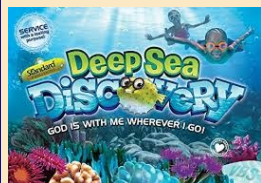




May 2025

Volume LXXVII, No. 05



**Wednesday Nights in May
(May 7, 14, 21, 28)**

Vacation Bible School 2025

Invite friends!

**Supper for Children and Volunteers
5:30 pm-6:00 pm
VBS 6:00 pm - 7:35 pm**

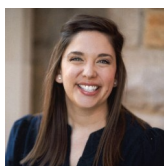
**May 18
Third Congregational Conversation
Graduate Recognition and Youth Sunday
Reception Honoring Anna Burch's Ministry to FBC Children**

**Third Congregational Conversation
9:00 am Breakfast
9:30 am Session Begins**



**11:00 am
Graduate Recognition and Youth Sunday**

**12:15 pm
Reception for Anna Burch**



A Note from the Pastor

A Season of Transitions and Commitments

May always feels like a month of movement — a season of transitions marked by endings, beginnings, and everything in between. At First Baptist, this May is especially full. It is a month where we both celebrate and commit, honoring where we have been and leaning with hope into what God has next.

On **Sunday, May 18**, we will gather for a particularly meaningful morning of worship. That day, we will recognize and celebrate our graduates — young women and men who are stepping into a new season of life, education, and calling. As a church family, we rejoice with them, bless them, and remind them that they do not go into the future alone. They are held by the God who calls and the church who loves.

That same Sunday, we will also honor **Anna Burch**, who has faithfully served our congregation as Minister of Children. Anna's final Sunday with us will be May 18, and her official last day will be May 31. Anna's dedication, leadership, and heart for children have shaped our life together in profound ways. We are grateful for her many gifts and the ways she has helped shape the faith of our children and their families. We hope you'll join us after worship for a reception honoring Anna. Plan to stop by and express your gratitude and encouragement as she steps into a new chapter.

Before worship, we will also gather for our third and final **Congregational Conversation Breakfast**. These conversations have been rich with hope, honesty, and discernment. Join us as we have guided group discussions. We'll offer four break-out groups: outreach and growth goals, mission and service action, youth and children programming, and facility needs. Those four areas have been prominent themes as we have sought God's guidance for the future of First Baptist. Your voice matters. Your prayers matter. We invite you to come, share, listen, and help us envision what faithful ministry looks like in the years ahead.

In all of these moments — from honoring the past to shaping the future — we are reminded that church life doesn't slow down with the school year. Summer schedules may pull us in many directions, but our calling to worship, serve, and grow together continues. Even amid vacations and summer routines, we encourage you to stay connected. Worship isn't just a weekly obligation — it is the heartbeat of our life together. It anchors us in God's story and reminds us who and whose we are.

This season of transition invites a season of more profound commitment. Let's lean into the joy of celebrating what God has done, even as we listen for what God is doing next. Let's show up for our graduates, for Anna, for our church's future, and for the sacred rhythm of worship that shapes our lives.

God is on the move at First Baptist. Let's follow God with gratitude, with hope, and with hearts wide open.

Your Pastor,

John



Worship in May

Sunday—May 4

Scripture: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Psalm 30

Sermon:

"Rumors of Resurrection:
Transformed Living"
John Uldrick

Special Music:

"Yonder Come Day"
"Shepherd, Savior, Lord"

Sounds of Grace Senior Adult Choir
David Corbitt, director
Stephanie Turner, piano

Sunday—May 11 Mother's Day

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43, Palm 23

Sermon:

"Rumors of Resurrection:
Miracles Abound"
John Uldrick

Special Music:

"For All the Faithful Women"
Chancel Choir, Rhonda McGinnis, flute;
Jean O. Wood handbells

Thursday—May 18 Graduate Recognition and Youth Sunday

Scripture: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148

Sermon:

"Rumors of Resurrection:
Even the Gentiles?"
John Uldrick

Special Music:

"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"
"Let All the People Praise Thee"
Voices of Grace Youth Choir

Sunday—May 25

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67

Sermon:

"Rumors of Resurrection:
All in the Family"
John Uldrick

Special Music:

"Send the Light" - Chancel Choir



Music Notes

ALLELUIA, and the "Coronation" of Jesus Our King

Happy Easter season! We now celebrate the Resurrection and shout "He Is Risen!" and "Alleluia" in our worship services. The return of our "Alleluias" signals that the forty days of Lenten reflection have led us to a time of spiritual celebration of the sacrifice of Jesus and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ's resurrection and conquering of death on the cross.

