



# The Messenger

Murfreesboro Baptist Church  
September 2023

## WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

*New Visions . . .*

A newly retired couple cashed in their stocks and bonds to purchase one of the finest motor homes available on the market. One of the great features was the cruise control. As they were traveling up the West Coast, the husband became tired and asked his wife to drive while he went in the back to take a nap. As she was driving, she put the camper on cruise control, and it worked perfectly.

After an hour of straight highway driving, she got up to go to the bathroom. She thought cruise control was the same as automatic pilot, she told the Highway Patrol after the accident. The motor home was totaled in the accident, but neither partner was hurt. *It is not only a true story, but it illustrates how many Christians have put their lives on cruise control and are simply watching the scenery.*

Over this next four (4) Sundays, we'll be looking at the importance of becoming "engaged" or "re-engaged" into the life of Murfreesboro Baptist Church as you prepare for the arrival of your new pastor!

*Faith and Vision* go together, and that reminds me of another story . . .

About 350 years ago a shipload of travelers landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year they established a town site. The next year they elected a town government. The third year the town government planned to build a road, five miles westward into the wilderness. In the fourth year, the people tried to impeach their town government because they thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles westward into a wilderness. Who needed to go there anyway? Here were people who had the vision to see three thousand miles across an ocean and overcome great hardships to get there. However, in just a few years they were not able to see even five miles out of town. They had lost their pioneering vision. **With a clear vision of what we can become in Christ, no ocean of difficulty is too great. Without it, we rarely move beyond our current boundaries. Remember - the answer is NOT "we can't" - the answer should be "why CAN'T we!"**

On a personal note . . .

It has been a true joy for Edwina and me to have had the privilege to serve with you during this past year of ministry in the interim! We have certainly come to love each of you and our prayer for you is that you will continue to be committed to the leadership of God as He brings new leadership in the persons of Mark and JoAnn Gaskins!

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us [you] what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Heb. 13:20-21)

Grace, Peace, Blessings and Love,  
Rick & Edwina Bailey

## DEACONS Called to Serve

On August 21, the congregation elected Steve Fowler, Charlie Gallop, Debbie Hill, and Bardin Torres, to serve as deacons for the next three years. They will begin their three-year terms on October 1. Alternates are Sarah Davis and Ben McLean.

Please continue to pray for our board of deacons and their leadership in guiding our church in the upcoming years.

## Thank You DEACONS

On behalf of our congregation and Deacon Board, we would like to offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the four deacons who will be rotating off: Colon Ballance, Mary Etta Flowers, Linda Hassell, and Bob Lee. We are blessed to have such faithful and committed men and women who are willing to serve our church and to do so gladly.

## A Gift Basket

has been placed outside the Pastor's door for anyone wanting to place cards or small gifts in appreciation of Dr. Bailey and his dedication to Murfreesboro Baptist Church as Interim Pastor for the past year. The basket will be available when administrative office is open and on Sundays 9:30 until noon.



Don't Forget...  
**T-Shirt**  
**Order Deadline**  
Tuesday,  
September 5th



Order forms available in Administrative Office

*It's Back!*  
Wednesday, September 6  
6:00 p.m.

# BIG WEDNESDAY

Mary Etta's Menu



## Fried Chicken

Served with Potato Salad, Butterbeans, Deviled Eggs, Rolls and Dessert

Adults... \$10 Per Plate

Please call the church office to make your reservations by 10 am Sept. 5.

As Part of Our  
**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

We Cordially Invite You to A Special Musical Performance by  
**The Reverent Quartet**  
*Gospel Recording Artists based out of Suffolk, VA.*



The Reverent Quartet has performed at the Gospel Fest 2023 at Loretta Lynn's Ranch in Tennessee, and also performed at Kentucky 40 Days & 40 Nights at the Ark Encounter.

