



THE LORD’S SUPPER  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

First Baptist Church  
www.fbcsp.org

200 EAST NEW YORK AVENUE, SOUTHERN PINES, NC 28387  
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SOUTHERN PINES NC 28387

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THE TIE

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Sam Harrell – Executive Director,  
Africa Exchange



A Note from Our Senior Minister

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, Program Year  
begins. Wednesday night suppers return, and all  
programs begin.**

Adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. for a special presentation. Sam Harrell – Executive Director of Africa Exchange and a friend of mine - will join us on Wednesday, September 3, to lead a conversation with all adults about a potential mission opportunity for our church to consider.

Sam was born to Baptist missionary parents in Nairobi, Kenya, where he spent all of his childhood and most of his adult life. Married to Melody (spiritual director, born and raised in Uganda), they have three adult sons.

A graduate of North Carolina State University and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Sam, together with Melody, founded Africa Exchange in 1997, which they operated for over 16 years under the auspices of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as global field personnel. This was followed by a 7- year period in CBF leadership in Atlanta as Associate Coordinator of Global Missions.

Sam’s primary work has been in community development and appropriate technology with marginalized urban and rural communities in Kenya.

Everyone is invited to come, listen, and learn how to be in prayer. Then, our prayers will guide us to consider if a small group from the church would be called to join in the Africa Exchange ministry through a Kutana Kenya experience.

You are invited to learn from Sam about the invitation for our church to join Kutana Kenya – 2026.

“Kutana” is a Swahili word signifying ‘mutual encounter’ and is the guiding ethos of Africa Exchange. Kutana Kenya is a 10-day mission immersion experience in a cross-cultural setting in one of the most ecologically diverse environments on earth.

Participants will encounter and engage people, projects, ecosystems, and places of significance, all in the context of a developing nation grappling with multiple social and environmental challenges.

Africa Exchange seeks to facilitate commitments and relationships that result in mutual transformation. Through cross-cultural encounters and service-learning, the Kutana Kenya experience inspires participants to become agents of transformation. This is achieved through partnership and support of Africa Exchange projects and programs, as well as by building participants' capacity to enhance engagement in their own contexts.

Matt Riggsbee  
Senior Minister

OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE TIE

If you have news/information that you would like to submit for the next issue of The Tie, please contact Pat Boland at pboland@fbcsp.org. The deadline for the OCTOBER TIE is September 17.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Regular hours are now in effect. They include an 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, and the second Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours are 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday.

CHURCH STAFF

- Matt Riggsbee**, Senior Minister - mriggsbee@fbcsp.org  
**Jamie Kipfer**, Minister of Education & Administration - jkipfer@fbcsp.org  
**Greg Lundberg**, Minister of Music & Senior Adults  
**Bryan Moore**, Minister of Youth & Students - bmoore@fbcsp.org  
**Lauren Craig**, Director of Children & Families’ Ministry - lcraig@fbcsp.org  
**Annette Saunders**, Financial Administrator - asaunders@fbcsp.org  
**Pat Boland**, Financial & Administrative Assistant - pboland@fbcsp.org  
**Susan Galbreith**, Food Services Director - susang@fbcsp.org  
**Patricia Teague**, Food Services Assistant  
**Cathy Haynes**, Organist / Pianist  
**Luke & Alison Arno**, Youth Music Coordinators  
**Alison Hainley**, Director, Sonshine Learning Center - slcdirector@fbcsp.org  
**Jessica Philbrook**, Executive Assistant - jphilbrook@fbcsp.org

PRAY

Be Happy!

NEVER GIVE UP!

Get Well Soon!

Thank you!

STAY POSITIVE!

