

Established 1825

JULY 2025

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FBC
High Point

THE HERALD

WORKING WITH GOD'S BLUEPRINTS

Summer Table July 16

Join us at shelter #10 at High Point City Lake Park from 3-7 p.m. for our Summer Table meeting in July!

Playing at the park will begin at 3. Eating and gathering time will start at 6.



Scenes from a successful Hot Dog Supper June 8



Photos by Barbara Smith, Debbie Edwards and Carol Brooks



Banana pudding winners:

1 - Janet Grady, 2 - Debbie Edwards, 3 - Maxine Perdue.
Judie Kerstetter, judge

Celebrating
FBC
200th
anniversary

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

405 N. Main St., High Point, N.C. 27260-5088

336-883-0178

www.fbchighpoint.org – www.facebook.com/firstbaptisthighpoint

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. in person in the sanctuary or via Facebook Live.

Offering and Income

May 25, 2025

Weekly Budget Need \$7,165.19
Tithes & Offerings \$3,172.68
Total Budget Receipts \$3,172.68
Budget Needs to Date \$150,469.04
Budget Receipts to Date \$63,052.49

June 1, 2025

Weekly Budget Need \$7,165.19
Tithes & Offerings \$1,088.00
Total Budget Receipts \$1,088.00
Budget Needs to Date \$157,634.23
Budget Receipts to Date \$64,140.49

June 8, 2025

Weekly Budget Need \$7,165.19
Tithes & Offerings \$2,728.00
Total Budget Receipts \$2,728.00
Budget Needs to Date \$164,799.42
Budget Receipts to Date \$66,868.49

June 15, 2025

Weekly Budget Need \$7,165.19
Tithes & Offerings \$2,940.00
Total Budget Receipts \$2,940.00
Budget Needs to Date \$171,964.62
Budget Receipts to Date \$69,808.49



Online Giving

It is easy to support FBC with your monetary gifts online. Go to the church's website, www.fbchighpoint.org, and click on the word "GIVE" in the blue bar at the top of the homepage. Instructions will appear for giving online with credit and debit cards using Tithe.ly. There are also instructions for setting up

The Power of Disruption and Gratitude

"This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us." - John 9:3b-4

The first public ministry of Jesus was to overturn the tables of the money changers in the Jerusalem temple courts and claim they had turned God's house into a den of robbers. Then, Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath and tells him to pick up his mat and walk—again, in the TEMPLE of all places! Not only did Jesus cause disruptions, he saw 'disruptions' as an opportunity to display the works of God. Later on in John 9, a man born blind comes into the synagogue where Jesus was teaching and at the behest of his Father he heals on the Sabbath (again), he preaches a message of repentance (which literally means to stop what you are doing and turn your life around 180 degrees).

"Disrupters" in today's business speak are people with new innovative ideas that 'disrupt' well established norms and institutions. If that's the case, Jesus was the disruptor in chief! We tend to focus negatively on disruptions in our lives, in our faith and in our churches. We want things to go smoothly and according to our plan and our expectations. Even though we may know better, habits that we form around our daily lives translate into a world where we are ultimately in control. When we aren't in control we are unhappy.

Another word I keep thinking about is **gratitude**. Thinking negatively about our lives and the disruptions we experience day to day is to be human, but it's not Christ-like. We can only invent a Jesus who "wanted things to go as planned," and made sure everything "went smoothly." The human paradox is that while negative thinking is the norm, no one questions the power of positive thinking. Health researchers tell us that gratitude and positive thinking have a significant effect on our mental and physical health. Studies tell us that people who practice gratitude exercise more, make fewer doctor visits, improve their relationships, are happier, and feel better about their lives. (Univ. of Miami, U. Penn, and others.) A recent Harvard Medicine article recommended and encouraged prayer and meditation as a way



to achieve gratitude.

Jesus didn't die so that we can engage in mere positive thinking however. Jesus isn't into self help or self talk. When Jesus shined a light on our dark world, he exposed a reality where our obsession for control becomes a silly exercise in futility. Jesus exposed our habits of self absorption and self will to be a sin against our loving creator. Jesus showed us that God regularly disrupts our habitual dependencies in order to train us

and transform us in the mysterious glory that is ours as sons and daughters of God.

The answer to frustration and negativity about the many disruptions in our lives is to "take on the mind of Christ." Maturing in Christ means to become thankful for the disruptions. It means that we should not just tolerate disruption, but wait and watch for God to work in it and through it. We may even get to the point where we depend on God so much that we depend on and ask Jesus to regularly disrupt our way of thinking, to speak a new word into us and lead us in the way of His Spirit. There are also disruptions that are not from God but rather from the evil one. But it is only through prayer with God that we begin to discern how to respond, how to "carry out the tasks of the one who sent us," and how to experience the joy and gratitude of the abundant life Jesus promises.

