



First Baptist Church of Wallace, NC

First Family

September 2020



***The Corona Virus continues to shape what we do... and DON'T do.
— Something old, something new, something no-can-do.***



Sunday morning LifeGroups, our small groups for friendship, Bible study, and spiritual growth, resume on Sunday, September 6!

Yes, that's Labor Day weekend, and we know there will be some folks away that weekend. But our LifeGroup leaders are ready and eager to re-start the fun and fellowship of our small groups.

For most of our classes, the new Bible study guides start with a fresh set of studies that Sunday, so the timing is perfect for re-starting.

If you haven't connected to a LifeGroup yet, you're missing the most important connecting point in our church family. Ask Pastor Al about the best LifeGroup for you!

We will also be returning to our regular 9:00 and 11:00 worship schedule that Sunday.



Students: You're invited to "Homeroom" @ First Baptist!

Homeroom is a mid-week student gathering to help with the social isolation of distance learning, to provide good WiFi connections for those who need to upload/download lesson material, who want to study together, or who want get some help with their assignments. Our interim Student Pastor, J. T. Hopkins, who is a former Duplin County Schools teacher, will be present for supervision, encouragement, and help. Starts August 26.

For more information, text the word **HOMEROOM** to 910-282-8095, or email Pastor Al Thompson at Alan.FBCW@gmail.com.



Homecoming Cancelled for 2020

Homecoming Sunday is when the Pastor gets a break from preaching AND a free chicken dinner. So, yes, we preachers LOVE Homecoming Sunday. But with all of the health concerns this year, concerns about eating dishes from multiple unknown homes, and the near impossibility that we can keep our distance on that Sunday, we have decided to cancel this year's Homecoming Celebration.

Our planned guest speaker, Mark Teachey, has been asked to re-schedule us for next year. And we are hoping to have an outdoor church Fall picnic (no date yet) to allow us some of the fellowship we'll be missing, but in a safer setting.

This was a hard, grief-filled choice, but we think it's the best decision.

Worship

Re:Start — A con man father and a spiritually insightful son

This month we start with a man named Jacob... his name means “grabber, trickster.” And he lived up to his name, grabbing all he could for himself. But God loved him and blessed him in spite of his flaws. And this man has a son who is one of the most spiritually insightful, faithful, and devoted believers in the Bible... Joseph. Stick with us as we find the riches of God’s word in Genesis!



September 6 — Re:Start

A Dose of Your Own Medicine // Genesis 29:15-30

September 13 — Re:Start

The Pain of Competing for Love // Genesis 29:31-35

September 20 — Re:Start

Limping to the Promised Land // Genesis 32:22-32

September 27 — Re:Start

Catch Up to the Dream // Genesis 37:1-11

October 4 — Re:Start

I Did It All Right, But... // Genesis 39:1-23

Jacob & Hope Capps New Address:

*Jacob & Hope Capps
5040 Poplar Glen Drive
Matthews, NC 28104*

Prayer Requests



Remember in Prayer:

Those in our community whom God has called us to lead to Christ and minister to in His love. Carter Abbott, Linda Brinkley, Clayton Brock, Gary Brown, Andrea Casteen, Carol H. Fields, Michael Fields, Amy Smith Johnson, Doug Kennedy, Hill Lanier, Maxine Lien, Steve Mills, Skylar Parker, Geraldine Register, Devon Rich, Bonnie Robinson, David Sikes, Melinda Stampe, Sharon Teachey, Stephen Thompson, Penny Tucker, Dale Watkins.

Sympathy to the families of:

Mary B. Johnson, and Steve & Cheryl Rivenbark, who lost their 25 year old son, and W. C. English.

Thank You :

Dear First Baptist Folks-

Thank you so much for all your prayers, calls, food, cards, etc. We feel very loved.

-Elaine & Robert Johnson

Thank you :

Thank you to Ms. Reba Stone for filling in on the piano. We appreciate you!

-First Baptist Church



A New Approach to Deacon Ministry?

In every church I've served, we have struggled to find a Deacon Ministry approach that really worked consistently and for everyone. Typically, we choose people to serve as deacons from the church at large and assign them a list of people they may or may not know for whom they are supposed to provide care and ministry. And, with new people joining over time and the church having two worship services, those who receive a letter saying "I'm your new deacon" may have little idea who their assigned deacon is, or may only barely know them. It's hard to care for someone when you travel in totally different circles than they do.

