

# First Thoughts...

On Wednesday nights, we’ve been taking a look at the twelve disciples using Hulitt Gloer’s book *As You Go*. In the chapter about Simon the Zealot, Gloer writes:

“How many times have we been so blinded by our own understandings of Scripture and our doctrinal preconceptions that we have allowed the truth of God to go unnoticed while pressing our own agendas to the bitter end? How often have we found ourselves making enemies out of fellow believers in our effort to see our own vision realized?”

It’s been an informative study thus far, and I’ve especially enjoyed learning more about those disciples we tend not to talk about so much. Each one played a part in advancing the Kingdom of God.

Each of us has a part in God’s mission as well. Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness in your service, giving, and attendance. In our August business meeting, we received a report from the Finance Committee which indicates our giving is up compared to this point last year—Thank you!

We also voted to approve sending monies to the flood victims in Texas, enact repairs on the van (due to its increased usage), make a down payment on the Spring 2026 Youth Beach Trip, and to make David Whipple our Interim Minister of Music. And, while this was going on, we had Sterl the Pearl in our FLC speaking to a room filled with youth (and pizza!)

Our congregational style of governance depends upon established committees and their recommendations. Indeed, the Baptist style is not always the most efficient, but it does seek greater involvement by its membership in the decision making process.

We’ve kicked off the Fall with FBC Kids and FBC Ignite Youth events, and I’m anticipating another great season in the life of our church (yes, we are having ‘favorite teams’ Sunday in October!).


Finally, I’m excited to have David Whipple come on staff. He’s already made a tremendous impact and will lead the choir and our congregation into the Advent season.

Keep praying for your church staff and leadership. Let’s be grateful for the what the Lord is doing in our fellowship and remember that all we do is for the glory of God!

Pastor Danny

**Pastor Danny** has a podcast called “**Elisha’s Bears.**” It’s about life, faith, and the Bible, and the church in general. He’ll have conversations with guests about various topics from time to time, too. You can follow the podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcast and Amazon Music. His most recent conversation was with Dr. Pam Durso, President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary.





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


**Youth Family Breakfast**  
Sunday, September 7  
11:00 a.m.  
Family Life Center, Gym  
Youth arrive at 9:30 a.m. to prepare breakfast for their families.

*Save the Date:*  
**Youth Chili Fundraiser**  
Sunday, October 19  
Following the second service.  
Family Life Center, Gym  
Proceeds will help offset some of the cost for the youth to attend the Youth Beach Trip scheduled for Spring Break, March 14-19 at Emerald Isle Beach in NC. Watch for more information.

**Bible Presentations**  
Bibles were presented to those going into 1st grade and 6th grade on Sunday, August 3.




**FBC Kids**  
Wednesdays  
5:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.  
Free Dinner, Music,  
Bible Study  
Parents sign in children in the FLC Lobby between 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. to eat dinner. They go to the Choir Room (Level 2 Main Building) at 5:40 p.m.



**Kids Church**  
Sundays during the 10:40 a.m. Service in the Church Library (next to the nursery) for Age 3 - Grade 5.

**Trick or Treat**  
Sunday, October 26  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
FLC, Gym  
If you would like to sign up to decorate a table and give out candy at this community event, please let Lauren or the Church Office know.



## Kids Back to School Bash, August 13



**Welcome Rev. David W. Whipple, Jr.**  
**Interim Minister of Music**  
Rev. David W. Whipple, Jr. is an accomplished church musician who has served as minister of music in churches in Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee for over 45 years. During that time he has conducted choirs, vocal ensembles, instrumental groups and orchestras of all sizes. He has participated in the production of several albums, video productions, live musical and drama productions, and numerous major seasonal choral productions. He is a vocal soloist, conductor, producer, director, published composer and arranger. For 23 years he was an active member of the professional men’s choir, The CenturyMen, where he served as Concert Manager, President (2014) and Board Member (2011 - 2015), and has toured with them throughout the United States as well as internationally in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain, Cuba and Canada.



David studied vocal music at Samford University in Birmingham, AL, and Belmont College (University) in Nashville, TN, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in music and a minor in music business. He also holds a Master of Church Music degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. He has led two of his church choirs to sing as part of a mass choir at Carnegie Hall in New York City with The Annie Moses Band. David also brings extensive theater experience as a producer, director, writer, actor and technician.

David married Angela Ivester Whipple in 1978. They have two adult sons. His older son, Adam, lives in Knoxville, and is married. He and his wife, Katrina, have given David and Angela 4 beautiful grandchildren. Adam is a full-time musician, composer and writer, and Katrina is a middle school math teacher. His younger son, Joseph, lives in Mt. Dora, Florida, with his wife, Ashlyn. Joseph is a wildlife biologist with the Florida Forestry Service, and Ashlyn is a nurse.

