

## *From the Pastor ...*



Remember, the last Sunday in October is the Sunday we celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary as First Baptist Church. Plan on being here and bringing as many people as you can— especially those who don't attend church on a regular basis.

After that Sunday, what's next? I thank the Lord for our Revitalization Strategy Team. They are working on developing ministries that meet the felt needs and real needs of our community. Below are some ideas.

As you read through this list, pray about which ministry God might be pulling you toward. The goal is to meet a few times during the summer months, so that it is a solid option for church and nonchurch people to connect with us in November.

As you will see, some of these ministries are already up and running. At the Revitalization Core Group workshop last month, people at different tables described what these ministries could look like at their best, and what would it take to make that happen. Pretty much every ministry will require volunteers. Pray now if you would like to join a team to help start a new ministry or improve an existing one.

- 1st Kids Children's ministry
- Impact Student ministry
- College and young 20-somethings ministry
- Adult ministry
- Singles ministry. The Revitalization Assessment report from last year revealed that 42% of family units within a ten-minute drive of our church are single parent families. Add the singles and single-again without kids demographics to that and you can see a gold mine of opportunity for our church to reach an often overlooked need.
- Seniors ministry. More retired people are moving to South Carolina than ever before— some in our area. Their biggest need: connecting, belonging, and befriending people their age. We could be the church where that happens!
- Men's ministry
- Women's ministry
- Small group ministry
- Marketing and social media ministry
- Missions ministry

- Safety team ministry. This last weekend our team was on alert for a credible threat for all churches in Hartsville. Nothing happened. The police arrested the person of interest in Lee County that morning. I am so thankful for our safety response team. At the same time, it reminded us that we could use more team members who are trained. Just a reminder— it is still illegal for anyone to carry a firearm on a church campus unless they are qualified, trained, and approved members of a safety team and their names are listed in the Church office.

If you have a passion and skill for the ministries above, or a ministry not mentioned above, please let me know! Our church needs to be "*all in*" for us to turn the corner toward fulfilling the Great Commission and experiencing healthy church growth.

Part of our vision to achieve this is hiring a Next Generation Associate Minister (NGAM). Our NGAM search team has reviewed multiple resumes and interviewed several candidates. They recommended one that they and I believe will serve an important roll in our revitalization. We have been planning and praying for the right person for this position for more than a year, and presented Eric Groves last Sunday in church.

Please come to a Q&A time to get to know Eric and his family at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 14 in the Dining Area of our Family Life Building. Our active church members will vote on him on Sunday morning, May 18.

## *Membership Class*

**Membership Class** begins Sunday morning,  
June 1 at 9:15 in room 210.

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

## *New Small Group*

**New Small Group**

*Always Rejoice? —*

*Four Weeks in Philippians*

Not in a small group yet? A new one will start in May from 6:00-7:00pm in Room 212, upstairs in the Family Life Building this Wednesday. This is a perfect time to connect with other adults while your kids are in their respective ministries. Nursery is provided. Hope to see you there!

## Music Ministry



Hey Church Family!

Easter Sunday was powerful! From the music to the message to the sense of

togetherness, there was no mistaking the joy in the room as we celebrated our risen Savior. But here's the truth: the resurrection isn't just for Easter. It's for every single day!

At First Baptist, we believe the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is still moving today. He is changing lives, renewing hope, and reminding us of our mission. This spring, we're stepping forward with that same resurrection power. Choir practices continue on May 14<sup>th</sup>, new ministry opportunities are blooming, and the church family is growing closer as we look ahead to what's NEXT.

If you've been visiting with us recently or are looking for a next step, now's a great time to jump in. Come join the choir, serve in a ministry, or simply reach out, because we'd love to help you get 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

## Church Office Information

Office hours:

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

(lunch 12:30-1:30pm)

Friday 8am-12noon

Phone: 843-332-6571

## Attention, Graduates

If you are graduating from high school or beyond, please let the Church office know.

Graduation Sunday is scheduled for June 8.



## May 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

6:00pm 1<sup>st</sup> Kids Children's Ministry, Impact

Student Ministry, Parents' Small Group in Room

201, Philippians Small Group in Room 212

7:30pm Choir practice

8:00pm Ladies' Zoom Group (every other week)

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First Baptist will volunteer at **Hartsville Soup Kitchen** on Thursday, May 8. If you would like to help with this community ministry, please contact the Church office.

Sunday, May 11 - **Mother'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, May 15. Cost: \$9.

Event: Bingo

*Please call by 12noon on Tuesday, May 13 to sign up.*

The **Church office** will be closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day.

**First Baptist Preschool 5K Graduation** - Wednesday, May 28 at 10:30am on the front lawn, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited!

## Church Conference

### **Notice of Church Conference**

Active members of First Baptist Church will vote on Eric Groves to be our Next Generation Associate Minister at a Church Conference at 10:30am at the beginning of the Church service on Sunday, May 18.

