



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 19, Issue 11

November 2024

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly

Thanksloving 2024

It's September 1989 all over again for so many in our community and beyond. Hugo/Helena, storms that will always be a milestone for us and future generations to remember. Again, as we were faced the aftermath of Hugo, we are faced with the need to reach out to our community to see how we can help. Maybe, by the time Thanksgiving arrives, many will have successfully cleaned up, rebuilt, and be getting on with their lives. However, my guess is there will be those still struggling. SO, HOW CAN WE HELP!



As Thanksgiving 1989 was rolling around our church wanted to provide a gesture of hospitality to those in our community still recovering. So, we offered a FREE Thanksgiving meal, on Thanksgiving. We called it THANKSLOVING FEAST. Our hospitality continues, with this being our 36th THANKSLOVING FEAST! It has grown to serving over 400 meals.

We serve those receiving Meals on Wheels, Woodridge Apartment residents (a federally subsidized retirement community), the staff at Holy Angels who work that day to serve the severely handicapped, our service workers (police, fire, and emergency services), and partner with Mt. Holly's Community Relief Organization (CRO) who provides food to the underprivileged.

We never ask the church to budget for this effort. It continues to be funded by designated offerings from those wanting to help. If you would like to financially support this effort you may send a check to the church made out to First Baptist Church marked for THANKSLOVING FEAST or use Realm to designate a monetary gift. The money will be used to purchase turkey breasts (which are smoked on the church's smoker by our Chef in resident, Mr. G!), ingredients for Aubrey Horton's FAMOUS Dressing, and ingredients for sides (green beans, yams, rice, gravy, rolls). The total cost typically runs between \$2,500 to \$3,000.

You may contribute by baking or buying a dessert. Please bring the dessert by the church on Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving between 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or bring it on Thanksgiving morning. We serve tables between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Also, if you are available to help serve tables, fill plates, clean up; there will be sign-up sheets in the gathering area for you to volunteer.

In Luke, Chapter 14:13-14, Jesus instructed his host, *"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."* Let's be a blessing to our community who have faced hardships and make our THANKSLOVING BANQUET the best, EVER!!

Love you, Mean It!!
THANKSLOVING Team



November is the month filled with turkey, ham, stuffing, cranberry sauce, cherished meals with loved ones, plenty of football, and the start of Advent! It's a wonderful month and one of my favorites. It often catches me off guard when it arrives on my calendar, but I am truly grateful when it does. I encourage you to take a moment this month to reflect on the numerous ways God has blessed us.

I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High. (Psalm 7:17, NIV)

As we reflect on the many blessings we have, I want to highlight the services scheduled for this month. Our church family has mourned the loss of several beloved brothers and sisters over the past year. As is our tradition each November, we will observe "All Saints Sunday" along with believers around the world. This special service will be held at the start of worship on November 3. Together, we will honor these saints and express our gratitude to God for the profound impact their lives have had on ours.

Our congregation has a strong tradition of service leadership, with our deacons exemplifying this commitment. From time to time, we acknowledge the exceptional contributions of specific deacons. The title of "Deacon Emeritus" is an honorary distinction that has been awarded to ten individuals in the past. On November 3, we will posthumously honor seven individuals with this title. We eagerly anticipate celebrating this achievement alongside their families.

Our "Thanksloving" Ministry will take place on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. I am continually impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm surrounding this community outreach event. Many in our congregation cherish the chance to provide our neighbors with nourishing meals and even richer fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share God's goodness, and I am grateful that we can do this together.

As we approach November, let us reflect on the many ways we witness the goodness of God. This month, our worship discussions, **Taste and See**, will explore the food imagery found in the Gospel of John and how it reveals the richness of God's goodness. He has always been there for us, and always will be. This assurance provides us with an eternity of reasons to be thankful.



