

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Charles Gaffigan
 2nd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
 3rd Sunday: Tony Silver
 4th Sunday: Arthur Burnette
 5th Sunday: Stephen Willie

April Wedding Anniversaries

Stephen & Susan Willie 6
 Al & Sherry Burnette 9
 Robbie & Nova Effler 27
 Mickey & Helen Gilliam 29



April Birthdays

Kelly Coons 1
 Allen Harris 2
 Jasmin Vasquez 2
 Helen Gilliam 3
 Jean Arthur 5
 Ruth Harris 6
 April Brooks 7
 Jean Lonon 8
 Madison Lytle 10
 Leland Vasquez 10
 Raylyn Raines 11
 Susan Willie 14
 Richard Newton 16
 Lynn Lewis 18
 Charles Gaffigan 20
 Rachel Newton 26
 Mickey Gilliam 29
 Candace Barrier 30

Celebrating a



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Old Fort, NC

April 2018

Volume 52, Issue 4

THE VOICE

APRIL EVENTS

SUNDAY:

9:45 - Sunday School
 11 - Worship Service
 4 - Choir Practice
 6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth

WEDNESDAY:

6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer, Youth, RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,
 7 - Choir Practice

Apr 1 - Easter; Sunrise Service & Breakfast 7 am; No Evening Services

Apr 2 - Easter Holiday-Office Closed

Apr 4 - WMU, Baptist Men 6 pm

Apr 5 - Lifetouch Directory Photography Session 1-8 pm

Apr 6 - Lifetouch Directory Photography Session 1-8 pm

Apr 7 - Lifetouch Directory Photography Session 10 am-5 pm

Apr 8 - Observance of the Lord's Supper 11 am; Revival Service 6 pm

Apr 9-11 - Revival Services 6 pm

Apr 15 - Deacon's Meeting 7 pm

Apr 20 - Newsletter Articles Due

Apr 22 - Church Council 5 pm; Quarterly Conference 6 pm

Apr 28 - WMU Tea Party at Blue Ridge Terrace 2 pm; Operation INASMUCH

Apr 29 - 5th Sunday Singing & Refreshments 6 pm

Church Staff

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor
 Stephen Willie, Director of Music
 David Workman, Pianist
 Susan Willie, Secretary

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Reflections of a Shepherd

I gotta be real and honest with you. I'm sick of the cold weather. Generally speaking as a...uh..."healthy" man, I like the cold weather. Summer is just so hot! And I'm so...um.....well..."fluffy." So usually, I'm not that energetic about the beginning of spring. I really like winter. The early nights. The holidays. Snowball fights, sledding, snow cream. I love winter! Spring just means the end of all that. But this year I'm tired of it and I'm ready for it to go away. And I'm really tired of the threat of snow. I think my family is too. Usually when there are flurries Martha will come run and tell me "It's snowing!! It's snowing!!" The kids are usually excited about missing a day of school. But Rebekah even made a comment last week about how she was tired of the snow. Maybe that's why I'm looking so forward to spring this year. Tired of the dark, dreary days. Tired of the trees looking dead. Oh to be sure, Spring has teased us. We've had a few days in the 70s followed by more sub-freezing temps and snow. I'm just tired of it. I'm ready for Spring to spring already!

But there's another reason why I'm looking forward to spring this year, and it doesn't have anything to do with the weather. Not really anyway. If you were to ask most people why they like spring, or why some say it's their favorite season. They would list some of the same reasons I did. The cold nights, the dreary days, the dead foliage. But when spring comes back, it's like everything comes back to life. The trees turn green again. The flowers bloom. The birds sing. What was once dead is now alive! What a vivid symbol of what our life was like before Christ came in, and what it is like after he sits on the throne of our heart!

The seasons have been used as a symbol for our journey in life. Spring is childhood and adolescence. Summer is young adulthood. And so on. As I stated earlier spring can also give us a picture of our regeneration in Christ Jesus, but the seasons as a whole give us a fuller picture of our spiritual journey. Recently, on Wednesday night we took a look at Ecclesiastes which contains the poem on "seasons" made famous in the 60s by The Byrds. There is something cyclical about the seasons and there is something cyclical about our own spiritual lives as well. There are times when our relationship with God and others are at a high, let's call that summer. We're on fire for God. Our church is growing, our private times special. When we can see and feel God moving all around us. But then something within us begins to cool. We start to drift aimlessly. Disappointments set in. And before we know it, we're in a full-fledged spiritual winter. If we're not careful, we can find ourselves clinging to this winter. We hide inside ourselves from God and from others. Everyone and everything starts to feel distant. I don't know if it's what psychologists would call depression, but I can't imagine that it would be much different.

