



# First Baptist Church of Wallace, NC

## First Family

May 2023



## The Changing Role of Pastoral Ministry

-- "Pastor, what do you do all day?" It's changed a lot!

Have you seen the circus act where a guy puts spinning plates on the end of a stick? Then, as he adds more and more plates, the trick is to keep them all spinning and not let any of them fall and shatter.

Maybe you feel like your job as a nurse, as a teacher, as a retailer is like that. I have certainly seen a lot of "plates" get added to the pastor's job over the years.

When I first started as a pastor, the task was much simpler. I studied and prepared the message for Sunday, led in worship, conducted a single mid-week Bible study, met weekly with staff, and spent the rest of my time visiting in homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and connecting with people in the community... and, of course, the occasional wedding and funeral.

When people wanted me, they called the church phone or our house phone, both of which had answering machines.

Worship expectations were simple: what 28 year olds expected in worship and church life was pretty similar to what 80 year olds also expected — a single service with hymns, prayers, a sermon, and maybe a "responsive reading."

There were cell phones, and no projection screens in worship. Having a little copy machine at the church was a new thing. A video broadcast of worship wasn't even remotely possible for any church other than the extremely large metropolitan churches. "High tech" was a cassette tape recording of the sermon.

But ministry has grown progressively more complex and the weekly tasks have multiplied as the world around us changed. Cell phones, the internet, technology in worship, changing worship styles, widely differing expectations... What people see on TV they expect to see in the local church. If they can dream it, we should be able to provide it somehow.

Communication is a much bigger task. Messages come by written note, mail, phone, voicemail, email, Facebook message, and text. And the expectation is that the pastor

is checking all of these channels each day and responding. The pastor's cell phone often starts dinging around 7:00am when the early birds get up, and frequently doesn't stop until after 10:00pm when the night owls start winding down.

And folks drop by the office to chat... which really is my favorite because I prefer face-to-face conversation. But digging deep into God's word is hard to do until the office is closed and the building is empty.

Technology adds more tasks. Having screens in worship means creating graphics for announcements and the sermon. Then those graphics and text must be loaded onto two different computers that are connected to the projectors, and producing notes to guide the volunteers that will be changing those slides during the sermon.

These tasks take extra hours to complete each week — hours your previous pastors had for other tasks, since there was no projector, screen, or worship computer.

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## Worship

### No More Anxious Living and Finishing the Gospel of John

We have two “wrap ups” this month. First, we finish our series “Trading Anxiety for God’s Peace.” Then comes Mother’s Day, with a message for that special day. Then we finally get back to our journey through the Gospel of John, for our last messages.

The last Sunday of May, we get to hear Jacob Capps lead us in a message from God’s word!



**April 30 — Trading Anxiety for God’s Peace? (3)**  
Philippians 4:6-9

**May 7 — Trading Anxiety for God’s Peace? (4)**  
Philippians 4:6-9

**May 14 — Mother’s Day!**

**May 14 — Doubters Welcome**  
John 20:24-31

**May 21 — If You Really Love Jesus...**  
John 19:16-27

**May 28 — Jacob Capps—Speaker**



**Men’s Fall Retreat**  
September 29-30, 2023  
(Friday-Saturday)  
**Creeper Trail**  
**Damascus, VA**  
Cost and Sign-ups  
to be announced soon!

## Prayer Requests



### **Remember in Prayer:**

*Those in our community whom, God has called us to lead to Christ and minister to in His love. Susan Adkins, Jennifer Bass, Sergeant Johnson C. Blanchard, Vircie Brinson, Charles Bristow, Vivian Brookshire, Clayton Bryant, Jr., Laura Calvallo, Annette Casey, Jennifer Cashion, Kendell Cave, Finn Cusick, Randy Futrell, Wesley Hairr, Dawn B. Hallman, Justin Hatcher, Johnnye Hilliard, Joyce Hudson, Teresa Hurst, Judy Jackson, Don Longest, Linda Matthis, Gloria Morrison, Larry Ogden, Mike Pate, Pam Railey, John Reade, Pam Reade, Turner Rivenbark, Ruth Roderick, Bertha Mae Rogers, Beth Rood, Judy Rouse, Kathy Shipman, Renee Stoppelbein, Ashley Strickland, Betty Thompson, Stephen Thompson, Charles Williams, Lacy Woods, Dr. Keven Zibelin, the lost people in our community.*

### **Sympathy to the families of:**

*David Barnes on the loss of his father  
Jacob Russell on the loss of his grandfather  
Jay Rivenbark*

## Mission Trip



**Wallace Students Mission Trip**



## Senior Adults

### Up Coming Events:

**Tuesday, May 9:** Covered dish lunch in the fellowship hall - We provide the chicken and tea. You contribute a side dish and/or dessert, and the new faces! Invite that new neighbor or friend to join us.



