

First Thoughts...

April fool's day is an occasion for many people to seek out unsuspecting individuals to see how gullible they can be--even businesses can get into the act.

In 1998, Burger King ran a full-page ad in USA Today announcing the arrival of "The Left-Handed Whopper." According to the ad, this particular burger's condiments had been flipped 180 degrees to make it easier for left-handed people to hold.

The marketing strategy was a huge success, with millions of southpaws lining up the next day to try a sandwich engineered especially for them. Of course, the stunt also affected right-handed persons who insisted they be given a "right-handed Whopper."

The Burger King ad is widely viewed as the most successful April fool's joke performed by a business on the American public.

Our church has an incredibly important witness in this community. The effectiveness of our work for Christ is contingent upon our reliance upon the Holy Spirit and obedience to God's Word.

We've experienced a meaningful Holy Week and look forward to an amazing Easter Sunday!

The angel at that first Easter Sunday knew why the women were coming to the tomb--they expected to see the crucified body of Jesus. Instead, they were the first to see, hear, and experience the good news of the risen Christ. For women to be the first to hear and to proclaim the resurrection of Christ is an important theological argument for the leadership and involvement of women in the life of the church.

Our church affirms women and men serving in leadership roles, and this resurrection account is an important theological pillar for this view. I'm grateful for our witness in this community as we seek to share the Good News through our words and actions.

We've completed the first quarter of our fiscal year, and the Finance Committee is including an update in this edition of the Friendly Guide. At present, our spending is close to budgeted amounts, but our financial support is lagging a little behind.

For those who attend worship each Sunday, there is a financial graph indicating the previous weeks receipts towards our operating budget. We do our best to be transparent about where our church is in regard to its financial obligations.

This latest piece of information is not an "April fool's joke" but serves as a reminder to remain faithful in giving of our time, energy, and financial support to the church. Many people believe Christians are foolish for spending their resources this way, but we are encouraged in God's Word to remain faithful and trust the Lord with the results.

The Apostle Paul put it this way: "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

The Lord is doing a good work in our church. I'm grateful for your faithfulness as we continue to serve the Lord on this side of the Resurrection.

Pastor Danny



Youth Ignite
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
FLC Youth Room
Grades 6-12
Free Dinner, Games,
& Bible Study

Senior Sunday

Sunday, May 5

8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.

Our High School Graduates will be recognized during both morning worship services. There will be a luncheon following the 10:40 service in the Family Life Center for the graduates and their families.

SENIORS & PARENTS:

The following are DUE by **APRIL 8** to the church office

- Approx. 50 pictures (all ages) of your senior for the senior picture slide show
- The Senior Booklet Information Form and Senior Picture for the booklet

These can be emailed to Katrina (Katrina@fbcclinton.org) or you can bring them on a flash drive to the church office.



Youth Girls Day Out!

Sunday, April 14

Lunch and Build-A-Bear
Leave FBC at 10:30 a.m.

Returning 2:00 p.m.

Signed permission slip required.
(Grades 6-12)

Youth Cabin Trip

Wed., May 22 - Fri., May 24

Pigeon Forge, TN

\$75 per student

Signed Permission Slip required.

See Kris for more details.



Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Free Dinner, Music, Games
& Bible Study

Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m.

Service in the Church Library.

Kids Pottery Workshop

Monday, April 15

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per child
Maximum 12 children.

RSVP ASAP to the church office.

THE OLD TESTAMENT FAST FORWARD

FBC Kids Musical

Wednesday, May 8

6:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary



Monday, June 10 -

Friday, June 14

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Family Life Center
Volunteers and Beach Décor
needed. Contact Lauren Neal if
you can help.

College Graduates

If you are graduating from college this year, please contact the church office asap and let us know where you are graduating from and your degree. **We would like to include your name and info in our Senior booklet, given out on May 5.**

Finance Committee Update:

The Finance Committee would like to give a brief update on our finances after the first two months of 2024. Our expenses are tracking close to budget through February. Unfortunately, missing a Sunday in January for snow has had a negative impact on giving. Therefore, giving is behind our budget requirements through February. Actual giving is below expenses by approximately \$33,000 year-to-date. Now may be a good time to check your giving. Let's be diligent about erasing this deficit early in the budget year. Thank you for your faithfulness to the mission of our church.



Women's Ministry Event

Erin's Meadow

Herb Farm

Saturday, May 18

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$20 per person

Encore Picnic

Friday, May 24

12:00 p.m.

Norris Dam State Park
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
There is not cost for this event.
Please bring a side dish or dessert
to share. Bring your lawn chairs if
you wish.

Historical Moment: A ministry of First Baptist Church to provide food and clothing to support people in need in our community began in October of 1986. A contest was created to name this new ministry, and the winning name was provided by Peggy Fletcher. This ministry was named "The Christian Service Center," and it has been in operation for 38 years with the support of many volunteers.

Planning & Crochet Demonstration

Tuesday, April 2

5:00 p.m. Refreshments

5:30 p.m. Demonstration

FLC Level 2

RSVP to the church office.

C.S.C. February Report:

Total: 295 individuals served.

