



Our Pastoral and Ministerial Staff

Rusty Guenther	Lead Pastor
Chad Martin	Youth Minister
Houston Sloan	Youth Minister
Sid Greene	Worship Pastor
	Children's Minister

Administrative Staff and Support

	Office Administrator
William Tugman	Property Manager

Livestreaming every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook/ YOUTUBE or the churches APP or website.

350 Sunset Drive
P.O. Box 3
Blowing Rock, NC 28605
Phone: 828-295-7715
After Hours: 828-719-6962

office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com
www.firstbaptistblowingrock.com

Wednesday Evenings

Worship Team Practice	5:30p.m.
Worship Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.

Temporary Office Hours:
Mondays-Thursdays
9:00 A.M. –2:00P.M.

**FIRST BAPTIST BLOWING ROCK
NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:00 A.M.

Worship	Worship Center
0-3Nursery	Nursery
Children's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall/Room 6&4
Youth Life Groups	Youth House
Adult 1 - Pat Ball	Room 1
Adult 2 – Nathan & Ginny Anderson	Room 5
Spanish Language Life Group	Room 2
Children will go directly to classes after checking in at 9:00	

10:30 A.M.

Worship	Worship Center
0-3 Nursery	Nursery
Children's Church	Fellowship Hall
(Will be dismissed from worship after the music portion)	
6th Grade Life Group	Room 4
Adult 1 - Reggie Bray	Room 1 *
Adult 2 - Linda Craig	Room 6
Adult 3 - Jeff Foster	Room 2
*Room changes from previous class time	

May 2025 VOLUME 71

Monthly Newsletter
of First Baptist Blowing Rock



Magnified! VBS will encourage kids to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God. We were made to MAGNIFY God! Please consider volunteering to help make this year's VBS possible. Please sign-up in the narthex or by emailing the church office.

June 23-26



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that they had been with Jesus"

Acts 4:13



I am excited about this new sermon series that we began on Easter Sunday and will continue into the summer called, **"They had been with Jesus"**. Each week we will look at a different story from one of the gospels of ordinary individuals who had an extraordinary encounter with Jesus – "they had been with Jesus". While exploring and breaking down these encounters, I hope to draw some parallels to our own everyday lives and how our own personal encounters with Jesus can leave us transformed. I hope you will join us each week on Sundays at either 9:00 or 10:30 for a blessed time of worship and these exciting encounters. I also want to welcome back our seasonal members who are arriving back in town in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you for your faithfulness over our Holy Week services this year and for your willingness to invite friends and family to worship with us. Both weeks, our services were at capacity with a wonderful spirit as we celebrated communion on Palm Sunday and on Easter Sunday, we had over 600 people between the two services. That is something we

could never have done with just one worship service. It has been exciting to see how the individual services have grown and developed, yet how we have been able to maintain unity and community throughout the church this past year. As we continue to grow and reach new people, we are looking at developing some new small group and discipleship studies and I hope you will pray about getting connected to one of these groups.

I also wanted to thank you for your prayer and participation this past weekend as we hosted Woody and Dena Oliver as he came as a candidate for our Associate Pastor position. You gave them a warm welcome and made them feel at home. Thank you to those who came on Saturday to meet with them and to our volunteers who set everything up and served as well as Lindsey Tester and Sarah Martin for putting together the wonderful fruit and charcuterie spread. One Sunday, we had more people participate in voting for his candidacy than we have received in a long time and the vote was overwhelming and unanimous to extend the call to Woody to be our Associate Pastor. He has accepted this call, and we are working through logistics and timeline for when he can begin. Please be in pray for them and their family as they make this transition. Also be in prayer for his current church as he shares with them his plans and for them to be able to sell their house in Okateee and find a place up here to live. Our goal is for him to be here in early June.

We continue our search for a children's minister, but I wanted to thank my wife, Kim Guenther and Mechelle Fox who have voluntarily stepped into that role to help keep our children's ministry running. Thank you to all our volunteers in children's church and the nursery for stepping into the rotation, and we can always use more volunteers. This year we are going back to a traditional Vacation Bible School theme and structure, and we need lots of volunteers to make it a success. Please pray about helping and volunteering during this important week in the life of our children and their families.

