



July 2024

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The First Baptist Church Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee is beginning the task of selecting and nominating individuals to serve in the sacred call of a deacon. Therefore, the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee is asking members of the church family to recommend individuals they believe would be worthy of the committee's consideration. Below is a list of the qualifications and duties of a deacon. Please use this as a guide when selecting individuals you believe worthy to serve in the sacred call of a deacon. The committee is seeking names from the congregation between Sunday, June 30 and Wednesday, July 31. Names may be submitted through the Engage page of the church website. Paper copies are available in the church office and in the narthex. For additional information, please contact David Jennings by phone (229-5557) or by email at [jenningsdaj@gmail.com](mailto:jenningsdaj@gmail.com).

#### Deacon Qualifications

- Minimum age of 21
- Active church member
- Care and service of members and others
- Commitment to Christ
- Faithfulness in attendance
- Faithfulness in stewardship
- Personal moral integrity
- Provide example to congregation that points to Christ and Christ's Spirit of love for all persons
- Seek to promote understanding and unity among all persons and groups
- Support the formulation of sound policies by the church
- Support the ministries of First Baptist
- Work to find spiritual solutions to major problems that affect the spiritual health of the church

#### Duties of a Deacon

- Minister to the spiritual and religious needs of the church and its members
- Committed to personal spiritual growth through Bible Study, church activities, and the offering of one's gifts
- Attend monthly Diaconate meetings and other meetings as called
- Lead in welcoming visitors and members to worship services
- Assist with observance of Communion
- Assist in other pastoral duties and needed



## A Note from the Pastor

In my sermon from June 16th, I encouraged each of us to take scripture seriously. I offered a list of ways we might practice imprinting scripture on our hearts, as Deuteronomy 6 describes. One of the practices was choosing a life verse. But what is a life verse? A life verse is a Biblical verse or passage with significant meaning. Maybe it helped you through a difficult time or gave you great joy on a special occasion. Perhaps it was the first verse you memorized or a favorite of someone special in your family.

Living by your life verse is not about trying to fit or mold your verse into your own life but about allowing your verse to shape and guide your life. Deuteronomy reminds us that we are to remember God's words in our hearts and minds, write them down, teach them to our children, and talk about them at home or wherever we are. Your life verse should become part of who you are. Allow it to direct you in your daily life and give you courage and encouragement.

There are numerous benefits to choosing a life verse. In times of joy or sorrow, your life verse can bring you peace and comfort. It can serve as a guiding light in moments of decision-making. Incorporating your life verse into a special service can deepen its meaning for you and your family. As Deuteronomy suggests, your life verse can be proudly displayed in your home or office, serving as a testament to others. Your life verse can also open up opportunities for meaningful conversations with family and friends about your Christian journey.

My life verse is the Great Commission from Matthew 28: "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" Those words have guided my life and ministry when I have lost my way. These verses have encouraged and challenged me when I needed them.

What verse or verses resonate with you? I encourage you to seek scripture and latch on to your life verse in July! If you are having trouble deciding, I have a great list of potential verses that might help guide your decision-making. Once you have chosen a life verse, share it with the ministerial staff. We'll begin to compile a list of FBC members and their verses. Let me know how I can help as you take the next step toward taking Scripture more seriously.

Your Pastor,  
John



## Worship in July

**Sunday—July 7**

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22

Sermon: "Life Together: Commitments  
For a Flourishing Future—  
Cultivate a sense of Call"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"All Good Gifts" from *Godspell*  
Tracie Rush and Byron Hilley

"Who Will Be A Witness?" - Chancel Choir

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Taylor Sargent by Dot Dalton, Kenny and Nancy Poston, and Henderson and Ellison Rowe.

**Sunday—July 14**

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture: Matthew 22:24-40

Sermon: "Life Together: Commitments  
For a Flourishing Future—  
Serve One Another"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
Dennis Moore, soloist; Chancel Choir

"Here I Am, Lord" - Chancel Choir

**The Sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Curtis Shaw by his family.

**Sunday—June 21**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Holy Communion**

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon: "Life Together: Commitments  
For a Flourishing Future—  
Share Jesus in Word and Deed"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
Cody Beard, trumpet

"Table of Mercy, Table of Rest"  
Chancel Choir

**In lieu of flowers**, the Alma Johnson Circle is making a donation to missions in memory of Alma Johnson for her birthday.

