

First Baptist Church, Southern Pines

Church Profile

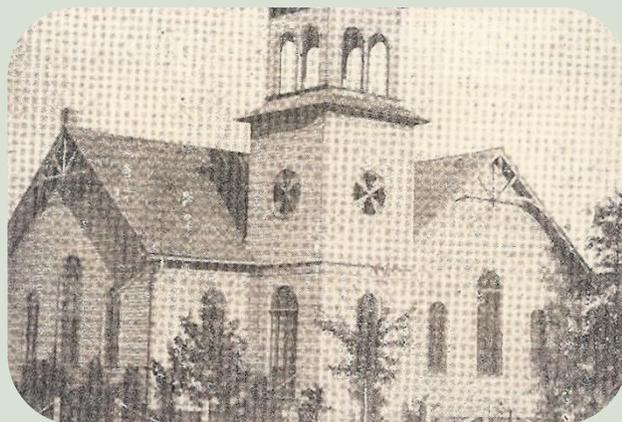
Our mission is to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel, nurturing disciples, and serving others.
www.fbcsp.org / 910.692.8750 / 200 East New York Avenue Southern Pines, NC 28387

Church History

First Baptist Church was organized in 1879 as Manly Baptist Church in Manly, North Carolina. Membership was 16 at the time and services were held on the 4th Sunday of each month. The church was a member of Sandy Creek Baptist Association, the oldest Baptist association in North Carolina. In 1899, First Baptist moved from Manly to the corner of West Connecticut Avenue and Page Street in Southern Pines. Membership had doubled at that time to 32. In 1901, First Baptist began to hold worship services every Sunday. We were the first church in the association to do so.

First Baptist moved to our current location on New York Avenue in 1936 with a membership of 154. First Baptist has continued to grow over the past 80+ years. In 1951, a new Educational Building was added, and in 1977, the current Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were completed. The new Adult and Preschool Educational Facility and renovated Youth Complex were completed in 2008, followed by renovations to the Sanctuary in 2014.

Over the past 144 years, First Baptist has only had nine Senior Ministers, with our two most recent ministers serving for 60 years. Reverend Doctor Matt Riggsbee was called in November of 2024.



Worship and Attendance

Worship services are traditionally offered on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Fifth Sundays and a few other holiday dates provide the opportunity for all of our congregation to gather together in Worship at 11:00 a.m. only. First Baptist Church of Southern Pines has an overall traditional worship style. Hymns are sung every Sunday, while contemporary music is occasionally incorporated as well. The worship experience is structured to connect the past with the future by offering prayers, scriptures, sermons, and music that have resonated with the faith journey of Christians throughout the centuries. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of each month, and baptism is celebrated on various occasions.

A time for children reflects the importance of young learners while using a hymnal encourages all worshippers to sing in parts, blending voices in a symbolic act of unity. Service music is provided by the Sanctuary



Choir and is often supplemented by other choirs, such as children, youth, and senior adults, as well as handbells, instrumentalists, ensembles and soloists.

Attendance in worship fluctuated during COVID-19. The church responded by offering livestream services which continue today.

Since 2021, attendance has trended upward,

WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE



**Please note there are no data for worship included in the graph from 2020 or from Sunday School in 2020 or 2021.*

Christian Education

Sunday School All ages gather together on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School. We currently have seven adult Sunday School classes, three youth classes, and four children's classes.

Adult BridgePoints Adult Bridgepoints or Bible studies are offered for adults on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., September through May. These BridgePoints offer a time of focused study on various books of the Bible or Christian topics.

RAs & GAs, Mission Friends Children gather on Wednesday evenings, September through May, in Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action and Mission Friends to learn about ways they can serve God and others and missionaries around the world.

Youth Bible Studies (High School and Middle School) Youth gather on Sunday evenings for Bible Study and fellowship. During the week, multiple Bible study small group opportunities are available for high school students. Middle schoolers gather on Wednesday evenings for Bible study.

College Bible Studies Our Youth Minister leads a virtual Bible study for college students.

Christian Education Training Workshops
We offer annual training for Sunday School teachers.



