

9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:15 WORSHIP SERVICE



MESSENGER

Volume 60 Issue 09

SEPTEMBER 2024

A Season of Gratitude and Thanksgiving

Dear First Baptist Family,

I'm sure that most of you have heard this before: My, my, how time does fly when you're having fun. God has been so good to me over the past 38 1/2 years of full-time ministry. As many of you know, I really enjoy working and serving others. Whether it be directing, accompanying, and/or spending time with our senior adults, I find myself energized and in my "happy place." It has been a blessing and a privilege to have served alongside you as Associate Pastor of Music and Worship/Senior Adults for the past 21 years. I have had the joy to lead you in worship, to celebrate with you at weddings and on special events, and to gather with you and share memories of those who have passed away.

I have always said that I wanted to retire when things were going well in my life and in my area of ministry. I firmly believe that this time has come. I am ready to enjoy more time with Yvonne and my family. I plan to retire from full-time ministry at the end of December 2024.

I believe that FBC New Bern has a bright future ahead. We are blessed with a dedicated staff and a faithful congregation excited about serving the Lord. May God continue to bless you and hold you in the palm of His hand.

Rev. Barry E. Templeton

Thanks from Guatemala Missionaries and Team



First Baptist's Guatemala missionary team returned from their successful mission trip to the Good Shepherd Ministry Center in the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, August 4. And with them they brought the deep thanks of missionaries Roger and Vicki Grossman for the 12 suitcases full of supplies donated by members and friends of our church for their use in Guatemala. Roger and Vicki were also grateful for the hard work completed by the team. Specifically, we fine tuned some window frames, placed them, made lintels, worked on the window



base of a difficult section, and shaped the eave points. We partially finished beams: staining and varnishing. We worked ceiling boards by planing and staining. Others on the team power washed parts of the stonework, worked gardens and did general green work. Of course, we interacted a lot with the kids, and we had a very special time eating and worshipping together with the kids on Friday night.

On Sabbatical

Within the written guidelines of First Baptist New Bern, the pastors are afforded the opportunity to apply for and, if approved by the deacons, to spend time on sabbatical after seven years in their ministry position. My last mini sabbatical occurred as I transitioned into the role of your senior pastor at the beginning of 2016. I have now served in this position for seven and a half years, and the deacons and congregation have graciously granted me another sabbatical, which I am currently taking. I'd like to use this newsletter article to share a few details about the sabbatical starting with, what is a sabbatical?

What is a Sabbatical? During a sabbatical the pastor engages in purposeful times of reading, prayer, study, interaction with other ministers, professional development, recreational opportunities, and rest. Sabbaticals vary in length, and they are usually granted after a period of 5 to 10 years of service. A sabbatical every 7 years is common. Most sabbaticals are between two and three months. My sabbatical began August 19. I will return to the pulpit on October 6.



continued on page 2

continued from page 1

What will I do during the Sabbatical? During my sabbatical I will be engaging in each of the activities mentioned above: reading, study, prayer, attending other churches outside of our geographical area, professional development, recreation with family and rest. During the first few weeks of my sabbatical, I will be tracing the journey of Paul while visiting Ephesus, Corinth, Athens, Crete, and Rome and The Vatican along with several other stops. In Athen I will get to stand on Mars Hill as the apostle Paul did when he proclaimed, "I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you". I am doing this with an organization known as Educational Opportunities. I plan to have family time at the end of my sabbatical. I am currently scheduled to spend time with my son (wherever baseball may have landed him at the time). Then I will travel to see my daughter who lives in Hawaii.

Who will lead my studies? I will be studying Paul's writings along with other current themes in Biblical education. I will study with Dr. John F. Kutsko who is the executive director of ATLA (formerly, called the American Theological Library Association) and was the executive director of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). He holds a PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University and an MA from the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan. He has taught writing and publishing workshops for the Forum for Theological Exploration, he helped found the International Qur'anic Studies Association (IQSA), and helped launch Bible Odyssey. While at SBL, he directed the update to the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSVue).