Please come meet Eric and his family on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:00pm in the Dining Area for a Question and Answer time.

## *May Birthdays*

5-1 Wesley Blackwell  
5-3 Rachel Marino  
5-5 Taylor Moody Stogner  
5-6 Shaun Roberts  
5-9 Sullivan Dyar  
5-13 Breanna Boyd Frye  
5-14 Rosemary Elsesser  
5-17 Rachel Phillips  
5-22 Colin Hungerpillar  
5-23 John Drinkard  
5-25 DeAndre (Bam Bam) Previtte  
5-29 Adam Privette

### *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  
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

## *North American Missions*

First Baptist collected \$1,516.00 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. One hundred percent of gifts given go to support more than 2,400 missionary families serving across the US and Canada.

## *Child and Family Resources*

**Be a light to YOUR community!** Serving the Lord means to fulfill His will with a joyful heart, prioritizing His commandments in all aspects of life. Love God with all your heart, soul, and strength by **serving Him through showing love, mercy, and kindness to others.** *We reflect Christ's character in our actions and use our gifts to serve one another, glorifying God in everything we do. (Ps. 100:2)*

Where to start? You can serve right here on the campus of FBC! The **2025 All Season's Healing Heart Day Camp** will be held on **Saturday, June 7, 2025!** Perfect for Sunday School Class projects! Or individuals looking to lean in for Jesus!

So, will you consider **donating your time and support to youth and families right in OUR backyard of FBC?** Please note: You do not have to be present all day to help with the day camp. However, you must register to volunteer. Those who need you can't wait to meet you! Go to [www.childandfamilyresourcesfoundation.com](http://www.childandfamilyresourcesfoundation.com) to watch two new videos that bring the mission home!

**Where will you serve the Lord and others on June 7?** Food Service; Security/Parking; Medical Staff; Social Media/Photography; Physical Set-ups, Teardowns; Camp Buddies/Guides; Trucks/Drivers for Equipment; Prepare/Bake Round Cookies for Decorating Activities; Butterfly Release Coordinator and Helpers (3/4); Prayer Intercessors/Station; Check-In and Out; Karaoke Set-Up

**Please contact** Tracy Redfearn or Diane DeLucia to plug in! You can also call 843-917-0495.

## *Impact Student Ministry*



Dear Church Family,

Hey youth! As we near the end of the school year and summer break, continue to be faithful in your

attendance. During the summer months, as always, remember your daily devotionals. We will meet a couple of times this summer, so look for notifications in GroupMe.

I look forward to a great summer and welcoming new youth in the fall.

In Christ's Love,  
Jackie

## *1st Kids Children's Ministry*



Hey there, Church Family!

I am so excited to announce our summer camp, Daniel's Diner. We are looking forward to this 4

day cooking camp for rising 1st through 5th grade (or 6th!!!). The dates of this camp are June 9th-12th from 5:30-7pm.

I bet you know what I'm going to ask....will you PLEASE volunteer? We have space for all serving hearts. Please let me know if you are free and I will find a job for you. I really look forward to what God will do through this camp, and at FBC.

As always, thank you for your prayers and encouraging words.

In Love,  
Ms. Lauren

## *First Baptist Preschool*



Dear Church Family,

Spring has sprung at First Baptist Preschool, and our hallways are already alive

and buzzing with anticipation as we approach the end of another wonderful school year!

### **Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9)**

Our incredible teachers pour their hearts into nurturing our little ones each day. During Teacher Appreciation Week, we'll be honoring these dedicated servants who share God's love with our children. If you'd like to join us in celebrating them, please consider sending a note of encouragement or providing a goodie for the

teachers who have endured so much this year while still loving and celebrating our students on a daily basis. We have 11 staff all together. Our teacher's lounge is also running low so please feel free to donate some extra "fuel" to get our amazing crew through to the end of the year!

### **Special End-of-Year Activities**

We're finishing the year with joy and celebration! Our 5K will be celebrated by a graduation program on Wednesday, May 28 to honor their hard work. The entire school will be delighted by a visit from the "Bubble Man" who creates amazing bubble art and science demonstrations. We'll also welcome Frost Bites for a sweet frozen treat day! These special activities create lasting memories for our preschoolers as they complete their school year.

### **Memorial Day**

Our preschool will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. We're teaching our children about the importance of remembering those who have served our country, at an age-appropriate level.

### **Looking Ahead to 2025-2026**

Preparations are already underway for the coming school year! We're finalizing classroom arrangements, ordering new curriculum materials, and refreshing our learning centers. Many of our classes are already filled, which is a testament to God's blessing on our program and our reputation in the community.

### **Prayer Requests**

Please pray for:

- A peaceful and joyful conclusion to our school year
- Rest and renewal for our teachers during the summer
- Wisdom for our staff as we prepare for next year

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this vital ministry to our community's youngest members!

In Christ's Service,  
Jessica Kuykendall  
First Baptist Preschool Director