

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 Friday

Sunday School-9:45am
Worship-11am



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

Or Current Resident

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

5/1	Ruth 3-4; Proverbs 31	5/17	1 Samuel 10-12; Titus 1
5/2	Psalms 119:1-88	5/18	1 Samuel 13-14; Titus 2
5/3	Psalms 119:89-176	5/19	1 Samuel 15-16; Titus 3
5/4	Judges 1-2; Psalms 50	5/20	1 Samuel 17; Psalms 27
5/5	Judges 3-4; Psalms 20	5/21	Psalms 55; 1 Samuel 18-19; Psalms 42-43
5/6	Judges 5-6; Psalms 121	5/22	1 Samuel 20-22; Psalms 52
5/7	Judges 7-8; Psalms 83	5/23	Psalms 54; 1 Samuel 23-24; Psalms 63
5/8	Judges 9; Psalms 120	5/24	1 Samuel 25-26; Psalms 7
5/9	Judges 10; Psalms 44; Judges 11	5/25	Psalms 57; 1 Samuel 27-29; Psalms 31
5/10	Judges 12-14; Psalms 143	5/26	1 Samuel 30-31; Psalms 18
5/11	Judges 15-17; 2 Peter 1	5/27	2 Samuel 1-3; Psalms 141
5/12	Judges 18-19; 2 Peter 2	5/28	Psalms 58; 2 Samuel 4-6
5/13	Judges 20-21; 2 Peter 3	5/29	Psalms 21; 2 Samuel 7-9
5/14	1 Samuel 1-2; Psalms 113	5/30	2 Samuel 10-12; Psalms 51
5/15	1 Samuel 3-6; Psalms 97	5/31	Psalms 36; 2 Samuel 13-14
5/16	Psalms 124; 1 Samuel 7-9		

the Vision

Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shallotte | April 2025



Happy
Mother's
Day

Thank you for your
never-ending love.
You taught us about
true love.



Events

- **May 1st - National Day of Prayer**
Church Open All Day for Prayer
- **May 3rd 12-5p - Mini Golf Fundraiser for Trail Life at Golf Barn**
- **May 4th 11a - Compassion International Sunday**
- **May 10th 8a-2p - Car Show & Boston Butt Fundraiser**
- **May 11th 11a - Mother's Day & Parent/Child Dedication**
thefbcs.com/parent
- **May 12th 6:30-8:30p - Ladies' Ministry Meeting**
Dinner Provided
Speaker Shannon Smith
- **May 19th 6:30-8:30p - Men's Ministry Meeting**
Dinner Provided
Speaker Robert Ball
- **May 26th Memorial Day; Office Closed**

THE COUNTY IS GETTING CROWDED. ARE WE READY?

Brunswick County is exploding. Again.

Our county has been growing for decades. The population dipped a bit when the pandemic hit in 2020. But since 2022, the population in our county has been trending upward. By 2023 we were once again one of the ten fastest growing counties in North Carolina.

In April an “Economic Snapshot” from the NC Budget and Tax Center showed that the county population increased by roughly 48% in the last ten years. Around 175,000 people now call Brunswick County home. (For comparison, the population was around 109,000 in 2010). About 20% more homes sold in February of this year than in the same month last year.

And the growth is not likely to level off in the foreseeable future. That’s a lot of people moving into Brunswick County. How do we respond?

How do we respond?

When we respond to changes, our perspective matters. So, do we see this growth as an inconvenience, or as an opportunity?

Sure, a growing population brings inconveniences and crowded conditions. But new people also bring new ideas, fresh resources, more skills, and potential relationships. And each person moving into the county represents a new opportunity to reach one more person for Christ. This unprecedented growth provides an equally unprecedented opportunity for churches in Brunswick County to reach the lost for Christ.

God is bringing the mission field to us, and we need to respond with His perspective (Matt. 9:37-38).

But not only does the growing county require our response and preparation, but so do the ideological shifts taking place in our culture. After all, who among us in 2004, when FBCS entered our current facility, would have thought that in 2025 our cultural conversations would center on defining what a woman is, or what a man is?

And who knows what ideological confusion our children will face in the future? We need to plan for ministries that can meet these challenges.

The question we should be asking is not so much how will the population growth change our county but rather how does God want us to prepare? What is God inviting us to be part of? What is He doing around us, and how do we need to adjust our ministries, our priorities, and our resources to join Him in the days, months, and years ahead?

We need to be ready for the next season, and that’s exactly why we created the Strategy 2030 Team.