## Sterl The Pearl - Youth Event, August 20





# Labor Day Closings

The Church Office, Family Life Center and W.E.E. Ministry will be closed on **Monday, September 1.**

## From the Pulpit in September

**8:30 a.m.** Family Life Center

**9:30 a.m.** LifeGroups

**10:40 a.m.** Sanctuary

07 2 Timothy 3:16-17

14 2 Timothy 4:1-5

21 2 Timothy 4:6-8

28 2 Timothy 4:14-18

## AS YOU GO...

**An Honest Look at the First Followers of Jesus**

Wednesdays

**6:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium.

Led by Pastor Danny



## Sunday Bible Study

Sundays through October 1

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

Led by Amanda & Jason Taylor

(no study September 14 - Picnic)

## Burial Plots for Sell

The church has been given 2 burial adjoining plots at Woodhaven Cemetery. If you are interested in purchasing these plots, please call the church office.

## Church-Wide Picnic

**Sunday, September 14**

**Arrive at 3:30 p.m.**

**Eat at 4:00 p.m.**

Norris Dam State Park Shelter #2

## Memorial Flowers

The flowers the altar on Sunday, September 7 are in loving memory of **Dwayne Hicks**, given by Penny, Hanna, & Kris.

The flowers on the Sanctuary altar, Sunday, September 14, are in loving memory of **Steven Clark's** birthday, which was September 14, given by Herbie Clark and Robert Clark.

The flowers in the Sanctuary, Sunday, September 21 are in loving memory **Andy Halcomb's** birthday, September 11 and **Anne Halcomb's** birthday, September 21, given by Mark, Jane, Andrew, Emily and Spencer Halcomb.

The flowers in the Sanctuary, Sunday, September 28 are in honor of and in celebration of **Elizabeth Tavenner's** Birthday given by her 3 sons - Tim, Sam, and Jim.



Join us for a  
**Baby Shower**

In Honor of

*The Ridley Family*

**Saturday, September 6**

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Family Life Center, Hearth Room

## Encore Potluck

Join us for Potluck, Planning and Playing!

**Thursday, September 25**

**12 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

FLC Hearth Room

Please call the Church Office to sign up and let us know what you are bringing. Desserts will be provided.



## Photography Group

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, Monthly**

**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

FLC - Hearth Room

## July Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 78,814
2025 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 15,782
2025 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,542
Budget Expense	\$ 76,015
July Deficit/Income	\$ 2,799
2025 Deficit/Income	(\$ 79,993)
TOTAL July 31	(\$ 77,194)

## July Business Meeting Report

July Minutes and Financials were approved. The Trustees recommendation to hire Ray Varner Ford to replace the current catalytic converter , faulty coil and plugs and a Ford recall on a drive shaft coupling was approved. The Music Committee recommendation to hire David Whipple to be Interim Minister of Music was approved. The Church Council recommendation that the church give \$2,000 for Flood Relief in Texas was approved. The Youth Committee recommendation that the church pay a \$250 deposit for the house rental at Emerald Isle, NC for the 2026 Youth Spring Break Trip was approved.

## Business Meeting

**Wednesday, September 17**

**6:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

## Church Council Meeting

**Monday, September 22**

**5:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

## FBC Christian Service Center Distributions for July 2025

**Total:** 109 Families served

(206 Individuals)

5081 food items

741 clothing items

138 miscellaneous items

CSC volunteers greatly appreciate your continued support of this ministry through prayers, donation items, and financial support.



**ONLINE GIVING**

Giving options to FBC Clinton include the offering envelope system (checks and cash), scanning the QR code (digital giving), or by setting up a recurring bank draft through the church office.

## Deacons' Meeting

**Tuesday, September 9**

**5:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

## Towers Movie Night

**Saturday, September 13**

**7:00 p.m.**

Popcorn & Drinks will be served.

## Lord's Supper

**Sunday, September 28**

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

## Towers Craft

**Third Thursday, Monthly**

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

At the Towers

Led by Julia Spradling

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# IN THE Heart OF CLINTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2025

## CHURCH PICNIC AT NORRIS DAM STATE PARK



**\$12 PER PERSON OR \$30 MAX PER FAMILY**

**BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE  
AND A LAWN CHAIR!**

**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 14**

ARRIVE  
**3:30 PM**  
EAT  
**4:00 PM**

NORRIS DAM STATE PARK  
SHELTER #2

**RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 7  
SPONSORED BY THE DEACONS**