

We offer Sunday School for all ages and would love to have you join us each week- 9:45am-10:45am. Also, join us for Worship, Sundays at 11:00am! Our Sunday service is heard on WCLN Radio 1170 AM or StarVision cable channel 16.

Don't forget to "LIKE" the First Baptist Church Facebook Page and "share" our page with your friends! Also, look for “Hymns With Hatch” on Facebook!

Phones

Church Office: 910-592-8124

Family Ministry Center: 910-490-1244

FAX: 910-592-6109

Visit Us On the Web:
www.clintonfirstbaptist.org

Our Mission

“The purpose of First Baptist Church is to honor God as we love and minister to all people, witness to them of our life-changing Savior, lead them into the fellowship of His church, and nurture them in Christian growth.”

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FIRST BAPTIST NEWS (USPS 898-960) is published monthly by First Baptist Church, 408 College Street, Clinton, NC, 28328. Periodical postage paid at Clinton, NC. Postmaster: Send address changes to First Baptist Church, 408 College Street, Clinton, NC, 28328.

FROM THE PASTOR

This month we celebrate the 247th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared the 13 British Colonies in America to be free and independent states.

That Declaration concluded "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." And so, in a spirit of confidence in God, in their cause, and in one another, they declared their independence. And our nation was born.

The marks of that declaration, the ensuing independence, and its resulting establishment of a new nation are still important to us today. The United States flag, the Star Spangled Banner, and the bald eagle are symbols of the national truths we hold “to be self-evident” of our shared citizenship and our constitutional freedoms.

And we are marked by an extensive patriotism that always seems appropriate to us. Collectively, we do not want anything or anyone to interfere or challenge that sense of loyalty and pride. We are, occasionally, willing to acknowledge our imperfections yet we, one way or another, maintain our mark of the greatest nation on earth. These are, among others, the marks of the American citizen.

By the grace of God and the trustworthy Word of God -Holy Scripture-let me humbly proclaim thoughts on greater marks upon us all.

Many centuries earlier another devoted group also made an astonishing claim. They were a guileless group of fishermen, laborers, and ordinary folk, who followed a carpenter-teacher from Nazareth, named Jesus. They testified this Jesus, crucified, dead, and buried, had risen from the dead and was indeed the Son of God and Savior of the world. Accused by the temple leaders of spouting an absurd proclamation while also facing persecution and martyrdom, they boldly stood by their testimony, One of their spokesmen, a man named Paul, wrote to a fellowship of shared believers in Galatia these words:

"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world....From now on...I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body." (Galatians 6:14, 17)

Never before and never since, even from an esteemed, historical Continental Congress, has there been a more impactful, declared word in the history of history. While waving the triad of colorful stripes and stars, we boast of a nation of freedom and choice and of a patriotic citizenship that asserts a global, historical impact.

God's word to Paul inspires him to boast of something simple, yet rugged and cruel. Why boast of a cross? It was a symbol of death and defeat. Jesus, who was nailed to that cross, had been greeted with scorn and mockery. And he was marked with thorns and nail wounds and a pierced side.

We bear the marks when we profess our allegiance and proclaim our right to the redeeming freedom His grace and love bestow to us. However, it is not an allegiance nor a right. It is a unmerited gift and we are marked by it. We are forever transformed by it.

After Jesus was crucified, the first community marked by His grace was formed. From those early witnesses, countless others came to faith. They, like us, were marked by the cross of Christ.

Paul's life was changed by the mark of the Living Lord and he found in the cross the power of God's love and forgiveness. It changed him completely, and he dedicated his life to the proclamation of that cross. When opposing voices saw Paul's as "idle boast" he declared, "I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith."

The transforming mark of the cross is seen in the changed lives of people who have met the Christ of the cross, and by His grace have submitted in repentance and faith.

The reason we, Baptists in particular, value the separation of church and state is not because we don't want all to come to faith in Jesus. It is because we DO want all to come to faith in Jesus.

