

**Deacon of the Week:**

1st Sunday: Alex Little  
2nd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae  
3rd Sunday: Stephen Willie  
4th Sunday: Mickey Gilliam  
5th Sunday: Phil Lowery

**March Wedding Anniversaries**

Tony & Ellen Silver 20



**Offertory Prayer:**

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

**March Birthdays**

Rita Christopher	.....	4
William Wyatt	.....	4
Shea House	.....	6
Betsey Jones	....	11
June Wilson	.....	14
Jo Harmon	.....	16
Kayla Parker	.....	20
Jimmie Harris	....	23
Nova Effler	.....	24
Julie McKinney	.....	25
James Beach	.....	27
Samson Brooks	.....	28
Teresa Coons	.....	30



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Old Fort, NC

March 2019

Volume 53, Issue 3

**MARCH  
EVENTS**

**SUNDAY:**

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

**WEDNESDAY:**

6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer,  
Youth, Children in Action,  
Mission Friends  
6 - Children's Choir  
7 - Adult Choir Practice

**Mar 3-10** - Annie Armstrong  
Easter Offering

**Mar 3** - Deacon's Meeting 7 pm

**Mar 6** - WMU/Baptist Men 6 pm

**Mar 10** - Daylight Saving Time  
Begins; Youth Emphasis Sunday  
11 am; Children's Camp Chili  
Fundraiser 12:30 pm

**Mar 17** - Children's Council  
7 pm

**Mar 20** - Newsletter Articles Due

**Mar 31** - 5th Sunday Singing  
Service 6 pm



Reflections of a  
Shepherd

Every year around this time, things start to turn green. I'm not talking about Spring, though it's on its way. What I'm talking about is St. Patrick's Day. There's shamrocks, rainbows with pots of gold, and leprechauns everywhere. Grocery stores put corned beef and cabbage on sale. Shepherd's Pie recipes suddenly flood Facebook. At least for a few weeks, the whole world wants to be Irish, so that we might have some of that famous "Irish Luck." But I have a question for you. Do you believe in luck? Do you believe that "luck" is a Christian concept?

As basketball season enters its "Tournament Time," you will probably hear half a dozen announcers talk about a "lucky bounce" or an "unbelievable shot" wondering "how in the world did that go in!?" Luck and its cousin coincidence have found its way into our everyday language. I've accredited things to luck and coincidence; and so have you. But the longer I'm around and the closer I pay attention, the more I'm convinced that there is no such thing as luck. In fact, I'm convicted that it is a decidedly non-Biblical, ungodly and anti-Christian concept.

You see, to believe in luck you have to hold (at least on some level) to the Chaos Theory. Chaos Theory, as Dr. Ian Malcolm demonstrated in Jurassic Park, holds that everything that happens is a random occurrence. You may be able to statically analysis something and predict the outcome; but at best it's just an educated guess based upon all the other previous random occurrences. If the "unbelievable shot" goes in, it is because an infinite number of variables came together at that exact moment for the shot

to go in (the air density in the arena, the air pressure of the ball, the quality of rubber used to make said ball, the quality of iron used in the rim, the sandwich the shooter had for lunch, the quality of the ingredients.....get the picture?). All of these are random, unpredictable; they all seem to point us away from the idea of the Christian God.

If the world is ruled by Chaos Theory, then it can't be ruled by the God of the Bible. Because the Bible presents us with an omnipresent, omniscient, all-powerful God who is sovereignly in control and gracefully in a personal relationship with YOU. It shows us the formation of a nation that would be chosen by God. This nation was then sent into exile and found its people spread all over the known world. "As luck would have it" this dispersion of people became the fertile ground in which the Gospel was planted. "As luck would have it" this same Gospel traveled 6,270 miles and 2,000 years so that you and I would hear it and respond. "As luck would have it" some city boy from High Point, NC (who "as luck would have it" is married to his wife from Delaware who he met "as luck would have it" online) would become your pastor and write you this article.

Luck? Coincidence? Nah. There's no such thing as luck. I believe in a God who is sovereignly in control, who chose me before the foundations of the world, and works all things together for the good of those called by His name. And so should you.

*Pastor Drew*

**Church Staff**

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor  
Stephen Willie, Minister of Music  
David Workman, Pianist  
Susan Willie, Secretary  
David Patton, Custodian

Pastor Drew 828-448-5659  
Office: 828-668-7853  
Fax: 828-668-7578  
Email: [offbc@frontier.com](mailto:offbc@frontier.com)  
Website: [oldfortfirstbaptist.com](http://oldfortfirstbaptist.com)

Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
March 3-10, 2019



Our Goal: \$ 1,000

Annie Armstrong was a WMU (Women’s Missionary Union) secretary who wrote thousands of letters to churches encouraging them to give money to support the missionaries of North America. She traveled many miles telling people about Jesus. She worked with African Americans, Native American Indians, Mountain People, and Internationals coming into the port at Baltimore. Her desire to obey God’s commands in the area of stewardship equaled her desire to obey the command to “go.” Thus, an offering is taken every spring in her honor and all money is given to Home Missions.

