



Steeple Talk

Faith Fellowship Mission

September 2024

First Baptist Church Lexington, NC

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- September 1st Labor Day Sunday "Honey in the Rock"
- September 8th The Sixth Sign in John's Gospel
John 9—The Man Born Blind
- September 15th Celebration of the Baptism of Lane Hopkins
- September 22nd The Seventh Sign in John's Gospel
John 11—The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead
- September 29th HYMNTUNE Sunday
- October 6th World Wide Communion Sunday and
Deacon Ordination
The Ordination of William Hopkins and
Joe Leonard

HYMNTUNE Sunday

Every hymn has a HYMNTUNE. The HYMNTUNE is the name of the music that accompanies the words of the hymn. Some HYMNTUNES are very obvious. The HYMNTUNE for "Great is Thy Faithfulness" is FAITHFULNESS. The HYMNTUNE for "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" is ODE TO JOY. But many of the HYMNTUNES tell a story all of their own. On September 29th we will explore a number of fascinating HYMNTUNES. And, of course, we will sing these powerful hymns!

FBC FALL/WINTER CALENDAR

- Sept 1st NO First Stop due to Labor Day Weekend
- Sept 2nd Labor Day Holiday - Church Office & MBCC Closed
- Sept 8th Sunday School Breakfast - 9am - Fellowship Hall
Rev. Brian Alexander - Speaker
- Sept 15th Finance Committee Meeting
- Sept 15th Sunday School Leadership Meeting 4pm in the Parlor
- Sept 16th Budget Planning Meeting
- Sept 22nd Deacons Meeting - 4pm Church Parlor
- Sept 23rd Budget Planning Meeting
- Sept 30th Budget Planning Meeting
- Oct 6th Communion
- Oct 7th Budget Planning Meeting - Tentative
- Oct 20th Finance Committee Meeting
- Oct 26th Lexington BBQ Festival - Parking Lot Fundraiser
- Oct 27th Deacons Meeting - 4pm Church Parlor
- Oct 27th Tentative - Neighborhood Churches Block Party for Halloween
- Nov 3rd Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov 3rd Christmas Shoe Box Ministry starts
- Nov 10th Salvation Army Christmas Angels Event starts
- Nov 11th Veteran's Day Holiday
- Nov 13th Budget Proposal Discussion - 6:30pm - Fellowship Hall
- Nov 17th Finance Committee Meeting
- Nov 24th Deacons Meeting - 4pm - Church Parlor
- Nov 25th - 27th Decorate Church for Christmas Begins
- Nov 27th Church Office closes at 1pm
- Nov 28th - 29th Thanksgiving Holidays - Church Office Closed

FOR PARENTS OF OUR YOUTH & CHILDREN

As schools are back in session, Wes is making plans for the fall and spring. Parents, please take the time to fill out this short form if your child/teen is interested in participating in youth this year. We have some exciting things planned and want to have as many youth/children share in fellowship as possible. Thanks again to all of you for your help with VBS this year. Once I collect all your info, I'll be in touch shortly with info on getting things kick started for the 2024/2025 year!

Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/2WpJuJqR3ZK57aAc9>

FBC FALL/WINTER CALENDAR (cont)

Dec 1st	First Sunday of Advent
Dec 4th	Quarterly Church Business Meeting - 6:30pm Fellowship Hall
Dec 8th	Second Sunday of Advent
Dec 9th	Stage Set-up Nine Lessons and Carols
Dec 11th	Christmas Food Boxes
Dec 15th	Third Sunday of Advent
Dec 15th	Finance Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Dec 15th	Nine Lessons and Carols (50th Anniversary) 11am Sanctuary
Dec 19th	Cancer Services Christmas Party – Fellowship Hall
Dec 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec 22nd	Tentative – Deacons Meeting – 4:00pm
Dec 24th-26th	Christmas Holidays – Church Office and MBCC CLOSED
Dec 24th	Candlelight/Communion Christmas Service – 5:30pm Sanctuary
Dec 29th	Informal Worship Service – 10:30am Sanctuary No Sunday School
Dec 31st	End of the Church Financial Year
Jan 1st	New Years Day Holiday – Church Office & MBCC Closed
Jan 19th	Finance Committee Meeting
Jan 20th	MLK Holiday- Church Office and MBCC Closed
Jan 26th	Deacons Meeting – 4:00pm – Church Parlor
Jan 29th	Quarterly Church Business Meeting – 6:30pm Fellowship Hall