(continued on page 2)

Please Remember in Prayer —

IN THE HOSPITAL

None at this printing

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Carlton Albritton, Melvin and Sandra Stafford, Kim Tart, Mike Underwood, Carolyn Wrench, Linda Wright

OUR HOMEBOUND

April Bisette, Joe Butler, Bobbie Dixon, Rufus Herring, Cristie Quakenbush

NURSING HOMES

Local

Lee Brown, Mary Gran 715B

Juanita Rich, Mary Gran 105

Doug Warren, Southwood 208

Louise Warren, Mary Gran 103

Willie Ruth Watson, Mary Gran 704

Out of Town

Bobby Bunker, Cadence Senior Care, Garner

Faye McCullen, The Landing of Smithfield

Sue Miller, Rolling Ridge, Newton Grove

EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Bobby Beard (Ann Weeks' son-in-law)

Deborah Hamilton (Paula Peters' sister)

Our Soup Kitchen ministry

Tim's Gift Ministry

Life Line Sampson

Condolences

We express deepest sympathy to Mary Ann Hobbs and family for the death of her brother-in-law, Neil Whitehurst;

also, we extend deepest sympathy to Alta Starling and family for the death of her father, C.A. Royal.

Reminder

If anyone has taken any tablecloths from the Family Ministry Center to be washed/cleaned, please return them to the church as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for your help with this!

Don't Take A



from giving your tithe.

Give online @ www.clintonfirstbaptist.org

From the Pastor (continued)

A faith that is coerced, enforced, or decreed is not genuine faith. A relationship of faith in Christ Jesus that makes its mark by individual repentance, confession, and profession is an indelible mark.

How has the cross of Jesus Christ marked me? How has it marked you?

We say with Paul in the words of today's text, "May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." The power to transform our lives is rooted in that cross and our experience of the Christ we meet there. Out of the reality of repentance and faith flows the love of Christ in forgiveness, compassion for others, and the assurance of life eternal.

This is no idle boasting. It is the truth by which we live, by which we serve, in which we are marked for life everlasting. Blessings, Ray



Congratulations Graduates

Graduate Sunday was observed on June 4. The 2023 graduates who were present were: Walker Ward, Jack Bowker, Connor Spell, Ethan Spell, Ty Fardy and Cameron Fardy. Junior Marshal was Brianna Carr. Congratulations to all.



