



FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

Is it already October 2026?

When we're children, time seems to pass by so slowly. With each passing decade of life, it seems to speed up.

October 1 marks three years since I started serving as your pastor. It feels to me like these years have flown by. But I am grateful to say that it has been time well spent.

While we would always like to see more people in the pews, we have been blessed with a number of new faces over these three years, even as we have had to say goodbye to some beloved members who have moved away or moved on to glory. It's important to understand that the attendance on Sunday mornings does not fully reflect the number of lives our ministries are touching. Several times throughout the month, there is a good-sized group of preschool children who come to our church with their mothers or grandmothers for a playtime on the playground or in the nursery, and at other times for a Bible story time in the nursery. Our Food Bank of the Albemarle distribution usually blesses anywhere from 50 to 75 families each month as they receive food. Our food pantry touches another 12 to 15 families each month. Our Backpack Buddies program provides food for many elementary school children for the weekends. And our Community Missions Team distributes church funds to assist people in the community with financial needs after a prayerful and careful vetting and verification process and in a way that is a hand up rather than a handout, seeking to preserve their dignity.

Over the past six months, we have also taken on several new missions commitments. We are providing a significant amount of funding, along with other churches in our Northeastern NC Baptist Fellowship, to support our own Matty Grace Gilliam in her mission work with Welcome House Raleigh, a CBFNC ministry to refugees and asylum seekers. This past Sunday we voted to support Aaron and Grace Ogburn, missionaries serving in Milan, Italy with Pioneer Bible Translators (Aaron is the son of Tom and Beth Williams Ogburn; Beth grew up in our church). We also voted to contribute significantly to a new scholarship to be established at Chowan by the Northeastern NC Baptist Fellowship of churches to benefit students who



have aged out of foster care. These are significant mission investments! Our support of Matty Grace reaches out to internationals who are in our state. Our support of the Ogburns reaches out to internationals in Italy. And with Chowan's renewed emphasis on being an unapologetically Christian university, the scholarship will provide a life-changing opportunity for students coming out of foster care for years to come.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul commended them for their faithfulness in the face of the challenge of persecution. He talked about how the Lord's word had echoed out from them "not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place" (1 Thessalonians 1:8). As he recalled his brief ministry among them and how they had responded to the gospel, and the bereavement he felt because of his separation from them when he was run out of town, he told them in 2:20 (NRSV), "Yes, you are our glory and joy!"

When I reflect on our ministry with you here at Murfreesboro Baptist Church, I can truly say to you as Paul said to the Thessalonians, "Yes, you are our glory and joy!" As I have said before, from the beginning of our time together, you have made JoAnn and me feel like part of the MBC family. You've given me a special gift in this last season of my full-time ministry, allowing me to be the kind of pastor God made me and called me to be—a shepherd caring for the flock of God under the direction of the Great and Good Shepherd, focusing on the word of the Lord and the welfare of his people. For that I am grateful to you and to God!

The Lord is working among us. And for that I say, Thanks be to God! Thank you for another wonderful year together! We love you all and look forward to the coming year.

Grace and peace,

Mark E. Perkins

Murfreesboro Baptist Church
Welcomes

JIMMY STAPLETON
Director of Youth Ministry

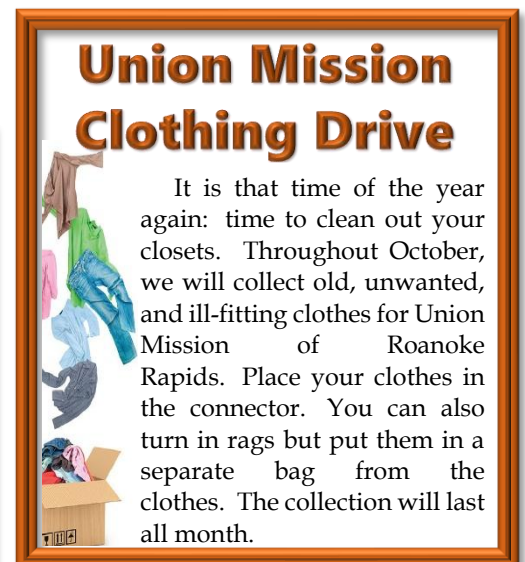
Jimmy is a sophomore at Chowan University and a native of Jetersville, Virginia, who feels a calling to youth ministry.
Welcome, Jimmy!