## JOYS, CONCERNS, NOTES

### NOTES OF GRATITUDE

Dear First Baptist Church  
Thank you so much for your continued love and support. It is greatly appreciated. *Cameron Boys Camp*

Dear FBCSP Family,  
I would like to thank my church family for the outpouring of love you showed to me and my family at the loss of my brother Joe. The cards, flowers, expressions of sympathy as you walked through my office or the church halls, and the hugs were very much appreciated. Thank you for being you. Much love, *Pat Boland and family*

Dear First Baptist Church of Southern Pines,  
Thank you for your support of Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care! It is because of you and our dedicated volunteers that we are able to continue providing food, clothing, and financial assistance to struggling households in Moore County. Sincerely, *Stephen Phillips, ED*

Dear Southern Pines First Baptist Church,  
I am writing on behalf of ThriveMore and the Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation to share a special word of thanks for your recent gift to the BRHF Annual Fund. Thank you so much for your generous support of our ministry! Sincerely,  
*Reed VanderSlik, President and CEO, BRH Foundation*

Friends,  
We are so grateful for your partnership in our ministry. We thank God for you and your kingdom work. FBCSP is a beautiful family of God, and we are proud to partner with you to do good things for Christ!  
Grace and Peace, *Stephanie Schaffer*

Dear Family at FBCSP,  
Thank you to Luke Arno for initiating Spiritual Strides this summer. We enjoyed the simple, thought-provoking devotionals and leisurely walks and talks on trails we had not explored. It made us get outside!  
Grateful, *Vernon and Bonnie Elhart*

### FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As summer's warmth slowly gives way to the cool, crisp air of fall, we find ourselves in a natural season of transition. The change in the weather, the shifting schedules, and the rhythm of life offer a perfect opportunity to pause and reflect on where our focus lies. In the busyness of summer activities, it's easy for our priorities to become scattered. But as the days grow shorter, we can use this time to realign our hearts and minds toward what truly matters—our relationship with God.

Matthew 6:33 reminds us, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." This verse is a call to put God at the center of every aspect of our lives—our time, our thoughts, our gifts, and our finances. The world often pulls us toward chasing more, doing more, and owning more, but true fulfillment comes from seeking Him above all else. As we step into a new season, let's commit to living with an eternal perspective, trusting that when we put God first, everything else will fall into place according to His perfect plan.

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Giving Goals for July 2025.....	102,295.00
Budget Offerings Received July 2025 .....	108,890.66
Giving Goal thru July 2025.....	761,297.00
Total Budget Offerings Received thru 2025.....	772,041.53
Receipts to Date Comparison with Goal.....	10,744.53

### RETIREMENT PARTY FOR GREG LUNDBERG



There will be a retirement luncheon for Greg and Polly on September 28th at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. service. The event will be catered by Scott's Table and the cost is \$25 pp. Please register on Realm if you will be attending. Deadline for registration is September 13. The menu is TBD.

## GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Save The Date



Join us for **Operation Inasmuch** on Saturday, October 18 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm! This is a great opportunity to serve people in our community and we hope our entire congregation will make a commitment to be involved! Call Keith Dangerfield for more information.

## MISSIONS, SERVING & MORE AT FBCSP

### MISSION ACTION

Welcome ladies, our new season begins Monday, September 15. Steve Phillips of the Coalition will share with us the progress of the Fellowship of Churches' implementation of the Step-Up program. The October 20<sup>th</sup> program is a work in progress, but please mark you calendars for Nov. 17. We will welcome Amanda Turner, IMB missionary to Botswana, with a luncheon. Looking forward to reconnecting. ~ Bonnie

Dear First Baptist Family,

Since being set aside because of more illness issues, I have missed seeing you all at weekly services and how I have missed you! But the telephone calls, cards, and prayers have lifted me in ways I will never be able to express. "Thank you!" – wonderful words, but not adequate to really express all that I feel.

I have shared with some of you at times that when I think of the fact I am the last of my siblings in this life, and how I much I miss not being able to sit and talk with my mom, two brothers Paul and Bob, and sister Olga. But when such moments come, I often find myself thinking of you, members of my church family. Sometimes it's a call that comes, or a card, a memory of something Jamie has said, the smiling face of Carolyn knocking on my door, the sight I remember of Keith and Deanna working in my yard to clear the debris after a storm, Lisa and Bethany with sweet Grace, Bonnie in the prayer room, Nelda and Ed stopping by. But now I'm in trouble – by not mentioning more like Jan and Brenda, Joe and Jonice, Karen, and the faces of so many more of you. So, I'll stop and let me feast on the entirety of the Lord's body who is in our midst! And He is here in our midst. Do you not sense this presence? I do here in my room. I believe you are all sensing this presence in the church. What joy it is to be the family of God!

Thank you for being "family" to me. I pray I will always be "family" to you.

