

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street  
Shallotte, NC 28470  
910.754.4048  
thefbcs.com

**Office Hours:**  
M-Th 9am-3pm  
Closed Monday

Sunday School-9:45am  
Worship-11am



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No 318  
Shallotte, NC

{Name}  
Or Current Resident  
{Street Address}  
{City} {State} {Zip}

## DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

2/1/25	Exodus 5; Matthew 26; Psalms 41	2/15/25	Exodus 33-34; 2 Corinthians 3
2/2/25	Exodus 6; Matthew 27	2/16/25	Exodus 35-36; 2 Corinthians 4
2/3/25	Exodus 7-8; Matthew 28; Psalms 67	2/17/25	Exodus 37-38; 2 Corinthians 5
2/4/25	Exodus 9-10; Psalms 105	2/18/25	Exodus 39-40; 2 Corinthians 6
2/5/25	Exodus 11-12; Psalms 91	2/19/25	Leviticus 1-3; 2 Corinthians 7
2/6/25	Exodus 13-15; Psalms 114	2/20/25	Leviticus 4-5; 2 Corinthians 8
2/7/25	Exodus 16-18; 1 Peter 1	2/21/25	Leviticus 6-7; 2 Corinthians 9
2/8/25	1 Peter 2; Exodus 19-20	2/22/25	Leviticus 8-10; 2 Corinthians 10
2/9/25	Exodus 21-22; 1 Peter 3	2/23/25	Leviticus 11; 2 Corinthians 11; Psalms 56
2/10/25	Exodus 23-24; 1 Peter 4	2/24/25	Leviticus 12-13; 2 Corinthians 12
2/11/25	Exodus 25-26; 1 Peter 5	2/25/25	Leviticus 14-15; 2 Corinthians 13
2/12/25	Exodus 27-28; Psalms 96	2/26/25	1 John 1; Leviticus 16-18
2/13/25	Exodus 29-30; 2 Corinthians 1	2/27/25	1 John 2; Leviticus 19-21
2/14/25	Exodus 31-32; 2 Corinthians 2	2/28/25	Leviticus 22-23; 1 John 3

# the. Vision

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shallotte | February 2025

## Jimmy Carter, God's Love, and Answers to Prayer

In 2015, former President Jimmy Carter was diagnosed with cancer. Already 91 years old, his prognosis wasn't good. But he received successful treatments and outlived those predictions. He passed away December 29, 2024, at 100 years old.

Carter was known for his humanitarianism and his love for people. Both of these traits stemmed from his Christian faith. But how did his faith impact other areas of his life, including his battle with cancer?

### *New York Times* Interview

In 2017, not long after Carter had received successful treatments and was glimmering with hope and good health, he participated in an interview to discuss his Christian faith.

New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof included Carter in a series of talks with prominent Christians. During the interview, Kristof asked Carter about prayer, miracles, and how God works.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

## Church Events

- Feb 1st @ 9a - Trail Life Pine Wood Derby
- Feb 8th 8-10a - Cars & Coffee
- Feb 10th 6:30-8:30p - Ladies' Ministry Meeting; Dinner Provided
- Feb 12th 6-8p-Valentine Banquet Fundraiser
- Feb 17th 6:30-8:30p - Men's Ministry Meeting; Dinner Provided; Speaker Brad Barth

We Love Because  
He first loved us

## JIMMY CARTER, GOD'S LOVE, AND ANSWERS TO PRAYER

As they discussed prayer, Carter affirmed that he "prayed daily." The reason he did so was for both personal "efficacy," because he found that praying was personally encouraging, and for God to work in his life.

This puzzled Kristof. Why pray if you don't get the answers you want? He said, "Skeptics have noted that when prayers are 'answered,' there is usually an alternative explanation. But an amputee can pray for a new leg, and a new leg never grows back. Isn't that a reason to believe that prayer helps internally but doesn't access miracles?"

Clearly, Kristof did not understand prayer or the way God works. But Jimmy Carter did.

Carter answered, "For me, prayer helps internally, as a private conversation with my creator, who knows everything and can do everything. If I were an amputee, my prayer would be to help me make the best of my condition, to be a good" follower of Christ.

He then explained the reason he prayed was not so much for the miracle of healing as it was to handle this season of his life with cancer.

In other words, prayer is both about strengthening your relationship with Christ and asking God to work in your life, which may also include miracles. God decides if He will heal, when, and how. But God always promises His presence and His help in our struggles.

### The rising belief in miracles

In January, the Christian Post reported that "belief in miracles has seen a significant increase over the past few decades, specifically among Evangelicals and those with graduate degrees in the United States, according to a recent survey."

Belief in miracles is particularly increasing among older generations and Roman Catholics. Even more notable, the researchers found that belief in miracles is rising among educated adults, even those with a secular perspective.

But as Kristof showed, believing in miracles and understanding how God works are two different things. We tend to think of miracles as getting what we want from God, perhaps direct healing, a new job, or a quick fix to some other problem.

God is still God, and He still works with miraculous power. But He is far more concerned that we know Christ personally and live for Christ daily. Prayer is not about procuring what you want from God, but it is about strengthening your relationship with your Creator and permitting Him to use you for His glory. He answers prayer in keeping with His will.



Jimmy Carter had it right. The real miracle is that God wants a relationship with us and shows that through His love and grace given in Christ. God saves you miraculously when you are born again in Christ.

### What if God says no?

The point here is not whether we have a full understanding of prayer or miracles. It's whether we grasp the magnitude of God's love for us.

Be careful not to base God's love for you on whether or not He answers prayers the way that you prefer. If you do that, and He doesn't do as you please, you might become jaded and misunderstand His love.

Every lesson about prayer in the Bible echoes with two truths: God always loves you, and God always has His greater purposes in mind (Rom. 8:28).

A good example is in 2 Corinthians 12. The Apostle Paul relates a private and poignant conversation he had with God.

Paul suffered from an undefined malady, a "thorn in the flesh." He says that he pleaded with God three times to remove this problem.

But God declined. Seeing that Paul needed to keep this thorn for his own spiritual humility, God wanted to teach the great missionary a lesson. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).

Paul needed to know the power of God through grace more than through a specific answer to prayer. To put it another way, Paul needed God more than He needed God to remove his "thorn."

### Yes, God loves you

So, remember, God's love for you is not measured by His willingness to answer prayers the way you desire, or whether He blesses now or blesses later.

God has already demonstrated that He loves you. He loves you because He made you, and He shows you His love in His relationship with you. The gospel is God's greatest expression of His love for you (John 3:16).

"But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

With Love in Christ,  
Pastor Bob



## DEACON OF THE WEEK

2/2-2/8

**IAN CARICO**

(910) 209-5458  
ICINNC@ATMC.NET



2/9-2/15

**BOBBY DAVIS**

(910) 540-2686  
GRITSTER2016@OUTLOOK.COM



2/16-2/22

**KELLY HOLDEN**

(910) 231-6053  
SEEKELLRUN@ATMC.NET



2/23-3/2

**FORREST TAYLOR**

(910) 443-1054  
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The facilities manager position is still available and has been reopened. Resumes will be accepted through February 15. Anyone interested in applying for the position, please visit [thefbcs.com/jobs](http://thefbcs.com/jobs) for more information and to submit a resume.



## NEW TO THE FAMILY



**BRAD & ROBIN BARTH**  
JOINED JAN 12



**ALAN & GEORGIA GANT**  
JOINED DEC 22