



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 20, Issue 10
October 2025

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly

GETTING READY FOR THE FALL

ThanksLoving Update

36 Years!!! 36 Years!!! Oh my! ThanksLoving has been a part of our FBC mission since Hurricane Hugo! I was 36 when this ministry began!

So many people come to mind who have made this effort sustainable over the years, which provides a meal for those in need on Thanksgiving Day. And I don't mean just those with food insecurity or homelessness. But also, those in need of fellowship due to loneliness and recognizing our service/emergency workers who find themselves separated from their families by having to work on Thanksgiving.

We have so many wonderful memories of those we served and those who have served. Aubrey Horton and his famous dressing, our grill master Mr. G whose job has grown to grilling 60-yard birds (turkeys!) and help manage the kitchen team, and all the volunteers that help cook, serve, and clean up.

It is my hope others will step up this year to be trained in **Leadership Roles** as our current team ages out. To get involved in planning, promoting, organizing, ordering, preparing, and leading this effort.

We need **You** to be involved if this ministry is to continue. Be in prayer about this ministry and your role. If interested, **please contact me or Scott Griffin.**

With love and **ThanksLoving!**
Bill Piercy and the **ThanksLoving Team**





Pastor's Den

Updates and Notes

To better inform you about events at FBC, we are updating our newsletter. Beginning next month, the newsletter will be redesigned for brevity to increase engagement. Consequently, information such as volunteer schedules will be moved to other forms of communication, and the birthday/anniversary list will be made available by contacting Rebecca Hope in the office.

Rest assured, core ministry information will continue to be featured, including our worship focus, various ministry opportunities, and the financial report. Staying up-to-date is vital for supporting our ministry with both our presence, our support, and our finances. We strongly encourage you to keep reading this month and every month moving forward.

Finding Real Connection in a Digital World

How many hours a day do you spend looking at a screen? Our devices promise endless connection, yet we live in a world where it's surprisingly easy to feel all alone. Studies have linked high social media use to increased rates of anxiety and other mental health struggles. The same can be seen across the generations.

This creates a tension for Christians. Technology offers unlimited connections, but often with limited depth. It can give us an illusion of independence, making it harder to recognize the areas where we truly need to rely on God. The constant stream of information and distraction can be a silent killer of our faith.

This October, we invite you to join us for a conversation called “**Discipleship in the Digital Age.**” A strong faith doesn't happen by accident; no one drifts toward holiness. Together, we will explore how to treat technology as a tool for our spiritual good. We will discuss forming habits that use technology to help us grow, rather than pull us apart.

This series is for anyone who has ever felt distracted by their phone, lonely while scrolling social media, or who simply wants to be more intentional deepening their walk with Christ in a fast-paced world.

Join us every Sunday in October as we learn to walk as Christ-followers in the digital age.



October 5
Philippians 4:6–7

**Connected, but
Not Known**

October 12
2 Corinthians 12:9–10

**When Independence
Becomes Isolation**

October 19
1 John 2:15–17

Click to Commit

October 26
2 Peter 1:5–8

**Long-Term Faith in a
Short-Attention World**



Trunk or Treat has always been one of my favorite events. There's something special about watching our church come together in service to our community through fun, laughter, and fellowship. I especially love seeing the faces of the children light up as they walk from car to car, play games, and eat entirely *too* much candy!

As a child, I grew up attending something very similar, our church's Fall Festival. I remember tossing rings to hook two-liters (a game my parents weren't thrilled I was so good at!), cake walks, and proudly wearing handmade costumes my Nana lovingly made just for me. But most of all, I remember the joy that filled the air. You could feel it from a mile away. There's something powerful about coming together in a spirit of community. We need that. I think we *crave* that. Getting outside the walls of our homes, maybe even stepping outside our comfort zones, just to be with others and share in something bigger than ourselves.

I grew up at First Baptist Belmont, and the sense of belonging we had there when I was young was something I missed for a long time, until I came here. The love this church has for one another is truly unmatched. Just a few weeks ago, a visitor told me, *"This church is just so kind and loving. You've already embraced me with open arms, and you don't even know me."* Her words filled me with pride and gratitude.

So, I hope you'll consider being part of Trunk or Treat this year—whether by decorating a trunk, handing out candy, helping with games, or simply greeting people as they arrive. Every role matters. Our fellowship is what makes this church feel like home, and I'm so thankful to each of you for making *me* feel at home, even though I'm no longer new.

