

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
2nd Sunday: Jimmie Harris
3rd Sunday: Phil Lowery
4th Sunday: Tim Owen

Church Staff

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

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May Wedding Anniversaries

Bob & Becky Smith 2
Larry & Susan McElfresh 3
Grady & Mildred McCauley 9
Kevin & Danna Revis 17
Ronald & Jean Harmon 19
Tim & Kim Kite 24
James & Barbra Carswell 25
Tony & Tammy Whitson 30

May Birthdays

Zane Wyatt 2
Makayla Pullium 5
Catherine Moore 6
Laurie Norton 7
Luke Lytle 8
Mark Shelton 10
Justin Braswell 15
Tony Silver 17
Debbie Pullium 19
Phillip Lowery 20
Judy Warren 20
Leia Becker 21
Angie Knupp 21
Tony Whitson 21
Marvin McEntire 29
Mary Faw 31

Offertory Prayer:

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

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Old Fort, NC

May 2011

Volume 45, Issue 5

THE VOICE

MAY 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

May 1 - Sunday School Picnic at Owen Park at 2pm (no evening services at FBC)
May 5 - Blood Drive
May 8 - Mother's Day
May 8 - No Evening Services
May 10 - Deacon's meeting 7pm
May 12 - Senior Adult Rally 10:30 am at Glenwood Baptist Church
May 12 - Men's Bible Study 6pm
May 15 - Quarterly Conference
May 15 - Youth Council 7pm
May 22 - Baptist Men's Breakfast
May 22 - Youth Lead Team Meeting for lunch
May 22 - Pennsylvania Mission Trip Meeting at 7pm
May 26 - Men's Bible Study 6pm
May 29 - Senior Adult Day
May 29 - No Evening Services
May 30 - Memorial Day (Office Closed)

Pastor's Ponderings

I received this story recently from someone very close to me and I wanted to share it with our readers. The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in any way he could. One day the grandson asked, 'Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?' The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, 'Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water.' The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, 'You will have to move a little faster next time,' and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster, but again the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was 'impossible to carry water in a basket,' and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, 'I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough,' and he went out the door to watch the boy try again. At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breathe, he said, 'See Papa, it's useless!' 'So you think it is useless? Look at the basket.' The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it was clean. 'Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.'

Many people get really frustrated when they take the time to read the Bible because they don't understand what they have just read and because they don't remember much of what they read. This story does illustrate a very pertinent truth about the Word of God. It will change us if we will just read it. The Scripture is alive and active. It is the very Word of God spoken to us individually through the Spirit of God. Even when we don't think we remember what we have read in the Bible, just when we need it most, the Holy Spirit will bring it back to our remembrance. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11). Are you willing to take the time to let God's Word change you from the inside out by reading it daily?

Pastor Duane

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

Our family at OFFBC, I don't understand when good things go bad, or how tragedy fits in His plan, but I do know He is there beside me and He never lets go of my hand. I also know that our church family never lets go as well. The many phone calls, the many expressions of love, the most beautiful flowers, especially of many colors (mom loved colorful flowers). These were acts of love from your hearts to ours. We are so blessed to have a church family that loves our Lord, then its members. Thank you is not enough, however our love will last forever. In God we trust! Mary & David Blackwelder

Thank you all so much for your thoughts, prayers, & cards. Melissa Parry & family

It is such warm wonderful feeling to know we have friends like you. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, thoughts, visits, & food extended to us during mu surgery & recovery. A special thanks to TeamKIDS for all the beautiful cards of encouragement. Love to all, Bill & Mary Faw

The Carl Morris family has made a contribution to The Baptist Men in memory of Clifford Ross.

Your expression of thoughts & prayers during the loss of Randy, is very much appreciated. It is soothing to know that our spiritual family can sorrow & rejoice with us. Many blessings The Randy Hopper Family



VBS will be July 17th - 22nd from 6pm to 8:30pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm each evening. Please save these dates now for your children & grandchildren to attend VBS.



Spring has come. It is my favorite time of year. The trees have now put out their leaves. The blooms have come out and shown us their beauty. God has given us so many things to look at and be in awe of his creation. We tend to get too busy in our lives and forget to stop and smell the roses. God wants us to take some time to spend with him. He doesn't ask for much, just that we think of him and talk to him. In your time of talking to him take the time to thank him for the beauty that he has set all around

us. We are blessed to have a God that gives us this beauty.

The OFFBC youth have finalized our plans for the 2011 summer. This year we will be going again to Centrifuge at Ridgecrest Conference Center. The dates are June 20th through June 25th. We are very excited to have the opportunity to go there again this year. We look forward to the same blessing God gave us last year and pray for more. I want to thank the people who have volunteered their time to come be with us all week. The youth will be required to take one mission class at Camp this year. Our goal is for the youth to learn how to better witness to people so later on in the summer we can be great missionaries on the Pennsylvania trip. The youth will be going to Reading, PA with the adults to work with our hands, hearts and actions. Please say a prayer for our youth as we prepare for what God is going to do with us at these times this summer.

