

Contact



Pastor's Message

Dear First Baptist Family, It's hard to believe that we are almost through the first quarter of 2022. The months and years seem to tick-by with greater speed each year. Even though it's spring, we are currently thinking about summer and beyond as it relates to the ministry of the church, and I want to invite the church to begin praying for one of our most urgent needs. You will hear more about this in the next couple Sunday mornings, but this month, we hope to officially begin receiving applications for our Family Ministry Associate, a part-time staff position that will deal directly with our Youth Ministry and Kids Ministry as well as devote some time to

media/production. Any time a church looks to hire staff, it's a nerve-racking experience. That's why we need to pray. So, over the course of this month, please pray with me for a few specific things. First, pray that God will provide someone with godly wisdom and maturity beyond their years. Second, pray that God will provide someone who connects well with our youth and understands how to meet teenagers where they are as they evangelize and disciple them. Third, pray for discernment from God for me, our deacons, and the families of our youth as we interview and get to know different candidates. Ultimately, we are asking God to provide someone who can lead our

Kids, Youth, and Media ministries with godly character, biblical convictions, and sufficient competencies. We look forward to what God will do in the days to come as we continue to be the kind of church where Kids and Youth are reached, disciplined, and strengthened in the faith. For that to happen, we don't just need this staff-person. We also need you to partner with parents in faithfully serving and discipling the next generation. What an exciting and weighty responsibility that we bear! I trust that the Lord will make us faithful to the task. Blessings, Pastor Matt

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Deacon's Meeting:*
Monday, March 14th @ 7:00 pm
- ◆ *Family Night Dinner:*
Sunday, March 20th @ 11:15 am
- ◆ *Senior Brunch:*
Thursday, March 17th @ 10:00 am



MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Wren Walters
- 5 Bill Blevins
- 6 Sylvia Jackson
- 7 Paul Edwards
Max Haynes
Carolyn Lovill
- 8 Brenda Hamm
- 10 Sabrienna Edwards
- 11 Katie Hudson

- 12 Kodia Leftwich Byers
Sandra Busic
Morgan Teague
- 13 Matthew Braxton,
Joyce Walker
- 14 Wendy McClung
Randy Andrews
- 19 Jaclyn McCann
- 20 Brian Shaw
- 21 Rondal Farmer
- 22 Barbara Patrick
Carla Collins
- 23 Susie Gambill,
Noah Crouse

- 26 Jerad Poole,
Marissa Walker
- 27 Presley Hicks
- 29 Penny S. Wheeler
Brandon Halsey
Lisa Brady
- 30 David Hicks
Adam Gambill

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like for it to be, please let the church office know.



MARCH

ANNIVERSARIES

March 19, 1977

John & Sandy McCray

March 30, 1963

Don & Brenda Wall

An Ancient Prayer

Lord Jesus, think on me
and purge away my sin.
From earthborn passions
set me free
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that when the flood is past,
I may th' eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

—Synesius of Cyrene (4th century)

? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

All four Gospels tell of a woman anointing Jesus. Details vary; clearly, she isn't the same person in all accounts. In John, who is she?

- A. Jesus' mother, Mary
- B. Mary Magdalene
- C. Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus)
- D. None of the above



Answer: C (See Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-39; John 12:1-8.)

For Your Information

Transportation:

If anyone is in need of transportation to our church services please contact the drivers for the month of March. They are Bill Nilo @ 336.200.3411 and Joe Caldwell @ 336.830.1363.



located outside the church office. Fill them out and place them in the box beside the office door. Please consider placing your information in the newsletter.

Newsletter Information:

If your committee, or group has information, or opportunities that could be published in the newsletter, please have your information written out and ready to publish by the **20th** day of the month. You can email the church office with your info at fbc_sparta@skybest.com or forms are

Newsletter Folding Party:

Would you like to assist in getting the newsletter assembled & ready to mail? We meet in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, March 30th @ 9:30 am. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 336-372-8446 or let Gwen Hicks know of your interest.

Family Night Dinner:

Our Family Night

Dinner for the month of March takes place on Sunday, March 20th @ 6:00 pm. We only ask that you bring your favorite dish and / or dessert. We look forward to you joining us during this time of Fellowship.

Brotherhood Breakfast:

Sunday, March 27 @ 7:45 will be our first brotherhood breakfast in a while, so men your invited join us for breakfast and this time of fellowship. On that same day Our Baptist men will be celebrating their mission in this church by filling the choir with men. The guest speaker that day will be Rev. Mark Harris.

Senior Ministry Meal

Our Senior ministry will be having a breakfast brunch meal on March 17 at 10:00 in the Fellowship hall. Please plan to join us and please call the church office or me 252-635-8546 so we

will know how much to prepare. Look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
Kathy and committee



Soup Kitchen Ministry

The Church's Soup Kitchen Ministry occurs every Monday between 12 and 1:00 pm for all church members.

