

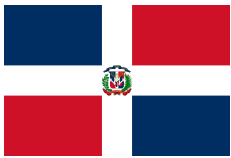
Steeple Talk

Faith Fellowship Mission

July 2024

First Baptist Church Lexington, NC

PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH MISSION TEAM



Please be in prayer for our Youth and their Chaperones as they travel and work in the Dominican Republic on July 6th-12th. Pray for safe travels and that their work spreads the love of God. They will give a report to the congregation on Sunday, August 4th.

The team includes: **First Baptist**-Jake Lambeth, Brooke Lambeth, Emma Jolly, Deanna Loftis, Charlotte Pyle,, Carol Frank, Kelly Lambeth, Kriston Jolly, Teresa Herman and Kent Herman; **Second United Church of Christ**-Luke Smith and Lauren Weaver; **First United Methodist**-Lee Mabe, Delee Mabe, TJ Strickland, Christie Strickland, Melinda Whitt, Brooklyn Adinarain, Jennifer Leahy, Katie Leahy, Xander Bostic, Dominic Adinarain and Jackson Hedrick

Our Mission Team is working with "Mission Emanuel" in the Dominican Republic. Their Ultimate Goal is "Transformation."

"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone: a new life has begun!"
~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

Mission Emanuel's ultimate goal is to come alongside those that are in need and show them the love that the father has for them. Not a handout but a hand up. Transforming them into the people God intended them to be! Our work in transformation happens on four levels: spiritual, physical, social, and mental.

DONATION OF NEW CAMERA FOR YOUTUBE SYSTEM

Our YouTube viewers may have noticed that one of the camera views in the Sanctuary has not working properly. Our Tech Team had determined that one of our cameras was not connecting to the system properly. Their attempts at repairs had not worked. As they were trying to fix the issue, a church member, who was aware of the problem, donated a brand-new camera to the church to replace the defective one. The church member wished to remain anonymous with their gift. The member indicated that the gift of the camera was in honor of Richard Honeycutt all of the members of the Tech Team for all the work that they do each week to broadcast our worship services on YouTube. The new camera should be installed soon and help make a better viewing condition for our YouTube broadcasts. We are thankful for the thoughtfulness and gift of the camera to the church.

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 7th	Religious Liberty Sunday
July 14th	Ray Nance Howell IV will preach
July 21st & 28th	Summer Sermon Series will begin



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will be going down to "Breaker Rock Beach" this year for VBS! We'll kick off this four day event on Sunday, July 21st, and commence on the 24th. All activities and times will be in the evening. More details to follow! If you are interested in helping out, please fill out the youth/children volunteer form that was sent out to the entire church. Thank you so much to those of you that have filled out the form already! I'll be in touch soon.

Adult Bible School Study

During the Children's Bible School, 2nd UCC will host an adult Bible Study:

Light in the Dark: a discussion about faith and film.

All are welcome

URGENT NEED!

At both FBC and at the YMCA, our goal is to build a stronger community. These organizations do their best to establish collaborations that allow us to work together with other community agencies and have a broader impact. Two of the agencies we work with are First Reformed United Church of Christ and Charles England Elementary School. Both of these partners have a need for their clothing closets and I am asking for your help. There is a tremendous need in our community for children's underwear. In the past few weeks, I've worked with 2 homeless families with 9 children between them. All of the children were under the age of 8 and none of them had any underwear. I think our community does not realize what a luxury item children's underwear is for many families. For the month of July, the YMCA's collection's focus will be on new children's underwear in all sizes. I am asking that FBC join us in the effort. If you are able, please bring one pack of new underwear for a boy or a girl (all sizes needed) to church on a Sunday in July, or drop off at the YMCA during the week, and help to meet this need. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your willingness to help our community. Together we can do so much more....Jen Fuller Allen

