

From the Pastor ...



Worship

I think we have all been surprised at how contagious the Delta Variant has been. Young children, teens, those who have been vaccinated, and even those who have been vaccinated *and* had COVID-19 are still getting sick! At the same time, I think all of us don't want to experience another "shelter at home" national shutdown again.

So we are taking precautions for our worship services. Our room is plenty big enough for us to sit six feet apart. Wear masks if you feel you need to, be deferential if you don't, and please, let's all of us be gracious and show mercy. Refrain from hugging or shaking hands. Pick up a bulletin and drop your offering in the box in the lobby; we will not pass the plate for a while.

In fact, let's extend grace and mercy as we are still recovering from our first shutdown. Our Sunday morning attendance is about half of what it was before March, 2020. We simply do not have enough people for two services yet. I *know* that some of our traditional members don't care for current music, and some of our re:New attendees don't care for the old style of worship. Now is *not* the time to fuss about music. Now is the time for us to come together with our hearts tuned to God as one body, one church.

I believe the Lord looks at the heart of true worshippers. I believe He likes all kinds of singing and music. Let's be like Him in this way.

Messages

The final message for Spiritual Gifts in the series, "Sweet Spot for Serving the Lord" will be September 5. Then on September 12 we will have a final message called "Putting It All Together." Please review your results from your sermon notes concerning your Heart's Desires, your Personality Type, your Life Experiences, your Abilities and Talents, and your Spiritual Gifts; bring them with you on Sept 12. Here are two free Spiritual Gift websites for you:

1. For you to take and see instant results online:
<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/>
2. For you to print and access by hand:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/84/847b6bc2-b21b-47f6-a54a-04de600485fc/documents/Spiritual_Gifts_Inventory_-_printable.pdf

The goal for this day— and for the whole series for that matter—is for you to take a *Test Drive* in a ministry. People don't usually buy a car without test driving it. I think you should check out a ministry (and the ministry leader can check to see if you're the right fit) before you commit to it. We will have a list of our church's ministry opportunities for you that Sunday. Please start praying now to discern where the Lord wants you to experience Him.



I am excited about the next sermon series the Lord put on my heart:

Do you recognize the Lord at work around you, in you, and through you to others? Do you recognize Jesus throughout Scripture?



September 19 we will Discover Jesus in **Genesis**. To get the most out of this series, please take the time to read God's Word *ahead* of each sermon. I know some books of the Bible are very short (less than one page), while others are very long. If you are up to it, read the whole book! If that's too much, then do your best to follow the selective Scriptures below.

Discovering Jesus

- Sun, 9/12: Genesis 1-4 about Creation and the Fall
- Mon, 9/12: Gen 6-9 about the Flood
- Tue, 9/14: Gen 11-16 about Babel and Abraham, part 1
- Wed, 9/15: Gen 17-20 about Abraham, continued
- Thu, 9/16: Gen 21-26 about Isaac
- Fri, 9/17: Gen 27-35 about Jacob
- Sat, 9/18: Gen 36-50 about Joseph

- Sun, 9/19: Exodus 1 about Bondage in Egypt
- Mon, 9/20: Exo 3-4 about Moses' call
- Tue, 9/21: Exo 7-11 about 10 Plagues
- Wed, 9/22: Exo 12 about the Passover
- Thu, 9/23: Exo 20 about the Law (10 commandments)
- Fri, 9/24: Exo 25-28 about the Tabernacle
- Sat, 9/25: Exo 35-40 about the Tabernacle, continued

- Sun, 9/26: Leviticus 1-5 about the Five Offerings
- Mon, 9/27: Lev 8-10 about the Priests
- Tue, 9/28: Lev 11-15 about Being Clean before the Lord
- Wed, 9/29: Lev 16 about Atonement
- Thu, 9/30 Lev 18-20 about Do's and Don'ts
- Fri, 10/1: Lev 23-26 about Festivals and Feasts
- Sat, 10/2: Lev 26-27 about Obedience and Disobedience

To get the most out of reading the Bible each day, record four simple things:

1. **Scripture.** Ask the Lord for one or two verses that grab your attention that day. Write them down.
2. **Observations.** Write down what you notice about that verse that makes it interesting: the circumstances, who said what to whom and why, results for obeying, consequences for disobeying, etc.
3. **Apply.** Write down how you personally can put that verse into action that day.
4. **Pray.** Pray the verse into your life. Record the results.