**Sunday—July 28**

**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture: Matthew 26:1-12

Sermon: "Life Together: Commitments  
For a Flourishing Future—  
"Live As If Paradise Is at Hand"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"In the Garden Medley" - Alice Gilchrist  
"Keep Your Lamps" - Chancel Choir

**The Flowers in the Sanctuary** are given by Keith Jameson to the glory of God and in memory of Matthew James Newton Tivy.



## A Return of Our Summer Soloists

Each summer, as the Chancel Choir starts to wind down a very busy year (Music Emphasis Sunday, World Communion Sunday, Community Thanksgiving service, Advent season, Lenten season and Easter season), we take a break from our regular Wednesday night rehearsals. We start to do some familiar anthems that don't require our weekly rehearsal time. Also, during this time, I invite our plethora of talented people within the church to offer "Summer Solos" to add to our worship services. You've already heard a few (Betty and Lewis Walker, Terry Gilchrist, Laura Davis Atkins, David Corbitt, and me). In the coming weeks you'll be hearing Tracie Rush and Byron Hilley, Cody Beard, Stephanie Turner and Betty Walker, Alice Gilchrist, Dennis Moore, Sam Smith and Lily Martin, Beverly Psomas, Andy Westbrook, Noah Skinner, and the Bell Tower Trio. In addition to them, you will be hearing wonderful music from our Interim Organist, Will Thomas Cleveland, each week throughout the summer, and for August 7th's *Hamburgers 'n' Hymns: Revival*. We have such amazing talent within our church, and I am so happy to have them use their talents and gifts in worship - helping all of us to lift our own voices, to make a "Joyful Song" unto our Lord. If you pass these folks in the hallways, or out and about in Greenwood, please be sure to thank them for their gifts in worship. We are all honored and blessed by their talents and offerings of music.

## "Hamburgers 'n' Hymns: Revival" August 7, 5:30 pm



The August 7 fall kick off event for Wednesday night activities is "Hamburgers 'n' Hymns: Revival." The event will begin with a meal at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children, no family pays more than \$30.00. Since First Baptist has not had Wednesday night meals for two months, a new reservation list is being created. **Even if you were on the permanent list this spring, please call to be put on the fall list. Reservations, whether permanent or one time only, need to be made by noon on Monday, August 5. Reservations may be made on the FBC Engage Page of the church website (fbcgwd.com) or by calling the church office (229-5557).** Make plans now to attend. After the meal, participants will enjoy a time of fellowship and singing similar to an old tent revival meeting, with songs, scripture, and prayers. Regular Wednesday night activities resume on August 14.



## Young at Heart

(A group for widows)

Second Tuesday  
of each month at 11:00 am

Greenwood Country Club.

**Next meeting: July 9**

For more information contact Nancy Rooney (229-3641) or Beth Hardage (770) 598-5303.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

(Knitters and Crocheters)

Second Thursday of the month  
10:00 am-noon (drop-in)  
Church Parlor

**Next meeting: July 11**

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



## August and September Adult Building Blocks

Wednesday evening Adult Building Blocks meet from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. "Building Blocks" are designed to build one's faith and help one grow as a disciple of Christ. The following is a listing and brief description of the August/September Blocks. Be watching the August newsletter and worship bulletin for further details.

**Talkin' Dirty: The Truth about Biblical Archaeology with Cliff Cain:** The focus of this study is on the impact of archeology as related to scripture and ourselves.

**August 14**

"What is Archaeology?: And Why Should It Be Important to People of Faith?"

**August 21**

"Archaeology at a Site: What Can We Learn at/from Caesarea Maritima about Biblical History?"

**August 28**

"Doing Archaeology: What Is It Like to Investigate Artifacts Ourselves?"

**A four-week Building Block will be offered in September.** Be watching for further details.

**The Lord's Prayer Bible Study with John Uldrick:** The focus of this study is to unpack the various elements within the model prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

**Growing on Grace:** The *Growing on Grace* group will decide their own study for the fall. The group studies a wide range of young family topics.

**Chancel Choir:** August 14 is the beginning of the choir rehearsal year. It is a perfect time to come to the choir, sing, enjoy fellowship, and have fun. Rehearsal is held in the choir room (Room 100) below the sanctuary.

## Library Corner



Your church library encourages you to “pack a book” as you prepare for vacation this summer. The library has many choices for all age groups, including these recent titles.

