

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Phil Lowery
2nd Sunday: Tim Owen
3rd Sunday: Bill Ramsey
4th Sunday: Bob Smith

March Wedding Anniversaries

James & Sandra Scoles 4
Don & Keith Gibbs 17
Tony & Ellen Silver 20

March Birthdays

Sandra Gainey 1
Jessica Gibbs 1
Rita Christopher 4
Jeanette MacRae 5
Matthew Norton 8
Duane Caldwell 9
Brayden Helms 9
Aaron Green 10
Betsey Jones 11
Linda Owen 11
Judith Welker 14
June Wilson 14
Jo Harmon 16
Robert Simmons 19
Suzy Willoughby 21
Wendi Evans 23
Jimmie Harris 23
Larry Hunter 23
Matthew Hunter 23
Bill Early 24
Nova Effler 24
Mike Haynes 24
Julie McKinney 25
James Beach 27
Kimberly Kite 27
Samson Brooks 28
Erin McEntire 29
Terry Wilson 29
Teresa Coons 30
Shannon Raines 30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Old Fort, NC

March 2011

Volume 45, Issue 3

THE VOICE

Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Ron Arthur
2nd Sunday: Jimmie Harris
3rd Sunday: Sherry Burnette
4th Sunday: Rhonard MacRae



March 4th

Church Staff

Duane Caldwell, Pastor
Joe Baker, Youth Pastor
David Workman, Pianist
Lori Patton, Minister of Music
Melissa Parry, Secretary

Office: 828-668-7853
Fax: 828-668-7578
Email: offbc@frontier.com
Website: OldFortFirstBaptist.com

MARCH EVENTS

SUNDAY:

9:45 - Bible Study
11 - Worship Service
5 - Youth
6 - Evening Worship Service, TeamKIDS

WEDNESDAY:

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

Mar. 4 - Blood Drive
Mar. 6 - Deacon's Meeting 7pm
Mar 13 - DST begins
Mar. 13 - Youth Council 7pm
Mar. 20 - Baptist Men's Breakfast 8:30am

J.R. Briggs relates the following story.

Pastor's Ponderings

"When I was growing up, my dad taught my brother and me to ski. I learned to love it. I remember the first time Alan and I skied for most of the day by ourselves. At the end of the day we clicked off our skis, and dad asked us a peculiar question: "Did you fall today?" "What?"

The question sounded pessimistic. That's not the normal first question you ask someone coming off a day on the slopes. Dad said it again: "Did you fall today?"

"No, I don't think I did," I responded somewhat proudly.

"Then you didn't try something new today, did you?"

His response startled me. What do you mean? I stayed up the entire day without falling! Dad went on to explain that if we didn't fall then we probably weren't in a position to try something new, something daring, something that scared you a little bit—something that involved risk on the mountain. And thus, we probably didn't have an opportunity to become a better skier."



The Voice
First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 10
Old Fort, NC 28762

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Like J.R., we like to play it safe. We want to do those activities with which we feel comfortable and safe. God asks us to step out of our comfort zones every once in a while and do something new, something we haven't done before. Why? He does it for at least a couple of reasons. One, He wants us to learn to trust Him. He wants our faith to grow. God wants us to be willing to be totally dependent on Him. Another reason, He wants us to do a better job of serving Him. The more we risk, the better we become at serving God with the gifts He has given us. Sometimes we are able to use gifts we didn't even know we had until we stepped out in faith and used them.

God asked Moses to step out of his comfort zone. Moses had all kinds of excuses not to do what God asked him to do, but in the end, Moses learned to totally depend on God. Because he trusted God, Moses became better and better at what God called him to do.

I know in my own life the longer I serve Him, follow Him out of my comfort zones, and step into activities which God calls me to do, the better I get at completing – and even excelling – at those tasks. I learn day by day to trust Him more because He has never let me down. I know by faith He will never let me down. I know if I obey God in doing something I have never done before, He will empower me to accomplish what He calls me to do.

There is a prayer in the Bible known as the prayer of Jabez. He prays for God to expand his borders. He is asking God to help him go beyond his comfort zone and serve God in ways he has never served Him before. Jabez wanted to be better in his service and more secure in his trust in the God who created him. Are you willing to pray that prayer? Are you willing to do something that scares you a little bit? Are you willing to try something new for God? If you do, I believe you will find Jesus will be right there with you to empower you, protect you, and see you through. You will be blessed if you take risks for Jesus.



“Notes” --- from LORI

By the time you are reading this, you have probably heard the wonderful talents of Greg Conley, who sang in our worship in February. Many of you responded in many ways as the spirit moved you. Hopefully you also heard “Glory Bound”, a truly talented group of spirit-led Christian musicians. And of course you’ve heard the choir, the praise team, and other special music. All these offerings were divinely inspired and inspiring, perhaps even brought you to tears. I get so emotional that sometimes I just can’t sit still...not long ago I went to a concert and spend a good bit of it either on my feet or wiggling in my seat, clapping and saying “amen” along with the rest of the audience. It did my heart so much good. It’s good to clap, pat your foot, raise your hands, stand in awe, and shed a tear, even smile. But it is also OK just to sit and absorb the spirit as it surrounds and uplifts and fills us as during our worship. These are all truly wonderful expressions. I doubt FBC is ever going to turn into a holy-rolling, rip-roaring, cymbal-clapping, loud, noisy church. But you know what, it says in the Bible to make a joyful, noise, sing, and play instruments... Let the spirit of worship in FBC grow and glow. I encourage you to respond in whatever way the Lord leads. Respond to the spirit as it touches your soul. God will be pleased that you are happy in Him. Now, can we get a resounding AMEN??