Music



Hey Church Family!

Summer is coming to a close, and we are excited to keep moving forward! Thank you

to all of you who have reached out recently with encouragement. It means the world to me, and I don't take it for granted.

Please remember to stay safe out there as the COVID-19 case numbers are again on the rise. We must remember to not be fearful, but to always take proper precautions.

As always, if you have any interest in serving the music or tech ministry in any way, please reach out to me or the church office.

See you all on Sunday!
Blessings,
Sterling

Financial Report

We are so thankful for God's continued financial blessings throughout this difficult time.

How can I contribute to First Baptist if I'm not able to attend Sunday service?

- Mail a check or bring it to the office:
104 E. Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550
- Give online through our website:
www.firstbaptisthartsville.org and go to the "Online Giving" tab
- Text "BeCheerful" to 73256
- Use the slotted, outdoor mailbox next to the outside Office door.

Shocking Statistic

68% of 4th grade students in South Carolina are below grade level in reading. And since the COVID shutdown, some are *two levels* behind! If you know of a child in 3rd or 4th grade that will benefit from tutoring in a fun learning environment, go to www.childandfamilyresourcefoundation.com/tutoringprogram and register ASAP. There is no cost for this program.

Our church partners with the Child and Family Resource Center as one of our premier ways of serving the needs of the community.

September Events

The **Church Office** will be closed on Monday, September 6 in honor of Labor Day.

First Baptist will volunteer at the **Hartsville Soup Kitchen** on Thursday, September 9. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Larry Easterling or the church office.

Wednesday Night schedule starting September 15:

5:15 Dinner

6:00 Prayer, Choir practice, Small Groups

- Prayer for Revitalization
- Young Adults

Membership Class

Sundays: Sept 12 - Oct 17

9:15-10:00 a.m. in classroom 212

(upstairs in the Family Life Building).

By the end of this six-week adventure, you will:

- Learn about First Baptist Hartsville and prayerfully see if this is the church where the Lord wants you to commit to membership
- Develop the good habit of a consistent, brief, inspirational time alone with God if you do not already have one
- Discover where to serve in ministry if you are not already serving
- Show you how you can connect with others in a small group if you are not already in one
- Be sure of your relationship with the Lord and learn how to tell your salvation story to others

How to register:

- Write "Membership Class" along with your contact information on the back of the Welcome card Sunday morning and drop it in the offering boxes.
- Reply to this emailed newsletter online.
- Call the church office.

In order for us to know how much material to prepare for the class, please let the Church Office know that you will attend by **Wednesday, September 8**. Call us at 843-332-6571.

September Birthdays

9-2 Terrie Reames
9-3 Carol Edwards
9-5 Ruth Kilgore
9-6 Hannah Griffith
9-6 Jimmie Warren
9-7 Pete Hodge
9-7 Claude Wint
9-9 Dorothy Miller
9-10 Ned Blackman
9-10 Dr. Charlie Burry
9-10 Jill Broach Roberts
9-11 Kelsie Fink
9-12 Sheila Mullis
9-12 Michael B. Northcutt
9-13 Gloria Davis
9-17 Clark Phillips
9-19 Dr. Mac Chapman
9-19 Jackie Coker
9-21 Danny Dixon
9-22 Leah Brenn Northcutt
9-22 Susan Pattengill
9-23 Jennifer S. Fink
9-23 Buzzie Snipes
9-24 Jason Crist
9-24 Tyler Poole
9-27 Dr. Dick Conner
9-27 Matthew Tomlinson
9-28 Craig Hays
9-30 Al Fink

Happy Birthday!

