



A P U B L I C A T I O N O F F I R S T B A P T I S T C H U R C H

MESSENGER

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

Volume 61 Issue 05

MAY 2025

Calling All Adventurers! Join Us for True North Vacation Bible School!

June 9–13 | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Ages: 4 Years Old – 5th Grade

Registration Opens May 1

Get ready for an unforgettable week this summer at **First Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School!** From June 9–13, children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to embark on the **ultimate Alaskan adventure** where northern lights shine, rivers race, glaciers glisten, and God's truth guides the way.

This year's theme, **True North**, will point kids to **Jesus, our faithful friend and guide**. In a world full of distractions and mixed messages, it's easy for kids to lose sight of what's true. True North VBS reminds children that **Jesus is someone we can always trust**, no matter what. Each day, we'll journey through exciting Bible stories, energetic music, creative crafts, and engaging games that all help reinforce this powerful message: **Jesus is our True North!**



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEW BERN
Vacation Bible School
JUNE 9 - 13, 2025 9am - 12 pm

Trek with us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure!

AGES 4YRS - 5TH GRADE
(Must be 4 by 9/1/24)

TRUE NORTH

Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Register Here



Why VBS Matters

Vacation Bible School is more than just a fun way to spend a summer morning—it's a meaningful opportunity for kids to grow in faith, build friendships, and experience the love of Christ in action. Whether a child has been attending church for years or is stepping into this environment for the first time, VBS provides a welcoming space for every child to feel seen, known, and loved.

We also encourage kids to **invite their friends!** VBS is a perfect way to share the good news of Jesus with others in a fun, vibrant, and memorable way.

Mark your calendars and get ready to register starting **May 1!** We can't wait to explore the wild beauty of Alaska together and discover how Jesus leads us every step of the way. He is our **True North!**

For questions or to volunteer, please contact the church office or visit our website.

Let the adventure begin!

Richard



JUNE 16 - 20

REMINDER:

FINAL PAYMENTS FOR CAMP CARAWAY ARE DUE BY MAY 12TH. AND ONLINE CAMP REGISTRATION FORMS NEED TO BE COMPLETED.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT SHEREE BAGLEY @ SHEREE@FBCHURCH.COM

VBS Workshop

We need your help creating fun backdrops, decorating, sorting supplies, stuffing envelopes, and more.

Wednesday, May 28th 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Pizza dinner and childcare will be provided. Call Sheree Bagley at the church office or use the



QR Code

VBS Workshop

to register.



1st Kids Preschool & Children will be sharing a special song on Mother's Day Sunday, May 11th.



Join us for an unforgettable adventure through the Alaskan wilderness as we guide kids to their True North—faith in Christ!

Dates: June 9–13

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: First Baptist Church

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to serve as:

- Crew Leaders
- Crew Leaders Assistants
- Craft
- Glacier Games Leaders
- Tundra Snack Team
- Wild Bible Adventures Leaders
- Imagination Station Leaders
- Sticky Scripture Leaders
- Registration Helpers
- Sing & Play Music / Elementary Music Leader

No experience needed—just a heart to serve and a love for Jesus and kids!

Sign up HERE:



Let's make this the most epic week of the summer!

FBC NEW BERN YOUTH
MINISTRY
 UPCOMING EVENTS

05/3/2025 (9am - 12pm)
 Craven County
 Little Clean Sweep
 *Meet at 8:45am

05/04/25 (5pm - 6:30pm)
 Youth Reconnect

05/11/25
 NO Youth Reconnect

05/18/25 (5pm - 6:30pm)
 End of School Year
 Celebration
 *More Details to Come

06/08/25
 Graduation Sunday

06/09/25 - 06/13/25
 Vacation Bible School

06/22/25 - 06/27/25
 Passport Camp

07/06/25 - 07/12/25
 Appalachia Service Project

Volunteers needed

May 4 Youth Reconnect

♡ Youth Snack Supper

June 22-27 Passport Camp

♡ Adult Female Chaperone

July 6 - 12 ASP Service Project

♡ Male Chaperone with construction knowledge

If interested, please contact **Kelly Brinson** at kelly@fbchurch.com



Hello, my name is **Tanner Brown** and I am privileged to assist with the **Youth program on Sunday evenings** at FBC New Bern this summer. I serve as the Associate Pastor at Pollocksville Baptist Church, a teacher at Iron Academy in Raleigh, and as the Chaplain at William Peace University. I have a heart for youth ministry and am excited for what's ahead!

SAVE THE DATE

Graduation Sunday

Sunday, June 8

Join as we celebrate our amazing High School Graduates, **Tucker Newton, Sarah Moore, and Maddie Templeton!**



Kathryn (Kate) Smaw Amerson, a member of our church family and a teacher of the Jane Marshall Jenkins Sunday School class was recently honored with several awards.

