

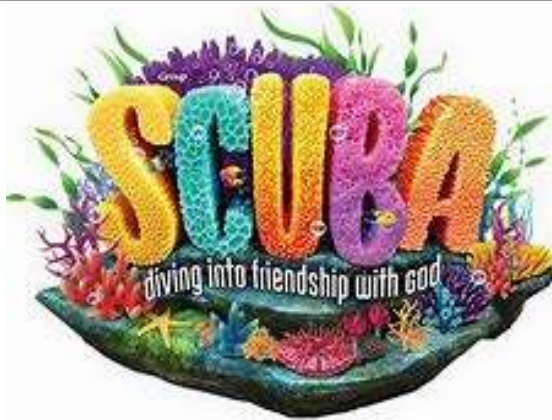


The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 19, Issue 2
February 2024

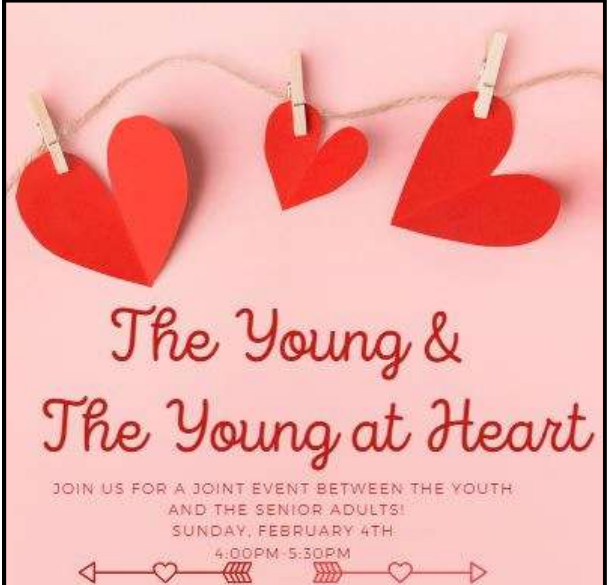
Welcome to FBC Mount Holly



Save the Date for our 2024 VBS!

July 8th– July 11th 9am-Noon

Ages Preschool–5th grade



JOIN US FOR

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE DINNER
FEB 13, 2024
5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Sponsored by the Children's Ministry. All donations will benefit the children.

ASH WEDNESDAY
6:30pm Ash Wednesday
Service

No other evening
activities on 2/14.



We all love a good story. You could probably share with me people in your lives that told a good story. Maybe it was a parent, a family member, the guy at the local hardware store, or even that neighbor down the street. A good story makes us laugh, remember, and even think deeply. Stories matter. Stories define us. Stories connect us.

A group of Princeton neuroscientists summarized this story connection in a recent study. They said, "Communication is a shared activity resulting in a transfer of information across brains. The findings [...] indicate that during successful communication, speakers' and listeners' brains exhibit joint, temporally coupled, response patterns." In other words, storytelling unites us.

Jesus was a master storyteller. During Lent we will be spending time discussing some of Jesus' parables. As He journeyed to the cross, Jesus spent a good deal of time trying to teach his disciples, and all those who would listen, truth about God, about humanity, and our need for salvation. He connected with people on a level not since replicated.

I hope you will be part of this journey, one that finds its conclusion on Palm Sunday at the beginning of Holy Week. I pray these stories will help prepare our hearts and our minds to hear God clearly. He got our attention at Christmas. Now will we have the ears to hear him speak during this journey? I look forward to connecting soon.

Pastor's Den

WHO IS LIKE GOD

2/4 EMBRACING GOD'S MERCY

MICAH 6:9-16

2/11 DEACON ORDINATION

STORIES OF A KING

AS HE JOURNEYS TO THE CROSS

Feb. 14 *For the Lost* Luke 15:1-10

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 18 *For the Broken* Luke 10:25-37

Feb. 25 *For the Rich* Luke 12:13-21

Telling sTORIEs

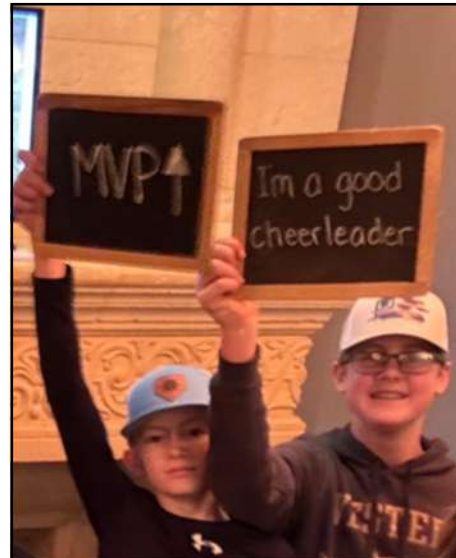
Love is in the air! Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall together this year. A day dedicated to celebrating love coincides with the beginning of Lent, a time to prepare our hearts as we remember the ultimate sacrifice of love. I encourage you to attend our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 13th, share in love around the table, and remember why we join in the season of Lent. May God's love surround you every day and may you heed the words of Billy Graham. "There should be a holiday that celebrates love. Oh, and there is. But while Valentine's Day focuses, for the most part, on romantic love, people can be sure that there's so much more to that dreaded four-letter word. There's a lifetime of days to connect to God, the Source of love, who teaches us, by example, to love with patience, faith, generosity, wisdom, and grace."