September Special Offering

The **Janie Chapman offering** for State Missions supports missions efforts and missions education across South Carolina. We will collect this during the month of September. Our goal is \$2,500.00.

Congratulations

To Nancy & David Tolson on the birth of their granddaughter, Kathryn Macy on 8/10/21 to Michael & Lisa Tolson.



Church Office information

Come by during office hours:

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

Lunch 12:30-1:30pm

Friday 8am-12noon

The Church office will be closed on Monday, September 6 for Labor Day.

Deacon information

Welcome to our new Deacons!

Dick Coker, Bobby Dempsey, Sterling Dyar, Tommy Goodson Sr., Danny Johnson, and Jackie Ponder

Thank you to Craig Hays, Brad Herring, Colin Hungerpiller, and Eddie Moore for their service as they rotate off.

Looking Ahead

The **Annual Meeting of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association** will be held at First Baptist Church, Darlington on Sunday, October 17, at 6:00pm. Speaker: Dr. Dondi Costin, Charleston Southern University President

Baptisms



Bert Conyers on July 25



Grace Elsesser on August 1

1st Kids Children's Ministry & Impact Student Ministry

Hi Church Family,

We are officially back to school, and so excited about what this year is going to bring for 1st Kids and IMPACT. Things are going to look a little different this year, but in a good way!



First, our kids 1st through 5th will be taking on monthly classes that will enable them to learn a skill. Each month, the activity will change. Some classes will be off campus, some on. All will have a sign up sheet to ensure we order enough materials. September 22nd, we will begin our 1st Kids **Go Fishing**. For four weeks, kids will be taken to a nearby pond to learn the basics of fishing, as well as participate in a lesson that corresponds. Be on the lookout for the signup **THIS WEEK!**

IMPACT will meet that same week on College Avenue for Bible Study. Parents, please be on the lookout for an email to nail down what day and time works best for your children. We will plan to be flexible again this year, as we know that sports are about to be in full swing!

As always, I thank you for your continued support, and I know this is going to be an incredible year!

In Love,
Ms. Lauren

FBC Staff

Dr. Greg Boyd: Pastor- greg@firstbaptisthartsville.org

Lauren Wint: Children's Director-
lauren@firstbaptisthartsville.org

Sterling Dyar: Volunteer Worship Leader

Crystal Hopkins: Financial Secretary-
crystal@firstbaptisthartsville.org

Ruth Kilgore: Administrative Secretary-
ruth@firstbaptisthartsville.org

Omerea Thurman: Preschool Director-
843-878-0445

First Baptist Preschool



As I began to write this article, I found I wasn't sure how to start it. September brings visions of pumpkins, leaves falling, football, and cooler weather. But I walk outside and immediately feel the high humidity and heat, no pumpkins in sight, only leaves that fall are from trees that died due to lack of water, and it is just too hot to play football! The world around us is in transition from one season to the next and so is Preschool. We have seen growth and welcomed new families. We have had a great start and we are getting into the groove of things. Teachers have gotten to know their students and students are warming up to the idea of being with us (well, most of them).

Working with children is being in constant transition mode. As they develop and grow, we continuously monitor and adjust. The needs of our preschool families, students, and our staff change. Throw COVID into the mix and many things change.

The last Friday in August was our Aloha/Vacation Day. Even though we can't take field trips, or have special guests to come in, we can find ways to break up the days with fun and different activities. It gives us something to look forward to from time to time!

I ask that each of you put the Preschool on your daily prayer list. Pray specifically that God will put His healing hands over us as a shield. Pray that staff and parents will form even stronger bonds to help each child feel God's love.

In Christ's love,
Omerea

Preschool staff:

Front row - Amber Hastings, Makayla Polson, Jessica Truett, Mary Hunter Talbert, Jordan Murdock, Omerea Thurman

Second row - Courtney Braswell, Tonda Hodge, Destiny Ingram, Callie Johnson, Crystal Green, Brooke Johnson



Not pictured: Teri Groves and Hannah Alridge-Mooneyhan