



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 20, Issue 8
August 2025

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly

Back-to-School/ Promotion Sunday

August 10, during worship

It's time for our back-to-school celebration! From kindergarten to grown-ups, we all have something new to learn this year.

Help us help others...

Farm Share

August 23

8:00 AM

You are invited!

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM PARTY

August 24

6:00 PM



August Adventures: Backpacks, Blessings, and Banana Splits!

Welcome to August! As the summer wraps up, our church is buzzing with excitement for a month packed with fellowship, service, and fun. On Sunday, August 10, we will send our students and teachers off for the new year with a special "Blessing of the Backpacks" during our morning service. We will spend time in prayer as we will celebrate the opportunity for learning that is available to us all.

Our call to serve also continues with our FarmShare mission partnership with the Mount Holly Farmers Market. On August 23, we will be making and delivering food boxes to our neighbors.

Finally, what's August without ice cream? Join us for our Homemade Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 24 at 6:00 PM. We can't wait to see you for a wonderful month of faith and fellowship.



Pastor's Pen

Finding Our Place

Of all the things you worry about when you're driving, the health of your taillight probably isn't one of them. I heard a story about a guy driving home late one night on a dark road. He wasn't speeding or doing anything wrong, but suddenly, blue lights filled his rearview mirror. When the officer got to his window, he simply said, "Sir, did you know your left taillight is out?" Just one small bulb, one tiny part of a complex machine, wasn't doing its job, and it was enough to bring the whole car to a halt.

That story got me thinking about our church. It's natural to see the most visible parts—the teaching, the music, the public prayers—and think that's where the important people do their work. We can start to believe that our own quiet contributions, the ones that nobody sees or applauds, don't carry the same weight. But the things done away from the spotlight are often the most powerful.

It reminds me of what Jesus taught his followers in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 6, he talks about acts of faith like giving, praying, and fasting. He makes it clear that our motivation is what truly matters. He encourages us to give without fanfare and to pray in private, not for the praise of others, but for an audience of one. Jesus promises that our Father, who "sees what is done in secret," will reward us. The most meaningful service isn't seen by people, but seen only by God.

So much of the vital work of our church happens in that very spirit. The prayer that is offered quietly for a struggling family, the meal delivered to a home, the time spent preparing a meal—these are the acts of service that form the true foundation of our community. You may be the person who writes an encouraging note, listens to a friend in need, or cleans up after a fellowship meal. These are the things done in secret, the righteous acts that God sees and honors. This is our conversation for August!

A Note on Newsletters

This fall, you'll notice some positive changes to our monthly newsletter. Improving our church-wide communication has been a priority this past year, and we believe this new format will be a helpful step forward. Our hope is that it will provide a clearer and more efficient way to keep you informed about the many exciting things happening in our ministry.

YOUR PART MATTERS

August 3 Matthew 6:1-18

Your Part Behind the Scenes

August 10 1 Corinthians 12:12-18

Your Part in the Body

August 17 Romans 12:1-8

Your Part Through Gifts

August 24 John 19:38-42

Your Part in God's Story





It's that time of year! New shoes, outfits, backpacks, fresh school supplies, and of course, the dreaded alarm being set to wake us up early! As the backpacks are filled with various items needed for each day, they symbolize the weight that our students carry with them. Each day, our students are carrying their own burdens, insecurities, responsibilities, and maybe even a few textbooks.

It is important to remember that our students need us to help them carry their burdens. When you pray, remember them in your prayers, pray for their strength to get through each day, especially the days that seem difficult. Pray for them to have the courage to be bold in their faith, to make new friends, to be a light in this world.

I loved my time as an educator, welcoming new students into my classroom for an adventure together. I have a deep appreciation for all teachers and staff that help our schools run each day.

Thank the staff when you drop off your children, pray for them, encourage them, and help them when needed!

Have a wonderful school year!

Children's Ministry



8/5– Lunch & Bowl

8/10– Promotion Sunday

9/10—Afterschool program begins

Illumination Youth Ministry



8/17 – Pool Party Kick Off

8/31—No Youth (Labor Day)

9/1– Caswell Deposit Due

9/7-Youth Choir & Youth Begin

Youth & Children's Ministries

Notes From Cole



“Life can only be understood backward, but it must be lived forward.” - Kierkegaard

Looking back on my life I see a beautiful storyline of God directing me towards being a Minister of Music, particularly here at First Baptist of Mount Holly. My musical journey began with violin lessons at age 4 and my faith journey began shortly after at age 5. The two became intertwined by age 11 when I began playing for the hymns and communion every week at my childhood church, Heritage Bible Fellowship, in Hope Mills, NC.