Taste and See

Nov. 3	<i>The Oasis in Life's Desert</i>	John 4:7-15
Nov. 10	<i>The Feast That Never Ends</i>	John 6:30-35
Nov. 17	<i>The Wellspring Within</i>	John 7:37-39
Nov. 24	<i>The Banquet of Belonging</i>	John 6:53-59

Telling sTORIEs

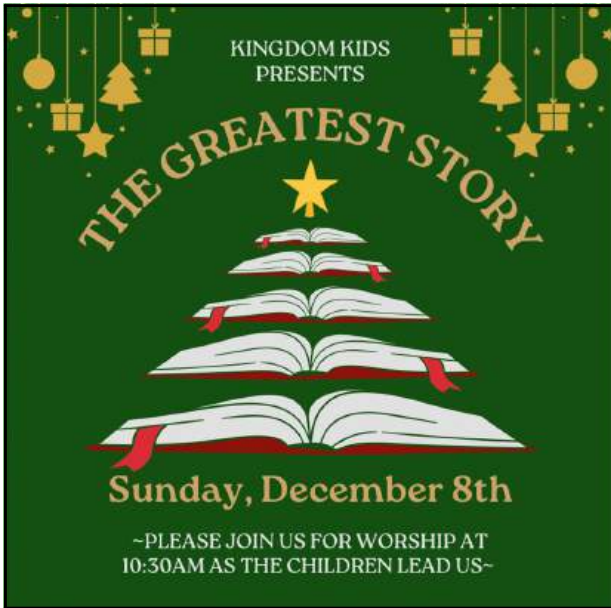
Over the last month, I have taught Gray the song "Don't Stop Praying" by Matthew West. It's been our anthem. We turn it up loud and sing our hearts out when it comes on. To hear your three-year-old walking around during the day and shouting, "Don't Stop Praying!" will convict you wherever you are. I've been reminded that **nothing** in this world should keep us from praying. God wants to hear it all, the big and the small. We have to pray more. Our world needs it; our friends and family need it, and our neighbors need it. I love the verse in the song, "Don't stop calling on Jesus' name, Keep on pounding on Heaven's door. And let your knees wear out the floor." Join me in praying. Take Gray's challenge! Listen to the song if you have not heard it, turn it up loud, sing along!



**Thank you for supporting our
Youth Fundraiser
Wednesday Night Supper!**



**Trunk or Treat 2024
was a huge success!**
It was the biggest turnout we have ever had!



Children's Ministry
12/8 - Children's Sunday
(Save the Date!)



**Illumination
Student Ministry**



- 11/17 - Dinner Out as a Group @ Sports Page
- 11/24 - Mentor Meeting
- 12/1 - Wrap Angel Tree Gifts
- 12/14 - Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser (Save the date!)

Youth & Children's Ministries



Gratitude Changes Everything (adapted - Sharon Jaynes)

“Give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV). Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and so I’ve been thinking about gratitude a lot lately. *What is it? When should we show it? What does God say about it?* Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, *“Give thanks in all circumstances.”* Notice the Bible doesn’t command us to feel thankful in all circumstances. Instead it commands us to “give thanks in all circumstances.” When I begin to praise God in a difficult situation, even if I don’t feel like it, many times the scales fall from my eyes and I begin to see glimpses of His glory sprinkled on the black backdrop of the situation. Gratitude changes the lens through which we see the circumstances in our little slice of time. Thanksgiving changes our perspective. As we gather together on Sunday mornings this month, I look forward to praising God with you for who He is and thanking Him for what He’s done in our lives.

The children are singing in worship Sunday, November 10th.

**Graceful Praise will be sharing their gifts in worship
Sunday, November 24th.**

Memorials

Building Fund

In memory of Lauren Crossland by Bud & Kay Carrier, by Johnna Denton
In memory of Gene McEntire by the Fellowship Sunday School Class of FBC, by Bethel Baptist Church, Clover SC, by Truth Seekers Sunday School Class of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte

Bus Fund

In memory of Freda Batchelor by Fellowship Sunday School Class of FBC
In memory of Gene McEntire by Mary Jane Hinkle
In memory of Robert Green by Aubrey & Brenda Horton

Regular Budget

In memory of Gene McEntire by Aubrey & Brenda Horton, by Ken & Elaine Crosby
In memory of Freda Batchelor by Ken & Elaine Crosby

Children’s Ministry Fund

In memory of Freda Batchelor by Aubrey & Brenda Horton

Landscape Fund

In memory of Lauren Baker Crossland, Freda Batchelor and Gene McEntire by Verna Jo Ellis

Musical Notes

Operation Christmas Child 2024

Our packing party is on November 3rd from 2:00—5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to help. We hope to have 200 boxes to fill. Pray for us as we do our calling to pack these Shoeboxes.