Children & Families' Ministry

The Children's Ministry is for children ages birth to fifth grade. We are committed to following the example of Jesus as we welcome children and their families to our church. We make the faith formation of our children a priority. It is our joy to partner with families in laying the foundations of faith and growing young disciples. You will find an atmosphere of grace and love where children are taught to be like Jesus in all areas of their lives. Children are equipped with Bible knowledge, skills, and applications through Bible study, music, and missions education.

Events include Sunday School, Music & Missions (RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends), Vacation Bible School, Bible Presentation, Backpack Blessing, Summer Mission Projects, Operation Inasmuch, Operation Christmas Child, Children's Day of Worship, Learning to Follow Jesus class, Trunk or Treat, and other special events.



Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry includes grades 6 - 12. Our Youth Statement is, "As members of the Christian community, FBCSPYG will strive to strengthen our faith in God by: accepting youth from every background and walk of life, growing within ourselves our faith and as a group to become closer to God, sharing our faith with others in our youth group, schools, homes and the places we hang out, teaching others how to make God a part of their lives and showing them the fulfillment of living a life that follows Christ, supporting each other by being willing to listen, pray and problem solve for all youth's individual issues and celebrate in their triumphs, worshiping in a way that connects us closer to God through Prayer, Music, Bible Study and Fellowship, serving God by serving others, wherever the Lord calls us and lastly... creating a family that loves and holds each other accountable, no matter what!"

Youth events include Graduation Sunday, weekly supper, One Voice choir, large and small weekly Bible study groups, Sunday School, JuBELLation handbells, Crazy Nights, fall retreats, summer mission trip, summer Caswell trip, outreach projects, and other opportunities for fellowship and fun.



Senior Adult Ministry

The Senior Adult Ministry includes adults 55+. Senior adults are an important part of the life of First Baptist Church. It is our goal to give senior adults opportunities to continue to serve God's church. We offer opportunities to gather for fellowship, participate in activities, make music and enjoy meals together.

Events include monthly Seniors on the Move gatherings (meals and programs, such as "The Tenors," folk-grass concert, chili cookoff, local special musicians, Christmas party, local baseball game outing), Senior Singers, spiritual enrichment retreats, and other trips and outings.



Music Ministry

The Music Ministry includes the Sanctuary Choir, children's choirs, One Voice Youth Choir, JuBELLation (youth handbells), special music, ensembles, soloists, instrumentalists, and Senior Singers. Music gives expression to our worship, instruction for our discipleship, and enjoyment to our senses. It helps us serve our neighbors near and far as God has charged us. Faithful participation is essential in meeting that charge, and there are many opportunities to enjoy and share musical gifts.

Events include Maundy Thursday Service, Ash Wednesday Service, Children's Day of Worship, Graduation Sunday, weekly rehearsals for Children's, Youth and Sanctuary Choirs, singing at local nursing homes during Operation Inasmuch, and Easter Sunday.



Other Ministries

Bereavement Ministry

The Bereavement Ministry ministers to church members who have lost an immediate family member for a year following their loved one's death. Bereaved members are contacted at least quarterly and sometimes more often as needed. The Bereavement Ministry also prays for these members consistently. In addition to this ministry, the Senior Minister sends "Journeying Through Grief" bereavement books and personalized notes quarterly to bereaved members.



Homebound Ministry

The Homebound Ministry is an extension of our Senior Adult Ministry. This ministry serves members of our church who are homebound or in nursing home facilities.

Prayer Room Ministry

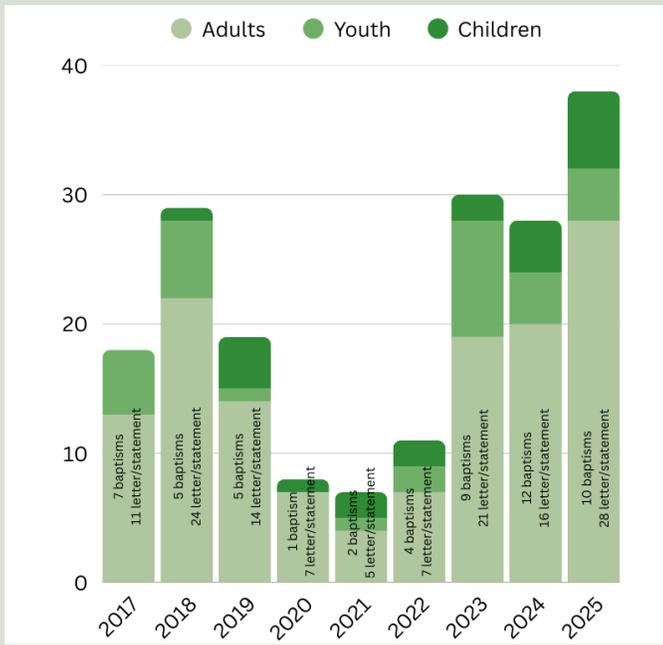
Each week, our Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team Members faithfully pray over each prayer request on the updated prayer list and prayer requests placed outside the Prayer Room. Notes of encouragement are also often sent to those who have presented prayer requests. This is a silent but critical ministry, as we seek the Lord's help for those facing serious trials.