If you are sick or unable to drive you may request a meal to be delivered.

Please contact the church office know by the Thursday

before if you wish to participate.

Remember you **MUST** call if you wish to participate.



Monday's from
12:00 pm—1:00 pm

Youth Update

In February, the Youth Ministry continued our Sunday night small group Bible Study and monthly community-building event.

We've had a few different visitors join us for our Sunday night studies, having anywhere from 7 to 11 youth. We've been discussing the sermon passages throughout Philippians, diving into important topics like identity, anxiety, and contentment. Thanks to the Embrace Women's Ministry, we are able to enjoy snacks, drinks, and childcare so that Mallory and I are able to focus on the youth. Additionally, Jonathan and Amy Bowman are also serving with us, creating the opportunity for more godly

role models to be available in the lives of our youth.

On February 11th, Mallory and I hosted the youth at our house for an Escape Room Challenge. Thanks to Susan and Bill Nilo, we got to enjoy breakfast for dinner. The youth especially enjoyed the pancakes! After we ate, Mallory set the stage for the Escape Room. The youth had to work together to identify and interpret clues so that they could solve a mystery. They had 60-minutes to figure it out, and they finished with 10-minutes to spare! Thanks to Buddy and Tammy Marion for providing childcare for

the night. We appreciate the collective effort that it takes to minister to our youth!

Please continue to pray for our youth ministry as we search for a Youth Director. Also, please pray for our youth.

Following Christ in today's world is increasingly difficult for

young people who face a lot of external pressure. Please pray that they will grow in their knowledge and love for the Bible and that they will stand firm in their faith.

Don't forget we will meet at the church, Friday, March 11th @ 5:30 pm.

Youth Ministry
Small Group Bible Study
Sunday's @ 4:30 pm
Youth Hangout @
First Baptist Fellowship Hall
Friday, March 11th @ 5:30 pm

Welcome New Members

The Bowman's:
Jonathan & Amy
Children:
Isabell & Jameson



The Pruitt's:
Harold & Carollyn

The Carpenter's:
Brady & Kayla
Children:
Ellie Collins & Beau





Cheerio Adventure Scholarship:

The Cheerio Adventure Program is now "Cheerio on the New River. We are excited to be

sending Amberlyn and Allison Joines to camp this summer. They applied 2 years ago and camp was closed due to Covid. They will reopen with a new name, faces and curriculum.

We're excited for the new chapter at Camp.

Gerald & Sharon Leftwich

Worship Schedule (March, April & May)

March

- 6 Barbara Patrick & Leann Gambill
- 13 Kay Maines & Mallory Harris
- 20 Cindy & Noah Lyon
- 27 Fran Lewis & Margaret Royal

April

- 3 Christy Miller & Barbara Murphy
- 10 Paula Brooks & Candace Douglas

- 17 Morgan & Bobby Edwards
- 24 Mary Beth & Brad Gambill

May

- 1 Betty Guynn & Michelle Tompkins
- 8 Karena & Brett Jarrett
- 15 Susan Murphy & Brenda Taylor
- 22 Kay Luffman & Dawn Mustin
- 29 Jim & Joan Cox

If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers, please contact Brenda Taylor (336-372-8641). The more volunteers we have, the less often anyone needs to serve.



To decorate for our Palm Sunday and Easter Week Worship services, we will be using Easter Lilies around the sanctuary. If you would like to purchase one or more of these in memory of or in honor of someone, forms will

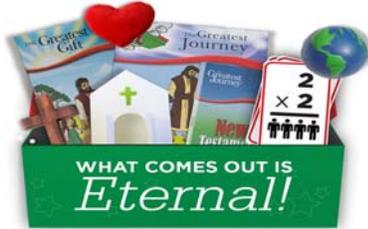
be available in the church bulletins beginning Sunday, March 20th or you can contact the Church Office @ 372-8446. Monday, April 4th will be the last day to place an order. The cost will be \$9.00 per lily. You

may take your lily home with you after the service on Easter Sunday.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."
—Mother Teresa

Operation Christmas Child

As a church, we have participated in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry through Samaritan's Purse for several years and collected anywhere from 74 up to 196 shoeboxes. These boxes, while filled with items that show our love and concern for the needs of children who receive them, become gospel opportunities to share the Good News of God's greatest gift in sending Jesus. In light of the far-reaching effects these messages can have to extend to their families and communities, we are going to try something different this year to reach our goal of 250 boxes. We are challenging each family to pack at least



1 box per family member throughout the year. Choose the age and gender of the child you are packing for, fill the box with suggested items, include \$9 per box for shipping and processing, and affix the label to the outside. We will collect these throughout the year instead of just in November. There will be boxes as well as labels located around the church for you to pick up as needed. A list of suggested items are displayed on both the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall and sanctuary. For the few items that have already been collected, which were intended for the packing party, Embrace will go ahead and pack boxes with

those donations as well as additional items to completely fill them. There are many options to participate in this ministry, from packing your own box, to building/packing an online box; from decorating the box lid to writing a letter to the child who will receive your box; from including \$9 in your box to paying online and then printing a label to follow the destination of your box. More about these options will be forthcoming. I challenge you to "think Outside the box" literally as you consider that each child receiving a box will, most importantly, hear about the good news of God's greatest gift...Jesus and that news will multiply in their families and communities.

