



9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:50 Café Connection
10:15 WORSHIP SERVICE

MESSENGER

Volume 61 Issue 08

AUGUST 2025

An Exciting Time at First Baptist Church!

Welcoming Our New Associate Pastors with Open Hearts

This is a season of joyful anticipation and new beginnings at First Baptist Church of New Bern! We are thrilled to welcome not one, but two gifted ministers to our church staff. God has indeed been faithful and generous in providing leadership for our congregation as we continue to grow in grace and mission together.

Rev. Nick Lewis, our new Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life, has already begun his ministry among us. In just a short time, Nick has brought fresh energy, deep faith, and a heart for building strong relationships with our youth and families. We are excited to see how God will use Nick's leadership to nurture the next generation in faith.

On August 4, we will joyfully welcome **Mr. Scott Spradlin** as our Associate Minister of Music and Worship. Scott brings a wealth of experience, a spirit of collaboration, and a passion for creative and Christ-centered worship. We look forward to seeing how his gifts will enrich our worship life and strengthen our music ministry for years to come. We are also excited to begin the ordination process for Scott at the congregation's recommendation.

As Nick and Scott begin their ministries, we want to do all we can to support and encourage them. With that in mind, I'd like to share a resource from the *Center for Healthy Churches* titled "Welcoming a New Pastor." This thoughtful guide offers simple and powerful ways we, as a congregation, can help our new pastors feel at home, build trust, and thrive in ministry. From small gestures like writing a note of encouragement, to committing to pray regularly for their families, each suggestion helps create a culture of warmth and support.

We are entering a vibrant and hope-filled chapter in the life of First Baptist Church. Let us welcome Nick and Scott not only with smiles and handshakes but with open hearts, prayers, and a shared commitment to the ministry God is doing in and through this church.

It truly is an exciting time to be part of First Baptist Church. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Center for Healthy Churches
PneuMatrix

WELCOMING A NEW PASTOR A GUIDE FOR YOUR CONGREGATION



A FRESH NEW CHAPTER

A new pastor's arrival is a fresh chapter for both your church and your minister. According to the Center for Healthy Churches, here's how you can prepare spiritually, emotionally, and practically:



Pray Daily

Support your pastor beyond the first weeks. Prayer strengthens their ministry and your bond.



Send a Welcome Note

A simple email or card expressing warmth and encouragement makes a difference.



Introduce Yourself (More Than Once!)

Help your pastor learn names by reintroducing yourself—no quizzes required!



Speak Positively

Encourage your pastor publicly and privately. Focus on strengths, not shortcomings.



Embrace Uniqueness

Your pastor is not their predecessor. Celebrate their unique gifts and leadership.



Be Ready to Follow

Trust and support your pastor's leadership, even when challenges arise. Ministry thrives with teamwork.



Allow Room for Mistakes

Pastors aren't perfect. Extend grace as they grow into their new role.



Partner in Ministry

Your pastor guides, but the work of faith is shared. Together, you can serve and grow.



BACK TO SCHOOL
Water Day
 August 17
 6:30 - 8:30pm

REGISTER HERE



NEW BERN AQUATIC CENTER 1155 LAURA DR. NEW BERN



**“POP UP”
SUNDAY!**

AUGUST 24

It's one of the funnest Sundays on campus, when Babies, Preschoolers, Children and Students move up in Sunday School.

Birth to Pre-K
 Promote according to age/development.

Elementary/Students
 Promote according to grade.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

IN AUGUST
 WE WILL LEARN HOW 2
 HANDLE MANY DIFFICULT MOMENTS
 IN LIFE. THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS
 AN INCREDIBLE EXAMPLE OF
 HOW 2 LIVE LIKE JESUS,
 HOW 2 SPREAD GOD'S LOVE,
 AND HOW 2 CHANGE
 THE WORLD.

HOW 2



PARENTS
Night Out

Friday, September 5
 6:00pm-9:00pm
 Food, Fun, Movie & Popcorn

Register Here by
 August 31st



Sign Up

**FBC BEW BERN YOUTH
MINISTRY**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

August 9 - River Day 2pm

August 10 - Youth Connect 5pm

August 17 - Back to School Bash

August 24 - Pop Up Sunday

Youth Connect

I pray everyone has had a wonderful July!

I want to take another moment and thank all of you for the love and welcoming my family has received this past month. My wife Christie, my daughter Ava, my son Carter, and myself have had a tremendous time getting to know everyone and have truly felt your care these first weeks of being part of First Baptist. I have equally had an incredible time getting to know our Youth and their families. We are beginning relationships that will grow eternally with each other and continue to seek God's Kingdom together.