An additional problem is that those who serve as deacons aren't clear about what's expected. They've been in churches where deacons served as a governing board or oversight board, with their fingers in every decision. And others come from churches where committees were left to handle these things and deacons cared for members in their needs and crises. Still others came from a tradition where deacons were like associate pastors who led and prayed in worship, visited, taught, and even preached. Here at First Baptist Church, when we assign our deacons a section of the church family to care for, that indicates that caring for members is the deacons' #1 responsibility. And it's a big job!

But some deacons are naturally outgoing, and others are very reserved. Some call and write cards and seek out their people on Sunday morning, others are not great with words or writing, and some wait to be called upon for help. So the kind of care people receive from their deacon can vary greatly.

Is there a better system?

I think there is, and I think it can be very simple to improve the care that people receive as well as making deacon ministry much easier for those who serve. It starts with the idea that the most important connecting point in our church is the small group. Call it a Sunday School class, call it a LifeGroup, call it whatever you want... we have these groups of people who meet regularly for Bible study and fellowship.



The small group, where friendships are built and people find support and care.

In the LifeGroup people know each other by name and face. A quick glance around the gathering tells you immediately who is present and who is missing.

So... What if deacon ministry was built on the small group? What if every one of these Bible study groups had someone designated as the "group deacon"? So their deacon would be present when they discussed their life struggles. Their deacon would be present when they shared their prayer concerns. Their deacon would be present to see that Jack or Sally has missed two weeks in a row.

And, in this system, the deacon would have a built-in team of people to help minister to his/her people. "Hey everybody, Sally will need help with meals for the next two weeks. Who can help?" and "Jack is going to be driving back and forth to the doctor in Wilmington a lot this month. Let's throw some money in a hat to help him with gas for the car."

Then, when you ask, "Who is your deacon?" everyone in the group will know who that person is, and not just by name.

So what about those who aren't in a small group? Do they get a deacon? Yes, we would still need to elect one or two "at large" deacons for those who are not in a small group. And the #1 job of these deacons would be to encourage... to **URGE**... every one of their people to take that next step and join a LifeGroup. We just have to be honest and say, "You're never going to get the kind of fellowship, care, and

Deacon Ministry

A New Approach to Deacon Ministry?

(Continued from previous page)

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belonging that LifeGroup members get unless you join one of these groups.” And that is ALREADY the case. Our LifeGroup members **do** care for each other, call and check on each other, take time to listen to each other, etc.

If we took this new approach to Deacon ministry here at our church, this is how it might work:

- On the designated Sunday, every LifeGroup would select a member of their group to serve as their group deacon or “care leader.” Yes, you are directly picking your own deacon!
- Each group would let the church office know who their Deacon/Care Leader is, and we would let these folks know when the next Deacons meeting will be.
- The church would also, on that same Sunday, elect one or two “at large” deacons to oversee care for those members who are not in a LifeGroup, and to encourage them to take that next step of finding a LifeGroup to join.
- A list of all the deacons -- LifeGroup Deacons and At-Large Deacons -- would be printed for the entire church family to see and know who all of our Deacons (or “Care Leaders”) are.
- Each time the LifeGroup gathers, the Deacon/Care Leader could be given a couple of minutes to lead the group in talking about needs within the group and how to meet those needs.

One of the great things about this approach is that, in your small group, you are personally selecting the person who will care for you. You don’t have to wonder who will be “assigned” to you.

And notice that this approach is “scalable.” The number of deacons grows as the number of groups grows, so we always have the right number of deacons for our size church. And because we have men’s classes and women’s classes, we would have both men and women serving on our Deacon team.

Another advantage of this new approach: In our existing approach, you are sometimes voting on people you don’t really know. But, with this approach, you’re going to know who in your group has the personality, maturity, and spiritual gifts to be an excellent care leader for you and your other group members.

And you can be sure that you will see **your** Deacon and be seen by **your** Deacon on a very regular basis.

I’d be interested in hearing what you think about this new way of structuring deacon ministry. Stop me in the hallway, come by the office for a chat, give me a call, or send an email to me...

Pastor Al - Alan.FBCW@gmail.com.