Glory Bound, a blue grass gospel group, will be here for a free concert Sunday, Feb. 27th evening at 6 PM. Be sure to invite everyone you know. For more Detail go to www.gloryboundbluegrassgospel.web.com on the internet



Thank you for the beautiful yellow spiders/ with lavender & purple daises & yellow carnations arrangement. On behalf of the family, we wish to express our deepest gratitude for your many acts of kindness during our loss of Walter. During a time like this we realize how much our friends & relatives really mean to usYour expression of sympathy will always be remembered. The family of Walter Hemphill

The family of Clifford Ross acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you for the lovely basket of mixed purple & peach flowers you sent in memory of my father. We also thank you for your prayers, phone calls and thoughtful cards. Your kindness touched our hearts. Sue & Art Demers

Just when friends are needed
You find them always near:
Just when shadows darken,
Their comforting words you hear.
Thank you Robbie & Marche’

I greatly appreciate the fruit basket. Rachel Gilliam



It is hard to believe that February is almost gone and March is here. In like a Lion and out like a Lamb is the general idea of what the weather will be like this coming month. I have heard this old saying most of my life. I hope that this year it will be more like a Lamb all month and we will avoid any bad weather. This old saying reminds me of what life is like. We have so much strife and so much turmoil that our lives are almost like the turbulent Lion portion of March. However, if we have allowed Jesus to live in our lives and save us from our sins we finish out like a Lamb, living easily in His presence. Are you in the Lion turbulent portion of your life or have you moved on to live your life like the Lamb?

The youth committee has met over the past few weeks and we have finished planning camp for this summer. Our youth will be heading to Ridgecrest again this year to participate in Centrifuge. This was such a blessing last year we felt it would be great to jump right back in this year. Camp at Ridgecrest brought our youth home with a zeal and a vigor for Christ that was unmatched to anything I have seen before in our youth group. The add on this year is we will be going to Myrtle Beach to minister on the beach with Myrtle Beach Christian Retreats. This will be a great time for our youth to implement what they have learned at Camp about ministry in the real world. These two trips will take a lot of dedication from our youth and from you. We will need prayers and also financial help from you at our church. This will be a large undertaking but with help from you we will succeed. We thank you so much for all your prayers and support. Joe and the OFFBC youth



Once again our church is involved in Relay for Life. Our goal is \$1200. The event is being held at Tom Johnson’s Camping Center on Friday night, May 6. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length. For more information on how you can participate or contribute, see Tiffany Parker or Cindy Harwood.



Check out our website at www.oldfortfirstbaptist.com. We have added some new features and pages we think you will be able to use and enjoy. There is a video sermon page which has recent video sermons . There is also an audio sermon page where you can either listen or download sermons from First Baptist Church. We have also added a page where you can view or print either current or archived bulletins. New bulletins will be posted on Friday prior to the Sunday Service. Finally, the monthly newsletter will be posted on our web site. We hope you find these additions helpful in your daily walk.



There is a Men’s Bible Study held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. The Men’s Bible study is open to any male 17 years of age and up. The group is meeting in the Youth Room. Each session begins with fellowship and prayer, followed by a study in God’s word, lead by Mark Shelton, each study ends with another time of fellowship. We could all benefit from more time spent in God’s word with fellow Christian brothers. Make plans to come out for a relaxed, but spiritual time. There will probably even be some snacks. For more information contact Eric Parker.



We have begun our Winter Bible Study on Sunday evenings. The study is on the book of Galatians. The adults and youth will both go through this study but in separate groups. The study is entitled "Truth About Grace." Please make plans to join us each Sunday evening at 6 PM..

Homebound: Gloria Holley, Marjorie McEntire, Hugh Guffey, Angie Knupp, Mary McEntire, Exam Haney, George Early
Nursing Home: Carolyn Miller, Francis Morris, Bob Bishop, Bernice McAfee, Marvin McEntire, Grady & Mildred McCauley

HERE WE GROW...FEBRUARY
Avg. Worship Attendance ... Avg.95 General Fund...\$2,959
Avg. SS Attendance... Avg. 69 Maint/Bldg Fund.....\$258
* Feb. 27th not included but Jan. 30th is

Due to the economic condition surrounding us, the mission trip to Brazil has been cancelled for 2011. If it is God’s will, we will plan another trip for 2012. We are in the process of finding some local projects and missions to be involved in this year. Be praying how God could use you here in McDowell County or even somewhere in the eastern United States.

