



October 2023

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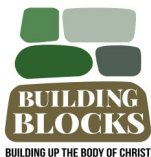


International Love Feast

Sunday, October 1

(Immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall)

(Details inside)



October/November Building Blocks

(Details inside)



Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 22

(Details inside)



Update: Senior Pastor Search Committee

(Details inside)



Acts 16 speaks of the Apostle Paul's desire to go to Asia Minor (current day Turkey) to share/spread the Gospel. Paul and Timothy ...went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia and ...they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. (Acts 16:6-8 NRSV). Things did not turn out like Paul wanted or imagined, did it? However, Paul and Timothy, empowered by God's Holy Spirit were able to do amazing ministry.

Likewise, things do not always turn out like we want, think, or hope that they will. Two plus months ago, I never dreamed that beginning in September I would be serving as your Interim Senior Pastor. Things were going along well. The Transition Team was nearing the end of their work. The Senior Pastor Search Committee was in the process of being nominated and elected. Then, the unimaginable happened. Like you, I was utterly stunned, shocked, and deeply saddened by the news of Carlton's death. This is not what Carlton's family, what this church, or what I "signed" up for. This is not how it was supposed to turn out.

However, I continue to affirm Romans 8:28 (NRSV). *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

First, you and I are called according to God's purpose. As followers of Jesus, we have a calling, as Jesus reminded first century and twenty-first century disciples, *'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* *The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* *There is no other commandment greater than these.* (Mark 12:30-31 NRSV)

Second, the Romans scripture DOES NOT say that everything that happens to us individually and/or corporately is "good." No, it states that God is at work through the joy, grief, good, bad, and everything else in our lives to somehow, some way, bring some kind of healing and good. FBC has been experiencing loss and grief. My prayer is that we will allow God to work in our midst to bring redemption, healing, and yes, somehow, good. I am honored to be on this journey with you. Let's pray for each other, offer grace to each other, and love each other authentically as Jesus calls us to do. Like Paul and Timothy, who did amazing ministry even when things didn't turn out like they wanted, I believe that FBC will continue to do amazing ministry in Greenwood and beyond.

Layne Smith



Update: Pastor Search Committee

The Pastor Search Committee participated in a six-hour retreat Sunday afternoon, September 17. During the meeting, the committee discussed the search and call process. The following individuals were selected leaders of the committee.

- Chair: Tommy Stoddard
- Vice Chair: Nan Smith
- Recording Secretary: Beth Hardage
- Communications: Dianna Glymph and Russell Martin

On Sunday, September 24 the committee finalized a congregational survey that will be used to create a Pastor Profile. The survey is available through the Engage page of the church website. Hard copies are available in the church office or they can be mailed to members on request.

The Pastor Search Committee asks for prayers and patience as the committee works through the process.

FBC TRUNK-OR-TREAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25
6:30-8:00



Worship in October

Sunday—October 1 World Communion Sunday Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7
(NT: Philippians 2:1-11)

Sermon: "Are You With Us, Lord?"
Layne Smith

Special Music
"The Table of Forgiveness"
from *Lamentations of the Lamb*
Chancel Choir
Joyce Thompson, guest organist

Sunday—October 8 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 21:33-46
(NT: Philippians 3:4b-14)

Sermon: "Owners or Sharecroppers?"
Layne Smith

Special Music
Lydia Turner, violin, and
Stephanie Turner, piano
"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"
Chancel Choir and soloists

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Floride and Ernest Carpenter and deceased members of their class by the Carpenter Class.

Sunday—October 15 Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14
(NT: Philippians 4:1-9)

Sermon: "Being a Member of Matthew's Church" -Layne Smith

Special Music
Prelude and Postlude by Bell Tower Trio
Solo by Noah Skinner
"The Wedding Banquet" - Chancel Choir,
Betty Walker, piano

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clyde B. and Sara Simmons by Margaret and Devore Compton.

