

FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

"Thank you." It's a phrase that can be used as a simple common courtesy. Sometimes we utter it as a simple routine response.

But sometimes it's filled with more meaning than words alone can express. That's how I'm using it here!

Thank you!

Thank you for seeking God's guidance and following his leading as you searched for a new pastor.

Thank you for trusting your search committee as they prayerfully and diligently sought God in this matter.

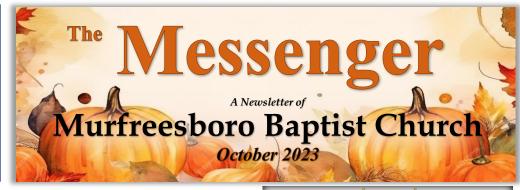
Thank you for the confidence in me that you have expressed in calling me as your pastor.

And thank you for how you have already made JoAnn and me feel so welcome and at home. The brief visits, the food and goodies, the restaurant gift cards, the oldfashioned "fill the pantry" pounding (we hadn't experienced one of those since the churches we served while I was in college and seminary!), the way the search committee and the welcoming committee prepared and paved the way for our transition from Wilmington to Murfreesboro – all this and more has truly been amazing! We feel very welcomed, loved, and cared for. And we have already come to love you as a congregation!

In the coming months over this first year together, I look forward to getting to know each of you and your faith journey with Christ. I'm hoping and planning over time to visit with each of you as families or households, whether in your homes or over coffee or a meal somewhere or in my study at the church—whatever is most comfortable for you.

I also want to say thank you to Dr. Rick Bailey for the outstanding job he has done as your interim pastor. Your love for him and his wife Edwina and their love for you is obvious. God has used Rick to prepare the way well. I'm grateful he is a part of MBC's story.

One other thing before I close this first newsletter article ... Names ... As I know Rick has reminded you several times, please help us learn your names by reminding us for a while until we get yours right a few



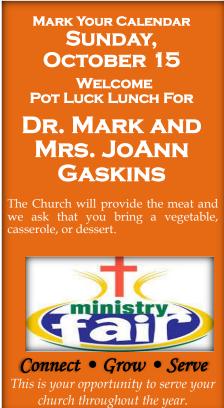
times. As far as mine, I'm comfortable with adults calling me by my first name. But I know some folks prefer to put some kind of title before it as a matter of respect. Please address me the way that's most comfortable for you. I do think it's important, however, as a matter of respect and good manners, that youth and children put some kind of title (Pastor, Rev., Dr., or Mr.) before the pastor's name, whoever may be the pastor at the time.

JoAnn and I are excited and looking forward to our journey with you over these coming years as God blesses your and our work together in writing the next chapter of the kingdom of God story in and through Murfreesboro Baptist Church!

Grace and peace,

Mark & Baskins





A Big Thank You ...

Again, Edwina and I want to say thank you again for allowing us the privilege of serving as the Minister in the Interim at Murfreesboro Baptist Church over this past year! You have been a blessing to us and we will always have fond memories of our time together.

Thank you also for all the gracious cards, notes (especially those from the children), and the gifts that you shared with us!

It is our prayer that you'll continue to grow and that, under Mark's leadership, you will truly be an on-going blessing to the Murfreesboro community!

Blessings, Rick and Edwina Bailey



Sunday, October 29 5:30 p.m.

Murfreesboro Baptist Church will host its annual Trunk or Treat on Oct 29 at 5:30 pm. The evening will begin with a pizza dinner from Napoli's Pizza and Italian Restaurant. Then the children will visit the trunks in the parking lot for treats. The community and congregation are invited.

Costumes are encouraged but not required. Volunteers are needed for trunks. If you are willing to bring chips or drinks, please let Sarah Davis know.

Kids' Club Special Dates:

Oct 4 - Kids' Club 6:30-7:15 Oct 11 - Kids' Club 6-6:45 Oct 18 - Kids' Club 6-6:45 Oct 25 - Kids' Club 6-6:45 Oct 29 - Trunk or Treat 5:30

BOARD OF DEACONS

In their September meeting, the deacons elected the following officers for the 2023-24 year: Thomas Bird as chairman, Bruce Brown as vice-chairman, and Bardin Torres as secretary. Please take the opportunity to thank them for their willingness to serve in these roles.

NOTICE

There will be a brief church meeting on Sunday, October 1, 2023 after worship service. The purpose is to adopt the 2023-2024 budget for MBC.

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN OCTOBER

DEACON OF THE MONTHWayne Brown

OPENING OF THE CHURCH

Colon Ballance and Wayne Brown

USHERS

October

Charlie Aycock,

Lloyd Hill, and Thomas Bird

November

Steve Fowler, T.K.Warren,

Mike Alston, and Kirk Peterson

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSOR

Lynette Bunch

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sarah Davis

CAREGIVERS

Sept. 24-Oct. 7

Aldeen Gatewood

Oct 8-Oct. 21

Judy Clark

Oct. 22- Nov. 4

David and Carole Farnham

FLOWERS

October 8, 15, 22, and 29 are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary. Please call the Church office to reserve a date.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL......Organist & Choir

Direct

TOM CAULKINS......Pastor Emeritus

TERESA MARTIN...... Administrative Asst.

Union Mission CLOTHING DRIVE



October is the month to donate all your unwanted, non-fitting or out of style clothing to help Union Mission in Roanoke Rapids. Please start cleaning out your closets now and help others that are in need. Clothing should be placed in the connector by Monday, October 31.

UPCOMING DATES

October 1
Communion

October 4
Big Wednesday

October 10
Deacons' Meeting

October 15
Dr. and Mrs. Gaskins Welcome
Pot-Luck Lunch
Ministry Fair

October 17
Food Bank of the Albemarle

October 29 Kids' Club Trunk or Treat

October 30 MBC Food Pantry

October 31
Union Mission Clothing Drive
Deadline

COMING SOON... OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Shoeboxes



October 4
October 6
October 9
October 12
October 16
October 19
October 23
October 25
October 27
October 27

October 27

October 4

Ann Lee
Eley Whitehead
Annie McLean
Mark Gaskins
Avery Boyd
Chris White
Dakota Wilson
T.K. Warren, III
Freddie Bazen
Nicholas Bunch
Jay Revelle
Janet Vincent

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, October 17 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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 1:30 252-398-3613 www.murfbc.org

The 2023 September Financial Statement was unavailable when the Messenger went to press.

When completed, the report will appear in the church bulletin and copies will be available in the church office.