MEALS ON WHEELS IN LEXINGTON

The Meals on Wheels Ministry was recognized in a special service at First Reformed United Church of Christ on June 30th. This program began officially in 1972, but its genesis was in a women's Sunday School class at our church in the late 1960s. Stella Nichols visited a town in Pennsylvania that had the program and wanted to bring it to Lexington. Jeanne Wall was very instrumental in the organizational effort. Soon, the project became so big that other churches joined in. By the official start of the program, 7 churches had banded together along with the host church of First Reformed UCC where the meals were prepared. Today, the program continues to deliver daily weekday meals to over 100 clients a day. This wouldn't be possible without the over 100 volunteers that are used by the original seven churches. Jim Honeycutt is our route coordinator and represented us at First Reformed for the recognition. Here is a list of the volunteers for the First Baptist route: Wayne Raynor, Beth Davis, Phyllis Penry, Cindy Venable, Sarah Frye, Ann Ryalls, Sandra Wilson, Tommy Wilson, Jim Honeycutt, Libby Bennett, Larry Bennett, Booty Hilton, Sally Davis, Dan Hamrick, Ann Davis, Sandra Snyder, Elizabeth Lancaster, Julie Householder, Rena Morrison, Carol Stutts-Wall, and Betty Pfeiler.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH FEEDING THE HOMELESS

The month of July is when we partner with Grace Episcopal Church to help with the Sunday lunches for the homeless and needy. Thank you to our great volunteers who help with this mission. We still need more volunteers! Let Jen Fuller-Allen know if you can help.

July 7th	Robert and Martha Adams, Booty Hilton, Sally Davis
July 14th	David and Karen Sparrow
July 21st	Ralph and Jean Ashley, Josh and Kelly Blackburn
July 28th	Dale and Carol Frank, Jen, Elaine, Julia and Thomas Allen

2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES SHAWL NOTIFICATION

Another year has past and our 2024 seniors have received their loving afghans from our ministry. As most know, there is a lot of love and time that goes into the making of these afghans. Since covid our numbers of volunteers in the ministry has dwindled down to just four lady's. I would like to personally thank Ginger Hill, Virginia Flippin and Melinda Hartley for helping with this wonderful mission, this year. The making of an afghan doesn't happen overnight, it is more like weeks, so we are looking for new volunteers to help in this project. We are moving forward to the planning for 2025, at this time we are aware of six graduates; Jake Brown, Ava Leigh Fulbright, Sydney Hall, Brooke Lambeth, Deanna Loftis and Charlotte Pyle. We are asking all parents/ grandparents of our graduates to please notify our Chair or Co-Chair about the choice of your child's school or favorite colors, as soon as possible. There is a cutoff date for notification of schools/colors as of April 1st, 2025. As we stated our number of volunteers are dwindling and this labor of love is time consuming. Thank you with blessing and loving hearts

Chair person- Louise Walters, lwltrs.48@gmail.com or 321-586-9320

Co-Chair person - Melinda Hartley, melhartley@ptmc.net or 336-250-207

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATTERS Connie L. Russell

Positive things continue to happen in our Sunday School. On June 9, we had a very successful Children's Sunday School Celebration with approximately 15 children in attendance. There was also a good number of Youth and Adults helping with this event. Thank you to all who had a part in making this a special experience for the children. Our next Children's event will be August 25 when we have Open House for the Children and parents. This will be a time for Children and parents to come to the Children's Area during Sunday School to get acquainted with teachers, other children and parents, and also see the curriculum they will use. Mark this date on your calendars. July 21-24, we will have Vacation Bible School. I hope that all of you will invite children in your neighborhoods to attend. On August 4, we will have First Stop in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us for light refreshments before going to Sunday School. Then, in September, we will have our Sunday School Breakfast and Leader Appreciation Time. Our Guest speaker on September 8 will be Rev. Brian Alexander who is presently the Pastor at Center Hill and is also serving as the Interim Mission Director for the Liberty Association. More Details to come. I did some averages for our Sunday School Attendance recently. September, 2022-June 18, 2023, we averaged 81 for those 41 Sundays, we averaged 81 per Sunday. Only 3 of those Sundays attendance was more than 100. September, 2023-June 16, 2024, we are averaging 96 per Sunday. We have had 15 Sundays so far this year when attendance has been over 100. Our new post Co Vid high was reached on June 9 when we had 113. Thank you for your support of our Sunday School.