7017 food items were
distributed.

818 clothing items
87 miscellaneous items such
as sheets, diapers, toilet paper,
toiletries, etc.

The CSC accepts clean winter
clothes in good repair, shoes
other than sandals. Coats and
jackets are in still in demand.
However, we will begin
transitioning to spring and
lighter clothing as the weather
warms. We also accept bed
pads, Depends, etc.

Towers Craft

Third Thursday, Monthly

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Led by Julia Spradling

At the Towers

Towers Cookout

Sunday, April 14

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

At the Towers

Please join us after the service
for fellowship and a cookout!

Towers Movie

Sunday, April 21

6:00 p.m.

Join us for popcorn and a movie.

In Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Peggy Fletcher** (3/4) and to the family of **Kathryn Dillow** (3/11).

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the sanctuary altar, April 7, are in loving memory of **Bessie May Wallace**, whose birthdate was April 2, given by Dorothy Howell.

The flowers on the sanctuary altar, April 14, are in honor of **Ruth Worthington's 100th birthday**, April 15, given by her family.

The flowers on the sanctuary altar, April 21, are in loving memory of **Ray C. Cate**, **Mary F. Cate**, and **Minnie F. Miller**, given by Jane and Mark Halcomb.

The flowers on the sanctuary altar, April 28, are in loving memory of **John Cobb's** birthday, May 3, given by Beth and Connie.

From the Pulpit

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center

10:40 a.m. Sanctuary
April 07 Philemon 8-21
April 14 Jude 17-22
April 21 2 John 4-11
April 28 Dr. Michael Prince

LifeGroups

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.
We have LifeGroups for all ages.

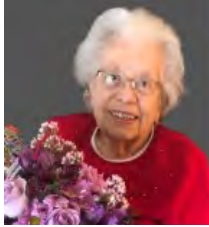
Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays in April
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium
3 The Baptist Identity (10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
10 The Baptist Identity (10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.)
17 Business Meeting
24 Adult Bible Study

It's A Boy!

Congratulations to Mackenzie and Augusta Ridley on the birth of their baby boy, **Landis James Ridley**, born Thursday, March 7.

100th Birthday Celebration!



Ruth Worthington is turning 100 on April 15! You are invited to a 100th Birthday Reception in her honor on **Sunday, April 14,**

from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., in the Family Life Center, Hearth Room. Cards will be appreciated, but please no gifts. If anyone wishes, a donation may be made to the First Baptist Church Beautification Fund in her honor. But most of all, drop by and help celebrate Ruth!

You are invited to a
Couple's Wedding Shower
In Honor of
Kara Bradley & Jesse DeArmond



Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m.
In the Hearth Room
RSVP by April 28th to Susan Treece at 865-607-0444.
Registered at Amazon and Target.

Combined Choir Program

Memorial Methodist Church Choir & First Baptist Church Choir
Sunday, May 19
3:00 p.m.
At Memorial Methodist

February Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 63,139
2024 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 14,774
2024 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,362
Budget Expense	\$ 77,881
February Deficit/Income	(\$ 14,742)
2024 Deficit/Income	(\$ 18,539)
TOTAL February 29	(\$ 33,281)

Annie Armstrong & Global Missions Offering Goal: \$3,500

(SBC & CBF Combined)

Business Meeting Report

February Minutes and Financials were approved. **2024 Deacons** were approved (see below). **Cooks Mechanical** will repair the chill water leak in the CSC. **Missions Goal** (SBC and CBF Combined) was set at \$3,500.

New Deacons

The following deacons will serve a three year term **beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2027**

Leah Barber	Ben Neal
Larry Gann	Scott Page
*Pat Marshall	Jill Whitaker
Tom Marshall	Sam Zachary
*Rick Meredith	*to be ordained

(*Susan Hammons will be ordained from the 2023 nomination process.)

Other Deacons Currently Serving:

Rebecca Aiken, Gary Bowers, Ernie Bowles, Al Coleman, Jacob Floyd, Beth Green, Susan Hammons, Mary Haven Merkle, Alan Neal, Teresa Schlandt, Wimp Shoopman, John Stair, Todd Temple, Johnafred Thomas, Garry Whitley, Sr., Johanna Whitley, Gene Widener

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, April 9
5:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 17
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

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ONLINE
GIVING

Remote Area Medical



Coming to First Baptist Church, Clinton November 2-3, 2024. Please be praying about your involvement with this RAM. If you want to volunteer, please contact Amanda or the Church Office.

W.E.E. Ministry Graduation

Thursday, April 18
11:30 a.m.
Sanctuary

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications are available in the Church Office and are due back by **5 p.m. Monday, April 22.**

Braves Game

Wednesday, July 24
7:00 a.m. Leave FBC
12:20 p.m. Game
\$30.00 per person
30 spots available
RSVP to the church office

IN THE Heart OF CLINTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

APRIL 2024



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*Widows & Widowers
Spring Banquet*

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
at 5:00 p.m.
In the Family Life Center

Entertainment by Tritone
from Powell High School
Catered by Apple Blossom

SPONSORED BY THE FBC DEACONS