Sonshine Learning Center

Sonshine Learning Center is a half-day preschool that operates in our Children's Ministry Preschool Wing. Sonshine has been active since 1995 and offers a loving Christian environment for children to build a solid foundation for their future entrance into elementary school.



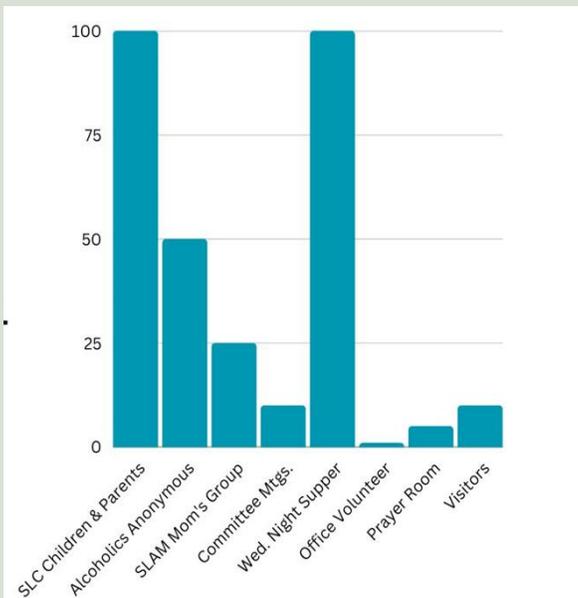
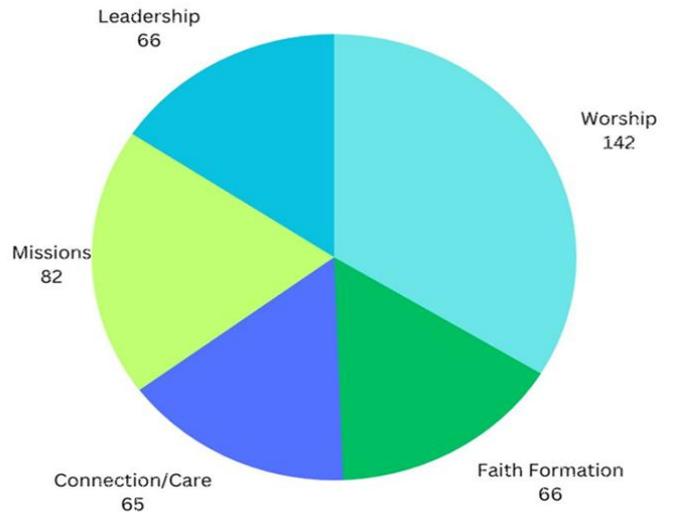
Congregation



As people have returned to church after the pandemic, membership has begun to reflect an upward trend.

In 2023, our church had 30 new members join, with 21 of those being by letter/statement and 9 by baptism. In 2025, our membership grew by an additional 20%, with 28 by letter / statement and 10 by baptism.

These numbers reflect the current number of adult volunteers serving in the following areas: leadership, missions, connection/care, worship and faith formation at First Baptist.