The Northeastern NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Regional Gathering will be held at Murfreesboro Baptist Church on October 25 at 4:30 pm. Part of the worship service will be the commissioning of Matty Grace Gilliam.

After the worship service, we will host a reception in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to donate to the Northeast NC Baptist Fellowship Scholarship, please make the check to Chowan University and write on the memo line "NC Baptist Fellowship Scholarship."



October is



PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

This season is a special time to honor our pastor who ministers to us and to celebrate the impact he makes on our lives! A special basket will be outside the pastor's office during the month for anyone who would like to leave a note, card, or small token of appreciation to show Mark how much he is appreciated in our church family!

**USING THEIR GIFTS
TO SERVE IN
OCTOBER**

DEACON OF THE MONTH
Armando Torres

OPENING OF THE CHURCH
Colon Ballance and Wayne Brown

USHERS
October
Jay Revelle and
Lloyd Hill
November
Steve Fowler, T.K.Warren,
and Mike Alston

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSOR
Armando and Bardin Torres

CHILDREN'S SERMON
Sarah Davis

CAREGIVERS
Sept. 27 - Oct. 10
Alice Hassell and Linda Hassell
October 11 - Oct. 24
Sara Frances Hill
Oct. 25 - Nov. 7
Lynette Bunch

FLOWERS
Oct. 4 Murfreesboro Baptist Church
Oct. 11 Diane Dixon
Oct. 18 Mike and Susan Alston
Oct. 25 Available

COMING SOON...



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Shoeboxes**

**Wednesday, October 28
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

Trunk or Treat

Kids' Club Halloween Event



Trunk or Treat will be held on Wednesday, October 28 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the church parking lot. All children from birth to 5th grade are welcome to attend. Trunks are needed for the children to visit in the parking lot. Trunks with candy or small prizes are needed in the parking lot. If you have any questions, please see Sarah Davis.

Kids' Club Meets:
Wednesday, Oct 7
5:00-5:45

UPCOMING DATES

October 4
Communion-World Communion Day

October 7
**Kids' Club
Big Wednesday**

October 13
Deacons' Meeting

October 20
Food Bank of the Albemarle

October 25
NE CBF Regional Gathering

October 27
MBC Food Pantry

October 28
Kids' Club Trunk or Treat

Music Ministry

It is such a blessing to worship at Murfreesboro Baptist. October has arrived and that means that our choir will begin rehearsing our Christmas cantata, as well as our weekly anthems. I will also be rehearsing the cantata with the folks at Middle Swamp Baptist in Gates County starting Sunday night, October 4th. Please consider joining us at choir rehearsals Wednesday nights at 6:00. We work hard, laugh hard, and enjoy praising God through song and fellowship. *Paula Pressnell*

**Celebrating Birthdays
In October**

October 4	Ann Lee
October 4	Eley Whitehead
October 6	Annie McLean
October 9	Mark Gaskins
October 16	Chris White
October 23	T.K. Warren, III
October 25	Freddie Bazen
October 27	Nicholas Bunch
October 27	Jay Revelle

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

BLESSINGS MINISTRIES
FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, October 20 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 twelve of your selected items to the church before the last Monday of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
PASTOR

JIMMY STAPLETON
Director of Youth Ministry

PAULA PRESSNELL
Organist & Director of Music Ministry

TERESA MARTIN
Administrative Assistant

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday 8:30 - 1:30
252-398-3613 www.murfbc.org



Murfreesboro Baptist Church
200 West Main Street
Murfreesboro, N. C. 27855

Return Service Requested