Personnel Committee Approves J. T. Hopkins to Fill Part-Time Interim Student Pastor Position

As we begin the search for our next full-time student pastor, J. T. Hopkins will be serving as our Student Pastor in a part-time interim capacity. J. T. will be coordinating this ministry, lining up volunteers, communicating with students and parents, and planning the student ministry meetings and activities while we search. Our church ordained J. T. last year, and he is currently preparing for military chaplaincy in the Army.

Our primary concern is that we keep our student ministry strong and growing, even in this interim period. We have such a short window of time in which to minister to students before they head off to career or college, we don’t want to waste a single week!

J. T. will also be assisting in worship leadership and gaining additional experience in ministry as he serves with us, which will be of great value to him later as a chaplain.

Jacob's Farewell



Jacob's Farewell



Luncheon, September 8

Our Senior Adult Ministries will have a lunch together on Tuesday, September 8 @ 11:30 in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy a delicious lunch of fried chicken from the Piggly Wiggly, mashed potatoes, a vegetable, and dessert. Our guest speaker for this event will be our local Wallace Police chief, Jimmy Crayton. We look forward to having Chief Crayton gives us tips and ideas on how to avoid the many scams that are so prevalent today and how to keep ourselves safe. Due to us preparing the meal again, we ask that you make a reservation and pay the \$5.00 cost by Tuesday, September 1 @ 4:00 when the office closes. And, as always, I hope you will invite a friend to join us! No one should be sitting at home alone when they could be having a great time with us!



Amish Country Trip, Oct. 19-21

Our Senior Adult Ministries is headed off to Pennsylvania Amish country Monday through Wednesday, October 19-21, 2020. Although we will see some fun and interesting sites, the main objective of this trip is to see Queen Esther at the Sight and Sound Theater. This trip promises to be filled with lots of fun and laughter! We still have some seats on the bus, but if you want to go, you will have to act quickly. The tour company has given us a bit of an extension! If you wish to join us, you will need to come by the office and pay the full price for your ticket. The total cost for FBC members/regular attenders is \$390 and for non-members is \$410. The new cut-off date is Friday, September 18 @ noon. No reservations can be taken after this date. There's still space left for this amazing and fun time but time's a wasting! Get on over to the church office today!

Alabama Theater Trip, December 8

We are fast approaching the Christmas season and you know what that means! Yes! We will be heading off to Myrtle Beach to the Alabama Theater to see their annual Christmas show! This year's trip will be on Tuesday, December 8. We will follow up our show with dinner at the fabulous Chestnut Hill Restaurant. You will be able to choose from a chicken option, a seafood casserole, a seafood shrimp/flounder plate, or a ribeye steak as your entree. Each of these will be served with a vegetable, potato, a salad, rolls, dessert, and tea or coffee. We will be so full, we'll waddle out of there!



There are only 28 tickets for this fun and festive event, so FBC members and regular attenders will want to hop right on over to the church beginning Monday, October 12 to make your reservation by paying for your tickets. Non-members can begin signing up on Monday, November 2. The cost for this year's trip is \$70.00 per person for FBC members and regular attenders, and \$75.00 per person for non-members. When the tickets are all spoken for, we will begin a waiting list. Be sure to sign up and pay early. Remember, your space isn't held until you have paid in full. I look forward to another fun Christmas celebration with you!

Aquarium Trip Pictures



September! The month we start to really hope and, maybe, feel a little of the promise of fall. I love the fall! Cool crisp mornings, fires in the fire pit, sweaters, less humidity to contend with... and the fall colors! Wow! Fall is definitely some of God's very best work! But the best part of fall is that we start fresh - a new school year, people return from vacations and their beach homes, life settles back into a routine and we all come back together for church life.

Chancel Choir

After a 6 month hiatus, our Chancel choir is resuming rehearsals on Wednesday nights @ 7:15 beginning on August 26 in the fellowship hall. And we need you! Singing experience isn't necessary! Just bring a positive attitude and desire to lead others to worship our Savior! We need all voice parts so give us a try! "But I prefer to attend the early service" you say? Well this can still work out perfectly for you! The choir sings at the very beginning of the 11:00 service. Many of our members attend the early service, attend their small group session, join us to sing our choral number at the beginning of the service, then slip out when the choir moves from the choir loft out into the congregation. So please consider joining us for a lot of work, but even more fun, and laughter! We would love to see you there!