I am very excited about what God is doing in the youth. We have a great number of adults working with the youth. We would like to invite you to join us as we begin Lead Teams. These teams are open to anyone and are there to help plan and execute several different areas in the youth. One area we would like to focus on is people to help us coordinate and execute a nursing home ministry with the youth. On May 22nd we will have a meeting after church, lunch included, to talk more about the lead team concept.

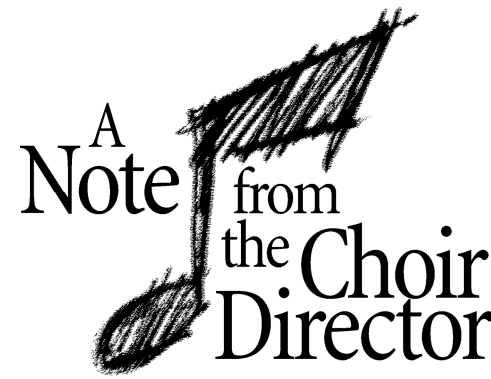
We thank you for your support and prayers, Joe Baker and the OFFBC Youth

HERE WE GROW...APRIL

Avg. Worship Attendance... 110 Avg. General Fund...\$3,082
Avg. SS Attendance... 71 Avg. Maint/Bldg Fund.....\$340



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



If you missed the "talent" night on Palm Sunday evening, you truly missed a treat. The night was an amazing, perfect expression and exclamation of God's gifts to us. It started out with me jokingly issuing a disclaimer for whatever was about to happen. There were a few snickers in the room but I also said that nobody could leave tonight without being blessed and finding out something new. That was an extremely true statement. We were treated to a relaxing journey through the forest to witness God's beautiful nature. We heard some lovely, heart-felt singing, beautiful artwork by "Gretchen", a woman of many talents. There was some clowning around...Children shared some precious music and signing. We heard a couple of good stories from Ronard and Julie. Then there

was that boisterous rendition (despite technical difficulties) of "Baptist to the Bone". Kim Kite surprised us all with her beautiful voice and a song that she wrote. We had a little test on our knowledge of the alphabet. It was a fun and touching evening. You would have been surprised at the pouring out of emotion and expressions of love. Beforehand, several people told me that these type of events were not successful in the past but I wasn't discouraged. It was a time of wonderful, spirit-filled worship unlike any other. We had a good time in God's house!

I have a question for you. Can you honestly say that you would be spontaneous when God calls upon you for a task? I saw some of that Sunday night, and we were truly blessed by those that bravely stood up and shared. They were stepping out of their comfort zone into a scary new and unfamiliar place. Next time you hear that we're going to have a night like this, please don't stay home. Be open, excited and enthusiastic - we not only need participants - the listeners are important, too.

We're looking for your hidden talents to fill some seats in the choir loft or to lift a hand bell, or to share some special music one Sunday. If you feel so led, please talk to me. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow! Happy May and Happy Singing! Lori

May 29 is going to be Senior Adult Day. Rev. Tim Lolley will be the guest speaker. Tim is the son of Rev. Tom Lolley, who was pastor at FBC from 1977-1981. Our senior adults will be honored during this service. We will have a covered dish luncheon following the service.



Following the morning worship service on May 1st, there will be an opportunity to donate money to help finance the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial coming to McDowell County May 11th - 16th. Of the more than 58,000 names inscribed on the wall, approximately 1,600 are from North Carolina and more than 20 are from McDowell County. The event is expected to cost \$25,000 and they have asked for our help. Anything you can give will be appreciated.

There will be a Sunday School picnic at Owen Park in Swannanoa on Sunday afternoon, May 1 at 2 PM. Bring your favorite covered dish and we will eat at 5 PM. The church will furnish ice, cups, and drinks. All you need to bring is your family and your covered dish. There is a map to the park in the foyer if you need directions. If you need a ride please see Tony Silver. There will be activities, including softball and basketball, from 2 until 5 PM. Dinner will be followed by a vespers service. There will be no evening activities at the church. For more information, please contact Bob Smith.



There will be a meeting on May 22 at 7pm for the mission trip to Reading, Pennsylvania for the last week in July. Everyone planning to participate in the trip should attend this meeting. The purpose of the trip is to help Berks Baptist Church reach a community of about 3000 people with the gospel through clowning, sports clinics, backyard Bible clubs, and possibly light construction. If you cannot go but can give financial support, please feel free to give by putting Pennsylvania Mission Trip on your envelope. Something everyone can do is pray.

