

THE INFORMER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SHELBY, NC



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THE NEW YEAR, THE CROSS, AND CLEVELAND COUNTY!

*“You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.”
-Christus Paradox*

This photograph, taken in our Sanctuary, bears the image of Christmas time with the evergreens, lights, reds and greens. It also bears the image of the cross upon which Jesus died for us. It is an image that reminds us that Jesus was born to bring the Kingdom of God into view and to embody that kingdom in his stand against the sin and evil of this world in his death on the cross. As Sylvia Dunstan penned in her anthem, *Christus Paradox*, an anthem our Sanctuary Choir has presented with great power in years gone by, Jesus is “both gift and cost”. Now that we have celebrated his coming through our Christmas celebrations -- the greatest gift to our lives -- we live on into the New Year ready tell the good news of the cost of our sin and Jesus' willingness to be that cost by his love for us.

Our Cleveland County neighbors need to hear this good news because it meets them right where they live. For we all need to know that when we come to the end of ourselves and our sin drags us down in spirit, Jesus' love is great to lift us up. His death on the cross is the victory God wins to forgive us and to empower us to live out that forgiveness toward others as we bring the grace of his presence to bear upon our community.

In 2021, let's give ourselves anew to reaching Cleveland County for Jesus as we lift up the cross and watch Jesus draw our neighbors to himself!



Weekly Calendar

Sundays

- 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship via Facebook LIVE
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via Spectrum Cable Channel 9
- 6:00 p.m. FBC Youth at Outdoor Venue weather permitting

Watch Facebook for Adult and Children's Sunday school Lessons

January Calendar

- Watch for special announcement of Wednesday Bible Studies
- Watch for 2021 plans for Children and Youth on Wednesdays
- Watch for announcements regarding the resumption of Wednesday Take Out Meals
- Staff Planning Days -- January 4 & 5

Thanks for your prayers as we look ahead!

Staff Anniversaries



Emily Monroe
Pianist/Worship Coordinator
January 3, 1993



Donna Dryden
Financial Coordinator
January 9, 2012

Morning Worship on Sundays

- 9:30 a.m. Facebook LIVE
- 11:00 a.m. Spectrum Cable Channel 9
(one week delayed)

Pastor's Corner

One on one is how it's done.

I first heard this phrase from my friend Ronnie, who is the senior minister of a large network of churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex in Texas. Ronnie believes that ministry happens as we enter into one-on-one relationships with others. He believes this to such an extent that it becomes part of the fabric of his kids, youth, college, and adult ministries:



- If 300 kids went to camp, then 300 adult volunteers went to camp. One on one is how it's done. If there are 500 youth, then there are 500 adult volunteers.
- Every college student discovers a mentor ready to help disciple them along with parents and family.
- Every Sunday school member is discipled by their Sunday school teacher.
- Every new member is paired with a mentor couple to help them navigate the membership process.

One on one is how it's done.

Natalie and I have tried as best we can to live by this principle in our ministry. While we have not mandated that kids, youth, college, and adult ministries become regimented in this way (although it is certainly not a bad ideal), we have tried to build as many one-on-one relationships with members of our congregation – often over meals, coffee, or video calls.

Because this is our preference for ministry, and because the good people of First Baptist Church of Shelby are so lovely and have been so kind to us, we would love to pick up the practice here in a structured way.

Thus, In 2021 Natalie and I will begin meeting with the families at FBC Shelby in one-on-one or two-on-two settings in the form of meals, coffees, or video chats. We know that not everyone is ready to meet face to face yet and so we would be happy to set up Zoom links or facetime calls.

If you are interested in setting up a time to meet, there are three ways to make arrangements:

1. Here is a link to a digital sign-up sheet <https://fbcshelby.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/23ca2134-5245-4bb8-a659-b5c8e8a4f3c0>
2. You can call church office and coordinate through Jene' Baxter 704-482-3467 x10
3. Email Jene' at operations@fbcshelby.org

Natalie and I look forward to meeting with each of you and hearing more about your stories and lives. We also look forward to sharing more about how God has been working in our lives

Blessings,
Doug and Natalie Hankins

Christmas Offerings



Use your regular offering envelope and write in your offering amount on one of the blank lines. Thank you for sending the good news around the world!



Just as a labor of love made many of our international flags for use in the Sanctuary, so it is a labor of love that turns our sacrificial giving into the spreading of the Gospel around the world!

