



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

# MESSENGER

Volume 61 Issue 07

JULY 2025

## ***To the Beloved Congregation of First Baptist Church of New Bern,***

After much prayer and reflection, I am writing to share with you my decision to retire from my position as organist of First Baptist Church, effective Sunday, July 20, 2025.



It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve this church family since June 1, 1996. I have truly loved the congregation and the choirs of First Baptist. The opportunity to help lead worship and offer music as a form of praise has been one of the deepest joys of my life. I will always treasure the sacred moments we've shared through hymns, anthems, and accompaniment.

I am especially grateful for the years I served under the direction of such faithful Ministers of Music, most notably Rev. Barry Templeton, with whom I had the pleasure of working for over twenty years. His leadership and encouragement helped shape my ministry and deepened my calling to serve with excellence and joy.

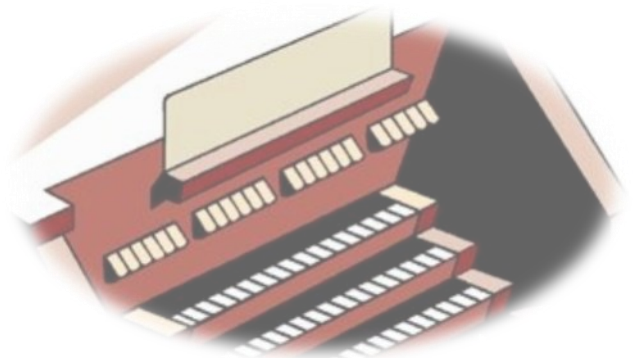
Although I will be stepping away from the professional responsibilities of being your organist and accompanist, I look forward to remaining part of this vibrant church family and continuing to support its ministries and mission. First Baptist Church has been my spiritual home for many years, and I am grateful beyond words for the relationships, memories, and worship experiences we've shared.

As I take this step, I do so with a heart full of thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve and with abiding love for the people of First Baptist Church. You have blessed me far more than I can express.

In the words of Scripture, I hold close the encouragement of Philippians 1:3–4 (NIV): *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."*

With love and gratitude,

B.J. Oglesby



## True North VBS: A Wild Week of Faith, Fun & Generosity!

What an unforgettable week we had at True North Vacation Bible School!

With 112 enthusiastic kids and 66 dedicated volunteers, our church was full of energy, laughter, and the message that we can **TRUST JESUS** in this wild world!



Each day was filled with music, games, crafts, snacks, Bible adventures, and meaningful moments as children discovered how Jesus is our true guide. We wrapped up the week with some unforgettable fun—including Mrs. Tammi and Ms. Sheree taking a pie in the face, all in good spirit to celebrate the generosity of our kids and families!

Together, we raised over \$6,000 for our Mission Offering benefiting Good Shepherd Ministry. This incredible gift will provide Christmas presents for children at the Good Shepherd Orphanage and Children's Home in Guatemala.

And congratulations to the boys, who won our friendly Missions Challenge! What a joyful reminder that when we give from the heart, we can make a big difference.

Thank you to everyone who helped and volunteered to make True North VBS a huge success—we are already looking forward to next year!



### **Camp Caraway Recap: A Week to Remember!**

From June 16–20, 14 of our kids experienced an unforgettable week at Camp Caraway—a place where faith, fun, and friendship came together in the best way possible! Throughout the week, campers enjoyed exciting outdoor recreations, hands-on skill-building activities, and powerful times of worship that helped them grow closer to God and one another. Whether they were hiking trails, learning new skills, or cheering during team competitions, every moment was filled with energy and purpose.

A special highlight of the week came during Council Night around the bonfire, when our kids sang an original Camp Caraway Song that Hoyt Doak wrote just for the occasion—it was a meaningful and memorable moment that brought our group together in a special way.

We're so grateful for our amazing chaperones—Hoyt Doak, Lori Meads, and Brian Swicegood—who gave their time and hearts to help make this experience possible.

Thank you to our church family for your prayers and support.

Camp Caraway 2026—we're already counting down the days!



## FBC BEW BERN YOUTH MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 3rd** - RCS Soup kitchen and  
Chick Fil A 7:45 AM to 1:00 PM

**July 6th - 12th**  
ASP Camp

**July 13th**  
Youth Connect 5 - 7 PM

**July 18th**  
Worship Night 6 - 8:30 PM

**July 22nd**  
Salty Pirate Waterpark 1:00 - 6:00 PM

**July 27th**  
Youth Connect 5 - 7 PM

# Welcome

Nick Lewis! We're so glad you're here!

I am extremely excited to embark on our new journey together here at First Baptist! I am very thankful for the wonderful conversations I have had over the past month or so as many of us have gotten to know each other.