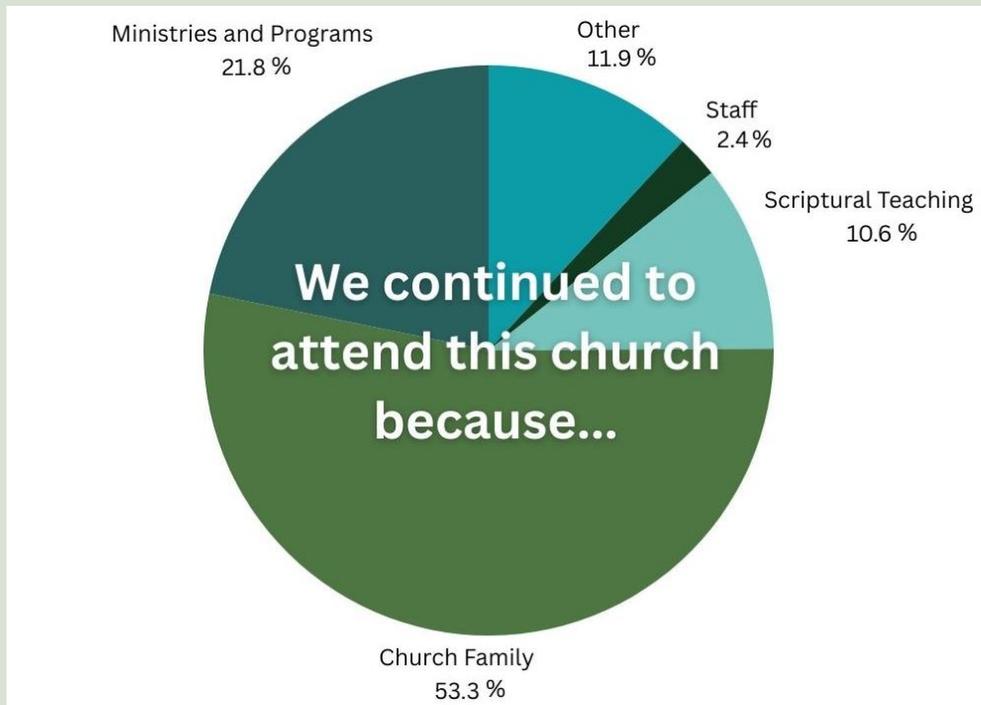


In addition to Sunday worship, over 300 people attend ministries of the church each week.

Congregation, continued



In 2023, our congregation was asked what brought them to First Baptist and why they continued to attend. People came and stayed at FBCSP because of the importance of deep, meaningful congregational relationships and effective ministries.



Missions

Our budgeted missions support the following:

First Baptist Church Missions

- Adult mission trip
- College mission trip
- First Baptist Intercessory Prayer Ministry
- Honduras missionaries - Mike and Ginger Greene
- Operation Christmas Child
- Operation Inasmuch
- Short-Term Local and Overseas Mission Projects
- Sonshine Learning Center (FBCSP Preschool)
- Youth mission trips

Community/Ecumenical Missions

- Bethesda Halfway House
- Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills
- Family Promise of Moore County
- Habitat for Humanity/NC Sandhills
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Life Care Pregnancy Center
- Meals on Wheels
- Moore County Literacy Council
- Moore Free Care Clinic
- Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care
- Sandhills Young Life
- Team Workz Homeless Organization

Baptist Missions

- The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC
- CBF missionaries - Carson and Laura Foushee
- Campbell University Theological education scholarship
- Thrivemore (formerly Baptist Retirement Homes of NC)



Core Values

The Authority of Scripture We believe the Bible is the inspired written Word of God and is the normative guide for Christian faith and practice. The teachings of scripture as interpreted by the community of faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit shall guide the life, faith, and practice of the individual believer and the Church. The criterion by which scripture is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

The Lordship of Christ We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We affirm both His humanity and His divinity. He is the one mediator between God and humankind, securing through His life and work our reconciliation with God. We believe, with Christians through the centuries, that Christ, through His death on the cross and His resurrection, has overcome the powers of darkness and death. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and all those who by faith believe in Him shall be redeemed. As Lord, Christ is the head of the Church and the supreme authority for the Church and Christian life.

Priesthood of all Believers We affirm each individual believer has equal access to God and has the responsibility to minister in Christ's name. We adhere to the "soul competency of each believer" which affirms that every individual is competent under God to make moral, spiritual, and religious decisions. We, therefore, believe each person is free before God, having the privilege and responsibility to interpret the scriptures through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We affirm the individuality of our calling before God and affirm that men and women are equal and free before God to pursue their calling. Therefore, we ordain men and women as deacons and ministers.

