

# The Visitor FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HARTSVILLE

Volume 86 Number 6

JUNE 2025

## *From the Pastor ...*



Meet Eric Groves!

On May 25 our Church voted unanimously to bring on Eric Groves as our Next Generation Associate Minister. He will oversee ministries from nursery to young adults (thus “Next Generation”). He will not be our children’s director, youth pastor, college or young marrieds’ ministry director, but he will oversee these ministries. This includes recruiting and training volunteers, planning and executing events for each age group, connecting with children and youth in local schools and our own preschool through organizations like FCA and Good News Club. His first priority is to focus on our Children’s ministry.

We thank the Lord so much for Lauren Wint. She graciously stepped in to lead our children’s ministry in 2017, and has done a tremendous job. She has been promoted several times in her “day job” at ACS Technologies Group, which has led her to travel more now than before. Moreover, Lauren is working on her Master’s Degree and, as you know, helps to lead in worship. She loves our children and will assist Eric as needed this summer, but needs to step down as our Children’s director.

Get to know Eric and his family— his wife, Vanessa and his three children, Izzy, Andrew, and Matthew. The best way to get to know him is invite his family to your house for a meal!

I am thankful for our Revitalization team. Their purpose is to use the data we received from last year’s Assessment Report and other resources to develop ways to move us forward. This summer, ministry teams will meet to plan for the fall and beyond. We might be restarting Women’s and Men’s ministries. We would like to amp up our Seniors’ ministry to find a way to reach the high number of seniors in our community who are not connected with any church. In addition, one of the mostly unreached people groups that the assessment revealed are singles in and around Hartsville. This group includes those who never married and those who are single again. I was surprised to read in the Assessment that about 42% a families within a ten-minute drive to our Church are single parent families. Imagine if our Church had a ministry that specialized in that specific need. Right now we do not have a leader for this.

Pray! Pray Scripture, like...

Matthew 9:37–38 (NLT) He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”



## **Summer Surge!**

Churches typically experience a Summer Slump in attendance and giving. Ours is no exception. With technology the way it is, that should no longer be “normal.” You can watch our services on Facebook or our website, and you can give electronically no matter where you are.

For your convenience, you can give through our website, text “BeCheerful” to 73-256, or scan the QR code here. Let’s reverse the typical Summer Slump and make this summer a Summer Surge!



**About digital giving.** Have you noticed that many gas stations and restaurants offer a “discount” if you pay with cash now? That’s because merchants pay about 3% on every credit card or digital purchase. While I was getting gas at a station in Cheraw, Patty bought a drink for \$2.50; they charged **\$.50** for use of a credit card! Our Church pays almost 3% on every electronic gift. Please consider that when you give. OR, a way to make it painless for everyone is to see if you can use “Bill Pay” through your bank. They will mail a check to the Church as you schedule it at no cost to you or the Church.

## *What’s Next with Pastor Eric*

Hello. I just wanted to express how excited I am to be part of First Baptist Hartsville! My family and I have felt welcomed and we truly look forward to serving along side of you all.

As Next Gen Associate Pastor, right away I plan to be intentional at building relationships, getting to know you all, and scheduling activities for us. Initially with the Pastor’s leading, there will be three main areas that I’m really going to focus my time.

First, I’m going to focus much attention on our children’s ministry. It was evident to my wife and I as we were able to minister to the kids one Wednesday night that Lauren has been doing a wonderful job and your kids are impressively fantastic! Let’s really be intentional about taking it to the next level.

Secondly, we would really love to start connecting and creating opportunities with our young married couples and young singles.

And lastly, I really want to help see our social and media awareness along with our Sunday morning presence just take off! We’ve got a lot of ideas and plans, but we’re gonna need a lot of help and volunteers to make it happen! Thank you for the opportunity to serve and I look forward to getting to know you all! Let’s grow together!

**Membership Class:** Sunday morning,  
9:00 in room 210.

Please call the church office to let Ruth know you will be there. Nursery will be provided with reservations.

## Music Ministry



Hey Church Family!

Summer is here and that means the choir is officially on break! No

Wednesday night

rehearsals for a little while. A big thank you to everyone who gave so much during the past year! Y'all showed up in a big way, and I am super grateful. Enjoy the rest and recharge!

While the choir catches their breath, it's a great time to try something new. Our tech team is looking for some fresh faces to help out on Sunday mornings. If you've ever been curious about how it all works (or just want to push buttons without breaking anything), now's your chance. We'll teach you everything you need to know.

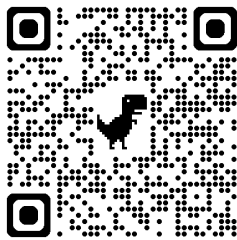
Summer's a great time to jump in, meet some folks, and see where you might want to serve. Let's keep moving forward together.

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

## June 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 (There will be no Lunch, Prayer, and Devotions on June 4 and 11)

7:30pm Choir practice

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**Graduate Sunday** - June 1 in the 10:30 worship service

**Child & Family Resource Foundation All Season's Healing Heart Day Camp** - Saturday, June 7. If you can volunteer, please contact Tracy Redfearn at 843-917-0495.

**Daniel's Diner** - June 9-12 from 5-7:30pm for 1st-5th graders.

**175th Anniversary Meeting** - Wednesday, June 12 at 1:30pm in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome! Come and bring your ideas.

First Baptist will volunteer at **Hartsville Soup Kitchen** on Thursday, June 12. If you would like to help with this community ministry, please contact the Church office.