Prayer: Thank you Lord Jesus, that you disrupted our world and shattered our human expectations. Thank you Lord, that you are showing us a better way and revealing your grace and love for us. Thank you Lord, that the disruptions I face today can become an opportunity to give you the glory and praise you deserve. Amen.

For the King and the Kingdom,
Pastor Paul

Prayer Needs

Email heather@fbchighpoint.org or call Heather Absher at 336-883-0178 when you or someone in your immediate family is in the hospital and/or is in need of prayer. Please provide their address so we may mail the prayer sheet to them. Please get permission to publish their names on our prayer chain and email notifications. Also please let us know when it is time to remove their name from the list.

Deadline for information for the AUGUST Herald is JULY 22. Please email your information to Carol Brooks at cab1@northstate.net.

Staff

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Heather Absher
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Carol Brooks
Herald Editor, Webmaster
cab1@northstate.net

Pastoral Care Line
881-6480

Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee

Bus Driver Pre-authorization

Our calendar includes several opportunities to use the church buses. Are you qualified to drive them? A qualified driver is a church member between 25 and 74 years of age.

Are you authorized to drive them? A qualified driver is authorized when their name has been added to the church's insurance policy. To have your name added to the list of authorized drivers, send your full name, date of birth, and driver's license number to Heather Absher (heather@fbchighpoint.org). She will then forward driver details to the church's insurance agent for vetting.

"All Committees Workday" update

The June 21 work day produced some good results as we continue to look toward the 200th Anniversary event and an imminent move in just over a year. There are several initiatives underway simultaneously in various parts of our facility, from the sewing room "kitchen" to 3rd floor classrooms now idle. The biggest change is in the Recreation Center lobby. Many of the books which had been spread out in the lobby have been packed up and moved along to make room for a walk-through historical timeline. This is part of our 200th Anniversary calendar of events.

BG&T Committee thanks those who participated. I know better than to attempt to name them all. With their efforts, though, we have made progress toward our first yard sale, are better prepared to make meaningful donations to other ministry groups, and are carefully identifying what should be kept for posterity.

– Brooks Godfrey

Help Wanted: Worship Service Video Recording

Many of you know that FBC-HP typically streams weekly worship services via Facebook Live. This has served us well, week to week, and many of you have appreciated this element of ministry. There has been an idea incubating to take our worship services to the internet at a new level with YouTube. But we need some new help to pull this off.

Who do you know who might be interested in helping FBC-HP take worship service broadcasting to our next aspirational level – YouTube? This would involve recording the worship service with a video camera from the balcony, applying some light editing (iMovie or similar) and sending the finished video to Heather to post to FBC-HP's YouTube channel.

Facebook Live offers a genuinely live experience, and will continue to be part of our ministry. YouTube will offer a library of videos to expand our ministry. Who do you know who would be interested in helping make this happen? Contact Brooks Godfrey (brooksg@mac.com) for more info.

Sympathy

... to the family of Bob Culler.

**No Wednesday nights meals
at church during summer.
Special dinners once a month
to be announced.**

Please sign up by Monday noon before the meal either by calling the church or emailing Heather Absher by 1 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is available at the RMC Lobby Desk or you may call the church to have your name added to the list.



200th Anniversary

Our 200th anniversary is just **2 months away**, with the big celebration on Sept. 7. We're inviting back former ministers, staff, and others to help us celebrate. The Worship Planning Committee is already working on the Sunday morning schedule.

Former ministers Dr. Al Cadenhead and Dr. Bill Slater each will be preaching one Sunday prior to Sept. 7.

The guest speaker that day will be Dr. Bill Leonard, an American historian of religion, Baptist pastor, teacher and dean. His focus is church history, perfect for our anniversary. Dr. Leonard has preached at First Baptist several times. He will be introduced by Dr. Jeff Rogers, our former interim.

Of course, we'll have to eat so Sept. 7 will be a covered dish lunch.

History bus trip

Are you interested in learning more of the early history of First Baptist? We're planning a bus trip to three previous locations that were influential in the church founding, beginning with Sandy Creek Baptist Church near Liberty, followed by Abbott's Creek Baptist, the site of Jamestown Baptist (our first official church), then back to our current location. This trip could take three hours, but we won't be on the bus the entire time. It's possible we could stop for dinner on the way back to High Point.

The exact date is still being determined but will probably be on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Watch for alerts from the church on the date.

There will be a signup sheet in the lobby once the date is decided. You can also call the church to sign up.