This year, I have been reminded of a verse in the book of Judges that should spiritually strike us all. Judges 2:10 states, "And there arose another

generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done." Raising up generation after generation of disciples who are fully committed to God, leaving nothing behind is what we should be about. We should do everything under God's provision possible to reach all people for Christ, especially our youth. Part of my passion for youth stems from the fact that we have all been there before. We have all been a teenager desiring deeper relationships. We have all sought love and connection beyond the superficial, temporary, at a glance, just passing through moments we have in life.

Let us be a people who truly reach the ends of the earth for Jesus. But that may begin in our own back yard. Let's all strengthen our relationships with our youth. If we are honest, we all need it! Our youth have also begun a series on relationships. Our relationship with God, each other, our parents, and even our enemies. Continue not only praying for our youth, but supporting them, being there for them, and being with them. Thank you all so much for your participation in the spiritual growth of our youth!

Nick

Youth went to the Salty Pirate Water Park July 22. Looks like they had a great time!



	WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS				
	AUGUST 3	AUGUST 10	AUGUST 17	AUGUST 24	AUGUST 31
DEACONS	Dwayne Alligood Kathy Swindell	Tracey Lorentzen Kelsie McBride	Amy Price Joey Holton	Don Brinkley Josh Bell	Cathy Chitty Pike Bobby West
WATCHMEN	Phil Smith	Wayne Brown	Dwayne Alligood	Jeremy Tavares	Phil Kaylor
USHER TEAMS	Bobby West	Susan Williams	Todd Spear	Mike Seawell	Eddie Games
CAFÉ CONNECTION	Sandy McClinton	Andy Wilkinson	Cindy Farnham	Anna Pearson	Crystal Stevenson
GREETERS	Bunting	Hall	Duff	Garner	Wilkinson
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Elizabeth Swicegood Mary Ella Swicegood Carole Hart	Sheree Bagley Chris Bagley	Jennifer Benton Bella Bernabi Allison Bunting	Beth Wynn Wes Holton Lori Meads	Elizabeth Swicegood Mary Ella Swicegood Carole Hart
EXTENDED CARE 10:15	Rebecca Sanchez Jennifer Emens Kathy Swindell Cathy Rock Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Kelsie Ferguson Trey Ferguson Gretchen Overby Brian Swicegood Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Brenda Hall Terry Hall David Zink Thaih Zink Susan Trout Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Cindy Lewis Jeremy Tavares Courtney Tavares Cindy S. Taylor Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow	Hannah Garner Lori Meads Sherry Wilkinson Arden Grant Miriam Morse Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow

August Birthdays

02 Deidre Edwards	09 Elizabeth Hayes Compton	16 Jenny Carter	23 Jimmy Dawson
Jewel Watson	10 Barry Templeton	Hunt Brinson	Kaye Grant
John Duff	Alex Sanchez	Jesse Brinson	24 Maddie Templeton
Tommy Hardy	Colin Ireland	Josie Doak	25 Mason Parnell
03 Annis Barrington	11 Donald Heath	17 Amy Price	Meredith Laskovics
Seng Lashi	James Warren	Karissa Hargett	26 Todd Price
05 Henry Russell	12 Norman Kellum	Jim McManamey	Tom Hall
Diane Slagle	Richard Seagle	18 Mary Lynn Cheves	James Garner
06 Mary Lou Harrell	Melanie Geiling	19 Bill McClinton	Murdina MacDonald
Melanie Spear	Jenna Clontz	Kimsey Welch	Shiloh Willard
Malcom Reid Chitty, III	13 Judy Antry	Matthew Rock	Drew Thornburg
Bob Spooner	Benjamin Rahlan	20 Vicki Heath	29 Martha Tharrington
Serenity Rocham	Randy Banks	21 Dare Thornburg	Honour Spillers
08 Boots Parker	Reece Stipanovich	22 Wayne Rice	30 Kevin Adams
Brandi Parnell	Holly Meadows	Michael Heiman	Wyatt Bell
Sam Emens	16 Beth Wynn	Joey Holton	Tracey Lorentzen
09 Elaine Varley			31 Todd Thornton

FINANCIAL RECORD

JAN - JUNE 2025

Needed YTD: \$612,303

Received YTD: \$582,790

August Anniversaries

03 Wayne & Valeria Barrow	17 Ken & Jane Wooten
04 Eddie & Cathie Wall	18 Mike & Sharon Seawell
05 Warren & Mary Lynn Cheves	James & Stephanie Warren
06 Eddie & Susie Games	19 Darryl & Laura Russell
16 Richard & Beth Wagner	23 Jay & Annis Barrington
	31 Kimsey & Renea Welch

Wednesday Night Meal Deliveries

Will start again September 3rd when we have the Discipleship Kick Off and WNS.
Do you know of a family or individual that we should add to the list to get a Wednesday Night Meal? Call Beth Wagner and let her know.

