



SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

9:00 AM Morning Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

9:00 AM Clothes Closet Work Day
6:30 PM Men's Ministry

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

9:30 AM Salvation Doll Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

5:00 PM Finance Ministry Team Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00 AM Clothes Closet Open

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

9:00 AM Morning Worship
Quarterly Church Conference
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Deacons' Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

3:00 PM WMU Leadership Team Meeting
on Free Conference Call

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

9:00 AM Morning Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

9:00 AM Clothes Closet Work Day
NOON NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

9:30 AM Salvation Doll Team Meeting
2:45 PM Clothes Closet Open

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

9:00 AM Morning Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School

Newsletter Deadlines:

February Monday, January 22 at Noon
March Monday, February 19 at Noon
April Monday, March 18 at Noon
May Monday, April 22 at Noon
June Monday, May 20 at Noon
July Monday, June 17 at Noon
August Monday, July 22 at Noon
September Monday, August 19 at Noon
October Monday, September 23 at Noon
November Monday, October 21 at Noon
December Monday, November 18 at Noon
January 2025 Monday, December 9 at Noon



The following is a tentative 2024 schedule:

- Sunday, January 14, 2024*
- Sunday, April 14, 2024*
- Sunday, July 14, 2024*
- Sunday, October 13, 2024*

A Called Conference to vote on the 2025 budget is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 2024.

January Birthdays

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| January 3 | Harriett Winn |
| January 11 | Phyllis Warren |
| January 12 | Nicci Bennett |
| January 15 | Shelley J. Crews |
| January 16 | Jimmy Vincent |
| January 18 | Loretta Jacobson |
| January 21 | Sylvia Brunson |
| January 21 | Andrea Harrison |
| January 22 | Grace Gooding |
| January 24 | Renee Hiers |
| January 27 | Buddy Hiers |
| January 30 | Tina Boyles |
| January 31 | John Rhoden |

FIRST BAPTIST HERALD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMPTON, S.C. 29924
Volume 66 January 2024 No. 1

this means that
anyone who
belongs to christ
has become
a new person.
the old is gone;
a new life has begun!
← 2 corinthians 5:17 →

BUDGET **APPROVED**

The 2024 Church Budget was approved on Sunday, December 3, 2023 with one amendment to line item 68100 - Floral / Christmas Decorations. Thank you to the Finance Ministry Team for your time and work.

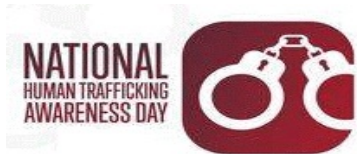
2024 Offering Envelopes & 2023 Contribution Statements

If you have not picked up your box of 2024 offering envelopes, you can find them in the vestibule of the sanctuary. **PLEASE** remember to fill in the amount on your envelope in order for your contributions to be properly recorded on your statement.

Also, your 2023 contribution statements are ready. They are in the vestibule (in alphabetical order). You may pick yours up from there or call the church office at 943-3758 to ask Sheila to drop yours in the mail.

Counting Ministry Team for January

Linda O'Quinn
Danny Schaffer



January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Among human trafficking victims, nearly 80 percent are sexually exploited and 19 percent are victims of labor exploitation. Please pray fervently for the victims and for those who plan and carry out interventions. Pray that those who are carrying out human trafficking will come to know Jesus as their Savior and change their lives.

Count Your Blessings!

Emerson and Mary made their move to Hampton in January 2017. In appreciation and honor of them beginning their eighth year with us, I'm sharing a little story from their 5th anniversary celebration.

“Once upon a time there was a church in a little town of the Low Country of South Carolina. The people in that church, although few in numbers, were dedicated and praying for Godly leadership, peace, harmony, and a bright future. You see, they had endured some struggles and hardships, but this is a happy little story, so we won't rehash that.