Financial Report Through May 2025

	YTD 2025	Last YTD
Budget Receipts	\$63,053	\$91,786
Budget Spending	\$141,557	\$114,665
< Budget Deficits >	\$(78,504)	\$(22,879)
Lease & Non-Budget	\$31,296	\$33,760
< Net Deficit >	\$(109,800)	\$(56,639)

A Simple Gesture



Please remember to pick up a Simple Gesture bag, fill it with non-perishable food items and return it to the Recreation Lobby. Hunger is real in the High Point area and your "simple gesture" can make a difference in many lives. Empty bags may be picked up in the RMC lobby. Full bags may be returned to the same location. Put the pickup dates on your calendar.

Dates for 2025 are

July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26,
November 23, and December 14

Greeters

July 6

Jeanneen Adamick

Brian Garis

July 13

Don and Janet Hritz

July 20

Peggy Wilson

Carol Brooks

July 27

Maxine Perdue

Deacons on Call

July 6

Jeanneen Adamick

Linda Winslow

July 13

Cynthia Eddinger

Shirley Garis

July 20

Linda Causby

Marty Key

July 27

Betsy Hines

Pastoral Care Line

336-881-6480

Memories of First Baptist

I came to First Baptist in 1963 when I married Linwood Harris who was a member. Following are some memories and some events that shaped the life of my family and myself.

(1) Being baptized – I grew up in a Methodist Church and was baptized there. I was re-baptized in order to become a participating member of this congregation. It allowed me to begin teaching Sunday School to the children and families who began coming to First Baptist through the Bus Ministry that began under the pastorate of Jim Pharr. I learned a lot teaching with Barbara Culler.

(2) Sunday School classes for young marrieds, first taught by Pat Pharr and later by Ruth Adams who taught the women and Bob Culler who taught the men. These classes introduced me to people who became my dear friends and welcomed me to an unknown group whose friendships I treasure still and miss so many who have passed away. I delighted in reconnecting with a high school friend, Jo Godfrey, who became a lifelong friend.

(3) The Agape Class where we enjoyed Sunday School classes as couples. We were in each other's homes, took trips and sold hotdogs at the annual High Point Christmas parade for several years, raising money to provide a Thanksgiving meal to members of the community. The friendships that started early flourished more as we enjoyed growths in our families and a true fellowship of Christian love.

(4) The birth of our children, Chip and Kelly, who were introduced to the church under the watchful eye of Helen Sheffield, Linda Marion Slate, Peggie Gillie and Jeanne Cooke. Lamar King baptized Chip and Kelly and Frank Smith encouraged and supported their participation in the youth activities as they matured into their pre-teen and teen years. Both Frank and Lamar were at the hospital when Kelly underwent serious eye surgery in Greensboro. Chip was able to attend the World Baptist Youth Conference in Scotland, a memorable experience for a young high school student. He returned with the realization that many who were there from other countries had a much more difficult time being allowed to come from their countries.

(5) Bill Slater officiated at the dedication of our granddaughter, Chip's daughter Cali, who was later baptized by Gay Gulick. Two months after the dedication, Dr. Slater officiated at the marriage of Kelly and Paul. He, like Jim Pharr also encouraged outreach to the community. Under his leadership a Bible Study was begun at The Sheraton Towers. I was one of many who came to know our neighbors across the street through Sunday morning Bible study. On the day after Christmas in 2023, Bill Slater spent the day with me at the bedside of Linwood who had become seriously ill overnight. He also picked up Kelly and Paul from the airport that evening. He offered to pick up Chip who would also be flying home but a friend wanted to get him.

(6) The outpouring of love and sympathy that were expressed to my family during the weeks of Linwood's hospital and Hospice care were like nothing I had ever seen. Church members, some of whom I didn't know, brought food, sent cards, and reached out with support. Family members still remember the meal that was provided at the church for the many family members who came from out of town.

(7) The music!!! How many sermons have I heard from the choir loft. Even though our family was not actively involved with the music ministry, Bruce Hartgrove, at my request, called members of the choir who came and sang at the funeral. On a happier note, Bruce also officiated at the marriage of Chip and Martha Ann.

(8) The special friends with whom I continue to share time in Sunday School – different names, different faces, but the same Christian spirit that my family and I have witnessed for many years. In closing, I think a quote from Kelly on searching for a church home in Pittsburgh best sums up what First Baptist has meant to our family – "I wish I could move First Baptist to Pittsburgh."

– Sue Harris

Celebrating
FBC
200th
anniversary



Holden Rhodenhiser	July 1	Joni Brooks	July 19
Pat Johnson	July 4	Bruce Hartgrove	July 21
Darrell Meredith	July 4	Michael Rhodenhiser	July 24
Adele Myers	July 16	Peggy Wilson	July 25
Janet Hritz	July 17	Thomas Folk	July 29
Ben Adamcik	July 18	Ben Anderson	July 30

**Sunday Worship
Live Stream Every
Sunday**

at 11:00 a.m. on



**The Lobby Desk hours are
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
from
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**