Youth & Children's Ministries



We survived the Youth Lock-In 2024!



We had 23 youth participate in the lock in. Thanks to all of the volunteers for helping in the fun!

Illumination Student Ministry

Feb 4- The Young & The Young @ Heart
Feb 11- NO Youth-Super Bowl Weekend
Feb 28- Connect: Concert @ Hickory Grove Baptist Church



Children's Ministry

Feb 13- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30 p.m.





Beloved, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7

LOVE IS willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving. **LOVE IS** being willing to have your life complicated by the needs and struggles of others without impatience or anger. **LOVE IS** actively fighting the temptation to be critical and judgmental toward another while looking for ways to encourage and praise. **LOVE IS** making a daily commitment to resist the needless moments of conflict that come from pointing out and responding to minor offenses. **LOVE IS** being lovingly honest and humbly approachable in times of misunderstanding. **LOVE IS** being more committed to unity and understanding than you are to winning, accusing, or being right. **LOVE IS** being willing, when confronted by another, to examine your heart rather than rising to your defense or shifting the focus. **LOVE IS** making a daily commitment to grow in love so that the love you offer to another is increasingly selfless, mature, and patient. **LOVE IS** being unwilling to do what is wrong when you have been wronged, but looking for concrete and specific ways to overcome evil with good. **LOVE IS** being willing to always ask for forgiveness and always being committed to grant forgiveness when it is requested. **LOVE IS** recognizing the high value of trust in a relationship and being faithful to your promises and true to your word. **LOVE IS** refusing to be self-focused or demanding, but instead looking for specific ways to serve, support, and encourage, even when you are busy or tired. **LOVE IS** daily admitting to yourself, the other person, and God that you are unable to be driven by love without God's protecting, providing, forgiving, rescuing, and delivering grace.

- Paul David Tripp

Operation Christmas Child 2024

As you are aware, we're requesting that you donate a different item each month. For the month of February, we're asking everyone to bring SMALL TOY VEHICLES. To be sure everything will fit in the Shoeboxes, please bring small cars and trucks such as Matchbox or any similar size. Our goal for February is at least 300 cars and trucks.

A bin is available in the Gathering Place with OCC sign requesting that you place your SMALL TOY VEHICLES in it.

If anyone prefers to shop and fill the Shoebox as we have traditionally done at FBCMH, that will be equally appreciated. We will have those Shoeboxes available on October 7th.



Please join me in praising God for all He is doing at FBCMH in every mission opportunity, including the JOY that comes from honoring Him through our 2024 goal of 150 OCC Gospel Opportunities!

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

Kay Miller MacIntosh, Project Leader



Spiritual Gifts Corner

In a recent Wednesday evening Bible Study, Jeff recommended Timothy Keller's book *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. Of course, I (Carson) immediately ordered it. I was also reminded of the book recommendations the Spiritual Gifts Committee offered last year, mostly focused on, you guessed it, spiritual gifts. You can access the recommendation list in our [Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts: Resources for the Journey](#). By the way, Linda Piercy has many of these books available in our church library. On that same Wednesday evening, Jeff asked the group to name books that had made an impact on our own Christian formation. Two of mine were *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and *Letters from a Skeptic: A Son Wrestles with His Father's Questions about Christianity* by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd and Edward K. Boyd. Both are totally accessible to anyone, yet require some patience and attentiveness. I'm looking forward to digesting Keller's book while also revisiting some titles from the SGC's resource guide. And I'm looking forward to continuing our conversations around discerning and using our spiritual gifts as disciples of Christ. To be continued ...

In Christ - Your Spiritual Gifts Committee

Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

February 6: Lasagna

Tuesday, February 13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Dinner (no salad bar)

February 14: No Meal

February 21: Taco Night

February 28: Ham, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans,
Apples

A Salad Bar is provided every week.

Basketball Schedule

Feb 5 6:30pm

Feb 12 8:30pm

Feb 15 7:30pm

All games are
played at FBC
Stanley. Come
out and cheer
on our team!



Thank You

Dear Church Family:

My family would like to thank you for the prayers, calls, texts and food since my stepmom passed.

