

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Josh Becker
 2nd Sunday: Alex Little
 3rd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
 4th Sunday: Stephen Willie

November Wedding Anniversaries

Josh & Leia Becker 1
 Danny & Janice Whitley 28



November Birthdays

Jason Yeary 2
 Ray Vess 3
 Merrell Riddle 5
 Wendy Gaffigan 8
 Anne Raines 9
 Abigail Dalton 12
 Toney Lewis 13
 Josh Becker 14
 Halle Becker 15
 Becky Smith 18
 Pastor Drew 21
 Zeb Parker 23

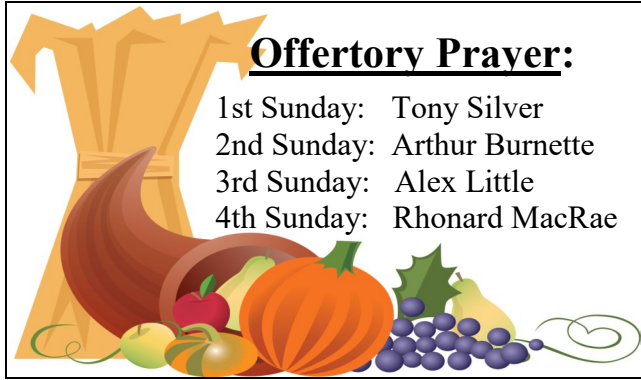


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Old Fort, NC
 November 2018
 Volume 52, Issue 11

THE VOICE

Offertory Prayer:

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



NOVEMBER EVENTS

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

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

Nov. 4 - Daylight Saving Time Ends; Deacon's Meeting 7 pm; Outreach Committee Mtg. 7 pm

Nov. 6 - Election Day

Nov. 7 - Decorating Committee Mtg. 5 pm; WMU, Baptist Men 6 pm; Finance Committee Mtg. 7 pm

Nov. 8 - Senior Adult Rally at Bethel Baptist Church 10:30 am

Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day-No Evening Services

Nov. 12-19 - OCC National Collection Week

Nov. 20 - Newsletter Articles Due

Nov. 21 - No Evening Services

Nov. 22-23 - Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed) and Day After (Office Closed)

Nov. 25 - Hanging of the Greens 11 am



Reflections of a Shepherd

My wife, Martha, loves Thanksgiving, she has many fond memories of spending time with family she otherwise never saw. For her Thanksgiving is about praising and thanking God for the gifts He has bestowed in the past and continues to bestow in the present. Unfortunately, for many Thanksgiving has become a secular holiday where turkey and football are king and God has been left behind. Some even refer to it as "Turkey Day" to drive home the point. But we know that Thanksgiving was a day set aside by our leadership in which we would give thanks for the blessings our Creator had given us in the preceding year.

It all started in 1620 when the Pilgrims first arrived in New England at Plymouth Rock. The winter that year was extremely harsh and nearly half of the 102 new settlers died. The following year saw a severe drought and where if not for the graciousness of the Native American Squanto and the faithfulness of God, it is likely that the rest of the surviving Pilgrims would have perished in the following years. But that year, Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn and other native plants, and a fast was declared to ask for God's blessings. And bless them He did! The harvest was bountiful and that year a grand feast was held celebrating and thanking God for His gracious provision. Another day of thanks was declared in 1623 and again in 1676.

Thanksgiving as a national holiday did not begin for a hundred more years and the credit for the idea goes to Sarah Hale. Ms. Hale grew up in New Hampshire where the Thanksgiving tradition was common place. However, in other parts of the country, particularly the South, the holiday was unknown and she was determined to make it the American tradition it has become today. For over forty years, she wrote "Hale Mail" to congressman, senators, and even five presidents (including Abraham Lincoln). She wrote several editorial columns in her magazine *Godey's Lady's Book* in support of it as well. Finally, in October of 1863, at the height of the civil war, Abraham Lincoln declared the national holiday in hopes to heal the wounds the war was causing. Here is an excerpt:

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

The holiday is Thanksgiving, not "Turkey Day." It's not just a day of food, family, and football. It's not the just the kickoff to the Christmas season. No Thanksgiving is most assuredly not a secular holiday. It is a most assuredly a religious one and it always has been. The pilgrims knew it. Sarah Hale knew it. Abraham Lincoln knew it. This Thanksgiving, make sure that you remember it too.

Pastor Drew

Church Staff

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor
 Stephen Willie, Minister of Music
 David Workman, Pianist
 Susan Willie, Secretary
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The Voice
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First Baptist of Old Fort will be an OCC Drop-Off location again this year, November 12-19. OCC Drop-off location dates and times can be found on the enclosed November calendar.

