



THE MESSENGER

November 2025



Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving...

Psalm 95:1-2 (NIV)

Smiles and memories being made at Thanksgiving 2024

THANKSLOVING FEAST '25

Thirty-six years ago, our THANKSLOVING FEAST began as an act of hospitality after Hurricane Hugo struck Mount Holly. What started with 40 meals in 1989 has grown into a mission that now serves more than 400 meals each Thanksgiving – freely offered to any who seek food or fellowship.

Meals are delivered to a local retirement community, Holy Angels staff serving the severely handicapped, the homeless, and local first responders. Many takeout meals also go to those connected with the Community Relief Organization (CRO). Others are invited to dine in our fellowship hall, where we serve them restaurant-style – offering food and friendship to those who might otherwise eat alone.

// What started with 40 meals in 1989 has grown into a mission that now serves more than 400 meals each Thanksgiving. //

This ministry is entirely funded through designated offerings, not the church budget. If you'd like to give, please make checks payable to First Baptist Church and mark them THANKSLOVING FEAST. Donations can be given online as well. Your donations help purchase over 60 turkey breasts (smoked on the church's smoker) and the ingredients for traditional side dishes. The total cost typically runs \$2,500-\$3,000.

(continued on next page)

Upcoming Schedule

Sundays

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Graceful Praise Rehearsal*
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts*
- 4:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Illumination Student Ministry

* Does not meet each week; see leaders for details

Wednesdays

- 2:30 p.m. Afterschool Program
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper
- 6:15 p.m. Children's Choirs
- 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study
- Adult Choir Rehearsal

Special Events

- Nov. 2, 10:30 a.m. All Saints Sunday
- Nov. 15, 12:00 p.m. JS Community Lunch
- Nov. 16, 2:00 p.m. OCC Boxing Party
- Nov. 27, 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Feast



A VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

by Jeff Allen
Pastor
jeff@fbcmountholly.org

"The phrases - "thank you", "yes, ma'am", and "no, sir" - were as common as sweet tea and NC State red growing up in our Garner, NC home. If those words were not used properly on time, a reminder was quick and clear. The older I get, the more I understand the power of this valuable lesson. Studies show that saying "thank you" offers a healthy view on life. It makes life better for everybody.

While in grad school, I came to respect the Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, who had an powerful perspective on the idea of gratitude. In his study of God's grace as experienced in Jesus, Barth concluded the nature of God's grace should always lead us to a life defined by joy. Even on the most difficult of days, allowing joy to guide our response to life is the most faithful response to the goodness of God.

Over the Sundays leading to Thanksgiving, we will look at four different times Jesus showed gratitude. He has much to teach us. I look forward to our conversation.



"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude."
Karl Barth

Communication Updates

Our newsletter design aims to be both familiar and new, celebrating church ministry opportunities. While some items previously included, like birthday lists and volunteer schedules, have changed format, they are still available. For questions or help, contact Rebecca Hope at rebecca@fbcmountholly.org.

from the Front Page

If you'd like to donate a dessert, please bring it to the church on Wednesday before Thanksgiving (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.) or Thanksgiving morning.

We will serve meals from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Sign up sheets will be available in the gathering area and classrooms for those who wish to serve, fill plates, or help clean up.

In Luke 14:16-24, Jesus tells of a great banquet where all were invited to fill the table - especially the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. As Jesus said in verse 14, those who serve others "will be blessed."

Let's bless our community and make this year's GREAT BANQUET the best ever!

Love you, mean it!
The THANKSLOVING Team

Ministry Opportunity Thanksloving November 27

We are serving meals to the community for Thanksgiving, and need your help.

Here is how you can serve:

- Servers
- Greeters
- Delivery
- Clean-up
- Desserts
- Financial Support

Look for the signup at church or contact Bill Piercy/Scott Griffin.



Cook crew (above)/Take out crew (below)





TELLING STORIES

by Tori Freeman
Minister of Youth and Children
tori@fbcmoutholly.org

I have many things to be thankful for but one that stands out above the rest is you, "I thank my God every time I remember you." The last few months have reminded me why God called me to First Baptist in the first place. I have witnessed firsthand the way that you serve those in our church and those in our community.

Last month, we hosted the largest Trunk or Treat that we have ever had. There were hundreds of people from our community that attended and I heard them saying the same thing, "Thank you so much for having us, everyone is so kind." It makes me proud that people see the kindness that this church so freely offers. I pray that they see our hearts, too.



May we always have a heart for serving others. As we prepare to host the annual Thanksgiving Feast, may we remember that God has called us to be a light in this community.

**“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever.”
Psalm 107:1 (NIV)**

“True happiness is to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future, not to amuse ourselves with either hopes or fears, but to rest satisfied with what we have, which is sufficient, for he that is so wants nothing.”

Seneca



MUSIC NOTES

by Cole Freeman
Minister of Music
cole@fbcmoutholly.org

As we enter the holiday season, we enter into a time to be thankful for all that we have been blessed with and all that we may share with those around us. During this season, let us take the opportunity to open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the beauty of God’s creation in all of the harmonies of life.

If you have an artistic talent or calling of any manner, visual or performing, that you feel called to share in this season, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. We would love to share in God’s gifts with you, whether it be within the church walls or in the greater community.



**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)**

Kingdom Kids
presents

DELIVERING CHRISTMAS

A disgruntled delivery man is forced to work on Christmas Eve. As he delivers presents, he discovers that the true gifts of Christmas are greater and more important than anything he can bring in a package.

**Sunday, December 7
10:30 a.m.**

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**Jubilant Seniors
Community-Wide Lunch**
November 15, 12:00 p.m.

Join us for this brand new event!

Entertainment: Mercy on Us

Food: The Sports Page Grill

Registration: Open now!

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



**Operation Christmas Child
Packing Party**
November 16, 2:00 p.m.

All ages are welcome to come help fill 250 shoeboxes.

We also need help from 2 drivers to transport boxes from our church on Sunday, November 23 at 2:00 p.m.



**Angel Tree
Donations begin**
November 2!

Angels will be available on the Angel Tree on November 2. We ask that you make a donation to the Angel Tree Fund instead of buying presents. This will allow us to help the family more effectively. **Donations may be made in worship, the office, or online!**

Memorials

In Memory of Ray Branum by Aubrey and Brenda Horton to The Bible Fund

September Finances Update

September Receipts	\$31,529
September Expenses	\$52,686
Actual Expenses YTD	\$418,494
Receipts YTD	\$357,438
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$449,913
Annual Budget	\$599,884

Christmas Cards for Homebound Ministry Deadline is December 7

Help us bless our Homebound Members and Seniors this Christmas! We are collecting cards to be delivered with a **Poinsettia** and a **bag of goodies**.

Please place your cards in the labeled box in the Gathering Area by **Dec. 7**.

A Few Guidelines:

- One card from your family for each person/couple on the list.
- Use names only on the envelopes; addresses are not needed.
- Please do not seal the envelopes.
- Handmade cards from children are a special treat!

Homebound Members

Dale Barrow
Jack Barnes
Frances Black
Jerry & Becky Causby
Mary Lou Davis
Peggy Garrett
Elsie Hilderbran
John & Alice Jones
Pat Kinney
Evelyn Rodden
Dickie & Luann Thomas
Lib Wiles
Dr. Bob & Virginia Winecoff



First Baptist Church of Mount Holly



Contact Information

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Staff

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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