

From the Pastor ...

This year our church celebrates our **175th anniversary**. The celebration Sunday is October 26, but why wait? Let's let everyone know now!



Our planning team has come up with some wonderful ideas for this big deal. One of which includes creating “business cards” for all of us to hand out that advertise Oct 26. Another is on Saturday, Oct 25, we will have a block party on our front lawn with inflatable jump houses and other games, as well as a concert from our praise team. We will also invite choirs and singing groups from other churches to participate as well.

While we celebrate our last 175 years, we also want to plan on what's next. Our revitalization strategy team envisions a solid core group of our church members who are all in to do whatever it takes to revitalize our church. One of the strategies is to rejuvenate and / or start important ministries that attract members and nonmembers alike. Some of those ministries include:

- 1st Kids Children's ministry
- Impact Student ministry
- College and young 20-somethings ministry
- Adult ministry
- Singles ministry
- Seniors ministry
- Men's ministry
- Women's ministry
- Small group ministry
- Marketing and social media ministry
- Missions ministry

Each ministry needs passionate, vision-driven, Christ-centered leaders as well as committed team members who share the vision of making their ministry one of the strong growth engines of our church. Think about these. If someone calls and asks you to join, please do!

This week our nation celebrates our **249th anniversary!**

As we approach the Fourth of July, let's thank the Lord for the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this great nation. Independence



Day is more than fireworks and parades—it is a time to remember the sacrifices made by countless individuals who fought to secure liberty and justice for all.

For us as Christians, this national celebration also invites us to reflect on a deeper, spiritual freedom. God tells us through Paul in Galatians 5:1, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” While we give thanks for political and personal freedoms, let's also rejoice in the freedom we have in Christ—a freedom from sin, shame, and spiritual bondage.

Let this Independence Day be a reminder that our true and lasting freedom comes from the Lord. As we enjoy time with family and friends, wave our flags, watch fireworks, and gather for cookouts or community events, may we also pause to pray for our nation, for our leaders, and for healing where division and injustice still remain.

Let's live as people who are both free and faithful, honoring the blessings God has given us by living lives of gratitude, service, and love.

See you Sunday!

What's Next with Pastor Eric

Well, one month in and let's just say, excitement continues to grow for me as I have spent time with Pastor, staff, and many of you! Much of June was spent in prayer, a lot of planning, and starting to prepare. Activities are being planned for our kids and families. We are getting a new kids' curriculum called Wonder Ink! Not only will this help create energy within our kids' programs, but Wonder Ink will also help make it simple and easy for most anyone to volunteer. You can almost feel the buzz around here of what is happening and what is to come! Now what?

Now, we be present. Today is the day. If we dwell on the past, we are thinking about it in the present. If we worry about the future, we are thinking about it in the present. We cannot change the past, but we can change the future. We change the future by the decisions we make in the present. Do what God is calling us to do now – today. What are you currently doing to impact the future of FBC and His Kingdom?

The author of Galatians teaches us to walk in the Spirit. This command to walk in the Spirit is a form of a present tense command that indicates one starts walking in the Spirit and then is always presently walking in the Spirit. The Spirit then produces fruit in our lives and it is ripe exactly when we need it. “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.” Let's be diligent in doing what we are to be doing now in the present as we walk in the Spirit, and let's enjoy what God is going to do!

Music Ministry



Hey Church Family!

It's hard to believe we're already in July. Summer is in full swing! The choir is on a little

break right now, getting some rest, and we'll be back before long. But in the meantime, this is a great chance to try something new.

If you've been thinking about getting more involved, now's the time. Whether it's joining a small group, helping out on Sunday mornings, or jumping in with one of our teams, there's always a spot for you.

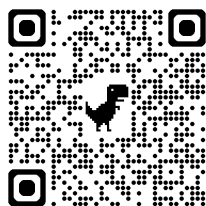
Church isn't just about showing up. It's about being part of something bigger, something meaningful. So take that next step. Ask someone. Try something out. You might be surprised what God can do when you just say yes!

Enjoy the rest of your summer! Stay cool and stay connected.

In Christ,
Sterling

How Can I Give to FBC?

- Place your offering in the offering plate
- Give on our website on the "online giving" tab
- Bring it to the Church office
- Text the word "BeCheerful" to 73-256
- Place it in the locked mailbox next to the office
- Scan our QR code



Church Office Information

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

(lunch 12:30-1:30pm)

Friday 8am-12noon

Phone: 843-332-6571

July Events

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

9:15am Small Groups

10:30am Worship Service

Tuesday:

12:00pm Prayer for Revitalization

Wednesday:

10:00 Prayer in the Prayer Room

12:00 Lunch, Prayer, and Devotions - Cost: \$9.

Please call the Church office by noon on the previous Monday to sign up.

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**Florence Flamingos Family Day** baseball game with fireworks - Thursday, July 3. FBC group rate is \$16. Talk with Pastor Eric if you are interested.



The **Church office** will be closed on Friday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day.

**3-Day Good News Club** for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders - July 7-9 from 6:30-7:30pm. Potential children's ministry volunteers (both adult and teen) are welcome to come observe this ministry program.