Love, June Vetter



**TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY - SEPTEMBER 18 - 21.**  
Contact Rick Allenbaugh for more information.



Family Promise is looking for people to sleepover the following dates.

**September 29 - October 2**

Questions regarding overnights, please contact Laurie and Kevin Wolfe at 615.513.8767 or [lwolfe1960@gmail.com](mailto:lwolfe1960@gmail.com)



# SENIORS ON THE MOVE

## Music Ministry

### MUSIC MINISTRY & SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Our most recent Lunch Bunch outing was to Fuller's BBQ in Fayetteville on July 31st. It was a lovely summer day, a perfect day for fun, fellowship and of course, food. I would like to thank Ron Jones for driving the second van on our excursion. Now, Fuller's had been described to me as a buffet restaurant. I chatted with a few people about Fuller's, but those descriptions did not do it justice. The buffet was triple the size of what I had imagined, and the food was superb - good ol' down home, delicious southern cooking. I think I went to the dessert bar on behalf of Trish and Tom Dykeman at least twice. They'll deny it, of course. I made three dessert deliveries to John Kinney's table. We had a lot of fun and fellowship on our lunch adventure. Join us on the next SOTM adventure.

- Greg



**On Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>,** First Baptist will host pianist Harriet Williams as our musical guest for the evening. Harriet plays a wide variety of styles of music including hymn arrangements, gospel music, arrangements of spirituals and much more. Harriet is the pianist at First Baptist Church in Pinehurst. Come out for a wonderful meal, fun fellowship and a great musical program - Monday evening, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. Please sign up by Monday, September 1st.

**Menu:** BBQ and fried chicken, mac 'n cheese, fried okra, rolls and banana pudding. **Cost:** \$10.00.

**Coming Soon: On Monday evening October 13<sup>th</sup>,** Steve Earwood will bring a very interesting program on his career in the world of motorsports. Earwood will take us on a journey through his remarkable 50-year career in motorsports, beginning with humble 'outlaw' dragstrips in the Southeast and ultimately reaching the highest levels of racing promotions and dragstrip ownership.



Pages &  
Prayers  
Dedication  
8/19/25

### NEWS & NOTES FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION & ADMINISTRATION

It's that time again. BridgePoints will begin September 10. We begin with two offerings "To Think As God Thinks..." presented by David Helms, and "Into the Heart of Romans" presented by Mathew Purser. Both presenters will offer you much to think about. Join us on September 10.

## To Think As God Thinks

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 2:5

We often think of Christianity as a religion of repentance from the path of sin and an extension of grace to us. Jesus' words in the Gospel of Mark emphasize this dimension of faith: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15). Yet, too many Christians have reduced the radical message of Jesus to be a simple transaction of confessing a sinful act or thought and receiving God's forgiveness only go on merrily the way we always have been. The gospel demands much more. What the New Testament calls for is a transformation of our mind. Christian faith calls us to think differently about life, faith, and God. This series will challenge believers to see that following Christ involves a radical rethinking of our lives, our values, and our commitments. The renowned New Testament scholar, Stephen Neill, once remarked in a chapel service, "Learning to think the way God thinks is the best expression of what it means to be converted." This series will explore how Christian thinking changes how we perceive ourselves, others, and society.

**Facilitator: David Helms**  
**Location: Room 216**  
**Time: Wednesdays 6 pm**  
**Dates: Sept. 10 - Oct. 15**

## Into the Heart of Romans

**Facilitator: Mathew Purser**  
**Times: Wednesdays, 6 pm**  
**Dates: Sept. 10 - Oct. 15**  
**Location: Room 215**

Join us for a six week study of N.T. Wright's analysis of Romans, with a special emphasis on Romans 8. We will explore how the book of Romans sits at the heart of Christian theology, how its words spoke to a 1st century audience, and what they mean for us today about the true nature of salvation in Christ. All are welcome. Please bring a copy of the book "Into the Heart of Romans" by N.T. Wright, which you may purchase through the church office for \$10.

Two additional BridgePoints will begin in mid-October. Lynn Lambert and Melody Crow will lead these sessions. Watch for more information in the October Tie.

Grace and peace,  
Jamie

**2025 BRIDGEPOINTS - RECORDINGS**  
All recordings will be available at this link:  
[www.fbcsp.org/bridgepointrecordings](http://www.fbcsp.org/bridgepointrecordings).