Kay Miller MacIntosh, OCC Project Leader
980-253-7180 kaymmacintosh@hotmail.com



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE HOMEBOUND AND SENIORS OF FIRST BAPTIST

Each year we collect Christmas Cards for our Homebound Members and other FBC Seniors. Their cards along with a Poinsettia and a bag of “goodies” is delivered to each of them. The recipients are so appreciative and thankful that we remember them in this way.

Below is a list (and some guidelines) of those we will be collecting Christmas cards for. **Please place your cards in the labeled box by the back door of the Fellowship Hall before Sunday, December 8th.** Thank you so much for your help with this ministry!

QUANTITY IS IMPORTANT – One card for each person or couple listed from each family. Please do not do one card from an entire Sunday School Class or group.

USE ONLY NAMES ON CARDS – Addresses are not necessary.

DO NOT SEAL ENVELOPES – Some members may have trouble opening a sealed envelope.

CHILDREN’S CLASSES – Handmade cards are a special treat.

THE DEADLINE FOR CARDS is SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH.

PLACE CARDS IN THE LABELED BOX BY THE BACK DOOR OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

DALE BARROW	PAT KINNEY
JACK BARNES	MARY MARTIN
FRANCES BLACK	BEULAH MCENTIRE
BECKY & JERRY CAUSBY	LINDA MULLIS
MARY LOU DAVIS	EVELYN RODDEN
PEGGY GARRETT	CHARLIE SAWYER
FRANCES GURLEY	DELORES STEWART
ELSIE HILDERBRAN	LIB WILES
JOHN & ALICE JONES	DR BOB & VIRGINIA WINECOFF

The Angel Tree is up!

Instead of purchasing a gift, we ask that you make a donation to the Angel Tree Fund. Make your checks payable to First Baptist and in the memo section put Angel Tree. Donations can be collected at the Angel Tree when staffed, placed in the offering plate, or dropped off to the church office. You can also give online and select Angel Tree Fund.

For questions, contact Christie Batchelor at [704-575-5006](tel:704-575-5006) or christiehb@att.net

We appreciate your support of this ministry!



What's Happening at FBC

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner Menu

- November 6: Baked Spaghetti
 - November 13: Pizza (Children’s Ministry)
 - November 20: Sloppy Joes or Hot Dogs
 - November 27: No Meal—Thanksgiving
- The Salad Bar is available every week.**



Spiritual Gifts Corner

In an ongoing study series, Pastor Jeff has invited us to join in an exploration of John Mark Comer’s book *Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like him, Do as he did*. Even if you’re not able to stay after supper on Wednesday evenings for this study, there’s still much to gain from reading the book. Of the nine principles in what Comer calls “A Rule of Life,” several intersect with discerning and practicing your spiritual gifts. Here’s one example: Rule #8. *A community of justice, mercy, and reconciliation in a culture of injustice and division, through the practice of service*. Knowing the spiritual gifts that God has shared with us allows us to more fully engage in *service* in meaningful ways that helps us, in Comer’s words, “Be with Jesus, become like him, do as he did.” Perhaps you have the gift of helping? If you’re not sure what spiritual gift(s) you possess, maybe begin with 1 Corinthians 12 and then seek clarity from God.

