

# the. *Vision*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE SEPTEMBER 2020

**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**



SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

*looking forward to seeing you—in person or online*

# What Does Fake Bob Have to Do with Back to Church Sunday?

## Pastor Bob

Last month I was on my annual study week and a church member called. She was a little puzzled. She had received an email soliciting money to help a cancer patient. The email was kind and respectful. It was conversational, as if the writer knew her. And the email claimed to be sent from “Pastor Bob.” It even showed a “Pastor Bob” email address. At first glance, it really could have come from me.

It didn't.

And in the course of an hour, more of you called or texted either me or the church staff, either wondering if this email was really from me, or letting us know that there was an imposter using my name. I learned that Fake Pastor Bob had variously asked for money, scratch off cards, or Amazon cards. So, I called into the office and we huddled and did what we could to end this obvious scam before anyone was duped into sending Fake Bob any money.

# WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

(I hope no one was fooled. But if you were, I am sorry. I can't refund your money. You'll have to get in touch with Fake Bob.)

That someone would seek to scam people by trading on their relationship with their pastor is reprehensible and evil. But even so, this duplicity, while disgraceful, is motivated by an assumption. And it is a valid assumption, time-tested and consistently proven. It's the assumption that Christians are generous and will give to a cause, a need, or a friend.

The world may be critical of Christianity, ignorant of what Christians really believe, take advantage of Christian kindness, or be intolerant of Christian values, but no matter what the world thinks of Christianity and Christians, people have expectations of who Christians are and how they will behave.

Media and pop culture typically characterize Christians as intolerant and uneducated, backward, and hopelessly stuck in legalistic religion. But instances like the scam by Fake Bob remind us that

Christians also have a reputation for kindness and generosity. The world may seek to manipulate that reputation, but even so, non-Christians should be right to have an expectation that Christians will be kind and loving toward others.

Because that's who we are. That's who Jesus called us to be. That's the Church. There may be fakes, imposters, or counterfeits. But there is only one true Church. And the Bible is very clear about what the Church—or rather, who the Church—really is.

The Bible describes the Church as the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27, Col. 1:18, Eph. 5:23), a people growing together into a “holy temple” (Eph. 2:21), the household of God (1 Tim. 3:15), the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25-27, 2 Cor. 11:2), living stones (1 Peter 2:5), a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9-10).

But notice, not a building. Never a building. Always God's people (1 Peter 2:10). And not a social club or a convenience store. Jesus said that God's people, His Church, should be an unstoppable force, changing the world by rescuing people from Satan, sin, and death (Matt. 16:18).

National Back to Church Sunday rolls around every September. We don't usually put a lot of emphasis on it at FBCS, but we are this year. And not because I am pressing everyone to discard precautions and show up at the church for in-person worship. If you are not ready for that, no problem. But rather, we are recognizing Back to Church Sunday so that we can be reminded what the Church really is.

2020 has rattled us in a lot of ways, and even changed us. Jobs lost, illness, families moved, changes in school schedules and platforms, and businesses shuttered. But even so, the Church is still the Church. We are always foremost followers of Jesus. And the world still has

Visit Pastor Bob's Blog:  
**BOBWEATHERS.NET**



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## What Does Fake Bob Have to Do With Back to Church Sunday?

expectations of who we are and what we will do. We are still God's people, still called to love one another, still helping others, and still preaching the gospel.

So September 20 is a rally day for us. We will recognize Back to Church Sunday in order to regroup and refresh ourselves and to remember that we are in this together. Maybe you have returned to in-person worship, or you prefer to worship with us by live-stream. Either way, pick your place and gather to worship.

And especially if you have drifted away, changed your routines and habits, or lost touch with your siblings in Christ. Make your plan now. Make September 20 your day to rally back, to recommit, to refresh. On September 20, come back to church. If in-person, register early. If online, set up your place and get ready. But if you have been away, make September 20 the day you come back-- back to your habits of discipleship and worship, back to being who God called you to be. Online or in

-person, be here to worship.

When it comes down to it, by our behavior, our priorities, and our devotion, we define the Church for the rest of the world. We decide what the world considers the True Church and what they expect of Christians.

So, if the world's only definition of the Church came from watching how you behave in your relationship with Christ and other Christians, what opinion would they form about the Church?

The world has expectations of what the Church is and of who Christians are. Let's fulfill those expectations and, no matter where we are, always be the Church.

See you Sunday! In the meantime, keep loving God, loving one another, and loving the world with the Gospel!

With love in Christ,

Pastor Bob

## Church Events

- **Aug 30<sup>th</sup> at 5pm—Beach Baptism at OIB Community Center**
- **September NC Missions Offering—Goal \$5,500**  
Give Online or In Person  
Envelopes Available at the Giving Station
- **Sep 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am—First Kids' Up Worship Experience**  
Special service just for Kids!  
Parents and Kids sit together and worship First Kids style!

### WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sundays at 11am  
Worship—Online at [fbcshallotte.org/live](http://fbcshallotte.org/live) or In Person (RSVP at [fbcshallotte.org/rsvp](http://fbcshallotte.org/rsvp))
- Sundays at 6:45pm  
Prayer Walking & Gathering
- Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
Christians in the Chaos Bible Study w/ Pastor Bob  
Online at [fbcshallotte.org/live](http://fbcshallotte.org/live) or In Person (no RSVP required)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Connection Groups have launched! Be on the lookout for emails, cards or phone calls from your Group Leader. Questions? Feedback? Contact your Connection Group Leader or our Coordinators :  
Tim Collins (804) 852-2736 & Kathy Collins(804) 873-3357
- Please be in prayer as the Fall Festival Committee makes decision about the upcoming event.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER



Love God.  
Love One Another.  
Love the World.

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# YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

4486 Main Street  
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048  
fbcsballotte.org

### Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Sunday School—Online  
Worship—11:00am

## *Read the Bible Beginning to End Reading Plan*

**1-Year Plan.** It is important to understand the fullness of God's message to the churches, and a great way of doing this is reading the Old and New Testaments simultaneously. This plan, which can be completed in one calendar year, does just that. Readings from both Testaments are included from the beginning and although each reading does not contain both Testaments, the two are read effectively.

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/1 Psalms 135-136; 1 Corinthians 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/16 Proverbs 25-26; 2 Corinthians 9    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/2 Psalms 137-139; 1 Corinthians 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/17 Proverbs 27-29; 2 Corinthians 10   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/3 Psalms 140-142                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/18 Proverbs 30-31; 2 Corinthians 11   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/4 Psalms 143-145; 1 Corinthians 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/19 Ecclesiastes 1-3                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/5 Psalms 146-147; 1 Corinthians 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/20 Ecclesiastes 4-6; 2 Corinthians 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/6 Psalms 148-150                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/21 Ecclesiastes 7-9; 2 Corinthians 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/7 Proverbs 1-2; 1 Corinthians 16   | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/22 Ecclesiastes 10-12; Galatians 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/8 Proverbs 3-5; 2 Corinthians 1    | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/23 Song of Songs 1-3; Galatians 2     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/9 Proverbs 6-7; 2 Corinthians 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/24 Song of Songs 4-5; Galatians 3     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/10 Proverbs 8-9; 2 Corinthians 3   | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/25 Song of Songs 6-8; Galatians 4     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/11 Proverbs 10-12; 2 Corinthians 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/26 Isaiah 1-2; Galatians 5            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/12 Proverbs 13-15; 2 Corinthians 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/27 Isaiah 3-4; Galatians 6            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/13 Proverbs 16-18; 2 Corinthians 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/28 Isaiah 5-6; Ephesians 1            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/14 Proverbs 19-21; 2 Corinthians 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/29 Isaiah 7-8; Ephesians 2            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9/15 Proverbs 22-24; 2 Corinthians 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9/30 Isaiah 9-10; Ephesians 3           |