Please Join Us For Worship Service  
**Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:00 a.m.**  
Pot Luck Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall Immediately Following Worship

**Murfreesboro Baptist Church**



## USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER

**Deacon of the Month**  
Bob Lee

**Opening of the Church**  
Charlie Cole

**Ushers**  
*September*  
Jay Revelle, Ronnie Coltrain,  
Hal Thomas, and Charles Gallop

*October*  
Charlie Aycock, Lloyd Hill, and  
Thomas Bird

**Radio Ministry Sponsors**  
Diane Dixon

**Children's Sermon**  
Sarah Davis

**Caregivers**  
*Aug. 27-Sept. 9*  
Gertrude Revelle and Daynelle Trent

*Sept. 10-23*  
Colon and Jane Balance

*Sept. 24-Oct. 7*  
Aldeen Gatewood

**Flowers**  
September 3 - Sarah Davis  
September 10 - Available  
September 17 - Available  
September 24 - Available

Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 -7:15 pm.

### Kids' Club Will Resume



All children from age 2 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend. Kids' Club includes Bible study, crafts and/or games, and music. On non "Big Wednesday" dates we will meet at 6:00 -6:45p.m. If you have any questions, please let Sarah Davis know.

### UPCOMING DATES

*September 1 and 4*  
Office Closed for Labor Day

*September 6*  
Big Wednesday 6:00  
Kids' Club Resumes 6:30-7:15

*September 12*  
Deacons' Meeting 6:00

*September 13*  
Kids' Club 6:00-6:45

*September 17*  
Special Music  
The Reverent Quartet  
Pot Luck Luncheon

*September 19*  
Food Bank of the Albemarle 1:30

*September 20*  
Kids' Club 6:00-6:45

*September 27*  
Kids' Club 6:00-6:45

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER



September 2	Zakk Royce
September 7	Leah Faile
September 7	Jen Place
September 7	Allen Revelle, Jr.
September 8	Margaret Murray
September 9	Eleanor Boyd
September 9	Barbara Labbous
September 11	Kyleen Burgess
September 12	Jo Revelle Murray
September 14	Alice Hassell
September 14	South Moore
September 15	Alexandra Piper
September 21	Christina Mitchell
September 23	Erin Faile
September 23	Christina Torres
September 25	Sara Frances Hill
September 28	Lynn Johnson
September 28	Will Revelle
September 30	Steve Beatty

*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 Tuesday, September 19 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. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

### BUDGET REMINDER

September is the final month of our 2022-2023 fiscal year, and with all the ups and downs that we have been through this year, we are thankful and grateful your faithful and continued support of our church and its ministries.

As we prepare to close out this year, if you find you may have overlooked a regular gift, or you may be willing and able to be a little extra generous, we would be grateful.

As always, we are appreciative of your support of our church whether it be through financial gifts or with gifts of time, presence, or prayer.

### CAREGIVERS NEEDED

If you are interested in being a caregiver in the upcoming year, please contact Judy Clark. If you are unable to visit, you may send cards and make phone calls. This is an important ministry of our church and lets those who cannot worship in person with us know that our church family cares about them.

### CHURCH STAFF

Dr. R. Richard (Rick) Bailey  
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL  
Organist & Choir Director

TOM CAULKINS  
Pastor Emeritus

TERESA MARTIN  
Administrative Assistant

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 1:30  
252-398-3613

[www.murfbc.org](http://www.murfbc.org)

Administrative Office Will Be  
Closed September 1 & 4 in Honor  
of Labor Day.

The August financial statement was unavailable when the messenger went to press. Information shown is from weekly tithes and offerings. When completed, the report will appear in the church bulletin and copies will be available in the church office.

### Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for August 2023

	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 20	Aug. 27	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$15,769.24	\$189,230.88
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$2,441.00	\$1,767.00	\$2,290.00	\$3,452.00	\$9,950.00	\$188,470.90
Other Income						
Over (Under)	(1,501.31)	(2,175.31)	(\$1,652.31)	(\$490.31)	(\$5,819.24)	\$759.88



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

Return Service Requested