



Steeple Talk

Faith Fellowship Mission

October 2026

First Baptist Church
Lexington, NC

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 4th World Communion Sunday
October 11th Kathryn Davis Packett will preach
October 18th Combined Choirs of First Baptist and First United Methodist
October 25th Riverdale "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" featuring the music of Brannon Gilliam

WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER

We will have a Wednesday night meal on October 7th and October 28th. Ray will review the Gospel of Luke on October 7th and the Gospel of John on October 28th. Reservations are necessary. You can sign the sign-up sheet at church or follow the link in Saturday's email to make a reservation.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 1ST

Please let Ray know if you would like to include a loved one who has passed away in our annual All Saints Sunday on November 1st. This is always a powerful service of remembrance and hope.

CAROLYN PHILLIPS MISSION GROUP

The Carolyn Phillips Mission Group will meet Tuesday, October 13th at Yarborough's Restaurant at noon. Randy Carter from CBFNC will share some of what CBFNC is doing relative to Hurricane Helene recovery and assisting legal immigrants. Please let Brenda Hipp know by October 10th if you will be attending for lunch.

Coming in October

A Riverdale Narrative
Featuring the Music of
Brannon Gilliam

"Will the Circle Be
Unbroken?"

THE LIFE CENTER OF DAVIDSON COUNTY

The Life Center offers a number of support groups for caregivers. These include "Early Stage Alzheimer's and Dementia," "Hybrid Family Caregiver," "Parkinson's," and "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren." On October 21st, the Life Center is hosting an "Advance Care Planning and Advance Directive Workshop." Please contact the Life Center at 336-249-2155 for more details.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office hours have changed. Our new office schedule is Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The Church Office will be closed on Monday and Friday. Office needs during other times will be by appointment. Contact Ray Howell at 336-239-4828 or Jim Tate at 336-689-1392 for office needs and/or appointments. Staff can also be contacted on Sunday mornings before the morning worship service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATTERS

Connie Russell

Thank you to everyone who supported our breakfast on September 13! To all of you who brought food, decorated the Fellowship Hall, worked in the kitchen, cleaned up, and to Dave Colescott, Ray Howell, and Will Tate who provided our program on Harold Bowen, thank you so much for your support! We will have our next breakfast on March 14, 2027. More details on our program will be forthcoming. A Sunday School Leadership Meeting was held on September 20. We began talking about how to best utilize the \$7000.00 gift given for improvements to our Sunday School were discussed. You will be hearing more about this as we prioritize what needs to be done first. There were some very good ideas discussed. Our next Sunday School Leadership Meeting will be October 18 at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Continue to pray for our Sunday School as we move forward this new church year. We look forward to a great year!!

BIBLE OPENERS

If your child is not on the list to open the Bible on Sunday mornings, please let me or Erin Richardson know. I will get you added. Please contact Beryl Phillips at bhphillips1960@outlook.com or 336-225-7000 or Erin Richardson.

STAY CONNECTED!

If you are not able to be with us in person, you can join us on our YouTube Channel by clicking here: [First Baptist Church, Lexington, NC USA YouTube Channel](#). In addition to our YouTube Channel, we now offer telephone streaming by calling 833-659-9737.

THANK YOU!

To my amazing church family of friends,

Thank you so very much for being my faithful positive supporters and prayer warriors through my cancer journey! I am so blessed by you all! Your many kind and positive words, cards and gifts, and heartfelt prayers have so blessed my life! May God richly bless your lives as you have blessed mine!God cares for the sparrows as he cares for us....sending my love to you all as I am praising my Savior all the day long!

Ginger Hill

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND 2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL

During their August 2026 meeting, the Deacons approved outsourcing the church's financial needs to Brinkley Bookkeeping of Welcome, NC. Allison Brinkley and members of her staff have started working with our financial accounts and records. Our financial software is now available. Work is being done to get the backlog of four months of manual records into the system, getting required reports filed to the federal and state governments for our payroll and to pay our bills and other obligations two times a month. Member giving records are also being updated. This work will take some time. We should have all accounts and records reconciled soon to provide updated financial records to the church.

As the preliminary work started to prepare our 2027 Church Budget proposal, we have found difficulties getting the needed information to formulate our 2027 budget proposal. Since our records had been done manually for the last four months, we do not have accurate giving information to estimate our 2027 giving and income needs. Our 2026 expenses have risen in some areas. Some of our church committees cannot determine what their potential needs for 2027 will be. Some of our vendors are anticipated to have higher costs for their services as well. The church will have several financial challenges to address as we move into 2027. With membership numbers down, lower amounts of income to work with and expected increases in many of our expenses, an accurate budget should be prepared to handle our financial needs responsibly.

Budget planning meetings are postponed temporarily. Until our new bookkeepers can get the backlog of records completed with more accurate information and when we get better information from our committees and vendors, I asked the Deacons to extend our 2026 budget into the first quarter of 2027. We are simply "freezing" our current budget line items at the same levels as we finish out 2026. We will start to work with these levels into 2027. Our Deacons have approved this request. Work will be done diligently to have accurate financial information and 2027 budget needs very soon. Information will be provided to the congregation as we go through these next few months.

Our leadership feels that our finances are stable at this time. Our endowment funds are also stable. Finances for the Martha Best Children's Center are also stable. Our goals are to get the backlog of financial records completed quickly, to have our 2026 budget managed professionally and have accurate budget information for 2027. Jim Tate will be available to answer any questions or provide further information.

PRAY FOR OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear God, we humbly ask for your guidance and wisdom as our finance committee discusses financial matters. Please help them make informed and responsible decisions that benefit our church and the people we serve. Grant them the patience to listen to one another and the courage to speak up when necessary. We ask for your blessings upon them as we move forward. Amen.

OCTOBER

October 4th – Sunday School First Stop – 9am
Fellowship Hall

October 4th – World Communion Sunday at
Worship

October 18th – Finance Committee Meeting 9 am
(Zoom)

October 25th – Deacons Meeting – 4 pm

October 24th – Youth Parking for Barbecue
Festival

October 29th – Halloween Festival with MBCC
6pm - 8pm

NOVEMBER

November 1st – Sunday School first Stop
9 am – Fellowship Hall

November 1st – All Saint's Sunday at worship

November 15th – Finance Committee
Meeting–9 am (Zoom)

November 22nd – Deacons Meeting – 4 pm
Parlor

November 26th & 27th – Thanksgiving
Holidays—Church Office Closed

November 29th – First Sunday of Advent

November 30th – December 4th –
Church Decorated for
Christmas

Connect with Us!

Office Hours

Monday-Closed

Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m to 1 p.m.

Friday Closed

Phone: 336-245-1261 Website: fbclex.org Email: fbclexington@fbclex.org

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

Jim Tate – Business Administrator – tate@fbclex.org, (336) 247-8616 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

Beryl Phillips (Newsletter): bhphillips1960@outlook.com

Information Deadline is the 23rd of each month)