Youth and family ministry is truly where my heart is and where I believe God has gifted me. It's such an honor to be serving you all and our community. My family offers you our appreciation for this incredible opportunity to become part of and serve this church family.

I do not take this role lightly, as I know the urgency we all must have in extending God's kingdom here on earth. Jesus has called us to make disciples, and that mission must be intentional, rooted in love and compassion.

Again, thank you all so much. I thank you all in advance for your prayers, support, and active participation as we reach this world for Christ!

Nick Lewis

**July & August**

**1st - 5th Grade**

## Praise Dance Camp

**July**  
10:30-11:30am

**August**  
6:00-7:00pm

**Tuesday's & Thursday's**  
**No Experience Needed**  
**Sign up Today by June 25th**



**SAVE THE DATE**

## Dessert & Coffee - Women's Kick Off -

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

More Details coming soon!!!



	WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS			
	JULY 6	JULY 13	JULY 20	JULY 27
<b>DEACONS</b>	Mona Quick Jennifer Emens	Wayne Brown Charlotte Fuller	Chuck White James Garner	Andy Wilkinson Ken Gray
<b>WATCHMEN</b>	Kimsey Welch	Ed Wall	Ken Gray	Todd Spear & Colin Phinney
<b>USHER TEAMS</b>	Susan Williams	Todd Spear	Mike Seawell	Bobby West
<b>CAFÉ CONNECTION</b>	Greg & Linda Williams	Tracey Lorentzen	Kathy Swindell	Charlotte Fuller
<b>GREETERS</b>	Bunting	Hall	Duff	Garner
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Elizabeth Swicegood Mary Ella Swicegood Carole Hart	Sheree Bagley Chris Bagley	Jennifer Benton Bella Bernabi Allison Bunting	Beth Wynn Wes Holton Lori Meads
<b>EXTENDED CARE 10:15</b>	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	Gale Evancho Sonya Thurman Cathy C. Pike Judy Antry Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblow

## July Birthdays

01 Mercy Hre	13 Sidney Fowler	20 Samuel Mang
Masi Kim	Linda Williams	21 Sheila Bell
Todd Thurman	Jeremy Slagle	Hannah Garner
02 Randy Amerson	14 Tiffany Adams	24 Norma Williams
03 Yong Ya	Audrey Lewis	26 Scarlett Hall
04 Michael Minier	15 Wilma Needham	Lori Meads
05 Judy Bills	16 Esther Kyi	Ken Wooten
Rhonda Miller	17 Erica Smith	27 Joy Duff
07 Camdyn Adams	Nathan Meadows	28 Kim Wynn
09 Kerry Peeler	18 Jane Wooten	Samantha Bagley
10 Ruth Kellum	Joshua Swicegood	29 Lillian Rice
Ben Bunting	Trish Thornburg	30 Jason McLamb
Garret Strickland	19 Steven Wynn	31 Greg Pearson
Thaih Ksor Zink	Adam Amerson	Liz Garner
11 Wells Brinkley	Lauren Ferebee	Sylvia Pina
12 Charlotte Fuller	20 Melanie Rice	Renea Welch

## July Anniversaries

04	Doug & Kate Amerson
09	Adam & Cindy Lewis
11	Bob & Betty Peterson
13	Brendan & Kimberly Lake
14	Josh & Trish Overby
17	Phillip & Melanie Rice
23	Kenny & Roseann Brownell
24	Yong Ya & Thung Ksor Ya
25	Wayne & Aletta Brown
30	Steve & Jeannie Simmons
31	Ray & Boots Parker

### FINANCIAL RECORD JAN - MAY 2025

Needed YTD: \$494,130

Received YTD: \$504,861



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful celebration you gave to the 2025 high school graduates on Sunday, June 1st. The awesome worship service followed by the delicious meal served in the FLC will always be remembered.

I would also like to thank you for the Bible and the special notes placed inside. The cards and monetary gifts you gave to me are greatly appreciated. Most of all, I want to thank you for your love that you have shown me over the years.

Maddie Templeton

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of your support, help and generosity for Graduate Sunday! It made the day so special! I appreciate all of your kind words and luck on my new adventures.

I'll miss seeing you each Sunday but I will see you on my breaks and holidays!