She received the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society International for -Two-Year Colleges— Distinguished Advisor Award. It will be presented at the PTK Catalyst (International Annual Convention) in Kansas City, MO during April 3-6. She recently received the Carolinas Region Distinguished Advisor Award.

Kate also received the award of Craven Community College's Faculty Emeritus and is to be recognized at graduation on May 16th, 2025.

Kate is married to Doug Amerson and is the proud mother of 3 daughters and has two wonderful grandsons.

Go Kate!

submitted by Cathy Chitty Pike and the JMJ ss class.



WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS				
	MAY 4	MAY 11	MAY 18	MAY 25
DEACONS	Mona Quick Jennifer Emens	Wayne Brown Charlotte Fuller	Chuck White James Garner	Andy Wilkinson Ken Gray
WATCHMEN	Steve Wynn	Steve Simmons Ed Stinson	John Duff	Travis Blalock
USHER TEAMS	Todd Spear	Mike Seawell	Eddie Games	Bobby West
CAFÉ CONNECTION	Mona Quick	Kathy Swindell	Charlotte Fuller	John & Joy Duff
GREETERS	Bunting	Hall	Duff	Garner
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Beth Wynn Wes Holton Lori Meads	Sheree Bagley Chris Bagley	Elizabeth Swicegood Mary Ella Swicegood Carole Hart	Jennifer Benton Bella Bernabi Allison Bunting
EXTENDED CARE 10:15	Gale Evancho Sonya Thurman Cathy Chitty Pike Judy Antry Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblov	Rebecca Sanchez Jennifer Emens Kathy Swindell Cathy Rock Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblov	Kelsie Ferguson Trey Ferguson Gretchen Overby Brian Swicegood Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblov	Brenda Hall Terry Hall David Zink Thaih Zink Susan Trout Christine Soler Mandy Mueller Molly Streblov
Wednesday Night Supper	MAY 7 Dwayne A.'s Team Grilled Pork Loin Stewed Apples Green Bean Almondine Bread & Dessert	MAY 14 Gwyn Rice's Team Assorted Sub Sandwiches Pasta Salad Chips	MAY 21 Terry Hall's Team Hot Dogs Slaw Chips Dessert	May 21 is the LAST WNS before Summer

May Birthdays

02 Amy Par	13 Jase McQuiston	25 Catherine Alligood
03 Richard Wagner	Harrison Ferebee	Merritt Best
Mike Seawell	15 Sutton Tavares	Layla Williams
Kathy Swindell	Sui Hre	26 Jan Burke
06 Marlie Kate Hardy	Ronnie Brinson	Tom Denton
Clara Emmerich	Brant Bills	Darius Hargett
Blessing Kim	17 Blake Belcher	27 Jamie Slagle
08 Jeff Killingsworth	Evan Ireland	28 Brenda Hall
09 Marylou Noyes	18 Betty Peterson	Phil Kaylor
10 Catherine Ward	19 Louise Blizzard	Linda Autry
Frederick Laskovics	Savannah Thornton	29 Janet Doughty
12 Dwayne Alligood	21 Matthew Holton	Tiffany Glover
Addison Strickland	22 Sandy Franks	Quinn Osmanovic
Rosalie Rocham	23 Chandler Seagle	30 Phil Smith
Sandra J. Dail	Thang Hre	Kay Hall
13 Deborah Ashley	Dominic Laskovics	Savannah Emens
Connie Brunese	25 Eddie Games	

May Anniversaries

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

Proposed Church Constitution Amendments– Church Conference May 21

Pursuant to various requests from church members and committees, the Constitution Committee has proposed amendments to the Church's Constitution and Bylaws. These proposed amendments address four issues: (1) creating a Music and Worship standing committee; (2) clarifying deacon supervision of pastoral staff; (3) changing "Director of Children's Ministry" to "Children's Minister"; and (4) codifying the existing process for church-level, pastoral ordination. These proposed amendments were presented in Church Conference on February 26 and will be voted on at the next Church Conference on May 21. You can read the full text of these proposed amendments at the following link: bit.ly/FBCamend25 or by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions, please reach out to Trey Ferguson at (919) 995-2946.





Friday, May 9th * 7:00 PM



The Senior Adults will meet in the FBC parking lot at 6:00PM and travel to Kinston to see the Bird Dawgs play the Ottawa Titans at Historic Grainger Stadium. Food and drink will be enjoyed at the ballpark. If you're interested in going, please call the BOX OFFICE at Grainger Stadium 549-4388 and reserve your ticket now!