OCC Items Ideas

Wow item (choose 1)



- Soccer ball & manual hand pump (deflate ball),
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Doll or stuffed animal
- Large toy car
- Musical instrument (recorder, slide whistle, harmonica)

Toys (include 2-3)

- Foam ball or bouncy balls
- Slinky, Small Frisbee
- Finger puppets
- Small Etch-a-Sketch
- Plastic toys/figures (nothing war related)
- Marbles
- Small Lego set
- Toy cars



Personal Care items



- (include 3-5)
- Hairbrush/comb
- Toothbrush with holder
- Bar soap (with cover or in a bag)
- Washcloth/towel
- Adhesive bandages
- Plastic dishes or containers with lids

School Supplies (select 3-5)

- Pencils, colored pencils, manual sharpener
- Erasers, Pens & crayons
- Notebook or journal
- Solar powered calculator
- Safety Scissors
- Ruler



Clothing & Accessories

- (include 1-2)
- T-shirts, Hats a/o Socks
- Princess crowns, Jewelry
- Flip-flops, Sunglasses
- Wristwatch, Tote bag, purse, backpack
- Hair accessories



Crafts & Activities

- (choose 1-2)
- Travel games
- Jump rope
- Binoculars
- Coloring books
- Sewing kit or Small tool set
- Playing cards
- Rubber band bracelet



Community Service Projects (Operation Inasmuch)

“I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40 In years past, before COVID, we have used this scripture as a charge to go out into our community to help others. Now it is time to get back to doing the things Jesus said to do-go out and serve others. We are planning to do some community service projects in April. We ask you to set

aside Saturday, April 9 to help us. Right now we need a list of projects. If you or anyone you know have projects around the house or yard that needs to be done but you are unable to do them yourselves, please call Brenda Taylor (336-657-1260) or the church office (336-372-8446) and leave your name and phone number. Someone will contact you to find out how

we can help. Please think of your neighbors who may be disabled or senior citizens who might benefit. Let’s reach out in Christian love to those around us. We will begin to sign up volunteers near the end of March. I’m excited to get back to work and I hope you are as well!



Daylight Saving Time Begins
Don't forget to Spring Forward your clocks on Saturday, March 12th so you won't be late for church

Jesus has gone there first

Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure — God walked there first! And when we, who have sinned and despoiled the garden, are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone there before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must, if we are to reach the garden, but we don't go alone, Jesus goes there with us.

—James Healy

Leadership Calendar Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Leadership / Calendar Committee on Tuesday, March 8th @ 7:00 pm to plan the calendar for April, May, and June. This committee is comprised of all chairpersons, Deacons and ministry leaders in the church. If you need to

schedule something for this quarter of the year, please come and put it on the calendar. We will also be discussing plans for Easter and Vacation Bible School. Again, the meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 pm. Please plan to attend this

meeting.



Leadership/Calendar Meeting
 March 8th @ 7:00 pm



Grace Notes

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Psalm 90:17

There are so many good hymns that God has inspired individuals to write and when I select hymns for our Sunday morning congregational singing it is my goal to choose Christ-centered songs, because it is my belief that Christ is what we want to be mindful of. But do you have a favorite hymn or chorus that we haven't sung or one that you would like us to learn? I would like you to share your thoughts on your favorite hymn or chorus. During this

month, please email me at greenecres@live.com or just write the hymn title down, place in the offering plate, or return it to me. I will compile a list and share the results in one of our upcoming newsletters.

The first day of spring is March 20 - and with it comes the renewal of our earth and Easter. Our Children's Choir has begun preparing music for Palm Sunday. And the Adult Choir is working on a powerful musical "Colors of Grace - Lessons for Lent". This will be presented on Good Friday (April 15) at



6:00 pm. We invite you to attend and experience this powerful musical that reminds us of our Savior's final earthly lessons in grace—as the road to the cross grew nearer.

And on Easter our Handbell and Adult Choirs will lead us in celebrating the victory of our Risen Lord!

As always I ask you to keep this Music Ministry and all the folks who participate in your prayers.

