

# Our Commitment to FarmShare

For the third consecutive summer, First Baptist Church of Mount Holly is reaffirming its dedication to the local community by participating in the FarmShare program. This vital initiative, a partnership between the Mount Holly Farmers Market and a coalition of area churches, directly combats food insecurity by providing fresh, locally grown produce to families in need.

First Baptist Church's involvement extends beyond financial contributions. We actively participate in identifying families and individuals facing food challenges, as well as packing and delivering the boxes of fresh food. This hands-on approach has made the FarmShare program a cornerstone of our local mission work.

Reflecting on the past two summers of participation, FarmShare has been a "profound" experience within our community, encouraging a deeper connection with our neighbors and offering tangible support to those who need it most.

The FarmShare program is a collaborative effort that highlights the strength of community partnerships. By connecting local farmers with families in need, the program not only provides nutritious food but also supports the local agricultural economy.

This year's FarmShare distribution dates are scheduled for Saturday, July 19, and Saturday, August 23. The Deacons and the Circle of Faith are coordinating our church's efforts. If you are aware of a family who would find the food helpful, please contact Suzanne Griffin by July 14.

As the program enters its third summer, we are inviting folks in our congregation and the community to consider how everyone can support this impactful initiative. Opportunities to partner in this effort will be detailed as they become available.



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# The Enduring Power of Our Sacred Stories

Ever notice how a good story just sticks with you? Long after we forget facts and figures, a powerful story stays with us. It's no surprise, then, that storytelling is at the very heart of our faith.

The Christian faith is one steeped in story. It's the grand narrative of God's love and redemption, woven through the lives of ordinary, flawed, and faithful people from the first page of scripture to the last. This overarching story provides the framework for our own stories, giving them meaning and purpose. When we share our experiences, we are, in essence, adding our own small but significant thread to this eternal tapestry.

Jesus understood the power of a well-told narrative. He didn't primarily lecture or present abstract theological concepts. Instead, He told parables—simple, relatable stories that drew from everyday lives of his listeners. The Parable of the Sower is a story of seeds and soil that continues to teach us about the condition of our hearts and our receptiveness to God. These stories aren't just memorable; they are transformative, inviting listeners to see themselves, their world, and God in a new light.

Our own stories, our personal testimonies, hold a similar power. When we share how God has worked in our lives—offering comfort in times of sorrow, guidance in moments of confusion, or strength in the face of trial—we are doing more than just recounting events. We are offering a tangible glimpse of a living, active God.

In the book of John, after Jesus heals a man born blind, the man is questioned by the Pharisees. He doesn't engage in a theological debate. His response is simple and powerful: "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25). This is the essence of a powerful testimony. It's a personal and undeniable account of transformation that can resonate more deeply than the most eloquent sermon.

In our own church community, there are countless stories of faith, hope, and perseverance waiting to be shared. These stories can be a source of encouragement for those facing similar struggles, a beacon of hope for those navigating darkness, and a powerful reminder that we are not alone in our journey of faith.

Over the next month, we will spend time recounting "Salvation Stories" - the sacred stories of faith. We will look to both scripture and our faith community for stories that draw us in and help call us forward in faith. I look forward to sharing together as God continues to tell our story, individually and collectively. He is not done writing your story. Let's see what He has in store.



# SALVATION STORIES July 6 Beyond Religion John 3 July 13 A Personal Story Phil. 2 July 20 Damascus Road Acts 9 July 27 Midnight Praise Acts 16

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# Illumination Youth Ministry



July 7-11 – Richmond Trip July 20 – Richmond Trip Report at Ice Cream Social August 10 – Promotion Sunday



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# Welcome our New Minister of Music, Cole Freeman!

It is with great joy and excitement that we introduce our new Minister of Music, Cole Freeman!

Please join us in offering a heartfelt congratulations to Cole and his family as he embarks on a new part of this journey with us. He will begin his work on July 13, following the birth of their son, Blake. We are incredibly blessed to have Cole lead our music ministry, and we look forward to the beautiful music and spirit he will bring to our worship services.

An important thank you goes to the Personnel Committee. Their effort was significant and our church has been blessed by the service of many people.

Please take a moment to pray for Cole, Tori, and the entire family.

# FBCJST Event-Wolfhardt Dinner Theatre

On Saturday, August 23rd the Jubilant Seniors will travel to the Wolfhardt Dinner Theater in Wytheville, VA. The schedule includes lunch and a matinee featuring music from the 50's and 60's.

