

# The Announcer

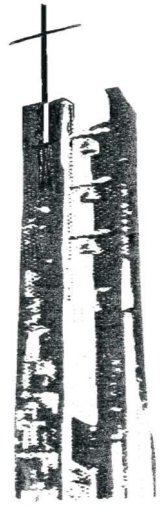
First Baptist Church—Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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## *The View from the Rafters*

In April of 1998, I sat in a lecture room listening to Rev. John Claypool. Having first heard him a decade before as an eighteen-year-old college student on the campus of Mercer University, I determined that if Claypool spoke within driving distance, I would make every effort to go, listen and learn. In reflection what interested me in Claypool were three things: 1) he was a minister who lost a young daughter to cancer, yet maintained his Christian faith; 2) he was a minister who had experienced personally a failed marriage ending in divorce, yet continued in his call to loving people in a public faith community; and 3) he was a Baptist turned Episcopalian (because Baptist leaders early in his ministry ostracized him), yet he continued to associate with Baptists. In Claypool, I witnessed a man who loved God despite devastating loss, loved people despite his own failed relationship, and loved Baptists despite their criticisms. John Claypool always spoke from his own walk with the Lord which I found to be filled with humility, grace and deep conviction. I mention sitting in a lecture room in April of 1998 listening to Claypool speak because for 20 years I have carried the notes of that lecture in the back of my "preaching Bible" for that length of time. Even after I have changed "preaching Bibles" on two occasions over the last two decades, I have respectfully taken the notes from Claypool's lecture and transferred them to each new Bible. I cannot tell you the numerous times I have read and reread the words. Most often I have pondered his words in seasons of crisis, death, loss and grief.

On HOPE, John Claypool shared, "**Memory is the basis of hope. .... At the end our hope is that we have had enough experiences with God's grace in order that we are not afraid and trust that what seems to be the end is not.**" One element of the faith community's work is to help one another pay attention to our experiences of grace. The life of faith is continually adding to the spiritual resources of our lives by way of storing memories of God's presence, God's actions and God's words. The reason we bring our children to church and the reason we submit ourselves to participating in Bible study on a weekly basis is that we need to be formed and shaped in how to recognize and see God's grace in our lives. It doesn't just happen, anymore than a superior athlete excels at any given skill without practice. Our imaginations need to be formed to see God in places that we think God is not. Our minds need to be honed to be acutely aware of God's penetrating Spirit. Our thoughts need to be tested in the company of others, recognizing that with accountability brings maturity. Our lives need to be given to love in ways that are consistent with the cross of the crucified Jesus. In the storehouses of our memories may we collectively have "enough experiences with God's grace" that "what seems to be the end is not."

Joy for the Journey,  
Jay

## Youth Happenings

**Sunday, April 8**

I hope each of you will make every effort to be present

9:45 – **Youth Sunday School**      11:00 am – **Worship**

4:45 pm – **Youth Choir Practice**      5:30 pm – **Youth Snack Supper**

Here's what's happening for YOUth for the next couple of months, in addition to our regular Sunday activities – plan now to join us!

Friday - Sunday, April 13-15 - **Youth Spring Retreat @ Fort Caswell**

Saturday, April 28 – **Mt Airy High School Prom Breakfast**

Sunday, May 20 – **Youth Sunday and After Church Luncheon Meal and Silent Auction Fundraiser**

(Be thinking about what service/item you will offer for the silent auction)

Sunday, June 3 – **High School Graduate and Family Breakfast and Recognition**

Keep an eye out for more youth events to come for the summer months!



### *April Birthdays*

4/8 Steve Aldrich  
4/10 Graylyn Fussell  
4/10 Meredith Hensley  
4/10 Frances Randleman  
4/11 Audrey Marion  
4/11 Carrie Marion  
4/12 Addilyn Nicholson  
4/12 Carlos Rodriguez  
4/13 Nancy Belton  
4/13 Bella Brown  
4/14 Sam Gentry  
4/14 Cindy Jones  
4/14 Marti Loffis  
4/14 Owen Leonard  
4/14 Derek Slate  
4/15 Lawrence "LT" Tate

## **Attention First Baptist Family**

Will you make a commitment to spend two hours of your time to help feed 10,000 children????

Plan to join us for a meal packaging event on June 20th in our Fellowship Hall from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. as we come together to



**Watch the newsletter for more for details**

## **Focus on Friends Helping Seniors**

MINISTERING TO THE NEEDS OF THE SENIOR ADULTS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

### **Wednesday Night Meal Deliveries** -

This team schedules meal deliveries from the church's Wednesday night dinners to various seniors who have either requested a meal or who are homebound and would benefit from food and fellowship. A total of 7 meals per Wednesday are available and are only delivered the approximately 32 weeks during which the regular children and adult Wednesday evening activities are in session.



**Ministry for Sunday:** Rev. Jay Meadows ; **Scripture:** John 20:19-31 ; **Sunday School Greeters:** Bobby & Bonnie Watson ; **Deacon Greeters:** Greg Hauser & Carol Dunning ; **Babies:** Chip & Jenn Fussell ; **Toddlers:** Joy McGehee & Inglis Rowe ; **Preschoolers:** Barbara Hill & Maggie Nicholson ; **Kid's Korner:** Marsha Meadows & Mercer Meadows ; **Children's Sermon :** Cindy Wilson ; **Sound:** Benny Brannock, Gina Brannock, Jeffrey Ellis

*We must never let the noise of the world overpower and overwhelm that still, small voice.*

~L. Tom Perry~

Many thanks to all of you who "liked" us on Facebook and "shared" this post with your families and friends as we tried to win an additional \$500 grant for our Friends Feeding Friends Soup Kitchen. We have not received the final results from Food Lion but will share that information with you once we have been notified.