My love of music waxed and waned through my teenage years, but God placed the irrefutable truth of my calling in my face by ending my athletic dreams and opening doors as a professional musician all within my Junior year of high school. Meanwhile, the eyes of my faith were expanding as my family travelled from church to church seeking a new home in various denominations. All the while, my violin came along and was played at Sunday morning services and Saturday evening weddings, in Anglican mass and Pentecostal praise, in English cathedrals and Japanese house churches.

In March of 2016 I met another Sophomore at UNC Greensboro, Tori Patterson. Little did I know at the time that she would straighten my path into ministry. The lovely young lady, who is now your Minister of Children and Youth, was already at that time several years into her ministerial journey and it did not take much foresight to realize her calling was to lead young people to the Lord. What might have taken some by surprise is that Tori would, over the course of nine years, convince this scattered artist that he was called to minister to the world through music.

As long a journey as it has taken me to arrive in Mount Holly, it is my privilege to be here with my family through marriage - and my family in Christ at First Baptist. I look forward to living out this story for many years to come.

-CF

If you are interested in joining the sanctuary choir or the handbell choir, volunteering with the children or youth choirs, or willing to share in your musical talents in any way, please feel free to reach out! Remember the final words from the book of Psalms:

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise him in his might heavens! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”

-Psalms 150:1 & 6

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals

8/13, 8/20, 8/27 all at 7pm in the Choir Room.

Handbells, Children and Youth Choirs will all resume in September!

Musical Notes

FBCJST Event—Christmas at the Billy Graham Library

On Saturday, December 6th, the Jubilant Seniors will enjoy dinner and The Journey of Faith Tour, which recounts the story of how God used Billy Graham to communicate the Gospel to approximately 215 million people worldwide. The tour also offers a glimpse into Billy and Ruth Graham's home life in the North Carolina mountains. We can also walk through the family homeplace where the evangelist grew up, browse Ruth's Attic Bookstore, and visit the gravesites of Billy and Ruth Graham in the Memorial Prayer Garden.

The library begins taking reservations around Oct 1st and tickets sell out quickly; therefore, we need a firm head count and payment no later than Sept 15th.

Additional details will follow in Midweek Updates



Personnel Committee Update

During the first half of 2025, thank you for your support in calling Cole Freeman as our Permanent Part-Time Minister of Music.

The next priority is recruiting an accompanist to succeed Christian Ko, who will be attending Wake Forest University to continue his studies. The committee acknowledges Christian's contributions to the music program and wishes him success in his future academic pursuits.

Janet Smith, Elaine Crosby, and Ginni Poole are recognized for their talented assistance and leadership with the Adult Choir, Youth Choir, and worship music during this period of transition. Their unselfish time and talents have proven to maintain the music excellence we have all grown to expect.

Thanks to all those who continue to work with our children in music and interpretive dance and their leadership in worship services.

Rebecca Hope joining our team as our Administrative Assistant in an interim capacity, has provided great gifts of experience and excellence in managing our general office and operation support. Her involvement is appreciated as she fulfills an important role within the church.

As efforts continue to fill permanent staff positions, the Personnel Committee will keep the congregation updated on our progress.

We appreciate your prayers and support in these endeavors.

The First Baptist Church of Mount Holly Personnel Committee

What's Happening at FBC

Operation Christmas Child 2025

For the month of August, we're asking everyone to bring **SMALL DOLLS & TRUCKS**.

To be sure everything will fit in the Shoeboxes, please bring small trucks such as Match-box or any similar size. Our goal for August is at least **125 DOLLS & 125 TRUCKS**.

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 16th, 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



FBC Missions

Memorials

Bible Fund

In Memory of Becky Kaylor by Aubrey and Brenda Horton

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Aubrey and Brenda Horton

In Memory of Mary Martin by Aubrey and Brenda Horton

In Memory of Mike Jones by Aubrey and Brenda Horton

Music Ministry

In Memory of Mary Martin by John and June Johnson

In Memory of Mary Martin by Henry and Barbara Miller

In Memory of Mary Martin by Scott and Suzanne Griffin

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Millie Hunsucker

Senior Adult Ministry

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Mary Lou Davis

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Mary Jane Hinkle

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Steve and Mary Sue Gurley

In Memory of Frances Gurley by the Fellowship Class

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Charles Horne

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Hoyt Almond

In Sympathy

The family of Jane Rhodes, on the death of her sister, Becky Kaylor.