Children's Ministry



10/19– Trunk or Treat– 5pm-7pm

Illumination Youth Ministry



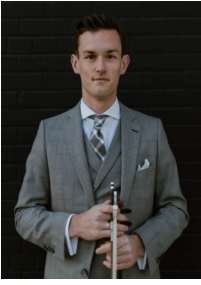
10/15– Dinner Fundraiser

10/19– No Youth: Help at Trunk or Treat

10/24-10/26– Caswell Retreat

10/26– No Youth: Youth @ Caswell

Youth & Children's Ministries



Notes From Cole

“Mankind is always changing; God’s truth stands forever. And He has many ways of speaking to us, regardless of the human instruments he uses.” - Thomas Aquinas

In times such as the last several weeks filled with tragedies, both local and abroad, we find ourselves looking for a constant in the world. Something that stays the same amidst the chaos of our lives. How easily we forget that God’s truth is that constant. Scripture reminds us continually of God’s steadfastness:

“Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.” - Deuteronomy 7:9

The most striking part of Aquinas’ reminder is the second half of the above quote. The fact that in addition to the truth we find in God’s Word, we also find evidence of His presence in the other humans around us, especially those in the Church. How often we are reminded of God’s love by Pastor Jeff’s sermons, conversations in Sunday School, or even simply a hug during the passing of the peace. But perhaps even more noticeable is the subtle implication in that simple quote that *we* are to be the hands and feet of Christ; we are to be the ones who spread his Truth:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” - Ephesians 2:10

So, as we enter into this fall season of holidays and gatherings, let us be mindful of how we are a reminder to others of God’s presence in the world, just as they can be to us.

On a similar note, if you feel God leading you to share His love through a musical or artistic talent, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. First Baptist continues to be a sanctuary for nurturing gifts and talents of all types. We would love to share in yours.

Musical Notes

Dates for October

- Adult Choir Rehearsals every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Choir Room
 - Handbell Rehearsals every Sunday afternoon at 4pm, except for 10/05 & 10/26
 - Youth Choir Rehearsals every Sunday afternoon at 5pm, except for 10/26
 - Children’s Choir Rehearsals every Wednesday afternoon from 5:15-5:45p.m.
 - The Youth Choir will be leading in Worship on 10/5
 - The Children’s Choirs will be leading in Worship on 10/19
-

FBCJST Event—Community Wide Lunch

November 15—12:00 p.m.

Your friends, neighbors and you are invited to join us for fun, food and entertainment.

The entertainment will be the trio “Mercy on Me”
Food will be catered by The Sports Page Grill

Registration is required for you and your guests so we can ensure plenty of food for everyone.

Registration begins Sunday, October 5.

Questions? See Jacquely Denison, Linda Smith, Nancy Wrenn or Pam Surratt



Personnel Committee Update

As of September 14th, our staff is once again complete for the first time since December 31, 2024. The recruitment process was challenging, but we are pleased that Cole, Rebecca, and Sheila are on board, contributing in their new roles within our church.

In October, we will formally recognize our Pastoral staff, Jeff and Tori, for their dedicated service here at First Baptist Church. Their contributions have been highly valued, and they merit our gratitude for their commitment and professionalism. The official recognition will take place on Sunday, October 12th, during morning worship. Your attendance and support are greatly appreciated.

First Baptist Church Mount Holly Personnel Committee

Library Contributions

The following books have been placed in the church library by Verna Jo Ellis:

The Happiness Recipe: A Powerful Guide to Living What Matters
In Memory of Frances Gurley

Trusting God with Every Breath: Find Hope for the Ups and Downs of Life
In Memory of Mary Martin

Worthy: How to Believe You are Enough and Transform Your Life
In Honor of Susan Gurley



What's Happening at FBC

Operation Christmas Child 2025

For the month of October, we're asking everyone to bring **SOCKS OF ALL SIZES FROM TWO YEARS OLD TO 14 YEARS OLD**. The more colorful, the better (no camouflage or war-related, please). Our goal for October is 250 pairs of Girl Socks and 250 pairs of Boy Socks, so we can include at least 2 in EVERY Shoebox.

A bin is available in the Gathering place with an OCC sign requesting that you place your filled **SOCKS** in it.

