



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 19, Issue 4
April 2024

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; Praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; Praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

Psalm 150:2-6

April 28th is Music Minister Appreciation Day.

Thank you Cathy for all you do to help us praise and worship our Lord and Savior.

Spotlight on Our Library

Did you know that First Baptist Church Mount Holly has a library? You can stop by after the worship service on Sunday and check out a book to read. There are many to choose from. Here are just a few recommendations:

You are Gifted (Your Spiritual Gifts and the Kingdom of God) by Ken Hemphill

Jesus on Leadership (Becoming a Servant Leader) by C. Gene Wilkes

Let Yourself be Loved (Transforming Fear into Hope) by Phillip Bennett





Last month I asked if you have a favorite movie ending. Did you come up with any answers? I think of movies like Shawshank Redemption, Avengers: End Game, and Star Wars: A New Hope (you know, the very first one). My preference are showing!

Do you remember the closing scene of the first Indiana Jones movie? The recently rescued Ark of the Covenant is wheeled into a USA-controlled warehouse of unimaginable size. A generic wooden box holding one of the world's most treasured artifacts in obscurity. A lone, low-level government worker wheels the box into a sea of similar containers. The movie ends with an uneasiness about what is to come. It is a great closing scene and you almost hear the audible —what happens next?

As we come out of Easter, we find ourselves in a similar situation. The crucifixion of Jesus and His resurrection on Easter Sunday is the greatest scene in our Christian story. It is what defines us. Without the resurrection, as the apostle Paul so elegantly states, nothing else matters. We are “resurrection people” as is often repeated.

Our Holy Week celebration has now come and gone. Many are tempted to end their engagement with the story right there. We see Jesus has been raised and everything is good. But is it?

Jesus life, death, and resurrection ushered in God's kingdom reign on the earth. It is God's plan of salvation revealed. It is the gospel for all humanity, given in freedom. But it is not the end of the story. The story continues as the good news of Jesus spreads through the world over the years and across the world.

What happens next for us? That is a great question! Our time in worship during April will focus on the idea of moving forward from the Empty Tomb. Will you join us as we *Advance*? Our journey is not over.

A big thank you to **Chris Hensley** who will be in the pulpit on April 7 as my family will be on vacation. I look forward to hearing his thoughts as we all *Advance* together.

Pastor's Pen

 A graphic with a city skyline background. The word "ADVANCE" is in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below it, "Forward From the Empty Tomb" is in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom, four dates and topics are listed in white text with black outlines:

- April 7 Now What?/Matt. 28:16-20
- April 14 Not Alone/Acts 2:14-41
- April 21 Children's Sunday
- April 28 Open World/Acts 16:11-15

Telling sTORIEs

Spring has sprung! The flowers are starting to bloom, the temperature is rising, and our local farmer's market is open! One of my favorite things about warmer weather is spending time outside with my family. I love seeing Gray's face light up as he soaks up the sun, digs in the dirt, and "mows" the grass! I remember digging in the dirt as a child but never making mud pies. However, one of my favorite children's books is Mud Pie Annie. It's a quirky story about a little girl who loves to dig in the dirt; the messier, the better! At the end of the story, Mud Pie Annie recalls something she learned in Sunday School, "No matter what I do in life, I'll do my very best. I'll work at it with all my heart, and that's how I'll be blessed. Whether I make mud pies or great dishes for a queen, I'll put my 'all' into it, for there is no 'in between.' And as I work with all my might, as everybody knows, God sees what is in my heart, not the mud between my toes."

God sees what is in your heart. You are special and unique to God and us. The next time you dig in the dirt in your garden or see a child do the same, remember that God loves you just as you are!



Bible School is right around the corner. Make sure you have July 8th—July 11th marked on your calendar!

Ages Preschool—5th grade

9am—noon

Invite a friend!

