

Deacon of the Week:

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

September Wedding Anniversaries

A.C. & Thurlene Hogan 2
Bill & Juanita Ramsey 6
Keith & Cathy Duncan 10
John & April Brooks 18
Tim & Linda Owen 19
Allen Rebecca Harris 21

September Birthdays

Larry McElfresh 1
Linda Carr 3
Betty Marston 3
Carolyn Miller 3
Thurlene Hogan 7
Buddy Martin 10
Ken Norton 16
Bob Smith 17
Wayne McCauley..... 20
Roger Harwood 22
Jonathan Stephenson..... 25
Jack Boulton 26
Masen Davis 27
Jennifer Warren..... 27
Dickie Raines 30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Old Fort, NC
September 2011
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THE VOICE

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David Workman, Pianist
Lori Patton, Minister of Music
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Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
2nd Sunday: Bud Faw
3rd Sunday: Tony Silver
4th Sunday: Mary Faw

Sept. 2nd



SEPTEMBER 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

Sept 2 - Blood Drive 1 to 6pm
Sept 4 - No Evening Services
Sept 5 - Labor Day Office Closed
Sept 10 - Youth Super Saturday Game Night 6 pm until
Sept 11 - Deacon's Meeting 7 pm
Sept 18 - Baptist Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
Sept 18 - Youth Council & Youth Lead Teams 7 pm
Sept 25 - Youth Nursing Home Ministry 4:30 pm

Pastor's Ponderings

A recent article I read by Matt Woodley, managing editor of PreachingToday.com, sparked some thoughts I would like to share.

Sports fans around the world can rely on one fact about their sport: the home team wins more often than the visiting team. A 2011 Sports Illustrated article concludes: "Home field advantage is no myth. Indisputably, it exists Across all sports and at all levels, from Japanese baseball to Brazilian soccer to the NFL, the team hosting a game wins more often than not." What explains this fact?

A wealth of evidence disputes the most common theories behind home team advantage. For instance, thousands of cheering or jeering fans didn't change a team's performance. On a number of statistics—such as pitch velocity in baseball or free throw percentage in basketball (which over two decades was 75.9 percent for home and visiting teams)—home field advantage didn't make a difference. Their research also eliminated other likely theories based on the rigors of travel for the visiting team or the home team's familiarity with their field, rink, or court. So what drives home field advantage? According to the authors of the article, "Officials' bias is the most significant contribution to home field advantage." In short, the refs don't like to get booed. So when the game gets close, they call fewer fouls or penalties against the home team; or they call more strikes against visiting batters. Larger and louder fans really do influence the calls from the officials. The refs naturally (and often unconsciously) respond to the pressure from the crowd. Then they try to please the angry fans and make the calls that will lessen the pain of crowd disapproval. In the end, the refs' people-pleasing response can have an impact on the final result of the game.

The Voice
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This world is Satan's home field, and I am afraid many pastors and churches have fallen into the same trap as the officials in sporting events. Because of pressures from those who live for the world, churches have tried to become politically correct as to not offend anyone. In order to bring more people into their churches, they water down the gospel and no longer call sin what it is; and Satan is getting a foothold in these churches. Pastors who want to be people pleasers instead of God pleasers have a peaceful life in their churches, but are they at peace with God? As Christians, we must be willing to stand for what is right and what is pleasing to God, even if it is not politically correct or even if it offends people. We must take a stand for truth in a loving way, but we must stand for God's truth. God's truth is not always popular, and it is not always easy; but it is right no matter what it costs us. The truth cost God's only Son His life to pay the price for our sin. The truth is - sin is sin, whether we consider it big or small. The truth is - the price for all sin is the same, which is death. The truth is - God cannot tolerate sin of any kind. The truth is - Jesus paid the price for our sin and by faith in Him we have eternal life. The truth is - there is no other way to heaven except through Jesus Christ. The truth is - God expects us to live for Him and not for the world or our own pleasures. The truth is - God loves us no matter what we have done, but if we have faith in Jesus, there must be evidence of a changed life. Let us be Christians who stand for truth and not let Satan have the home field advantage.



Dear church family,
Thank you so very much for the prayers lifted up and also for the visits and kindness shown to Ron & Jean Harmon during their illness. We appreciate you so very much! With gratitude, The Harmons



This summer has been a summer of spiritual growth and relational growth for the Youth of FBC. Old Fort First Baptist Church can be very proud of our youth. They have been busy. The youth went to Centrifuge and came back to lead in a very moving worship service. Some of the youth went on the mission trip to Pennsylvania, and once again led in a great worship service. These young people turned out in record numbers for VBS and brought their friends. They have been to Sliding Rock, to a water park, to swim parties, to game nights, and to movie nights. The youth worked hard distributing food through the Lunch Bunch Ministry.

