

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shalotte, NC 28470
910.754.4048
thefbcs.com

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

Sunday School-9:45am
Worship-11am

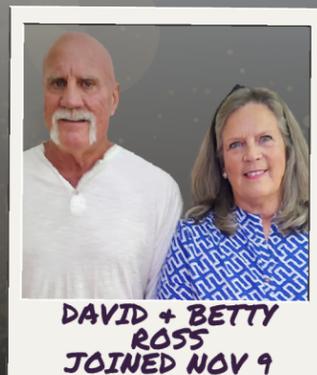


Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No 318
Shalotte, NC

Or Current Resident

HAPPY New Year! 2026

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



DAVID + BETTY
ROSS
JOINED NOV 9

the VISION

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shalotte | January 2026

Church Events

- Jan 1st - Office Closed.
- Jan 10th @ 8a - Cars & Coffee
- Jan 11th @ 6pm - Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- Jan 12th 6:30-8:30p - Ladies' Ministry Meeting; Dinner Provided; Speaker Meghan Sellers;



Collecting Supplies for Shalotte Middle School:
Planners, Folders (w/ pockets), Dividers, Sticky Notes, Tide Sticks, Fidget Toys (cubes, squishies), boys' sweatpants, girl's leggings, shoes, underwear, socks, pickers, hot sausage, cookies, ziploc bags, "smell good" hand sanitizer, body spray, deodorant, eos lotion (girls), lotion (boys), hair claw clips

- Jan 19th 6:30-8:30p - Men's Ministry Meeting; Speaker Frank Pihoker



- Jan 22nd @ 10:30a - Bags of Hope Packing
- Jan 24th @ 10:30a - Bags of Hope Distribution
- Jan 28th - \$75 Centrikid Deposit Due
- Jan 31st - Trail Life Pinewood Derby

WHAT HAS THE STRATEGY 2030 TEAM BEEN UP TO?

The Strategy 2030 Team was created in April 2025 with a stated purpose of guiding the creation and adoption of a master plan for our next stage of growth and ministry.

In the May 2025 newsletter, I shared with you the need for this team, an update of the Team's purpose, and the expectations we have for the Team's next steps. (I recommend reading that column before you finish this one).

A lot has happened since May.

The Last Nine Months

In the last nine months, you have heard short reports at our Quarterly Ministry Meetings from the Team's Chair, Bobby Davis, and I have briefed you on the Team's work in sermons. Also, I summarized its progress at the 2025 LEAD Time training.

But otherwise, the Team's progress has been happening mostly behind the scenes.

Maybe you have imagined the nine members of the 2030 Team hunkered down in the Conference Room, joined by the Facility Development Team, sketching out blueprints and planning construction projects.

Certainly, this will happen, especially since God provided for us the long-awaited opportunity to purchase additional property. And we did, trusting God's provision and adding 5.5 acres to our tract.

But not yet. The blueprints come later, and the ministries will expand. But not yet.

You'll remember that the Team's purpose statement continues, "The Team will create a strategic ministry plan to be adopted by the church. This plan will reflect a long-term vision, intentional ministry development, a Master Site Plan, and expectations for growth through 2030 and beyond."

This phrasing is intentional. Before we build, we will produce a Master Site Plan. And before we produce a

Master Site Plan, we need a Master Ministry Plan. And before we create a Master Ministry Plan, we need a long-term vision that clarifies where we are going.

To put it another way—we need to know who we are before we know what we are going to do and how we are going to do it. So, the question is, how do we get there?

The Visioning Process

Early in the summer we enlisted a consultant with the NC Baptist State Convention, Rev. Jeff Blackburn, to guide us through a process of visioning for the future.

The purpose of the process is to dig into what makes us unique as a church in Brunswick County, and, from that, to look ahead at the ministries that God has for us. To put it another way, while every church is called to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20), not every church has the same mission field, nor the same strengths, goals, and resources to do so. We need to know how God has uniquely shaped us so we can be most effective for Him in our context.

This is hard work, and you have nine people intensely committed to this significant project. Since June, the Team has met multiple times with Pastor Blackburn, including two long Saturday morning sessions. We are not finished. We will continue meeting with him this month.

Five Key Questions

When we emerge from this process, we will have answered five key questions we need to answer as we prepare for ministry in our growing county and our changing culture:

- **Where are we going?** The first and most important part of this process is a clear vision statement. It's like a travel brochure to guide the journey and gives us a picture of the future.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE....

DEACON OF THE WEEK

1/4-1/10
JEFF HOPKINS
828-964-3904
MRHOPJ88@
GMAIL.COM



1/18-1/24
TOM POWELL
803-517-4496
TBPOWELL@
COMPORIUM.NET



1/11-1/17
DREW SELLERS
910-619-1819
NDSSELLERS
@GMAIL.COM



1/25-1/31
GARY GALLOWAY
910-477-0230
GRGALLOWAY
@MSN.COM



...CONTINUED

"WHAT HAS THE STRATEGY 2030 TEAM BEEN UP TO?"

- **What are we doing?** This is the mission statement. Think of it as the compass that guides the journey.
- **Why do we do what we do?** What values do we share? What is truly important to us, that every person at FBCS would say, yes, I agree! These are the values that matters most!
- **How do we do it?** Now, we get to the blueprints. We unpack a strategy for growth. This is where we add and subtract ministries, construct buildings, and shape our resources for ministry.
- **How do we know we are doing it?** Churches rarely stop to ask if we are accomplishing what God has given us to do. But measuring our progress is a significant part of the life of a healthy church.

What you can expect

So, your Team has been faithfully addressing and answering these questions. When will you learn the answers? Get ready!

This month and in February, I will be preaching a series on each of these questions that shows their biblical foundation and how they apply to us. That will lead to an exciting event in March! We'll have a Sunday night dedicated to rolling out our answers to these key questions and showing how that will impact our future as a church!

In the meantime, what can you do?

Remember to pray for the Team and for the process. And then be here this month as we get started together on the next stage of the exciting adventure that God has for us!

One more thing

Pray about what God would have you give to the Capital Fund, either directly or through the Tree of Life. At the Quarterly Ministry Meeting we will confirm our Capital Campaign Team that will lead us in retiring the debt on our property.

These are exciting times to be in ministry together!
Happy New Year!

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