Worship—October 22 Children's Sabbath Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22
(OT: Isaiah 45:1-7)

Sermon: "Which Kingdom Will It Be?"
Layne Smith

Special Music
Music Makers and Young Musicians
Children's Choirs will sing
"The Children of the World"
Chancel Choir; Beverly Psomas, piano

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Richard, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Williams, Mrs. Colleen de Loach, and Mr. James Cartledge by Carol and Ken Richard and Keith Jameson.

Sunday—October 29 Reformation Sunday Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34
(NT: Romans 3:19-28)

Sermon: Heart-writing and Forgetting"

Special Music
"Set Me As a Seal" - Chancel Choir and
Kirsten Neufeld, French horn
Judi Neufeld, guest organist



International Love Feast

Everyone is invited to the World Communion International Love Feast following the worship service on Sunday, October 1. Please bring a favorite dish from around the world (remember, the United States is part of the world, too). Leave the covered dish in the Fellowship Hall before 11:00 am. Traditional family recipes, exotic foreign dishes, salads, rolls, and desserts are all welcomed. **Each dish left in the Fellowship Hall should be labeled, describing its ingredients** (to help those with allergies such as gluten and nuts) and naming which culture from which it comes.



Music Notes

The World Comes Together

October 1 is World Communion, and once again FBC gathers to celebrate with all peoples the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we remember Christ's broken body and blood poured out for all, we celebrate with the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the wine. Our music reflects this in the anthem "The Table of Forgiveness" from *Lamentations of the Lamb*, a cantata by John Purifoy which the Chancel Choir sang many years ago. The sanctuary will be filled with flags which some of the youth will bring into the service during the Processional Hymn, and the choir will be wearing beautiful stoles featuring the Flags of the World. These were given as a generous gift from Joyce Hughston in memory of Ted Andrews. The guest organist for this service will be Joyce Thompson. The Chancel Choir also sings verses of the hymn "Come, Share the Lord" during Communion. "Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord." All are invited to "Come, share the Lord" during this special, holy service. **All are welcome.**

Also during October we feature talented pianists from FBC Greenwood: Stephanie Turner, Betty Walker, Beverly Psomas and Judi Neufeld. This month sees the premier of the "Bell Tower Trio" with David Corbitt, Lewis Walker, and Keith Jameson, on October 15. We celebrate Children's Sabbath on October 22 with the anthem "The Children of the World" focusing on all being welcoming, loving, and supportive of all God's children. Reformation Sunday on October 29 features a beautiful anthem, "Set Me As a Seal" with Kirsten Neufeld on French horn.



Prayer Shawl Ministry (Knitters and Crocheters)

Second Thursday of the month
10:00 am-noon in the church parlor

Next meeting: October 12

For more information, contact June Shaw (538-9101).



October and November Building Blocks

Discovering God on Your Life's Journey

The study will explore ways God has been with us throughout our lives and ways to be more attentive to God's presence. This will be an interactive class that will study and discuss scripture and learn how to use scripture as we pray and seek God's guidance. We will learn how walking the labyrinth can let us make a spiritual pilgrimage without leaving Greenwood. We will consider the benefits of gratitude and be encouraged to let our gratitude overflow to benefit others. The group will meet in Room 208. "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

Growing on Grace: Effective Parenting in a Defective World

Raising children is a challenge in today's world. Peers and pop culture exert never-ending pressure on kids. Every day they are bombarded with the pressures and influences of drugs, sex, and violence. Often, parents feel helpless when the corrupt principles of this defective world seem to contradict every godly principle they try to instill in their children, but the good news is that God has a plan for effectively raising children and you can learn it! In this DVD and book study members will learn universally applicable principles, apply practical lessons about discipline, and understand and implement simple biblical truths. This option is a continuation of the August/September block and will meet in Room 211.