### ADULT:

Brooks, Geraldine, *Horse: A Novel*  
Bowler, Kate, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day*

Dorn, W.J. Bryan, *Dorn: of the People* (Heritage Room)

Perrin, Valerie, *Fresh Water for Flowers*, a novel

Lee, Nancy, *Song of Songs & Lamentations*, Smyth & Helwys Commentary

Kolber, Aundi, *Try Softer*, a fresh approach to move us out of anxiety, stress, and into survival mode -and into a life of connection and joy.

Verghese, Abraham, *The Covenant of Water*, a novel

### CHILDREN:

Daywalt, Drew, *The Day the Crayons Came Home*

Downey, Derrick, Jr., *Hand and Paw*

Kotb, Hoda, *Hope Is a Rainbow*

Turnbull, Stephanie, *Ancient Greeks*



## NEEDED:

### 2025 Ministry Plan Requests

Work has already begun on the 2025 Ministry Plan. Committee chairs and others have been contacted regarding the **July 14 deadline** to submit requests for 2025. Committees are encouraged to begin discussing requests for the new annual Ministry Plan. Please be in prayer for committees and others as they consider Ministry Plan requests for next year.

# Church Family News

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to the families of:

- James Thomas
- Ted Okerlund
- Betty Schopp

### Greenwood Rehabilitation:

Jackie Dewberry (no visitors), Anne Devore

**Home:** Neil Hollingsworth, Tom Gordon, Jim Firmin, Kayla Beard, Ray Wilson

### Birth

Millie Virginia Gillespie, daughter of Tori and Paul Gillespie, great-granddaughter of Anne Devore



## 2024 Ministry Plan Update

The Diaconate received a hopeful financial report in June. In the interest of reporting to the congregation, the Diaconate wanted the church family to know the following:

- 1) Gifts to the annual Ministry Plan during the month of May totaled \$73,234.00 with a budgeted monthly need of \$82,367.45 and actual expenses of \$69,770.40. Therefore, gifts to the Ministry Plan in May exceeded expenses by \$3,463.60.
- 2) Although the May finances showed an surplus of funds for the month, YTD gifts to the annual Ministry Plan were still behind by \$60,643.25.

While gifts to the annual Ministry Plan are down, it is never too late to give! Thank you in advance for your continued gifts to the annual Ministry Plan.

### May 26 – June 23, 2024

Monthly Need	\$ 95,039.35
Monthly Gifts	67,055.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	475,196.75
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	395,762.33
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(79,434.42)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	141
Worship Attendance (Avg)	186



## Children and Leaders Enjoyed a Visit to Hometown Nazareth

Children attending Vacation Bible School at FBC traveled to Nazareth where they met Mary and her neighbor, Eunice. The children learned that Jesus had a family, a name, and a home. They also learned that Jesus went to church and Jesus served others.

Thank you to the people who made this trip to Nazareth possible:

**Mary:** Claire Hudson

**Eunice:** Evie Craigo

**Music Leader:** Kayla Beard

**Crafts:** Claudia Burch, Velma English, Claire Hudson

**Recreation:** Jordan Hewitt, Mary Weaver

**Kitchen:** Keith Jameson, David Jennings, Terry Gilchrist, John Uldrick

**Childcare:** Alice Gilchrist, Shawn Snead

**Preschool:** Haley English, Amanda Moon, Evie Craigo

**K5/1st:** Jennifer Hudson, Jill Riley, Jennifer Uldrick

**2nd:** Catherine White

**3rd-5th:** Cathy Harris, Mary Frances Thompson, Lauren Baggett

**Barnyard:** Lou Hilley, Mary Weaver

Thank you to Claudia Burch, Evie Craigo, Haley English, Velma and Jesse English, Alice Gilchrist, Bill and Cathy Harris, Jordan Hewitt, Keith Jameson, David Jennings, Chelsea Lloyd, Amanda and Kirsten Moon, Sandra Ridgeway, Jill Riley, Ayla Snead, Shawn and Keith Snead, Stokes, Mary Frances Thompson, Catherine White for decorating for VBS!