Summer is now over, and school has begun; but our Lead Teams are still busy planning activities for the youth. Monthly Game Nights are scheduled for the first Saturday night of each month except September, when game night will be on the second Saturday. Our youth would like the Game Nights to be open to the entire church in order for everyone to come together to spend time building relationships. They are indeed growing spiritually. Trips to the nursing homes are planned. Community projects are being planned as well. Our youth continue to stay busy.

On November 18 -19, the youth are going to Gatlinburg for the *Hearts on Fire Conference*. The youth will be picked up from school on Friday, November 18 in order to ride to Gatlinburg for the evening session of the conference. They will spend the night, worship on Saturday, and return home Saturday evening. The cost to each youth is \$40. A deposit of \$10 is due Sunday, September 11. After that, another \$10 will be due every 3 weeks until the day of the trip. This expense could be a financial burden for some of our youth. If anyone would like to sponsor a youth for this trip, please see Pastor Duane before September 11.

At one point this summer, the youth fund was completely depleted. A number of our church members stepped up and made donations so the Youth Ministry would not suffer. Those donations are more appreciated than you will ever know. We have had so many excellent volunteers working with our youth this summer, and each volunteer has been very blessed by interacting with these young people. These kids make people feel loved. So if you would like to feel really blessed and loved, join the volunteers who work with the Youth Ministry of FBC. Anyone who knows a youth, 7th through 12th grade, who doesn't have a church, please encourage them to join our youth on Sundays and Wednesdays, or give their contact information to Pastor Duane; so someone from our Youth Ministry can invite them. Pray for the Youth Ministry as it continues to grow.

JUST FOR FUN, SEE HOW MANY ANSWERS YOU KNOW:



- Get your kicks, _____.'
- The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____.'
- In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____.'
- After the Twist, the Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we 'danced' under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the '_____.'
- Nestle's makes the very best _____.'
- Satchmo was America's 'Ambassador of Goodwill.' Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was _____.
- What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? _____.
- Red Skeleton's hobo character was named _____ and Red always ended his television show by saying, 'Good Night, and _____.'

Well, how did you do? Ok, now that you've exercised your brain, I have one more question. Would you be willing to expand your knowledge and skills even more? Join a group: Adult choir, or handbell choir or try the Praise Team. If you are nervous about trying, let me try to alleviate that fear - I am very patient and I am also a good teacher. Come and try - you might find out it's fun or better yet, you have a gift that just needs a little encouragement. God needs and loves you and so do I!!!



Prayer Chain sign-up sheets will be in the foyer. If you would like to be added or remain on the list please sign up & make sure we have your current phone number.



There will be a called business meeting on Sunday, September 11 for the purpose of voting on those nominated for Deacons and also for approving the Building and Grounds Committee to spend up to \$1500 on repairs and renovations to the Myers Rental Property in order to be able to rent the house.



There will be a called business meeting on Sunday, September 25 for the purpose of voting on the Nominating Committee Report for 2011-12 Church Officers, Ministries, and Committees.



The Nursing Home Youth Lead Team has planned a trip to Mountain Ridge Wellness Center to visit the shut-ins on September 25. Those going will meet at 4:30 for a baked spaghetti dinner before leaving for Mountain Ridge. The group will return at 7 PM. For more information please contact Kim Kite.



On September 10 the Youth Fellowship Lead Team will sponsor a Super Saturday Game Night beginning at 6 PM. Everyone in the church is invited to this time of fun and fellowship. There will be board games, video games, ping pong, puzzles, and snacks. You can bring your favorite board game or puzzle. You may also bring your favorite snacks or sandwiches if you would like. See Lori Patton for more information.



Just a reminder that our website has copies of our newsletters, calendars, and bulletins. There are also pages for information about our missions, ministries, youth, other activities.

Anyone willing to deliver monthly and quarterly materials to our church family members who are unable to come to church, please contact Darlene at home (738-3030). Thanks



RA's will not meet on Wed., Sept. 14th.

HERE WE GROW...AUGUST

Avg. Worship Attendance... Avg. 90 General Fund...\$2,926
Avg. SS Attendance... Avg. 75 Maint/Bldg Fund.....\$305



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