Please - if you haven't done it before, call Beth Wagner and volunteer to help deliver meals to those who are home bound.

Beth Wagner - 252-638-5885.

Senior Adult Fundraiser

Hot Dog Supper

&

Bake Sale with Silent Auction

August 27, 2025

5:15 PM

in the Family Life Center



**Senior Adult
Dutch Lunch
in Jacksonville**



Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Depart at 10:00 * Lunch at 11:00

*rsvp to the church office no later
than Wednesday, September 17
by calling the church office*

**Senior Adult
Dutch Dinner
Thursday
October 23, 2025**



**We will depart from the church parking lot
at 3:00; Dinner is at 4:00 PM.**

**RSVP to the church office no later than
October 9, 2025**

DEADWOOD

The Smokehouse Grill

**Senior Adult Dutch Dinner
Thursday, November 20, 2025
Depart from the church parking
lot at 3:30; Dinner is at 5:00 PM**

*RSVP to the church office by Thursday
November 6.*

A SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS

*High Tea, Night of 1,000 Candles
and Christmas Spirits*

December 11 - 13, 2025

Package includes:

Hopsewee
Plantation tour,



tour of Georgetown,



Night of 1,000 Candles
at Brookgreen Gardens,

Pirates Voyage Christmas Show,
Christmas Trees at the Aquarium,
Carolina Opry Christmas Show,



and lodging at Beach Cove Resort !



Cost by person:

Single Occupancy: \$721.00

Double Occupancy: \$573.00

Triple Occupancy: \$554.00

Quad Occupancy: \$530.00

This includes transportation provided by
Sunway Charters

*Deposit of \$200.00 is due upon signing up
in the church office.

Itineraries are available in the church office.



CROP WALK BAKE SALE
During Café Connection
Date to be determined

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

New Bern
CROP HUNGER WALK

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Below is the FBC team page:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/first-baptist-new-bern-2>

**COFFEE
&
DESSERT**



*Women's
Kick Off*

**AUGUST 22, 2025
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

WOMEN'S



God of Creation

A Study of Genesis 1-11
by Jen Wilkin

Starts September 4, 2025
Room A109 every Thursday from
10:30 AM to 12 noon.
Please sign up by August 25.

*Planning for
The Bazaar of 2026*

That's right,
we're talking about it already!
The date isn't set yet,
but it's not too early to start.

Do you have any ideas?
Recommendations?
Requests?
I want to hear them!
Call or text Judy Bills at
864-266-0916 or email
judy@jabbez.com or simply
write it down and pass it to me
or leave a note in the church office.



RENEW, RESTORE, REJOICE!

"Lord, I love the dwelling place that is your house, the place where your glory resides." - Psalm 26:8

During the May quarterly conference, the church approved the "Sanctuary Refresh Project"
(new carpet, painting, and pulpit stage changes).

All of the work will be done by WillGo National Painting (a subsidiary of Williams Professional Painting located in Alexandria, VA). This company has over 40 years of experience and has built a solid record of doing quality work. Please view their website at www.williamsprofessionalpainting.com to learn more.

The project will begin on August 11 and will last about 5 weeks.
During this time we will have church service in the Family Life Center.

If you have any questions about the work, please contact any of us on the project team
(Karen Killingsworth, Bobby West, Kyle Compton, Phil Smith).

PRAYER NEEDS

Church Family

Alan Ashe	Alice Lyle
Jerry Ashley	Helen Smaw
Valeria Barrow	Ty Smith
Judy Blythe	Mary Ann Stinson
Tommy Daniels	Clyde Swindell
Rieko Evans	Frances Wages
Donald Heath	Beth Wagner
Mary Ann Jones	James Warren, Sr.
Sherry Jones	Kimsey Welch
Virginia Knight	Miriam Wood
Bobbie Love	Ellen Young

Assisted Living & Retirement Residents

<u>Cypress Glen—GVL</u>	<u>Woodland Terr - CARY</u>
Elizabeth Brinkley	Louise Blizzard*
<u>Champions-WIL</u>	<u>NC Veterans Home - KIN</u>
Doris Dyson	Mary Ellen Kirschner
<u>Homeplace</u>	<u>Merrill Gardens - NBN</u>
Christine Peedin	Sylvia Pina
<u>Navion-NBN</u>	<u>Riverpoint Crest - NBN</u>
Wilma Needham	Jewel Watson
	<u>Gardens of Pamlico</u>
	Tolar Simmons*

