



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2024

Welcome to FBC Mount Holly

*GAUDETE
MINISTRY*

PRESENTS A SACRED MUSIC CONCERT
OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

❄️ SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH
AT 6:30PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM | FREE ENTRY

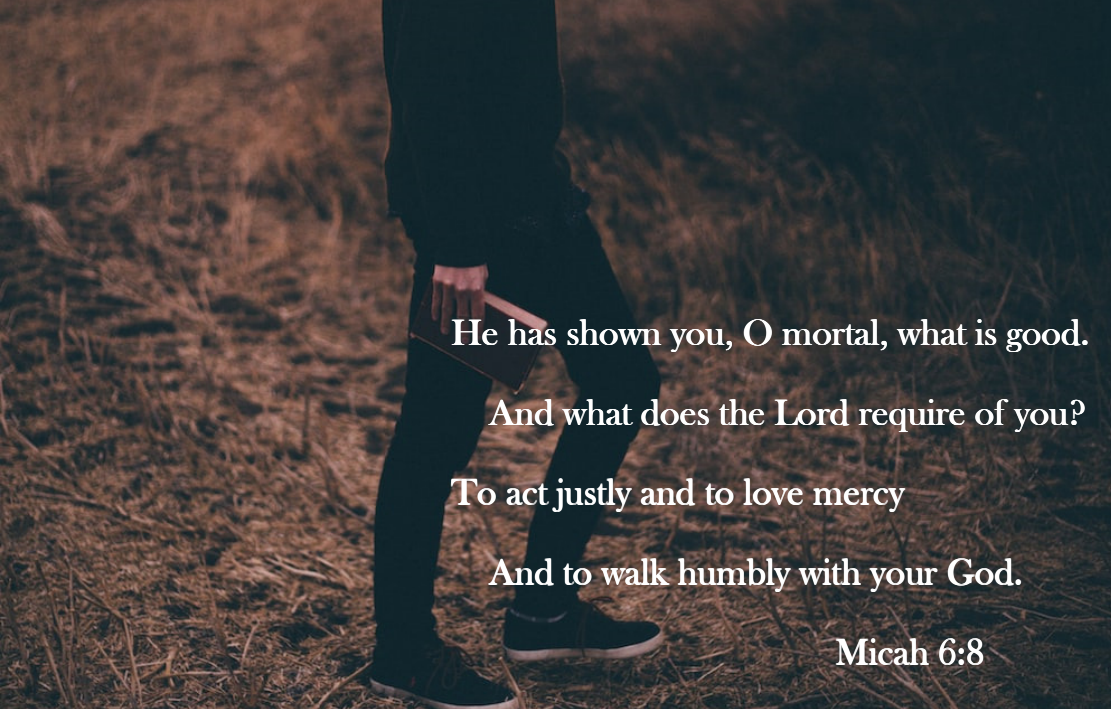
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MT. HOLLY
300 SOUTH MAIN STREET,
MOUNT HOLLY, NC 28120

PERFORMED BY COLE FREEMAN AND DAVID MASTERSON
WITH BETH ALLEN-GARDENER



*The Young &
The Young at Heart*

JOIN US FOR A JOINT EVENT BETWEEN THE YOUTH
AND THE SENIOR ADULTS!
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
4:00PM-5:30PM



He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
And to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



For popular culture, Christmas feels like a finish line. December 25 is the goal which everyone shoots for - present delivery, food consumption, decorations displayed. Don't we often feel so exhausted even when it has been a meaningful time of celebration.

The reality is Christmas is just getting started. There are a number of stories that take between Jesus' birth and the beginning of His ministry. These narratives are often forgotten or discussed only in passing. I believe these stories are critical in our understanding of what Jesus came to do. We will discuss these important aspects of Jesus' early life over the first few weeks of January. These Christmas stories will be followed up with a three week journey through one of the Old Testament prophetic books, Micah. His perspective is an important part of the Christmas narrative.

I hope these series will help us prepare for the start of the new year so we keep Christmas in perspective. I look forward to sharing time together in worship over these next weeks. My prayer is you will find the start of the new year both refreshing and strengthening. We are here to help you in your walk with Christ today and tomorrow.