Sanctity of the Family We affirm that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime as God intended. We praise God for His love, mercy, and forgiveness over our lives. We covenant to live as Christians in our homes, to engage in family and private devotions, to teach our children by instruction and example that Jesus is Savior and Lord.

Core Values, continued

The Autonomy of the Local Church We affirm the autonomy of the local church; therefore, we believe that the local community of faith is free to govern itself and is accountable to God alone. First Baptist Church is free to determine its membership, leadership, worship order, and association with other Baptist institutions. We are a fellowship of people redeemed in Jesus Christ, who are called by God into a community of faith in which we voluntarily unite for worship, study, Christian service, and the propagation of the gospel of Christ. We believe that the church should carry out its work with love, support, and mutual respect.

The Separation of Church and State We affirm the separation of Church and state. We firmly believe that religion is best exercised when it is free, not coerced; therefore, the state should not prohibit the free exercise of faith. The Church, likewise, should not resort to civil power to carry out her work, but pursue spiritual means to accomplish her mission.

The Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper We affirm Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper as the two ordinances of First Baptist Church. We understand these ordinances symbolically as the redemption of Christ and His presence in worship. Baptism is to be administered by the Church under the authority of the triune God. The mode of baptism is immersion in water. Baptism is a public demonstration of the believer's receipt of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and willingness to die to sin and be raised with Christ in newness of life. The Lord's Supper, observed monthly, through the elements of the bread and the cup, is a sincere searching of one's heart, a thankful remembrance of Christ and His sacrificial death on the cross. The Lord's Supper is a blessed assurance of His return, and a joyous fellowship with the living Christ and His people.

Missions Missions, as we use the term, is the extension of God's redemptive purpose through evangelism, education, and Christian service beyond the local church. As Baptists, we seek to present the gospel of Christ in a way that is consistent with biblical faith, our Baptist heritage and respects the person with whom we are sharing the message.

Cooperation Baptists are autonomous but cooperating people. We believe that cooperation is imperative for the mission and ministry of the church. The church is free to decide with whom it will associate or cooperate in the mutual ministry of the church. All such relationships are strictly voluntary, and no cooperating organizations have authority over the local church. First Baptist Church seeks to be ecumenical in its approach to mission and ministry. First Baptist Church, however, is free to enter or to sever any cooperative relationship when it is deemed necessary.

Church Covenant

God has called us into covenant with Him through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Upon our profession of faith, having committed ourselves to Jesus as Lord, and having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We pledge our love and obedience to God and commit ourselves to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and to honor no persuasion, pressure, or command contrary to His will.

We covenant to live in this Church as disciples of Jesus, seeking ever to grow in the knowledge of God and in witness to God's sustaining grace. We covenant to participate in the worship services of this Church, and to support its mission by the giving of our time, our abilities, and our money.

We covenant to live as Christians in our homes, to engage in family and private devotions, to teach our children by instruction and example that Jesus is Savior and Lord and that in commitment to Him they will find life's redemption, fulfillment, and glory.

We covenant to live as Christians in our community and in our world, to be exemplary in our conduct and just in our dealings, to engage in a Christian lifestyle and a Christian witness in the world, to include all people everywhere in the circle of our missionary concern and love, and to regard all people who confess Christ as Lord as of the household of faith, the Body of Christ. As we engage to teach our Baptist heritage, we seek also a unity of spirit and action with all Christians.

We covenant to hold one another in Christian love, to be slow to anger and quick to forgive. We shall not engage in any conduct or attitude that is contrary to the Christian ethic or harmful to the Christian life.

With compassion, sacrifice, and concern we shall minister to each other in sickness and distress; pray for each other; be mindful and considerate of one another; and share one another's joys and sorrows.