Our Packing Party is Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 p.m. Due to your generosity throughout the year, we plan to fill 250 shoeboxes. Your children and grandchildren are encouraged to join us as we fill those Shoeboxes!

Please pray for the children who will receive a Shoebox. This may be the only gift they have ever received. Pray they will enroll in "The Greatest Journey", a 12-week course about Jesus, His disciples, and others who followed Him. Pray that the children will graduate, receive a certificate, and a New Testament, and have a fantastic celebration event.

Kay Miller MacIntosh, OCC Project Leader

Questions? You may reach Kay at

980-253-7180 or

kaymmacintosh@hotmail.com



FBC Missions



Please join us!

**Wednesday
Night Dinner**





5:15 - 6:15 pm

October 1	Pot Luck
October 8	BBQ
October 15	Surprise (Youth Fundraiser)
October 22	Spaghetti
October 29	Hot Dogs

The Salad Bar is available every week

Memorials

Music Ministry

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Linda Bain

Senior Adult Ministry

In Memory of Frances Gurley by Nancy Womack

Welcome, New Members

**We are excited to welcome
the following new members
to FBCMH:**

Judy Dennis

Joshua Miller

Emily Miller

Jackson Miller

Congratulations!

Shepherd Vance McCumbee was born on September 19. Proud parents are Jordan and Caroline McCumbee

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

10/5 Sadie Hampton & Gabby Cox

10/12 Sadie Hampton & Gabby Cox

10/19 Cheryl Lineberger & Jo Ann Rollins

10/26 Sadie Hampton & Gabby Cox

**Kingdom Adventurers
(Toddlers & Preschool)**

10/5 Maggie Pressley & Melissa Green

10/12 Maggie Pressley & Sadie Hampton

10/19 Maggie Pressley & Emily Miller

10/26 Maggie Pressley & Lauren Huneycutt

Children's Church

10/5 Children Stay in Worship

10/12 Youth

10/19 Randy & Ginger McLean

10/26 Carolyn Snead & Teressa Painter

Ushers and Greeters

10/5 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins,
Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff,
Brandon McCotter

10/12 Dickie Thomas, Stephen Abernethy,
Cheryl Lineberger, Jo Ann Rollins,
Danny Snead

10/19 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier,
Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy,
Cornelia Pressley

10/26 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin,
Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin, Mike
Purser

Church Security

Tami Piercy Oct 06 — Oct 12

Scott Poole Oct 13 — Oct 19

Todd Flowers Oct 20 — Oct 26

Ricky Wrenn Oct 27 — Nov 02

October Anniversaries

10/02 Charles and Linda Smith

10/15 Chris and Amanda Hensley

October Birthdays

10/2 Glenda Rollins; Jennifer Childers;
Huntington Hawkins

10/4 Katherine Cliatt

10/5 Matt Richardson; Judy Rollins

10/6 Kelly Lancaster

10/7 Becky Causby; Debbie Posa

10/8 Blake Harrison

10/9 Jane Collier

10/11 Joe Haverty

10/14 Larry Orren; Dominic MacIntosh

10/16 Annette Williams

10/17 Lib Wiles

10/18 Mark Batchelor; Steve Hilderbran;
Kathy Teague; Angela McLain;
Jessica Posa; Josh Winn

10/20 Alice Jones; Lou Ann Russell

10/23 Jane Rhodes; Linda Richardson

10/24 Daniel Haverty

10/26 Carlos Choren

10/27 Jacob Batchelor; Anna Batchelor;
Dickie Thomas; Cornelia Pressley;
Mackenzie Greene

10/28 Kasey Petersen; Molly Dean;
Janice Still

10/31 Cameron Clawson

Memorials / Volunteers / Birthday Anniversaries

First Baptist Church

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Tori Freeman, Minister of Youth and Children
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704-879-2037 (office)

Cole Freeman, Minister of Music
cole@fbcmountholly.org

Rebecca Hope, Administrative Assistant
rebecca@fbcmountholly.org
704-879-2062 (office)

Sheila McDaniel, Church Accompanist
smcdano3@gmail.com

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

August 2025

Total Receipts – \$148,724
Bldg. Fund – \$100
Bldg. Fund YTD – \$207,838
Other Designated – \$114,241
Other Designated YTD – \$274,643
2025 Budget – \$599,884
Avg Needs thru 8/31 – \$399,923
Budget Receipts YTD – \$321,017