Pastor's Pen

CHRISTMAS CONTINUES

- 1/7 Strange Gifts (Matt. 2:1-12)
- 1/14 The Long Road (Matt. 2:13-18)
- 1/21 Returning Home (Matt. 2:19-23)

WHO IS LIKE GOD

1/28 A CALL TO JUSTICE

MICAH 6:1-8

2/4 EMBRACING GOD'S MERCY

MICAH 6:9-16

2/11 WALKING HUMBLY WITH GOD

MICAH 7:14-20

Telling sTORIES

Here we are again celebrating the beginning of a new year. Time flies when you are having fun! Looking back on 2023, the only word I have to sum up the entire year is gratitude. I am grateful for how our ministries grew and are continuing to grow. We added 12 children to our afterschool program, promoted six teenagers to our youth program, and have seen many come to know Jesus through a profession of faith and baptism. God is working in our church, and I am grateful to see the fruit of all He is doing.

You might have heard me say that I do not like New Year's resolutions, mainly because all the ones I have made before have fallen by the wayside. Instead, I like to think of a word or a phrase that will drive my desires for the year. Last year, my phrase was "be present". I wanted to carve out a specific time to be present without any distractions to spend time with family and friends and dedicate myself to more intentional time with God. If you know me, you know I am willing to say "yes" to many things, often overexerting myself and overcommitting. It is challenging to be present if you are being pulled in several directions. I learned to say "no" to things this year, allowing me to be more present.

Sometimes, I had to remind myself of my desire to let the world's distractions go to fully invest in others. I have cherished moments with my family that I will remember forever.

For 2024, my phrase is "I Can." This past year was challenging to balance being a minister, a graduate student, a mom, and many others. Many late nights, tears, and a recurring "I don't know how I will get it all done." Every time I finished a class, took a final exam, or checked off all my "to-do's" for the week, I was proud of myself. As this year brings new opportunities and a clean slate, I want to focus on encouraging myself because I know that I can do hard things. God has shown me time and time again that He will never leave nor forsake me.

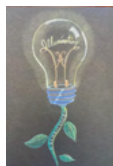
I encourage you to consider what you want to accomplish this year in your relationship with Jesus or personal life. I pray this year is full of blessings for you and your family!



Youth & Children's Ministries

Illumination Student Ministry

1/7: Connect Event: Giant Hide & Seek
1/14 & 1/15: Youth Lock In. (Registration has closed.)
1/21: Mentor Meeting



Children's Ministry

1/10: Afterschool Program Resumes





Thankful for another year to worship and serve the Lord together!

If you are interested in joining the Sanctuary Choir or Adult Handbells now is a great time to do so!

Sanctuary Choir practices on Wednesday nights at 7:00 in the choir room.

Handbells rehearse on Sunday afternoons (see Cole) at 4:00 in the handbell room (upstairs).

We would love for you to join us as we sing and ring to prepare to help lead in worship.



Here are a few pictures from December 17th when our children helped lead us in worship.

Graceful Praise



Young Musicians



Young Musicians



Music Makers

Musical Notes

Operation Christmas Child 2024

After prayerful reflection, I've set our Gospel Opportunity goal at 150. This is a little less than double what we donated in 2023 and I am confident that we will achieve it. We're going to have an OCC Packing Party in October 2024. A definite date and time will be announced later.

To be sure we have enough items on hand by October, we are requesting that you donate a different item each month. For the month of January, we're asking everyone to bring TOOTHBRUSHES. As you know, in many third world countries toothbrushes must be shared with the entire family. The mother or father brushes first, then dips the toothbrush in boiling water. Then a child brushes and then dips in boiling water. This process is repeated over and over until every family member has cleaned their teeth. Therefore, we're hoping to receive at least 3 toothbrushes to add to EACH Shoebox. More would be fabulous!



A bin will be available in the Gathering Place before Wednesday, January 3rd with an OCC sign requesting that you place your TOOTHBRUSHES 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 October 7th.

Please pray that we will reach our 2024 goal of 150 Gospel Opportunities!

