



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2025

Thanksloving Feast 2024

The THANKSLOVING TEAM is forever thankful to all the volunteers and financial supporters who made this year's THANKSLOVING FEAST a HUGE success. This ministry of hospitality to the community has had 36 seasons. This one ended with 526 prepared meals. One hundred dined in and 426 were carryout orders. The most EVER! Thanks again for your continued support!

We LOVE you, MEAN IT!
The THANKSLOVING TEAM

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly





Pastor's Pen

There is something fascinating that happens at our house on Christmas Day. I wonder if this brings up similar memories for you. After a night when no one could sleep due to the preparations and excitement for the next day, morning arrives quickly as anticipation overcomes sleep. There is an intensity as all the presents are revealed, creating an atmosphere full of loud sounds and laughter.

Breakfast comes quickly, and everyone returns to their presents. More laughter and joy continue until exhaustion catches up with us. As we enjoy our gifts, I might be lucky enough to catch a quick nap. A special kind of quiet ensues later as everyone savors their gifts. The brief sound of silence on Christmas Day is a gift in itself.

I think about the silence that followed that special night in Bethlehem. Life continued amidst the noise of a precious child growing and needing care from His parents. There was probably a lot of commotion around, but there was also a profound silence as Christ grew in His human body. Great preparation had been made for the Christ child, yet the events of His early childhood are mostly silent in Scripture. I often wonder what was happening during those silent years.

This silence resonates in our own lives. We often associate God's presence with big events and loud sounds. The truth is that God is frequently silent in our lives, moving quietly when we do not notice. I am reflecting on this idea as we emerge from the Christmas season. In January, we will explore the silence associated with the book of Habakkuk—a critical text that will help us grapple with the silence we often feel in relation to God. If you have ever wondered about God's presence in the silence of your life, this conversation is for you.

I want to extend a special thank you to our Personnel Committee for their diligent work in preparing for Cathy Holland's retirement. We are incredibly grateful for Cathy and her ministry among us. The Personnel Committee is actively planning the next steps for our music ministry, and many individuals have stepped up to provide leadership during this transition. Our church is blessed with generous, talented people who will help bridge the gap as we search for our next leader. The church is in great hands, and positive days lie ahead. Thank you to everyone making this possible.

Silence

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

January 5 The Silence of Questions Hab. 1:1-17

January 12 The Silence of Waiting Hab. 2:1-20

January 19 The Silence of Awe Hab. 3:1-16

January 26 The Silence of Joy Hab. 3:17-19

Telling sTORIEs

Reflecting on the last year at First Baptist has been a joy. Together, we have accomplished many things, made countless memories, and shared many laughs. As we enter into a new year, I am excited for the journey we will embark on. My hope for the next year is that we will continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and our world as we join to serve God's people. I have enjoyed watching our children and youth grow in their faith, become more confident in their gifts and talents, and lead more often in worship. They are the future, and we must continue to invest in them. I want to extend my gratitude for all the support and love I have felt over the last year. I am grateful to call this church my home.



Our children and youth have been busy leading us in worship this month and teaching us about the birth of Jesus. The youth baked another batch of cinnamon rolls for their summer mission trip fundraiser.



Children's Ministry
1/8-Afterschool Program Resumes



Illumination
Student Ministry

1/12-Mentor Meeting
1/19- No Youth: MLK Weekend



Youth & Children's Ministries



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful blanket, flowers and artwork (from the children's choirs). I am overwhelmed with gratitude and thanksgiving for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you for all the kind words and hugs! It has been such a privilege and blessing to serve you and serve alongside so many of you. Thank you to the Personnel Committee for all their work in organizing and putting together the reception on Sunday, December 22nd.