Who will cover my responsibilities while I'm on sabbatical? In terms of pastoral care, our Associate Pastors and deacons do a wonderful job of ministering to our congregation, and they will be the first points of contact for pastoral care. Obviously, I love and care about our church family but will be either out of the country or out of the state and unable to officiate any funerals that may occur while I'm away. Our Associate Pastors are well trained and very skilled at handling this responsibility.

In terms of preaching, at the recommendation of our deacons and upon our Associate Pastors' agreement, Rev. Peeler and Rev. Slagle will alternate Sundays in the pulpit and will provide wonderful leadership in my absence.

Finally, let me say this, I have a deep love and affection for the people of FBCNB, and I'm eternally grateful for my call to ministry at FBCNB. I want to say in the strongest of terms, I still believe I am called to be at FBCNB, and I am grateful, blessed, and humbled to be your pastor. I'm very excited about the direction our church is going. I'm energized by the thought of continuing our ministry journey together. I love and enjoy what I do, and I sure hope and pray that you want me to continue as your pastor for many more years. I'm 58 and I hope I can retire here at FBCNB in about 40 years. My desire is to be the best minister that I can be with the Lord's help. Sabbaticals ultimately benefit the church as well as the minister who can reengage with new vigor and purpose. I sincerely thank our deacons and the staff for all their help in covering my responsibilities while I'm away. I sincerely thank you, the beautiful people of FBC New Bern, for your grace in allowing me this time and for the funds that have made this possible. May God bless each of us as we journey forward in faith together.

Richard



First Baptist Church, New Bern

Walk. Give. Change the world.

If we work together, we can end world hunger. That's why we're participating in the CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us with your steps and your donations. Together we will provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them and create greater food security in communities around the world.

Please donate to our team today!

– Elizabeth Swicegood and Rebecca Sanchez

CROP WALK BAKE SALE

9:00 AM September 8th

on the sidewalk outside of the FLC

CROP WALK - Union Point

3:00 PM September 29th

Point of Contact is

Rebecca Sanchez

704-213-0175

Register and/or donate at

bit.ly/FBCCrop



If I could describe our youth ministry’s summer this year in only one word it would be **full**. Let me explain.

Our summer kicked off on June 2 with Kenan Thornton giving a sermon **full** of the Holy Spirit. From June 9-15, our youth and one of Garber’s youth, plus Brandy Holton, Bob Peterson, and myself, experienced hearts **full** of love in our homeowners, Mama Jan and Papa Eugene, while serving through Appalachia Service Project.

Then our youth served during Vacation Bible School making sure each part of Vacation Bible School was **full** of volunteers.

Passport Camp was where our youth learned, and some were reminded to “come to the water” and be **full** of the Living Water found in Christ Jesus.

Kendal Strickland and I were able to see our youth on church group free time day **full** of excitement and adventure as they experienced a trampoline park in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

On Saturday, August 3 through Craven Clean Sweep trash bags were as **full** as the sense of accomplishment felt by our youth alongside Brandy and Joey Holton and I as we cleaned up Academic Drive together. Of course we were all **full** of disappointment as we had to reschedule the High School Social and Middle School Social due to Tropical Storm Debby.

Thank you to everyone who helps to make our youth **full** by praying for and contributing to our youth ministry throughout the year!

Jeremy



Look at some of the items we have for the Bazaar! We will announce the next workshop in the bulletin when we have secured a date in September. Stay Tuned!