Isn't it great that our Savior and King does not leave us floundering in spiritual winter! Isn't it great that He can bring spiritual revival to our hearts! AND when He brings revival to us, it overflows from us into others. Before we know it our church has thawed from its spiritual winter too. Are you ready for Spring? Are you ready for Revival? I know I am.

Pastor Drew

The Voice
 First Baptist Church
 P.O. Box 10
 Old Fort, NC 28762

Easter BLESSINGS

SUNRISE Service

& Breakfast
7:00 AM
Sunday, April 1

My REDEEMER LIVES!

A native of Burke County, Jesse Carr was raised in a pastor's home and started preaching when he was 13. He has been the pastor of Walker Road Baptist Church in Morganton since 2014. He has been married to Amy since 2007 and together they have a brand new daughter, Priscilla Ann. Jesse's passion is preaching Christ-centered expositional sermons and personal discipleship. Aside from his work as a pastor, Jesse enjoys spending time with his girls, reading, and playing blues guitar.



We will observe the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, April 8th at 11:00 am



A total of 26 pints were collected on March 6, 2018. Thank you to the volunteers from our church who made all the donors feel comfortable.

Cleff Notes

I am sitting at the computer in the sanctuary preparing the Youth's service for YouTube and am moved in my soul by what I am witnessing unfold before my eyes. So let me say, AWESOME!!! What a blessing to witness so much talent and spiritual gifts in our youth and children. It is my hope and prayer that this video will touch the lives of all who watch it as it has touched and renewed mine.

Hallelujah



You are invited to a wedding shower for

Megan Gaffigan & Nick Favorite

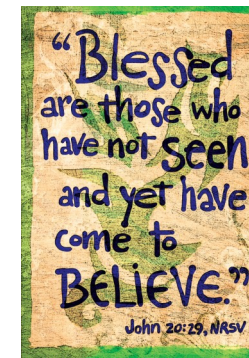
on Saturday, April 14
4:00-6:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall
here at the church

They are registered at Belk, Bed, Bath & Beyond & Amazon



With Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Susan Hoyle and Mark Faw in the passing of their father, Bill Faw, to Chuck Walker in the passing of his brother, Rev. Parks Walker and to Judy Willis in the passing of her husband, Danny Willis.



Sunday, April 22
at 5:00 pm
in the South Classroom

Church Council:

Pastor	Church Staff
Church Clerk	Deacon Chairman
Treasurer	SS Director
Building/Grounds Chairman	Prayer Ministry
Senior Adult Director	Security Chairman
Hospitality/Bereaved Rep.	WMU Director
Children's Council Rep.	Baptist Men's Director
Youth Council Rep.	

A Note from the Church Clerk

Sunday, April 22, 6:00 pm will be the Quarterly Conference Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are chair of any church committee, please bring a report including the following:

1. Activities or accomplishments from the previous 3 months (quarter) &
2. Planned activities during the next quarter.

A copy of this report should be available for the church clerk before or at the meeting.

If you or a representative will not be able to attend and present the report, please provide the report to the clerk, who will present the report and record it in the minutes.



Tea Party



WMU Tea Party
at
Blue Ridge Terrace
Saturday, April 28
at 2 pm



Operation Inasmuch is a national nonprofit that employs proven **models** to motivate, train, and equip churches to move more congregants out of the sanctuary seats and into the streets to serve the neediest in their communities.

Local Operation Inasmuch events are April 28 or May 5, but churches can choose any date they prefer. This is a One Day Missions Blitz that many churches have found very effective in building an outward focus.

Jesus said in essence, "Inasmuch as you serve the least of these, you serve me."



**Sunday, April 29th
at 6:00 pm**

If you would like to participate in this service please let Stephen know by April 22.

Refreshments following service.
Please bring your favorite finger food.
Drinks will be provided.