



The Messenger

A Newsletter of

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

Celebrating 175 Years
1848-2023

May 2023

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

New Visions . . .

Some thoughts on Prayer . . .

Ask people why they pray, and most will give some form of the same answer - "So God will answer and give or do something for ME!" Yet I believe we miss so much with that approach to prayer. Our prayer life should not just for more answers to prayer, but so we can see the incredible transforming power of God that can cause our relationship with God to grow. A dynamic prayer life causes us to experience God; His voice, His love, His gifts, His healing, His power and His Holy Spirit. And because prayer connects us with God, it is life-changing, and it should never be boring.

Consider this . . .

- Prayer is difficult and easily avoided. Our prayer meetings have become Bible studies. Why? Because we are scared of what God might say to us and we may have to get honest and vulnerable. Our daily life and our eternal life are wrapped up in our relationship with God, and prayer is the key to making that relationship vibrant and real.
- Prayer should be the focus of corporate worship gatherings, board meetings, finance and nominating committees. In any and every situation we should ask God what He thinks and wait for an answer to include Him in every decision big or small.
- Praying and listening are best taught not in workshops, but rather through application and practice.
- The aim of corporate prayer is to help people pray more personally. It is to help people connect with God, to affirm each other's prayers, even if they are weak and feeble. We can surround each other and lift each other up to a God who hears even our faintest cries. Together we

- can cry and celebrate, struggle and wrestle and see changes happening in our lives, in our community, and in our hearts.

We all need to understand that prayer - speaking . . . having a conversation with God is something we do more in our private times of "worship," and that's where we need to focus our attention. In doing so we can perhaps discover again, for the first time, that the key to vibrant and growing discipleship is remembering what the lad in the following story discovered!

A father watched through the kitchen window as his small son attempted to lift a large stone out of his sandbox. The boy couldn't get enough leverage to lift the rock over the side. Finally, he gave up and sat on the edge of the sandbox with his head in his hands.

"What's wrong, Son? Can't you lift that rock out?" the dad asked. "No, sir," the boy said, "I can't do it." "Have you used all the strength that's available to you?" the father asked.

"Yes, sir," the boy replied. "No, you haven't," the father said. "You haven't asked me to help you."

May God bless you as you continue to grow though a life of prayer!

Rick Bailey

REVIVAL SUNDAY



Sunday, May 7, 2023

Our Revival pastor will be Dr. Larry Hovis, an Executive Director with CBF of North Carolina. The day will start with a combined Men and Ladies Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00. The class, being a Baptist in the 21st Century, will be taught by Dr. Larry Hovis. Coffee, juice, and sweet rolls will be served. At 11:00 Dr. Hovis will be the pastor for the morning service. At 5:30 we will be having a potluck supper. As usual the church will provide the meat and beverages with individuals from the congregation bringing sides or desserts. At 7:00 Dr. Hovis will conduct the evening service with special music provided by Middle Swamp Baptist choir.

Invite your Family, Friends, and Neighbors!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

May 7	Children's Church
May 3	No Kids' Club
May 10	Kids' Club 6-6:45
May 21	Children's Church

Stay tuned for Vacation Bible School dates! VBS will be held on five Wednesdays from 5:45 until 7:30 p.m. The theme is:

UPCOMING DATES

May 7	Revival
May 9	Deacons' Meeting
May 17	Food Bank of The Albemarle

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our church will have a real treat during our Revival on Sunday as we welcome the Middle Swamp Baptist Choir from Gates County! I've known the choir director, Claire Whitehurst, my whole life. She is a Meredith graduate in both voice and piano, and she leads a dedicated choir. Here is a big shout out to our MBC Choir! Our church appreciates each of you so very much.

Please consider joining the choir. The more the merrier!

