning of Resurrection Day.

And so, my vision of Lent 2021 changed. Instead of a traditional time of somber reflection, I felt led to embrace life. I feel that this year we need to give up giving up stuff. One time, many years ago, when Jan and I were trying to make it through Duke Divinity School without any loans, I asked Jan what she was going to give up for Lent. With all of the sacrifices we were making at that time, she said, “I’m going to give up giving up stuff.” And we’ve laughed about that for years.

But it is my word for this year. Now I’ll probably still give up something like soda or tea or something else, but the challenge I want to put before us is to Embrace Life! My sermons will reflect ways we can grow closer to God and fully embrace the life God has for us. Let us live with hope the words of Jesus in John 10:10: *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

I hope we can all embrace something we want to do and instead of giving up something, add something. Reach out love and embrace the life God has for us. A new day is dawning, and I hope that we can all embrace life - together. Embrace Life!

Grace and peace, Kendell Cameron



2 – Ashley Haley
 4 – Brenda Horton, Tom Nixon
 6 – Hunter Ealey, Jackson Gardner
 7 – Riley Dean
 10 – Tori Freeman, Todd Hilderbran
 11 – Mike Huff
 13 – Lakena Marsh
 14 – Sage Marsh

15 – Pat Collier, Millie Hunsucker, Bill Piercy,
 Danny Snead
 17 – Charles Smith
 18 – Collier Poole
 20 – Vicki Cauthen
 21 – Virginia Winecoff
 22 – Will Choren, Terry Lancaster
 23 – Charlie Sawyer
 25 – Jack Matz, Clarence Rick
 26 – Kevin Collier, Nancy McIntosh
 27 – Barbara McQuarrie
 28 – Ashley Flowers



February 6 – Gene & Beulah McEntire



Congratulations....

To Cole and Tori Freeman on the birth of their son, Graham Robert Freeman (otherwise known as sweet baby Gray) on January 13th. He weighed 7lbs and 13 oz. Tori, Gray and Cole are all doing well.

Gifts Given to the Building Fund

- In memory of Harry “Moe” McCall by Aubrey & Brenda Horton
- In memory of Bob Thompson by Pat Eberhart
- In honor of Al & Jane Rhodes by Greg & Sarah Springs
- In honor of Barry & Gail Grice, Roscoe Hanner, Tim & Claudia Hendrickson, Doug & Linda Mullis, Bob & Virginia Winecoff by Becky Causby
- In honor of David & Diane Helton, Frances Lethcoe, Bill & Elaine Lindsey, Kay MacIntosh by Jerry Causby



Our Deepest sympathies to...

Becky Hodges & Family in the death of her Brother-in-law

The Family of Harry “Moe” McCall

First Baptist Church

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Kim Payne, Administrative Assistant,
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For the safety of our members, staff, and community, the Church Office is closed to visitors . If you call and leave a message at the church, the voice mails will go to the staff.

Worship At a Glance

Feb 7: *The Epistles*; 2 Corinthians 7:11-22;
Dr. Cameron preaching

Feb 14: *The Apocalyptic Literature*; Revelation 1:1-8; Dr. Cameron preaching

Feb 17: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*; Psalm 51;
Ash Wednesday, Dr. Cameron preaching

Feb 21: *Embrace Life: Having an Abundant Life*;
John 10:7-18; Dr. Cameron preaching

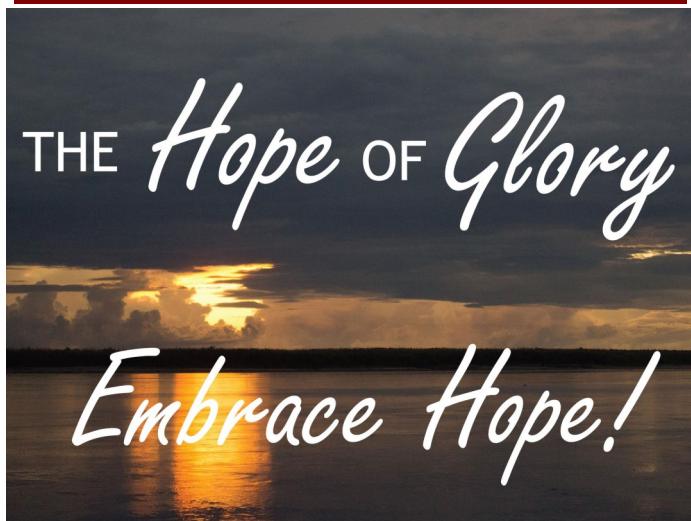
Feb 28: *Embrace Life: Experiencing Repentance and Forgiveness*; Romans 7:14-25; Dr. Cameron preaching

All services can be found on our You Tube page.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?
search_query=first+baptist+church+
mount+holly+nc](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=first+baptist+church+mount+holly+nc)



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2020 Totals

Total Receipts	\$73,410
Bldg. Fund	\$14,203
Bldg. Fund YTD	\$38,989
Other Designated	\$0
Other Designated YTD	\$76,351
2020 Budget	\$454,358
Avg. Needs – 9/30	\$454,358
Budget Receipts YTD	\$423,743