

From the Pastor ...



The Year of Our Lord, 2025

A Scripture verse that many people hold as their favorite is Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV) “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Why don't you make this your key verse for 2025? What would you like to see the Lord do *in* your life, *through* you to others, or *for* you this year? How would you like to thrive in 2025?

Are you in **school** and would like to do better? Ask the Lord to give you clarity of mind when you study and quick and accurate recall when you take a test or write a report. Commit your class time and study time to Him, pray, put in the work, and then expect the Lord to honor your prayer.

Are you looking for the right **job**? Thriving in the right job includes remuneration, of course, but as you know it's more than that. Determine which jobs can provide what you need to thrive on and which ones cannot. Don't apply to the ones that cannot. If you need training, education, or experience to get the job you need, create a plan to get them.

Determine if the sacrifices required to get the right job or right position are really what God called you to. If these sacrifices are not worth it, ask the Lord to lead you to a different one. Right jobs rarely come accidentally. Don't just chase after them, but go after the Lord and follow Him to the job He designed you for.

This year seek the Lord for His perfect job for you. Whether you're just entering the job market, you are a seasoned veteran, or you've already crossed the finish line of retirement, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for people (Colossians 3:23).” Never separate holiness from your work place. If you cannot glorify the Lord in your occupation, it is not God's best for you regardless of the pay or benefits. This year, as you strive to be the absolute best at what you do for a living, watch for the Lord leading you.

We all strive for great **relationships**. Who wouldn't want to get along with everyone around them? Have you noticed that relationships are next level difficulty because relationships depend not just on your right attitudes and actions but other people's as well.

And if we're honest, most of us would get along fine with everyone if they just behaved like we expect and give us what we want. *Ouch*.

I wonder if unmet expectations and selfish demands are the foundation of every argument, fight, and war.

What if 2025 was different? We might not change what's going on in Iraq or Afghanistan, but maybe we can change what happens in our home or hometown.

As you pray for better relationships this year, pray for the relationships the Lord desires. Scripture lists twenty-five “One another's”— things that we should do for one another because God wants us to do them. Jesus did them. The Bible also lists ten specific bad things for us to *not* do to one another. I hope it won't surprise you when you learn what they all are.

Praying for good relationships actually includes praying as much for *you* to have the right attitudes and actions. I started praying for the woman who would be my wife two years before I met Patty. It didn't take long for me to realize that I could not pray for the godly character qualities in her if I was not working on the same traits in me. Be the person you want others to be for you.

As you pray, watch for God to answer. Here's another good verse to memorize this year: Psalm 5:1-3 (NIV) Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my sighing. ²Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. ³In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

We will have a special 175th anniversary Sunday for our church on the last Sunday in October this year. We will actually celebrate our 175 years all year long. Pick up a calendar in church this Sunday, and a pen to take with you and give away.

The main thing, however for our church, is pray. After we obey the Lord, pray, then expect and watch for the Lord to open the windows of heaven for us. Expect Him to pour out a blessing so great we won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put Him to the test (Malachi 3:10)!



Music Ministry



Dear Church Family,

What a year we had in 2024! We can't tell you how blessed we are to be able to

worship alongside all of you. We hope that you were able to make it for our December 22nd choir special. We want to thank everyone who worked so hard to learn those songs. We assure you, it wasn't easy. Thank you to every choir member who dedicated themselves to making it so beautiful!

Our prayer is that in 2025, we will see so many more joining us. We meet on Wednesday nights at 7:30 each week. It is such a great time of fellowship, laughter, and praise. You don't have to be a professional singer, just someone who wants to make a joyful noise! We hope you will consider checking it out!

Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Sterling and Lauren

How Can I Give to FBC?

- Place your offering in the offering plate
- Give on our website on the "online giving" tab
- Bring it to the Church office
- Text the word "BeCheerful" to 73-256
- Place it in the locked mailbox next to the office

Church Office Information

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

(lunch 12:30-1:30pm)

Friday 8am-12noon

Phone: 843-332-6571

FBC on Social Media

Website: firstbaptisthartsville.org

Facebook: First Baptist Church Hartsville

YouTube: FBC Hartsville SC

January Events

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

9:15am Small Groups

10:30am Worship Service

Tuesday:

12:00pm Prayer for Revitalization

Wednesday:

10:00 Prayer in the Prayer Room

12:00pm Lunch, Prayer, and Devotions -

"Answered Prayer." **Please call the Church office by noon on the previous Monday to sign up.** Cost: \$9

6:00pm 1st Kids Children's Ministry, Impact Student Ministry, Small Groups for Adults: Parents' Group in Room 201, Discipleship in Room 212, and Topic TBD (See announcement below) in the Conference Room

7:30pm Choir practice

8:00pm Ladies' Zoom Group (date TBA)

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The **Church office** will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 in honor of the New Year holiday.

First Baptist will volunteer at **Hartsville Soup Kitchen** on Thursday, January 9. If you would like to help with this community ministry, please contact the Church office.

**Grateful Hearts Luncheon** will be on Thursday, January 16 at 11:30. The cost is \$9.

*Please call by 12 noon on Tuesday, January 14 to sign up.*

Special music: First Baptist Preschool 5K

### *Beyond Our Walls*

Looking ahead ...