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

Craven County Little Clean Sweep

Saturday, May 3 from 9am - 12 noon

Meet at the church at 8:45

Project Leader: Joey Holton

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR presents

THE SONG EVERLASTING

Sunday, May 18th - 4:00 PM



Please mark your calendars now to attend this special musical event.

FINANCIAL RECORD JAN - MAR 2025

Needed YTD: \$305,053

Received YTD: \$295,600

Stewardship

Dear Church Family,

We have been greatly blessed over the past few years by the faithful stewardship of our congregation. We give thanks for your continued support of the church's mission and ministry. Thanks to your generosity, we are currently in a sound financial position.

However, as we begin this new year, our income is running behind what is needed to fully support the 2025 Mission and Ministry Plan, which was approved by the church last November. At our current pace, contributions are \$42,000 below budgeted expectations. If this trend continues, we anticipate ending the year approximately \$140,000 short of our planned needs.

In addition, we are considering a proposal for work to be performed in the sanctuary. If approved, this project will be funded from our cash reserves. The combination of a potential income shortfall and the cost of this work would significantly reduce our reserve funds.

Because it is still early in the year, we want to bring this to your attention now—before summer vacations begin—so that we have time to address this trend together. On behalf of the Finance Committee, I ask each of you to prayerfully consider your financial stewardship. Let us continue to work together in faithful support of our 2025 Mission and Ministry Plan.

Thank you,
James Garner
Chair, Finance Committee

Senior Adult Dutch Lunch At



Tuesday June 3, 2025

We will depart from the church at 10AM
Lunch at 11:00 and then we will go to Simply Natural Creamery in Ayden!

Senior Adult Trip to LCC in Kinston

Friday, July 18, 2025
7:00 PM

Cost \$20.00
RSVP by Monday, June 2
with payment



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 2025 to September 2028 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 28, 2025

CURRENT ACTIVE DEACONS

The following individuals are currently serving as active Deacons, and they are **NOT** eligible for the 2025 - 2028 term:

2025 TERM

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

2026 TERM

Dwayne Alligood
Josh Bell
Tracey Lorentzen
Kelsie McBride
Kathy Swindell
Chuck White

2027 TERM

Don Brinkley
Cathy Chitty Pike
Amy Price
Mona Quick
Bobby West
Andy Wilkinson

*Family members of deacons rotating off the 2025 term ARE eligible to be nominated.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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

DEACON NOMINATING COMMITTEE

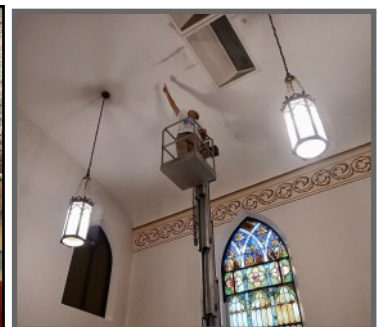
Tracey Lorentzen, Chair
Ken Gray, Chuck White,
Cathy C. Pike, Richard Seagle

In 1984 our sanctuary interior was extensively remodeled. How many of you remember the renovation and how "fresh" the sanctuary felt?

A team has been working with various contractors to develop a plan to "refresh" the sanctuary (new carpet, painting, and pulpit stage changes). A recommendation for scope and cost will be presented in the May 21 quarterly conference for church approval.

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

SANCTUARY REFRESH PROJECT



Church Family

Catherine Alligood
 Alan Ashe
 Valeria Barrow
 Blake Belcher
 Judy Blythe
 Tommy Daniels
 Rieko Evans
 Walt Fuller
 Phen Hardy
 Rachel Hardy

Donald Heath
 Julia Hudson
 Mary Ann Jones
 Sherry Jones
 Bobbie Love
 Alice Lyle
 Greg Pearson
 Selma Piner
 Lynn Rausch
 Bobby Reece

Ty Smith
 Ed Stinson
 Clyde Swindell
 Beth Wagner
 James Warren, Sr.
 Jewel Watson
 Kimsey Welch
 Kathy White
 Faye Willingham
 Ellen Young

