



FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

Each year we choose four people to serve as deacons for a three-year term, so that we have twelve deacons serving at any given time. This is an important decision we should always approach carefully and prayerfully. This year's election is on Sunday, September 21.

As we prepare to choose deacons, it's important that we consider what the Bible teaches us about the kind of persons we should choose to serve. Paul provides us with the biblical standard in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (NIV®), where he gave Timothy instructions on the qualifications of deacons. He describes the character and qualifications of deacons using terms such as "worthy of respect" and "sincere" (literally, "not double-tongued")—or as we might put it, "not talking out of both sides of their mouths." He says they should not indulge in "much wine" nor pursue "dishonest gain." This was extremely important, since in the early church the deacons often made the actual distribution of funds to the needy. They must be sound in their faith, and have proven themselves in their lifestyle and involvement in ministry to persons in need. He adds that women serving as deacons (v. 11 is literally "Women, likewise . . ."; compare Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae, in Romans 16:1; RSV, NRSV, NIV® 2011, NASB footnote) must have the same characteristics, and not be gossipers, but rather temperate and trustworthy in everything. In addition to all this, Paul emphasizes that deacons must be faithful in their family relationships, as "one-woman men" and fathers who manage their children and households well.

To summarize, Paul says that deacons must be persons of genuine faith, individuals whose lifestyles demonstrate Christian character, who are tried and proven in their character and service. They must have the attitude of a servant—that's what the title means! Like the pastor ("overseer" or "bishop" in 1 Timothy 3), deacons should model the Christian walk for the congregation as trustworthy, solid, stable servants of the Lord, willing to serve his church!

As we elect deacons for the coming year, prayerfully consider



the names that will be presented in light of these biblical qualifications, and seek God's guidance as you vote.

On another subject, as we shared in a church conference some time ago, the West Chowan Baptist Association has chosen to end its relationship this October with any churches that are affiliated in any way with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Since early this year, the pastors and other representatives from four area churches affected by this decision have met multiple times with CBFNC leaders to explore how we might move forward together. We are actively pursuing the idea of forming a regional fellowship composed of CBF-related churches in the broader northeastern North Carolina region and possibly even the southeastern Virginia region.

As a first step in this process, there will be a Northeastern NC Regional Gathering at First Baptist Church, Ahoskie on Sunday, September 28, beginning at 3:45 p.m. and lasting until around 7:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 3:45. There will be an opening welcome session at 4:00, followed at 4:15 by breakout learning sessions about CBF (an overview), CBF Global Missions, Deacons as Spiritual Leaders, and Rebranding Evangelism: Jesus-Centered Engagement. We'll share food and fellowship around the table at 5:15, then join in worship at 6:30, with Marc and Kim Wyatt, a former and a current CBF Field Personnel as the main speakers. By the way, the Wyatts will also be with us and speak in our worship service that morning.

This gathering is for all the members of our churches, and especially our leaders. I hope you'll plan to participate! If you plan to be there for the meal, you'll need to register online at cbfnc.org. Scroll down and click on the Northeastern NC Regional Gathering button to go to the registration page. The cost of the meal is \$10. If you need help registering, contact the church office and we will assist you. I hope we'll have strong representation from MBC!

Please be praying for this effort. It holds great promise for future fellowship and cooperation in mission efforts in our region.

Grace and peace,

Mark E. Perkins

It's Back!
Wednesday, September 10
6:00 p.m.

BIG WEDNESDAY

Mary Etta's Menu **Fried Chicken**
Served with Potato Salad, Butterbeans, Deviled Eggs, Rolls and Dessert

Adults... **\$10** Per Plate
Please call the church office to make your reservations.

Save the Date...
**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 14**
**QUARTERLY
CONFERENCE**
To approve 2025-2026 budget and
Nominating Committee Recommendations

Church DEACONS
ELECTIONS
**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21**

Deacon elections will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Members were mailed a list of members that are eligible. Please prayerfully consider who you will call to serve as a deacon for the next three years.

