



# The Messenger

First Baptist Church  
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 19, Issue 12  
December 2024

*Welcome to FBC Mount Holly*

## Churchwide Christmas Social

Please join on us on  
Sunday, December 8th  
3pm - 5pm  
First Baptist Church Mount Holly  
Fellowship Hall  
Sponsored by the Deacons

**12/24**  
**5:00pm**  
**9:00pm**

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



### **LIGHT WHICH DOESN'T DISAPPEAR**

I enjoy the annual ending of "Daylight Savings Time" in the fall. It is one of my favorite days of the year and should be memorialized as a national holiday. Now that I think about it, our leaders probably shouldn't spend their time on that political request. I quickly digress.

Sleep has always been a favorite of mine. So the extra hour of sleep is always welcome. A bonus is taking the kids to school when the sun is coming up. It is so much easier to walk in school while the sun is up. The flip side is how dark it gets in the evening. That's not my favorite. Light escapes our view and the night seems long.

Light is such a powerful image for us to consider, especially in Advent. It is used throughout scripture to remind us of God's presence and power. "Holy Light" will be our conversation for the month of December. We will take a look at the light that we find in Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. Regardless of what kind of day you are facing or how long the night might feel, the light in Christ is in no danger of being extinguished. I look forward to the reminder.

This Advent season will feature two special services that you won't want to miss. Our children will lead worship on December 8, bringing a unique spirit to our celebrations. Additionally, our Christmas Cantata is scheduled for December 15, both events serving as poignant reminders of the beauty of this season.

### **AN IMPORTANT CELEBRATION**

Cathy Holland has reflected the light of Christ to our congregation for many years. We celebrate with her decision to retire and spend more time with family. Her work and ministry among us has blessed us. We are sorry to see her leave our staff but are thankful that she will keep her membership with First Baptist.

We have the opportunity to celebrate Cathy and Andy on December 22, immediately following the morning service. I hope you will make plans to be here that day as it will be important in the life of our congregation. Come to say thank you and to celebrate this next step in the journey.

*Pastor's Pen*

# *HOLY LIGHT*

Dec 1 *Light in the Shadows* Isaiah 64

Dec 8 *Children's Sunday*

Dec 15 *Christmas Cantata*

Dec 22 *A Covenant Dawns* 2 Samuel 7

Dec 24 *Holy Light (Christmas Eve)* John 1

Dec 29 *New Year, Same Jesus* Hebrews 13

## Telling sTORIEs

Christmas is a beautiful season. I remember reading the story of Jesus' birth every Christmas Eve as a child. It was one of my most cherished traditions. I was given the honor and privilege of bringing my Bible to family gatherings and sharing the story of Jesus with everyone after dinner. I remember beaming with pride each time I finished reading. It would have been faster for my parents or another adult to read the story, but they chose me instead. I will cherish those moments and, in turn, pass down the role to my child one day. The still, small, quiet moments where we share the story of Jesus' birth are when Christmas truly comes alive. I invite you to find time this Christmas to share the story as a family, let your children or grandchildren read it, gather around the table, or cozy up in the living room. May the love of Jesus fill your homes this Christmas season.



KINGDOM KIDS PRESENTS

THE GREATEST STORY

Sunday, December 8th

~PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AT 10:30AM AS THE CHILDREN LEAD US~

### Advent Books

**\*Activities to do with your family during Advent.\***

Countdown to Christmas by Carol Garborg

The Advent Storybook by Laura Richie & Ian Dale

25 Days of the Christmas Story By Josh Straub

Unwrapping the Names of Jesus by Asheritah Ciuciu



### Children's Ministry 12/8 - Children's Sunday

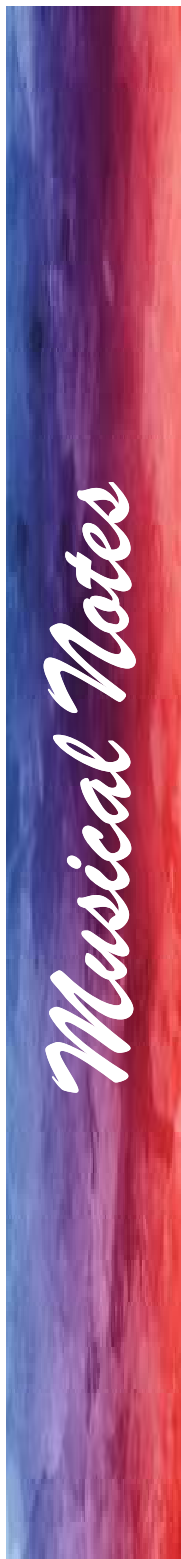


### Illumination Student Ministry



- 12/1 - Wrap Angel Tree Gifts
- 12/8 - McAdenville Lights
- 12/15 - Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser
- 12/15 - Youth Christmas Party
- 12/22 - **No Youth**
- 12/29 - **No Youth**

*Youth & Children's Ministries*



**Christ the Lord is born! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Sunday, December 1st**  
YOUTH CHOIR sings in worship.

**Sunday, December 8th**  
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY  
Cherub Choir, Music Makers and Young Musicians sing in worship.

**Sunday, December 15th**  
The Adult Choir presents "THE SILENCE and the SOUND" Cantata.

**Memorials**

**Building Fund**

In memory of Doug Mullis by Alice Rushing

In memory of Jane Collins by Joanne Mitchell

**Disaster Relief Fund**

In memory of Doug Mullis by Linda Mullis

## Operation Christmas Child 2024

I am so excited about the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes this year. We filled 189 boxes. The goal was 150 and we are excited to reach our goal and exceed it.