Eagle Scout Recognition

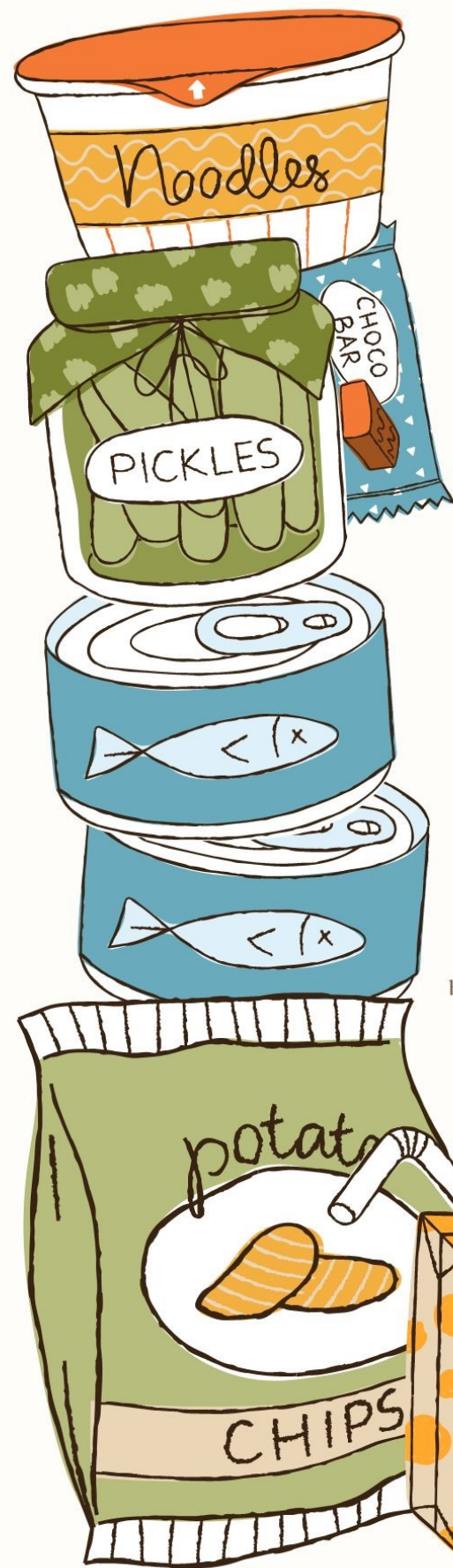
Congratulations to Jackson Lee, who was recently honored for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary 1:00 pm Haitian Worship in the Chapel 5:30-7:00 pm Youth Fellowship and Bible Study						1
2	3 Sr. Adult Council, 9:30 am 8:00pm AA, Social Hall	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6	7 EBA Senior Adult Rally 9:30 am	8
9 Deacons Mtg. 5:00 pm Youth Fellowship & Sunni Sky's Ice Cream 6:30 pm	10 8:00pm AA, Social Hall	11 10:00am Nursing Home Visitation	12 YOUTH "Lunch With Lauren" Children Thrills & Chills Arcade 10 am Choir Practice Christmas in July 6:00 pm	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Youth PASSPORT Camp 17-22						
	8:00pm AA, Social Hall	"Precious Gems" 10:00am Fellowship Hall	Children White Lake Water Park 10 am			
23 Passport Camp Presentation	24	25	26 YOUTH "Lunch With Lauren" 12 Noon	27	28	29
Children Rockfish Meadows Camp 23-28						
	8:00pm AA, Social Hall		Choir Practice 6:00 pm			
30	31					

July Birthday Wishes

3 Betsy McCullen Linda Pierce Brandon Tyson Jackson Glover Trace Glover	11 Trey Boyette 12 Jill Faircloth Fred Cumbo Sandra Stafford Kenny Poole Corey Nelms	18 Kelly Wheeler 21 Allan Grider Joyce Lippard 22 Ridge Warren 23 Jim Matthews Ashley Fardy Redden Simmons	27 Carol McCullen 28 Jean Wray Cannady Lynnie Montgomery 29 Dempsey Craig Jean Hatch
4 Amy Turner 5 Kristen Spell Ashley Lee 7 Annie Marie Starling 8 Jake Edwards 10 Brayden Sutton 11 Pat Craig	13 Linda Warren Becky Haislip Adam Bowker 14 Charlie Powell Justin Chestnutt 17 Bill Holder	26 JoAnna Dunlap Katie Deans Bobby Spell Tenna Autry 27 Phyllis McKee	30 Ruth Ann Johnson Connor Spell Emma Powell 31 Lisa Johnson Robby Malpass



SMS DARKHORSE FOOD PANTRY

Food Drive

JULY 15-31, 2023

First Baptist Church

Donation Recipticles located in the office and vestibule

Will Johnson, a Life Scout with Troop 80, is in the process of complething his Eagle Project. He is building sustainable shelving for the DarkHorse food pantry at Sampson Middle. He would like to include members of this congregation by offering the opportunity to participate in a food drive for the items that are most needed

School staff have identified that the most popular items are ramen noodles, microwave macaroni and cheese cups, individual cups of applesauce, packs of Nabs, granola bars, and Poptarts as well as beverages such as Gatorades and bottles of water.