Paula Pressnell

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

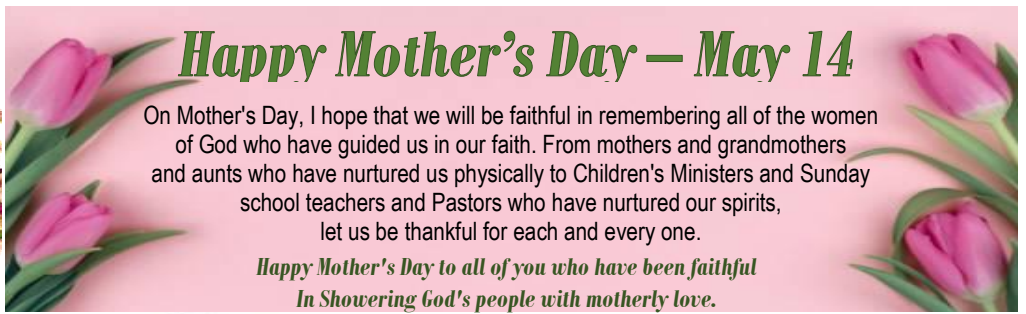
If you are interested in placing Flowers in the Sanctuary on any given Sunday... Please call the church office to reserve a date. 398-3613



Happy Mother's Day – May 14

On Mother's Day, I hope that we will be faithful in remembering all of the women of God who have guided us in our faith. From mothers and grandmothers and aunts who have nurtured us physically to Children's Ministers and Sunday school teachers and Pastors who have nurtured our spirits, let us be thankful for each and every one.

*Happy Mother's Day to all of you who have been faithful
In Showering God's people with motherly love.*



USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN MAY

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Mary Etta Flowers

OPENING OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Garth Faile

USHERS

May

Steve Fowler, T.K. Warren,
Mike Alston, Kirk Peterson

June

Don Johnson, Wayne Brown,
Bruce Brown, Hunter Brown

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSOR

Garth and Erin Faile

CAREGIVERS

April 23-May 6

Dave and Carole Farnham

May 7-May 20

Mary Etta Flowers

May 21-June 3

Lisa Forbes

NURSERY CAREGIVERS

May 7 Mollie Madden
May 14 Charlie Cole
May 21 Sarah Davis
May 28 Edward Snyder

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

May 7 Judy Clark
May 14 Available
May 21 Garth and Erin Faile
May 28 Available



ROBERT E. LEE, III
AND

DR. BRUCE E. WHITAKER SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now being accepted for two scholarships available to Murfreesboro Baptist Church Members and their children. The Robert E. Lee, III Scholarship is awarded to Chowan University Students. The Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker Scholarship is awarded to students attending any institution of higher education, with a preference toward those studying at Chowan. Applications are available in the church office and must be completed by July 31. The finance committee will award the scholarships and notify the recipients.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES



Please join us Sunday, May 21, as we recognize our 2023 graduates:

Claire Lucille Dilday
Caleb A. Peterson
Justin A. Peterson
Alexandra Nell Piper
John Paige Revelle, III
Patricia Claire Revelle



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

May 7	Heather Boyd
May 8	Dot Combs
May 10	Susan Alston
May 10	Mike Bunch
May 11	Jimmy Boone
May 12	Nancy Peden
May 14	Pat Torres
May 15	Booker Daniel
May 18	Peg McLean
May 18	Hal Thomas
May 20	Darren Piper
May 28	Trey Gilliam
May 28	Lane Bass

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.

BLESSINGS MINISTRIES FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on May 16 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

FOOD PANTRY

If you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church before the last Monday of each month. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. R. Richard (Rick) Bailey
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL
Organist & Choir Director

TOM CAULKINS
Pastor Emeritus

TERESA MARTIN
Administrative Assistant

Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for April 2023

	Apr. 2	Apr. 9	Apr. 16	Apr. 23	Apr. 30	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$19,711.55	\$106,442.37
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$6,694.00	\$5,661.83	\$2,060.00	\$2,117.00	\$2,095.00	\$18,627.83	\$141,859.90
Other Income							
Over (Under)	\$2,751.69	\$1,719.52	(\$1,882.31)	(\$1,825.31)	(\$1,847.31)	(\$1,083.72)	\$20,732.01

Church Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 - 1:30

252-398-3613

Administrative Office will be closed Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day Holiday.

www.murfbc.org



Murfreesboro Baptist Church
200 West Main Street
Murfreesboro, N. C. 27855

Return Service Requested