Thank you so much for all the help on Sunday November 3rd. Our helpers were Judy Dennis, Joshua Miller, Emily Miller, Jackson Miller, Johnny Rollins, Judy Rollins, Donna Hawkins, Fern Penton, Sheila Carpenter, and Pam Surratt. I hope I have not left anyone out.

Thank you to Cheryl Lineberger and Jo Ann Rollins for helping out this summer with putting the boxes together and counting the items.

Thank you to for Sheila Carpenter and Julie Haver for making the bags for children to carry their items in.

Thank you to Jacquy S. Denison and her quilting group for making the beautiful pot holders so these children can cook their meals without getting burned.

And a big THANK YOU to all the church members for the donations all year long to put into the boxes. This has made a big difference.

I cannot say thank you enough to all of you. We are all disciples for the Lord. Your money, time and prayers are appreciated so much. Jesus is our reason for all we do.

LOVE YOU ALL,  
Kay Miller MacIntosh  
OCC Project Leader



### Angel

### Tree



We are still collecting monetary donations for the angel tree. Once logged into your realm account, you may donate online making sure to indicate it is for the Angel Tree Ministry. You can also put your donation in the offering plate and mark the envelope "Angel Tree."

We appreciate your support of this ministry!

## Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner Menu

Dec 4	Soup or Pizza
Dec 11	BBQ
Dec 18	Pot Luck



**The Salad Bar is available every week.  
(not on pot luck nights)**

## Spiritual Gifts Corner

Have you ever completed a reading plan using one of the many Bible apps available today? Well, there just happens to be a great devotional offered by the YouVersion Bible app called "What Are Spiritual Gifts?" In this four-day reading plan, you'll learn about spiritual gifts and how to discover yours. Additionally, you'll explore the "ultimate motivation that must propel you when to use them." This is a great little reading plan that only takes five to ten minutes daily and is completed in only four days. Whether well versed in spiritual gifts, new to it all, or working on discerning what gift(s) God has shared with you, this devotional is worth the effort. You can access "What Are Spiritual Gifts" from the "plans" tab on the YouVersion Bible app or use this link ... <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/16766>.



Jubilant Seniors  
enjoying their  
outing to  
Carolina Style  
Christmas!



## Jubilant Seniors

On November 9th, our Jubilant Seniors traveled to Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ in Conover to celebrate Christmas Carolina Style where we were treated to a fantastic concert, beautiful tables decorated by some of the performers and a delicious dessert bar prepared by other performers. The performance included the talents of our own, Amanda Haverty, a member of a Sweet Adelines Chorus. As you know from Worship services, Amanda is blessed with tremendous talent and that was evident again at this concert.

On December 2nd at 4:30 p.m., our buses will take us to Clemmons to dine at Villa Grill at 6:15 p.m. and then we'll drive across the street to enjoy The Festival of Lights at Tanglewood Park. We guesstimate arriving back at FBCMh AT 10:45 p.m.

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: It is important for YOU to sign the registration form for each event to reserve your seat on the buses - one person per line. If you do not SIGN the registration form, your seat is not reserved. We really want everyone to join us as often as possible so PLEASE always SIGN REGISTRATION FORM. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.\*\*\*

*What's Happening at FBC*

## Childcare Volunteers

### Kingdom Sea-ers (Infant Nursery)

- 12/1-Maggie Pressley & Kasey Petersen
- 12/8-Maggie Pressley & Lisa Collier
- 12/15-Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
- 12/22- Ann Little & Laura Swartz
- 12/29- Missi Fortsch & Page Medlin

### Kingdom Adventurers (Toddlers & Preschool)

- 12/1- Todd Flowers & Emily Miller
- 12/8-Amanda Choren & Sarah Williamson
- 12/15-Maggie Pressley & Cait Thomas
- 12/22-Colleen Grealis & Maggie Pressley
- 12/29- Colleen Grealis & Maggie Pressley

### Children's Church

- 12/1- Children Stay in Worship
- 12/8- Children Stay in Worship (Children's Sunday)
- 12/15- Children Stay in Worship (Cantata)
- 12/22- Sheri Edge
- 12/29- Carson Dean & Carolyn Snead

- 1 Hannah Allen
- 2 Steve Williams
- 3 Ralph Miller, Brandon Greene
- 5 Frances Black
- 8 Brooke Shepherd Elting
- 10 Lynn Ealey
- 13 Susan Greene
- 14 Alaina Huneycutt
- 17 Christie Batchelor, Jessica Medlin
- 18 Phillip Elting
- 19 Pam Abernethy
- 21 Carson Dean
- 22 Ken Crosby
- 26 Cheryl Lineberger
- 29 Karmen Missak, Caley Sisk, Tracy Bates
- 30 Gail Grice
- 31 Mike Purser



## Church Security

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Tami Piercy  | Nov 25—Dec 1  |
| Scott Poole  | Dec 2—Dec 8   |
| Todd Flowers | Dec 9—Dec 15  |
| Ricky Wrenn  | Dec 16—Dec 22 |
| David Wrenn  | Dec 23—Dec 29 |
| Gary Farmer  | Dec 30—Jan 5  |

## 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



- 4 Reeves & Peggy McGlohon
- 9 Scott & Lisa Collier
- 11 Gary & Hilda Farmer
- 15 Mike & Erica Purser, Brett & Melissa Rushing
- 23 Brian & Nicole Smith
- 28 Mark & Julie Haver
- 29 Cole & Tori Freeman



Memorials / Volunteers / Birthdays / Anniversaries

# 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:

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

### **October 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