



THE MESSENGER

October 2026



Photo by [Roman Grachev](#) on [Unsplash.com](#)

...I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Jude 3

Upcoming Schedule

Sundays

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship
3:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts*
4:00 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
5:30 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 Dinner
	Children's Choirs
6:15 p.m.	Prayer/Bible Study
7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal

October Events

Oct 4	World Communion Sunday
Oct 11, 9:00 a.m.	Journey to Jubilee Breakfast
Oct 14	OCC Wednesday Night Supper Fundraiser
Oct 24	Children's Music & Missions Day
Oct 25, 5:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, WILL YOU HELP GATHER IT?

Thirty-seven years and counting! Our THANKSLOVING FEAST has grown from 40 meals served the first year to more than 400 last year. As the fields turn gold this October, we're preparing for another harvest of love – and we need workers.

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). Every Thanksgiving, that harvest reaches beyond our walls. Here is how you can help gather the harvest...

Where You Can Help

- **Serve** – Fill plates, deliver meals, greet guests, and clean up. Sign-up sheets will be in the gathering area and classrooms.
- **Bake** – Donated desserts are always welcome. Bring them to the church Wednesday before Thanksgiving (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) or Thanksgiving morning.
- **Give** – The feast is funded entirely through designated offerings, not the church budget. Gifts help purchase 60 turkey breasts, smoked on the church's smoker, plus ingredients for traditional side dishes. Expected costs: \$4,000-\$5,000. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church, marked THANKSLOVING FEAST, or give [online](#).

A Table Worth Filling

In Luke 14, Jesus tells of a great banquet where the host sends servants out to fill every seat. He says, "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed" (Luke 14:13-14). This fall, let's be the servants who go out and gather – so no seat at our GREAT BANQUET sits empty.

Sign up this month. The harvest is ready.



A VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

by Jeff Allen

Pastor

jeff@fbcmountholly.org

Jesus knew his listeners understood harvest. When he told parables of sowers and seeds, of wheat and weeds, of soil that receives the Word, he was speaking to people whose lives ran on the rhythm of planting and reaping. They knew what every farmer still knows today: a harvest is never an accident. It is the fruit of what has been tended, watered, and rooted for a very long time. Long before the basket is full, someone was faithful in the field.

"A harvest is never an accident. It is the fruit of what has been tended, watered, and rooted for a very long time."

That is why we are spending these weeks confessing together what we believe. Our sermon series "We Believe" is not merely an intellectual exercise; it is soul work. Every truth of the Apostles' Creed we speak aloud – about the Father, about the Son who was crucified and raised, about the Spirit who fills the church – is a seed planted in the soil of our lives together as a congregation.



And what grows from that soil is the harvest Paul names in Galatians: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The fruit of the Spirit is not manufactured by trying harder. It is grown, slowly and surely, in hearts rooted in what is true.

So keep tending your soul this October. Show up on Sunday. Speak the creed together. Unite in words of prayer. The harvest is coming – and it will be beautiful.



Ministry Spotlight

Children's Ministry Team

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" – and that welcome is lived out every week at FBC through our Children's Ministry Team.

This dedicated group works to coordinate a dynamic environment where our children can discover God's love and take their first steps as followers of Jesus. The team's creativity, energy, and heart help shape the spiritual foundation of our children.

Nurturing children in faith is one of the most important works a church can do – and it's a gift to our kids, their families and our whole congregation.

To the team: Thank you – Brooke Elting (chair), Tanner Hawkins, Virginia Hoffman, Lauren Huneycutt, Emily Miller, John Petersen, and Kasey Petersen – for pouring your time, love, and creativity into the children of our church family.

To the congregation: Take a moment to thank a team member when you see one. Pray for our children and those who serve them. And if you'd like to be part of this joyful ministry, reach out to Brooke to learn more.



TELLING STORIES

by Tori Freeman
Minister of Youth and Children
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The author Liz Curtis Higgs comes to mind when I think about harvest. She wrote "The Parable of the Lily", and "The Parable of the Sunflower".

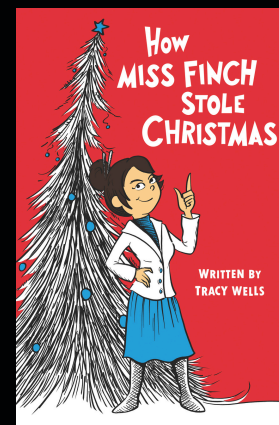
In the Parable of the Lily, the little girl gets a mysterious package one day, and opens an "ugly" bulb. Disappointed by the package, she sits it on a shelf in the cellar and forgets about it. She finds it later and throws it out, only to discover on Easter morning that it became a beautiful Lily because her father continued to water and care for it.