Illumination Student Ministry

4/7: No Youth Spring Break for GCS
4/14: Connect Event: Crazy Kickball
4/28: Mentor Meeting



Children's Ministry

4/3: No Afterschool Program
4/21: Children's Sunday



Youth & Children's Ministries



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Sunday, April 21 - Children's Sunday

Music Makers and Young Musicians are singing "The Blessing."

Both choirs will meet at 9:15 to rehearse.

Sunday, May 12

Cherub Choir will be singing "Wonderful, Wonderful World."

Music Makers and Young Musicians will be singing "Look At the World."

THE LAST CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th.

GRACEFUL PRAISE

Graceful Praise will continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 6:15 until May 1st.

We will be leading in worship on Sunday, May 5th.

We will not rehearse Wednesday, April 3rd.

Thank you!

Kasey and Gina

We were blessed on Palm Sunday to have our handbell choir and children's choirs lead us in worship.



Memorials and Donations

Bus Fund

In honor of Charles Sawyer by Penny McClure and family

In memory of Yates & Sarah Pryor by Ken & Elaine Crosby

Youth Ministry Fund

In memory of Sarah Pryor by Aubrey & Brenda Horton

Homebound Ministry

In memory of Sarah Pryor by Mary Jane Hinkle

Music Ministry

In memory of Sarah Pryor by Paw Creek High School Class of 1951 by Peggy Holden

Bereavement Ministry

In memory of Sarah Pryor by Paw Creek High School Class of 1951, by Peggy Holden

Landscape Fund

In memory of Sarah Pryor by Verna Jo Ellis

Bereavement Fund and Music Ministry Fund

In memory of Sarah Pryor by Tom & Susan Eubanks



Live
Clue

Thanks to the volunteers who made our youth event a huge success!



Operation Christmas Child 2024

For the month of April, we are asking everyone to bring SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS. Our goal for April is 150 SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS so we can include 1 in EACH Shoebox.

Please remember that every child who receives your SHOEBOX will appreciate getting a SMALL STUFFED ANIMAL, even 14-year-old boys. Children in these hard-to-reach countries are not as sophisticated as children in the USA. Most have never received a gift, not even for their own birthdays. They really have very few possessions and anything they receive is treasured.

A bin is available in the Gathering Place with an OCC sign requesting that you place your SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS in it.

If anyone prefers to shop and fill the Shoebox as we have traditionally done at FBCMH, that will be equally appreciated. We'll have those Shoeboxes available on Sunday, August 4th.

Praising God that you hear HIS calling!

Questions? You may reach me at 980-253-7180 or kaymmacintosh@hotmail.com

Kay Miller MacIntosh, Project Leader



FBC Missions

Spiritual Gifts Corner

Spring is here! It always feels like spring is a time to get busy and that's just what your Spiritual Gifts Committee (SGC) is doing. We're preparing for a new year that, for church leadership, kicks off on September 1st. It may appear that we've got plenty of time, but when you factor in all the steps required, we're getting busy just in time. You see, the SGC is responsible for creating an Annual Church Report that recommends folks to serve on committees, in church leadership roles, and in Sunday School (you can review the [current Church Report](#)). There are two church votes that have to be orchestrated which requires advance notice and opportunities for discussion. FBC's Constitution and Bylaws require the church to annually elect a Sunday School Director by the first Sunday of May. Next is the presentation of the Annual Church Report which presents the nominees for committees, committee chairs, and church leadership. The SGC has until the first Sunday in August to present this report to the church for a formal vote. Prior to all votes, the SGC works with the Senior Pastor and Church Moderator to announce each vote in advance and hold a discussion session to answer any questions. In all, each year the SGC nominates over fifty individuals to serve First Baptist Church. By the time you read this article the SGC will already be hard at work on this year's report.

In Christ - Your Spiritual Gifts Committee

Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

April 3: No Meal
 April 10: BBQ
 April 17: Pizza
 April 24: Lasagna

A Salad Bar is provided every week.



