



Goforth Foundation Scholarship Recipients: pictured from left are Melissa Wilson, Minister of Children and Families; Hannah Beale; Matthew Johnson; Darby Lewis; Emily Ashley; and Sue G. Hedrick



Clothes Closet Celebrates 20 Years of Weekly Service to Our Community

This month Clothes Closet celebrates twenty years of being opened weekly to the community. We want to congratulate and thank our director, Brenda Falter, and the many workers who give so much time to help others.

First Baptist Church helping clothe the community actually dates back over fifty years. WMU Circles and Sunday School classes used to gather clothing as needed. Later, Carol Hendrix and Carolyn Garner added clothing to our White Christmas Ministry.

At first, it was hard to get volunteers to staff the Clothes Closet every Thursday, but dedicated folks like Jane Mitchael and Eleanor Price stepped up to make it happen. Lillie Laws and Carol Burroughs also joined in early to keep things going.

Today, we have about twenty-five workers who volunteer on a weekly basis. They gather and sort clothes, welcome and interview clients, help folks shop, and assist people getting items to their cars. Mostly, however, they all share the love of Jesus.

If you'd like to volunteer for this ministry, please contact our church secretary, Kari Lindeman, and she will get you in touch with Brenda Falter. Volunteers are needed for Thursday afternoon as well as for other times during the week.



Schedule

Sunday, June 14

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, June 15

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, June 17

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, June 18

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, June 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, June 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, June 24

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, June 25

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet



Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate / Preschool Director
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
Tel: 704-873-7231

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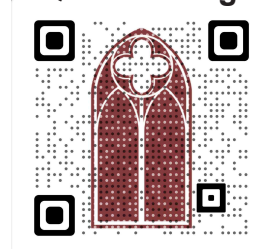
Spiritual Statistics

	5/31	6/7
In-Person	185	186
Online	21	21
Sunday School	87	89

Financial Statistics

	June	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	76,019.00	795,594.00
Budget Receipts	28,927.00	766,336.00
Goals Not Met	(47,092.00)	(29,258.00)
Alms	1,084.00	18,802.00
Designated	4,377.00	119,301.00

Scan the QR code to give online.



Our Church Signs Need Work

By Justin Cox

Published by *The Christian Citizen*, Nov. 6, 2024

I belong to several different clergy-specific social media groups, and at least once a week, someone in a group shares an interesting or clever church sign.

Sometimes, the humor is as corny as contemporary Christian music: Need A Life Guard? Ours Walks On Water. I Hate This Church, Signed Satan. Jesus Is The Rizzle For The Sizzle. Choose The Bread Of Life Or You're Toast.

Other times, it's, well, just awkward: You Can't Enter Heaven Unless Jesus Enters You. / Stop, Drop, And Roll Won't Work In Hell. / The Most Powerful Position Is On Your Knees.

And my all-time, cringeworthy favorite: I Kissed A Girl. And I Liked It Then I Went To Hell.

Many of these have left me wondering what type of people enter the building and call themselves the "Body of Christ." None have left me wanting to darken their church doors.

However, church signs certainly offer passersby an idea of the people attending services there. Before the rise of user-friendly website design platforms like Squarespace and Wix, church signs acted as a means of communication, conveying the service times and the name of the preaching pastor. Some included a vision or mission statement if the space and budget were big enough.

I saw a vision statement this week that floored me. My family and I were on the road, journeying down south to visit kith and kin. You have heard it said that children have small bladders, and this is true if what you mean is they have little evidence of one. My oldest daughter is a testament to this fact.

Like clockwork, I watched her consume half a thermos of water, with squirming starting shortly afterward. Luckily, our travels took us through a promised land filled with Sheetz gas stations. My eyes would roll at her plea to stop before they began to scan for signs directing us toward this oasis and the promise of their deliciously affordable "Meals To Order". Already, I was concocting a plan – if we were pulling over yet again, I would willingly sin and give into my cravings for tubed meat drenched in mayonnaise, sriracha, sweet chili sauce, mustard, and ketchup. A hot dog with "Boom Boom" sauce was in my future.