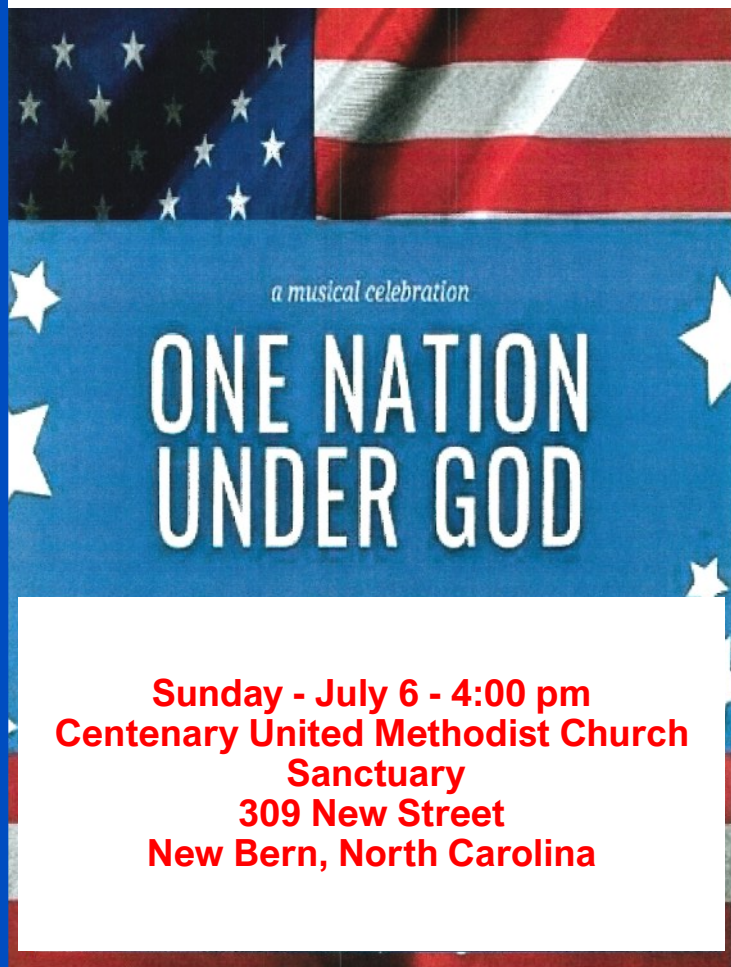
Love -

Tucker

**The New Bern  
Community Gospel Choir**

under the direction of Barry Templeton  
with Paul Saik, accompanist

presents



**Sunday - July 6 - 4:00 pm**  
**Centenary United Methodist Church**  
**Sanctuary**  
**309 New Street**  
**New Bern, North Carolina**

**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.*

**Senior Adult Fundraiser**

**Hot Dog Supper**

**&**

**Bake Sale with Silent Auction**



**TBA**

**in the Family Life Center**



## New Piano Needed for Choir Room

In 1970 a Wurlitzer baby grand piano was generously given to the church by Owen Meredith and Helen Smaw in memory of Margaret Meredith Smaw, his mother. They were faithful members of the choir, and the music ministry of our church was very dear to their family. The piano was used in the sanctuary until the 90s when the church purchased the beautiful Steinway that we now enjoy. The Wurlitzer was then moved to the choir room where it has been used for literally thousands of rehearsals over the course of 3 plus decades.

This piano, which has been used so well, is now coming to the point where it cannot be repaired or maintained to a good standard. Without going into too much detail, the "action" or mechanical system of the piano has become irreparable. This makes it difficult to play and keep tuned.



The time has come that there is a need for a new piano in the choir room. It is common for pianos to be donated as families downsize and it is our hope that we could find a replacement from someone who has an instrument that needs a new home. By donating to the church, the owner can be assured that it will be valued, cared for and fill an important need of our music ministry. It is the goal that the piano will be high quality, appropriate for the space in both size and sound output and from a highly respected maker so that it can be used for many more decades of praise and worship through music that will bring glory to God.

This effort is with the blessing of the Smaw and Amerson families to whom the music ministry has meant so much and we thank them for a gift given long ago that has been such a blessing to so many.

Please spread the word and contact Tracey Lorentzen or the church office if you have any questions or know of anyone who might be interested in helping with this need.

Tracy Lorentzen



**T-Ball Team**



**Rookie Team**  
Season Champs



**Minor Team**  
Season & Tournament Champs



**Major Team**

# PRAYER NEEDS

## Church Family

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

Pray for our FBC Search Committees

## Assisted Living & Retirement Residents

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

## Church Friends

Jerry Ashley (*L.B. Pope*)  
 Jennifer Bernabi (*nephew*)  
 Jan Burke (*Neal Cobb*)  
 Isabella Cantrell  
 Lisa Chitty (*parents, friend Sherry & family*)  
 Kathy Daniels (*Wanda Folsom*)  
 Janet Doughty (*mother*)  
 Eddie Games (*cousin*)  
 Kaye Grant  
 Anita Gray (*Jim Baldrige*)  
 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 Blythe*)  
 Sammy Riggs, Charlotte  
 Keith Russell (*dad Archie Russell*)  
 Melanie Spear (*sister, brother in law, friend Glenda*)  
 Bob Spooner (*Jude McBride*)  
 Becky Stewart (*Natalie Monroe*)  
 Kathy Swindell (*Linda Lupton*)  
 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 such as reading Scripture and praying are important — not because they prove how spiritual we are — but because God can use them to lead us into life.*