Thank You!!

Great Job Tech Team!! We are so blessed by the service of Robert Farrow and Al Whatley leading our Sunday Morning Broadcast on Facebook LIVE and Spectrum Channel 9 each week. They, along with Eric Lopp, Audio Specialist (with Bob Watson subbing) and a rotating team of volunteer camera operators (Bob Borders, Dan Phillips, Chris Dellinger, Logan Dellinger, Chris Horne, Jenny Dellinger) have kept us engaged in worship as a congregation throughout the pandemic months. Robert and Al have been so willing to give of themselves to coordinate this ministry and the whole team has been available for a crazy schedule this year! They have served as genuine blessings for us!!



Thanks to Steak Servants! We were blessed by all the elves serving to support our Staff Served Steak Dinner -- these volunteers came out in strength to help us serve the 220 meals on that night!



Thanks FBC Family for your Mission to Love Our Neighbors!

All of the angel tree gifts were delivered and they touched the lives of many in Jesus' name. Thank you for your faithfulness to bless the lives of others!



Feed the Hungry Meals - Fridays

The churches in Uptown Shelby have planned a way for there to be a free meal at lunch for folks who need a meal. This meal is at our church on Fridays. If you, your family, or your Sunday school class or small group, would like to provide the sandwiches (plus chips and a cookie or fruit) for one of the Fridays this year, please let us know by calling the church office OR by emailing to Katie@gccba.org.



Dear Church Family,

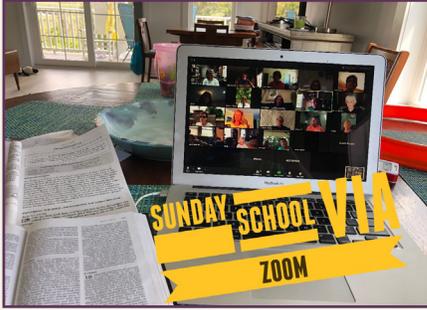
Thank you so much for your generosity to bring in your items for the homeless bags. A special thank you to Brian Parker for so many items. We packed 80 bags to be given out on this Friday. Everything is always so much appreciated by our friends.

Also, thank you for taking an angel and buying gifts. I know some little people who will have a wonderful Christmas because of you. Even in a pandemic, our church family is such a giving church! I am honored to be a part of it.

Merry Christmas!
Love and prayers,
Susan Grose

Gratitude for 2020

The Lord provided through the Pandemic



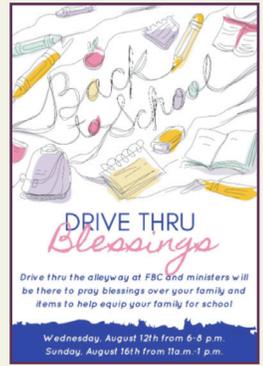
Sunday School on ZOOM



Extension Delivers Covid-Style



Wednesday Night Bible Studies on Facebook LIVE



Growing and Coming at the Community Garden



Drive-thru Thanks to Dr. Canoy



Feed the Hungry Voulnteers



Day Care Service for Front Line Workers



Easter Celebrations at Home



Community Garden Blessings



Prayer Walk around the church



Other Side of 50 Drive-Thru



WDM Drive-Thru Graduation



Greatest Treat Festival at the Drive-In



Choir in the Covid Year



Pastor Search Thanksgiving



Lenten prayers at home



WDM Drive-Thru Graduation



Created to Create Virtual Camp



Potatoes kept growing



The Outdoor Venue



The Masked Ministers



Thankful for the Ministry of Cecelia Beck in Shelby!

As of December 31, 2020, Cecelia has retired from her full-time ministry in our neighborhood which goes back these past 11 years. Cecelia has lived incarnationally in northeast Shelby sharing the love of Jesus and being the presence of Jesus in the lives of folks of all ages. She has said of her years of serving here, "My heart is full of gratitude for your faithful prayers and support over these years. Together we have given hope in the name of Christ to many of our neighbors and lightened their burdens in countless ways." Cecelia has been a blessing to First Baptist Church and we have been blessed by partnering with her in ministry. We are challenged, as well, by her parting word: "My prayer is that we will all look around and see ways to offer hope wherever we see it is needed. We do not need to look far and as Christ followers it is what we do."



