

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Tony Silver
2nd Sunday: Charles Gaffigan
3rd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
4th Sunday: Ron Arthur

February Wedding Anniversaries

David & Mary Blackwelder 3
Wayne & Martha McCauley 13
Danny & Judy Willis 23

February Birthdays

Hayley Duncan 2
Ron Arthur 5
Marjorie McEntire 5
Joyce Noblitt 8
Mary Blackwelder 9
Ruby Robinson 13
Joyce Ellis 14
Robin Harwood 14
Hannah Harwood 14
Paul Brooks 15
Kendra Helms 15
Rhonard MacRae 15
Gabrielle Dippre 16
Vauta Elliott 17
Regan Revis 18
Michael Helms Jr. 21
Mitchell Brown 24
Neal Morris 24
Scott Gaffigan 25
John McEntire 27

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Old Fort, NC
February 2012
Volume 46, Issue 2

THE VOICE

Pastor's Ponderings

FEBRUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY:

9:45 - Bible Study
11 - Worship Service
5 - Youth, Children's Choir
6 - Evening Bible Study, TeamKIDS
7 - Praise Team

MONDAY:

6:15 Handbell Practice

WEDNESDAY:

6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth, RA's, GA's, Acteens, Mission Friends
7 - Adult Choir Practice

Feb 5 - Baby Shower for Terra Wyatt
Feb 5 - Super Bowl Party 6 pm
Feb -10 Winter Jam 2012 & Youth Lock- In
Feb 12 - Youth Council 4 pm
Feb 12 - VBS Training 5 pm
Feb 12 - Deacon Meeting 7 pm
Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
Feb 19 - Children's Council 5 pm
Feb 25 - Valentine Banquet 6 pm

When I was a small boy I went with my dad just about everywhere he went. Most of the work he did was that of a farmer and a carpenter. I remember going with him to Columbia, SC to pick up a load of watermelons which we would sell to supplement the family income. I rode with him on the tractor. I went with him in the hay field. I supervised as he carpentered. Once, as he was tearing out a window to put in a door, I asked him if he was sure he knew how to build a door. It's not like I knew how at the age of five. As I went with my dad, learned from my dad, and began to work with my dad, I knew I wanted to be like my dad. I wanted to farm, carpenter, and do the things he did. As I grew older, it was my dream and his, for us to partner together and work together on the farm. I wanted to be about my father's business.

Jesus grew up in the home of a carpenter. He learned the carpentry trade and helped his earthly father in the carpentry business. He knew as a boy of twelve, however, that he was to be about his Heavenly Father's business. At the age of thirty, Jesus began his ministry of being about the Father's business. He took a group of twelve men, and He made them disciples and trained them to be about the Father's business. After Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, these men planted churches and made disciples of others who did the Father's business. These disciples planted churches and made more disciples who did the Father's business. And so on the story goes until here we are today. As I have grown older, I want to be about my Heavenly Father's business. The Heavenly Father desires our church to be about the His business.

On January 8, I challenged our church to meet to discuss how we can be about the Father's business. Over 30 adults and youth met to get busy about what the Father has commanded us to do. The meeting was for the church to come together and share together observations about where God is working and what the

church can do to join with the Father in His work.

Some great ideas came from this meeting, but we have only just begun. Some of the suggestions made were to have classes teaching the Baptist Doctrine, to improve communication to the congregation (especially our shut-ins), to find ways to reach out to those members who no longer come, to have men's ministry to reach men who don't attend church, to offer workshops at our church for the community, to find ways to have more fellowship among the membership, to offer support groups, and to offer helpful classes for teens struggling with worldly issues. Not only did great ideas and suggestions come from this meeting, but volunteers emerged to help make some of these ideas a reality instead of a dream.