Please contact Will Johnson at (910) 753-5592 with questions

Senior Happenings

Once upon a time, there was an island where all the feelings lived. Happiness, Sadness, Knowledge, and all of the others, including Love. One day it was announced to the feelings that the island would sink, so all constructed boats and left. Except for Love. Love was the only one who stayed. Love wanted to hold out until the last possible moment. When the island had almost sunk, Love decided to ask for help. Richness was passing by Love in a grand boat. Love said, "Richness, can you take me with you?" "No, I Can't. There is a lot of gold and silver in my boat. There is no place here for you." Love decided to ask Vanity, who was also passing by in a beautiful vessel. "Vanity, please help me!" "I can't help you, Love. You are all wet and might damage my boat", Vanity answered. Sadness was close by so Love asked Sadness, "let me go with you." "Oh . . . Love, I am so sad that I need to be by myself!" Happiness passed by Love too, but she was so happy that she did not even hear when Love called her. Suddenly, there was a voice, "Come, Love, I will take you." It was an elder. So blessed and overjoyed, Love even forgot to ask the elder where they were going. When they arrived at dry land, the elder went her own way. Realizing how much was owed, Love asked Knowledge, another elder, "Who helped me?" "It was Time" Knowledge answered. "Time?" asked Love. "But why did Time help me?" Knowledge smiled with deep wisdom and answered, "'Because only Time is capable of understanding how valuable Love is.'" (Unknown) Birds of a Feather

I read this and it touched my soul. My prayer is that it touches you too. Sometimes it's hard to wait for time. We have to forgive before we can have trust with the joy and peace of our Lord. Time has a way of healing. "For God so loved the world, that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Love in Christ,
Faye B. Warren, Sr. Adult Director

Upcoming Senior Adult Events

Monday, July 3

Senior Adult Council, 9:00 a.m. (Prepare Blessing Bags)

Friday, July 7

EBA Senior Adult Rally, leave at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 11

Nursing Home Visits, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 18

Joy Walk, 9:15 a.m.

Precious Gems, 10:00a.m.

Saturday, August 12

Senior Adult Hamburger/Hot Dog Cookout, 5:30 p.m.

EBA Senior Adult Rally

Friday, July 7, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Charity Mission Center

There will be grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and cool lemonade served up with lots of good music and laughter by our guest, **Shellum Cline**.



Senior Adult Hamburger/Hot Dog Cookout

Saturday, August 12, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Family Ministry Center



Youth Connections



CALLING ALL FBC SINGERS

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

JULY 12 **5:30-7:30pm FMC**

**+Christmas Cantata
+Fellowship Meal
+And more!**

BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT WITH A CHRISTMAS COOL DOWN!

Summer Adult Choir Schedule

6:00-7:15pm in the Choir Room

- +June 28th
- +July 12th
(Christmas in July)
- +July 26th
- +August 2nd
- +August 16th
- +August 23rd

*Regularly scheduled rehearsal will resume, Wednesday, September 6, 2023 7:00-8:15pm

Minister of Music: Lauren E McCollister





FUN IN THE SON 2023

Children, 2 yrs & up

Wednesday, 7/12, 10:00am- 12:00pm
Thrills & Chills Arcade & Annadale's Gifts
Wear your VBS T-shirt

Wednesday, 7/19, 10:00am-1:00pm
White Lake Water Park/Pack a lunch or bring \$ for concessions.
Wear your VBS T-shirt over your bathing suit.

Sunday- Friday, 7/23-7/28
Rockfish Meadows Camp- Registered children, Grades 1-5
Wear your VBS T-shirt at check in!
We will pray over our campers during 11am Worship, 7/23.

Wednesday, 8/2, 10:00am
Smithfield, NC Cinema- "Lyle, Lyle Crocodile"
Wear your VBS T-shirt

Wednesday, 9/6/23, 5:30pm-7:00pm
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH~ First Baptist Church, Family Ministry Center

During the SUMMER months, we will take a break from our
WEDNESDAY Night Activities. Our SUNDAY schedule will not change!
Sunday School- 9:45am-10:45am, Worship- 11:00am

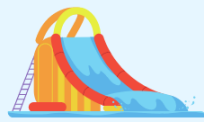


VBS
2023



WHAT'S UP JULY?!?