In Christ - Your Spiritual Gifts Committee

CAROLINA STYLE Christmas
Concert and Dessert Buffet
 ENJOY A FESTIVE AFTERNOON OF SEASONAL MUSIC AS WELL AS OTHER FAVORITE TUNES FROM CAROLINA STYLE CHORUS
Saturday, November 9, 2024
4:00 pm
 TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 217 SECOND AVE. NE, CONOVER, NC 28613
Tickets \$20

Jubilant Seniors

We are pleased to announce that our November excursion will include the talents of our very own, AMANDA HAVERTY, who is a member of a Sweet Adeline’s Chorus. She has been singing professionally for numerous years, including many with a quartet. She joined Carolina Style Chorus in 2004. This concert will include at least one of her solos. Amanda is blessed with tremendous talent. You really don't want to miss this event!

Please arrive no later than 1:45 p.m. Since we will not be stopping for a meal, please dine before arriving at church. Looking forward to sharing this amazing event with you!

Pamela Dunn Surratt, Jubilant Seniors Leader
pdsurratt@gmail.com (704) 996-4646

Childcare Volunteers

Kingdom Sea-ers (Infant Nursery)

- 11/3 - Sadie Hampton & Gabrielle Cox
- 11/10 - Sadie Hampton & Gabrielle Cox
- 11/17 - Maggie Pressley, Jo Ann Rollins, Cheryl Lineberger
- 11/24 - Sadie Hampton & Gabrielle Cox

Kingdom Adventurers (Toddlers & Preschool)

- 11/3 - Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R.
- 11/10 - Maggie Pressley & Lauren Huneycutt
- 11/17 - Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R.
- 11/24 - Maggie Pressley & Amanda Haverty

Children's Church

- 11/3 - Children Stay in Worship
- 11/10 - Youth
- 11/17 - Dickie & LuAnn Thomas

Church Security

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Ken Fortsch | Oct 28—Nov 3 |
| Richard Flowers | Nov 4—Nov 10 |
| Brian Smith | Nov 11—Nov 17 |
| Hunter Ealey | Nov 18—Nov 24 |
| Tami Piercy | Nov 25—Dec 1 |

Ushers and Greeters

- 3 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins, Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff, Mike Huff
- 10 Dickie Thomas, Stephen Abernethy, Cheryl Lineberger, Jo Ann Rollins, Brandon McCotter
- 17 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier, Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy, Cornelia Pressley
- 24 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin, Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin, Mike Purser

In Sympathy

Our deepest condolences to the families of Gene McEntire and Jane Collins.

Poinsettias are for sale for \$15 to honor or place in memory of a loved one.

The deadline to order is November 17.

The link to order will be included in the Midweek email beginning Oct. 30.

- 1 Beulah McEntire
- 4 Elsie Hilderbran, Janet Smith, Jack Barnes, Donna Abernathy
- 5 Linda Smith, Cecelia Broome
- 9 Kay MacIntosh
- 13 Pam Miller
- 15 Ann Huff
- 17 Jill Morton, Kevin Missak
- 18 Jeanne Newhart
- 19 Teagan Collier, Thomas Collier
- 22 Tony Greene, Elizabeth Lopez
- 26 Lizzie Petersen, Chris Hensley
- 28 Claire Casciani, Celeste Orr



- 3 Ricky & Lou Ann Russell
- 6 Tim & Vicki Cauthen
- 9 Roy & Virginia Hoffman
- 12 Ralph & Pam Miller
- 21 Buddie & Becky Hodges, David & Jane Collier
- 23 Jeff & Jennifer Allen



Memorials / Volunteers / Birthday Anniversary

First Baptist Church

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Phone: 704-827-2481

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704-879-2037 (office)

Cathy Holland, Minister of Music/Accompanist

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Cole Freeman, Music Associate/Youth Music

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Kim Payne, Administrative Assistant

kim@fbcmountholly.org

704-879-2062 (office)

Page Medlin, Newsletter Editor

page@fbcmountholly.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stay connected with FBC
Mount Holly.

YouTube :

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



FaceBook:

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



Instagram:

fbcmounthollync



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

September 2024

Total Receipts – \$50,511

Bldg. Fund – \$575

Bldg. Fund YTD – \$8,450

Other Designated – \$6,330

Other Designated YTD – \$65,372

2024 Budget – \$538,227

Avg Needs thru 9/30 – \$403,670

Budget Receipts YTD – \$408,906