**Thursday, June 8:** We will load up and head off to the Country Doctor Museum @ 9:30 am. This informative and interesting museum is located in Bailey, NC and is dedicated to the history of rural doctors and medical practices. We will have a guided tour of the 3 buildings containing artifacts of medical history from the late 1800's through the mid-20th century. We will top off our tour with lunch at chick-fil-a. Cost for this trip is \$25.00 plus your lunch. Space for this trip is very limited. Sign up and pay for your trip with Kim in the office to secure your spot!

**Tuesday, July 11:** Covered dish lunch in the fellowship hall. Fried chicken and tea provided. You provide a friend (or more friends) and desserts/sides. We look forward to seeing you and meeting any friends you bring along!



## Music Ministry



We're looking for more musicians (experience not necessary!) Meet us in the choir room upstairs on Wednesday evenings @ 6:15. If you let Dee know you are coming, she will have a folder ready, filled with music and with your name on it! We hope to see some new faces!

**Chancel Choir rehearsals** for **May 3, 10, 17, and 24 @ 6:15** in the choir room! There won't be a rehearsal on May 31.

**SonShine Choir!** Our rehearsal for this month will be on **May 17 @ 5:30** in the choir room upstairs! This will be our last rehearsal until September.

## Mission Trip



Wallace Students Mission Trip



# Mission Trip



# Mission Trip



## Business Meeting

### Spring Business Meeting, May 7

It's time for our Spring Church Business Conference! We'll meet on Sunday, May 7 @ 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We'll be looking at two changes to our church's by-laws. Information was emailed out. Please inquire in the church office if you need a printed copy.

## WMU Group III



*Our WMU Group III made 35 gift bags for the graduating nurses at James Sprunt Community College.*

## Thank You

*Dear First Baptist Church,*

*Thank you all so much for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult season in our lives. We are filled with joy to know Bobby is in heaven with our Lord and Savior! Your prayers were such a comfort to us and we appreciate everything.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Family of Bobby Matthis*

## Graduates

### Graduate Recognition & Scholarship Sunday (Both Services), May 21

Graduates (college & high school) that are church members or regular attenders, please email Kim in the church office today with your name, school, and which service you attend at: [office.fbcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.fbcw@gmail.com) or call 910-285-2534 **by May 10**. We are recognizing our high school and college graduates and the WMU Carolyn Powers Scholarship is being awarded that day.

## Retirement Party

Please Join First Baptist Church as we

RECOGNIZE and HONOR OUR  
LONG-SERVING MUSICIAN

*LaRue*

*Faircloth*



on her Retirement

with a Reception in the Fellowship Hall

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023**

**2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**408 West Main Street**

**Wallace, NC 28466**



# Egg Hunt



# Egg Hunt





## Wallace Students



Thank you to everyone who both financially supported and prayed for our Student Mission Team. As you heard during the Sunday service, our trip was a huge success. We ran into some speed-bumps throughout the week with a sickness infiltrating the group, but it was no match for our team! God worked through our students and is now preparing our hearts for the Beach Retreat in July!

Summer is quickly approaching, and for our students, that means the Beach Retreat is upon us. Our Wallace Students will head south to Garden City Chapel on July 17th-21st, 2023. We will leave the church that Monday morning, and return Friday afternoon. The sign-up and deposit deadline for this trip is June 25th. The deposit for the trip is \$50, with the total cost of the trip being \$150 per student. For more information, please contact Jacob. The sign-up sheet is located upstairs in the youth room, or you can contact Jacob for that as well.

## Mission Trip



## Wallace Kids



Every kid wishes they had superpowers, but with Jesus, we don't need x-ray vision or invisibility to be heroes! In this four-week series, kids will hear stories about the heroes of the Early Church — the apostles and disciples who used their unique abilities to spread the good news of Jesus. Through their stories, we'll see that anyone can do great things for God because God gives everyone a mission, the Holy Spirit gives us power, and we're heroic when we work as a team!

## Mission Trip



## The Changing Role of Pastoral Ministry

(continued from front page)

**Community and culture** have changed, too. In the past, the community would plan around and guard Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. But now we are in competition with school sports, community sports, scouting events, practice times, competitions, and more. And what we've found is that the church almost always loses that competition. Even Christian parents choose the non-church activity over the church's ministry.

We are also having to explain and defend biblical values that used to be shared by the culture around us. And, with more TV watching and less church involvement, many people now know little or nothing about the Bible. That changes how the pastor has to preach to reach people who won't know who King David is or what John 3:16 says. We're having to re-think how we do everything, which takes time and energy.