Summer is here and school is out. Yippee!!! What will you do with all the extra time? You will probably sleep late every day, watch lots of TV, and play outside with your friends. Amidst all the fun of catching some rays from the sun and scuba diving to the bottom of the local pool, don't forget to spend time with God. Kids need God in their lives every day, just as much as adults do. You should do your best to give God 10 minutes every day this summer. Does 10 minutes sound like a long time? To make it easier, divide your 10 minutes in half. Spend 5 minutes reading your Bible and 5 minutes praying. If you think you might forget to give God 10, try picking the time of day that's best for you. For example, do you have more time to spare in the mornings, afternoons, or right before you go to bed? Make sure every day at that time you give Him at least 10 minutes. Spending time with God will help you know Him better and love Him more. Giving God 10 will make you happier and the rest of your day better. How does this happen? God makes it happen. When you are faithful to Him, He will be faithful to you.



**Summer Blessings,
Ms. Margo**



Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 10am-12pm
Drop off at FBC, 10am - Pick Up at FBC, 12pm
We will walk to Thrills & Chills Arcade for gaming fun & then enjoy Ice Cream @ Annadales Gifts.

- *For children 2yrs. -rising 6th graders/ Wear your VBS shirt!

Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 10am-1pm
Guardian & child meet me at the White Lake Waterpark!
Pack a lunch or bring \$ for concessions.
Waterpark admission is covered.

- *For children 2yrs. -rising 6th Graders + guardian/ Wear your VBS shirt!

Sunday, July 23 - Friday, July 28
Registered Children meet me at Rockfish Meadows Camp.
Wear your VBS Tshirt to check in.
We will pray over our campers during 11am Worship, 7/23.

Sunday School is offered each Sunday for Birth-5th Grade children. Join the FUN in the Children's Wing each week from 9:45am-10:45am!

Worship & childcare follow Sunday School each week, 11am-12pm. Children, 5yrs. & up are encouraged to attend WORSHIP, in the Sanctuary. Our younger children, Birth-4yrs will remain in the Children's Wing for fellowship & fun.

Quiet Bags are available during worship for our children. Each bag contains resources to keep children engaged & focused during worship.

Wednesday Night Activities will resume September 6, 2023!

Summertime Youth

+2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Lunch w/ Lauren 12:00 noon
(June & July)

+Wednesday, June 14th
VBS Kick off: Pool Party (Coharie)
5:30-7:30pm

+Sunday, June 18-21, 2023
VBS: READY, SET, MOVE
5:30-8:00pm
*YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

+Sunday, June 25th
Summer Youth Fellowship
6:30-9:00pm

+Sunday, July 9th
Youth Fellowship & SUNNI SKY'S Ice Cream
6:30-9:00pm

+July 17-22nd
Passport Camp
(Sunday, July 16th Prayer for Camp during 11:00 worship)

+Sunday, July 23rd
Passport Camp Presentation
11:00 Worship

+Wednesday August 2nd
Youth Fellowship Splash

FBC Summertime YOUTH:

Lunch w/ Lauren

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday @ 12 noon
(June & July)
*Meet in FBC Parking Lot
Need a ride? Let me know!

July

July Nursery Schedule

July 2 Megan Powell
July 9 Kaitlin Adkins
July 16 Jaclyn Smith
July 23 Rachel Coombs
July 30 Laura Glover

It's July *already*, which means we are half way through Summer!

Even though the days are actually longer, summer days just seem to be shorter.

We are making memories, going to fun places and awaiting even more fun at this halfway point.

Many of us are getting ready for camp. Which always means fun but it also means quality time with our friends, getting closer to Jesus; together. As we anticipate the fun we will have, let's already begin thinking about how you can take the excitement of camp and share it after summer ends.

Just as Jesus called the disciples to follow him in Matthew 4:19-20, he wants us to follow him as well and share the love of Jesus with others.

Send me your best part of summer so far, and let's think about how we can share Jesus all year round!



Minister of Students: Lauren E McCollister