APRIL 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

First Baptist Church

Total Assets - \$420,332.61
May Income - \$58,521.04
May Expenses - \$43,786.67
May Surplus - \$14,734.37
Year-to-Date Shortfall - \$2,093.60

Martha Best Children's Center

Total Assets - \$360,237.57
May Income - \$56,786.21
May Expenses - \$58,047.76
May Shortfall - \$1,261.55
Year-to-date Surplus - \$16,273.35

FBC Endowment

Balance as of May 31, 2024 = \$2,189,999.44

The Finance Committee has approved that the church surplus for May is to be used to start fulfilling our budget obligations to Local Missions.

CHURCH DATABASE

We are updating our membership database. Our last pictorial directory is 7 years old. Many things have changed since then. Please let us know if there has been a change in your email,



MEMORIALS

Youth Designated Fund: *Brenda Houser* by Dave & Kristi Thornhill; *Joanne McLendon* by Peggy Barnhardt; *John Rhodes* by Peggy Barnhardt, Cateen Olive and Catherine & Robert Bowers; *Dr. James Jung* by Peggy Barnhardt, Ken & Debbie Auman; *Robbie Ingle* by Peggy Barnhardt; *Scott Engstrom and Bill Mc Guinn* by Ken & Debbie Auman

Building & Grounds Fund: *Bill McGuinn & Joanne McLendon* by Hal & Donna Routh

HONORARIUMS

General Fund: *Brenda Hipp* by Raye Leonard

Small Jobs Ministry: *Fred Belk, Cody Byerly, Lane Gilliam, William Hartley, Tobin Shepherd, Ronnie Tew and Gene Klump* by Lynda Belk

THANK YOU!

Dear Julia Dunn & First Baptist Church Members,

Today, we shopped for and packed our last BackPacks for the school year. What an accomplishment. What an overwhelming feeling of joy and of gratitude! I can't begin to thank each of you enough for all that you have done over the year to support this program. Your partnership through donations and prayers has been so appreciated. It is always exciting to you are good to too hear my phone ring and see Julia Dunn's name. I know that she is on her way to school to restock our Backpack Pantry. This week Proverbs 11:17 has been speaking to me this week. It says, "Your own soul is nourished when you are kind." When you are good to others, your own soul is being strengthened. Your own life is being enriched. Thank you for being so kind to South Lexington School's Backpack Program. May each of your lives continue to be enriched!

Sincerely,
Kelly Young, Backpack Coordinator

WORSHIP STREAMING VIA TELEPHONE

Sunday morning worship services are now available via telephone. Call 833-659-9737 and listen to the service.

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

We continue to need volunteers to take care of the nursery on Sunday mornings. This vital service is needed as our church continues to grow. Please contact Jen Fuller-Allen if you are willing to serve.

CONTACT US!

Ray Howell – Senior Minister - ray@fbclex.org, (336) 239-4828 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 104

Jim Tate – Business Administrator – tate@fbclex.org, (336)689-1392 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 111

Wes Richardson - Minister of Music & Director of Youth & Children - wes@fbclex.org, (336) 970-3983 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 105

Krystal Craven - Martha Best Children's Center Director – krystal@fbclex.org, (336) 245-1261 Ex. 108

Sherri Salinas – Financial Assistant – sherri@fbclex.org (336) 245-1261 Ext. 103

Beryl Phillips (Newsletter): bhphillips1960@outlook.com, (336) 245-1261
(Information Deadline is the 23rd of each month)



Periodical Postage paid at Lexington, NC
Return Service Requested

Steeple Talk (USPS 763-910)
Published monthly by
First Baptist Church
Post Office Box 436
Lexington, North Carolina 27293