### **Leading Multiple Congregations Under One Roof:**

Our staff currently is leading two very different churches. We have two different planning processes for each worship gathering, two different cultures we are trying to address, two different hours of worship to lead, and two different sets of volunteer leaders to keep up with. The 80-year-old who has been in church all his or her life does not have the same needs, expectations, or perspective as the young parent who knows little about church and worries about all the modern influences and dangers their children face every day. Those seminary classes back in the 1980s did not prepare me for this kind of church setting.

**Changing Attendance Patterns:** In the early days of my ministry, most of my congregation was there at least 4 out of 5 Sundays. It was easy to keep up with what was going on in their lives. But today, it's common to have church participants who are there once a month or less. I wonder, "Is there a problem? Are they sick? Did they change churches?" A pastor could spend the entire work week trying to track people down who attend sporadically. But nothing else would get done.

**Expanding Expectations:** People's expectations of what the church and the staff should be able to do has increased. Over at XYZ Church, they are doing such-and-such so we should be doing it, too. "Can you get that started, Pastor? Can you look into it for our church?" The person who came from a large city church is looking for extensive programming--

lots of groups and up-to-date activities. The person who came from a small country church is looking for long visits and closeness to the pastor. Both of those are full-time jobs.

**Music Leadership:** And for me personally, being a part of the music leadership adds more hours. Band practice on Tuesdays, choir practice on Wednesdays, and two pre-worship warm-up sessions on Sunday morning. But I know the importance of our worship music in both of our services, so I try to do what I can to see them thrive.

**It's the Pastor's fault, too!** Please don't misunderstand, much of the fault for all of this busyness and chaos lies at the feet of us pastors — who want everyone to be happy, who hate to say "no" to someone who is excited about some new opportunity, who see a way to connect with new people but can't find anyone else to make it happen. And once we get it started, we don't know how to stop. Like a parent who wants their children to have more than the parent is able to give, pastors want more for their people and more for their church. Because of that, it's easy to get over-extended.

**Sometimes it seems like being Amish might be a great change of pace!**

Pastoral ministry needs a "make-over."

- Do we want a "resident theologian" who spends hours in God's word and teaches us what they've discovered?
- Do we want a "chaplain" who spends most of his time with the people and allows other leaders in the church to set the church's direction?
- Do we want a CEO who efficiently leads and manages a more and more complex church organization, but may not be a "people person"?
- Do we want a "pioneer" who is constantly innovating and introducing new approaches to reach this rapidly changing culture?

The easy answer is "we want it ALL!" But I've never met any pastor who was all of those things. So some people are happy and others are disappointed.

Really, the question we need ask is not "What do we want?" but what is *God's* plan? If we're brave enough to apply it, a good place to start would be Acts 6:1-7 and Ephesians 4:11-16. In both of those passages, the end result of getting it right is the growth of the church... but that means being active servants, not passive consumers. It means saying "no" to ourselves and "yes" to God alone.



# OCC Shoeboxes



Dear Church Family,

We are excited to announce that our Operation Christmas Child monthly collection is now underway! As we prepare to spread joy and hope to children in need around the world, we invite you to join us in this wonderful opportunity to make a difference.

Every month, we will be collecting items to fill shoeboxes for children in poverty-stricken areas. These shoeboxes will be filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and other gifts to bring smiles to the faces of children who may not receive any other gifts during the holiday season.

Here is the collection schedule for the next few months:

May: School supplies (such as pencils, crayons, notebooks, erasers, and sharpeners)

June: Reusable water bottles

We encourage you to participate in any way you can, whether that means donating items, helping to pack shoeboxes, or spreading the word about this initiative to others. Your generosity can help make a difference in the lives of children who may not have access to basic necessities.

Thank you for being so supportive, and may God bless you abundantly as we work together to serve those in need and reach the ends of the earth!

Sincerely,

OCC Leadership Team

## Just for Laughs: Mother's Day Jokes!



Q: What did the momma cow say to the calf?

A: It's pasture bedtime.

Q: How did the Panda open her Mother's Day card?

A: With her bear hands.

Q: When cows want to turn off the TV sound, what do they do?

A: They hit the mooooooote button.

Q: What did the mommy spider say to the Baby spider?

A: You spend way too much time on the web.

Q: Why is a computer so smart?

A: It follows instructions from its motherboard.

Q: What did the mother rope say to her child?

A: "Don't be knotty."

Q: What did the digital clock say to its mother?

A: "Look, Ma! No hands!"