SUNDAY SCHOOL MATTERS Connie I. Russell

It is hard to believe that September is here. We have had a good year in 2024, and we look forward to another good year in 2025. We are thankful that our attendance has continued to increase this year. Even during what I refer to as the Summer Slump” (from Memorial Day to Labor Day), our lowest Sunday Attendance was 84 on August 18. Thank you for your continued faithfulness. September 8th is our Sunday School Breakfast. Rev. Brian Alexander, our New Associational Mission Strategist (Associational Missionary) will be our Guest Speaker. He will speak about “The Importance of a Good Sunday School, and he will also highlight things that Liberty Association will be involved in as he gets settled in to his new position. I hope you will plan to come get to know him. Children and Preschoolers will go with their teachers after breakfast to their regular classes while Adults and Youth will stay in the Fellowship Hall. We will also give a small token of appreciation to our Sunday School Leaders. Come join us and help us break the post- Co Vid High Attendance of 113. Let’s go over the top of our goal of 150. We can still use a few more casseroles and 1 more bowl/tray of fruit. Sunday School Leadership Meeting will be September 15th at 4:00 in the Parlor. We will look back at things we have done right this year, and consider things we need to work on. If you are not in a Sunday School Class, please see me or Joe Leonard so we can help you find a class that will meet your needs. Let us work together to make 2024-2025 our best year yet.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will not have a Monday night Bible Study in the fall. We plan to begin a winter Bible Study in January.



URGENT!

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 Dustin and McKenna Young if you are willing to serve.

CAROLYN PHILLIPS MISSION GROUP

In September, the Carolyn Phillips Mission group will resume meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. All women who are interested are invited to join us. Our meeting will be September 10th at noon at Yarboroughs Restaurant. Our speaker will be Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller from the nonprofit Pastors for North Carolina Children. She will share ideas of ways churches and church groups support children in NC public schools. Please let Brenda Hipp know by Sunday, September 8,8th if you plan to attend. 336-707-7838th, if you plan to attend. 336-707-7838

FINANCIAL INFORMATION – AS OF JULY 31, 2024

DID YOU KNOW?

FBC

- July Income - \$40,518.55
- Income Year to Date - \$327,576.46
- July Expenses - \$47,339.55
- Expenses Year to Date - \$352,989.62
- July Shortfall - \$6,820.87
- Year to Date Shortfall - \$25,413.16
- Income to Meet Budget at Dec. 31 - \$384.349

MBCC

- July Income - \$38,061.67
- Income Fiscal Year to Date - \$602,296.58
- July Expenses - \$47,604.25
- Expenses Fiscal Year to Date - \$599,772.00
- July Shortfall - \$9,542.58
- Surplus – Fiscal Year to Date - \$2,542.58

FBC Endowment

- Balance as of July 1, 2024 - \$2,223,727.85
- July Income - \$5,068.02
- July Expenses - \$4,192.25
- Total Change in Value – July 2024 - \$42,900.23
- Balance as of July 31, 2024 - \$2,267,503.85



FELLOWSHIP HALL CLOSED FOR CLEANING & MINOR REPAIRS

The Church Fellowship Hall will be closed from September 9 to September 20 for cleaning and minor repairs. Outside doors accessing the Fellowship Hall will be locked during this time. We do this annually to keep the Fellowship Hall in good shape for the numerous events and meetings held there. Also, during the month of September, plans are being made to repair and re-seal the rear parking lot off Hargrave Street and W. Fourth Ave. Entry to the building will be changed while this work is being done. Watch for additional information on this project.

2025 BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS

The budget planning process for the 2025 Church Budget will begin in September. The Budget Planning Committee is chaired by David Huneycutt, church treasurer. The committee is made up of members of the Finance Committee, the Deacons and church volunteers. Meetings are scheduled for September 16th, 23rd, 30th and October 27th. Budget discussion will be held during a churchwide meeting on November 13th. The 2025 budget proposal will be approved on December 4th at the quarterly business meeting. If you are interested in helping with the budget planning process, please contact David Huneycutt or Jim Tate.

WORSHIP STREAMING VIA TELEPHONE

Sunday morning worship services are now available via telephone.

Call 833-659-9737 and listen to the service.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

A special word of thanks to Tommy Stroupe for putting all of our church directories, beginning in 1960, on a digital disc. If you haven't picked yours up, check with Tommy or the church office. You can also access this wonderful resource through our church website by clicking here: [Directory Archives](#). Due to personal information contained in the directories, you will need a password for the website. Please call the church office to receive the password.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your kindness and many prayers during the loss of my mother. It's comforting to know that she's now at peace. Her mind and body are whole and she is in the loving arms of Jesus.

Love in Christ,
Crystal Leonard

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)



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