September	
6	First Friday 7 - 9PM
7	Crystal Coast Palooza Camp Albemarle 9am - 5pm
8	Sunday Night Youth Kickoff — Parents are invited 5 - 6:30pm, dinner from Mi Cabana
29	Crop Walk at 3pm Union Point. Youth will walk together then return to the church for Messy Games and snack supper. Pickup 6:30pm
October	
4	First Friday 7 - 9pm
5	Craven County Clean Sweep* Downtown trash pickup 9 - 11am followed by ice cream at the Cow Café, pickup 12pm
12	Mumfest Parking Fundraiser
13	Mumfest Parking Fundraiser No Sunday night Youth
27	Fall Festival Setup 11am - 12:30pm, Volunteers arrive at 4pm. Fall Festival 5 - 7pm
November	
1	First Friday 7 - 9pm
9	Holiday Bazaar 9am - 1pm*
17	Snack Supper & Escape Room 5 - 7pm
December	
6	First Friday 7 - 9pm
8	Progressive Dinner 4:30 - 9:30pm
	*Activities where youth can earn community service hours

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS					
	SEPT 1	SEPT 8	SEPT 15	SEPT 22	SEPT 29
DEACONS	Wayne Brown Charlotte Fuller	Chuck White James Garner	Brant Bills Ken Gray	Dwayne Allgood Kathy Swindell	Tracey Lorentzen Kelsie McBride
WATCHMEN	Phil Kaylor	Todd Spear Colin Hardy	Phil Smith	Dwayne Allgood	Jeremy Tavares
USHER TEAMS	Todd Spear	Mike Seawell	Eddie Games	Bobby West	Susan Williams
CAFÉ CONNECTION	n/a	Crop Walk Bake Sale	Lee Ann Smith	Rosemary Dow	Cathy Rock
GREETERS	Wilkinson	Hall	Duff	Garner	Wilkinson
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Jennifer Benton Sarah Moore Bella Bernabi Allison Bunting	Matthew Holton Westleigh Holton Mona Quick	Elizabeth Swicegood Mary Ella Swicegood Carole Hart Lori Meads	Caroline Strickland Addison Strickland	Sheree Bagley Matthew Holton Westleigh Holton Mona Quick
EXTENDED CARE 10:00 Worship Service will begin at 10:15 starting September 8, 2024	Kendal Strickland Caroline Strickland Addison Strickland Jeremy Tavares Courtney Tavares Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow Cindy Lewis	Hannah Garner Lori Meads Sherry Wilkinson Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Joe Thornburg Trish Thornburg Sonya Thurman Gale Evancho Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Kelsie Ferguson Trey Ferguson Melanie Rice Brian Swicegood Gretchen Overby Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Brenda Hall Terry Hall David Zink Thaih Zink Susan Trout Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow
Wednesday Night Supper Menu	There will be NO Wednesday night meals in September; our 1st Wednesday night meal will be October 2nd in the FLC with clean shiny floors!				



01 Bo Doak	09 Exavier Stevenson	13 Brandon Clontz	20 Cali Rice	27 John Doughty
03 Paige Muse	10 Miriam Wood	14 Patricia Hughes	21 Doug Amerson	Adam Strickland
Natalie Blalock	Kathy Daniels	15 Timothy Stewart	Wes Stewart	28 Graycen Thornton
William Owen	Mary Ella Swicegood	16 Holly Campbell	Warren Cheves	Brooks Compton
Mona Quick	Cruz Willard	Kierlan Aiuto	Taylor Best	29 Lilagrace Ostmann
04 Susan Pitts	12 Linda Wilkinson	17 Kathy Fuller	22 Brian Nobles	30 Alan Ashe
Megan Collins Ireland	Jeffrey Quinn	19 Jeffrey Wood	25 Teegan SinClair	Wade Fuller
05 Wesley Seawell	Mary Smaw	Cason Bell	Gerry Strickland	Jay Barrington
Vin Rocham	Sawyer Mae Townsend	19 Norma Harvey	Xander Hardy	
08 Rachel Hardy	13 Debbie Kaylor	20 K. J. Muse	Caroline Meadows	