Kay Miller MacIntosh, Project Leader

FBC Missions



Spiritual Gifts Corner

Happy New Year! As we settle into what God has in store for us in 2024, the SGC wanted to share again the [FBCMH Guide to Spiritual Gifts Opportunities](#). While it may seem early, soon the Spiritual Gifts Committee will begin working on identifying nominees for Church Committees, Officers, and Committee Chairs for the 2024-2025 Church Report. Our guide is a handy reference to learn about or be reminded of the responsibilities of committees and offices. There is also information about Church Teams in the guide (we will be updating these again this year). As you think about where God is calling you to serve this year, please feel free to reach out to a member of the SGC and let us know. More to come, but for now enjoy the guide.

In Christ - Your Spiritual Gifts Committee

Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

January 3: No Meal
 January 10: Lasagna
 January 17: Homemade Soup and Sandwich
 January 24: Ham, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Apples
 January 31: Pizza



A Salad Bar is provided every week.



Memorials and Donations

Bus Fund:

In memory of Al Rhodes by Sally Orendorff, Millie Hunsucker, Aubrey & Brenda Horton, Jerry & Becky Causby

In memory of John Posa and Shirley Brookshire by Ken & Elaine Crosby

In memory of Al Rhodes and Vickie Flowers by Ken & Elaine Crosby

In memory of Doris Gates by Cornelia & Maggie Pressley

Landscape Fund:

In memory of Vickie Flowers by Jimmy & Ann Little

In memory of Al Rhodes and John Posa by Verna Jo Ellis

In memory of Betsy Mazingo by Millie Hunsucker

Building Fund:

In memory of Vickie Flowers by Ruth Mundy, Tommy & Pam Shapiro, Donald & Mary Shapiro, Ray & Janice Stevens, Christy Cook

In memory of Al Rhodes and John Posa by Mary Jane Hinkle

In memory of Al Rhodes, Pat Collier and Vickie Flowers, Greg & Sarah Springs

In honor of Jane Rhodes by Greg & Sarah Springs

In memory of Al Rhodes by Fellowship Sunday School Class

Benevolence Fund:

In memory of John Posa by Gregory & Connie Walters, Floyd & Rita Farmer, Stan & Sara Broome, Darren & Beth Broome, Jimmy & Ann Little

Music Ministry:

In memory of Al Rhodes by Greg & Sarah Springs

Childcare Volunteers

NURSERY

7-Colleen Grealis & Maggie Pressley
 14-Maggie Pressley & Melissa Green
 21-Maggie Pressley, Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
 28-Maggie Pressley & Lauren Huneycutt

TODDLERS

7-Kay MacIntosh & Kasey Petersen
 14-Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R.
 21-Susan Greene & Brooke Shepherd Elting
 28-Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

7-Children Stay in Worship
 14-Dickie & LuAnn Thomas
 21-Brandon & Lauren McCotter
 28-Virginia Hoffman

Church Security

Keith Piercy Jan 1—Jan 7
 Ken Fortsch Jan 8—Jan 14

Ushers and Greeters

7 Aubrey Horton, 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

- 1 Laurel Duckworth, Van Hawkins
- 2 Katie Choren
- 4 Maryvan Blair
- 5 Lydia Elting, Emily Kleis
- 6 Amanda Choren, Claudia Henrickson, Keith Piercy
- 10 Ricky Russell
- 11 Bill Flowers
- 12 Maggie Pressley
- 13 Gray Freeman
- 14 Missi Fortsch, Chris Medlin
- 15 Josh Lancaster, Miranda Newhart, Bob Winecoff
- 16 Roger Abernathy
- 17 Margaret Martin
- 18 Harper Allen
- 19 Kaylee Flowers
- 20 Lily Benfield, Amanda Haverty
- 23 Scott Griffin, Cathy Holland
- 24 Lancy Rhyne
- 25 Vince Bullard
- 28 Jack Jordan
- 29 Carolyn Snead, Breeze Williams
- 31 Lisa Collier



12 Richard & Linda Hawley

Memorials / Volunteers / Birthday / Anniversary

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



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MOUNT HOLLY, NC

November 2023

Total Receipts – \$59,456

Bldg. Fund – \$1,356

Bldg. Fund YTD – \$16,066

Other Designated – \$19,548

Other Designated YTD – \$324,870

2023 Budget – \$495,949

Avg Needs – 11/30—\$454,620

Budget Receipts YTD – \$419,817