FBCSPYG HAPPENINGS



SEPTEMBER 2025 SCHEDULE

Sundays 7, 14, 21	
Worship Service	8:30 a.m.
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Handbells	4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Youth Choir (6-12)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Youth Supper (6-12)	6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Youth Bible Study (6-12)	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28	Photo Scavenger Hunt 6”30 - 7:30 p.m.

2025 RETREATS

Sept. 20	Youth Rafting trip
Nov. 14-16	Fall Retreat to Caswell (6-12)

2025 RETREATS

YOUTH RAFTING RETREAT

Saturday, September 20, 2025

This will be a day trip to the USA Whitewater Center in Charlotte, NC. Youth will take part in a 90 minute rafting experience in the morning on the man-made river rapids at the center. After lunch (which is included in the cost), students will choose between a ropes course, climbing walls. Or zip lines for an exciting experience. Cost of the trip is \$60. Sign up now!

CASWELL RETREAT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

Youth Fall Caswell Retreat for students 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will pack up on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to begin an exciting weekend of good food, music, worship and fellowship. The cost of this trip is \$195. which includes: transportation, lodging, and 4 meals. This retreat will fill up fast, so get your deposit in ASAP.

- Bryan

2025 YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECTS

September 21 <sup>st</sup>	College Care Packages - Youth will send packages to our college students to brighten their day.
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Operation Inasmuch - Youth will be asked to join others in our church to participate in service projects all over our community. This is a church-wide event.
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trunk or Treat - Youth will pass out Halloween goodies to kids in the neighborhood.
October 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>	Winter Coat Drive - Youth will collect coats that will be donated to local public schools.
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Operation Christmas Child - Youth partner with Ras and Gas to fill shoeboxes full of goodies for kids all over the world.
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Children’s Christmas Celebration - Youth will have a party with are children with crafts, games, and a movie.
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Empty Stocking Project - Youth will adopt two families in the community and give them Christmas. Each youth is asked to buy a \$25 Walmart or food gift card that will be used to buy Christmas for a needy family.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES’ MINISTRY



Here’s what’s coming up for the Children and Families’ Ministry at First Baptist:

SEPTEMBER FAMILY MEMORY VERSE

For those who are new around here, we send out monthly Bible verses to memorize. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to memorize these verses with your children. When children memorize their verse, have them recite it to me and they’ll get to pick a prize from the prize box! We love encouraging kids to memorize scripture so they can hold it close all throughout their life.



DON’T MIND OUR MESS!

We are renovating the downstairs hallway and classrooms and have created a mess during the process. Please look past the mess for a little while as we prepare for new paint and flooring throughout. We have new flooring already installed on the preschool wing and it looks fabulous. Stop by and take a look the next time you are here.

SERVING IN CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

We are seeking more volunteers in our Children’s Ministry. If you have any interest in helping in the following ways, please get in touch with Lauren Craig at [lcraig@fbcs.org](mailto:lcraig@fbcs.org).

- Sunday School Teachers
- Sunday Worship Nursery Workers

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday School is provided for all ages beginning at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. During Sunday School, children learn stories from the Bible and how they apply to our lives today.

MUSIC & MISSIONS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Join us on Wednesday nights for Music and Missions. We offer programming for kids ages 3 years old to 5th grade. Here's the schedule:

5:00-6:00 PM Supper  
6:00-7:15 PM Music and Missions  
6:00-7:15 PM Nursery (for children under 3).

OPERATION INASMUCH

Saturday, October 18

Join us for Operation Inasmuch on Saturday, October 18 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm! This is a great opportunity to serve people in our community and we hope our entire congregation will make a commitment to be involved! We will also have childcare and projects for kids to participate in at the church!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 26 – 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Join us for trunks, candy, and FUN! Sign up to host a trunk and/or donate candy and come join us!

PARENTS, STAY CONNECTED!

Ms. Lauren sends out a weekly email called “Three Things on Thursday” to keep families in the loop and we also have a private Facebook group for FBCSP Kids – Parent Info ([www.facebook.com/groups/fbcspkids](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fbcspkids)).

Praying for you and your family,  
Lauren Craig, Director of Children and Families’ Ministry