



# The Messenger

A Newsletter from  
Murfreesboro Baptist Church  
August 2024



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

Summer has a way of slipping up on us, then slipping away quickly. Here at the beginning of August, it will soon be gone.

Though summer has been mostly dry, God answered our prayers and sent us refreshing sustained rains over the past three weeks or so, and we are grateful. He poured out spiritual blessings on us during the third week of July in this year's Vacation Bible School. Though our group of children was not large, they were very attentive and engaged. Important kingdom seeds were planted in their lives. We pray that God's Spirit will water and tend those seeds so that they sprout into faith responses in these dear children, and that they will in time follow Jesus and bear much spiritual fruit for him. Thanks to all those who led or helped in any way in this year's VBS, and special thanks to Sarah Davis for leading our VBS efforts each year.

August is full of kingdom opportunities as well.

The annual North Carolina Watermelon Festival is going on at the time of publication of this edition of *The Messenger*, and our Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will take place on Saturday, August 3. The proceeds from this event go to support our participation in Backpack Buddies as a ministry to elementary age children who experience food insecurity on the weekends. Backpacks filled with ready-to-eat or easy-to-prepare foods are sent home with children whom our local school leaders identify as being in need of such a service. We donate to the Backpack Buddies

organization to help purchase food, then pick up the packages of food and deliver them to the school each week. If you can volunteer to help with the breakfast on August 3, please let Colon Ballance or Mary Etta Flowers know. If you'd be willing to help with the deliveries of the food packets, please call or email the church office.

We will participate in Holy Communion on Sunday morning, August 4. Join us for this special time of worship!

Wednesday evening Prayer and Bible Study will resume on August 7, as will weekly Choir Practice. I will lead "A Crash Course in Christian Theology," a study of the foundational teachings of our faith. I hope you'll make an effort to attend and learn more about what we believe as Christians in the Baptist tradition.

We will also be collecting school supplies for the Hertford County Schools throughout this month. There is a collection box in the connector for these items. Details of specific items that are needed are in the announcement elsewhere in this edition of *The Messenger*. If you have questions, contact Sarah Davis.

On August 18 we will have our Blessing of the Backpacks to help prepare our students of all ages as they start back to school. We encourage our youth and children to bring their backpacks that Sunday morning and participate as our church blesses you for the new school year.

September and October will bring some special opportunities as well, but more about those later.


In the meantime, I hope to see you in worship this Sunday!

Grace and peace,  
*Mark E. Gaskins*  
Mark E. Gaskins

## Church DEACONS ELECTION

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Deacon elections will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Included in this newsletter is a list of members that are eligible. Currently serving deacons, staff members, spouses of current deacons, and members who have been off the board fewer than two years are not included in the list. Please prayerfully consider who you will call to serve as a deacon for the next three years.



## Pancake And Sausage Breakfast

**Saturday, August 3rd**  
8:00 A.M.  
Until 10:00 A.M.

**Eat-In or Take-Out**  
Adults....\$10  
Children 12 & Under..\$5

All Proceeds Benefit Backpack Buddies of Hertford County Schools!

Tickets available in advance or at the door.





Breakfast Located in Church Fellowship Hall

# “Thank You” Vacation Bible School Volunteers



Thanks to all who helped with VBS and made it a great success for our youth. A special Thank you to Sarah Davis for organizing our week of Bible School, and thank you to all of our volunteers: Mike Alston, Bruce and Liz Brown, Wayne Brown, Judy Clark, Charlie, Frances, and Charlotte Cole, Booker Daniel, Sarah Davis, John and Sarah Davis, Garth and Erin Faile, Mary Etta Flowers, Taylor and Stephanie Furlough, Mark and JoAnn Gaskins, Sophia Hale, Alice and Linda Hassell, Snowlyn and Gabriel Higgins, Debbie Hill, Don Johnson, Patty Joyner, Teresa Martin, Paula Presnell, Christina Pruitt, Gertrude Revelle, Janet Skinner, John and Tracey Vick, and TK Warren.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR

# Big Wednesday

Wednesday, September 4 6:00 p.m.

## Fried Chicken Dinner

Includes Potato Salad,  
Butterbeans, Deviled Eggs,  
Rolls, & Dessert!



We are excited to announce the return of Big Wednesday on September 3. This will be a time to once again to engage with our church family and connect with our community while enjoying a home cooked meal prepared by Mary Etta Flowers. Invite your neighbors, family, friends, and their children.

The cost is \$10.00 per plate.

**Please call the church office each month  
(398-3613) to make your reservations.**

*We look forward to seeing you.*



## MUSIC MINISTRY

We are in the middle of Bible School as I write this, and it is so much fun singing songs with children! Music is such a great unifier- holding hands to move in a circle or jumping up and down as we sing about Jesus' love for us, as well as our joy and our salvation. Music is such an important part of our worship, and I invite you to be a part of our adult choir. We have fun, we laugh, we enjoy the fellowship, and we work hard to learn new music. I appreciate all of our choir folks, our soloists, and all who worship at MBC. Our church is truly blessed and I am truly blessed to be a part of it all. Please see me or any choir member if you'd like more information. Choir practice resumes August 7th at 6:00 p.m. You will be welcomed with open arms!

Plus...The Reverent Quartet is coming back on Sunday, October 13th at 5:00 pm. Bring many friends!