We have a busy summer coming up, so please read through this newsletter and stay connected and plugged in.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

April Birthdays

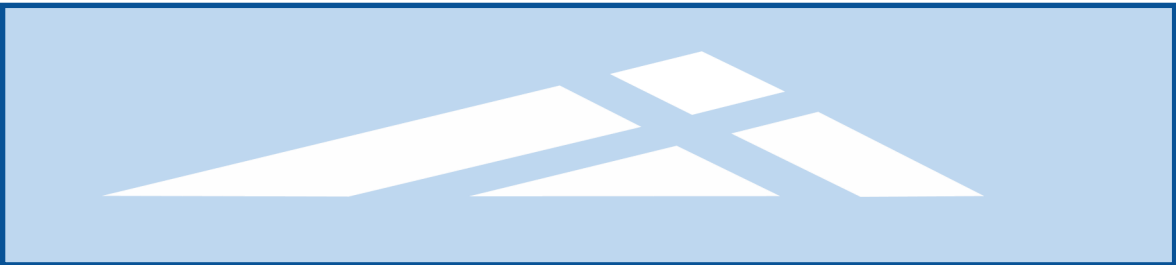
- 1– Wit Williamson
- 1–Al Bailey
- 2- Richard Gambill
- 2– Marie Moody
- 3- Tricia Derrick
- 4– Linda Dunn
- 4– Chance Triplett
- 4– Ruby Walters
- 6- Skylar Burgess
- 7– Molly Greer
- 10– Tommy Klutz
- 10– Karen Stocking
- 12– Tristan Derrick
- 13– Vanessa Kosmala
- 14– Amelia Mills
- 15– Bridget Antonucci
- 15– Mona Strickland
- 16– Ava Williamson
- 16– JJ Jackson
- 17– Sharon Brooks
- 20– Carolyn Pressley
- 22– John Rinehart
- 23– Mark Cooper
- 27– Susan Lane
- 28– Greg Brent

April Wedding Anniversaries

- 1– Stuart & Ann Whiddon
- 2– Joe & Beth Jackson
- 3– Gene & Lois Norris
- 11– Bret & Bonnie Holmes
- 12– Dr. John & Anne Davis
- 14– Blake & Lynn Pace
- 15– Fernando & Megan Montano
- 17– Ben & Renee Barnes
- 19– Don & Nancy Gossett
- 21– Paul & Brenda Fairbetter
- 22– Bob & Angie Dillner
- 28– John & Nancy Speagle
- 29– Stephen & Marshall Logue
- 30– Jim & Clara Duggins

March Financials

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$55,291	\$68,659	\$13,368
YTD		
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$178,951	\$249,267	\$70,316



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

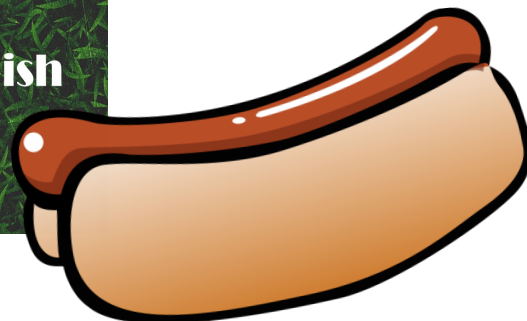
We will be celebrating all our families that have new additions on Sunday, May 11th in both worship services with a time of baby and family dedication. If you have a newborn to two-year-old child who has not been dedicated, we would love for you to take part in this special service. Baby Dedication is a time where the church family has an opportunity to pray with and over your child, you as parents and your extended family. We also have a time of commitment and dedication welcoming your child into our church family. If you would like to participate or have questions, please email the church office (office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com) and we can give you more details and what infor-



Summer Kick-Off Picnic June 8, 6 p.m. Davant Field

**Hamburgers and Hot
Dogs are provided.
Please bring a side dish
and dessert.**

Join us June 8th at 6 pm for our annual summer kick-off picnic at Davant Field. Hamburgers and hot dogs are provided, you just bring a side dish and dessert. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and appetite for a time of fellowship to celebrate the start of Summer with us.



