



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 19, Issue 9
September 2024

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON WEDNESDAYS

Practicing the Way

Be with Jesus
Become like him
Do as he did

NEW DISCUSSION THIS FALL

We are excited to announce a new study for the beginning of the church year. Starting on Wednesday, September 4, we will be having a conversation on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The book entitled "**Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become Like Him, Do as He Did**" takes a look at the essential practices of those who follow Jesus. We will discuss prayer, the role of the Sabbath, and more.

We will make copies of the book available for \$15 at the church. If you want to get a copy now, it is available in all the normal places like [Amazon](#) and [CBD](#), among others. There are also versions for Kindle and E-readers if you prefer to read that way. Let Jeff know if you have any questions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE (starts September 4)

2:30pm-5:15pm
Afterschool Program

5:15pm-5:45 pm
Children's Choirs Practice

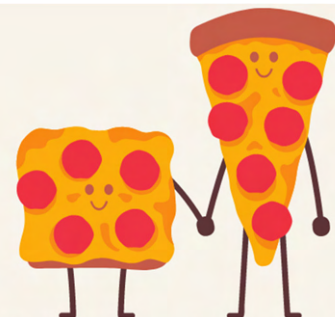
5:15pm-6:15pm
Dinner is Served

6:15pm-7:00pm
Prayer/Bible Study

7:00pm-8:00pm
Adult Choir Practice

Special Notes on Dinner:

The salad bar opens at 5:15 pm and the hot meal will be served at 5:30 pm. We have a brand new menu (see page 6). No registration is required. A donation basket will be available with an electronic giving option. **Join us for our first night as we enjoy pizza while raising funds to benefit Kingdom Kids.**



PIZZA FUNDRAISER



Why do you believe what you believe?

It is a simple enough question. *The answer is much more complex.*

Our faith journeys are the result of many factors, known and unknown. Many of us grew up in the faith thanks to family, neighbors, and friends encouraging us along the way. Some of us grew up knowing nothing of Jesus. We only heard occasional references to Christmas stories. Our stories can span the spectrum. If you are a person who follows Jesus, the cross and empty tomb became real somewhere along the way. The truth of Jesus' impact on our lives unites believers in a shared story.

Another commonality for people of faith is the presence of doubt. We all wrestle with those nagging questions that scratch at the back of our minds. Somewhat popular, extreme doubts have led to a trend. It is the well-documented "deconstruction" of many well-known Christian ministers and artists. This is the process where believers' doubts led to a deep re-evaluation of their understanding of God. Some in the recent "deconstruction" movement have left the faith. Others have found their faith strengthened.

A faith journey can be complex. But "there is nothing new under the sun" as the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us. We often read in scripture about people who questioned their understanding of God. The questioning led to a deeper understanding. The apostle Paul experienced this powerfully. A meeting with Jesus changed his life. He went from persecuting early Christians to sharing the gospel across many continents. He sought understanding, which led him to the Christ of the cross.

Our September conversation will help us tackle some key faith issues. The truth of Jesus can often get derailed by broken systems and traditions. I encourage you to come to the conversation to discover, or maybe rediscover, the foundational truths of our faith. **"Reconstructing Faith" will be a hope and peace-filled conversation as we seek the God who is for us, even when we don't have all the answers.**

Pastor's Pen

RECONSTRUCTING FAITH

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Sept. 1 | Demolishing Dead Religion | Matt. 15:1-9 |
| Sept. 8 | Blueprints | Matt. 7:24-26 |
| Sept. 15 | The Builder's Touch | Phil. 1:1-11 |
| Sept. 22 | Reinforcing Our Foundations | Jam. 5:13-20 |
| Sept. 29 | The Unfinished Cathedral | 1 Cor. 13:8-13 |

Telling sTORIEs

Summer is over, and school has begun. As our schedules start to fill up rather quickly, I encourage you to set aside intentional time with God. Amid our busy schedules, God can fall at the end of our priority list. We simply do not have time for one more thing. We are often exhausted at the end of the day after working, running children back and forth to various activities, keeping up with housework, and taking care of day-to-day tasks. Setting aside an intentional time to be with God is crucial for our spiritual health. Someone recently reminded me that we are not helpful to others if we do not care for ourselves. It is difficult for us to fill someone else's cup if ours is empty; you cannot pour from an empty cup. Spend time with God, and carve out time for yourself every day. I pray that God will ease your burdens and give you the strength to get through each day, no matter how busy.