01 John & Lori Meads	12 Jeff & Karen Killingsworth
04 Don & Pat Eglinton	14 Don & Debra Brinkley
05 Joe & Gretchen Overby	15 Thomas & Erica Smith
Tony & Meloni Wray	24 Ken & Sharlene Dimpsey
Dennis & Polly Sawyer	Carlton & Anne Metts
06 Frank & Linda Ipock	29 Kyle & Mallory Compton
08 Bill & Sandy McClinton	

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL RECORD**

Required 08/26/24 YTD: \$757,114
Received 08/26/24 YTD: \$766,068



WORSHIP AT FIRST

Sunday, September 1 – Communion/Baptism
10:00 AM - Praise Team

Sunday, September 8
10:15 AM - Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, September 15
10:15 AM - Praise Team

Sunday, September 22 - Deacon Ordination
10:15 AM - Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, September 29
10:15 AM - Adult Ensemble

Looking Ahead to the Fall... Choral & Instrumental Music Schedule BEGINS

Wednesday, September 4
10:00 AM – Community Gospel Choir
6:00 PM – Preschool Music Activity
7:00 PM – Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 5
5:30 PM – Chancel Bell Choir

Sunday, September 8
4:30 PM – Youth/Parent Ensemble
5:00 PM – Adult Ensemble

Senior Adult Dutch Lunch

Thursday, September 12
@ 11:00 AM

CHARLIE'S
RESTAURANT

in Bayboro

RSVP BY FRIDAY, SEPT 6.

Adult Discipleship

Wednesdays at 6 pm
in the Sanctuary

September 11 - October 2
Mayberry Bible Study

October 9 – November 13
How Did We Get Our Bible?
by Dr. Seagle

PRAYER list

CHURCH FAMILY

Alan Ashe	Howard Mathews	Patsy Setzer
Valeria Barrow	Gwyn Page	Ty Smith
Kathy Daniels	Selma Piner	Richard Wagner
Mary Lou Harrell	Lynn Rausch	Jewel Watson
Janice Huggins	Bobby Reece	Kimsey Welch
Mary Ann Jones		Ellen Young

CARE FACILITY & RETIREMENT* RESIDENTS

<u>Cypress Glen—GVL</u> Elizabeth Brinkley	<u>Woodland Terr - CARY</u> Louise Blizzard*
<u>Champions-WIL</u> Doris Dyson	<u>NC Veterans Home - KIN</u> Mary Ellen Kirschner
<u>Homeplace</u> Christine Peedin Rudy Rowe Patsy Setzer	<u>Merrill Gardens - NBN</u> Rev. David Page Gwyn Page Sylvia Pina
<u>Spring Arbor - KIN</u> Beverly Leathers	<u>Riverpoint Crest - NBN</u> Stacy Chapman Jewel Watson
<u>McCarthy Court</u> Dot Smith	

CHURCH FRIENDS

Deborah Ashley (<i>sister Betsy Dickerson</i>)	Matt Kaylor (<i>friend Alicia Jim/Claudia McManamey (niece)</i>)
Linda Autry (<i>nephew Ronnie Lee</i>)	Roger Pait (<i>father</i>)
Jennifer Bernabi (<i>nephew</i>)	Anna Pearson (<i>Granddaughter Blythe, cousin</i>)
Judy Blythe (<i>Fran Eaves</i>)	Keith Russell (<i>dad Archie Russell</i>)
Jan Burke (<i>Neal Cobb</i>)	Melodie Seagle (<i>mother</i>)
Lisa Chitty (<i>parents, friend Sherry & family</i>)	Kathy Swindell (<i>Ben Bunn</i>)
Sandra J. Dail (<i>Tommy Gaskins</i>)	Beth Wagner (<i>Marian Elmore, John Wiltrout</i>)
Janet Doughty (<i>mother</i>)	Kathy White (<i>Buddy Kirschner</i>)
Lisa Francis (<i>husband Jesse</i>)	Jane Wooten (<i>friend</i>)
Anita Gray (<i>Breanna Gray, Jim Baldrige</i>)	Ken Wooten (<i>mother</i>)
Phil Kaylor (<i>William & Peggy; John & Martha</i>)	Beth Wynn (<i>Lori Abee, Lori M.S. Marx</i>)
Karen Killingsworth (<i>father</i>)	<i>Persecuted relatives of our church families</i>
Lori Hale (<i>brother in law</i>)	<i>Pray for our country</i>
Fred and Nancy Hausman	
Brandy Holton (<i>father</i>)	
Joey Holton (<i>father</i>)	