In His Service,
Cindi Greene

Deacons Minutes Continued from page 9

Pastor Matt presented the Deacons with Proposed Membership Process. This would be used on all new memberships for the benefit of the new member and the church to get to know each other better in a 4-day class taught by Matt each Sunday morning during Sunday School to teach the prospective members what First Baptist Church believes according to the Word of God. It also would give the pastor a chance to get to know what the prospective member knows and understands about the church and its beliefs. All

this is to ensure that the church and new members are on the same page so that growth will ensue. Discussion of the church constitution and possible need for amendment was discussed. Further discussion to be held.

Neal Wiles has been doing small odd jobs around the church helping with installing lights in stair wells and foyers without compensation. Bill Nilo and Warren Taylor are going to try to gather information as to what he has done and come up with a price for the church to repay Neal for his

equipment.

Financial Report was given by JD Brooks and a motion to approve made and seconded, with all in favor.

Deacon Family Ministries were reviewed and updated. Prayer was given by pastor Matt for the Deacon Families.

Pastor Matt asked this question to the Deacons, "what is First Baptist Church Sparta's mission?"

Closing prayer was given by Chairman Brett Jarrett. The meeting adjourned, with a motion and 2nd. Approval was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Edwards.

Deacon's Minutes: January, 2022

Chairman Jarrett welcomed everyone and opened with prayer.

December 13, 2021 Minutes were reviewed and motion to approve as written made and seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Devotion was presented by Grant Caudill. Next months devotion will be presented by Mike Rowe.

Youth Ministry was discussed by Pastor Matt Harris. So far Matt and Mallory have been ministering and hosting the youth until the church can find a new youth director. Matt indicated they have no long-term plans to stay as the youth leaders but felt their involvement was needed to minister to the existing youth. Should it grow substantially during this interim period, he may try to find other leaders so as to stay in small groups. Matt also mentioned that before starting to host the youth, he had checked on liability insurance coverage and as long as the church has the event on the calendar that the church is covered in case of accident. A Motion made to place the planned events on the church calendar so that insurance will cover the church activity. The Motion was made and it was then 2nded. Approval was made by all. The concept of paying Matt and Mallory



the youth director salary until a permanent youth director is found was discussed. A motion was made to pay them and seconded. The motion was approved.

Request from Alleghany County Rescue Squad for donations to help with operating fees was sent to the church. Deacons had made a \$1000.00 donation last year. Discussion of possibly placing this item in the budget for the future was made and will be looked into at a later date. For the time being, the church will make the same donation again this year using money from the Camp Cheerio fund, motion was made and seconded. The vote was approved by all.

Request for funds by a local community member was made for help with their Blue Ridge Energy bill. A one-time \$65.00 Blue Ridge Energy payment will be made by the church out of the Deacon Fund. A Motion was made and 2nded. All approved.

Wednesday Night Prayer meeting was brought up to discuss making it Wednesday Night Dinner and Prayer Meeting. This would take out the Family night dinners that the church has once a month and it would be every Wednesday night before

prayer meeting to enjoy more fellowship and be less burdensome on the Family Night Dinner hosts to cook prep and clean up afterwards. The meals will be simple and possibly purchased twice a month from local vendors to cut down on just a few people bringing dishes all the time. This will be discussed more and involve the Family Night dinner hosts to get more feedback.

Jim Cox presented the Deacons with new dates for Blood Drive that the church will host. A motion to accept the dates and host the Blood Drives was made and 2nded with all in approval.

Warren Taylor gave update on the railing in front of the church. The job is to be completed within the week weather permitting.

TV in the nursery has been installed and is a wireless connection. Everything is in working order.

Pastor Matt's office renovation was looked at by Steve Caudill and quoted at \$1485.00 for the material and labor. A Motion made and 2nded to proceed with the renovation asap. All voted for approval.

Continued On Page 8.....

U S Postage Paid
Permit # 3
Non-Profit Org.
Sparta, NC 28675



PO Box 668
202 South Main Street
Sparta, NC 28675

Phone: 336-372-8446
Fax: 336-372-8446

**Sunday School Attendance
In February, 2022**

Date	Attendance
6	80
13	73
20	76
27	N/A

Sunday School Enrollment 119
Average Attendance 76

We're On the Web @
spartafirstbaptist.com

Contact March Newsletter



Return Service Requested

March Committees and Services

Nursery Schedule

- 6 Barbara Patrick & Leann Gambill
- 13 Kay Maines & Mallory Harris
- 20 Cindy & Noah Lyon
- 27 Fran Lewis & Margaret Royal

Van Drivers

- Bill Nilo @ 336.200.3411
- Joe Caldwell @ 336.830.1363

Ushers

- Mike Rowe
- Warren Taylor

Family Night Dinner

- Margaret Royal (chair)
- Sharon Leftwich
- Debbie Rowe
- Michelle Tompkins
- Kaye Royall

Brotherhood Breakfast

- Gerald Leftwich
- Jim Cox
- Mike Rowe
- Bob Patrick

Security

- Ricky Royal