Reminder: Please plan to have your shoeboxes packed and at the church by Sunday, November 11. This date will mark the end of our 2018 Operation Christmas Child Program. We still have plenty of boxes if you need some.

Cleff Notes

Hello out there! Is anyone reading me? I'm still waiting to hear from you regarding a previous issue of Cleff Notes when I asked everyone to share your special song and what it means to you. So far I have had zero responses which leaves me to wonder if the newsletter was read.

On a more serious note, we welcome new choir members Jewly and Angelicia as our newest members in the choir. They are showing themselves to be wonderful additions and have volunteered to sing solo parts in our up and coming Christmas program. I would also ask that you keep the choir in your prayers as we prepare not only for Christmas but for weekly services as well. Music takes a great deal of work to prepare for performance.

Music is an ongoing education as we prepare new songs to sing to God each week. Rehearsals can be not only challenging, but exhausting as well both physically and emotionally. The words speak to us and may sometimes move us to tears because they remind us how wonderful our Jesus truly is and how He stays with us through ALL our sorrows and our joys. Wouldn't you like to be a part of this awesome ministry for Jesus?

Stephen
Minister of Music

Things To Do On Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving isn't just an excuse to eat too much delicious home-cooked food and watch football. This food-family-and-friends holiday – celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States – is a chance to create other kinds of memories.

Try these games, crafts and activities that will involve family and friends of all ages in the fun.

Watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (Or a Local One) Macy's began sponsoring parades in the 1920s with simple floats.

By the 1930s a million people were coming to see the spectacle. Radio announcers broadcast the parade. During the 1950s, celebrities took part and in the 1970s, '80s and '90s, cartoon characters like Snoopy and Kermit the Frog joined the ranks of the giant balloons.

Thanksgiving Day Crafts

Keep kids busy – and out of the kitchen – with crafts to create placemats, napkin holders, wreaths and centerpieces for the holiday table.

Play Thanksgiving Day Games

You can tweak just about any favorite game to give it a bit of Thanksgiving flair. Here are a few favorites:

Pin the Tail on the Turkey:

1. Make a brightly colored turkey tail from construction paper and a turkey body that can be taped on the wall.
2. Blindfold the children, spin them around and give each a chance to pin the tail on the turkey.
3. The first child to do so gets a prize.

Turkey Words:

1. Hand everyone a piece of paper and pen.
2. Set a timer for 3 minutes and ask each person to make as many words as possible from the word "turkey," such as "key," "try" and "yet."
3. Whoever has the most words when the timer goes off wins the game.

Get Moving

With all the feasting, it's a good idea to plan a pre- or post-dinner physical activity so everyone can burn off some of those extra calories.

If you live near a park or trail, a brisk walk or hike is great for kindling appetite beforehand or staying awake afterward. Or start a game of lawn football.

Give Thanks to God

Many families say grace or give thanks during a pre-meal prayer. It is a lovely reminder of the reason for the holiday, and it's healthy too. Gratitude is linked to emotional and physical health.

Give every person at the table a chance to say something that they are thankful for before eating. This also sets a great example for the younger generation.

Don't forget to keep cameras on hand to record special moments and also get out photos from previous holidays. It's a great way to reconnect with those you haven't seen for a while.



Dear First Baptist Hospitality Folks,
We can not thank you enough for the generous meal you provided for our family at the death of Joan Vess. It was delicious. She loved working with all of you and would have appreciated it, too.

In deepest gratitude
Ray and girls

Thanks to all for coming to the church wide picnic, October 7 at the Carson House. We stopped counting at 100! The food was great, the company wonderful, the weather perfect and the creek inviting. No one left hungry or (the children) dry!

Darlene

Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

The family of
Eva MacRae

Thanks to my church family for the flowers, cards, calls and expressions of sympathy.

Rhonard

The Finance Committee is in the process of finalizing the 2019 Proposed Budget. With our income being 20% less so far this year, we are looking for areas to reduce the budget.

If you, your committee or ministry has input to our process, please provide that input prior to November 15. Thanking you in advance for your continued prayers as we seek God's will.

Sherry Burnette, Phil Lowery, Rhonard MacRae, Cathy Moore, Danna Revis



November 6



BRBA Senior Adult Rally

Thursday, November 8th
at Bethel Baptist Church

Program at 10:30 am
with lunch to follow.



American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

A total of 22 units were collected on October 16.

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

WHAT IS VETERANS DAY?

Veterans Day, a U.S. federal holiday, is a time to honor and thank those who are serving or have served in the military and are still with us.

Note that Veterans Day is different than Memorial Day, which is a day to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in service to their country.

On Veterans Day, think about how you can show a veteran extra appreciation. Attend a Veterans Day parade or event in your area. Ask a veteran about their service and really listen. Visit a VA hospital. Display the flag to salute our veterans!