Thank you all,
Lisa Collier and family

I want to thank everyone for the cards, treats and the beautiful Poinsettia. It brightened my day!

Miss you all.
Peggy Garrett

Dear Church Family:

Thursday (12/14) was a sort of gray day. It began with Linda taking care of me, which is quite a task. I am wheelchair bound and on a 3-day dialysis schedule and our days are a challenge. Around 4:00 p.m. there comes a knock at our front door and there stood an angel...(remember Gabriel). That angel was loaded with the most beautiful Christmas cards, a huge bag of treats and a beautiful Poinsettia. What a blessed Thursday!

Thank you,
Doug & Linda Mullis

Flower Team Ministry

Our flower team invites you to prayerfully consider placing flowers on the altar table on a Sunday morning. Flowers can be placed in honor or in memory of someone or in recognition of a personal celebration.



If you would like to participate in this ministry opportunity, you can sign up on the chart on the wall across from the elevator.

Please send the description you would like listed in the bulletin to Kim Payne, kim@fbcmontholly.org one week prior.

Childcare Volunteers

Nursery

2/4- Angie Hilderbran and Suzanne Griffin
 2/11- Maggie Pressley & Gabrielle Cox
 2/18- Jo Ann Rollins & Cheryl Lineberger
 2/25- Maggie Pressley & Gabrielle Cox

Toddler

2/4- Maggie Pressley & Gabrielle Cox
 2/11- Sajiah Taylor, Rebekah S.R.
 2/18- Maggie Pressley & Gabrielle Cox
 2/25- Sajiah Taylor & Rebekah S.R.

Children's Church

2/4-Children Stay in Worship
 2/11- Dickie & LuAnn Thomas
 2/18- Brandon and Lauren McCotter
 2/24- Amanda Choren



Church Security

Scott Poole	Jan 29—Feb 4
Todd Flowers	Feb 5—Feb 11
Ricky Wrenn	Feb 12—Feb 18
David Wrenn	Feb 19—Feb 25
Gary Farmer	Feb 26—Mar 3

Ushers and Greeters

4 Aubrey Horton, David Wrenn, Roger Hawkins, Denise Hawkins, Jay Ratliff
 11 Dickie Thomas, Stephen Abernethy, Cheryl Lineberger, Jo Ann Rollins, Danny Snead
 18 Ricky Russell, Kevin Collier, Mac Richardson, Tami Piercy, Cornelia Pressley
 25 John Petersen, Suzanne Griffin, Missi Fortsch, Brent Green, Chris Medlin

Memorials and Donations

Bus Fund: In memory of Al Rhodes and Vickie Flowers by John & Alice Jones

Building Fund: In memory of Vickie Flowers by Larry Sellers

In memory of Betsy Mazingo by John & Alice Jones

In memory of Al Rhodes by Dickie & Luann Thomas

In memory of Vickie Flowers by Dickie & Luann Thomas

In memory of John Posa by Dickie & Luann Thomas

Homebound Ministry Fund: In honor of Linda Mullis by Doug Mullis

Global Missions & Lottie Moon: In memory of Vickie Flowers, Al Rhodes and John Posa by Mike & Ann Huff

In honor of Reeves & Peggy McGlohon by Mike & Ann Huff

4 Brenda Horton, Tom Nixon
 6 Hunter Ealey, Jackson Gardner
 7 Riley Dean
 9 Cole Freeman, Sam Williams
 10 Tori Freeman, Todd Hilderbran
 11 Mike Huff
 13 Willie Orr
 14 Bruce Duckworth, Millie Hunsucker, Bill Piercy, Danny Snead
 17 Charles Smith
 18 Johnna Bullard, Collier Poole
 20 Vicki Cauthen, Henry Richardson
 21 Jaime Moore, Virginia Winecoff
 22 Will Choren, Terry Lancaster
 23 Charles Sawyer
 24 Buddy Smith
 26 Kevin Collier, Nancy McIntosh
 27 Barbara McQuarrie
 28 Ashley Flowers



6 Gene and Beulah McEntire



Memorials / Volunteers / Birthday Anniversary

First Baptist Church

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336-978-4686 (cell); 704-879-2027 (office)

Tori Freeman, Minister to Youth and Children

tori@fbcmountholly.org

704-879-2037 (office)

Cathy Holland, Minister of Music/Accompanist

cathy@fbcmountholly.org

Cole Freeman, Music Associate/Youth Music

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Kim Payne, Administrative Assistant

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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

December 2023

Total Receipts – \$124,832
Bldg. Fund – \$850
Bldg. Fund YTD – \$16,916
Other Designated – \$15,658
Other Designated YTD – \$340,528
2023 Budget – \$495,949
Avg Needs – 12/31—\$495,949
Budget Receipts YTD – \$528,237