Children's Ministry

9/4 Afterschool Program Begins
 9/4 Dinner Fundraiser for Children's Ministry



Illumination Student Ministry

9/1 No Youth (Labor Day Weekend)
 9/8 Regular Youth Begins & Youth Choir Begins
 9/15 Caswell Deposit Due
 9/22 Mentor Meeting



Birthday In A Bag



Girl Scout Troop 10164 needs your help to complete a service project in September. As a way to celebrate our birthdays, we will be donating a "Birthday in a Bag" to those

who may have difficulty providing a birthday cake on a special day. If you are able please donate one of the following:

- A box of cake mix (any kind)
- A container of icing (any flavor)
- A disposable aluminum cake pan

The troop is providing additional items that will be sorted and assembled to into a gift of birthday supplies for someone in need.

Items will be collected on Wednesday night, September 11 in hopes to create 18 Birthdays in a Bag! Thank you for your support and any donations you are can give.



Illumination Caswell Trip

This year's theme is "Hold On" using Hebrews 10:19-25 as our guiding verse for the weekend to help young people HOLD ON to their identity in Christ, for God who has promised is faithful.

Date: October 25-27, 2024
Location: Fort Caswell Oak Island, NC
Cost: \$165 per student

Contact Tori about registration!

Youth & Children's Ministries



FALL MUSIC SCHEDULE

**Children's Choirs - Wednesday nights, September 4th
5:15-5:45 p.m.**

**CHERUB CHOIR - 3 to 5 year olds
Leaders: Allie Sisk and Cathy Flowers**

**MUSIC MAKER'S CHOIR - K to 2nd grade
Leaders: Paige Sisk, Jane Collier and Cathy Holland**

**YOUNG MUSICIANS - 3rd to 5th grade
Leaders: Pam Miller, Amanda Haverty and Elaine Crosby**

GRACEFUL PRAISE

Leader: Kasey Peterson

will begin rehearsals on Sunday afternoons from 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
FIRST REHEARSAL - September 8th in the sanctuary.

HANDBELLS

Leader: Cole Freeman

First Rehearsal - September 8th - 4:00 - 4:50



It's that time of year again...

Anyone that is interested in singing in the **Christmas Cantata** this year is invited to come and join us as we **start rehearsals** for Christmas, **Wednesday, September 4th** in the Adult Choir room.

We will rehearse Christmas music from **7:00 - 7:30** and then you are free to leave OR for stay for Adult Choir. Come join us!

Memorials and Donations

Regular Budget

In memory of Debby Cowan by Ken & Elaine Crosby

Music Ministry Fund

In memory of Debby Cowan by Aubrey & Brenda Horton

Musical Notes

Operation Christmas Child 2024

For the month of September, we're asking everyone to donate items for children ages 2 years to 4 years. Please bring clothing items, small blankets, toys or sippy cups with lids. Anything that will bring comfort to a young child is appreciated.

Our goal for September is 150 items so we include 3 in FIFTY Shoeboxes.

A bin is available in the Gathering Place with an OCC sign requesting that you place your items for TWO-to-FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN in it.

Our Packing Party is Sunday November 3rd at 2:00 PM .Your children and grandchildren are invited to join as we will pack at least 150 Shoeboxes!

Blessings and Peace,
Kay Miller MacIntosh, Project Leader

FILL THEM WITH



Spiritual Gifts Corner

Ok, so it's not yet fall but it sure feels like it with school back in session and Wednesday church activities resuming. It's also the start of the church's new year for committees. On August 4th, the church approved the Spiritual Gifts Committee's 2024-2025 Annual Church Report – thank you! If you're serving on one of our six standing committees – Accounting, Constitution & Bylaws, Facilities Management, Finance, Personnel, or Spiritual Gifts, you should have been contacted by your committee chair. If not please, please reach out to them, they're listed on the church report. If you're not serving on a committee this year, don't worry, there will be plenty of opportunities coming up. In fact, the Spiritual Gifts Committee is kicking off its work on next year's report this month. Please feel free to reach out to anyone one of us to express your interest or share your thoughts – we're all listed on the report. Finally, please keep our committee members in your prayers throughout the year as they undertake their responsibilities.

In Christ - Your Spiritual Gifts Committee

Farm Share was a Great Blessing

Our church partnered with the Mount Holly Farmers market to provide fresh food grown by local farmers to needy families. We provided financial support as well as packing the food and delivering to families in our community. Thank you to all who helped pack the boxes and deliver them. We packed 50 boxes on 2 different Saturday's this summer. The families receiving the boxes were grateful and we were blessed to be able to serve in this community outreach.

What's Happening at FBC

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner Menu

September 4: Pizza (fundraiser for the Children's Ministry)

September 11: Stuffed Baked Potato

September 18: Baked Spaghetti

September 25: Sloppy Joes or Hot Dogs

Salad Bar is available every week.



