



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 20, Issue 6
June 2025

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly



Join us for Vacation Bible School, June 23rd-26th, from 9:00am -Noon! VBS registration is open for preschool– Rising 6th grade students. You can register through the link in the midweek email.

We need your help to make VBS a success!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Molly Dean at molly2089@gmail.com.



Pastor's Pen

The word "staycation" emerged during the 2008 economic downturn when many families couldn't afford traditional vacations. By 2009, it had officially entered our vocabulary, recognized by Merriam-Webster's dictionary. What began as a budget-friendly alternative has evolved into something more meaningful. As followers of Christ, we're called to see our communities through His eyes—not just as places we happen to live, but as mission fields where we can serve with purpose and love.

Remember Jesus's words in Acts 1:8? He called disciples to be witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Our "Jerusalem"—our immediate community—is where ministry often begins.

A staycation offers more than cost savings. It provides an opportunity to follow Christ's example of serving others where we are. While exploring local attractions, we can seek ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus in familiar surroundings.

Summer naturally draws us outdoors and into community spaces. This season creates perfect opportunities to live out our faith through local service:

- Visit that nearby park while picking up litter as stewards of God's creation
- Support local businesses as an act of loving your neighbor
- Volunteer in the community, bringing Christ's light to everyday interaction
- Invite neighbors for a backyard gathering, building relationships that might open doors to sharing faith

The staycation invites a transformation—from being tourists in our own communities to being missionaries. Instead of merely consuming local experiences, we can contribute to community flourishing through acts of service, kindness, and intentional engagement. Like the Good Samaritan who served someone along his everyday route, our greatest ministry opportunities might be hiding in plain sight, waiting to be discovered during a simple staycation.

This summer, consider how your time off might become time given—to your community, to your neighbors, and ultimately to the One who calls us to love and serve right where we are.

Just like finding that perfect hidden spot at a state park right when an Apache helicopter roars by (how cool would that be?!), sometimes the best experiences are the ones right in our own backyard. I look forward to hearing our staycation stories.



June 1	<i>Local Attractions</i>	Matt. 8
June 8	<i>Home Improvement</i>	Luke 5
June 15	<i>Off the Beaten Path</i>	Mark 10
June 22	<i>Change of Plans</i>	Matt. 14
June 29	<i>Family Adventures</i>	Mark 10



It's sweet summertime! While I'm not a fan of the heat, I am a fan of the summertime atmosphere. I love getting together with family and friends, having a more laidback schedule (maybe not this year!), and of course, consuming all the watermelon I can find. I love the traditions of our little hometown city from the Everyone Parade, to early Saturday mornings at the Farmers Market, and the fire-works show downtown.

God never meant for us to walk through or live life alone but to join in community with one another, breaking bread around the table, and enjoying fellowship. I encourage you to find time this summer to do just that. Relationship building is important to us. We are more than just a church with walls and doors. We are a body of believers that has become family.

I wish you a wonderful summer with your family and look forward to introducing you to the newest member of ours as our little guy makes his arrival!

Congratulations Class of 2025!



Children's Ministry

6/23-26– Vacation Bible School-True North

Stay tuned for upcoming events for our children's ministry!



Illumination Ministry

6/1– Richmond Trip Meeting at 2pm

Follow the midweek youth emails for upcoming events and activities!

Youth & Children's Ministries

Personnel Committee Update

As the Personnel Committee moves forward in replacing two important staff members, there are a few points we would like to share. We would like to recognize the contributions of those who filled in to maintain the level of excellence we have been accustomed to in our worship music/planning, and administrative functions.

Rebecca Hope is currently with us in an interim role, maintaining key components in the administrative support of our daily church functions.

Our Music Ministry has continued to contribute through the volunteering of Janet Smith, Elaine Crosby, Ginni Poole, and all of our children's music leaders. Cole Freeman has gone above and beyond his normal capacity as Youth Choir and Adult Handbell leader. It's hard to put into words the inspiration we have witnessed with Christian Ko as our accompanist, both at the piano and the cello.

In the month of May, our current status includes interviewing multiple candidates for the Minister of Music position. Our goals and objectives are to have completed all "first round" interviews by the end of May. After all initial interviews have been completed, we will pray, meet, and select the one(s) that will be called back for a second and/or final interview. At that point, we hope to make a selection to be presented to the church for a vote.

