



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 20, Issue 9
September 2025

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RETURN!

2:30—5:15 PM
Afterschool Program

5:15—5:45 PM
Children's Choirs Practice

5:15—6:15 PM
Dinner is Served

6:15—7:00 PM
Prayer/Bible Study*

7:00—8:00 PM
Adult Choir Practice

Join Us for Bible Study!

We're beginning a new series exploring the lives of remarkable people in Scripture. First up is Joseph—a man who went from favored son to pit, prison, and palace. Hope to see you here!



Please join us!
**Wednesday
Night Dinner**

5:15 - 6:15 pm

Special Notes on Dinner:

The salad bar opens at 5:15 pm and the hot meal will be served at 5:30 pm. No registration is required. A donation basket will be available with an electronic giving option.



Joseph Sold by his Brothers by Francesco Maffei



Animate Me
Chin Face
Face Melt FX
Clone Yourself
Face Swap
That 90s Film

If you recognize any of these phrases, you might just be addicted to the filter feature on your phone's camera. Since the culture-wide adoption of smartphones as a preferred way of communicating, cameras have become daily essentials that are always just a click away.

For the uninitiated, filters are used to add artistic elements to pictures before being posted for the world to see—or at least before it gets lost in your camera roll. Filters help people perfect the color, lighting, and feel of pictures. Some people can take it too far. “Facetuners” or “filter-addicts” are the names given to people who take the use of filters to the extreme. They apply so many filters that the original image is hard to see.

In our study of Scripture, something similar can happen. Whenever we open the Bible to uncover God's truth for us, each of us brings layers of past experiences and personal perspectives. From early childhood lessons to challenging theological questions, we all have filters that shape how we read God's Word. That's why we must always be careful—because the danger is that God's truth can get “filtered” into something He never intended.

That's what our new conversation, “**Misquoted**”, is all about. We'll take a closer look some verses that are often pulled out of context, quoted half-true, or even misused to fit an agenda. Together, we'll peel back the filters and discover the unfiltered message of Scripture.

If you've ever wondered, “**Does the Bible really say that?**” this is the perfect opportunity to find out. Join us as we step beyond the filters and let God's Word speak for itself—clear, powerful, and life-giving.

Pastor's Pen

MISQUOTED

September 7

Romans 8:28–30

More Than Self-Help

September 14

James 1:2–4

More Than a Feeling

September 21

Luke 6:20–26

More Than Charity

September 28

James 3:1–12

More Than Wishful Thinking



There are many stories that I could share with you about my time at home on maternity leave. Eventually, they will all make their way around but one that I think you might resonate with stands out above the rest.

Settling in to a new routine as a family of four has taken some time and we are still adjusting to life with a new baby. Gray fully expected Blake to be born running and was prepared to show him the ways of life. Imagine his surprise when he showed up to the hospital and there lay a tiny infant. When we brought Blake home from the hospital, he of course was fussy as most infants are. The first time he really cried for an extended period of time, Gray rounded the corner with his hands over his ears and said, “Mom, help him. He’s upset, it’s loud, and I am frustrated, please just help him.”

Isn’t that how we feel too? When life is loud, different from what we expect, and we become frustrated, we just want it to end. We want someone to help us and make the noise stop. We look to our Heavenly Father for reassurance that the noise is going to end, and normal life will resume. We don’t like our routines to be interrupted or our calm to become chaotic. Just like Gray, we are looking for a solution and we run to the person we know can remedy our situation. We should anyway. The Father will always take care of us if we let him. When life gets too loud, lean into God, that is where the quiet will be.

Children’s Ministry



9/3– Afterschool Program Begins

9/21– Parent Meeting @ 1pm

Illumination Youth Ministry



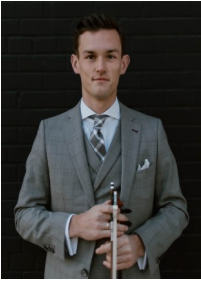
9/1 – Caswell Deposit Due

9/7–Youth Choir & Youth Begin

9/14– Student & Parent Meeting @ 1pm

9/28-Mentor Meeting

Youth & Children's Ministries



Notes From Cole

“Where words fail, music speaks.” - Hans Christian Anderson

As the new school year dawns, many of us are thrust back into familiar routines: car-pool drop-off and pick-ups, dance practices and marching band competitions, meal prepping and the Sunday Scaries. Our children struggle to wake up at 7:00am after an entire summer of sleeping till noon...or later, and then their teachers struggle to keep them awake until the afternoon bell.