First Baptist Church is blessed with tremendous talent in the music area. I have LOVED working with the Adult Choir. They are a group of people that love the Lord. They care and pray for each other. They love to laugh. They have crazy musical talent. They are some of my favorite people. I am thankful for the blessing of working with such a great team of musical leadership in children's choir, youth choir and handbells. I am forever grateful for "my partner in crime", Elaine Crosby, for her faithfulness, her mad organ skills and the gift of her spirit and talent. The musically talented instrumentalists here is a rare thing and they have been a huge gift and blessing! Thankful for each and every one that I had the privilege to play duets with. Last but not least I have been so blessed to work with the Best Staff Ever! What a great leadership team you have at First Baptist. Thank you Jeff, Tori, Kim and Cole! I am excited to see what God has in store for Andy and I in this newest chapter of our lives. I am so thankful for the goodness of God!

Blessings,
Cathy Holland

Musical Notes

Memorials

Landscape Fund

In memory of Jane Collins and Frances Bowden by Verna Jo Ellis

Thanksloving Feast Fund

In memory of Doug Mullis by Linda Mullis

Bowden Scholarship Fund

In memory of Frances Bowden by Mary Jane Hinkle

Bus Fund

In memory of Delores Stewart by D.B. McKay & W.L. McKay, Donald & Susan Grice and Eleanor Rhyne Broome, Randy & Ginger McLean, Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne, S.P. Saunders

In memory of Jane Collins by Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne

Children's Ministry Fund

In memory of Delores Stewart by D.B. McKay & W.L. McKay, Donald & Susan Grice and Eleanor Rhyne Broome, Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne, S.P. Saunders

In memory of Jane Collins by Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne

Youth Ministry Fund

In memory of Delores Stewart by D.B. McKay & W.L. McKay, Donald & Susan Grice and Eleanor Rhyne Broome, Mary Jane Hinkle, Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne, S.P. Saunders

In memory of Jane Collins by Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne

Building Fund

In memory of Doug Mullis by Linda Mullis

In memory of Delores Stewart by the Fellowship Sunday School Class

Hawkins Scholarship Fund

In memory of Bruce & Betty Hawkins by Roger & Denise Hawkins

Lottie Moon Fund

In memory of Delores Stewart by the Fellowship Sunday School Class

In honor of Randy McLean, Aubrey Horton and Barry Still by the Fellowship Sunday School Class

Regular Budget

In memory of Delores Stewart by Ken & Elaine Crosby

Operation Christmas Child 2025

After prayerful reflection, I've set our GO (Gospel Opportunity) goal at 250. This is approximately 50 more than we collected in 2024. We're going to have an OCC Packing Party in October, 2025. A definite date and time will be announced later.

To be sure we have enough items on hand by October, we're requesting that you donate a different item each month. For the month of January, we're asking everyone to bring SUNGLASSES. We'd appreciate receiving 250 pairs of SUNGLASSES (children and adult) so we can add 1 to each Shoebox.

A bin will be available in the Gathering Place before Wednesday, January 8th with an OCC sign requesting that you place your SUNGLASSES in it.

If anyone prefers to shop and fill the Shoebox as we have traditionally done at FBCMH, that will be equally appreciated. We'll have those Shoeboxes available on Sunday, October 5th.

Please pray that we will reach our 2025 goal of 250 Gospel Opportunities!

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



FBC Missions

Spiritual Gifts Corner

It's here – 2025! For the Spiritual Gifts Committee (SGC), January signals time to begin considering nominees for the church's standing committees: Accounting, Constitution & Bylaws, Facilities Management, Finance, and Personnel. There's a sixth standing committee – Spiritual Gifts – but nominees are put before the church by the Administrative Board for that group. Each standing committee's purpose is defined in the church's Constitution and Bylaws. The SGC is responsible for nominating the members and chairpersons for each committee, along with the Sunday School Director and church officers and directors, in an annual report that's approved by the full church. The Sunday School Director is elected by vote on the first Sunday in May and the rest of the report is adopted on the first Sunday in August. If you'd like to know more about the church's standing committees, directors, or officers, or have an interest in serving, a member of the SGC – Roger Hawkins, Kasey Petersen, Leah Allen, Carolyn Snead, Connor Sisk, and Carson Dean – would love to hear from you.