Pursuing the Promises of God

A nine week, in-depth study of the book of Joshua

STARTS September 19, 2024

Room: A109 10:30AM - Noon

Call the office to sign up! Sign up ends September 8th



Joshua is a book about a faithful God training up a faithful people. It is a book that tells of both victory and defeat, a wondrous display of God’s mercy and His judgment. The book of Joshua both comforts and convicts, challenging its reader to reckon with their own resolve to pursue the promises of God. Perhaps most notably, Joshua is a book that boldly beckons followers of Christ to be strong and courageous - as we follow His lead, trust in His promises, and lay claim to our own inheritance.

We hope you will join us!

Jo Ann Banks, Carole Hart, and Mary Lynn Cheves



We all have had BIG questions that we have wondered about the answers to from time to time. When you are a kid, there are questions that you never seem to find the answer to. The good news is that God has answers to all our questions.

1st Kids will kick off September 11th by tackling questions that many children struggle with. Kids need to know that it is okay to ask questions. We should not be intimidated by their questions. Instead, we should take those questions straight to the source for all answers - God’s Word.

The Children's Ministry needs HELPING HANDS

We need volunteers in Sunday School, Childrens Church and Extended Care.

Contact Sheree Bagley 864-982-2302



PARENT'S Night Off

BACK TO SCHOOL Kids Fun Night !

September 20, 2024
6pm - 9pm
Visit FBC Website or 1st Kids Facebook page to register.

Register Today!

Deadline to register Sept. 16.

Made with PosterMyWagon.com

Operation Christmas Child

It's still summer but Operation Christmas Child is right around the corner!

This year we've made a few changes in the process. Starting in October, stop by the OCC table on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings to pick up your empty shoeboxes, packing information and miscellaneous items to start packing your shoeboxes.

As your filled shoeboxes are returned, we will build two Christmas trees, one in the Sanctuary and one in the Family Life Center to display the filled boxes.

We are adding a little friendly competition to the project, the Sunday School class with the most shoe boxes will be presented with a "shoe box gold ribbon" to be displayed outside their class door.

Look for more information to come about this fun competition.

Last year we exceeded 300 shoeboxes, this year our goal is 350!

The worship services held between Memorial Day up until now have been a tremendous success. It has been wonderful to worship together as one body at one time. It has been fantastic to have a sanctuary that was two-thirds full, at least, most Sundays. The comments that have been received have been very positive.


The Worship Schedule starting September 8 will be:

- 9:00 Café Connection
- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:15 Worship Service



1. It will build church community. No longer will there be one congregation not knowing the other congregation.
2. It will add to the intergenerational relationships at the church. Currently younger members attend the early service almost exclusively. They don't know the older members who attend the traditional service at 11:00 AM. This will help to build relationships between the two.
3. Young families who attend the 11:00 AM service are often "turned off" because they don't see other young families there. With one service, they would see others and I believe the church would be more attractive.
4. It has been good to see people during the summer worshipping together. There has been a wonderful spirit and energy in the sanctuary.
5. This would attract younger vocalists to the adult choir. With only one service, younger vocalists could sing in the sanctuary choir some weeks, vocal ensemble some weeks, youth/parent ensembles sometimes, and praise team sometimes (not to mention handbells, children's choirs and other groups). We could focus upon a different vocal group each week even.
6. We could offer a blended style of music like we have done all summer, which seems to be a wonderfully well-received offering of worship.
7. Christmas would be wonderful to all be together and it would be better for the choirs and vocalists. We could still have two services on Christmas Eve.
8. The sanctuary looks empty on television when we broadcast the second service. And sometimes it feels that way in person.
9. Everyone would be present for baptisms and for moments when someone joins the church.
10. An overflowing sanctuary is a great problem. When we need to go back to two services, we can.