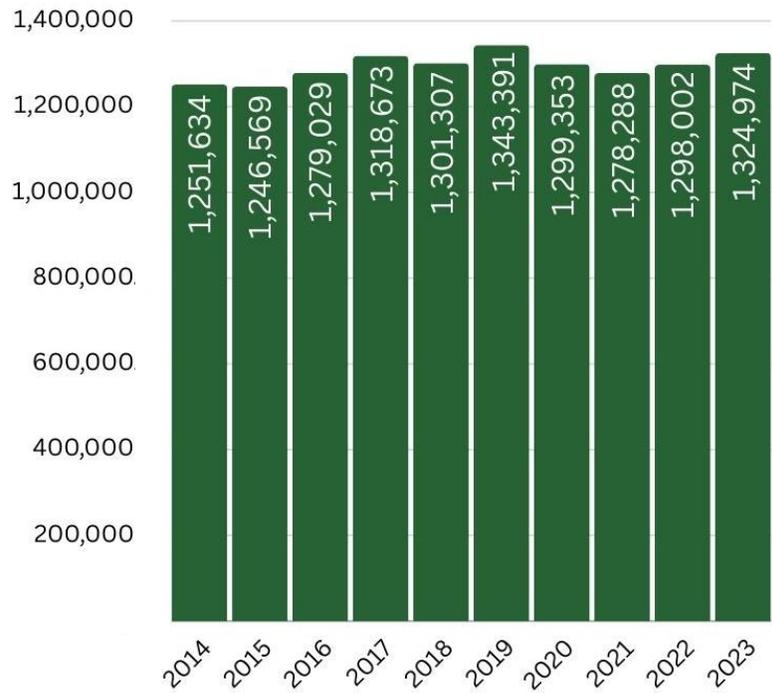
In this covenant made, we shall stand firm, holding its principles with sincerity, ordering our lives by its imperatives, judging ourselves unfaithful if we ignore its claims upon our lives and resources, and renewing it regularly with each other before God in Christian worship. Amen.



Stewardship

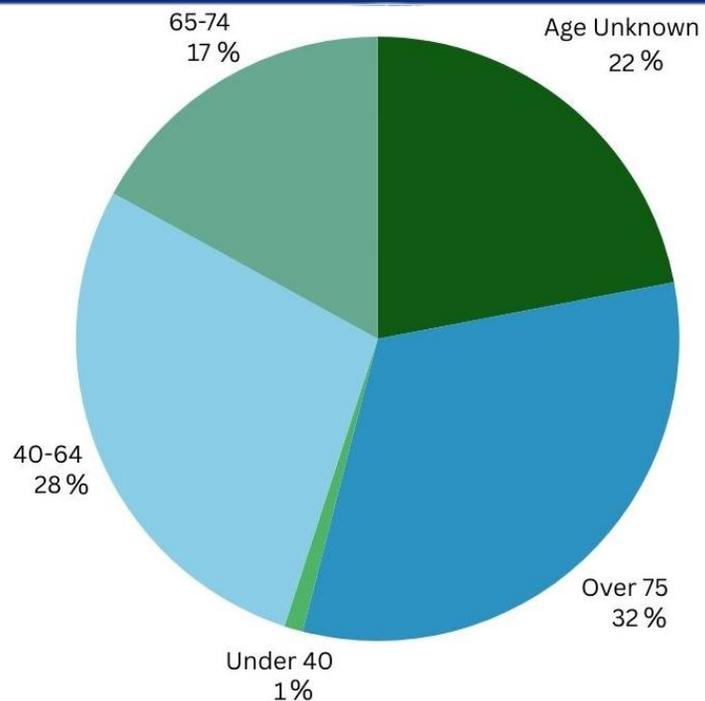
2014 –
2023

ANNUAL GIVING TRENDS



YEAR
2023

GIVING TRENDS BY AGE GROUP



Ministerial Staff



Matt Riggsbee, Senior Minister Matt graduated from Campbell University Divinity school earning his Doctor of Ministry in 2020. He has served churches in various capacities: youth pastor, Associate Pastor, and Senior Minister at FBC Hillsborough and Jersey Baptist Church in Lexington, NC.

Matt and his wife, Lauren, are graduates of NC State University & have 2 children, Lillian and Penelope. They enjoy time together in ministry, traveling, playing sports, and watching their favorite teams play. If you say the words coffee or Carolina Hurricanes, be ready for a conversation. Matt joined our staff in November of 2024.



