

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

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

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470
910.754.4048
thefbcs.com



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

Sundays
Sunday School-9:45am
Worship-11am

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

2 nd	DiscipleLife Start - Sign up and learn more at thefbcs.com/disciplelife Kids, Fusion & Youth Classes Kickoff	15 th	Ladies' Weekly Breakfast and Bible Study Resumes <i>Revelation Study at Homestyle Foods. Contact Dori at 216.375.0976 or fwihoker@gmail for more information</i>
7 th	Office Closed	17 th	Bags of Hope Packing 10:30 AM
12 th	Cars & Coffee 8-10AM	19 th	Bags of Hope Distribution 2 PM
14 th	Ladies' Ministry Meeting 6:30-8:30p (Dinner Provided) <i>Shallotte Middle School Prayer Partners Bonnie Stanley-Verzella and Sara Carico</i>	21 st	Men's Ministry Meeting 6:30-8:30p (Dinner Provided) Guest Speaker Daniel Richardson

the Vision

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shallotte | September 2026



Living Sent

North Carolina
MISSIONS
Offering

Jesus sends us to share His love, serve our neighbors, and bring hope to those in need. Through the North Carolina Missions Offering, our gifts support disaster response, church planting, and the mobilization of North Carolina Baptists for missions throughout the year. Together, we can help provide relief, reach communities, and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our 2026 Mission Goal: \$7,300
Give generously and live sent!



SOPHIE CUNNINGHAM, THE WNBA, AND WHAT LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE

At any other place, at any other time, on any other planet, you would think this was a comedy routine. But it’s not. In fact, it’s not even a passing joke between friends at work. It’s real.

After thirty years in existence, the Women’s National Basketball Association is confused about--- wait for it— how to define a woman.

The league was founded in 1996 for the sole purpose of women playing professional basketball. And since 1996, the league has grown from eight to fifteen teams. And in its 2026 collective bargaining agreement, the league stated that only women could play in the WNBA.

Then, because 2026 is the era of the absurd, their failure to define a “woman” has become a problem.

What fueled this sudden onset of confusion? One popular, outspoken player who simply said the obvious.

Sophie’s choice
Sophie Cunningham is a superstar athlete, and alongside her Fever teammate Caitlin Clark, she has made the WNBA popular and profitable for the first time in its history.

But that’s not why she’s in the news daily right now. In July, Cunningham said something simple, something obvious, something that at any other time would have been uneventful. Just common sense. But in our culture, it was explosive.

Asked about comments she made in 2022, in which she said that men should not play in women’s sports and that little girls should be protected from that, she replied, "I got a lot of negative feedback about me hating trans. And I’m like, ‘I never once said that.’ I think that I am here to extend love. But I also think with that love is truth, being honest. And I want to protect young girls in a locker room, or young girls in sport who shouldn’t have to go against biological men."

Social media exploded. Cunningham was asked if she would “apologize” for her “transphobic” comments. Of course not, she replied. “I said what I said.”

But in our culture, common sense, traditional values, and objective truth have caved under the weight of postmodern progressive nonsense. So the culture wars have come to the court of the WNBA.

THE WNBA, AND WHAT

Surely the leaders of the league would step up and confirm the obvious, right? Clarify that by the 2026 collective agreement “women” means biological females, right? Side with one of their best and most popular players to defend the rights of little girls to play sports without the threat of men in their spaces, right?

Nope. Instead, the official “leadership” of the WNBA is twisting to acquiesce to the nonsense of the progressive culture.

A crisis of leadership
In 2019, Cathy Engelbert became Commissioner of the WNBA. In her first press conference, she spoke of women 33 times, heralding "women's advancement," "women's leadership," and "women's initiatives." And she extolled her own journey in business and academics as a woman, describing how she broke the “glass ceiling” in male-dominated industries. "I think I do tell a story a lot about being a woman leader in a man’s world," she said.

That was then. This is now. Apparently, reality has changed.

Following Cunningham’s comments, Engelbert sent a memo to news outlets informing the world that the WNBA had convened a task force “of team presidents and general managers” to determine what it means to be a woman in the WNBA.

That was in early August. By the end of August, they still had not decided what the “W” in WNBA stands for.

Those are the official “leaders” of the WNBA, and, in one of the most significant, watershed moments in the history of sports, they are failing in spectacular fashion.

Thankfully, leadership is not confined to offices and egos.

What makes a leader?
The glaring contrast between Cunningham and Engelbert is blinding. While Engelbert hides away struggling to appease the culture and keep her job, Cunningham plays the game and speaks the truth.

Leadership doesn’t require a position. Sure, Cunningham is a high-profile personality. But she is not tasked with determining policies for the league. She doesn’t sit in the big chair or prattle on about her accomplishments and awards. Even so, of the two, she is clearly the leader.



DEACON

OF THE WEEK

9/6-9-12

TOM POWELL

803-517-4496

TBPOWELL@COMPORIUM.NET



9/20-9/26

MIKE CHRISTENSON

910-964-6814

MDC6566@HOTMAIL.COM



9/13-9/19

GARY GALLOWAY

910-443-1054

FISHINBUILDER@YAHOO.COM



9/27-10/3

NICK HUGH

910-477-0230

GRGALLOWAY@MSN.COM



...CONTINUED SOPHIE CUNNINGHAM, THE WNBA, AND WHAT LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE

In April 2026 Cunningham rededicated her life to Jesus Christ and was baptized. While (as far as I know) she hasn’t said so, I think it is fair to attribute much of willingness to stand for the truth to her fortified faith in Christ.

But regardless, she demonstrates traits that echo the characteristics of leaders in scripture, and that’s why she makes a difference when the other official “leaders” are squandering the opportunity to protect generations of female athletes of all ages.

She’s courageous and confident. She speaks the truth in love, and she knows truth doesn’t change with the times. She’s an example of the difference one person can make when that person is willing to stand against the pressure of the people who want them to recant the truth.

And she doesn’t do it for herself. She’s already at the top of her profession. She stands in the gap for all the girls who right now need a leader, a defender, and an advocate who will guard their place in the game.

She’s David to Saul, Elijah to Ahab, Esther to Haman.

Be a Cunningham, not an Engelbert
So when your time comes, be a “Cunningham,” not an “Engelbert.”

From a biblical perspective, remember that you are where you are because God wants you there. You may be the only one who will stand up for what is true and what is right. You may be the only one who makes a difference and does what is best for all who follow you.

And you don’t need a position to do that. You only need the truth.

In His love,
Pastor Bob

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