—John Ortberg

Jesus is the way to life — and not just life after death, but life here and now. When he said, “Follow me,” he meant it. In all he did and taught, Jesus conveyed that our spiritual life takes place in our physical reality as well as in the heart. If we believe what he said about the spiritual life, it only makes sense we should do what he did.

Disciplines do not earn us favor with God or measure spiritual success. They 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.

Here are 4 more disciplines this month to add to those suggested in the June *Messenger*:

**Simplicity:** An inward reality that results in an outward life style.

Simplicity is the joyful unconcern for possessions we experience as we truly “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matt 6:33). Persons living in simplicity realize freedom from anxiety by viewing possessions as gifts from God, remembering we are stewards to care for God’s gifts to us, and making our goods available to others. Simplicity is a declaration of war on materialism and it reorients our lives, perspectives, and attitudes.

**Solitude:** An open relational space for being found by God and freed from competing loyalties. The experience of solitude varies widely from taking advantage of the little solitudes in our days to setting aside planned times of retreat to step out of our daily patterns in order to enter into the silence of God. This discipline, which is necessarily married to silence, leads also to greater trust in God to be our Justifier as even the very words we speak are tamed. Solitude is more a state of mind and heart than it is a place.

**Submission:** The discipline which frees us to let go of the burden of always needing to get our own way. Growth in the discipline of submission requires a person to consider the ways with which they view other people. A person acting in submission will be respectful and considerate of all people. They will first be submissive to the Triune God, then the Scriptures, their family, neighbors, the body of Christ, those broken and despised, and finally the world. Leadership and power are found and demonstrated by becoming a servant of all.

**Service:** The many little deaths of going beyond ourselves which produces in us the virtue of humility. While the discipline of service has a wide array of manifestations, from hospitality to listening and many beyond, at the center is found a contentment in hiddenness, indiscriminancy, and a pattern of service as a lifestyle. A person choosing to serve will find tremendous freedom in giving up the need to be in charge. True service builds community. It quietly and unpretentiously goes about caring for the needs of others. It draws, binds, heals, builds.

You can find 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



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**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—none over the phone or verbally, please.

Ext 124	Dr. Richard D. Seagle, Senior Pastor..... Richard@fbchurch.com
Ext 127	Rev. Kerry Q. Peeler, Associate Pastor of Christian Education..... Kerry@fbchurch.com
Ext 128	Mrs. Sheree Bagley, Director of Children's Ministry..... Sheree@fbchurch.com
Ext 125	Rev. Barry E. Templeton, Associate Pastor of Senior Adults..... Barry@fbchurch.com
Ext 121	Rev. Nick Lewis, Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Life..... Nick@fbchurch.com
	Rev. Michael McKnight, Interim Minister of Music..... 88brokenkeys@gmail.com
Ext 122	Loma Brown, Secretary..... Loma@fbchurch.com
Ext 126	Sandy O'Brien, Director of Finance..... Sandy@fbchurch.com
	Bette Jo Oglesby, Organist..... Bettej.oglesby@gmail.com
Ext 107	Gwyn Rice, Food Service Manager..... Gwyn68@hotmail.com
	Tyler Barker, Grounds Custodian..... Jameslyerb42@gmail.com
	Kit Emmerich, Buildings Custodian..... Chemmerich2020@gmail.com

Dear First Baptist Family,

The family of Jane R. Chitty is forever grateful for the kindness and sincerity of The "Baptists on Mission". We give praise and thanks to this entire Mission organization. No matter the gravity of the situation, the Baptists on Mission respond. From responding to Hurricane Helene or building wheelchair ramps locally, these are the "go to" people who serve our communities in the name of Jesus Christ. They truly abide by the words of the Bible in Matthew 25:40. *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* Thank you Dwayne Alligood and our Baptists on Mission.

God Bless you,

Cathy Chitty Pike, Susan Chitty Pitts, M. Reid Chitty, Jr.

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Thank you to the Baptist on Missions for installing a ramp for Clyde. Thanks to Dwayne Alligood, Terry Hall, Eddie Games, Andy Wilkinson, Steve Simmons, Greg Pearson and Wayne Brown. They did a great job!

Thank you,

Clyde and Kathy Swindell