Sunday, June 15 - **Father's Day and Baby Dedication**. If you would like to have your baby or child dedicated, please contact Pastor Greg or the Church office.

**Grateful Hearts Luncheon** will be on Thursday, June 19. Cost: \$9.

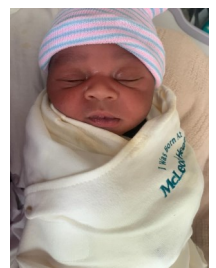
Event: Hymn Sing

*Please call by 12noon on Tuesday, June 17 to sign up.*

**5th Sunday Good Samaritan offering for Benevolence in our community** - June 29

## It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Jacob and Tameka Chebii on the birth of Ezekiel on Sunday, May 25. He weighed 6 lb, 7 oz. Ezekiel joins big brother, Elijah.



## *June Birthdays*

6-1 Elizabeth Hodge  
6-1 Jane Ponder  
6-2 Tucker Smith  
6-4 Susan Reynolds  
6-10 Sue Walters  
6-11 David Reynolds  
6-13 Leroy McCoy  
6-15 J. Colin Hungerpillar  
6-15 Addy Privette  
6-21 Andrew Groves  
6-21 Cody MacDonald  
6-21 Colt MacDonald  
6-23 Georgianna Hulsey  
6-24 Reilly Claire Griggs  
6-25 Tommy Gainey  
6-27 Shirlyn Bellum  
6-28 Susan Moore  
6-29 Beth Herring

### ***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

## *Congratulations, Graduates!*

### **College**

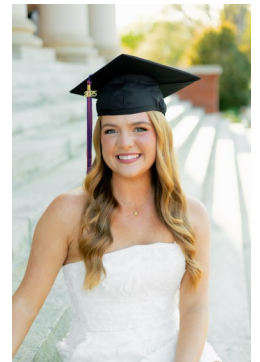
*Chase William Elsesser*

The Citadel— Bachelor of  
Science in Business with an  
emphasis in Marketing  
Future plans: Clemson MBA  
program - Greenville



*Isabelle Rose Elsesser*

Clemson University—Bachelor  
of Science in Animal and  
Veterinary sciences with an  
emphasis in Preveterinary  
medicine  
Future plans: Master of Animal  
Science from Clemson before  
applying to vet school

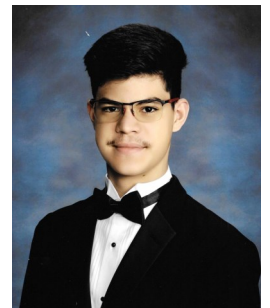


*Clay Gurley* (grandson of Vernon Boyd)  
The Citadel (no photo)

### **High School**

*Gabriel Alexander Barahona  
Smith*

The SC Governor's School for  
Science and Mathematics  
Future plans: The Citadel for  
Mechanical Engineering



*Jesse Logan Fink*

Trinity Collegiate High  
School  
Future plans: College of  
Charleston—Business



*Wint Dempsey* (grandson of Bobby and Cindy  
Dempsey)  
Hartsville High School (no photo)



## *1st Kids Children's Ministry*



Hey there Church!

We are officially out for summer! However, the fun isn't over yet! June 9th-12th we are hosting our cooking camp, Daniel's

Diner! This camp is for ages rising 1st-5th graders from 5-7:30 each night. They will learn incredible lessons about Daniel and learn the skills needed to become a whiz in the kitchen!

Please make sure you spread the word, and if you want to help out, I would LOVE to have you! No heavy lifting, just monitoring the kids and helping them along the way. We could also use some help with cleaning up if possible!

Just let Ruth in the Church office know. Thanks so much!

In Love,  
Ms. Lauren

## *Impact Student Ministry*



Dear Church Family,

It's summer! We'll be taking a break from Wednesday night for a few weeks until school starts

back up. In the mean time look for notifications of some summer events.

Have a blessed summer!

In Christ,  
Jackie

## *Welcome, New Members!*

Welcome to our new members, Betty Jo Jordan and Andy Jordan. Both join First Baptist by letter.

## *With Sympathy*

Our hearts go out to:

- To Tucker Smith on the loss of his father, Tom Smith
- To Vivian Robinson on the loss of her father, Wesley McPhail
- To Claude Wint on the loss of his sister, Delores Wint Turner



## *First Baptist Preschool*



Dear Church Family,

We're excited to share some joyful updates from our preschool ministry!

Our end-of-year Graduation was a beautiful celebration of growth, learning, and God's faithfulness. It was such a blessing to watch our little ones cross the stage, beaming with confidence and ready for their next big step. Thank you to all the families, staff, and church members who made this day so special with your love and support.

As we look ahead, we're gearing up for a summer full of fun and faith! Our **Summer Program** will run from **June 9 to July 18**, featuring engaging activities designed to help children continue learning, building friendships, and experiencing God's love in creative ways. Please keep our students and staff in your prayers as we dive into this exciting season.

We are also thrilled to welcome two new members to our preschool team: Jasmine Player and Bailee Shoffner! Both bring a heart for children and a passion for sharing God's love through education. We are so grateful God has led them to our ministry, and we know they will be a wonderful blessing to our preschool family.

Thank you, Church Family, for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. We truly feel your partnership in all we do!

With gratitude,  
**Jessica Kuykendall**  
**Director | First Baptist Preschool**  
104 E Home Ave  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
Office: 843.878.0445  
Cell: 803.448.9325

## *Did You Know?*

### *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.