



## 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 old-fashioned "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 E. Gaskins*

## 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

Don't Forget... **BIG WEDNESDAY DINNER**  
 Wednesday, October 4 6:00 p.m.  
**Italian Night!**  
**Mary Etta's Menu**  
 Lasagna,  
 Tossed Salad with  
 Homemade Dressing,  
 Garlic Bread, & Dessert  
 Please call the church office to make your reservations.



**Kids' Club Halloween Event**



**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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 15**

**WELCOME  
POT LUCK LUNCH FOR**

**DR. MARK AND  
MRS. JOANN  
GASKINS**

The Church will provide the meat and we ask that you bring a vegetable, casserole, or dessert.



**Connect • Grow • Serve**

*This is your opportunity to serve your church throughout the year.*

**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 MONTH**  
Wayne 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 Director

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  
Shoebboxes**



**Celebrating  
Birthdays  
In October**

- October 4      Ann Lee
- October 4      Eley Whitehead
- October 6      Annie McLean
- October 9      Mark Gaskins
- October 12     Avery Boyd
- October 16     Chris White
- October 19     Dakota Wilson
- October 23     T.K. Warren, III
- October 25     Freddie Bazen
- October 27     Nicholas Bunch
- October 27     Jay Revelle
- October 27     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](http://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.



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

**Return Service Requested**