Pray for Our Deacons in 2021

Thank you for your prayers for the deacons who will be serving us this year. We will look forward to an ordination/commissioning service soon. Until then, thank you for praying for the Lord's care and encouragement for them as they serve together in the leadership of our congregation.

Term Expiring 2021

Karen Cabaniss
Jack Hamrick
Mike Harden
Leland Kerr
Ralph Meekins
Bill Plowden
Sara Tidwell
Eli Wortman

Term Expiring 2022

Bruce Boyles
Chuck Burch
Tony Burnette
Jenny Dellinger
Tom Forgas
Michael Hawkins
Jim McSwain
Trey Warrick

Term Expiring 2023

Webb Cabiness
John Crosland
Thomas Monroe
Micki Padgett
Dennis Price
Rick Shelton
Bob Watson
June Yarboro

Deacon Officers

Bruce Boyles, Chair 2021
Karen Cabaniss, Secretary 2021
Tony Burnette, Vice-Chair
Jenny Dellinger, Vice-Secretary



May the Cheer we celebrate at Christmas continue to bless you throughout the **NEW YEAR!**



Among us
"The Word became
flesh and made
his dwelling AMONG
US...full of grace
and truth." John
1:14, NIV.





Happy **NEW YEAR** from FBC Kids!!! May the **JOY, HOPE, PEACE** and **LOVE** that we experienced at Christmas carry you all into 2021.



FBC Kid's Sunday School and Wednesday Night Discipleship:

Watch your mail for Sunday School packets in January. Also be sure to tune in every Sunday morning to FBC Shelby Children's Facebook Page for Sunday School Lessons.

FBC Kids will not meet on Wednesday nights in January. Pay close attention to your email, texts and social media as we will plan special things there.

NEW YEAR's Devotion for Children and Families:

Goal: Make prayer a priority in the 2021

Objective: Kids will make a New Year's Resolution to pray every day in the coming year.

Read this Key Passage: Luke 11:1-13, Jesus' Teaching On Prayer

Memory Verse: "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2

Summary: One small change can make a huge difference in your life. This year, follow Jesus' example and resolve to pray every day and see what amazing things God will do.

Simple Prayer: Dear God, Thank you for giving us prayer so that we can talk to you whenever we want. Help us to make prayer a priority. In Jesus' name, Amen

In the Car: Ask your child what they learned from reading Luke 11:1-13. This year, follow Jesus' example and resolve to pray every day and see what amazing things God will do.

Hanging Out: Talk with your kids about any New Year's resolutions they (or you) may have. How do you make sure that you follow through so that resolutions don't just turn into a wish list? Come up with a plan of action to incorporate prayer in your daily life. End with a prayer for guidance and strength.

At Dinner: Here are some great discussion starters: - How did Jesus teach his disciples to pray? - Why should we ask God for what we need? - Why is it important to talk to God?

At Bedtime: Quiz your child on this memory verse: "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

Parent Time: God desires relationship with his people. Relationships don't thrive in silence. Prayer isn't just a laundry list of needs we bring to God; it is a chance to connect with the creator of the universe. Look for every opportunity you have to develop a strong God relationship in the days ahead.

*Devotion from Children Ministry Deals



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Community + Compassion + Service

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STAFF DIRECTORY

Doug Hankins, Lead Pastor.....doug@fbcshelby.org
 Tony Tench, Executive Connections Pastor.....tony@fbcshelby.org
 Carol Ann Hoard, Youth and Intergenerational Pastor.....youth@fbcshelby.org
 Missy Smith, Children and Family Pastor.....children@fbcshelby.org
 Penny Corn, Weekday Ministry Director.....childcare@fbcshelby.org
 Emily Monroe, Worship Coordinator.....music@fbcshelby.org
 Donna Dryden, Financial Coordinator.....finance@fbcshelby.org
 Jene' Baxter, Operations Coordinator.....operations@fbcshelby.org
 Bruce Boyles, Chairman of Deacons.....deacons@fbcshelby.org

CHURCH INFORMATION

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. -5 p.m.
120 N Lafayette St, Shelby, NC 28150
(p) 704.482.3467 (f) 704.482.1137

Check out our website and blog:
www.fbcshelby.org
Wi-fi Password: FBSC-120NLaf

Find us on Facebook and Twitter!
@FBC_Shelby_NC



Remember, you can make your plans to give financially to the church online by going to the church website (www.fbcshelby.org) and clicking on this symbol at the bottom of the page or click on "Giving" at the top right corner of the homepage.