

Contact



Pastor's Message

Dear First Baptist Family, It is hard to believe that the month of May marks 6 months since our family moved to Sparta. We couldn't be more thankful to God for the hospitable, kind, and gracious welcoming that we have received from our new church family! We thank God in all our remembrance of you (Phil. 1:3-5)! At a pastor's conference last week, I was filled with joy as I bragged to fellow pastors about your loving spirit, generosity, and kindness. It is a true joy to be your pastor! Now that we are getting more established—learning more about the members of our congregation and the function of our church - throughout the months of May and June, I am excited to present some

new aspects of ministry at First Baptist Sparta. I'm going to provide some brief overviews here, but we will dive into them more deeply through two Sunday Morning Sermon Series in the months of May and June. The specific areas of focus are: Church Membership and The Purpose of the Church. We are blessed at this time to have a very good problem, and that problem is a consistent flow of guests visiting our church. Some people are coming from different churches; some are coming from completely different denominations; and others are visiting us because they've recently moved here from out of town. This is wonderful news! And we are excited about what God is doing in our church. In fact, we have celebrated 8 (soon to be 9) new

members joining our church in the last few months. At the same time, this is an important reason for us to think very intentionally about church membership. Church membership means far more than putting your name on a role. It's a formal commitment that acknowledges your commitment to Christ and your commitment to partner with our church to accomplish God's purpose for us. That means committing to submit your life to God's Word; giving faithfully to support the various ministries of the church; serving in the church as we seek to make disciples and reach the lost; and putting yourself under the shepherding care of church leaders and your fellow Christians.

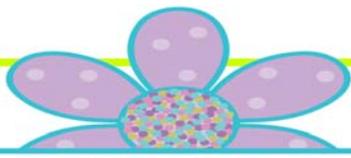
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Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Deacon's Meeting: Monday, May 9th @ 7:00 pm*
- ◆ *Youth Hangout: Pastor Matt & Mallory's Saturday 14th @ 5:30 pm*
- ◆ *Family Night Dinner/ Ministry Fair: Sunday, May 15th @ 11:15 am pm*
- ◆ *Senior lunch: Thursday, May 19th @ 11:30 am*



MAY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Miller
Pat Phillips
Tyler Downer
- 12 Kevin Taylor
- 14 Lupita Church
- 16 George Caldwell
Steve Edwards
Easton Guynn
- 17 Betty Walker
- 18 Lisa Edwards

- 19 Nicholas McKnight
Jane Bullock
- 21 Faron Atwood
- 23 Leanne Andrews
Gary Murphy
Peggy Blevins
Jack Wagoner
Chris Jones
- 24 Celeste Caudill,
- 25 Emily Busic
Madeline Edwards
- 26 Dawn Atwood
Jennifer Dowell
- 27 Kathleen Edwards

- 28 Jean Edwards
Holly Busic
JD Brooks
Katherine Haynes
Jessica Hamm
- 29 Suzanne E. Brooks
Mitchell Reedy
Reagan Tompkins

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



MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

May 9, 1975

Michael & Pat Phillips

May 16, 1998

Alan & Jennifer Dowell

May 20,

Jim & Kathy Trosino

May 26, 1956

Gene & Eloise Furr

May 28, 1965

David & Gwen Hicks

May 30, 1998

Scott & Shane Stoker

May 31, 1991

Terry & Linda Tucker

?? ? ? ? **Bible Quiz**

When Moses was on the mountain for a long time, who made a golden calf for the people of Israel to worship?

- A. Joshua
- B. Levi
- C. Caleb
- D. Aaron



Answer: D (See Exodus 32:1-6)

Memorial Day Prayer

On this Memorial Day, I am thankful for the sacrifice so many throughout our history have made, for the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and for their families who had to carry on without them. It is a sacrifice that is easy to forget. For those who have it, freedom is like oxygen. It's something we just have. Many will not understand just how

precious either is until they are at risk of being taken away. There are encroachments being made on our freedoms right now by those who think they know better. This is a conversation for another time. Today I remember a sacrifice made and a debt I cannot repay. Today I pray for the God of heaven to bless the families of those who have lost loved ones

while serving our great nation. I pray for Him to bless and comfort the walking wounded who are still with us, and bless their families as well. It is also my prayer that we remember their sacrifice and the precious gift of freedom every day, not just once a year or when they are in danger of being taken away.

