

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since our arrival in Eastern North Carolina over a year ago, one thing Sherri and I have learned is that no matter the month of the year- we better check the forecast- because what we wore yesterday may or may not be appropriate for the temperatures today. In Pennsylvania, if it is February you can be pretty confident that you are going to need a winter coat, scarf, gloves and probably a hat. This will continue on into March generally, however it is said in the north that the month of March “comes in like a lion and out like a lamb”.

Did you know that followers of Christ have another set of clothes they are to wear? These clothes are appropriate wherever we live and every day of the year. Along with the armor of God described in Ephesians 6, this other clothing is written of in Colossians 3:

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (NIV)

The scriptures reaffirm that the Christian is holy and dearly loved by God. With that beautiful thought filling our hearts and minds, it should not be difficult then to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. These beautiful attributes flow from a life that appreciates just how much God loves us. They are also a witness of Christ to those to whom they are directed. These qualities will be found in us as we yield to the Holy Spirit and surrender our wills to Him. (see Galatians 5:22-23). According to our passage, love binds all the other pieces of clothing together. When we accessorize these clothes with a forgiving heart- we have the makings of a beautiful Christian life- every day of the year.

So tomorrow, when you reach into your closet to pick out appropriate clothing for the day, make sure you put on your spiritual clothing. In prayer, surrender your will to the heavenly Father, commit to follow Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to produce these beautiful attributes in your life. In so doing you will be ready to represent Jesus every day, whether its rainy, foggy, sunny or snowy! Christ will shine through you.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Paul

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

PO BOX 400 – 309 WASHINGTON STREET PLYMOUTH, NC 27962 (252) 793-5026

Email fbcoff@embarqmail.com; Website: firstbaptistplymouth.org

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Galatians 6:9: *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

FOOD PANTRY

Collecting food for our local Food Pantry is a mission opportunity. We have lots of volunteers from First Baptist who give of their time each week working at the local food pantry located on highway 32 beside the old DMV office. We have a food pantry box in the hallway beside the church office where you can place food items.

BLESSING BOX

The box is located in the church parking lot. Food, paper goods and hygiene items can be placed directly in the box.

BENEVOLENCE

This fund is used to help in the local community and in our own church family with whatever needs may arise. Giving to the benevolence fund helps us to continue to meet these needs.

Mile of Pennies

Loose change is collected until we reach a mile (\$844.22). It is then sent to the Baptist Children's Homes. We have sent in 33 miles of pennies and are working on the 34th!! Containers are in the sanctuary and church office.

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## Building Maintenance Projects

As the buildings continue to age, the repairs and maintenance on them grows more frequent. Please keep this in mind as you prayerfully consider your tithe to the Lord. Each of us as members of First Baptist have a responsibility to the Lord to give of our money and our time in support of the church and its ministries. In addition to giving monetarily, your time and talent is greatly appreciated to ensure things continue to be taken care of on a daily basis. If you can help with maintenance of the buildings, please see a member of the building and grounds committee or call the church. For many years, churches have used the following statistic and it is generally accurate. 20% of the people give 80% of the offerings and 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Your offering of time, talent and treasure is greatly appreciated. All of it is actually an offering unto the Lord! Please consider how God is calling you to answer the needs of our church.

Some upcoming and ongoing needs:

The roof over the fellowship hall and office complex has several leaks.

The tile flooring in the fellowship hall and hallway is loose and popping up.

Several of our AC/Heating units are over 20 years old and need repair regularly.

*God will provide- Thank you for your ongoing support of First Baptist Church!*

## Parking Lot Update

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Estimate Needed | \$140,000.00 |
| Received        | \$55,033.00  |

Brothers and Sisters of First Baptist,

As many are aware when we set our budget for 2021 it was established that we need \$6,152 per week on average each Sunday. As of February 21, 2021, the first 8 weeks of the year, we have received \$36,378. To keep our budget on target, we needed to collect \$49,216. God is Faithful and He will provide but let us seek his face and His will during these challenging times.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Evan Davenport 3/1  
Bobby Brown 3/6  
Clifford Frymier 3/8  
Rexanne Harrison 3/8  
Tom Harrison 3/9  
Sherry Harrington 3/10  
Denise Nobles 3/10  
Mary Kay Bradshaw 3/14  
Linda Sermons 3/14  
Meredith Bradshaw 3/15  
Heather Carr 3/15  
Claire Dail 3/21  
Shelly Brabble 3/22  
Gwen Phelps 3/22  
Sandra Spruill 3/26  
Debra Lyle Dixon 3/29

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Oliver & Frances Lucas 3/4  
Nevis & Jamie Leary 3/13  
Jim & Susan Sawyer 3/30  
Mike & Caroline Gurganus 3/31

## COMING UP

\*March 1 – Food Pantry Truck  
9:30 am.  
\*March 14– Spring Forward  
One Hour!  
\*March 22 – Deacons Meeting  
7:00 pm in the fellowship hall  
with Bryan Foster hosting.

## Memorial Service

*There is a Memorial Service planned for Joyce Harrell here on Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 pm. Masks are required. Dennis Burton will be coming to participate in the service.*

## THANK YOU NOTE

On behalf of the Hagwood family, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for your compassion and sympathy expressed to us during our Dad's passing. He loved Plymouth FBC and enjoyed having such a close connection with you. We will never forget your loving concern and caring support. Love you all.

Jimmy and Dell

## ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

### **Week of Prayer March 7-14**

**Every gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering supports more than 5,000 Missionaries across the U.S. and Canada. We will begin this offering Sunday, March 7 and continue through Easter Sunday April 4. Our goal is \$1,000.00.**

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**CHURCH FAMILY:** Lora Craddock, Robert Dickerson, Beth Thompson, Tracie Wildman, Louie Askew, John Smith, Marguerite Sexton Hart, Kristie Nicholson, Claudia Beacham, Faye McCombs, Oliver and Frances Lucas, Sandy McMurtrie, Clifford Frymier, Barbara Peyton.

**OTHER CONCERNS:** Sherry Foster (Mother of Bryan Foster), Mike Ward, Jonni Kephart (Friend of Beth & Bryan Foster), Neal Brown, Don May (Friend of Dee Gee Griffith), Sue Owens, Greg Spruill, Faye Lyle, William Sexton, Alfonzo Boyd, Kim Wynne, Jason Phelps, Rodney Rogerson, Frank Winslow.

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS:** Three Rivers- Christine McMurtrie #208; River Trace Nursing & Rehab Center, Washington- Pauline Humphreys #418; Eunice Carraway #325; Roanoke Landing- Alice Dotson #209, Tim Elks #315; Rich Square Health Care Center -Annie Griffith #108-B; Chowan River Nursing Home- Rae Owens.