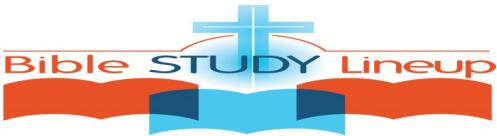
*Our goal this year is \$1,000 and you may give anytime March 3–10.*

**Children’s Camp Chili Fundraiser**

Sunday, March 10 at 12:30 pm

Chili & Cornbread  
Dessert & Drink

*Donations will go towards sending the children to camp this Summer.*



**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

March 13<sup>th</sup>- 1 Corinthians  
March 20<sup>th</sup>- 2 Corinthians  
March 27<sup>th</sup>- Deacon’s Study

**Sunday Night Bible Study**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>- Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32)  
March 10<sup>th</sup>- Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21:33-46)  
March 17<sup>th</sup>- Parable of the Wedding Supper (Matthew 22:1-14)  
March 24<sup>th</sup>- Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24)  
March 31<sup>st</sup>- Fifth Sunday Singing



**Cliff Notes**

Right now I am listening to “Even If” by MercyMe. With everything that has happened to me personally over the past year and 5 months, I find this song really speaks to my own personal sufferings. Looking back and realizing I almost lost my life to Legionnaires Pneumonia and then losing my Dad 3 weeks ago have really challenged my faith and walk with Jesus. Added to the challenge of working 2 jobs and caring for my parents, it’s easy to lose track of my purpose and place in this world that God has placed me in.

How many people are leaving this world without Jesus in their heart? How many opportunities have we missed or even passed up for whatever reasons or fears we might have? We should ask ourselves every morning when we rise, “How can I be a witness for Christ today?,” and, ”Who do I know that might need Jesus in their heart?,” and “What am I going to do about it?”.

Here’s the thing, Jesus died for the forgiveness of every one’s sins, and if we as believers are not telling the world about this then we’re demonstrating shame and keeping him to ourselves and his death becomes vain. **Romans 1:16** “For I am not **ashamed** of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **Mark 8:38**, “For whoever is **ashamed** of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be **ashamed** when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Though coming to church is a great way to demonstrate our love for God and Christ Jesus, it is not the most powerful way to worship the God head. It is our life beyond the church building that proves our heart to Jesus. Mimicking Him in our walk and life is the greatest demonstration of our faith. It’s not easy. It’s the most challenging walk of life there will ever be, and when we reach the end of life we will hear, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” God Bless.  
Stephen



Thank you for the fruit basket at Christmas, toys and the meal and flowers when Angie passed.  
The Family of Angie Thomas  
Chris and Scott

Dear family of faith,  
For your expressions of love and care we thank you. The flowers, individual cards and prayers are so appreciated. We have many fond memories of friends there.  
Sincerely,  
Barbara Willie

Dear church family of Old Fort FBC  
During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.  
Gratefully,  
Barbara Willie &  
the Family of Norman Willie

Thank you all for your support and prayers for our young people. They are a great group of young people willing to do God’s work for our church and community.

Thank you so much to the Baptist Men for preparing breakfast for the ladies on February 17.

On behalf of the Family of Paul Brooks Sr. the family would like to thank the church for all the visits, baskets, cards and prayers throughout his illness. We would also like to thank the Church for all the calls, cards, flowers, food, and prayers after his passing. You all will never know how much all of your love and support has meant to our family.

With Love, Linda, John, April,  
Abbie & Samson Brooks



*With Sympathy*  
Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Stephen Willie in the passing of his father, Norman Willie and to the family of Norman Schaich.



**Sunday, March 31  
at 6:00 pm**

**If you would like to sing, play an instrument, recite a poem, sign a song, a skit, etc. in this service please let Stephen know by March 24.**

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



A total of 22 pints were collected on February 12.

*Thank you to the volunteers from our church who made all the donors feel comfortable.*



Observance of the Lord’s Supper  
April 7 at 11 am

Palm Sunday  
April 14

Church Council  
April 14 at 5 pm

Easter Egg Hunt  
April 20 1-3 pm

Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast  
April 21 at 7 & 11 am  
No Evening Services

Revival Services  
April 28-May 1  
6 pm Nightly