We will meet again on February 12 at 6 PM for another My Father's Business Meeting. As we meet, understand this is about what we can do as a church to be about the Father's business, not what someone else can do. This is about what we can do. In this case, "we" includes you. What will you do to be about the Father's business? On February 5, minutes from the first session will be available in the foyer. Look at what was discussed, and join us on February 12 to share how you will be about the Father's business. What do you see God doing in our community, and how we can join Him? Come share your insight with everyone else.

Pastor Duane

Church Staff

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Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Susan Hoyle
2nd Sunday: Ron Arthur
3rd Sunday: Dena Caldwell
4th Sunday: Sherry Burnette

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TOYS TOYS TOYS TOYS TOYS TOYS

The 2012 Operation Christmas Child effort for Old Fort First Baptist Church kicked off on January 1. We are collecting **toys** for our shoe boxes for the months of January and February. There is a collection box in the church foyer. **TOY suggestions:** small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoo's, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), & Slinky. If you have any questions or would like to help in some way, please give us a call. Sherry Burnette 668-4301 or Catherine (Cathy) Moore 668-4419.



It's time to order next quarters' Sunday School materials. March-May materials will be ordered Feb 10th. Teachers, please let Darlene know of any changes by then. Thanks. Darlene 738.3030

If you have books due back to the Library please return them as soon as possible. We would like to get them back in circulation. Just put them in the box outside the Library. This doesn't apply if you have checked out books since November. Thanks, Keith

Just a reminder - Please don't leave left over food in the refrigerator unless it is going to be used in a few days. Thank you. Margie Swann, Hospitality Chairperson

Don't forget about Katherine's Closet which is a Prom Dress Ministry begun by Hayley Duncan. If you have an old prom dress hanging in your closet that you will probably never wear again, contact Hayley and donate your dress to Katherine's Closet so a girl in our county who can't afford a prom dress can have one to go to her prom.



AVBS meeting will be held Feb. 12 at 5 pm for ANYONE wanting to volunteer for VBS. VBS will be a little different this year so I'm encouraging everyone to come to ask questions and be in the loop of things. A Children's Council will be held Feb. 19 at 5 pm to plan the Easter Egg Hunt and other children's events.



Just a reminder that our website has copies of our newsletters, calendars, and bulletins. There are also pages with information about our missions, ministries, youth, and other activities. Audio and video sermons are available there as well.

Marvin and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, visits, and goodies which you so generously share. Please continue to pray for us. Happy new year! Marjorie McEntire

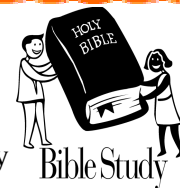


Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers! With sincere appreciation & gratitude. The Morris Family

Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. With our thanks George & Lois Early

Merry Christmas to FBC youth and Adult leaders. Thank you for coming to our home to carol with the wonderful songs that bless us all this season. Hugh was so happy to be able to join in. Thanks to each one. Love to all, Hugh & Ruby Guffey

We have already begun the 2012 January Bible Study, which takes place on Sunday evenings at 6 PM. The January Bible Study for 2012 is based on the Book of Ecclesiastes which will raise the most challenging questions we face in life in a very realistic way; remind us what life is really like when we choose the pattern of this world rather than what God has to give; help us develop an everyday theology, showing us how to shape a Christian worldview in light of the challenges of secularism; serve as a guide for us as we seek to learn how to engage culture in an effective way; and enable us to see afresh our need for the gospel of Jesus Christ.



HERE WE GROW...JANUARY	
Avg. Worship Attendance...	Avg. General Fund...\$
Avg. SS Attendance...	Avg. Maint/Bldg Fund.....\$

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Homebound: Marjorie McEntire, Hugh Guffey, Mary McEntire, Exam Haney, George Early, Grady & Mildred McCauley, Bob Bishop, Charles & Betty Marston, Ronnie Harmon