In Christ,
Your Spiritual Gifts Committee

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner Menu

- 1 No Meal
 - 8 Stuffed Baked Potato
 - 15 Baked Spaghetti
 - 22 Sloppy Joes or Hot Dogs
 - 29 Soup or Pizza
- The Salad Bar is available every week.**



Come Be a Part of the Circle of Faith

The Circle of Faith is a ladies' missions group at First Baptist. The ladies of this group have been serving in the community since 2000 or 2001. Our focus is to prayerfully look for where God is working and where He wants us to be involved. We have collected needed items for the Cathy Cloninger Mabry Women's Shelter, Catherine's House and the CRO; collected money for King's Daughters Ministries, the MHMS Shoe Fund, the MH Police Department's contingent that helped with Helene recovery; assisted with Farm Share and deliver snacks to the police department, fire department and GEMS. There have been many projects and outreach opportunities over the last 25 years.

In January we will be talking about ways to be active in reaching out to our schools and their staff. We will meet in the church fellowship hall on **Monday, January 27 at 6:00**. We meet the last Monday of every month January through October and end the year with a fun-filled Christmas party in early December.

We welcome any lady who would like to join us or even attend a meeting or two to see if you want to be a part of what we are doing.

We hope to see new faces in 2025!

Pam Miller

Flower Sign Ups

Please consider placing flowers on the Communion table in 2025 in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The calendar to reserve your day is located across from the elevator. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Griffin (704.689.2051) or Ann Little (704.458.2492).



Childcare Volunteers

Kingdom Sea-ers (Infant Nursery)

- 1/5- Colleen Grealis & Maggie Pressley
1/12- Peggy McGlohan & Maggie Pressley
1/19- Maggie Pressley & Gabrielle Cox
1/26- Maggie Pressley & Sadie Hampton

Kingdom Adventurers (Toddlers & Preschool)

- 1/5- Melissa Green & Susan Greene
1/12- Brooke Elting & Linda Richardson
1/19- Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
1/26- Sajiah Taylor, & Rebekah S.R.

Children's Church

- 1/5- Children Stay in Worship
1/12- Youth
1/19- Teresa Painter
1/26- Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

- 1 Van Hawkins
- 2 Kathie Choren, Rose Cason
- 4 Maryvan Blair
- 5 Lydia Elting, Jess Hudome
- 6 Keith Piercy, Amanda Choren
- 10 Ricky Russell, Brett Rushing
- 11 Bill Flowers
- 12 Maggie Pressley
- 13 Gray Freeman
- 14 Chris Medlin,
Missi Fortsch
- 15 Bob Winecoff,
Miranda Newhart
- 16 Roger Abernathy
- 18 Harper Allen
- 19 Kaylee Flowers
- 20 Amanda Haverty
- 23 Scott Griffin, Cathy Holland
- 24 Lancy Rhyne
- 28 Jack Jordan
- 29 Carolyn Snead, Breeze Williams
- 31 Lisa Collier



Church Security

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Gary Farmer | Dec 30—Jan 5 |
| Keith Piercy | Jan 6—Jan 12 |
| Ken Fortsch | Jan 14—Jan 19 |

Ushers and Greeters

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



In Sympathy

Our deepest condolences to the families of Delores Stewart, Sallie Hartis, Frances Bowden, and Johnny Martin (Peggy McGlohan's brother).

- 12 Richard & Linda Hawley



First Baptist Church

300 S Main Street Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mailing address: PO Box 385, Mount Holly, NC 28120

www.fbcmountholly.org

Phone: 704-827-2481

Jeff Allen, Pastor

jeff@fbcmountholly.org

336-978-4686 (cell); 704-879-2027 (office)

Tori Freeman, Minister to Youth and Children

tori@fbcmountholly.org

704-879-2037 (office)

Cole Freeman, Music Associate/Youth Music

cole@fbcmountholly.org

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](https://www.instagram.com/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

November 2024

Total Receipts – \$49,889

Bldg. Fund – \$170

Bldg. Fund YTD – \$8,995

Other Designated – \$13,101

Other Designated YTD – \$88,564

2024 Budget – \$538,227

Avg Needs thru 11/30 – \$493,375

Budget Receipts YTD – \$476,675