The family of Scott Griffin, on the death of his sister, Jill Roach.

The family of Frances Gurley.

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

The family of Ann Huff and Gail Grice, on the death of their brother, Mike Jones.

Childcare Volunteers**Kingdom Sea-ers
(Infant Nursery)**

- 8/3 Gabby Cox & Colleen Grealis
 8/10 Gabby Cox & Maggie Pressley
 8/17 Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
 8/24 Gabby Cox & Sadie Hampton
 8/31 Gabby Cox & Sadie Hampton

**Kingdom Adventurers
(Toddlers & Preschool)**

- 8/3 Maggie Pressley & Laura Swartz
 8/10 Missi Fortsch & Emily Miller
 8/17 Gabby Cox & Maggie Pressley
 8/24 Ann Little & Maggie Pressley
 8/31 Cait Thomas & Sarah Hawkins

Children's Church

- 8/3 Stay In Worship
 8/10 Dickie & LuAnn Thomas
 8/17 Ginger & Randy McLean
 8/24 Teresa Painter & Carolyn Snead
 8/31 Youth

Church Security

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Todd Flowers | Aug 4 — Aug 10 |
| Ricky Wrenn | Aug 11— Aug 17 |
| David Wrenn | Aug 18— Aug 24 |
| Gary Farmer | Aug 25—Aug 31 |

August Anniversaries

- 8/1 Steve and Paige Sisk
 8/4 Mike and Ann Huff
 8/6 Joe and Amanda Haverty
 8/7 Carlos and Amanda Choren
 8/8 Carson and Molly Dean
 8/10 Carlton and Cecelia Broome
 8/17 Terry and Sheri Edge
 8/18 Aubrey and Brenda Horton
 8/25 John and Alice Jones
 8/25 Dewey and Alma Simms
 8/28 Jerry and Becky Causby
 8/29 Kevin and Mary Collier

Ushers and Greeters

- 8/3 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins,
Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff,
Brandon McCotter
 8/10 Dickie Thomas, Stephen
Abernethy, Cheryl Lineberger,
Jo Ann Rollins, Danny Snead
 8/17 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier,
Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy,
Cornelia Pressley
 8/24 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin,
Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin, Mike
Purser
 8/31 Denise Hawkins, Roger Hawkins,
Leah Allen, Josh Allen, Jax Allen,
Harper Allen

August Birthdays

- 8/1 Hilda Farmer
 8/2 Hannah Childers; Penny Hooks
 8/4 River Hawkins; Stephanie
Hilderbran
 8/5 Allie Sisk; April Stewart
 8/6 Nicole Smith
 8/8 John Mark Rollins; Libby Haley
 8/9 Coleston Hilderbran
 8/11 Paige Sisk; Drew Cook
 8/12 Diane Lucas
 8/13 Zoe Peterson; David Collier
 8/14 Gary Farmer; Carlton Broome;
Sheri Edge
 8/15 Jackie Hilderbran; Susan Jordan;
Sarah Dean
 8/16 Pam Miller
 8/17 Erica Withers
 8/18 Tommy Still
 8/19 Lillie Grace Hawkins; Heidi Swartz
 8/20 Jewel Cody-Drinkard
 8/21 Alma Simms
 8/22 Jonathan Teague
 8/25 Connor Sisk
 8/26 Beckham Clawson
 8/27 Daniel Hensley
 8/28 Ron Rogers; Eve Hensley
 8/29 Johnny Rollins; Morgan Ealey
 8/30 Lauren Huneycutt; Pamela Surratt



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
704-879-2027 (office)

Tori Freeman, Minister of Youth and Children
tori@fbcmountholly.org
704-879-2037 (office)

Cole Freeman, Minister of 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](https://www.instagram.com/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

July 2025

Total Receipts – \$61,468
Bldg. Fund – \$0
Bldg. Fund YTD – \$106,634
Other Designated – \$11,520
Other Designated YTD – \$153,930
2025 Budget – \$599,884
Avg Needs thru 6/30 – \$33,336
Budget Receipts YTD – \$49,990