Please continue to pray for God's revealing direction in our process as we endeavor to find the person He has for us to lead our music ministry. We cherish your prayers as we continue to move forward in the selection process.

A special thank you to those who have worked since November and continue to give their time to seek replacements for our staff vacancies. We appreciate your prayers as we follow God's will in this process. The involvement and leadership from Jeff Allen has been unwavering in his support of our efforts.

Personnel Committee members:

Pam Abernethy, Roger Abernathy, Missi Fortsch, Lancy Rhyne, Laura Swartz, David Collier.

Personnel Sub-Committee Support - Music:

Molly Dean, Paige Sisk, Janet Smith.

Personnel Sub-Committee Support - Administrative Assistant:

Jennifer Childers, Ginger McLean.

Spiritual Gifts Corner

Summer is upon us, and the work of your Spiritual Gifts Committee is heating up. There's a lot that goes into being prepared for the new Church Committee and Sunday School year that starts September 1st. While the SGC is busy recruiting nominees to fill committee and officer vacancies, the Sunday School Director is busy confirming returning teachers and recruiting new teachers for classes of all levels. To have a church report complete with committees, officers, and teachers ready for a vote on August 3rd, there is much to do over the next two months. As always, the final recommended report will be provided to the church in advance, so be on the lookout for a schedule of related activities this summer.

In Christ,
Your Spiritual Gifts Committee

What's Happening at FBC

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, June 28 2025
8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

We had a great conversation in May so we decided to do it again!

Circles—Men's Discipleship Ministry

Circles was created for all men to be apprentices to Jesus, to be with Jesus, to become like him, and to do as he did.

***If you hold to my teachings,
you are really my disciples. (John 8:31)***

Open to all—bring a friend—youth welcome!

RSVP appreciated: carsondean2@gmail.com

Hosted by FBC's pilot **Circle**—Aubrey Horton, Randy McLean,
Carson Dean, Mark Hudome and Matt Williamson

FBCJST Event—Waterworks Visual Arts Center—Salisbury, NC

On Saturday, July 12th, Jubilant Seniors will travel to Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury. We need to reserve our guided tour no later than Monday, June 9th. After the reservation is confirmed on June 9th, a schedule will be provided.

Waterworks Visual Arts Center has an exhibition of paintings and sculptures from the personal collection of the late New York philanthropists, Julian and Josie Robertson. "Never before seen modern masterpieces" include more than 40 works by leading European modern artists: Bonnard, Kandinsky, Monet, Picasso, and de Kooning. Spanning over 100 years of art history, the works will provide a vivid sense of key movements from Cubism to Abstract Expressionism. Julian Robertson was born in Salisbury and remained dedicated to the town throughout his life. His commitment took many forms, including the founding of the Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation, which he established in honor of his parents to support local programs and organizations within the community they loved.



Registration ends on Sunday, June 8th after Worship. The fee for the guided tour will be paid from our Jubilant Seniors budget.

What's Happening at FBC

Ice Cream Social

In Lieu of the Wednesday Night Dinner the Deacons will be hosting an ice cream social on the following dates this summer:

6/22	6:00 p.m.	Front Lawn/Fellowship Hall
7/20	6:00 p.m.	Front Lawn/Fellowship Hall
8/24	6:00 p.m.	Front Lawn/Fellowship Hall



Thank you!

Dear Church Family,

As I take a moment to reflect on my 25 wonderful years with you, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. The stories we exchanged and the hugs we shared at my retirement celebration will always hold a cherished place in my heart. Thank you for the love offering, the thoughtful gifts, and the beautiful cards. I am especially grateful for the stunning paintings gifted for my beach house; they are a reminder of our time together. I am settling into retirement life nicely, and I appreciate all the encouragement and kind words you have shared. I wish each of you the very best as you continue your journey together. Thank you for being such an important part of my life.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kim Payne

Operation Christmas Child 2025

For the month of June, we're asking everyone to bring WASHCLOTHS

As you know, the entire family must share washcloths in many third-world countries. The mother or father washes first, then dips the washcloth in boiling water. This process is repeated until every family member has washed. Our goal for June is **500** WASHCLOTHS, so we can include 2 washcloths in EACH shoebox.

The Gathering Place will have a bin with an OCC sign requesting that you place your WASHCLOTHS in it.