*Paula Pressnell*



MBC will once again collect school supplies for Hertford County Public Schools. The collection box will be in the connector from now until the end of August. Supplies needed are: notebook paper (wide ruled and college ruled), spiral notebooks (wide ruled and college ruled), composition notebooks, three ring binders, folders (with pockets), pencils (wooden and mechanical), pens (black and blue), markers, colored pencils, crayons, and erasers. Clear bookbags and lunch bags are also needed. This is a requirement for all HCPS students. Monetary donations will also be accepted and clear bookbags will be purchased. If you have any questions, please see Sarah Davis.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Come Join Us!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18**

## Blessing of the Backpacks



All children and youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks and participate as the church blesses you for the new school year.

**KIDS' CLUB  
RESUMES SEPTEMBER 4**



# Eligible for Deacon Elections

**Deadline: Friday, August 30, 2024**

If your name appears below, but you will be unable to complete a 3-year term as deacon (October 01, 2024 thru September 30, 2027), you must call the church office by 12:00 noon on Friday, August 30 to have your name removed.

Awani, Jill

Benthall, Susan

Brett, Kathy Copeland

Broadhead, Christopher

Broadhead, Genevieve

Brown, Hunter

Brown, Sarah

Bunch, Mike

Bunch, Vanessa

Cavin, Karen

Cole, Frances

Coltrain, Betsy

Coltrain, Ronnie

Davis, Sarah

Dilday, Mabel

Dixon, Diane

Faile, Erin

Faile, Garth

Flowers, Gene

Forbes, Lisa

Forbes, Tommy

Gatewood, Aldeen

Harders, Lori

Harders, Steve

Hassell, Alice

Hill, Carol

Hill, Sarah Frances

Johnson, Don

Johnson, Lynn

Joyner, Patty

Lee, Ann

McLean, Ben

McLean, Peg

Mitchell, Christina

Mitchell, Jennifer

Moore, Danny

Moore, Hallie

Moore, Lynne

Moore, South

Murray, Margaret

Rainey, Verlie

Revelle, Elicia

Revelle, Jay

Revelle, John Page

Surface, Sallie

Taylor, Gerald

Taylor, Jennifer

Thomas, Hal

Thomas, Kay

Torres, Christina

Torres, Pat

Turner, Bob

Vincent, Janet

Warren, Yvonne

## Currently Serving

Susan Alston

Bruce Brown

Wayne Brown

Lynette Bunch (Rotating Off)

Charlie Cole (Rotating Off)

Booker Daniel (Rotating Off)

Sarah Davis (Alternate)

Steve Fowler

Charlie Gallop

Debbie Hill

Bardin Torres

T. K. Warren

## Not eligible Until 2025

Colon Ballance

Mary Etta Flowers

Linda Hassell

Bob Lee

## Not eligible Until 2026

Lynette Bunch

Charlie Cole

Booker Daniel



## USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN AUGUST

**DEACON OF THE MONTH**  
Charlie Gallop

**OPENING OF THE CHURCH**  
Sarah Davis

**USHERS**  
*August*

Colon Ballance, Armando Torres,  
Charlie Cole, and Garth Faile

*September*

Jay Revelle, Ronnie Coltrain,  
Hal Thomas, Charlie Gallop

**RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS**  
Armando and Bardin Torres

**COMMUNION**  
*August 4*

**CAREGIVERS**  
*July 28- August 10*

Lynette Bunch

*August 11-24*

Charlie and Dell Aycock

*August 25-September 7*  
Booker Daniel

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**  
Sarah Davis

**FLOWERS**

*Aug. 4, Available*

*Aug. 11, Booker Daniel*

*Aug. 18, Available*

*Aug. 24, Gene and Mary Etta Flowers*

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST



August 1	Caleb Peterson
August 3	Gertrude Revelle
August 6	Johnathan Vick
August 9	Rachel Peterson
August 10	Liam Ballance
August 10	Paula Pressnell
August 12	John Revelle, III
August 14	Barbara Myers
August 14	Elicia Revelle
August 15	Gabriel Higgins
August 16	Bardin Torres
August 18	Phil Royce
August 20	Lloyd Hill
August 22	Lisa Forbes
August 22	Nate Place
August 23	Mary Etta Flowers
August 29	Chris Torres

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

## NOTES OF APPRECIATION

A Thank you note was received in July from The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Chowan University

## CHURCH STAFF

**Dr. Mark E. Gaskins**

PASTOR

**PAULA PRESSNELL**

Organist & Choir Director

**TOM CAULKINS**  
Pastor Emeritus

**TERESA MARTIN**  
Administrative Assistant

## UPCOMING DATES

Aug. 3	Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Aug. 4	Communion
Aug. 7	Bible Study Resumes Choir Practice Resumes
Aug. 13	Deacons' Meeting
Aug. 18	Blessing of the Backpacks
Aug. 20	Food Bank of the Albemarle
Sept. 2	Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept. 4	Big Wednesday Kids' Club Resumes
Sept. 15	Deacon Elections
Sept. 17	Food Bank of The Albemarle Deacons' Meeting

## BLESSINGS MINISTRIES

### FOOD BANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, August 20 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.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Church Office will be closed on  
Monday, September 2  
in observance of Labor Day

### Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for July 2024

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,826.92	\$3,826.92	\$3,826.92	\$3,826.92	\$15,307.68	\$168,384.48
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$5,562.00	\$4,986.00	\$1,610.00	\$4,906.00	\$17,064.00	\$170,059.64
Other Income		\$946.35			\$946.35	\$946.35
Over (Under)	\$1,735.08	\$2,105.43	(\$2,216.92)	\$1,079.08	\$2,702.67	\$2,621.51

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

Return Service Requested