## Mission Trip



Wallace Students Mission Trip

## 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](http://www.WallaceFirstBaptist.org)

#### Dr. Alan Thompson

Senior Pastor  
Email: [alan.fbcw@gmail.com](mailto:alan.fbcw@gmail.com)/Cell: 910-282-8095

#### Mrs. Dee Thompson

Minister of Music and Senior Adult Ministry  
Email: [dee.fbcw@gmail.com](mailto:dee.fbcw@gmail.com)/Cell: 434-996-2408

#### Rev. Jacob Capps

Associate Pastor of Youth and Children  
Email: [jacob.fbcw@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.fbcw@gmail.com)/Cell: 336-908-6266

#### Rev. Arledge Castles

Associate Pastor of Deaf Ministry  
Email: [arledge.castles@gmail.com](mailto:arledge.castles@gmail.com)

#### Mrs. Kim Longenbach, Administrative Assistant

Email: [office.fbcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.fbcw@gmail.com)/910-285-2534

## Office Hours

**Monday:** 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. &  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. &  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. &  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Thursday:** 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. &  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Friday:** 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



## Worship Services

### First Baptist Church Worship Services

9:00 a.m. Life Café Worship in Fellowship Hall  
10:00 a.m. Life Groups for All Ages  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

## Sunday Sermons

### Sunday Sermons

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).



And you can listen to each week's message, as well as a number of past message series, on our church website anytime under "Resources > Media/Messages." Messages are usually posted by Sunday evening.

## Easy Tithe



## Church Texts

Text the word, "update" to 910-285-2534 to receive general church text updates.



## Volunteers

### May Volunteers

**9:00 a.m. Life Café Worship Nursery**  
 5/7-Jessica Higgins, Allie Higgins  
 5/14-Lindsey Blanchard, Deb Lloyd  
 5/21-Janet Voisey, Debbie Williams  
 5/28-Deb Lloyd, Lindsey Blanchard

**9:30-11:00 a.m. Wallace Kids Pre-K (3-5 years)**  
 5/7-Vern & Virginia Edwards  
 5/14-Donna Marshburn  
 5/21-Vern & Virginia Edwards  
 5/28-Donna Marshburn

**9:30-11:00 a.m. Wallace Kids (6 yrs-5th Gr), R203**  
 5/7-Crystal Stallings, Bobbie King  
 5/14-Donna Marshburn  
 5/21-Michelle Blanchard, Bobbie King  
 5/28-Chad & Lindsey Savage

**10:00 a.m. Sunday Life Groups Nursery**  
 5/7-Susan Bradshaw, Susan Ayers  
 5/14-Angie Gurganus, Susan Bradshaw  
 5/21-Susan Bradshaw, Angie Gurganus  
 5/28-Susan Ayers

**11:00 a.m. Ushers:**  
 Friendship Bible Life Group

**Tellers:** Babs Paul,  
 Sharon Teachey



## Newsletter



### June Newsletter Submission Deadline: May 15, 2023

Please email articles to  
[office.fbcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.fbcw@gmail.com)  
 Please make articles brief !

## On the Record

### Attendance

#### Life Groups

4-2	4-9	4-16	4-23
92	68	80	107

#### Worship

4-2	4-9	4-16	4-23
163	253	135	161

### Budget and Receipts

2023 Budget	\$465,970.00
Offering Receipts To Date 4-30-2023	<b>\$145,504.24</b>

## May Birthdays



13 Beverly Benton  
 13 Courtney McIntyre  
 15 Crystal Stallings  
 15 Sarah Williams  
 18 Gail Cavenaugh

23 Clem Faircloth  
 24 Lillian Wood  
 24 Sharon Hall  
 30 Ellen Cooper  
 31 Donna Jones  
 31 Emma Blanchard



# First Baptist Events

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:30 am-WMU, FH	2 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band	3 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene	4 6:00 pm-CrossFit	5 Parking Lot Reserved	6 Parking Lot Reserved 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene
7 9:00 am-Life Café 9:30 am-Wallace Kids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 3:30 pm-Deacons/Volunteer Led Worship Meeting 5:00 pm-Business Meeting 5:00 pm-Scouts, R203 6:00 pm-Wallace Students	8 6:00 pm-Men's Fellowship Dinner @ Mi Finca	9 11:30 am-SAM Lunch 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band	10 Deadline to call the church office with Graduates who are church members.  10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene	11 6:00 pm-CrossFit	12 	13 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene
14 Mother's Day 9:00 am-Life Café 9:30 am-Wallace Kids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 5:00 pm-Scouts, R203 6:00 pm-Wallace Students	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 12:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band 6:30 pm-Stewardship	17 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 5:30 am-SonShine Choir 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene	18 6:00 pm-CrossFit	19	20 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene
21 Graduates/Scholarship 9:00 am-Life Café 9:30 am-Wallace Kids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 5:00 pm-Scouts, R203 6:00 pm-Wallace Students	22	23 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band	24 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene	25 6:00 pm-CrossFit	26	27 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene
28 9:00 am-Life Café 9:30 am-Wallace Kids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 5:00 pm-Scouts, R203 6:00 pm-Wallace Students	29 OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day	30 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band	31 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner NO CHANCEL CHOIR 7:00 pm-Cristo Viene			