Welcome New Members

Terry & Sheri Edge
Brett & Melissa Rushing
Larry and Sandra Clements
Mark and Jessica Hudome



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who sent a card or flowers or text or shared a hug or a kind word. Thank you to all who prayed for my sister and all who were able to come to the funeral. Your kindness during my sister Debby's illness and death will long be remembered by our family.

I am so grateful to be a part of such a loving and supportive faith family.

Cathy Holland and family



Realm launches this month!

We are excited to announce that our new communication app, Realm, is ready to go! We think this is a crucial next step for our church. Email invitations will go out the first of the month. If you do not receive an email, make sure to check your spam folder. If that doesn't work, please let us know.

In Sympathy

Condolences to the family of Cathy Holland in the passing of her sister, Debby Cowan.

Condolences to the family of Nancy Wrenn in the passing of her nephew, Greg Workman.

Condolences to the family of Julie Haver in the passing of her brother.

Condolences to the family of Lauren Baker Crossland in her passing.

Childcare Volunteers

Infant

- 9/1-Maggie Pressley & Tracy Bates
- 9/8-Gabrielle Cox & Sadie Hampton
- 9/15-Gabrielle Cox & Maggie Pressley
- 9/22-Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R.
- 9/29-Sadie Hampton & Maggie Pressley

Toddler

- 9/1-Gabrielle Cox & Sadie Hampton
- 9/8-Rebekah S.R. & Sajiah Taylor
- 9/15-Sadie Hampton, Jo Ann Rollins, & Cheryl Lineberger
- 9/22-Maggie Pressley, Sadie Hampton, & Gabrielle Cox
- 9/29-Gabrielle Cox & Susan Greene

Children's Church

- 9/1-Children Stay in Worship
- 9/8-Youth
- 9/15-Dickie & LuAnn Thomas
- 9/22-Lauren & Brandon McCotter
- 9/29-Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne

- 2 Randy McLean, Ayden Abernathy
- 3 Ella Hilderbran, Ethan Hilderbran
- 4 Erin Crowson
- 6 Jerry Causby
- 7 Meredith Gaddis
- 8 Scott Poole,
Lanny Ray,
Anna Lineberger
- 9 Mary Collier, Karen Featherstone,
Jimmy Little
- 14 Stephen Morton
- 15 Mandy Missak, Sheri Ratliff
- 16 Jeremy Newhart
- 19 Clay Snead, Oliver Hawkins
- 22 Ava Sisk
- 23 Wade McLain, Barry Still
- 24 Evie Hudome
- 25 Caroline Czekaj
- 26 Pam Burleson, Beverly Caldwell,
Chandler Burleson
- 27 Becky Hodges
- 29 Ruth Szupiany
- 30 Matt Collier



Church Security

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Brian Smith | Aug 26—Sept 1 |
| Hunter Ealey | Sept 2—Sept 8 |
| Tami Piercy | Sept 9—Sept 15 |
| Scott Poole | Sept 16—Sept 22 |
| Todd Flowers | Sept 23—Sept 29 |
| Ricky Wrenn | Sept 30—Oct 6 |

Ushers and Greeters

- 1 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins,
Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff, Mike Huff
- 8 Dickie Thomas, Stephen Abernethy,
Cheryl Lineberger, Jo Ann Rollins,
Brandon McCotter
- 15 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier,
Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy,
Cornelia Pressley
- 22 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin,
Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin, Mike Purser
- 29 Denise Hawkins, Roger Hawkins,
Leah Allen, Josh Allen

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that He does, He prospers.

Psalm 1:3

- 1 Josh & Celeste Orr
- 3 Bill & Anne Gary, Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne
- 22 Andy & Julia Richardson
- 25 Phillip & Brooke Shepherd Elting
- 28 Bill & Linda Piercy
- 30 Brandon & MacKenzie Greene



First Baptist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stay connected with FBC
Mount Holly.

YouTube :
First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



FaceBook:
First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



Instagram:
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OFFICE SCHEDULE

Mondays
Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman
Kim Payne (remote)

Tuesdays
Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman
Kim Payne

Wednesdays
Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman
Kim Payne (remote)

Thursdays
Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman (remote)
Kim Payne

Fridays
Kim Payne



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MOUNT HOLLY, NC

July 2024

Total Receipts – \$79,223
Bldg. Fund – \$135
Bldg. Fund YTD – \$7,750
Other Designated – \$5,786
Other Designated YTD – \$54,065
2024 Budget – \$538,227
Avg Needs thru 7/31 – \$313,966
Budget Receipts YTD – \$335,946