**CBFNC
NORTHEASTERN
REGIONAL
GATHERING**

Sunday, September 28
3:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Dinner at 5:15 p.m.)
Location:
First Baptist Church, Ahoskie
312 West Main Street Ahoskie, NC

REGISTER NOW
Online: cbfnc.org
Call CBFNC: 336-349-3456

 **Featured Speakers:**
Mark & Kim Wyatt
Former & Current CBF Personnel

Gathering Includes:
•Meaningful Worship •Informative Breakout Sessions
•Fellowship Meal (\$10.00 / person)

Mission Project: Bring donations of hygiene items to support Christian Women's Job Corps. (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, soap/body wash, women's feminine products, etc.)

 **Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina**



Kids' Club Has Resumed

Kids' Club meets weekly on Wednesday nights for children aged three through fifth grade. Each session includes a Bible story, music, and crafts. In nice weather, we even play on the playground. *Come join us!*

Our September schedule is:

Sept. 3 6:00-6:45
Sept. 10 6:30-7:15
Sept. 17 6:00-6:45
Sept. 24 6:00-6:45



Youth Group Cookout will be by Sunday, September 7 from 3-6 p.m. at the home of Patty Joyner, Winton, NC. If you need a ride, please be at the church at 2:45 p.m.

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

Is pleased to announce that we have completed the

History & Archive Room

The room is located in what used to be the Mixon Classroom. Anyone who would like to tour the room after worship service, please contact Linda Hassell.



Choir rehearsals are back in full force and we are enjoying praising God through music. I am grateful for each singer. We welcome anyone who would like to come and join us!

Paula Pressnell

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER

Deacon of the Month

Debbie Hill

Opening of the Church

Charlie Cole

Ushers

September

Jay Revelle, Ronnie Coltrain,
Hal Thomas, and Charles Gallop

October

Charlie Aycock, Lloyd Hill,
And Jay Revelle

Radio Ministry Sponsors

Debbie Hill

Children's Sermon

Sarah Davis

Caregivers

Aug. 24-Sept. 6
T.K. Warren, III

Sept. 7-20

Aldeen Gatewood

Sept. 21-Oct. 4

Diane Dixon and Alice Hassell

Flowers

September 7 - Sarah Davis
September 14 - Susan Benthall
September 21 - Available
September 28 - Booker Daniel

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER



September 2	Zakk Royce
September 7	Leah Faile
September 8	Margaret Murray
September 12	Jo Revelle Murray
September 14	Alice Hassell
September 15	Alexandra Piper
September 21	Christina Mitchell
September 23	Erin Faile
September 23	Christina Torres
September 25	Sara Frances Hill
September 28	Lynn Johnson
September 28	Will Revelle

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

UPCOMING DATES

September 3, 10, 17, and 24
Kids' Club (see times above)

September 7

Youth Group Cookout 2:45 p.m.
Patty Joyner's Home, Winton, NC

September 14, 21, and 28
Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

September 10
Big Wednesday 6:00

September 16
Food Bank of the Albemarle 1:30

September 14
Quarterly Conference

September 21
Deacon Elections

September 16
Food Bank of the Albemarle 1:30

September 23
Deacons Meeting 6:00

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
PASTOR

KAYLEIGH LANCE
Director of Youth Ministry

PAULA PRESSNELL
Organist & Director of Music Ministry

TERESA MARTIN
Administrative Assistant

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 1:30
252-398-3613
www.murfbc.org

BLESSINGS MINISTRIES FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, September 16 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. Thank you for your continued support.

BUDGET REMINDER

September is the final month of our 2024-2025 fiscal year, and we are thankful and grateful your faithful and continued support of our church and its ministries.

As we prepare to close out this year, if you find you may have overlooked a regular gift, or you may be willing and able to be a little extra generous, we would be grateful.

As always, we are appreciative of your support of our church whether it be through financial gifts or with gifts of time, presence, or prayer.

The August financial statement was unavailable when the messenger went to press. When completed, the report will appear in the church bulletin and copies will be available in the church office.



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

Return Service Requested