How often does God do the same for us? Our reap is better than what we sowed because God continued to work in the background even when we did not.

In "The Parable of the Sunflower", the farmer's son plants sunflowers with the goal of growing stalks that will reach all the way to Heaven. He works tirelessly to care for his sunflowers. He becomes incredibly saddened when the sunflowers do not survive the winter. The farmer helps him to see the harvest that is found in all the seeds that are left behind to replant.

Our harvest may not always look like we want it to. An "ugly" bulb may not yield anything exciting or plentiful for a while, but we know that regardless of what the harvest looks like, God calls us to keep working the fields. The job is not done. We have to sow the seeds for others to know God is.

**// We have to sow the seeds
for others to know God is. //**



Children's Sunday
December 6th

How Miss Finch Stole Christmas

*Miss Elvira Finch hates Christmas...
When she discovers a loophole in
Newville's town charter, she vows
to rid the town of Christmas..
But an encounter with Gabby Gazoo
helps Miss Finch discover there
may be more to Christmas
than she ever imagined.*



It might seem far away now, but
Christmas will be here before you
know it!

The choir is beginning its
preparation for our Christmas
Cantata each Wednesday evening
at 7pm, beginning on September
30th, until December 9th.

If you used to sing in an ensemble,
have been thinking about giving
choir a try, or just love belting out
those Christmas tunes along with
the radio, we would love to have
you join us!



MUSIC NOTES

by Cole Freeman
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As I thought about how to relate
our Messenger's October "Harvest"
theme to music, I found myself
reminded of the many hymns we
sing that evoke images of the
Lord's harvest. Below are some of
my favorites:

"Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home! All
is safely gathered in ere the
winter storms begin. God, our
Maker, doth provide for our wants
to be supplied. Come to God's own
temple, come, raise the song of
harvest home."

"We ourselves are God's own field,
Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown."

"Sowing in the morning, sowing
seeds of kindness, sowing in the
noontide and the dewy eve;
waiting for the harvest and the
time of reaping— we shall come
rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."

"For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God. For the good we
all inherit, thanks be to God. For
the wonders that astound us, for
the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God."

As we sing these and other hymns
each Sunday morning, let us take
the time to truly internalize the
text and open our hearts to the
message God has for us through
song.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY WEDNESDAY • 5:15 P.M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER



Wednesday Night Dinner 5:15 PM

Oct 7 - Sweet Breakfast Surprise
Oct 14 - Hot Dog Night
Oct 21 - Mr. G's Max Baked Potatoes
Oct 28 - Homemade Baked Ziti
Salad Bar is available every week



FBCJST Event Stanley Creek Opry Lincolnton, NC

Saturday, October 10
11:45 AM

Registration has closed
Please see emails for further details

Coed VOLLEYBALL



October Schedule

Monday, October 5 @ 8:30 PM
Monday, October 12 @ 6:30 PM
Monday, October 19 @ 6:30 PM
Monday, October 26 @ 6:30 PM

All games played at FBC Stanley

October OCC Item

New Children's Underwear

Goal = 600

Please avoid camouflage or war-themed designs; keep tags intact.



New underwear can make a big difference in a child's life!

KAY MACINTOSH: 980-253-7180
KAYMACINTOSH@HOTMAIL.COM

In Sympathy

Our condolences go out to Becky Causby and family on the death of her husband, Jerry Causby.

Our condolences go out to the family of Jack Barnes.

August Finances Update

August Receipts	\$32,420
August Expenses	\$46,665
Receipts YTD	\$361,755
Actual Expenses YTD	\$345,865
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$358,601
Annual Budget	\$537,901

Donations

In Memory of Jane Collins to Operation Christmas Child.

In Memory of Jerry Causby by Mary Jane Hinkle to Thanksloving.

In Memory of Jack Barnes by Mary Jane Hinkle to Senior Adult Ministry.

In Memory of Jerry Causby by the Fellowship Sunday School Class to the Operating Budget.

In Memory of Jerry Causby by Ken & Elaine Crosby to the Operating Budget.

In Memory of Jerry Causby by Johnny & Judy Rollins to the Operating Budget.

In Memory of Jerry Causby by Aubrey & Brenda Horton to the Bible Fund.



First Baptist Church of Mount Holly



Contact Information

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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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