We will offer hymns and anthems of celebration during the coming months. One of my favorite hymns is "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" with words written by Edward Perronet in 1779. He was a close friend of the Wesleys, and was active in their work in England. Perronet was the son of an Anglican priest, and when he became convinced that the Wesleyan movement should separate from the Anglican Church, and they would not go with him, he left their group and formed his own independent church in Canterbury. He wrote the great hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" expressing joy and praise in religion, majesty of the heavenly arena, and evoking the spirit of the evangelistic movement. The Tune is known as CORONATION and coincides with the coronation of Jesus as our King. Many of the hymns during this Easter season will feature texts and verses that offer praise to the royal image of Christ as our King and Savior...

*Bring forth the royal diadem and
crown Him Lord of all. Alleluia, Amen.*

FBC Prayers for 2025

"God, who do You want us to be?"

"God, what do You want us to do?"



Music Positions Available Starting in August, 2025

We are in need of leaders in our music ministry this fall:

- Music Makers (4K-First Grade)
- Young Musicians (Second Grade through Fifth Grade)
- Youth Choir (Pianist)

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in assisting with our music ministry, please contact Keith Jameson.

Thank you!!!



You're Invited!

May 18
Immediately following worship
everyone is invited
to a reception
honoring Anna Burch
as she transitions
from her role as
Minister to Children

Express your appreciation for the work Anna has done in provided fun and enriching spiritual formation activities for FBC children. Offer your blessings to Anna as she enters a new chapter of her life.



How Hard Can It Be?

The answer to the question above is "EASY!!" If the answer to the question is EASY, what is the question? How hard can it be to give to First Baptist Church? Again, the answer is EASY! Giving to the annual Ministry Plan is easy. In fact, there are four EASY ways to financially support the ministry of First Baptist Church.

- 1) The first way to support the ministry and mission of First Baptist Church is to bring an offering to the church on Sunday. The offering plates are passed on Sunday to provide everyone the opportunity, as an act of worship, to support the work and ministry of First Baptist Church.
- 2) The second way is to give online through the church website or by downloading the Tithe.ly app.
- 3) The third way is to drop a check in the mail. Members of First Baptist have the opportunity to use offering envelopes provided by the church or personal note cards from home.
- 4) A fourth way to support the mission and ministry of First Baptist is setting up a reoccurring automatic bill pay through online bill pay with local banks.

Thank you in advance for not forgetting to financially support the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church this summer!





April Diaconate Update

The Diaconate met in-person for their April meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2025. The Diaconate approved minutes from March and April. The Diaconate received reports from the staff, Deacon Ministry Teams, Pastoral Care updates, and a financial report. The Diaconate also approved a recommendation from the Stewardship Committee to update the First Baptist Church Ministry Plan Development Policy.



A Reminder

In order to give our catering and kitchen crews a well-deserved rest, Wednesday Family Night Meals will not be offered during May, June, and July. The permanent reservation list will be revised in July. Watch the various church publications for information about fall kick-off events.



May Is State Missions Emphasis Month at FBC

The Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions helps CBFSC partner with life-giving ministries across the state of South Carolina. The offering supports CBFSC's support for the following covenant mission partners:

- Metanoia
- Palmetto Works
- Koinonia of Columbia
- Together for Hope Black Belt
- The Off Ramp
- Carolina Immigrant Alliance

The Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions also supports CBFSC Partnership and Church Project Grants.

Thank you for supporting the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of

- Carol Eck, sister of Cathy Harris,
- Don Bridges, uncle of Bonnie Corbitt,
- Zach Woodward, uncle of Lou Hilley,
- Barry Parham,
- Bill Whaley,
- Tom Smith, brother-in-law of Claudia Stokes,
- Susan Sims,
- Jane Walker, cousin of Lewis Walker,
- Rose Whaley,
- Karen Thomas, mother of April Mauldin.

Self: Katie Funderburk, Jackie Dewberry (no visitors)

Home: Karsyn Beard, Evelyn English, Jo Stevenson, Jill Riley, Kay Culbertson, Dennis Moore, Alicia Watson



2026 Ministry Plan

It is hard to believe, but work is already underway in the development on the 2026 Ministry Plan. According to the new First Baptist Church Ministry Plan Development Policy, "all requests for funds through the annual Ministry Plan are to be submitted to the Minister of Administration by the first Sunday in August." Forms will be sent to committee chairs and others at the end of the May. Please contact David Jennings if you have questions concerning the Ministry Plan for next year.

Financials

March 2025

March Receipts:	\$ 53,077.09
March Expenses:	\$ 91,125.89

March 30 –April 27, 2025

Period Need	\$ 95,721.70
Period Gifts	\$ 69,680.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	\$325,453.78
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	\$214,376.52
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	166
Worship Attendance (Avg)	233



Upcoming Dates for Childre and Their Families

May 3:

Strawberry Picking—10:00 am
(Meet at Alexander U-Pick Patch
389 Waterfall Dr., Mountville, SC)

May 7, 14, 21, 28:

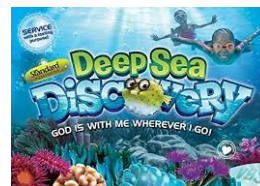
VBS Supper 5:30 pm
VBS 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

May 23

Deadline to sign up for Camp PRISM

July 15-18:

Camp PRISM
(children who have
completed 3rd-5th grade)



Vacation Bible School 2025

With the shortened summer, the Children's Committee is going to try holding VBS the Wednesday nights in May.