First Baptist will volunteer at **Hartsville Soup Kitchen** on Thursday, July 10. If you would like to help with this community ministry, please contact the Church office.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** in the Dining Room - Monday, July 14 from 12-5pm.

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting** - Wednesday, July 16 after Wednesday Lunch, Devotions, and Prayer (about 1pm). Everyone is invited to bring your ideas and input!

**Grateful Hearts Luncheon** - Thursday, July 17. Cost: \$9.

Event: Trivia with Pastor Eric

*Please call the Church office by noon on Tuesday, July 15 to sign up.*

**First Baptist Preschool Open House** - Wednesday, July 30 at 4:30pm

**First day of First Baptist Preschool** - Thursday, July 31

## *July Birthdays*

7-6 Andrew Pattengill  
7-12 Savannah MacDonald  
7-14 Pam Cox  
7-14 Dustin Reynolds  
7-15 Danny Johnson  
7-15 Zeke MacDonald  
7-16 David Caldwell  
7-18 Dr. Greg Boyd  
7-18 Charles Helms  
7-18 Bentley Jordan  
7-22 Elizabeth Stamey  
7-26 Eddie Moore  
7-26 John Nichols  
7-27 Esther Coward  
7-29 Sterling Dyar  
7-29 Elaine Hungerpiller

### ***Happy Birthday!***

If we have accidentally missed your birthday  
or have the date wrong, please let the  
Church office know.

## *FBC Staff*

Dr. Greg Boyd: Pastor  
greg@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Sterling Dyar: Worship Leader  
Logan Fink: Volunteer Drummer  
Eric Groves: Next Generation Associate Minister  
Crystal Hopkins: Financial Secretary  
crystal@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Chad Hulsey: Volunteer Sound technician  
Ruth Kilgore: Administrative Secretary  
ruth@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Jessica Kuykendall: Preschool Director  
Jackie Ponder: Volunteer Student Director  
Rachel Phillips: Volunteer Media technician  
Jim Privette: Volunteer Church Administrator  
Vivian Robinson: Custodian  
Tucker Smith: Organist and Pianist  
Lauren Wint: Children's Director

## *FBC on Social Media*

Website: firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Facebook: First Baptist Church Hartsville  
YouTube: FBC Hartsville SC

## *Announcements*

### ***Please Contact the Church Office:***

- If you are scheduling a meeting, to make sure that the date, location, and time are open on the calendar
- If your address, email, or telephone number has changed
- If you have updates for the Prayer List
- If you need more offering envelopes or would like to get personalized offering envelopes
- If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone

### ***Did You Know?***

Our weekly church bulletin and monthly newsletter are on our website! Go to [www.firstbaptisthartsville.org](http://www.firstbaptisthartsville.org) and choose the "Bulletin and Newsletter" tab and you will find links to both.

## *Darlington Raceway Ministry*



LABOR DAY WEEKEND  
OUTREACH will be  
August 26 – 31

Want to SHARE JESUS  
with NASCAR fans at  
DARLINGTON RACEWAY??



Facebook/Darlington Raceway Ministries

For Complete Details about  
how you and your church can  
get involved,  
Contact Dr. Roger Marsh  
940.367.4940  
rogermarsh13@gmail.com

## *First Baptist Preschool*



Dear Church Family,

We hope this message finds you well and enjoying a wonderful summer! Our preschool summer program has been an absolute joy — filled with laughter, learning, and lots of sunshine. From water play days to crafts, songs, and themed adventures, our little ones have made the most of every moment. It's been a sweet season of growth and fun!

As the summer winds down, we are beginning to look ahead to a brand-new school year. Our summer session will officially come to a close on Friday, July 18.

Our dedicated teaching staff will return on Monday, July 21 to begin preparing their classrooms and participating in several days of curriculum prep and professional development. We are so thankful for their hearts and hard work as they get ready to welcome new and returning families.

Mark your calendars!

☐ Preschool Open House will take place on Wednesday, July 30 at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary. This is a great time for students to meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and for families to learn more about the upcoming year.

☐ The first day of school is Thursday, July 31 — we can't wait to kick off another year of nurturing, faith-filled learning together.

As always, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support of our preschool ministry. We are blessed to serve these precious children and their families with you.

With gratitude,

Jessica Kuykendall  
Director

## *1st Kids Children's Ministry*



Dear Church Family,

I hope all of the children are having an amazing summer and are resting up for a BIG school year! Pastor Eric and I are really excited for what August will bring, and there will certainly be some new fun things in store!

I will continue to work with him over the next month as we transition him into his position and get him acclimated to FBCH. The kids will resume Wednesday night activities in August, but we are looking forward to our Good News Club event July 7-9 at 6:30. You can register on our Facebook page, or call the church office. Be on the lookout for more information and exciting news from Pastor Eric!

In Love,  
Ms. Lauren

## *Impact Student Ministry*



Dear Church Family,

We had a great outing to the Florence Flamingos ballgame in June. We had 15 go and each one got a nice hat, all they could eat food, and an awesome fireworks show. Oh yeah, and we saw a ball game. In July we are planning a couple of activities so be listening for details.

Youth, make sure you are doing your daily Bible study and spending time in prayer.

In Christ,  
Jackie Ponder