SonShine Choir

We are also looking to add members to our SonShine choir, our choir for senior adults. We sing once a month in the 11:00 service and practice one Tuesday morning each month. We usually sing unusual or seldom sung hymns or choruses. At each rehearsal, we make sure we have the song for that month's service prepared, and start learning the song for the following month. Due to our singers having older voices, we keep these rehearsals short - usually 45 minutes or less. We will have our first rehearsal for the fall on Tuesday, September 15 @ 10:30 in the choir room. Our first Sunday leading in worship will be Sunday, September 27. I hope you will consider giving us a try. We really do have a good time together. And it is such a joy to lead others to worship Jesus!

Just for Laughs:

A rather impatient salesman was riding a particular train for the first time. As it chugged along slowly across the countryside, it suddenly came to a dead stop. The salesman, looking at his watch, complained to the conductor, "We were creeping along to start with, so why did we stop?"

The conductor said, "Nothing to worry about, sir. There is a cow on the track."

Finally the train starting moving forward again. But about 30 minutes later, the train came to a complete stop again. The salesman grabbed the conductor and said, "Now what's wrong? Did we catch up to that cow again?"



Sunday Sermons

Sunday Sermons

710 AM & 100.5 FM



www.1005kixfm.com

First Baptist Church Sunday Sermons are broadcast every Sunday on our local radio station KIX-FM 100.5 at 11:00 a.m. (Previous week's message).

Life Groups Resume September 6

Our Sunday morning small groups will restart on Sunday, September 6. Groups meet at 10:00 a.m., so we will return to our pre-quarantine schedule of:

9:00 am—Life Cafe worship

10:00 am—Life Groups for All Ages

11:00 am—Traditional worship

If you haven't discovered the friendship, fellowship, and discovery of a Life Group, we encourage you to connect now in this new beginning.

Helping SELF

Helping SELF is a support group that offers encouragement for families dealing with drug or alcohol addiction. We share laughter and tears, encouragement, support, and prayer as we find our way out of isolation. You are NOT alone. Our next meeting is TBA at First Baptist Church. Check the bulletin for details. Park in the back and follow the signs. For more information, call 910-284-7101.

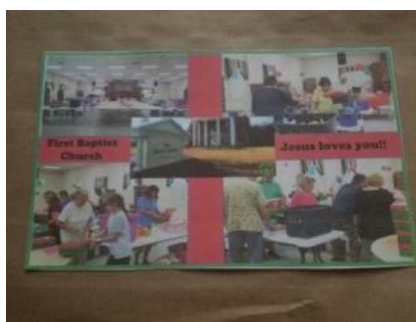
OCC Shoeboxes

It's hard to fathom what life would be never having received a gift from anybody. Many don't believe this is possible, but we've witnessed children's preplexity when they are handed a shoebox.

They don't know what they're supposed to do. Children of the Tepihuan Indians, who live in the mountain regions of Durango, Mexico, had never seen a gift, much less received one. This was a perfect destination for Operation Christmas Child, because when there is no concept of giving, there is no concept of Jesus Christ.

The item for this month is a toy (marbles, ball, car, jump rope, slinky....). Please consider packing a shoebox this year. If you don't have the time, we would be happy to do the shopping and packing for you. Please hand either me or Ms. Marie \$30.00 and we will gladly take care of it.

SODA BOTTLE TOPS: We will not be collecting any more soda bottle tops. Thank you to all who collected tops. We really appreciate your participation in this project. Here is a picture of how the tic-tac-toe games turned out. There will also be an example of one on the OCC table.



MESSAGE CARDS:

We would like to put a message card in each of the church's shoeboxes this year. There will be a stack on the OCC tables – one in the foyer and the other out-

side the fellowship hall - please help us fill out these cards for the children who will receive them. There will be different colored pens provided to write on the cards. When you have finished a card please place it in the shoebox marked 'Message Cards'. We would like to have all the message cards done by the end of October.

If you have any questions please ask Maggie or Marie Casteen. Thank you.