## The Week Ahead

### **SUNDAY, April 8**

- 9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
- 9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am **\*\*The Church at Worship & Praise**
- 4:00pm Children's Handbells
- 4:00pm Diaconate Meeting-Fireside Room
- 4:45pm Youth Choir
- 5:00pm Griefshare Class
- 5:30pm Granite City Ringers
- 5:45pm Youth Supper
- 6:00pm Youth Group Family Time

### **MONDAY, April 9**

- 6:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting

### **TUESDAY, April 10**

- 7:00am Baptist Men's Breakfast- Olympia
- 10:00am Hensley Mission Group-Ridgecrest
- 7:00pm Wilson-Newell Prayer Group-Elizabeth Martin

### **WEDNESDAY, April 11**

- 5:00pm Pre-School -Kindergarten Music & Missions
- 5:15pm Grades 1-5 Missions
- 5:45pm Family Night Meal
- 6:30pm Boggs Committee Meeting-Library
- 6:30pm Bible Study
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, April 12**

- 5:30pm Feeding Friends Meal
- 7:00pm **\*Boy Scouts—Scout Hut**

### **FRIDAY, April 13**

- Youth Spring Retreat

### **SUNDAY, April 15**

- 9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
- 9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am **\*\*The Church at Worship & Praise**
- 12:00pm Mary Rowe Mission Group-FH
- 4:45pm Children's Handbells
- NO Youth Choir**
- 5:00pm Griefshare Class
- 5:30pm Granite City Ringers

\*Community Ministry \*\*Hearing Assists / Valet Parking available upon request. Wheelchair spaces are available in the sanctuary for the convenience of those who need to stay in their chairs.

### **Senior Gathering, Monday, April 23**

**11:45-2:00, Fellowship Hall**

**Seniors Of All Ages** are invited to join your friends in faith and fellowship for devotion, lunch, musical moments with Ben Gurrin, and "Don't be Scammed" by Police Chief Dale Watson. Transportation will be provided upon request.

**Please RSVP to 710-2041.**



**Prom Breakfast...**FBC will once again host the prom breakfast after MAHS prom on Saturday, April 28, 10:00pm-2:00am.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity during this difficult time of our mother's passing. She truly loved you and especially her Rebekah Sunday School Class.

The many acts of love demonstrated have been overwhelming. The cards, calls, and visits are appreciated. All the prayers lifted on her behalf have been felt and much needed. Please continue to pray for our family as we adjust to our loss.

What a blessing that she was a part of such a body of believers.

The family of Mildred Glenn



### **The Mary Rowe Mission Action Group** will

meet Sunday April 15, 2018 (changed this month to 3rd Sunday), immediately following worship in the FBC Fellowship Hall. All ladies who are interested in being in a Mission group are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be provided. Join the fellowship as we strive to be on mission for Christ.



**VBS Dates have been set:**  
**June 25-29, 9:00am-11:30am**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to serve for Friends Feeding Friends on the 4th Thursday of each month from 5:15pm-6:30pm.

**Statistics****Date: 4-1-18**

Sunday School Attendance 107

Worship Attendance 294

**Tithes and Offerings****This Week**

Weekly Needs \$10,683.00

Budget Offering \$31,119.00

**Weekly Surplus \$20,436.00**Designations *(summarized below)* \$3,762.50

Total Offering \$34,881.50

**Tithes and Offerings****Year To Date**

Yearly Needs \$138,879.00

Budget Offering \$128,041.51

**YTD Deficit (\$10,837.49)**

Designations \$32,968.49

Total Offering \$161,010.00

**Weekly Designations**

Building Fund \$1,040.00

Organ Fund Pledge \$1,330.00

Designated Missions \$545.00

Miscellaneous \$719.50

Wednesday Night Meal \$128.00

**Building Fund** Bal to Date \$25,127.58**Organ Fund** Bal to Date \$36,622.48**Caring & Sharing in Our Church Family**Write a note, make a telephone call,  
or pay a visit to**Sympathy**Family of Christine Shelton in her passing  
Barbara Blood in the passing of her nephew,  
Seth Kernodle**Hospital**

Andy Hennis-Forsyth-ICU

**Home or Retirement**Claudine Belton  
912 Andover Street  
Mount Airy, NC 27030Charlie Goins  
Twelve Oaks Retirement  
Mount Airy, NC 27030**\*Tune in to WPAQ\*****Sunday morning services, April 22**

11:00am-11:30am

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Hilda Brannock**Building Fund**In memory of Margaret Taylor by:  
Hilda Brannock**CBF Missions**In memory of Mildred Glenn by:  
Larry and Barbara Blood**General Fund**In memory of Mildred Glenn by:  
Clarence and Nelda GoingsIn memory of Margaret Taylor by:  
Clarence and Nelda GoingsIn memory of Irene Belton by:  
Richard and Nancy Pyles  
Betty Roberts  
Kester and Rosie Sink**Organ Fund**In memory of Irene Belton by:  
Larry and Barbara Blood  
Clarence and Nelda Goings  
Harris and Tonita Greene  
Margaret Harmon  
Hazelnut Plantation Condominiums  
Gary and Linda Kniskern  
Donald and Carol ThomasIn memory of Mildred Glenn by:  
Jim and Gayle ReevesIn memory Margaret Taylor by:  
Harris and Tonita Greene**Youth Fund**In memory of Mildred Glenn by:  
Jack and Donna Childress  
Nancy DeCaron  
Gary and Linda Kniskern  
Donald Moler  
Hilda R. Scott**Prayer News:** Remember that you are being prayed for individually each week by a member of the Diaconate. We thank God for you and ask His blessing on you as we all desire to grow in our faithfulness in following Jesus and in our caring for one another. As always, when you have specific prayer requests, please call the church office.