In November 2016, the small group of Deacons and the Administrative Assistant met to discuss plans on how to begin finding the perfect, Godly man to serve as interim pastor. They didn't need just anyone. They knew their congregation needed someone who could pour his life into theirs. They needed someone who could lead, teach, inspire, and love them. They needed someone to help them heal. This group heard about a church, just over the hill and through the woods, who had a transitional pastor who had been a true blessing to their congregation. He served them well and they gave rave reviews. After a couple of years there, in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, the Transitional Pastor and his wife followed God's lead and made the trek to Tennessee. This hopeful group of deacons and administrative assistant made a call to Maryville and spoke to a lady who couldn't have been more excited to tell about this wonderful man and his lovely wife. The glow in her voice was evident and they knew they needed to make immediate contact.

After a couple of phone calls, the Transitional Ministry Team reached out to Emerson Wiles, talked for a bit, and set a date to meet and converse with him and his wife. It just so happened they had planned a nearby visit with their son and his beautiful family. It was perfect timing!

The hopefuls met with the couple, and got a feel for each other. They decided it was time to call the meeting to a close so the couple could head back to Charleston, but not before an extensive search for their missing keys.

The hopefuls were encouraged and was sure God was leading them to be together. So many things fell right

into place—from talking to a couple of people who told us about this Godly man, the perfect timing of him being nearby and available to meet in “The Hamptons,” another church who was desperately trying to seek him out as well without realizing they were dialing his right number, just not the right area code, and several other details that God put into place to make this all work.

The road to find this couple of many talents, who loves the Lord, and loves teaching and witnessing, was quite the journey. If some heard the story, they might say this little church was lucky. But this congregation knows better. They know luck had nothing to do with it. They know that God truly blessed them and gifted them with just what they needed.

Emerson, you hit the ground running and worked tirelessly to help us iron out and simplify many complexities. You helped us make necessary changes in our structure which has led us to a new level of peace, harmony, and trust among our congregation. You teach, lead, and inspire us weekly. I'm so grateful that prayers were answered and you were interested in staying in Hampton and changing your title from Transitional Pastor to Pastor, AND that our congregation was 100 percent in favor. We are indeed blessed to call you our pastor.

Mary, I've seen a few preachers' wives in my life and you are one of the very, very best. You are a faithful servant, a supportive wife, and you compliment Emerson so perfectly. Your gentle spirit, deep Biblical knowledge, and many talents have been an asset and you as well have been a true blessing to First Baptist.

I continue to be grateful every day that God led us to the two of you. The Super Hero in this story, the One who should be in all of our stories, is our almighty God. He knew exactly what we needed. He knew we were humble and open to His will for our church and He blessed us. There is always work to be done, growing to be explored, and faith to be enjoyed, and we look forward to continuing our journey with you for many years.

Thank you Emerson and Mary for five years of faithful service to First Baptist Church of Hampton and our community. I pray this is the first of a number of milestone anniversaries we get to celebrate together.”

thank you

Dear Church Family,

We thank you for all you have done for us during the trials of life recently. We appreciate the cards and food you brought to us. Also, the visits and phone calls have meant so much. We hope 2024 will find us doing much better and we look forward to being back in church services with you.

All our love,
Doug and Linda Sue Elkins

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia that you placed in church in my honor. Also, thank you for the Christmas gift you gave me. I appreciate it so much. It is such an honor for me to serve Hampton First Baptist as your musician. I love each of you dearly and hope with all my heart that we have a blessed 2024 together.

In His love,
Linda Sanders

My Dear Church Family,

I want to thank the church from the bottom of my heart for your Christmas gift to me. Also, to the individuals who remembered me at Christmas, I am deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness. After 34 plus years, it continues to be a pleasure serving and working with you. Wishing each of you a very blessed 2024!

Much love,
Sheila

WITH DEEPEST *Sympathy*

We extend sincere Christian sympathy to Doug Elkins and family in the recent loss of his sister, Brenda Sturkie.