A Huge Shout-Out

Wednesday, April 24th is Administrative Professionals Day. We want to thank Kim for all she does to keep our church going! Your hard work is appreciated.

Please take a moment to pray for Kim and her family.

A Note of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the many ways you have loved and supported our family during the months leading up to and the days following mom's passing. From the cards, calls, texts, and especially the prayers, you have blessed us.

Thank you to the Bereavement Team for feeding the family following mom's service.

And a special thanks to Pastor Jeff for the visits, laughter, love and support shared with mom.

Love,
 The family of Sarah Pryor



Address Change Announcement

Gene & Beulah McEntire have a new mailing address. They haven't moved, this is for mailing purposes only.

Gene & Beulah McEntire
 152 Autumn Falls Drive
 Lake Wylie, SC 29710



Childcare Volunteers

- 7 Maggie Pressley & Gabrielle Cox
- 14 Maggie Presley & Tracy Bates
- 21 Maggie Pressley, Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
- 28 Maggie Pressley & Susan Greene

Toddler

- 7 Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R.
- 14 Melissa Green & Kasey Petersen
- 21 Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R. & Gabrielle Cox
- 28 Linda Richardson & Laura Swartz

Children's Church

- 7 Children Stay in Worship
- 14 Youth
- 21 Children's Sunday- Children Stay in Worship
- 28 Virginia Hoffman

Church Security

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Hunter Ealey | April 1—April 7 |
| Tami Piercy | April 8—April 14 |
| Scott Poole | April 15—April 21 |
| Todd Flowers | April 22—April 28 |
| Ricky Wrenn | April 29—May 5 |

Ushers and Greeters

- 7 David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins, Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff
- 14 Dickie Thomas, Stephen Abernethy, Cheryl Lineberger, Jo Ann Rollins, Danny Snead
- 21 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier, Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy, Cornelia Pressley
- 28 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin, Missi Fortsch, Brent Green, Chris Medlin

Computer Software Updates

Please note the church staff will all work remotely the week of April 1st due to computer updates that are happening in the office. You may contact the staff by phone or email.

- 1 Peggy Garrett
- 2 Yates Collier, Andy Richardson
- 3 Arlo Hawkins
- 4 Mac Richardson
- 7 Rachel Green, Amanda Smith
- 9 Carrie Haverty, Kim Payne, Pam Smith
- 12 Mary Lou Davis, Justin Greene, Ainslee Wrenn
- 16 David Wrenn
- 17 McKenzie Bradley, Sheila Carpenter
- 19 Henry Abernethy, Annie Duckworth, Jo Ann Rollins
- 20 Ken Fortsch
- 22 Steven Abernathy, Anne Gary
- 24 Gene Barrow, Colin Blanton, Azilee Blanton, Sydney Sisk
- 27 Matthew Allen, Mike Szupiany
- 28 Ella Laughlin, Ricky Wrenn
- 29 Clint Laughlin, Mildred Seay



- 16 Richard & Cathy Flowers
- 20 Roger & Denise Hawkins
- 21 Johnny & Judy Rollins
- 22 Barry & Janice Still
- 30 Matt & Gina Collier



First Baptist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stay connected with FBC
Mount Holly.

YouTube :

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



FaceBook:

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



Instagram:

[fbcmounthollync](https://www.instagram.com/fbcmounthollync)



OFFICE SCHEDULE

Mondays

Jeff Allen

Tori Freeman

Kim Payne (remote)

Tuesdays

Jeff Allen

Tori Freeman

Kim Payne

Wednesdays

Jeff Allen

Tori Freeman

Kim Payne (remote)

Thursdays

Jeff Allen

Tori Freeman (remote)

Kim Payne

Fridays

Kim Payne



February 2024

Total Receipts – \$70,379

Bldg. Fund – \$675

Bldg. Fund YTD – \$980

Other Designated – \$18,266

Other Designated YTD – \$22,086

2024 Budget – \$538,227

Avg Needs – 2/29—\$89,704

Budget Receipts YTD – \$83,189