Our summer full of weeks where we forgot what day it was and felt like we could spend all our time doing whatever we wanted to do is suddenly brought into bitter contrast with the chaotic blur of busyness and stress of “normal” life.

Or perhaps you are a retiree who reads this with a chuckle, a clear remembrance of those emotions from years ago, and the thought of “that’s why God gives you children when you’re young!”

Regardless of the season of life, it is easy to find ourselves so caught up with the goings-on in the world and our day-to-day grind that we lose sight of the bigger picture God has for our lives and we fail to hear God’s voice in the noise that surrounds us.

It is not a sin to be busy or to feel the weight of stress on our shoulders, but it is a failure to miss God’s still small voice in the noise.

“Turn your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding...then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.” Proverbs 2:2, 5

Obviously I am biased, but I think music can play a very special role in changing our state from blurred freneticism to calm focus on God’s will, even in the most trying of times.

How many times do you start your car to hear your favorite song on the radio and in that moment find yourself tapping on the wheel and forgetting the stress of the commute? How often do you scroll through Spotify to find just the right soundtrack for cleaning the kids toys at night and folding the laundry? How about when you sit down in the Sanctuary at church to hear Ms. Elaine play that first chord on the organ at 10:30 on a Sunday? Doesn’t everything seem to melt away when those notes enter your ears?

It is no wonder that Paul reminds us in Ephesians to “be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - Ephesians 5:18b-20

Musical Notes

Dates for September:

- Adult Choir Rehearsals every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Choir Room
- Handbell Rehearsals every Sunday afternoon at 4pm, except for 9/28
- Youth Choir Rehearsals every Sunday afternoon at 5pm in the Choir Room
- Children’s Choir Rehearsals every Wednesday afternoon from 5:15-5:45pm
- The Handbells will be leading in Worship on 9/28.

FBCJST Events

Due to early booking requirements, we have 3 opportunities for travel which require September registration:



October 18—Autumn at the Opry—Flat Rock

Playhouse

\$28 for each Senior plus lunch at a TBD restaurant.

The Jubilant Senior Budget will pay \$45 for each ticket.

REGISTRATION CLOSES SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

September 27—Apple Picking—Justus Orchard, Hendersonville

No cost except for lunch at Flat Rock Wood Room. See website for menu & pricing.

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

December 6—Christmas at the Library—Dinner & Tour (Billy Graham Library)

\$15 for each Senior

The Jubilant Senior Budget will pay \$20 for each ticket.

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

PLEASE NOTE: December 6 is subject to availability at time of reservation.

Reservations are not accepted until October 1. We may not be able to secure the

December 6 date. If that happens, we will need to choose an alternate date. WE WILL

HOLD YOUR CHECKS until reservation is confirmed.

We hope you will choose to join us on all 3 excursions. For additional info, please see Jacquey Denison, Linda Smith, Nancy Wrenn or Pam Surratt.

Personnel Committee Update

The Personnel Committee is currently seeking candidates for our church accompanist position. We are in the interview phase of this process and are encouraged about the future as we move as quickly as possible to fill this vacancy.

We would like to acknowledge the volunteers who consistently support the music programs directed by Cole. The dedication and expertise of these music leaders are essential to maintaining the high quality of our music program, which we experience each week.

Rebecca Hope continues to perform excellently as the Administrative Assistant, filling this role in an interim scenario. She provides great support to our church ministries and staff operations.

Please keep us in your prayers as we work to fill these roles with permanent placements.