Richard Seagle



Wednesday Night Supper Ministry will begin October 2nd for the 2024 -2025 year.

The kitchen crews, the volunteer delivery teams, and the folks at home are ready to share God's abundance. Many thanks to all who have a part in showing the love of Christ through this wonderful ministry. If you have any questions, wish to submit the name of another shut in, or would like to join our volunteers, please call Beth Wagner at 252-638-5885.

The **WNS Teams** are looking forward to another year serving up some of your favorite dinners on Wednesday nights. We hope you and your family had a wonderful summer and are ready to get back to our Wednesday night Bible Studies and fellowship.

The price breakdown is listed below:

Birth to 5 --- Free

Ages 6 to 12 --- \$3.00

Child Special = Chicken Nuggets unless otherwise stated

Ages 13 to Adult --- \$5.00

There are cards available in the back of the church pews for you to complete and place in the offering plate. You can also call the church office at 252-638-5691 **by 4pm Monday** to place your reservation.

The permanent sign-up sheet starts fresh, so call today and get your name added if you plan to come every Wednesday night!

a sweet
BABY BOY
is on his way!



JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER HONORING
Tyler & Carla Barker

Sunday
OCTOBER 6 2:00-4:00 PM

Family Life Center / First Baptist Church
Baby Registry:
Amazon

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Discipleship classes start on September 11th; However, Wednesday Night Supper does not start until October 2nd. The FLC will be closed to have the floors stripped, lined and waxed.

First Baptist Church

239 Middle Street P. O. Box 1463
 New Bern, NC 28563
 Church office located at 409 Pollock Street
 Phone: (252) 638-5691
 www.fbchurch.com

Non-Profit Organization
PRE-SORT
 U. S. Postage
PAID
 New Bern, NC
 Permit No. 147



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Newsletter articles are due in the church office no later than 9:30 AM on the third Monday of each month. All articles must be written out—none over the phone or verbally, please.

Dr. Richard D. Seagle, Senior Pastor.....	Ext 124
Richard@fbchurch.com	
Rev. Barry E. Templeton, Associate Pastor of Music & Worship.....	Ext 125
Barry@fbchurch.com	
Rev. Kerry Q. Peeler, Associate Pastor of Christian Education.....	Ext 127
Kerry@fbchurch.com	
Rev. Jeremy L. Slagle, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life.....	Ext 121
Jeremy@fbchurch.com	
Mrs. Sheree Bagley, Director of Children's Ministry.....	Ext 128
Sheree@fbchurch.com	
Loma Brown, Secretary.....	Ext 122
Loma@fbchurch.com	
Sandy O'Brien, Director of Finance.....	Ext 126
Sandy@fbchurch.com	
Bette Jo Oglesby, Organist.....	
Bettej.oglesby@gmail.com	
Gwyn Rice, Food Service Manager.....	Ext 107
Gwyn69@hotmail.com	
Tyler Barker, Grounds Custodian.....	
jamestyerb42@gmail.com	
Kit Emmerich, Buildings Custodian.....	
Chemmerich2020@gmail.com	



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the cards, phone calls, prayers and support during my recent hospitalization. Trusting God and His complete power helped me to heal. I am especially thankful for Rev. Kerry Peeler, Rev. Barry Templeton, and Dr. Richard Seagle, Senior Pastor, who visited and prayed for me. I am grateful for my church family.

May God bless you all.

In Christ's love,

Janice Huggins

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, calls, cards and texts that I have received since the passing of my daughter, Courtney Mong. Your love and kindness is so much appreciated.

I am thankful to be a part of such a loving church family. God Bless you all.

Carol Register