Jamie Kipfer, Minister of Education & Administration Jamie graduated from Campbell University, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and the University of Charleston (WV). She has served churches in West Virginia and North Carolina and worked in teaching, leadership, and administrative positions. Jamie and her husband, Rickey, joined the church in 2015, and their son, Logan, was baptized here in 2023. Jamie's passion is teaching, and she loves helping others learn more about the church's history and mission. Jamie joined our staff in January of 2022.



Cathy Haynes, Minister of Congregational Care Cathy has been called to serve as our Minister of Congregational Care in January of 2025. With her education and previous ministry experience, Cathy is dedicated to nurturing spiritual growth, fostering meaningful small groups, and strengthening the bonds of fellowship that extend beyond Sunday worship – particularly among our Senior Adults. She will continue serving as our organist while also embracing this expanded ministerial role. Cathy joined our staff as the organist in January of 2023 and became part of the ministerial staff in January of 2025.



Bryan Moore, Minister of Youth & Students In June 1989, Bryan and his wife, Sheila, joined FBCSP, and he began volunteering as a youth chaperone and Sunday School teacher. Bryan has two adult children (Patrick and Rachel) who grew up in this church. He also has two grandsons, Nash and Riggins, and a granddaughter, Margo, who are the apples of his eye. Bryan served as our Interim Youth Director on three different occasions as we searched for a new Youth Minister. In 2006 at a Caswell retreat, Bryan felt God calling him to work full time with youth. Soon after, Bryan joined our staff in 2007.



Lauren Craig, Director of Children & Families' Ministry Before joining the ministry team at FBCSP, Lauren worked as the Organizational Performance Director for the Village of Pinehurst. Born in Brevard, NC, Lauren soon moved with her family to Moore County in 1987 and was raised in our church. Lauren is a graduate of North Carolina State University and completed a Certificate in Children's Ministry through Campbell University Divinity School. Lauren and her husband, Lance, live in Pinehurst with their son, Peyton, and daughter, Turner Kate. Lauren loves the beach, spending time with family and friends, and attending all her kids' extracurricular activities. Lauren joined our staff in July 2021.

Support Staff



Alison Arno
Youth Music Coordinator



Luke Arno
Youth Music Coordinator



Pat Boland
*Financial &
Administrative Assistant*



Alison Hainley
*Director of Sunshine
Learning Center*



Susan Galbreith
Food Services Director



Jessica Philbrook
*Executive Administrative
Assistant*



Annette Saunders
Financial Administrator



Patricia Teague
Food Services Assistant

Governing Structure

Congregational Governance The government of this church is congregational in nature and the final authority for the operation and management of the affairs of this corporation, spiritual and temporal, is vested in the members, which authority is exercised in the manner set forth in the bylaws. Members alone have the authority to adopt and amend bylaws, approve budgets, receive members, and govern and conduct the affairs of this church. The church is a free, autonomous, independent body, congregational in nature, with authority to determine for itself all church policies and programs and the use of its properties in the manner set forth in our bylaws. Such government shall be free of any outside control, authority, or power, whether governmental or otherwise.

Officers The officers of this church are the Senior Minister, staff ministers, the Diaconate, Trustees, Financial Administrator, clerk and all other officers as established to do the work of the church. All of these officers are elected by the church in business session, and are members of this church in good standing at the time of their election and service, with the exception of staff leadership that is called to the church before they join the membership.

Deacons The Diaconate is a ministerial body composed of both men and women recognized and elected by the congregation as members gifted of God for the implementation of the team ministry plan. The Diaconate is directly responsible to the church and at all times should regard themselves as servants of the church. With the minister, they make every effort to seek out and to win to Christ those who are not Christians, to enrich and empower the fellowship and mission of the church, to minister to the needs of the congregation and community, to faithfully serve the church through the team ministry plan, to minister to the needs of the church staff. They also assist the minister in serving the Lord's Supper.

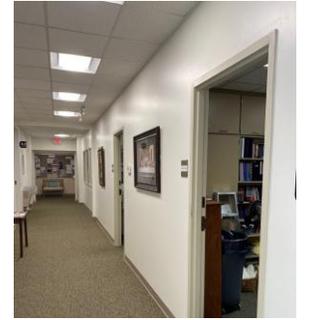
Trustees The Trustees are the legal guardians of all church contracts, deeds, mortgages, or other instruments, and execute only when directed and authorized to do so by the church in business session. They see that proper insurance is kept in force at all times for the protection of the church. They see that the church properties are correctly listed for taxes each year. They supervise and maintain improvements to physical properties of the church in conjunction with the Property Maintenance Committee. They make periodic and thorough examinations of church property to maintain, repair, or improve the property. They receive and act upon recommendations for special usage of physical properties of the church. They exercise any and all other trustee duties directed and authorized by the church.