Church Friends

Jerry Ashley (*L.B. Pope*)
 Sheree Bagley (*friends Beth & Mary*)
 Jennifer Bernabi (*nephew*)
 Jan Burke (*Neal Cobb*)
 Isabella Cantrell
 Lisa Chitty (*parents, friend Sherry & family*)
 Sandra J. Dail (*Tommy Gaskins*)
 Kathy Daniels (*Wanda Folsom*)
 Janet Doughty (*mother*)
 Kaye Grant
 Anita Gray (*Jim Baldridge*)
 Barbara Gwaltney (*Wayne*)
 Phil Kaylor (*William & Peggy*)
 Karen Killingsworth (*father*)
 Brandy Holton (*father*)
 Bobbie Love (*Jimmy Walker*)
 Jim/Claudia McManamey (*niece*)
 Sandy O'Brien (*Fred Deans*)
 Anna Pearson (*Granddaughter Charlotte*)
 Sammy Riggs
 Keith Russell (*dad Archie Russell*)
 Dennis Sawyer (*brother Joe Sawyer*)
 Melanie Spear (*sister, brother in law, friend Glenda*)
 Bob Spooner (*Jude McBride*)
 Becky Stewart (*Natalie Monroe*)
 Jeremy Tavares (*Dennis Dowdy's mother*)
 Beth Wagner (*Marian Elmore, John Wiltrout*)
 Kathy White (*Buddy Kirschner*)
 Faye Willingham (*Sam Huff, Janis Miller*)
 Jane Wooten (*friend*)
 Beth Wynn (*Lori Saunders*)



Christian Education

Spiritual Practices are exercises
which equip us to live fully and freely
in the present reality of God —
and God works with us,
giving us grace as we learn and grow.

During June and July I have challenged you to consider the following spiritual practices:

- ⇒ **Meditation:** The ability to hear God's voice and obey his word.
- ⇒ **Prayer:** The interactive conversation with God about what we are doing together.
- ⇒ **Fasting:** The voluntary denial of an otherwise normal function for the sake of intense spiritual activity.
- ⇒ **Study:** The mind taking on an order conforming to the order of whatever we concentrate upon.
- ⇒ **Simplicity:** An inward reality that results in an outward life style.
- ⇒ **Solitude:** An open relational space for being found by God and freed from competing loyalties.
- ⇒ **Submission:** The discipline which frees us to let go of the burden of always needing to get our own way.
- ⇒ **Service:** The many little deaths of going beyond ourselves which produces in us the virtue of humility.

Now let's add two additional ones:

- ⇒ **Confession:** Experiencing the grace and mercy of God for healing the sins and sorrows of the past.

Though through our Mediator, Jesus Christ, we may confess our sins and be directly forgiven by God, we also have the opportunity and admonition to "confess our sins to one another" (James 5:16). In receiving a confession by a sister or brother in Christ, a believer has an incredible chance to minister understanding and forgiveness. God has given us our brothers and sisters to stand in Christ's stead and make God's presence and forgiveness real to us.

- ⇒ **Worship:** Entering into the supra-natural experience of God.

Worship is far beyond a mere period of time spent singing on Sunday morning. It is a lifestyle spent ceaselessly laying aside our humanly initiated activity, giving way to the teaching of Jesus and the activity of the Holy Spirit. We offer our whole being in worship: our voices in song, our bodies in posture, our spirits in prayer; all for the purpose of first loving the Lord our God. Worship is the human response to the divine initiative.

You can review more spiritual practices and resources at:

<https://renovare.org/about/ideas/spiritual-discipline>.

Contact Kerry if you have questions or want additional resources.

First Baptist Church

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



Non-Profit Organization
PRE-SORT
U. S. Postage
PAID
New Bern, NC
Permit No. 147



Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly

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. Please do not submit articles by phone or verbally.

Dr. Richard D. Seagle, Senior Pastor	Richard@fbchurch.com
Rev. Kerry Q. Peeler, Associate Pastor of Christian Education.....	Kerry@fbchurch.com
Mrs. Sherree Bagley, Children's Minister	Sherree@fbchurch.com
Rev. Barry E. Templeton, Associate Pastor of Senior Adults	Barry@fbchurch.com
Rev. Nick Lewis, Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Life	Nick@fbchurch.com
Loma Brown, Secretary	Loma@fbchurch.com
Sandy O'Brien, Director of Finance	Sandy@fbchurch.com
Gwyn Rice, Food Service Manager	Gwyn69@hotmail.com
Tyler Barker, Grounds Custodian	Jamestylerb42@gmail.com
Kit Emmerich, Buildings Custodian	Chemmerich2020@gmail.com

The All State Youth Choir of North Carolina spent 3 days rehearsing and memorizing a spectacular repertoire. They then toured for (4) days at 10+ venues in the western part of our state. Twenty four talented young people, after applying and auditioning for this group, were chosen to participate. Matthew Holton also auditioned and was invited to sing a solo (videos included). Highlights - singing at bot the Biltmore Estate and The Tryon Equestrian Center, serving at a local food pantry, and meeting life long friends who share talent and a love for Christ.