A new team for a new time

At April’s Quarterly Ministry Meeting, we created the new Strategy 2030 Team. After months of diligent and prayerful work, the Nominating Committee populated this team with nine FBCS

members representing various ages, stages in life, perspectives, years of membership, and areas of service. Team members are Bobby Davis (Chair), Jane Buffkin, Don Evans, Day Evenson, Wendy Giordano, Ryan Hill, Tom Powell, Amanda Richardson, and TJ Spivey.

This team will lead us in preparing a strategy to meet the ministry needs of the future generations of Brunswick County. One of their first priorities will be to meet with the Facility Development Team (FDT). The FDT has been working for several months on a proposed expansion that will provide space for immediate growth while the Strategy 2030 Team works alongside them for future needs (you’ll hear more about that plan in the next couple of months).

You may be familiar with the idea of a “long-range planning committee.” A long-range planning committee usually focuses on the practical aspects of growth, like master plans for construction and land use, meeting the needs of the current congregation, fundraising, and blueprints for the future. They often start with the question, “What are the next steps to accommodate the anticipated growth of our church?”

Or, maybe you are more familiar with the idea of a “visioning team.” The name gives away the purpose. A visioning team focuses on the ideas of what might come next, hearing from the congregation and what they envision for the church’s future. They usually start with the question, “What future do we see for ourselves in the next two or three decades?”

Our Strategy 2030 Team will combine the best of both of those approaches, but we will begin with a different, and more significant, question: “What is God doing in Brunswick County, and where is He inviting us to join Him?”

Of course they will talk about land, staffing, construction, and so forth. And yes, they will eventually bring a master plan for the church’s approval. But this team’s priority is not the question, “What does God want us to build?” Their priority is to ask, “Who does God want us to be?”

What comes next

In the next few weeks, I will be gathering these teams for their initial conversations so we can launch. Then the Strategy 2030 Team will consult with leaders from areas outside the church, such as the NC Baptist State Convention, who can provide fresh perspectives on our ministries, our county, our culture, and our growth.

Each step of the way, we will keep you apprised of the progress the Strategy 2030 Team is making.

But in the meantime, what can you do?



CONTINUED.... THE COUNTY IS GETTING CROWDED. ARE WE READY?

- **Be prayerful.** Begin now praying for the Strategy 2030 Team. Add them to your morning prayer list or your evening devotionals. Ask God to guide them in the direction He has for our church.
- **Be patient.** This is a process. We are not in a rush. We want to meet God where He is working. In the meantime, we are providing for immediate needs. We have added chairs, and, as I mentioned, the FDT has been hard at work. All of these processes will flow together in God’s timing.
- **Participate.** During this process, you will have opportunities to provide input. When the Strategy Team asks, be sure to step up and participate.

- **Be productive.** God is working right now! Invite friends and new neighbors to join you at FBCS. Sign up, show up, and serve. Enjoy being part of God’s great mission at this place and time!
- **And keep God’s perspective.** These are exciting times! Serve with anticipation and come to worship with expectation! Be here when God brings people to Christ!

It is exciting to serve with you in this season of ministry!

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob

Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us— to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

COMPASSION SUNDAY

On May 4, we will join churches across the country for Compassion Sunday - a day set apart to change the future for children living in extreme poverty around the world. Prior to our worship service, I will take a few minutes to celebrate the Kingdom impact that FBCS is already having by sponsoring nearly 40 children! That’s 40 children that are receiving our letters and hearing our prayers. How amazing is that! If you are currently sponsoring, send me a recent photo of your sponsored child at amyers@us.ci.org. I’d love to share a few photos this Compassion Sunday.

And, of course, there will be a chance to sponsor a child this year as well. Sponsorship is not only an amazing way to show the love of Christ to a precious child but also a great way to disciple children and grandchildren in your own home. I look forward to the opportunity to share more with you on May 4!

Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth. – 1 John 3:18 CSB



DEACON OF THE WEEK

5 / 4 - 5 / 10
BOBBY DAVIS
(910) 540-2686

GRITSTER2016@OUTLOOK.COM



5 / 11 - 5 / 17
KELLY HOLDEN
(910) 231-6053

SEEKELLRUN@ATMC.NET



5 / 18 - 5 / 24
FOREST TAYLOR
(910) 443-1054

FISHINBUILDER@YAHOO.COM



5 / 25 - 5 / 31
ROB MICHEL
(910) 233-6498

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