Committees The church elects regular committees as deemed necessary to carry out programs, functions, and ministries of the church effectively. Committees are elected annually by the church in business session, upon the recommendation of the Enlistment Committee. We currently have the following committees: Baptism, Christian Nurture, Counting, Decorating Team, Diaconate Election, Enduring Gifts, Enlistment, Finance, Food Services Team, Lord's Supper, Media Library, Missions Leadership Team, Music, Personnel, Preschool and Children's Ministry, Property Maintenance, Senior Adult, Stewardship, Sunday Morning Unlock Team and Weekday Education.

Facilities



Outside of the Sanctuary, outside of the Sanctuary and Administrative Building, outside of the Adult Education Wing



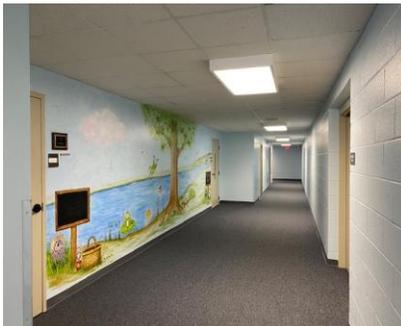
The Sanctuary, the Choir Room, and the administrative area



The Prayer Room, the Fellowship Hall and the Youth Wing

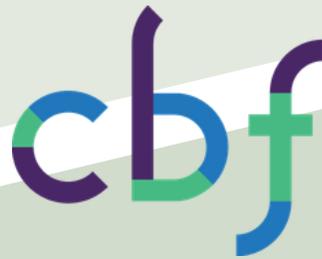


The Adult Education Wing (above), The Children's Wing, and the Preschool Wing (below)



Partnerships

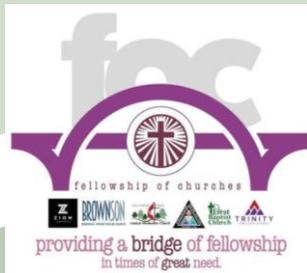
First Baptist Church Southern Pines currently partners with the **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship**, the **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina**, and the **Fellowship of Churches of Moore County**.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship North Carolina



Fellowship of Churches



Community

Southern Pines is located in Moore County, North Carolina, which is a part of the Sandhills region. Southern Pines is located approximately 30 miles west of Fort Liberty/Fayetteville, 70 miles south of Raleigh, 100 miles east of Charlotte, 140 miles northwest of Wilmington, and 180 miles south east of Boone, making it a great place to live for convenient day trips or close weekend getaways. Southern Pines is located around many other great towns, such as Pinehurst (“The Home of American Golf” and an anchor site for the U.S. Open), Aberdeen, Whispering Pines, and Vass. Seagrove, considered “The Handmade Pottery capital of the United States,” and Cameron, known as the former Dewberry capital of the world and an antique shop stop, are just a short drive away as well.



Southern Pines is a relatively small town, but it is no stranger to growth and activities for all ages. Whether you are interested in shopping local, hiking, golfing, dining, enjoying nature, horseback riding, or learning about this area’s rich history, Southern Pines encompasses it all! In 2021, Southern Pines had a population of approximately 15,200 people. The median age was 38 and the median household income was \$69,792. Between 2020 and 2021, Southern Pines’ population grew by 5.64%. Niche.com rated Southern Pines as the #2 best place to live in Moore County, with Pinehurst as #1. In 2024, the Pinehurst/Southern Pines micropolitan area is ranked first in NC and in the top 10 nationally.

Southern Pines has two public elementary schools, Southern Pines Elementary and McDeeds Creek Elementary, one K-6 public charter school, Moore Montessori, one public middle school, Southern Middle, one public high school, Pinecrest High School, multiple private schools, and many preschool options, including our very own, Sonshine Learning Center. Southern Pines is also home to our county’s community college, Sandhills Community College.