For Your Information

Transportation:

If anyone is in need of transportation to our church services please contact the drivers for the month of May. They are Chris Jones @ 336.657.1720 and Oscar Reeves @ 336.372.8694 (H) or 336.572.2348 (C).



@skybest.com or forms are 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 Folding Party:

Would you like to assist in getting the newsletter assembled & ready to mail? We meet in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, May 26th @ 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.

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

Family Night Dinner:

Our Family Night Dinner for the month of May takes place on Sunday, April 15th @ 11:15 am. We will serve hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. It will also be a time to sign up for opportunities to serve your church in the upcoming year.

Brotherhood Breakfast:

Sunday, May 8th @ 7:45, our Baptist Men will be serving our Ladies of the Church on Mothers Day. All the women of the church are invited to attend.

Senior Ministry Meal

Our Senior lunch will be May 19 at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. We will be having spaghetti, bread, salad and dessert. Please call the office if you plan to attend and bring a

friend!! Bingo will follow! Hope to see you there!

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.

May Menu

2nd: ~~Vegetable Ham Soup~~
~~Ham Salad Sandwich~~

9th: **Chicken & Rice Soup**
Chicken Salad Sandwich



Monday's from
12:00 pm—1:00 pm

16th: **Pinto Beans & Corn Bread**

23rd: **Chicken Noodle Soup**
PB&J Sandwich

30th: **Hamburger & Chips**



Youth Update

In April, the Youth Ministry continued our Sunday night small group Bible Study and monthly community-building event. We continue to have a solid group of 7-10 students attending our weekly small groups, and this month, we had a particularly fun youth outing.

On April 9th, the youth hit the road headed to Galax for a bowling night. Before taking off, we enjoyed some of Cookie's delicious wraps from Trojan Patio, courtesy of Eva Rice's Sunday School Class. Leanne Andrews and Phyllis Smith persevered late into the night taking care of our kids while Mallory and I were at the bowling alley. Bill Nilo drove

the bus, and the Lord answered our prayers - we made it back in one piece! Jonathan Bowman was also on the trip and added an extra layer of competition to the night by introducing us to "Bowling Jenga." After each bowl, you had to run and pull a piece from the Jenga tower without knocking it down, and you had to pull it before the next bowler finished their turn. Suffice to say, it turned up the pressure. Our Youth had a great time, and we look forward to seeing them grow together more and more through these monthly events.

Please continue to pray for

our youth ministry as we search for a Family Ministry Associate to work with our Kids and Students. Also, please pray for our outreach as we try to connect with more young people in the community. We have had several visitors join us and a couple have kept coming back. We are excited about what God is doing and pray that He will pour out His Spirit of salvation and transformation in the lives of our young people.

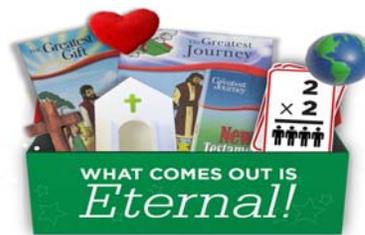
On Saturday May 14, @ 5:30, at Pastor Matt and Mallory's home we will have dinner and yard games.

Youth Ministry
Small Group Bible Study
Sunday's @ 4:30 pm
Youth Hangout @
Pastor Matt & Mallory's
Home
Saturday, May 14th @ 5:30 pm

Operation Christmas Child

How/when did you first hear about Jesus? How has Jesus changed your life? To share this Good News is what we have been called to do in our homes, community and world. Operation Christmas Child is an opportunity to carry out this calling of sharing Jesus with those around the world who may never have heard about Him. I'm excited to see how God plans to use our church to fulfill His call. Our church goal is 250 boxes. This year, to help us meet this goal

(and hopefully exceed it), the church has approved to cover the \$9 shipping cost for up to 250 boxes! If the shipping cost has been a hindrance in the past as to whether or not you could pack a box, don't let that prevent you from packing a Gospel Opportunity for a child...the church has your back! Pack and bring it in. If you have packed your limit including your \$9 on



what you can afford, maybe you'll be able to pack a few more knowing the shipping will be

covered. So...pack away and include your \$9 in each of your boxes if you can. Then pack some more as icing on the cake and the church will supply the \$9. A BIG THANK YOU to our church for this encouragement!!! Now... let's get packing!!!)