**Random Acts of Kindness** event on February 14.

What can you do?

- Who do you know in our community who could use a box of groceries? Let the Church office know.
- Bring in canned or boxed food items.

### *New Bible Study*

What Biblical questions would you like to explore? Submit your topics to the Church office and come to the Conference Room on Wednesday nights at 6pm for a Bible Study with David Miller.

## January Birthdays

1-2 Dr. Lester Reynolds  
1-3 Megan Boyd  
1-4 Austin Ambrose  
1-4 Lucy Caldwell  
1-4 Lori Reynolds  
1-7 Tom Goodson, Jr.  
1-7 Janice Holland  
1-8 Jerry Beason  
1-8 Tim Elsesser  
1-8 Thomas Marino  
1-10 Charles Sullivan  
1-11 Ally Ambrose  
1-16 Emily Phillips  
1-19 Andrew Privette  
1-20 Larry Easterling  
1-22 Logan Boyd  
1-22 Frank Hays  
1-27 Eli Privette

### ***Happy Birthday!***

If we have accidentally missed your birthday  
or have the date wrong, please let the  
Church office know.

## ***FBC Staff***

Dr. Greg Boyd: Pastor  
greg@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Sterling Dyar: Worship Leader  
Logan Fink: Volunteer Drummer  
Crystal Hopkins: Financial Secretary  
crystal@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Chad Hulse: Volunteer Sound technician  
Ruth Kilgore: Administrative Secretary  
ruth@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Jessica Kuykendall: Preschool Director  
Jackie Ponder: Volunteer Student Director  
Rachel Phillips: Volunteer Media technician  
Jim Privette: Volunteer Church Administrator  
Vivian Robinson: Custodian  
Tucker Smith: Organist and Pianist  
Lauren Wint: Children's Director

## International Missions

FBC collected \$2,789.25 for the **Lottie Moon Christmas offering**. 100% of the offerings received goes toward International Missions.



## ***With Thanks***

Dear Church family,

Thank you all for the cards, gifts, and phone calls during my recent illness. I am so thankful that you are thinking of me and praying for me.

With love,  
Merle Baxley

## ***With Sympathy***

Our hearts go out to the families of

- Howard Jordan
- Woody Morgan
- Cecil Winburn



## ***Baptism***



Jayson Ross with Pastor Greg Boyd on December 8, 2024

## ***"Best of Show!"***

First Baptist Church won "Best of Show" in the City of Hartsville Merry and Bright 2024 Night Christmas Parade!

Thank you to Mr. Al Fink and all those who helped set up and participate in this year's parade.

## *First Baptist Preschool*



Dear Church Family,  
Happy New Year from all of us at First Baptist Preschool!

As we begin 2025, our hearts are filled with gratitude for your continued support and prayers for our ministry to the young children and families in our community.

Our precious preschoolers will return to their classrooms on Tuesday, January 7, ready for new adventures and learning opportunities. This month holds some exciting events for our little ones! On Friday, January 17, we'll celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school with a special glow party – a bright and joyful way to mark this milestone in our school year.

Please note that the preschool will be closed on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We invite you to continue keeping our teachers, students, and their families in your prayers as we enter this new year. Your support helps make our preschool ministry a warm and nurturing place where children can grow in God's love.

Blessings,  
Jessica Kuykendall

## *Impact Student Ministry*



Dear Church Family,  
As we begin the new year, I have encouraged our youth to tell others what Jesus means to them and invite them to join us at First Baptist. I want to encourage everyone at First Baptist to do the same.

This month we will be taking some of the older youth to Winter Jam on Friday, January 10. Let me know if you have a youth in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or above who would like to attend. We will also begin a new 5 week series called "Meant for More," which will help students discover that God's plan for their lives exceeds what they could ever imagine.

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:00 for food, fun, and truths from God.

Happy New Year!

Jackie Ponder

## *1st Kids Children's Ministry*



Dear Church Family,  
What an incredible 2024! I hope you all were able to catch the kids in their performance in December. If not, don't worry! We will have another one at Easter!

We will resume our regular schedule on Wednesday, January 8 at 6pm. I am really looking forward to what this year brings for this group! Thank you so much to everyone who provides their time to volunteer, pray or encourage. We couldn't do this without you. Praying that God multiplies our number and time in 2025!!

In Love,  
Ms. Lauren

## *Angel Tree*

Dear First Baptist Church,

On behalf of the Darlington County Disabilities Foundation, we want to thank you for your donation of \$430.00 in support of our Angel Tree project.

We are so grateful for your donation, and be assured that all donations are used to benefit persons who may not be as fortunate at Christmas. We serve over 600 families with disabilities or special needs in Darlington County and strive to provide the best possible services to those individuals.

Thank you again for enriching the lives of our individuals. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Blocker  
Executive Director, Darlington County DSN Board

## *Contact the Church Office ...*

- If you are scheduling a meeting, to make sure that the date, location, and time are open on the calendar
- If your address, email, or telephone number has changed
- If you have updates for the Prayer List
- If you need more offering envelopes or would like to get personalized offering envelopes
- If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone in 2025