The Messenger

A Newsletter of

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

November 2026

From the Pastor's Perspective...

As I write this article on the Wednesday following our hosting the Northeastern North Carolina Baptist Fellowship Gathering, my heart is still full!

This was a momentous and historic event! In the span of a 90-minute worship service, our churches commissioned one of MBC's own, Matty Grace Gilliam, as a missionary, jointly established a Chowan University scholarship to benefit young people who are aging out of foster care, and with CBFNC's $10,000 matching gift, collected $19,963.27 in checks and cash from churches and individuals plus a $1000 pledge from Edenton Baptist Church's Baptist Men's group, for a total of $20,963.27! To God be the glory!

It is amazing how God has brought our churches together out of difficult circumstances when the local Baptist Association excluded congregations affiliated with the CBF or CBFNC. A few other CBF churches in our region have joined us on our journey. And look what God has already done: we have commissioned a missionary and established a much-needed scholarship! The leadership of CBFNC has been so supportive, encouraging, and helpful. Executive Coordinator Larry Hovis has been here multiple times in person, as has Lou Ann Gilliam. We have had many Zoom meetings online. Our CBFNC leadership has provided guidance for our preparations and resources for our gatherings, and has celebrated with us what God is doing.

In the coming months, the pastors/interim pastors of the churches that make up our NENC Baptist Fellowship and lay leaders from these churches will be discussing other ways we can connect for worship, fellowship, and cooperation. Please be in prayer as we do.

We have already had a full fall with our ministry fair, taking on new missions commitments (supporting Matty Grace Gilliam's work, the work of Aaron and Grace Ogburn with Pioneer Bible Translators, and the new scholarship), World Communion Sunday, ordaining Armando Torres as a Deacon, hosting the NENC Baptist Fellowship Gathering, and our Trunk or Treat.

November will be full as well, with All Saints Day with Communion this Sunday, Founders Sunday on November 15, Christ the King Sunday on November 22, and the First Sunday of Advent on November 29. Our Community Thanksgiving Service this year will be at Meherrin Baptist Church with Rev. James Brown of Nebo as the preacher. It's a powerful witness to Christ when all our churches come together for a service like this, showing that while we differ in some ways, we are all one in Christ.

On a personal note, JoAnn and I thank you for your kindness and affirmation in so many ways. Many of you remembered me at my birthday and shared kind words and gifts of appreciation for Pastor Appreciation Month. Your kindness is always encouraging. Thank you!

And since Thanksgiving Day is just a few short weeks away, let me again share some things I am thankful for . . . First, for the grace and mercy of God in our Lord Jesus Christ and the love and spiritual blessings the Father has lavished on us in him. Second, for my family. JoAnn and I will soon celebrate our 48th wedding anniversary. God blessed me mightily when he brought us together! We're grateful for our sons and their families as well, including our granddaughters. And third, for this congregation. It is no exaggeration or flattery when I say that it is truly a joy to serve you as your Pastor. You have been and you continue to be a blessing to JoAnn and me. We love you and we appreciate you! And we are grateful that God has given us the opportunity to be part of your lives and of our life together as a church!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Grace and peace,

Mark E. Baskin

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 1

For centuries, Christians have observed All Saints' Sunday as a time to remember brothers and sisters in Christ who have died, to thank God for their lives, and to celebrate their faith. On that day, we will honor one member of Murfreesboro Baptist Church who passed away since November 1, 2025:

Hal Ragland Thomas

Please join us for this service of worship, thanksgiving, and remembrance.

Big Wednesday

Nov. 4 6:00 p.m.



Mary Etta's Menu:

Pork Loin, Pineapple Casserole, Crowder Peas, Rolls, & Dessert

Please call the church office to make your reservation by Monday, Nov. 2, 12 noon.

Please Join Us

Sunday, November 22, 2026

At 6:00 p.m.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Located at

Meherrin Baptist Church

Meherrin Drive, Murfreesboro

Using Their Gifts To Serve In November

Deacon of the Month
Bruce Brown

Opening the Church
Bruce Brown

Ushers November
Steve Fowler, T.K. Warren, and Mike Alston

Ushers December
Don Johnson, Wayne Brown, Bruce Brown, and Bob Turner

Radio Ministry Sponsor
Linda Hassell

Caregivers
Oct 25-Nov. 7 Lynette Bunch
Nov. 7 - Nov. 21 David and Carole Farnham
Nov. 22– Dec. 5 Patty Joyner

Flowers
Nov. 1 Charlie and Dell Aycock
Nov. 8 Murfreesboro Baptist Church
Nov. 15 David and Carole Farnham
Nov. 22 Bruce and Liz Brown
Nov. 29 Advent



You are invited to join us on
Saturday, November 28th
3:00 p.m.
to decorate our sanctuary for the
Seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Please call the Church office and let us know if you will be volunteering to help. We hope you will be able to join us!

Church Staff

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
PASTOR

JIMMY STAPLETON
Director of Youth Ministry

PAULA PRESSNELL
Organist & Director of Music Ministry

TERESA MARTIN
Administrative Assistant

Music Ministry

Cheers to twenty years! I am celebrating twenty years at Murfreesboro Baptist Church as of November 6th! What an honor and a privilege to worship and make music with you every single Sunday. God is so good and continues to bless our church in so many ways.

Our Christmas Cantata will be held Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m., and Middle Swamp Baptist from Gates County will be joining us again. This is one of my favorite cantatas that we have sung with them. Please mark your calendars!

I wish each of you a very Happy Thanksgiving and send love to all.

Paula Pressnell

Operation Christmas Child



Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are available in the church library. Each box will come with labels and information on how to pack a shoebox. If you prefer to use your own shoebox or a shoebox-sized plastic tote, extra labels will be available.

Shoe boxes will be due back by Wednesday, November 18th so that they can be delivered as part of OCC National Collection Week. Our goal this year is to pack 50 shoeboxes.

Blessings Ministries

Foodbank of the Albemarle

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, November 17 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

Food Pantry

If you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring your selected items to the church before the 20th of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS...
Sunday, November 1



Children's Ministry

Kids' Club

Nov 4 Kids' Club 5:00-5:45



Celebrating Birthdays In November

November 2	**Chris Broadhead**
November 3	**Dell Aycock**
November 5	**Christiana Sawyer**
November 6	**Yolanda Faile**
November 8	**Tommy Bird**
November 10	**Rebecca Willson**
November 12	**Suzanne Brown**
November 17	**Aldeen Gatewood**
November 20	**Gus McLean**
November 26	**Katherine Brett**
November 28	**Corey Forbes**

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.

Upcoming Dates In November

Nov. 1	• All Saints' Sunday • Communion
Nov. 4	• Big Wednesday • Kids' Club
Nov. 10	• Deacons' Meeting
Nov. 17	• Food Bank of the Albemarle
Nov. 18	• Christmas Shoebox Deadline
Nov. 22	• Christ the King Sunday
Nov. 22	• Community Thanksgiving Service
Nov. 26 & 27	• Thanksgiving *Church Office Closed*
Nov. 28	• Hanging of the Greens
Nov. 30	• MBC Food Pantry

200 West Main Street, Murfreesboro, NC 252-398-3613 www.murfbc.org
Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm
Office Closed November 26 & 27 For Thanksgiving Holiday

Murfreesboro Baptist Church
200 W. Main Street
Murfreesboro, NC 27855