Solid Rock Food Closet

It is my pleasure to convey to you that Sparta First Baptist experienced a very successful March as to our volunteers for the Solid Rock Food Closet. In a letter received from the Food Closet, they have expressed that it was a pleasure to work with the kind and

gentle spirits who assisted their clients with their food needs. Those served numbered 254 households, of which 16 were new, encompassing 622 individuals. With great appreciation, I thank each one who assisted with our opportunity to work

with the Solid Rock Food Closet and look forward to our next occasion to be of service to this organization.

Prayerfully submitted,
Mildred Jones

Nursery Worship Schedule (May, June, July, August)

May

1 Kay Maines & Michelle Tompkins
8 Karena & Brett Jarrett
15 Mary Beth & Brad Gambill
22 Kay Luffman & Dawn Mustin
29 Jim & Joan Cox

June

5 Kayla & Brady Carpenter
12 Kathy Adams & Carla Collins
19 Leann Gambill & Mildred Jones
26 Katie & Cort Hudson

July

3 Mallory Harris & Barbara Patrick

10 Kim & Jack Edwards
17 Christy Miller & Paula Brooks
24 Robin Bugielski & Fran Lewis
31 Barbara Murphy & Michelle Tompkins

August

7 Morgan & Bobby Edwards
14 Betty Guynn & Amy Bowman
21 Mary Beth & Brad Gambill
28 Brenda Taylor & Kay Maines

September

4 Karena & Brett Jarrett
11 Kay Luffman & Mildred Jones
18 Dawn Mustin & Barbara Patrick
25 Jim & Joan Cox

If you cannot serve on the Sunday assigned to you, please be sure to contact another person on the schedule to exchange days with you. We are required to have at least two adults in the nursery at all times.

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.

Nursery Schedules for Tuesday Morning Bible Study

May

3: Cathe Nichols
10: LeAnn Gambill
17: Brenda Stoker
24: Leanne Andrews
31: Pat Andrews

June

7: Brenda Taylor
14: Susan Murphy



Nursery Schedules for Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting

May

4: Dawn & Faron Atwood
11: Robert & Barbara Patrick
18: Fran Lewis & Kay Luffman
25: Jonathan & Amy Bowman

June

1: Warren & Brenda Taylor
8: Jim & Joan Cox
15: Bill and Patsy Jarrett



**AS A DISCIPLE
OF CHRIST
WHERE WOULD HE HAVE
YOU SERVE?**

Sunday, May 15th, 2022 @ 11:15 am

YOU HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY!

#

Z h# lo#huyh#Kdp exujhuv#bg#Krwgrjv#ru#Qxqfk##

lq#kh#horz v#ks#Kdo#rorz lqj#kh# ruqlqj#Z ruv#ks#huylfh1#####

Schv#vnh#ip h#r#r#lq#v#bg#lj#q#s#ru#z kd#kh#Qug# rxog#

kayh#rx#r#gr#ru#Kv#Kxufk1#

To The Moms Who Are

To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.

To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.

To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies,

to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.

To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.

To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.

To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.

To those remembering Moms no longer with us.

To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.

Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

- Hannah Kardon, Pastor at Elston Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor's Notes Continued

Because church membership is so important, we need to make sure that new folks joining our church understand who we are and how they can personally contribute to the work of ministry through our church and into the world. So, while a sermon series on church membership might not sound like the most exciting way to start your Sunday mornings, I hope you'll join us as we consider this very important Scriptural issue in the month of May. The second Sermon Series that will start at the end of May will focus on The Purpose of the Church. I

think it would be valuable to pause your reading and ask yourself this question: Why does our church exist? It's a difficult question to answer because there are so many things the church does! As a result, it's easy for churches to lose their God-given, Scriptural purpose and begin to look like any other non-profit that seeks to "help people." But God has given His Church a specific purpose and a specific way in which we make a difference in the lives of people. At the end of May and into the first couple weeks of June, I will be sharing Scripture's

God-given purpose for our church (or any church for that matter). My prayer is that these will be the things that guide us into a future of fruitful ministry as we seek to glorify God by laboring together for the growth of all believers while going with the gospel locally and globally.

Pastor Matt

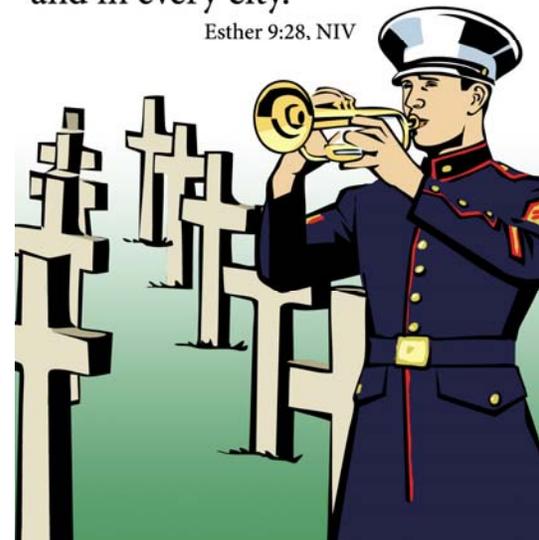


Embrace will meet on Monday, May 16, at 6:00 pm. To plan activities that reflect our focus and goals for the year.

If you don't know what your spiritual gifts are, we will be looking at that also.

THESE DAYS SHOULD BE REMEMBERED AND OBSERVED in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city.

Esther 9:28, NIV



Graduate Recognition

If you have a child that you would like to be recognized on May 29, either promoting from 8th to 9th grade, graduating high school, or graduating from college, please let us know in the Church office.





Grace Notes



Last month our Children's Choir, our Adult Choir and Handbell reminded us through music of the various events leading up to our Savior's death and resurrection. I want to express my sincere appreciation to each person involved in our Music Ministry here at FBC Sparta and to thank you for using your gifts and talents for God's glory. And to everyone involved in our Good Friday service "Colors of Grace" – thank you for your hard work and extra practices – you are a blessing to me.

Children's Choir: On Mother's Day (i.e. May 8th) our children will be singing

during our May 8th morning worship and then take a break until fall. This year it has been wonderful watching our precious children learn about growing a joyful faith through music. Children! Remember Galatians 5:22 – 23 and continue to grow Godly character!

Handbell Choir: Sadly, it is also time for our Ding-a-Lings to take a "vacation" until fall. We have room for more "ringers" and this summer I will offering an "introduction to bells" for anyone who might be interested serving through

this ministry. If you can count to ten – then you have passed the "entry exam"!

Sanctuary Choir: Continue to lift our adult choir in prayer as they work to prepare music for our morning worship services. Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

One final thought: Isn't it great that we can celebrate our risen Savior each and every day?

"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God." Psalm 40:3

In His Service,
Cindi Greene

Deacons Minutes Continued from page 9

Under Old Business, Warren Taylor updated the group on the steps and hand railing. Donald Reeves is ready to lay the brick on the steps as soon as they get here and the weather cooperates. The railings are completed.

Pastor Matt gave an update on Wednesday Night Dinner to start in the month of May. He plans to use this as a test to see if the proposed program works. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the meals which during the test will be provided by The Patio. Jim Cox advised that

Baptist Men's Day will be the last Sunday of March. Easter Sunday will also be Brotherhood breakfast prepared by the Brotherhood.

JD Brooks gave the Financial Report for the month. A motion made to accept as given and seconded, all approved Deacon Family Ministries were reviewed and updated. A prayer was given by JD Brooks.

Pastoral Comments: Pastor Matt presented the deacons with 3 different phrases that best describe the church's

purpose statement. The deacons adopted the 3 G's statement, (Glorify, Grow, Go). Then the deacons were presented a Missionary Partnership Proposal which is a way the church can participate in the great commission through praying, giving and going. Becoming more involved with the church and individual missionaries through small groups developed in the church for Glorifying Growing together. Chairman Brett closed the meeting with prayer

Deacon's Minutes: February, 2022

Chairman Jarrett greeted everyone and opened with prayer.

February 7th minutes were given time for review. A motion was made to accept as written and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

A Devotion was presented by Mike Rowe. Next month's devotion to be given by Bill Nilo.

Under New Business, a discussion of church growth was held. It was agreed that as the church continues to grow that a facility plan needs to be in place to make certain we meet the needs of the church. As part of that discussion, it was agreed that we need to maintain the existing facility and updating throughout the church is needed. It was discussed that the church needs to maintain a list of items needing attention and address them as time goes on. Brett discussed the idea of putting together a program to identify those needs possibly calling it "Build 2023" wherein the church and its members identify the needed improvements/repairs of the church thus creating a list to work off.

Building and Grounds is currently looking into estimates on painting the stairwell, the hallways, the fellowship hall and those



classrooms that have yet to be repainted. In addition, they are working on getting an estimate for new chairs for the choir loft and to replace the mortar between

the bricks on the outside of the church. It was noted that we have enough left-over plank flooring to do one of the smaller classrooms on the third floor.

As we look into the future, it was agreed that the church needed to re-engage a Long-Range Planning Committee to look at how the church could possibly expand. There is no immediate plan to do such, but the church needs to start the planning process. It was agreed that as part of the Ministry Fair that a Long-Range Planning Committee consisting of 12 members would be offered for participation.

Update on the bank behind the church was given by Brett. Bourne Landscaping have replaced the mulch with large rock to keep the bank from washing and to eliminate the need to mulch each year.

Pastor Matt updated the group on the Good Friday services to be held on April 15th. The Cross Walk will commence at Sparta Elementary School at 5:30

pm and the services at the church will begin a 6:00pm Discussion was held concerning use of the Fellowship Hall and the need for a cleaning deposit. It was agreed that the existing policy would be reviewed at the next meeting. This was brought up since the custodian was being required to cleanup after events held by members/nonmembers and should be compensated for his additional time.

Embrace has set a quota of 250 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The cost of shipping the boxes is 9.00/box which would run \$2,250.00. Embrace offered to give \$500.00 to help in shipping and requested that the church help with the remaining shipping cost. The deacons discussed the best option and agreed that it would be to amend the budget to cover the total \$2250.00. It was agreed that the church would cover the cost of those boxes that didn't have the \$9.00 included in the box up to the \$2,250. A motion to approve was made to send to the Stewardship Committee for consideration and seconded, the vote was approved unanimously.

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PO Box 668
 202 South Main Street
 Sparta, NC 28675

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

**Sunday School Attendance
 In April, 2022**

| Date | Attendance |
|------|------------|
| 3 | 80 |
| 10 | 84 |
| 17 | 93 |
| 24 | 80 |

Sunday School Enrollment 119
 Average Attendance 84

We're On the Web @
spartafirstbaptist.com

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 P d | # A h z v o n w h u #



Return Service Requested

May Committees and Services

Nursery Schedule

- 1 Kay Maines & Michelle Tompkins
- 8 Karena & Brett Jarrett
- 15 Mary Beth & Brad Gambill
- 22 Kay Luffman & Dawn Mustin
- 29 Jim & Joan Cox

Van Drivers

Chris Jones
 @ 336.657.1720
 Oscar Reeves @
 336.372.8694 (H) or
 336.572.2348 (C)

Ushers

Jim Cox
 Bill Nilo

Family Night Dinner

Kathy Adams (chair)
 Carla Collins,
 Barbara Patrick,
 Christy Miller,
 Virginia Kilby,
 Lorraine Brooks

Brotherhood Breakfast

Mike Rowe
 Joe Irwin
 Randy Andrews
 Randy Murphy
 Chris Jones

Security

Warren Taylor