Chancel Choir

Do you enjoy the music lead by the Chancel Choir each Sunday? Do you enjoy singing with others? Has God blessed you with a pleasant singing vice? If so, the Chancel Choir is waiting for you. Consider joining the chancel choir in a four or eight week trial run. Rehearsal is held in the choir room below the sanctuary, Room 100.



Never Grow Old (NGO)

Reminder: for those who have made reservations, the first meeting of the NGO season is Tuesday, October 3, with Ben Bagwell providing the program. Everyone is asked to be in the Fellowship Hall by 11:45 am. On November 7, "Never Grow Old" Fellowship will celebrate the "Red, White, and Blue" with music and comedic election ditties. The catered meal is \$10.00. If you are not already a member, please call the church office to make your **reservation no later than Thursday, October 26**. Please come and support our lively senior adult fellowship. The December 13 meeting will feature our own *Sounds of Grace* singing beautiful Christmas music.

Young at Heart (A group for widows)



The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am at the Greenwood Country Club. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 10. For more information contact Nancy Rooney (229-3641).

Third Quarter Missions

The Stewardship Committee met on Wednesday, September 20, and discussed payment of third quarter missions. Given the fact the church was behind in revenue to expenses at the end of August by \$56,963.54 and a full mission payment is approximately \$21,000.00, the committee voted to do the following:

- Pay 85% of the missions payment to CBF Global, CBF SC, and Special Mission Emphasis to include Baptist Women in Ministry and Janee Angel.
- Pay 50% of the missions payment to local missions partners.

The committee also voted not to send third quarter funds to Greenwood Habitat for Humanity, Greenwood Soup Kitchen, International Ministries, and A Voice for Children.

With the reductions just mentioned, the third quarter missions payment will be \$13,042.50, a reduction of \$8,732.50.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- June Richardson, Diane Smith's aunt
- Reid Skinner

National Health Care: Wilma and Norm Burgin, Joann Gray

Home: Diana Cox, Brenda Tisdale, Brenda Rickborn, Barbara Heard, Nancy Thomason, Nick Nichols, Amelia English, Harry Stephens

Support the Ministry of First Baptist



Gifts to First Baptist Ministry Plan support the ministry of the church as well as local, state, and worldwide missions. Gifts to the Ministry Plan may be made in the following ways:

• **In-Person:** Drop an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, or, bring your offering to the church office during the week.

• **Mail:** Send offering to 722 Grace Street, Greenwood, SC 29649

• **Online:** Use the convenient and secure "Giving" button on the church website (fbcgwd.org)

Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church

2023 Ministry Plan

August Income	54,568.58
August Expenses	68,374.56
Deficit	13,805.98

August 28 - September 24, 2023

Monthly Need	83,984.96
Monthly Gifts	45,108.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	741,602.96
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	584,889.41
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(156,713.55)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	167
Worship Attendance (Avg)	202



UpComing Dates

- **October 4** Intercession Night: Fall Craft Fun
- **October 11** Intercession Night: Picnic and Playground
- **October 18** Children's Sabbath practice during CIAs
- **October 22** Children's Sabbath
- **October 22** Canned
- **November 19** Food Drive
- **October 25** Trunk-or-Treat
- **November 19** Theme Night: Can-struction
- **December 3** Hanging of the Green
- **December 6** Ornament Party
- **December 13** Intergenerational Event: Gingerbread Houses



Intersession Weeks

During District 50's intersession weeks, Wednesday night Bright Beginnings (preschool music activities), children's choirs, and CIAs will not meet. Instead, there will be family activities.