WORSHIP MINISTRY

12¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:1-2

As I read this scripture this morning, I found myself convicted about laying it all before the Lord. There are so many parts of my "ordinary life" that I hold onto and try and control in my own power. I realize that all that does is rob God of the glory He would receive if I would just turn it all over to Him. It's odd to think that God would receive glory from the mundane parts of my life. However, if I truly see worship as the overflow of my gratitude then any act, in my life, could be worship. This idea of anything being worship if done for His glory prompts me to want to share a little of my family life. All of you know my wife, Lauren. When we got married, she had no clue the baggage and expectation that I had. In full disclosure I was raised a mamas boy. My relationship with my mom is something that I cherish. However, she raised me with, what some people would call, unrealistic expectations. I like my clothes pressed before they go into the drawer or closet, even my t-shirts. This was something that Lauren didn't know about prior to our wedding day and has resulted in what we call "elevated discussions"...not arguments! Through those discussions Lauren saw that this was important to me and now indulges my crazy request. I share all that to connect back to the idea of "all things as worship". If you will ask Lauren, she will tell you that her time in the laundry room is more tolerable when she approaches it as an act of worship to God and an act of love to her husband. No, I didn't say or imply that she likes it! But with the right heart attitude it is worship.

I hope this glimpse into the life of the Greene family encourages you to approach your "ordinary life" with a heavenly focus and with a heart of perpetual worship. Or if nothing else you are affirmed to know you aren't the only one with crazy/unrealistic expectations. All I ask is the next time you see me at church and think to yourself man Sid's shirt looks nice and crisp today all the credit goes to Lauren Greene as the Glory went to God.

As always I want to encourage anyone who would like to participate in the Worship Ministry to reach out to me or join us Wednesday nights!

Sid Greene
828-266-1205



STUDENT MINISTRY



Just about everyone loves sharing good news. When was the last time you had good news to share with someone? Maybe you got a good grade on a test you were worried about, or you made the All-Star team. Who did you want to tell first? How did you tell them? Maybe you got to see them in person or you called or texted. How did they respond to your good news? This month we'll be talking about sharing the good news of Jesus

with the people in our lives. This looks different depending on the kind of relationship you have with someone, and you will likely get a variety of responses from people. I'm really excited to explore God's Word together in Paul's letter to the Romans. We'll discover the good news of Jesus and that's definitely worth sharing, even



In May, we will start a new four-week series that equips students to navigate the major changes of early adolescence—emotions, independence, friendships, and decisions—through the lens of God's Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Each week, students will learn that while change is a natural part of growing up, God is unchanging, and His truth provides a solid foundation during life's transitions.

Looking ahead to June, ***we will start a Bi-weekly Sunday night of "Worship & The Word" with High School boys. There will be more information to come. For any questions, see Houston or Chad.***



High School Girls Bible Study is still meeting Sundays at 6 p.m. at Rachael Mill's house. See her for any questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Ladies, mark your calendars, you will not want to miss this! Our women's ministry will be hosting a Spring Tea on May 4th from 3:00-5:00 down in the fellowship hall. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship, sweet treats, and our guest speaker former NC Senator, Deanna Ballard. **There is still time to register for the event by scanning the QR code.**

Our women will be meeting at Lee Bailey's home for our first Women's Luncheon of the Summer on June 20th at 12 noon. If you would like to host a women's luncheon this summer, please email the church office at office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com to sign-up. This is a always a wonderful time of fellowship for our ladies.



THEO of GOLDEN

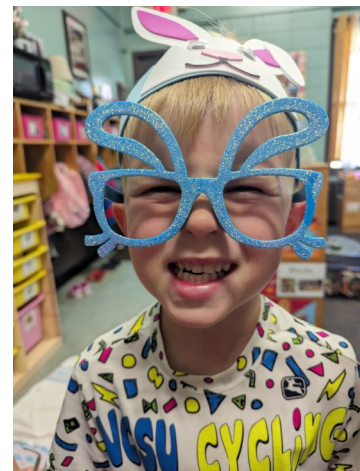


Our Women's Book Club's next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12th from 6:00-8:00 at the church. Join them as the discuss their next read, Theo of Golden by Allen Levi .

Join our women on Monday nights starting June 2nd at 6:00 PM as they begin their 7 week bible study on the book of Hosea By Jennifer Rothschild. This study will help

guide us and more especially, apply the message of the prophet of love. This study will be offered once weekly on Monday nights. Join us as we follow along with Hosea and his love story.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Dear parents,

Let me start by sharing how much your children continue to bless those who are working with them in TeamKids. The children are learning about God's promises and how we can depend on God through stories of Noah, Abraham, and Isaac. We will continue our walk through the bible learning how God fulfills His promises.

While we continue with God's Promises, on the 1st Sunday of the month, we will celebrate birthdays and focus on our identity in Christ. We will learn what it means to be forgiven, reconciled, rescued, redeemed, justified, chose, bought with a price, known, accepted, loved, free, and saved by God. We will delve deeper into scripture to gain a deeper understanding of our identity in Christ. The scriptures studied will be provided to all parents, and we encourage you to have your children memorize the scripture and discuss with them what it means to them.

Every quarter, the children will have the opportunity to use tickets they have earned to select from a variety of prizes. Please encourage them to memorize their bible verses, bring their bible, and invite friends to earn tickets. We also ask students to share any special verse they have on their heart for extra tickets.

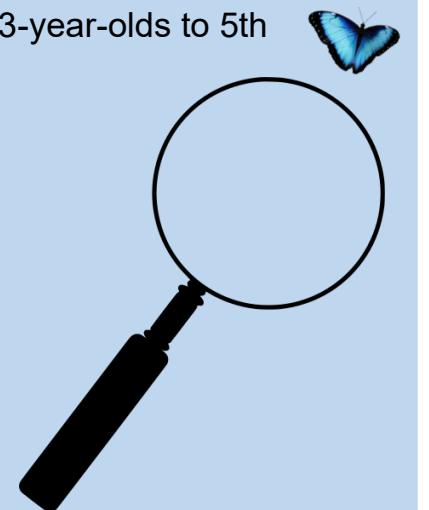
Volunteers Needed

We are requesting additional volunteers for TeamKids. The more volunteers we have, the more blessings and love we can share with our children. The FBC Children's Ministry is working to prepare children to transition into the youth ministry and be ready to grow deeper in the Lord.

VBS will take place from June 23-26, 2025, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for 3-year-olds to 5th graders. The theme will be "**Magnify- Made to magnify God.**" We are still seeking volunteers to lead Bible studies, crafts, recreation, food preparation, and Bible study helpers. We will need some items collected for crafts. Please begin collecting paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, and chip cans, such as pringles. Boxes will be placed in the narthex for item drop-off.

Thank you for trusting us with your children.

Kim Guenther and Mechelle Fox



IN OTHER NEWS



Please join us after the 10:30 service on June 3rd for a BBQ fundraiser to support Blakely Woolard. BBQ made by none other, than our very own Roachel Laney, accompanied by slaw, baked beans, a roll, and home-made dessert. All proceeds will be going to fund Blakley on an upcoming school trip this summer to Barcelona, Paris, and London. We hope you can join us for some delicious food and a chance to support her on this incredible trip.

Join us on May 25th during both services to recognize our graduating seniors and all of their hard work. If you would like for your senior to be recognized or have any further questions please email the church office at office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com and we will discuss all of the details and information.

Class of 2025



The church will be hosting a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on May 29th from 2:00-6:00 PM in the church parking lot. For any additional questions please email the church office.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

**BLOOD
DRIVE**



CRAFT FAIR

**CALLING ALL
CHURCH
MEMBERS WHO
LOVE TO CREATE,
CRAFT OR BAKE!**

We are hosting our Third Annual Craft Fair and we need your woodworking talents, your fiber-related skills, or your kitchen creativity to help raise money for the Blowing Rock Police Department Children's Christmas Fund. Our annual Craft Fair is a great opportunity for you to share your gifts with one another. Whether that be baking your family's secret recipe muffins, making gorgeous woodwork, or even your crocheted scarves. We want you to participate and share your gifts to help a wonderful cause!

When: Sunday, August 3rd

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: 9:00 a.m. till Noon

What: Any handmade items

(bird houses, baked goods both sweet and savory, handcrafted gifts or décor, etc.)

Annual Craft Fair