Volunteers

September Volunteers

9:00 a.m. Life Café Worship Nursery

9/6-Samantha Tucker, Deb Lloyd
9/13-Lindsey Blanchard, Hope Rich
9/20-Deb Lloyd, Debbie Williams
9/27-Hope Rich, Robin Stone

10:00 a.m. Sunday Life Groups Nursery

9/6-Michelle Coombs, Susan Ayers
9/13-Gloria Andrews, Michelle Coombs
9/20-Lindsey Blanchard, Gloria Andrews
9/27-Angie Gurganus, Samantha Tucker

11:00 a.m. Worship Nursery:

9/6-Samantha Tucker, 9/13-Deb Lloyd
9/20-Gail Cavanaugh, 9/27-Sharon Hall

Tellers: Louise Woods, Patsy Spell

Ushers: Friendship Life Group



Oct. Newsletter Submission

Deadline: Sept. 15, 2020

Please email articles to
office.fbcw@gmail.com

Please make articles brief !

Church Staff

First Baptist Church of Wallace

408 W. Main St., Wallace, NC 28466
Phone: 910.285.2534 Fax: 910.285.7810
www.WallaceFirstBaptist.org

Dr. Alan Thompson

Senior Pastor

Email: alan.fbcw@gmail.com/Cell: 910-282-8095

Mrs. Dee Thompson

Minister of Music and Senior Adult Ministry

Email: dee.fbcw@gmail.com/Cell: 434-996-2408

Rev. J. T. Hopkins

Interim Student Ministry Coordinator

Email: jhopkin2@my.athens.edu/Cell: 931-675-0524

Rev. Arledge Castles

Associate Pastor of Deaf Ministry

Email: arledge.castles@gmail.com

Mrs. Kim Longenbach, Administrative Assistant

Email: office.fbcw@gmail.com/910-285-2534

Mrs. LaRue Faircloth, Organist/Choir Accompanist

On the Record

Attendance

Life Groups (Did Not Meet)

7-26	8-2	8-9	8-16
—	—	—	—

Worship

7-26	8-2	8-9	8-16
98	110	108	118

Budget and Receipts

2020 Budget \$433,490.00

Offering Receipts To Date 8-23-2020 **\$262,856.33**

September Birthdays

1 Janet Bryan
5 Arnold Duncan
5 Doris Webb
5 Harris Rivenbark, Jr.
5 Ray Spell
9 Tyler Ross
10 James Earl Rich
10 Jordan Dees
14 Randy Brock
15 Gladys Sikes
15 Gilbert Norris
17 Pat Spell
17 Tami Donnelly
18 Ann English



20 Doug Lloyd
20 Wanda Powell
21 Lois Carter
22 Dickie Jones
23 J.T. Hopkins
24 Jason Bryan
26 Bertha Mae Rogers
27 Gordie McIntyre
29 Nadine Bradshaw



Church Office






Mon.-Thurs.: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(Closed for Lunch: 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Fri.: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

First Baptist Events

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p> <p>2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 4:00 pm-Deadline to pay \$5 for SAM Lunch on 9/8 5:45 pm-Worship Band 6:30 pm-Missions</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Bible Study 7:15 pm-Chancel Choir</p>	3	4	<p>5</p> 
<p>6</p> <p>9:00 am-Life Café 10:00 am-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 11:00 am-Worship 6:00 pm-Wallace Students</p>	<p>7 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:00 pm-CrossFit</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:30 am-SAM Lunch in Fellowship Hall with Chief Jimmy Crayton 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Bible Study 7:15 pm-Chancel Choir</p>	10	11	12
<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am-Life Café 10:00 am-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 12:15 pm-Deacon's Mtg. 6:00 pm-Wallace Students</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30 am-WMU III, Hist. Rm. 6:00 pm-CrossFit</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>10:30 am-SonShine Choir 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band 6:30 pm-Stewardship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Bible Study 7:15 pm-Chancel Choir</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>12 Noon Deadline to pay for Amish Trip</p>	<p>19</p> 
<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am-Life Café 10:00 am-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 3:00 pm-Growth Team Mtg. 6:00 pm-Wallace Students</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 pm-CrossFit</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band</p>	<p>23 J.T. Hopkins Birthday!</p> <p>10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Bible Study 7:15 pm-Chancel Choir</p>	24	25	26
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am-Life Café 10:00 am-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 6:00 pm-Wallace Students</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 pm-CrossFit</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Bible Study 7:15 pm-Chancel Choir</p>	