- The first intersession week, Wednesday night, October 4, will be a Fall Craft Night. Starting at 6:30 pm, there will several crafts. This event will be set up like the ornament party using the same rooms. Kelly and Cherry will be in the room beside the nursery for childcare.
- The second intersession week, Wednesday night, October 11, will be a Playground and Picnic Night. Families are welcome to eat upstairs, get your meal to go and eat it as a picnic or bring your own picnic meal. **There will be no childcare for this night.**



Children's Sabbath

Children's Sabbath is Sunday morning, October 22, during the 11:00 am Worship hour. FBC children will help lead worship that morning. Children and leaders will practice on Wednesday, October 18, at 6:30 pm. Children are still welcome to participate on October 22, even if they cannot come to the practice. *Young Musicians and Music Makers children's choirs will sing as part of the Children's Sabbath worship service.*

Canned Food Drive



The CIAs will hold a canned food drive from October 22-November 19. The canned food will be used in a can-struction project on Theme Night, November 19. The food will then be donated to the Food Pantry.

FBC TRUNK-OR-TREAT

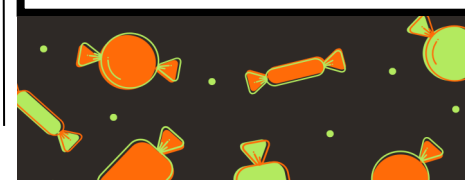
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25
6:30-8:00

First Baptist will host a "Trunk-or-Treat" on Wednesday, October 25, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Trick-or-Treating will begin at 6:30 pm. Church members will be in the back parking lot, passing out candy from their car trunks. There will be games, hayrides, and face painting to follow trick-or-treating. Invite a family or friends to join! As a reminder, Edgewood Street will be closed for hayrides. For parking come down Grace Terrace.

Volunteer help is needed to provide:

- trunks for giving out candy
- trailers with drivers for hayrides

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Anna Burch, aeburchfbc@gmail.com.



**Skoob Invites
Toddlers - 5th Graders
to 5th Sunday Library
Activity on October 29**



The next Fifth Sunday Library Activity is Sunday, October 29. Following *Scripture Thoughts*, children are invited to meet volunteers in the narthex to be escorted to a special program in the church library For Fifth Sunday Library Activity, children may wear play clothes as some of the activities may be a craft, nature walk, or being active. After worship, parents are asked to pick up their children in the fellowship hall. Children from toddlers to 5th grade are invited. Extended Session will continue to be offered for nursery and toddlers on fifth Sundays. Toddler parents have the option to send their children to the toddler room or to the 5th Sunday activity. Children's Church will participate in the 5th Sunday activity in lieu of being in the Backyard. If you have any questions, contact Kelly Rhodes (kelly_rhodes@hotmail.com) or Shelby Reed (cofccougar_1999@yahoo.com).

Youth News



**Sunday Night Live
October 1
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
At the Nave home**



**Youth
Fall Retreat**

Please pray for the youth as they travel to Awanita for the annual Fall Retreat October 27-29. The Youth Committee and parents are providing leadership for the event. This is a great opportunity for youth to grow and learn about God. The experience and one of the highlights of the year!



**September Diaconate
Update**

The September Diaconate meeting was held at 7:00 pm on Sunday, September 24. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate was informed that the First Baptist Church Transition Team had completed their work. Their final task of the team is the creation of a "FBC Church Profile." This should be finalized this week.

The Diaconate also approved a recommendation from the Missions committee that funds set aside from the Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home in 2020 be used for the replacement of the FBC playground canopy when needed.

The Diaconate also heard a report that greeters are needed each Sunday to welcome members and guests. If interested in serving as a greeter please contact the church office (229-5557) or Vaughan Free.



**Mepkin Abbey
Crèche Festival**

The Spiritual Formation Committee is sponsoring a trip to the Annual Crèche Festival at Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, SC on Friday, December 1. The group will meet at the church parking lot at 7:30 am and carpool to the Festival. Those attending will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Moncks Corner before attending the Crèche Festival. The theme for this year's Festival is "We are Nativity: Celebrating the Many Faces of the Nativity," accented with fabric. Participants will be able to see over a 120 beautiful nativities during the festival. Although tickets are free, they must be reserved ahead of time. Please contact Amy Jennings or the church office if interested in attending and if you are willing to drive. The deadline to sign up for this event is Sunday, October 15.



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED