



# MESSENGER

Volume 59 Issue 05

MAY 2023

8:45 NON-TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

## “I’m afraid!”

One day, years ago, I was trying to teach my young daughter Jenna to swim, but she was reluctant to venture into the water. She was sitting by the edge of the pool and I was encouraging her to jump in and swim towards me as I stood three yards away from her. “No,” she said, “I’m afraid I might drown.”

“Honey, I’m here. I won’t let you drown,” I said.

“No, I’m afraid!”

“Trust me, honey, I love you and I’d never let you drown. Just dive in and swim to me. I won’t leave you.”

As I pleaded with her to trust me, I thought of how that scene reflected similar situations in which we fail to trust God when he calls us to leave our comfort zones and venture out with him.

Looking back at that incident in the pool, I am reminded of others who were afraid to respond to God’s call to action:

- Moses—reluctant to leave behind the safety of his shepherd life in the backcountry of Midian to answer God’s call to go back to Egypt and confront the mighty pharaoh with God’s command to free the Israelites. (Exodus 3 & 4)
- The ten scouts—who didn’t trust God to lead them into the promised land of Canaan, thus causing the Israelites to waste 40 years in the wilderness before finally being allowed to enter Canaan (Numbers 13 & 14)
- Jonah—who ran away from God and the mission to preach to the people of Nineveh (Jonah 1 & 2)
- The rich young ruler—who was afraid and unwilling to give up the comfort of his wealthy lifestyle to follow Jesus (Luke 18:18-23)
- Young John Mark—who abandoned Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:13; 15:36-38)

Probably all of us have found ourselves in similar positions where we’ve been afraid to venture out of our comfort zones to answer God’s call to serve. A friend once confessed to me that he avoided having personal quiet times and Bible meditations because he was afraid that in one of those reflective moments, he might hear God calling him to serve in some strange foreign country.

And a woman eventually divorced her husband after he gave up his lucrative and fast-paced career as a New York advertising executive to enter the ministry and pastor a small church. She was afraid and unwilling to leave her big city life and adapt to being the wife of a small-town pastor.

Whatever the nature of God’s invitation to each of us to serve him, it undoubtedly creates some anxiety or fear in us, for it often means leaving our accustomed safe environments and habits and venturing into the unfamiliar and unknown.

Even if we’re simply being called to talk to our neighbor across the fence about Jesus, volunteer at RCS, or lead a small group, our initial reaction is usually to find an excuse to not do it.

But God never forces us to do it—whatever *It* might be in each of our lives—but like an earthly father teaching his young daughter or son to swim or ride a bike, he encourages us to trust him for our needs, our safety, and our future, and assures us of his love and his best interest for us.

And God assures us, as he did the Jewish exiles in Babylon, “I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11, New Living Translation)

And knowing that the disciples—and we, his followers—would sometimes find obeying to be difficult, Jesus added, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.” (Jn. 14: 16-17) We celebrate the coming of The Holy Spirit this month on May 28<sup>th</sup>, **Pentecost**.

Not only does the Holy Spirit lead us into all truth and empower us to cope with the task of spreading the truth of his Kingdom, Jesus also gives us a gift through the Holy Spirit: “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn’t like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” (Jn. 14: 27, NLT)

This peace does not mean there is an absence of trouble or conflict. More importantly, it is a peace that comes from knowing that God provides us with all that we need for our highest good, a peace of confident assurance in any circumstance, one in which we fear nothing in the present or the future because we are eternally secure in God’s love and plan!

May this knowledge of what a wonderful and loving God we serve embolden us to leave the safety of our comfort zones and dive into whatever waters of service that God might be calling us to swim with Him, for it is only as we dare to swim out into the unknown with God can we experience His amazing peace and overflowing joy that passes understanding.

So how did Jenna do? Yes, she took the plunge and learned to swim that day!

	WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS			
	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
<b>DEACONS</b>	John Duff James Garner	Brant Bills Ken Gray	Betty Pace Joe Overby	Roger Pait Andy Wilkinson
<b>WATCHMEN</b>	Ed Wall	Ken Gray	Todd Spear Colin Phinney	Phil Smith
<b>USHER TEAMS</b>	Mike Seawell	Eddie Games	Bobby West	Todd Spear
<b>CAFÉ CONNECTION</b>	Kathy Daniels	Rosemary Dow	Eddie Games	Kathy Swindell
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Jennifer Benton Sarah Moore	Megan Ireland Caroline Strickland Addison Strickland	Elizabeth Swicegood Allison Bunting	Kelsie Ferguson Bella Bernabi Matthew Holton
<b>EXTENDED CARE 8:45</b>	Angel & Layla Marsh Kathy Swindell Cathy Rock Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Kyle Compton Mallory Compton Olivia Stipanovich Brian Swicegood Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Brenda Hall Terry Hall David Zink Thaih Zink Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Mona Quick Jeremy Tavares Courtney Tavares Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow
<b>EXTENDED CARE 11:00</b>	Jennifer Emens Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Gretchen Overby Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Susan Trout Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Cindy Lewis Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow
<b>WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE</b>	<b>May 3rd</b> <u>Terry Hall's Team</u> Hamburgers Baked Beans Slaw Chips Dessert	<b>May 10th</b> <u>Gwyn Rice's Team</u> Sub Sandwiches Chips Dessert	<b>May 17th</b> <u>Sherry Wilkinson's Team</u> Sliced Pork Loin Stuffing Apples Green Bean Casserole Dessert	May 17th is the last Wednesday Night Supper for the summer



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

02 Amy Par	10 Catherine Ward	15 Sui Hre	21 Hram Mang	27 Jamie Slagle
03 Richard Wagner	Miles Wilkes	Ronnie Brinson	22 Sandy Franks	28 Brenda Hall
Mike Seawell	Frederick Laskovics	Brant Bills	23 Chandler Seagle	Phil Kaylor
Kathy Swindell	12 Dwayne Alligood	17 Blake Belcher	Thang Hre	Linda Autry
Thung Ksor Ya	Addison Strickland	Evan Ireland	25 Eddie Games	29 Pete Heiman
06 Marlie Kate Hardy	Sandra Dail	19 Louise Blizzard	Catherine Alligood	Janet Doughty
Clara Emmerich	13 Deborah Ashley	Savannah Thornton	Merritt Best	Tiffany Glover
Blessing Kim	Connie Brunese	21 Howard Mathews	26 Jan Burke	Quinn Osmanovic
08 Emily McQuiston	13 Jase McQuiston	Matthew Holton	Tom Denton	30 Phil Smith
09 Marylou Noyes	15 Sutton Tavares	Diane Thompson	Darrius Hargett	Kay Hall

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

03 Todd & Amy Price	23 Ken & Anita Gray
08 Alec & Tammi Newton	25 Richard & Melodie Seagle
13 Jeremy & Diane Slagle	26 Larry & Cindy Taylor
14 Phil & Lee Ann Smith	28 Charlie & Betty Pace
Sean & Brandi Parnell	28 Bernie & Connie Brunese
16 Reid & Lisa Chitty	
16 Dwayne & Catherine Alligood	
20 Thang & Sui Hre	
21 Hram & Sung Than Mawi Mang	
21 Chris & Lori Hale	



Congratulations to **Susan Williams!** She received Volunteer of the Year for her service to Carolina East Health System. She is also a member of the Jane Marshall Jenkins Sunday School class, a member of an usher team and also serves on the Hands and Feet committee of our church. She is a very special lady, and we are blessed to have her at FBC!

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
FINANCIAL RECORD**

Required 4/24/23 YTD: \$349.605

Received 4/24/23 YTD: \$367.804



# Worship

## At First



### Sunday, May 7 – Communion

8:45 AM – Praise Team

11:00 AM – Sanctuary Choir

### Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day

8:45 AM – Praise Team with Preschool/Children's Choir

11:00 AM – Sanctuary Choir with Preschool/Children's Choir & Adult Ensemble

### Sunday, May 21

8:45 AM – Praise Team with Youth/Parent Ensemble

11:00 AM – Sanctuary Choir and Youth/Parent Ensemble

### Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost Sunday

8:45 AM – Praise Team

11:00 AM – Sanctuary Choir

**Whirligig Park**  
with Dutch Lunch at Parker's  
Tuesday, May 16, 2023

RSVP by  
Tuesday,  
May 9th



Depart Church at 10:00 AM

**Dutch Dinner At**

Welcome To  
**DEADWOOD**  
SMOKEHOUSE GRILL  
Bear Grass, NC

**Thursday, June 15, 2023**

**Depart at 4:00 PM**

**RSVP by Monday, June 6**

Our Senior Adult Ministry enjoyed a wonderful tour of the MCAS at Cherry Point in March. We give a special "Thank You" to the Commanding Officer Col. Brendan Burks and to the other service men and women on base for their kindness and hospitality.

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT**



**NEW BERN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 2023**  
MARCH 20, 2023



## Election of Deacons

(summarized from Church Bylaws, Article V, sec 2)

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Spiritual qualities described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1
- Member of First Baptist Church at least two years
- Deacons cannot be elected to consecutive terms

### DEACON NOMINATING AND ELECTION PROCESS

- Deacon Nominating Committee solicits nominations from the congregation.
- Deacon Nominating Committee prayerfully considers all nominations to serve Christ and First Baptist Church.
- Deacon Nominating Committee presents a proposed list of candidates to the Deacons for approval or change.
- Deacon Nominating Committee asks proposed candidates whether they are willing to serve if elected by the church.
- Deacon Nominating Committee reports to the Deacons the candidates willing to serve and recommends additional candidates, if needed.
- Deacon body recommends the proposed set of Deacons to the church for a vote.
- The church votes on the set of proposed Deacons.

Please review the FBC Church Bylaws for more specific details on the Deacon nomination and election process summarized above.

## Deacon Nomination Form

### First Baptist Church of New Bern, NC

You are invited and encouraged to recommend up to six current members of First Baptist Church as prospective Deacons for the October 2023 to September 2026 term.

Qualifications and requirements to serve as Deacon are shown on the reverse side of this form.

Please submit nominations to the church office by **May 26, 2023.**

### CURRENT ACTIVE DEACONS

The following individuals are currently serving as active Deacons, and they are **NOT** eligible for the 2023 – 2026 term:

#### 2023 TERM

John Duff  
Joe Overby  
Betty Pace  
Roger Pait  
Cathy Rock  
Andy Wilkinson

#### 2024 TERM

Brant Bills  
Kyle Compton  
Rosemary Dow  
Terry Hall  
Brian Swicegood  
Beth Wynn

#### 2025 TERM

Wayne Brown  
Jennifer Emens  
Charlotte Fuller  
James Garner  
Ken Gray  
Joey Holton

\*Family members of deacons rotating off the 2023 term ARE eligible to be nominated.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep the Deacon Nominating Committee in your prayers during this process.

### DEACON NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Betty Pace, Chair  
James Garner, Joey Holton,  
Brian Swicegood, Richard Seagle

## Sunday School Limited Series -- May 2023

The First Baptist Church Sunday School Council is pleased to announce and offer a new Sunday School experience we are calling, THE FBC MINI SERIES. For this first offering, we are inviting individuals from any adult Sunday School class to meet for four Sundays to dive into different and new material that connects us to the Bible and its teaching relevant to today.

Beginning on our fifth Sunday shuffle in April, the syllabus, orientation and introduction to this "limited series class" will be presented. Sounds like school is about to be in session as we go back to some of those boring history lessons filled with dates, places and names of old dead men. Our literature for this study and discussion will come from author, **Marshall Foster's book, THE AMERICAN COVENANT**. This book exposes the importance of our history, our covenantal understanding and the Christian self-government that our Founders made and embraced with our Creator in the birth of a nation, one created to provide hope for families and nations worldwide.

The class will have 20 spaces and sign up will be on April 30th at the conclusion of our gathering during the Sunday School hour in the Family Life Center.

Pictures start May 3rd.

You will need to Check-In  
in the Breezeway at the time  
of your appointment.

**Church Photo Directory**

## Children's Ministry



1ST KIDS MINISTRY

# Operation Christmas Child Bake Sale

Sunday, May 21st  
During Cafe Connection



"Our 1st Kids will be 'blasting off' this year for a Stellar week of Vacation Bible School in June. We are in need of many, many volunteers to help us prepare and to help us lead our children for this great week of learning about Jesus. If you are interested in volunteering for VBS, please go to our church website [www.fbchurch.com](http://www.fbchurch.com) to register as a volunteer. Or you can look at the volunteer opportunities posted on the bulletin board in the Family Life Center. If you can't physically be here to serve, please pray that all of the children, youth and adults involved will be blessed by this very special week of VBS."

Kelly Brinson



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



## June 19th-23rd

Register Online at [www.fbchurch.com](http://www.fbchurch.com)  
8:40 am-12 Noon Ages 4-6th grade

Nursery & Classes will be available for Volunteers' children under the age of 4



4th, 5th & 6th  
Graders



## June 26th-30th

**Camp Caraway Reminders:**

- Final payments are due by May 1st.
- Complete the online camp registration.

Questions? Email Kelly Brinson at [Kelly@fbchurch.com](mailto:Kelly@fbchurch.com)

We are in need of sponsorships to assist our families with expenses. If you would like to

## HELP SEND A KID TO CAMP

Please place your donation in an offering envelope and designate it "Camp Caraway" and place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office.



# PRAYER list

## CHURCH FAMILY

Catherine Alligood	Mary Ann Jones	Bobby Reece
Allie Andrews	Sherry Jones	Louise Reece
Rodney Bell	Nancy Marcom	Penny Rettew
Charles Blythe	Carlton Metts	Mary Jo Roberts
Aletta Brown	Seth Needham	Rudy Rowe
Kenny Brownell	Joe Overby	Tyler Smith
Roseann Brownell	Gwyn Page	Beth Wagner
Stacy Chapman	Boots Parker	Richard Wagner
Tom Denton	Ray Parker	Jewel Watson
Grayson Gray	Cathy Chitty Pike	Patsy White
MaryLou Harrell	Sylvia Pina	Lola Gray Wilkinson
Pete Heiman	Selma Piner	Ellen Young
	Lynn Rausch	

## CARE FACILITY & RETIREMENT\* RESIDENTS

### BROOKDALE

Jean Ritter

### CYPRESS GLEN – GVL

Elizabeth Brinkley

### CHAMPIONS-WIL

Doris Dyson

### HOMEPLACE

Jane Chitty  
Jean Fulcher  
Christine Peedin  
Patsy Setzer  
Ann Sledge

### SPRING ARBOR – KIN

Beverly Leathers

### WOODLAND TERR – CARY

Louise Blizzard\*

### NC VETERANS HOME – KIN

Mary Ellen Kirschner

### MERRILL GARDENS

Rev. David Page  
Gwyn Page  
Peggie Wooten

## CHURCH FRIENDS

Jerry Ashley (son, Jerry Ashley Jr)	Sandy O'Brien (grandniece Baylee)
Jo Ann Banks (Wanda Bryan)	Gretchen Overby (brother Eric Brown)
Judy Blythe (friend Fran Eaves)	Ashley Patterson's sister Brittany Grohman
Mark Bowen	Greg & Anna Pearson (granddaughter Blythe)
Ronnie & Kelly Brinson (Bryson Capps, Harvey Rouse)	Ronnie Pollard (Mike Bledsoe)
Elise Butts	Todd Price (brother in law)
Carol Carroll (mother, friend Diane Griffin)	Carol Register (Courtney Mong)
Lisa Chitty (parents Jerry & Nancy)	Cathy Rock (Dad, brother, sister in law, nephew)
Sandra J. Dail (mother, Tommy Gaskins)	Kevin Rock (brother)
Sandra T. Dail (Brandy Hill)	Jeremy Slagle (Melissa and Matthew Love)
Kathy Daniels (Ann Predaris)	Becky & Wes Stewart (Sam Altman, Gloria Thomas, Susan Lee)
John Doughty (sister)	Ed & Mary Ann Stinson (Patricia Davenport, Claudia Lovino)
Joy Duff (sister Tammy Pollock)	Kathy Swindell (friends Lisa M., Marie Wingate)
Family of Mrs. Barbara Dixon	Richard and Beth Wagner (son Chris, Louise Howell)
Cindi Farnham (brother in law Chris)	Kathy White (friend JoAnna Collins)
Carolyn Fulcher (friend Calvin Warren)	Clayton Wike, son of Dr. Bill Wike
Kaye Grant (mother)	Faye Willingham (brother, niece, sister in law)
Brenda Hall (friend Rita Piner)	Jane Wooten (friend)
Brenda Hardee (Charlie & Yvonne Parker)	Ken Wooten (mom Doris Wooten)
Joey Holton (father)	Pray for our country
Norman Kellum (friend Charlie Jernigan)	
Ruth Kellum (friend Bob Mallard)	
Karen Killingsworth (parents)	
Angel Marsh	
Jim & Claudia McManamey (granddaughter Tori)	



We express our Christian sympathy to the families of Harvey Dail and Richard Humphrey upon their recent passing.



There are four slots left for any interested ladies to attend the **Anne Graham Lotz Retreat** on November 3-5. Contact the church office to give your \$75.00 deposit, making your check out to First Baptist Church.

Deadline is **June 15** to reserve your spot. A planning meeting for attendees will be held this summer, with the remaining balance of \$268 for the event due by **Sept. 5**.

So grateful to those who assisted in ticket sales for the Guatemalan fundraiser event on April 22. Your support helped to benefit the operation of the Good Shepherd Orphanage located in Guatemala.

A WMU gathering of all circle members, plus ladies interested in forming a new circle, will be held in late August, taking the place of the traditional salad supper. Details will be coming soon.

Mona Quick  
WMU Director  
First Baptist Church



**SMALL GROUP OVERVIEWS IN THE FLC AT 6:00 PM**

**APRIL 26**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught**

facilitated by Alec & Tammi Newton

**MAY 3**

**Explaining Your Faith: An Introduction to Apologetics**

facilitated by Phil Smith

**MAY 10**

**WINTER BIBLE STUDY: Jonah**

facilitated Dr. Richard Seagle

**MAY 17**

**Quarterly Church Conference**

(Last Family Night supper for Spring 2023)

## 2023 Baseball Schedule for Minor, Rookie, and T-Ball Teams

### Minor Schedule

Monday	5/1/2023	7:30 pm	Vanceboro	First Baptist	Progress Energy
Tuesday	5/2/2023	6:00 pm	First Baptist	Bears	Progress Energy
Tuesday	5/9/2023	7:30 pm	Centenary	First Baptist	Progress Energy
Friday	5/12/2023	6:00 pm	New Life	First Baptist	Progress Energy

### Rookie Schedule

Monday	5/1/2023	7:30 pm	Centenary	First Baptist	Caraway
Tuesday	5/2/2023	7:30 pm	First Baptist	Jones County 1	Caraway
Monday	5/8/2023	7:30 pm	Garber	First Baptist	Field 1
Tuesday	5/9/2023	7:30 pm	First Baptist	St Paul	Field 1

### T-Ball Schedule

Tuesday	5/2/2023	6:00 pm	Two Rivers	First Baptist	Joy Corner
Monday	5/8/2023	6:00 pm	Vanceboro	First Baptist	Joy Corner
Monday	5/15/2023	6:00 pm	First Baptist	Christ Church 2	Snack Bar
Tuesday	5/23/2023	6:00 pm	Centenary 2	First Baptist	Heath Field



**Intergenerational Golf Outing**

**@ The Emerald**

**9 Hole Superball**

**Church Golf Event**

**Cost: \$25.00**

**May 7, 2023 at 3:00 PM**



#### James Lawrence Slagle

(Jamie)

Son of Jeremy & Diane Slagle

Joined: March 12, 2023

Received by:

Baptism date July 23rd



**Tatum Lynn Smith** was born April 18, 2023. Parents are Tommy and Erica Smith; sibling is Ty Smith; Grandmother is Teresa Allen.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



#### Marsha Johnston

4817 Briarhill Rd  
New Bern, NC 28562

Joined: March 26, 2023

Received by:

Statement of Faith



#### Kenneth and Elizabeth Minton

209 Nyon Court  
New Bern, NC 28562

Joined: March 12, 2023

Received by:

Membership Transfer

# First Baptist Church

239 Middle Street P. O. Box 1463  
New Bern, NC 28563  
Church office located at 409 Pollock Street  
Phone: (252) 638-5691



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## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Newsletter articles are due in the church office no later than 9:30 AM on the third Monday of each month. All articles must be written out—none over the phone or verbally, please.

Ext 124	Dr. Richard D. Seagle, Senior Pastor.....
Ext 125	Richard@fbchurch.com
Ext 127	Rev. Barry E. Templeton, Associate Pastor of Music & Worship.....
Ext 121	Barry@fbchurch.com
Ext 128	Rev. Kerry Q. Peeler, Associate Pastor of Christian Education.....
Ext 122	Kerry@fbchurch.com
Ext 126	Rev. Jeremy L. Slagle, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life....
Ext 107	Jeremy@fbchurch.com
	Mrs. Kelly W. Brinson, Director of Children's Ministry.....
	Kelly@fbchurch.com
	Loma Brown, Secretary.....
	Loma@fbchurch.com
	Sandy O'Brien, Financial Secretary.....
	Sandy@fbchurch.com
	Bette Jo Oglesby, Organist.....
	Bettej.oglesby@gmail.com
	Gwyn Rice, Food Service Manager.....
	Gwyn69@hotmail.com
	Tyler Barker, Grounds Custodian.....
	Jameslyerb42@gmail.com
	Kit Emmerich, Buildings Custodian.....
	Chemmerich2020@gmail.com

## Fifth Sunday Shuffle

**April 30<sup>th</sup>  
in FLC**

All adults and youth are invited to join us.  
We will have a simple breakfast like donuts and muffins,  
getting-to-know your group activities,  
and a Sunday School lesson.  
Linda Williams has graciously agreed  
to be our teacher.

**Join us and invite others!**

Dear Church Family

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and messages, but mostly for their prayers for my family in the recent death of Wayne's father. We truly appreciate each and every one.

Gwyn and Wayne Rice