

# *the* Vision

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | JULY 2022

## ALL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY & SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS

Rally with us Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for a visioning session as we consider a new, multi-generational Bible study and ministry plan to begin in the Fall, based on the D6 ministry format! We will start at 6 PM in the Advancers Sunday School Classroom. Put it on your calendar now! More information to come!

*Media Center*  
If your spiritual goal for 2022 is to read and study more, then “check-out” our church media center. Located across from the office (also used as a conference room). The media center is open whenever the church is open and offers a wide range of Christian books which includes reference books, children’s books, devotionals, classics, Christian living , biographies and more. There is a pad on the table next to the window for checking out books and a bin underneath for book returns. We hope you will utilize this great resource!

*Praise Band*  
The Praise Band is in need of musicians to fill in for the current musicians when they are unable to play on a given Sunday. If you have a background in guitar, drums, bass, or keys and a desire to serve in this capacity, please contact Kristi Smith or Rick Koons. We encourage all ability levels to participate with us!

*Men's Ministry*  
The speaker will be Jonathan Bridges, son of Jerry and Bonnie Bridges, who will be sharing how he uses his agricultural business in impoverished Ethiopia as a ministry. Join us July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

## Church Events

- July 4<sup>th</sup> – Office Closed
- July 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> - Free Basketball Camp
- July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm– Men’s Ministry Meeting
- July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm– Ministry Leaders’ Meeting

## Wednesdays

- Reset Bible Study every Wed at 12pm
- D6 Family Groups every Wednesday at 5:30pm
- Fusion & Youth Will Not Meet July 6<sup>th</sup> or July 13<sup>th</sup>, Will Meet July 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm
- No Evening Adult Bible Studies or Fellowship Meals in July

## July 5 & 6, 2022

At Shallotte District Park, 5550 Main Street

FREE

# BASKETBALL CAMP

9:30a—12:00p

Registration at 9am

Grades 1-6, Water & Snacks Provided

# What Comes After Anaheim: FBCS and Our Policies on Sexual Abuse

The Southern Baptist Convention is no stranger to controversy. But, let's be honest, our denomination has received an especially brutal black eye in the past few years.

In February of 2019, the *Houston Chronicle* released the first of a three-part series titled "Abuse of Faith: 20 years, 700 victims: Southern Baptist sexual abuse spreads as leaders resist reform." Their articles dissected a culture of sexual abuse within our Convention. Worst of all, it revealed that, for decades, some prominent leaders and churches either participated in sexual abuse or facilitated it by permitting abusers to move from church to church without so much as a reprimand or splotch on their records.

Following the report, more heartbreaking and reprehensible revelations in our SBC churches and entities surfaced. The Executive Committee (EC) of the SBC had catalogued hundreds of cases of sexual abuse within SBC churches and entities stretching back for decades. As the mishandling of cases continued to surface, the messengers at the SBC Annual Meeting in 2021 in Nashville voted to create a Sexual Abuse Task Force (SATF) and to enlist a third-party, Guidepost Solutions, to thoroughly investigate the accusations and to provide a comprehensive report to the Executive Committee of the SBC.

Guidepost Solutions issued its report this Spring, prior to the 2022 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Then the EC released the report to the public.

Scrolling through the names of pastors, leaders, and lay people affiliated with SBC churches and entities who facilitated sexual abuse or participated in it within the ranks of the SBC was disheartening, to say the least. (By the way, the report included many "Baptists" of other denominations or churches as well).

## What happened in Anaheim?

At the Anaheim meeting, the messengers responded to the report by adopting two motions. The first created an Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force within the SBC to help churches respond to accusations of sexual abuse.

The second motion created a "Ministry Check" website to be available to SBC churches and entities. The names listed on the website will be people who have been "credibly accused." The recommendation clarified that "credibly accused" refers to a "pastor, denominational worker, or ministry employee or volunteer ... who has confessed to sexual abuse in a non-privileged setting, who has been convicted in a court of law, or who has had a civil judgment rendered against them."

I encourage you to read about these motions for yourself in this article, ["In its 'Kairos moment,' Southern Baptists approve SATF recommendations."](#)



## What Does This Mean for Us?

The SBC messengers in Anaheim did the right thing. While this blight on our Convention is difficult to stomach, I'm relieved that Southern Baptists acted together to repent of this sin and to implement plans to hold abusers accountable, keeping in mind that everyone is assumed innocent until proven guilty.

But Anaheim is just the beginning. It's what we do at FBCS that matters. You may wonder, what are our policies at FBCS? So, I want to clarify where we stand. Our three-pronged approach to sexual abuse and misconduct includes prevention, response, and restoration:

- **Prevention**

Your church staff are skilled professionals who, I am delighted to say, work together with mutual respect and excellence to honor God and serve the church. They are honest, reliable and demonstrate integrity. I have never been aware of any inappropriate or unethical behavior on our staff.

Even so, we take nothing for granted. We were proactive when we developed our Personnel Policies in 2006. At the outset we included a "Code of Conduct" and a statement prohibiting "Sexual Harassment" in the workplace. Staff and pastors come and go over the years, and this Code of Conduct ensures that we maintain a respectful and professional working environment for all of our employees.

These policies demonstrate that we will not tolerate misconduct among our pastors and staff. When someone joins the staff at FBCS, they sign our policies affirming they have read them and that they will comply with them.

And, of course, all of our staff and all volunteers who work in our children's ministries are required to have a background check.

No one should feel uncomfortable coming to work at FBCS due to inappropriate contact, behavior, insinuations, or language. Nor should any volunteer in ministry, or church member, at FBCS

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# Deacon Nominations

This is a list of the men eligible for nomination of deacon. Deacon nominations will be on July 10, following the morning worship service. Members may nominate up to seven men to serve as deacons. Please review what the Bible says about deacons, pray and come prepared!

- |  |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Vernon Abney     | <input type="radio"/> Ricky Buffkin     | <input type="radio"/> Donald Evans     | <input type="radio"/> Todd Jackson      | <input type="radio"/> Drew Sellers      |
| <input type="radio"/> John Adriani     | <input type="radio"/> Bradley Caison    | <input type="radio"/> Travis Fassnacht | <input type="radio"/> Leonard Kennedy   | <input type="radio"/> Christopher Smith |
| <input type="radio"/> Darrell Anderson | <input type="radio"/> Jackson Canady    | <input type="radio"/> Mark Giordano    | <input type="radio"/> Billy Long        | <input type="radio"/> Derrick Smith     |
| <input type="radio"/> Dell Anglin      | <input type="radio"/> Dicky Carico      | <input type="radio"/> Brian Hall       | <input type="radio"/> David Long        | <input type="radio"/> Chuck Spangler    |
| <input type="radio"/> Robert Ball      | <input type="radio"/> Ian Carico        | <input type="radio"/> Tony Hall        | <input type="radio"/> Richard Masters   | <input type="radio"/> Ed Strother       |
| <input type="radio"/> Greg Ballard     | <input type="radio"/> Tommy Carpenter   | <input type="radio"/> Larry Harris     | <input type="radio"/> Jim Murphy        | <input type="radio"/> Bill Suttles      |
| <input type="radio"/> Ed Barrett       | <input type="radio"/> Clifton Caulder   | <input type="radio"/> Justin Hayes     | <input type="radio"/> Jace Myers        | <input type="radio"/> Peter Thompson    |
| <input type="radio"/> Bradley Bellamy  | <input type="radio"/> Wes Causey        | <input type="radio"/> Greg Hewett      | <input type="radio"/> Lonnie Pittman    | <input type="radio"/> Mark Varnum       |
| <input type="radio"/> Morgan Bellamy   | <input type="radio"/> Walter Cox        | <input type="radio"/> Brett Hickman    | <input type="radio"/> Ronald Powell     | <input type="radio"/> David Ward        |
| <input type="radio"/> Charles Bess     | <input type="radio"/> Justin Cutrell    | <input type="radio"/> Ryan Hill        | <input type="radio"/> Tom Pozzo         | <input type="radio"/> Bo Watkins        |
| <input type="radio"/> Larry Blanton    | <input type="radio"/> Graham Davis      | <input type="radio"/> Kelly Holden     | <input type="radio"/> Kevin Pressley    | <input type="radio"/> James White       |
| <input type="radio"/> Jerry Bridges    | <input type="radio"/> Richard Dunteman  | <input type="radio"/> Jeff Hopkins     | <input type="radio"/> Daniel Richardson | <input type="radio"/> Jay Williams      |
| <input type="radio"/> Ian Buchanan     | <input type="radio"/> Jimmy Elmore      | <input type="radio"/> Norman Horne     | <input type="radio"/> David Robinson    |   |
| <input type="radio"/> James Buffkin    | <input type="radio"/> Dewayne Etheridge | <input type="radio"/> Tim Ivey         | <input type="radio"/> Devin Sellers     |   |

Christian Recovery Center's 2022 Charity  
 Golf Classic Championship  
 July 9 6:45am or 11:35am Registration  
 Hosted by Thistle Golf Club Visit [cricrecovery.org](http://cricrecovery.org) for more information



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## What Comes After Anaheim: FBCS and Our Policies on Sexual Abuse

feel uncomfortable around another volunteer, a staff member, or pastor at FBCS.

- Response**

But, if misconduct or abuse is reported, how would we respond?

As far as I am concerned, FBCS has and will always have a zero-tolerance policy for any employee, volunteer, visitor, or vendor who instigates sexual misconduct, harassment, or abuse. We will handle any issue that arises with biblical clarity. We will not intentionally condone or conceal any sexual abuse or misconduct, and we will comply with the dictates of law enforcement.

And we will not condone or ignore church attendees who, in any way, cause members of our staff, volunteers in our ministries, or

worshippers in our congregation to feel uncomfortable or harassed.

So, from intervening to stop inappropriate contact or behavior to informing law enforcement, we will respond in a manner fitting the situation.

- Healing**

Prevention is important and a proper response is critical. But those are not even our primary obligations as we seek to serve the Lord in every situation.

We are in the redemption and restoration business. When we become aware of anyone who has been abused or impacted by sexual misconduct, we will respond with love. We will do our best to apply biblical counsel and godly wisdom. And we will help survivors of

sexual abuse move forward into hope and healing.

The SBC has published materials and developed new ministries to assist churches in helping survivors recover from sexual abuse. If a situation comes to light, we will avail ourselves of any resources needed to help a survivor of sexual abuse. And we will, from this point forward, take advantage of the resources created by the messengers at the 2022 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

With Love in Christ,  
 Pastor Bob

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street  
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048  
fbcshallotte.org

## Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm  
Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am  
Worship—11:00am



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

## 52 Week Bible Reading Plan

	Gospels	Epistles	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy
Week	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
27	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 78-80	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 19-24
28	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Col 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 81-83	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 25-30
29	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Col 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 84-86	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 31-36
30	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 87-89	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 37-42
31	<input type="checkbox"/> John 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 90-92	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 43-48