Memorials

Library Fund

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Verna Jo Ellis

Senior Adult Ministry

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Alice Jones

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Suzanne Green

What's Happening at FBC

Operation Christmas Child 2025

For the month of September, we're encouraging everyone to contribute **EXTRA COINS**, or donate by **CHECK** or **ONLINE** to help cover the expenses of storage, local and international shipping, handling, and tracking our shoeboxes. OCC covers some of these costs; our donation is only \$10 per Shoebox.

You will find empty medicine bottles on our table in The Gathering Place. Please take one or more home to add your **EXTRA COINS**.

Please Note:

CHECKS—must be payable to FBCMH with the notation OCC Shoebox Expenses

ONLINE—please indicate that the donation is for OCC Shoebox Expenses

A bin is available in The Gathering place with an OCC sign requesting that you place your filled MEDICINE BOTTLES in it.

Our Packing Party is Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 p.m. We plan to fill 250 Shoeboxes. Your children and grandchildren are encouraged to join us to help fill shoeboxes.

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



FBC Missions



Please join us!
Wednesday
Night Dinner



5:15 - 6:15 pm



September 3

Spaghetti

September 10

Hot Dogs

September 17

Super Baked Potato

September 24

Souper Night

The Salad Bar is available every week

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

- 9/7 Gabby Cox & Colleen Grealis
 9/14 Gabby Cox & Maggie Pressley
 9/21 Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
 9/28 Gabby Cox & Sadie Hampton

**Kingdom Adventurers
(Toddlers & Preschool)**

- 9/7 Maggie Pressley & Laura Swartz
 9/14 Missi Fortsch & Emily Miller
 9/21 Gabby Cox & Maggie Pressley
 9/28 Ann Little & Maggie Pressley

Children's Church

- 9/7 Stay In Worship
 9/14 Dickie & LuAnn Thomas
 9/21 Ginger & Randy McLean
 9/28 Teresa Painter & Carolyn Snead

Church Security

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Keith Piercy | Sept 1 — Sept 7 |
| Ken Fortsch | Sept 8 — Sept 14 |
| Richard Flowers | Sept 15 — Sept 21 |
| Brian Smith | Sept 22 — Sept 28 |
| Hunter Ealey | Sept 29 — Oct 5 |

September Anniversaries

- 9/1 Josh and Celeste Orr
 9/3 Bill and Anne Gary
 9/3 Lanny Ray and Lancy Rhyne
 9/25 Phillip Elting and
 Brooke Shepherd Elting
 9/28 Bill and Linda Piercy
 9/30 Brandon and MacKenzie Greene

Ushers and Greeters

- 9/7 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins,
 Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff,
 Brandon McCotter
- 9/14 Dickie Thomas, Stephen
 Abernethy, Cheryl Lineberger,
 Jo Ann Rollins, Danny Snead
- 9/21 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier,
 Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy,
 Cornelia Pressley
- 9/28 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin,
 Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin, Mike
 Purser

September Birthdays

- 9/2 Randy McLean; Ayden Abernathy
 9/3 Ella Hilderbran; Ethan Hilderbran
 9/4 Erin Crowson
 9/6 Jerry Causby
 9/7 Meredith Gaddis
 9/8 Scott Poole; Lanny Ray;
 Anna Czekaj
 9/9 Mary Collier; Karen Featherstone;
 Jimmy Little
 9/11 Spencer Childers
 9/14 Stephen Morton
 9/15 Mandy Missak; Sheri Ratliff
 9/17 Everleigh Hooks
 9/19 Clay Snead; Oliver Hawkins
 9/22 Ava Sisk
 9/23 Wade McLain; Barry Still
 9/24 Evie Hudome
 9/25 Caroline Czekaj
 9/26 Pam Burleson; Beverly Caldwell;
 Chandler Burleson
 9/27 Becky Hodges
 9/29 Ruth Szupiany
 9/30 Matt Collier

First Baptist Church

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Jeff Allen, Pastor

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704-879-2037 (office)

Cole Freeman, Minister of Music

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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 – \$39,815
Bldg. Fund – \$100
Bldg. Fund YTD – \$207,738
Other Designated – \$6,472
Other Designated YTD – \$159,645
2025 Budget – \$599,884
Avg Needs thru 7/31 – \$349,932
Budget Receipts YTD – \$287,291