## Volunteer Openings

**Children's Church:** Adult-First Sundays in Feb. April, June, August, Oct., Dec.

**Music Makers Choir Teacher (4k-1st)**

**CIA Leaders**

**Contact Anna Burch to volunteer.**



## Pray for Children

Please pray for the children, leaders, and chaperones as they attend Camp P.R.I.S.M. at Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC., July 16-19. **A meeting for parents and campers is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Sunday, July 14, in the Backyard.**

## Splash Pad Fun



While the older kids are at Camp Prism, the younger kids will have a splash pad night, Wednesday, July 17, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm! Alice and Terry Gilchrist will be there, since Anna Burch will be at camp, and will provide an icee treat!



## Spiritual Formation Sunday August 4



## Promotion Sunday For Children

## Blessing of the Backpacks!

## First Graders Receive Bibles

## Parham Scholarship Recipients Announced

On Sunday, August 4, children will meet in their new 2024-2025 Sunday School classrooms. (Sixth graders will meet with the youth in the youth lounge beginning Sunday, July 28.)

During worship, first graders will receive Bibles, backpacks will be blessed, and a prayer will be offered asking God to guide and protect all students, teachers, and school staff during the upcoming school year.

The 2024 Craig Holbrook Parham scholarship recipients will be listed in the bulletin and a prayer for these students will be part of morning worship.

# Youth News

# Administratively Speaking . . .



## PASSPORT

### Pray for Youth

Please also pray for the youth as they attend Passport Camp this summer at Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, NC, July 15-19.

### Youth "Moving Up"



Although Promotion Sunday is August 4, sixth graders will meet with the youth in the youth lounge beginning Sunday, July 28.



### Parham Scholarship Sunday, August 4

The Craig Holbrook Parham Scholarship Fund was established in 1986 to celebrate the life of Craig Holbrook Parham. The scholarship, in memory of Craig, was created for the sole purpose of providing scholarship assistance to students pursuing degrees from accredited college, university, or theological seminary for full-time Christian service. This year the Craig Holbrook Parham Scholarship Committee has awarded scholarships to nine individuals. These individuals will be mentioned as part of worship on Sunday, August 4.

### Sanctuary Christmas Decorations – "Christmas in July" Fund



As the Worship Committee prepares to repair and replace some Christmas decorations, they are looking for any contributions or donations to help offset some of those costs. If you would like to donate, please write "Christmas in July" on your check or envelope. If you have any questions, please contact Keith Jameson at keithjameson@hotmail.com.



### Staying Connected!

Staying connected has become the new pastime in today's world. Everywhere one looks, someone is connected to their phone exchanging texts, sending emails, checking Facebook, Instagram, or X, searching for directions, fact-checking a conversation, or getting the latest weather or news. In fact, "Google It" has become the popular catch phrase when searching for online information.

Staying connected to the church has also become important. First Baptist offers a variety of platforms to help church members and others to "stay connected" to the various events and activities of the church. The following are just a few ways in which First Baptist seeks to keep persons informed about the life and ministry of the church.

**NEWSLETTER:** First Baptist produces a newsletter that is linked to the Fridays connections Update. A printed version of the newsletter is mailed each month to those requesting it. The newsletter helps inform everyone about the various upcoming events.

**WEDNESDAY PRAYER LIST:** First Baptist electronically sends out a weekly Prayer List.

**FRIDAY CONNECTIONS UPDATE:** The information sent electronically each Friday is an update to the monthly newsletter. The "Connections Update" contains a calendar of upcoming events, a link to the monthly newsletter as well as links to the Sunday service and bulletin.

**WEBSITE:** First Baptist has a wonderful website ([www.fbcgwd.com](http://www.fbcgwd.com)) that explains everything about the church and the church's ministry.

**FACEBOOK:** First Baptist also maintains several Facebook accounts giving another means by which people are able to stay connected to the upcoming events in the life of First Baptist.



722 Grace Street  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
(864) 229-5557  
Website: [fbcgwd.org](http://fbcgwd.org)

### Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 [www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com](http://www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com)

#### Ministers and Staff

John Uldrick  
Anna Burch  
David Jennings  
Keith Jameson  
Lauren Coker  
Will Thomas Cleveland  
Claudia Burch  
Mary Frances Thompson  
Linda Miller

Senior Pastor  
Minister to Children  
Minister of Administration  
Church Music Director  
Part-Time Interim Youth Leader  
Interim Organist  
Director of Cheerful Cherubs  
Ministry Assistant  
Financial Assistant

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Helping Hands Ministry Information Line

864) 229-8051

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED