

the Vision

20

years

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | APRIL 2024

Twenty Years and Counting!

Twenty years ago this month, Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004, FBCS launched a new season of ministry at our current location.

In these years

In these twenty years, we have experienced both explosive growth and heartfelt loss. We've paid off debt, paved parking lots, sent teams on mission trips, given away mountains of food, and upgraded our facilities to meet changing needs. We've started and finished ministries. We've seen members come and go. We've weathered economic downturns, hurricanes, and Covid. And we have done all of this together.

Kim, Kaitlyn, and I arrived in June 2005, and since then I have preached or taught around 1,800 sermons and Bible studies (give or take). I have officiated 99 funerals and 32 weddings. We have baptized 236, and the Lord has added 497 new members to the body at FBCS!

Of course, ministry is not about numbers, but the numbers reflect the history we share as we serve together.

And imagine what God has in store for the next twenty years!

The mission field next door

In fact, let's talk about that.

In January, I shared the statistics of the people moving into our community. New neighborhoods are mushrooming. This year alone, we expect 1,700 or more new families to move into our ministry area!

Every family and individual moving into our area is either seeking a new church home or needing to know Christ as Lord and Savior! If we are faithful to Him, we will seek to reach those who need Christ and contact those searching for a family of faith. That doesn't happen by accident, but by developing and implementing intentional strategies for that purpose.

And we need to be ready. If we are, it is quite likely that through the remainder of this decade we will see some of the greatest growth our church has ever experienced.

How should we respond?

Church Events

- **Apr 1st—Office Closed**
- **Apr 3rd —No Services/Activities**
- **Apr 8th @ 6:30p—Ladies' Ministry Meeting**
Speaker Cathy White;
Collecting Non Perishable Food for Bags of Hope
- **Apr 9th @ 6:30p—Men's Ministry Meeting**
Speaker Dan McGougan
- **Apr 14th @ 6p—Quarterly Ministry Meeting**
- **Apr 20th @ 11a—Spring Fun Day**
- **Apr 28th @ 11a—Compassion International Sunday**

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Did Jesus Really Live? And if He Did, Why Does it Matter?

God is bringing the mission field to us. How should we respond? We can take our cues from Jesus. Here are three ways we need to be sure we respond.

- **Love the crowds**

Matthew 9:36 reports that when Jesus “saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Sometimes we see people as an inconvenience. But God sees people as sheep in need of a Shepherd. He sees their need, their loneliness, their desperation, and their lostness, and He responds with compassion. Ask God to help you do that.

If you are like me, you might get frustrated when the grocery store shelves are empty sooner than expected, or slow drivers inhibit your commute. Such frustration is natural. That’s why we need the *supernatural* help of God’s Holy Spirit to see people the way He does.

When we see people the way God does, we love people the way God does. And when we love people the way God does, we engage people the way God does.

- **Engage with people**

In John 4, Jesus waited by Jacob’s well to engage the Samaritan woman. In John 5, He intentionally found the crippled man at the pool of Siloam. In John 9, after He healed the man born blind, He sought him out and confirmed his faith.

The list continues. He paused and healed the leper, He stopped in the crush of the crowd to talk to the woman who had received His healing power through the hem of His garment, and He looked up and engaged Zacchaeus as the short man perched on a tree branch.

It’s not hard to see the pattern. The more the crowds swelled, the more Jesus seemed to take time out to engage individuals, to know each person and love them right where they were. The reason He had compassion on the crowd is that He cared about people.

We should follow that same pattern. Assume God intentionally brings people into your life. They are not random relationships but divine appointments. Then, seek to get to know them as individuals. You may want to include them as one of your Ones to pray for and to engage in a gospel conversation (add their names or initials to the “Who’s Your One?” Wall).

And, of course, invite them to church. Personally invite people to join you at events, at worship services, and in ministries that will help them get plugged in and meet new people, such as D6 on Wednesday nights, Cars and Coffee, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, or Trail Life.

And “Spring Fun Day” is designed for you to personally invite your friends! (See the Sidebar).

- **Pray for your leaders**

This is crucial. God works through prayer.

In the Bible, Jesus prays. A lot. But with one notable exception, the Bible rarely describes in detail the content of Jesus’s prayers.

That one exception is recorded in John 17, when Jesus prayed for His disciples. As He was preparing to pass along His ministry, He prays for them specifically, and at length.

The larger lesson here is simple—pray for those you are entrusting with leadership, to make decisions, to lead ministries, and to lead the church.

We are preparing for the future, and we need your prayers. We will be talking about ministries, about creating space, and about other strategies for growth. You’ll hear more about it as the journey continues, but for now—pray.

One more thing

I am writing this on a Monday. Yesterday, after church, a young man stayed to talk with me. He and his family are new to the community. And yesterday in my office, he trusted Christ as his Savior!

That’s why we are here. And that’s why we do what we do.

Twenty years and counting. Together, let’s continue the story!

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob

Invite Your Friends to Spring Fun Day!

“Spring Fun Day,” April 20, is a revisioning of the Spring Carnival. We have designed it for you to engage and invite people, and to help them get to know FBCS on a church-wide day of fun and fellowship! Use the handout cards to personally invite family members, church members, friends, neighbors, coworkers—and especially your Ones! The handout cards are available throughout the building. Take as many as you need and invite a friend to Spring Fun Day!



Compassion Sunday Celebration April 28

Amy Myers

Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth. – 1 John 3:18 CSB On April 28, we will join churches across the country for Compassion Sunday - a day set apart to change the future for children living in extreme poverty around the world. Prior to our worship service, I will take a few minutes to celebrate the Kingdom impact that FBCS is already having by sponsoring more than 25 children! That's more than 25 children that are receiving our letters and hearing our

prayers. How amazing is that! If you are currently sponsoring, send me a recent photo of your sponsored child at amyers@us.ci.org. I'd love to share a few photos this Compassion Sunday. And, of course, there will be a chance to sponsor a child this year as well. Sponsorship is not only an amazing way to show the love of Christ to a



precious child but also a great way to disciple children and grandchildren in your own home. I look forward to the opportunity to share more with you on April 28!

New To Our Family



Betty & David Lackey
Joined October 15



Dave & Rhona McVicker
Joined February 4



Greg & Lucy Norris
Joined January 28



Mary Steinbach
Joined January 14



Rodney & Susan Smith
Joined November 5



Larry & Sue Singleton
Joined January 14



Terri Toste
Joined March 3

FBCS's Impact On My Life

With the 20th anniversary of our current church building this month, I want to celebrate the anniversary by sharing how FBCS has impacted my life and my family. First Baptist Church of Shallotte is very near to my heart, and an integral part of my story. The church that I now serve as Associate Pastor of Family Life & Discipleship is also the church I was saved in, the church I was baptized in, the church I first called home.

I grew up in Brunswick County, and attended church with my family at a few different local churches. We attended FBCS occasionally, and when I was in middle school a friend of mine who attended First Baptist invited me to a youth lock-in. I accepted their invitation, met my now wife Kacey, and started coming regularly. After a couple of years of attending and growing under Pastor Bob and the former Youth and Family Pastor Michael, the Lord saved me here at FBCS at a youth rally. I was baptized by Pastor Bob and officially joined First Baptist as a member. I grew in my faith and served as a student leader in the youth group until I graduated high school and left for Charleston Southern University.

While in college, I would come home during the summer back to my church family and serve with the youth ministry and participate in our college Sunday school class. I asked that cute girl, Kacey, from the lock-in to marry me and she said yes. Pastor Bob did our premarital counseling, and pastor Michael married us. We were honored to involve them both as they had each impacted us greatly.

After college we moved back home to be close to family as we started a family of our own. Moving back a couple weeks before the COVID-19 lockdown was awful timing, but having our church family to fellowship with (even virtually) helped our transition home. We quickly got plugged back into the community of believers at FBCS, serving and picking up right where we left off. It truly was a blessing to have a church family to come alongside us and support us in the birth of our 1st daughter, Hazel, in that time.

God called Pastor Michael to another ministry in 2022, and in the absence of a youth pastor, I assumed the volunteer youth leader position and began taking the youth through the book of Mark verse by verse on Wednesday nights. Little did I know

that before we finished our study of the book of Mark, I would be their pastor. God is good! While I was waiting for someone wiser and more qualified than myself to be hired, He was moving in me and guiding my path, preparing me for my current role.

In God's timing, He blessed us with our second daughter, Hattie, right in the middle of my transition from BEMC to FBCS – and again I was blown away by the generosity and love shown to my family by my FBC Shallotte church family.

Now that I am serving FBCS as associate pastor, I consider it a remarkable honor to serve the church that has poured into me and my family for years. I get the privilege to serve the church that welcomed me as a teenager and discipled me, the church that committed themselves to walk alongside my family and promised to be there for us. In short, I love this church! I am thankful to my God and savior Jesus Christ that I can participate in ministry with my church family. FBCS, thank you for loving Christ, loving me, and loving my family. I look forward to serving God alongside you in all that He has in store for us!

Paul's prayer for the believ-

ers in Ephesus is my prayer for you:

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Kevin



Welcome Trail Life!

Our Trail Life charter is officially complete! Welcome Trail Life as a ministry of FBCS! To learn more about Trail Life, visit <https://www.traillifeusa.com>. Trail Life meets weekly on Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM. For more information, contact Pastor Kevin at pastorkevin@firstbaptistshallotte.com.



ATTENTION all Ladies! Please join us every Tuesday morning at 10 AM at Homestyle Foods for BIBLE STUDY! We are just beginning the book of REVELATION, verse by verse. If you have any questions, please contact Dori Pihoker, 216-375-0976.



Deacon of the Week



BOBBY DAVIS
(910) 540-2686
gritster2016@outlook.com
Apr 7th-13th



JAMES BUFFKIN
(910) 279-5179
buffkins@atmc.net
Apr 14th-20th



VERNON ABNEY
(859) 358-4224
abney358655@gmail.com
Apr 21st-27th



JACE MYERS
(910) 603-3501
jace_myers@hotmail.com
Apr 28th– May 4th

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
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910.754.4048
fbcshallotte.org

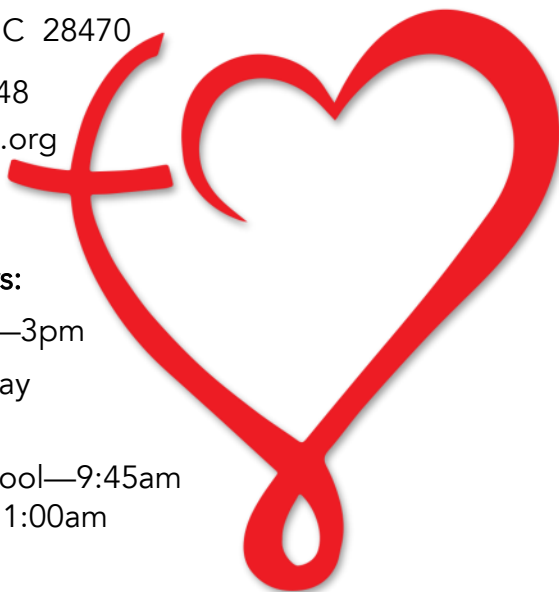
Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am

Worship—11:00am



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Bible Reading Plan

With Daily Proverbs

3/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 9-11; Pro 30	4/16/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 12-14; Pro 15
4/1/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 12-14; Pro 31	4/17/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 15-18; Pro 16
4/2/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 15-18; Pro 1	4/18/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 19-21; Pro 17
4/3/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 19-21; Pro 2	4/19/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 22-24; Pro 18
4/4/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 22-24; Pro 3	4/20/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 25-27; Pro 19
4/5/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jdg 1-3; Pro 4	4/21/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 28-31; Pro 20
4/6/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jdg 4-7; Pro 5	4/22/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 1-3; Pro 21
4/7/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jdg 8-10; Pro 6	4/23/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 4-6; Pro 22
4/8/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jdg 11-13; Pro 7	4/24/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 7-9; Pro 23
4/9/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jdg 14-17; Pro 8	4/25/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 10-13; Pro 24
4/10/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jdg 18-20; Pro 9	4/26/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 14-16; Pro 25
4/11/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jdg 21; Rut 1-2; Pro 10	4/27/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 17-19; Pro 26
4/12/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Rut 3-4; 1 Sa 1; Pro 11	4/28/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 20-22; Pro 27
4/13/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 2-5; Pro 12	4/29/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sa 23-24; 1 Kgs 1-2; Pro 28
4/14/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 6-8; Pro 13	4/30/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kgs 3-5; Pro 29
4/15/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sa 9-11; Pro 14		