Assisted Living & Retirement Residents

Cypress Glen—GVL
 Elizabeth Brinkley

Champions-WIL
 Doris Dyson

Homeplace
 Christine Peedin
 Rudy Rowe
 Dot Smith

Navion-NBN
 Wilma Needham

Woodland Terr - CARY
 Louise Blizzard*

NC Veterans Home - KIN
 Mary Ellen Kirschner

Merrill Gardens - NBN
 Sylvia Pina

Riverpoint Crest - NBN
 Jewel Watson
 Clyde Swindell

Gardens of Pamlico
 Tolar Simmons*

Pray for our FBC Search Committees



Church Friends

Teresa Allen (*Donna & Billy Russell*)
 Jerry Ashley (*L.B. Pope*)
 Sheree Bagley (*Ivan Garrison*)
 Jo Ann Banks (*Wanda, Chris*)
 Jennifer Bernabi (*nephew*)
 Judy Blythe (*Fran Eaves*)
 Wayne Brown (*brother*)
 Jan Burke (*Neal Cobb*)
Isabella Cantrell
 Lisa Chitty (*parents, friend Sherry & family*)
 Sandra J. Dail (*Tommy Gaskins*)
 Kathy Daniels (*Wanda Folsom*)
 Janet Doughty (*mother*)
 Eddie Games (*cousin*)
Kaye Grant
 Anita Gray (*Breanna Gray, Jim Baldrige*)
 Phil Kaylor (*William & Peggy*)
 Karen Killingsworth (*father*)
 Lori Hale (*brother in law*)
Fred and Nancy Hausman
 Brandy Holton (*father*)
 Matt Kaylor (*friend Alicia*)

Emma Little
 Bobbie Love (*Jimmy Walker*)
 Jim/Claudia McManamey (*niece*)
 Sandy O'Brien (*Kentucky Family, Fred Deans*)
 Anna Pearson (*Granddaughter Blythe*)
 Sammy Riggs, *Charlotte*)
 Mike Rogers
 Billy Russell
 Keith Russell (*dad Archie Russell*)
 Will Sanderson
 Melodie Seagle (*brother Robin*)
 Richard Seagle (*cousin Andrew Hall*)
 Melanie Spear (*sister, brother in law, friend Glenda*)
 Kathy Swindell (*Linda Lupton*)
 Jeremy Tavares (*Dennis Dowdy's mother*)
 Beth Wagner (*Marian Elmore, John Wiltrout*)
 Kathy White (*Buddy Kirschner*)
 Faye Willingham (*Sam Huff, Jerald Willingham*)
 Jane Wooten (*friend*)
 Ken Wooten (*mother*)
 Beth Wynn (*Lori Saunders*)

Backpack Blessings

We're so thankful for our amazing church family who stepped up to serve with Backpack Blessings! These hands and hearts helped pack food bags that will go home with local students in need—ensuring they're nourished not just during the week, but through the weekend too.



It's a beautiful reminder that small acts of kindness can have a big impact. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!



Join a Class!

If you do not currently attend one of our Bible Study small groups, check out our brochure in the breezeway with a list of the class opportunities or contact Kerry for help find the right one for you!

Fifth Sunday Shuffles

Thanks to those who made our *Praying the Scriptures* shuffle on March 30 an awesome opportunity for worship and fellowship!

Look for more information on our Fifth Sunday on June 29. *Do you have a favorite Christian song or hymn you like to sing?*

Note: We will not have our VBS kickoff during Sunday School on June 8 since this is Graduate Recognition Sunday, so we will be meeting in our regular classes. You just may already have a few VBS decorations in your classroom since VBS starts the next day. LOL

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
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 New Bern, NC
 Permit No. 147



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.

Dr. Richard D. Seagle, Senior Pastor.....	Richard@fbchurch.com	Ext 124
Rev. Kerry Q. Peeler, Associate Pastor of Christian Education.....	Kerry@fbchurch.com	Ext 127
Mrs. Sheree Bagley, Director of Children's Ministry.....	Sheree@fbchurch.com	Ext 128
Rev. Barry E. Templeton, Associate Pastor of Senior Adults.....	Barry@fbchurch.com	Ext 125
Mrs. Kelly W. Brinson, Interim Minister of Youth.....	Kelly@fbchurch.com	Ext 121
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	Ext 107
Bette Jo Oglesby, Organist.....	Bettejoglesby@gmail.com	
Gwyn Rice, Food Service Manager.....	Gwyn69@hotmail.com	
Tyler Barker, Grounds Custodian.....	Jamestyerb42@gmail.com	
Kit Emmerich, Buildings Custodian.....	Chemmerich2020@gmail.com	

Dated Material

Please Deliver Promptly

A Note of Thanks

The family of Linda Bowen wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many kind remembrances, prayers, and expressions of sympathy we received following her passing. Your support has been a great comfort to us during this difficult time. We are deeply thankful for our church family's love and care.

Richard and Melodie Bowen Seagle

To My Church Family,

I am so grateful to have such a loving and caring church family. Thank you for your prayers, cards, texts and phone calls through out my 2 hospitalizations recently.

I am home now but still facing upcoming procedures in the next few weeks. Please continue to pray for me and my family during this difficult time.

With Christian Love,
 Sherry Jones

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for all your prayers, cards and calls during my recent surgery. They were very much appreciated and I could feel every prayer. I am getting stronger each day in my hand and arm and it's because God answered your prayers. I love my church family.

Faye Willingham