Schedule:

8:30 am Arrive at FBCMH

8:45 am Load Buses

11:30 am Arrive at Wolfhardt

12:00 Lunch 1:30 Matinee 3:30 Load Buses

6:15 Arrive at FBCMH



If you have any dietary restrictions, please advise Pam Surratt by email ASAP—pdsurratt@gmail.com. From the Jubilant Seniors Budget, we will contribute \$30/ticket, leaving \$35 due from each Jubilant Senior. Please make checks payable to FBCMH. Registration ends on Sunday, July 20th after Worship. Questions? Please see Jacquey Denison, Linda Smith, Nancy Wrenn or Pam Surratt

# **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 The Messenger Page 5



# Thank you for an incredible VBS 2025!

We had an incredible time at Bible School this week and we want to take a moment to give heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. We had 100 kids registered and nearly 90 children were in attendance each day! Over 30 dedicated volunteers worked to make the week a success. From youth to college students to our treasured retirees and senior adults—it was a true picture of the church working together to show and share Jesus with our children and the children of our community.

Our theme, True North, guided us to focus on Jesus as our constant and unchanging direction in life.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you, our church family, supported this ministry—through your time, your prayers, and your generous donations. Thank you for helping point our children toward the love of Christ.









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The Deacons will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on the following dates this summer:

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

# **Memorials**

# **Library Fund**

In Memory of Mary Martin by Verna Jo Ellis In Honor of Susan Gurley by Verna Jo Ellis

# **Music Ministry**

In memory of Mary Martin by Millie Hunsucker

# **Operation Christmas Child 2025**

For the month of July, we're asking everyone to bring **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**.

**Large** packs of notebook paper, **thin** coloring books, pencils (no pens), pencil sharpeners, markers, small scissors, crayons, erasers, construction paper, motivational stickers. **No Spiral Notebooks** please.

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

Mark your calendar—our packing party is Sunday, November 2nd, at 2:00 pm. Your children and grandchildren are welcome to join, as we will fill at least 250 shoeboxes!

Questions? You may reach Kay MacIntosh at 980-253-7180 or kaymmacintosh@hotmail.com



# Thank you!

Dear First Baptist Church and First Baptist Kids,

Thank you so much for your gracious gift, It is greatly appreciated. You all mean the world to me!

Thank you so much for the never ending support I've received my entire life. My scholarship is appreciated in more ways than words can describe! I will miss my church family while at school, but the impact you all have left on me will carry on throughout the rest of my life. I love ya'll! **Chandler Burleson** 

780 Missions

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# **Childcare Volunteers**

# Kingdom Sea-ers (Infant Nursery)

7/6 Maggie Pressley & Lisa Collier

7/13 Allie Sisk & Lisa Collier

7/20 Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger

7/27 Pam Burleson & Cathy Flowers

# **Kingdom Adventurers** (Toddlers & Preschool)

7/6 Gabby Cox & Colleen Grealis

7/13 Colleen Grealis & Maggie Pressley

7/20 Colleen Grealis & Maggie Pressley

7/27 Colleen Grealis & Maggie Pressley

#### Children's Church

7/6 Stay In Worship

7/13 Brooke Elting & Sheri Edge

7/20 John & Kasey Petersen

7/27 Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne

# **July Anniversaries**

7/14 Rafik and Mandy Missak

7/15 Nathan and Dana Hudson

7/23 Jay and Sheri Ratliff

7/29 Mark and Christie Batchelor

7/31 Andy and Cathy Holland



# In Sympathy

Our deepest condolences go out to:

The family of Mr. Aubrey Horton on the death of his brother, Harold Horton.

The family of Mrs. Mary Martin

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gary on the death of their son-in-law, James Blakenship

# **Church Security**

Richard Flowers

Brian Smith

July 7— July 13

Hunter Ealey

July 14— July 20

Tami Piercy

July 21—July 27

Scott Poole

July 28—Aug 3

# **Ushers and Greeters**

7/6 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins,Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff,Brandon McCotter

7/13 Dickie Thomas, StephenAbernethy, Cheryl Lineberger,Jo Ann Rollins, Danny Snead

7/20 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier, Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy, Cornelia Pressley

7/27 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin, Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin, Mike Purser



7/1 Judy Anthony; Grayson Withers

7/2 Reeves McGlohon; Melissa Rushing

7/3 Stan Baker; Logan Hoffman

7/6 Jackie Rogers

7/7 Hannah Lineberger

7/10 Jerrod Huffman; Maggie Swartz

7/15 Nancy Wrenn

7/17 Ginni Poole; Sheila Carpenter

7/18 Sandra Clements; Stella Seedorf

7/22 Dana Hudson

7/26 Verna Jo Ellis; Luann Thomas

7/27 Roger Hawkins

7/29 Denise Hawkins

7/30 Emma Bassett

# First Baptist Church

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Jeff Allen, Pastor jeff@fbcmountholly.org 336-978-4686 (cell); 704-879-2027 (office)

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



MOUNT HOLLY, NC

#### **May 2025**

Total Receipts - \$52,965 Bldg. Fund - \$650 Bldg. Fund YTD - \$5,630 Other Designated - \$40,157 Other Designated YTD - \$196,917 2025 Budget - \$599,884 Avg Needs thru 5/31 - \$39,659 Budget Receipts YTD - \$196,917