If anyone prefers to shop and fill the Shoeboxes as we have traditionally done at FBCMH, that will be equally beneficial. **We'll have those shoeboxes available on the first Sunday of June.** Praising God for your call to serve Him in this way!



Memorials

Landscaping Fund

In memory of Bobby Laughlin from Ms. Verna Jo Ellis

Building Fund

In memory of Bobby Laughlin from Mr. and Mrs. Danny Snead

Childcare Volunteers

Kingdom Sea-ers (Infant Nursery)

- 6/1 Maggie Pressley & Linda Richardson
 6/8 Todd Flowers
 6/15 Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
 6/22 Colleen Grealis & Lauren Huneycutt
 6/29 Maggie Pressley & Page Medlin

Kingdom Adventurers (Toddlers & Preschool)

- 6/1 Gabby Cox & Sadie Hampton
 6/8 Gabby Cox & Sadie Hampton
 6/15 Gabby Cox & Maggie Pressley
 6/22 Maggie Pressley & Amanda Haverty
 6/29 Gabby Cox & Colleen Grealis

Children's Church

- 6/1 Stay In Worship
 6/8 Youth
 6/15 Sheri Edge
 6/22 Sarah Williamson
 6/29 Virginia Hoffman & Cait Thomas

June Birthdays

- 6/1 RD Hoffman
 6/2 Page Medlin
 6/3 Rachel Smith; Tami Piercy
 6/4 Ann Little
 6/5 Macee Benoit
 6/6 Novella Hooks
 6/7 Tanner Hawkins
 6/8 Todd Flowers; Mary Jane Hinkle
 6/11 Gina Collier; Fern Penton
 6/12 Stephen Abernethy
 6/13 Virginia Hoffman; Jay Ratliff
 6/15 Dewey Simms
 6/22 Suzanne Griffin
 6/25 Mark Hudome
 6/26 John Jones
 6/27 Bill Gary
 6/29 Cathy Flowers; Susan Gurley;
 Melissa Green



Church Security

- David Wrenn June 2—June 8
 Gary Farmer June 9—June 15
 Keith Piercy June 16—June 22
 Ken Fortsch June 23—June 29

Ushers and Greeters

- 6/1 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins,
 Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff,
 Brandon McCotter
 6/8 Dickie Thomas, Stephen
 Abernethy, Cheryl Lineberger,
 Jo Ann Rollins, Danny Snead
 6/15 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier,
 Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy,
 Cornelia Pressley
 6/22 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin,
 Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin, Mike
 Purser
 6/29 Denise Hawkins, Roger Hawkins,
 Leah Allen, Josh Allen, Jax Allen,
 Harper Allen

June Anniversaries

- 6/1 Randy and Ginger McLean
 6/2 Mac and Linda Richardson
 6/8 Ron and Karen Featherstone
 6/9 Bob and Virginia Winecoff
 6/10 Scott and Suzanne Griffin
 6/12 Bill and Dianne Abrams; Ken and
 Elaine Crosby
 6/13 Jimmy and Ann Little; Connor
 and Allie Sisk
 6/14 Mike and Betty Clagg
 6/19 Larry and Sandra Clements; Tony
 and Susan Greene
 6/20 Josh and Leah Allen
 6/21 Brent and Melissa Green
 6/24 Roger and Donna Abernathy;
 Scott and Ginni Poole
 6/25 Jerod and Mary Huffman
 6/26 Todd and Angie Hildebran
 6/27 Chris and Page Medlin

First Baptist Church

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Jeff Allen, Pastor

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Tori Freeman, Minister of Youth and Children

tori@fbcmountholly.org

704-879-2037 (office)

Cole Freeman, Music Associate/Youth Music

cole@fbcmountholly.org

Rebecca Hope, Administrative Assistant

rebecca@fbcmountholly.org

704-879-2062 (office)

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

M-Th 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fr 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mondays

Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman
Rebecca Hope

Tuesdays

Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman
Rebecca Hope

Wednesdays

Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman
Rebecca Hope

Thursdays

Jeff Allen
Tori Freeman (remote)
Rebecca Hope

Fridays

Rebecca Hope



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MOUNT HOLLY, NC

April 2025

Total Receipts – \$31,106
Bldg. Fund – \$0
Bldg. Fund YTD – \$5,580
Other Designated – \$170,582
Other Designated YTD – \$119,839
2025 Budget – \$599,884
Avg Needs thru 4/30 – \$50,337
Budget Receipts YTD – \$199,961