With my stomach growling, I looked ahead, hoping I could make it another exit or two before becoming completely famished. An advertisement for a local HVAC company appeared before vanishing in my rear-

view mirror. I sped by a promotion for some colorful, calorie-free, sweetener-free, sodium-free, gluten-free, and probably taste-free tonic water without a second glance. Insurance company displays were in no short supply. And then I saw what I was looking for, only it wasn't directions to my favorite convenience store.

Planet Fitness, the real-life Average Joe's, come-as-you-are establishment, beat every church sign I knew with its slogan, The World Judges, We Don't.

It was a church mission statement plastered on a billboard for all to see.

It was simple, poignant, and free of cheesiness. A message with an obvious and sharp theological edge.

But it wasn't for a house of worship. It was for a gym.

How did the church universal miss this? I have some ideas.

The culture we currently live in often gets a bad rap. Too often, I hear that it's the culture's fault that families no longer attend church, that sports matches are held on days when students could be at youth group, or that Jesus is removed from public schools.

It's the culture's fault for _____ (insert your own deflection).

I'm starting to think the blame shouldn't rest on the culture but on the church for abdicating its position to lead.

Baptist iconoclast and railor of all things reeking of religious institutionalism, Will D. Campbell, wrote of the church during the Civil Rights era, "...it failed to act. It waited until the government took the initiative to rescue human rights." Campbell lamented the lack of presence he saw in mostly White churches during the 1960s. He believed the church should have led the way in repentance and reconciliation around race relations during the Civil Rights era.

And because the church didn't act within her nature, society began to look elsewhere to hear and see what they knew to be true and right; the equality of all.

Now, here we are in 2024, following an election in which a divided nation is set to move further away from one another, and the church is still missing its opportunity to lead. We're letting organizations like Planet Fitness beat us to the punch. Ministers, laypersons, any and all calling the lowly carpenter from Galilee "Lord" — we need to do better.

And until we do, people will continue to look elsewhere.



Volume 83 Issue 12

June 14, 2026

Announcements

Welcome to Our Church Family



Stanley and Jean Spence joined our congregation on Sunday, June 7. Welcome to our church family!

Goforth Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Goforth Foundation Scholarship Fund, established through First Baptist Church, recently awarded scholarships for the 2026-27 school year. The scholarship fund was established in 2012 through Dwight and Ethel Goforth to benefit students who are involved in church and community service.

This year's recipients are Matthew Johnson, and Darby Lewis. Also receiving scholarships are returning students Hannah Beale, Emily Ashley, Kendyl King, and Nicole Osborne.

Coordinating the scholarships are Sue G. Hedrick and Debbie Goforth-Taylor

A Message from Minister of Missions Elizabeth Kilby

We are excited to partner with Broad Street United Methodist Church for Operation Inasmuch on Saturday, August 29.

Please make sure you mark your calendar and join us on a day you don't want to miss. We will have more projects and do things together in the community.

Next Steps in Our Visioning Process

Thank you to all who participated in our visioning process and for those who have signed up to support new areas of ministry.

Our next step will be to launch these ministries. This will happen in August, after the kids go back to school. In the meantime, we are recruiting leaders for each ministry as well as more participants.

If you haven't signed up to be a part of our new vision, it's not too late. Just give the church office a call and let us know where you'd like to serve.

Here are the areas:

Youth Services

Partnering with area schools to build relationships and a stronger community.

Poverty Alleviation

Helping at least one family to break the poverty cycle.

Expanding Services for Community

Finding ways we can do even more for community members in need.

Disaster Relief

Using our facility, people and connections to prepare to help in a disaster.

Senior Adult Care and Share Ministry

Expanding how we minister to senior adults and they minister to us.