Nursing Home: Carolyn Miller, Marvin McEntire, Bernice McAfee

By now, you know that I drive a lot. I can remember a time when I couldn't wait until the day I could get my permit and my license. It was the day AFTER my 16th birthday when I went for my driving test because my birthday fell on a Sunday-BUMMER! During the driving test, I had to make the dreaded 3-point road turn. Right in the middle of the maneuver, the car stalled. Panic! "I've messed up, the car won't start and I'll fail my test," I thought. But luck was on my side. Calmly, I put the car in park, re-started, and continued with my test. I passed. The examiner told my father that he was impressed that I handled the situation well and quickly. In conversation with Robin Harwood, who will probably be getting his driving permit soon, I was reminded of these events, reliving a brief moment of my youth. Controlling the situation at that age, at that time, was a monumental achievement. For the first time ever, I was beginning to feel mature. The Lord was with me, guiding me, helping me "control" the situation and consequently, reaching the desired outcome. **I GOT MY LICENSE.** I just started typing this and wasn't real sure where I was going with it but now I see it clearly. The inspiration is most likely from the sermon on January 22nd. Duane spoke about control, and I thought about it as more than our tongue. Everything, every aspect of life has a point of control, of no return, of "do-it-or-die." Who's in control-me or THEE? Do I feed, thrive off control? Do I demand too much because I think it's gotta be my way or the highway? Do I think I'm always right or my idea is always the best? Prayerfully, I hope you don't see my efforts in my work as control, but rather constantly seeking an inspiration from God. I flounder, falter, get confused, forget, mis-speak, and lose control. *(if you don't believe me, ask a choir member)* Pull on the reins, Lori. Take a step back and listen to Me. I feel a spark, an ember igniting in our midst. Do you feel it? Are you listening? Where can you plug in and get involved? The choir has a goal of one new member each month. Will you be one of those 12...oh, we'll be happy to have more. How about a senior adult choir? Maybe we should have more special music from YOU! Will you volunteer? We'd like to have some guitars to play in worship. Can you help us? How about learning to play handbells? And BTW, hope you enjoyed the mini concert by Robin Vaughan-Parler. She uses her gift for the edification of HIS kingdom in a wonderful way. There more special music planned in the near future. Stay tuned!



The Blue Ridge Baptist Association is sponsoring a Women's Retreat to be held Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 6 pm to 9 pm at Nebo First Baptist Church. Joani Tabor will be our guest speaker/soloist for this retreat. For more information go to www.JoaniTabor.org.



Beginning in February, the Deacon of the Week will be responsible for the Wednesday night prayer service. A special thanks to David Blackwelder, who has been leading the prayer service since the pastor began working with the youth on Wednesdays last May. Please support our deacons as they take on this important ministry.



YOUTH GROUP **T**he youth have a lot going on right now. The youth are now registered for camp. Sponsors are still needed for kids whose parents can't afford to send them to camp. The cost for a total sponsor is \$140 per youth. Please see the pastor if you can help with this. A Super Bowl Party is planned on February 5 at the home of Duane and Dena at 6 PM following pizza and Bible Study at the church at 5 PM. The youth are going to the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville for Winter Jam 2012 on February 10 then will return from the concert for a lock-in at the church. A trip to see Casting Crowns in concert is planned for March 8 if 10 or more people sign up to go by February 5. The cost is \$18 each.

The youth are also hosting the Valentine's Banquet on February 25 at 6 PM. Cindy and April are working on the details. The youth are planning on visiting one shut-in each month to have one of our monthly youth meetings. Cindy is teaching the Book of Revelation on Sunday evenings, and there is a lot of interest from the youth in that study. A great big thanks goes to all the volunteers and financial contributors to our youth. You make this program the success it is.

The Valentine's Banquet will be held February 25 at 6 PM. The cost per person is \$10. There will be a delicious meal and some wonderful entertainment. The youth are hosting this event and will be serving the meal and taking care of their guests. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and the deadline for tickets is Sunday, February 19. The youth are also asking to borrow a wedding picture from couples that plan to attend the banquet. They need these pictures by February 12 in order to have something very special for these couples at the banquet. Be sure to mark your calendars and make plans to attend this great evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