Invite friends!

Supper for Children and Volunteers
5:30 pm-6:00 pm

VBS 6:00 pm -7:35 pm

**Pick up will be at 7:35 pm under the
covered drive (like a carpool line)**

On May 28, the children will play water games at the end of the night. Dress for water fun (wear tee and shorts on top if wearing a bathing suit) and bring a towel. Pick up will be from the playground area at 7:35 pm.



Dear Church, Family,

Before Tony announced his departure, I had already discerned that it was time for me to transition professionally from First Baptist. Following his announcement, I remained through the interim period and into John's first year of leadership. Now, I believe the time has come for me to begin a new chapter.

I will officially resign from my position as Minister to Children effective May 31, 2025. However, my final Sunday in this role will be May 18, 2025.

I am incredibly proud of the Children's Ministry that has been built during my time here, and I am deeply grateful for the dedicated volunteers who have played such a vital role in its success. As I have often said, it takes many hands and hearts to sustain this ministry. First Baptist is blessed with some truly exceptional volunteers, and I am thankful for the time, talent, and love they have consistently poured into the lives of our children. I'm especially appreciative of those who have stepped up time and again, often serving in multiple roles, to ensure our ministry's needs were met. I'm also sincerely grateful to those who have offered encouragement and support to me personally throughout my ministry here.

I recently heard a quote: "If you want something to grow, you need to take care of the kids involved." We have remarkable volunteers at FBC, but we need more. During the interim period, I frequently heard a desire expressed for the church to grow. If that's a goal you share, I encourage you to consider serving in our Children's Ministry. Invest in our children—teach them, spend time with them, welcome them into worship and events, attend their activities, or help care for them during extended session. There is room for you in Children's Ministry to do the kingdom work of shepherding and loving our children.

After stepping away from my staff role and taking a short break, I look forward to continuing to serve and worship alongside you as a fellow member of First Baptist Church.

With Thanksgiving and Love,
Anna Burch



Come, Help Decorate for Vacation Bible School!



Anna and anyone willing to help will decorate for Vacation Bible School Sunday, May 4, at 3:30 pm. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall.



Camp P.R.I.S.M.

July 15-18

For children who have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade

Deposit due May 23

Youth News



May Sunday Night Live
Sunday, May 4
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Location TBA



PASSPORT Mission Trip June 22-27, 2025 Mississippi Delta Community College Moorhead, MS

The Youth PASSPORT Missions Trip will be June 22-27, 2025, with the youth traveling to Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, MS. This will be an exciting, missions trip, with a stop on Sunday afternoon, June 22, in Birmingham, AL. We have space for 12 youth, and 4 chaperones. PLEASE call the church office or reach out to Keith Jameson about registering your youth or chaperoning. **The cost per youth is \$150.00 and is needed with a release form by Sunday, June 8.**



Calling All Graduates

The First Baptist Church family wants to honor any student (high school, technical school, college, or graduate school) associated with First Baptist who graduated in the Fall of 2024 or who will graduate in the Spring or Summer of 2025. These students will be recognized during worship on May 18. Graduate information may be submitted via email (gfbccsc@gmail.com) or brought to the church office. **The church office needs the information below no later than May 9.**

Graduate Information Needed:

- Graduate's Name
- School
- Date of Graduation (Month/Year)
- Degree, if applicable
- Future Plans
- A Recent Photo



Sounds of Grace Present "A Testimony in Song"

The *Never Grow Old Fellowship* will host the *Sounds of Grace* on Tuesday, May 6, at 11:45 am in the fellowship hall. Our senior choir members have been working since January on new music that shares their faith. "A Testimony in Song" will be uplifting and entertaining. Several favorites are: "If You Love Me," "Yonder Come Day," and "Rain Down." The choir is directed by David Corbitt and accompanied by Stephanie Compton. The deadline has passed for meal reservations. Visitors of any age are welcome to attend the program.



722 Grace Street
Greenwood, SC 29649
(864) 229-5557
Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers and Staff

John Uldrick
Anna Burch
David Jennings
Keith Jameson
Lauren Coker
Will Thomas Cleveland
Claudia Burch
Mary Frances Thompson
Linda Miller

Senior Pastor
Minister to Children
Minister of Administration
Church Music Director
Part-Time Youth Leader
Organist
Director of Cheerful Cherubs
Ministry Assistant
Financial Assistant

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Helping Hands Ministry Information Line