

# First Baptist *News*

a family of faith



I will spend a good bit of this day (Thursday, October 4) with a few pastors from Robeson County and Larry Hovis, Executive Director of CBFNC. Larry has been tremendously supportive of all the churches in southeastern North Carolina who have been impacted by Hurricane Florence. I am thankful for his leadership and honored that he is taking time to visit us (as he did after Hurricane Matthew) and encourage our recovery. Larry and our CBFNC family have been one of many agencies and churches who have reached out to us to help. Many have sent financial assistance and have or are coming to help with repairs. We could not recover from this storm without them and we are deeply grateful.

When any tragedy, be it communal or personal, occurs, the first thought to enter our minds is “what do we need to do?” We want to fix the problem as soon as possible and return life to normal. This is a natural response, and many of the phone calls I have taken over the past few days have been from folks like Larry and other pastors inquiring as to how they can help. We would do the same if our neighbors across the state or nation were impacted by a storm. It is good to get busy to fix our problems, but I wonder if we sometimes get the cart before the horse. I wonder if we get so busy doing that we over look the importance of being still in God’s presence.

I heard an ordination sermon once in a which the preacher told the minister being ordained that his job in ministry was to “say God to your people in all things.” The preacher wasn’t making a literal statement. Rather, he was encouraging the young minister (and me) to keep first things first and to never lose sight of the fact that it is God who saves the world and not us. We are capable of many good works, but it is God who works the miracles of healing and restoration.

So, as some of you go about getting back to normal, and others of you work to rebuild lives devastated by the storm and others grieve the loss of loved ones I simply say “God.” Keep minds and hearts focused on the Lord, and you will be empowered to do all that you need to do as you need to do it.

Peace,  
David



**WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY**

October 7, 2018

## **FBC Youth Reunion October 13-14**

Activities will begin on Saturday, October 13th at 3 pm in Cherry Fellowship Hall. On October 14th, we will have a combined worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Join us in reminiscing and celebrating how God is continuing to use the body of FBC Lumberton to impact its community and the world.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER



Somewhere I heard that your attitude improves if you replace the phrase “I have to . . .” with “I get to . . .” As in, “I get to write a newsletter article today.” In all seriousness, it does help. Much of what ends up on our “to do” list is actually a privilege.

If you have to get groceries, that means you can afford them. If you have to go to work, that means you have a job. These are things to be thankful for.

Those of us who didn't lose everything in the storm cannot fully understand the stress and emotions others are going through. If we have any empathy at all, we know it must be terrible. We can pray and we can do our small part to help. We get to help others. Our youth are learning that yet again. That's a bright spot in an otherwise dark situation.

As a church, we get to host another church. We get to host Amish and Mennonite disaster relief teams. We get the opportunity to give to a hurricane fund. We have the opportunity to pull together and give to our general budget so we can continue to have the infrastructure we need to efficiently serve others and teach the next generation to do likewise.

*Doug*

### **Hurricane Relief—How You Can Help!**

For those wishing to help from afar, here are several ways you can help:

- **Monetary Donations**—Donations may be sent to First Baptist Church for hurricane relief. Gifts may be mailed (606 N Walnut St., Lumberton, NC, 28358) or donated online via our secure giving portal (please indicate that gifts are for disaster relief). We also recommend giving to the CBFNC Disaster Relief fund.
- **Physical Donations**—Please take all donated materials to 2300 N Cedar Street; call 910-258-6954 for more information. Please, do not donate any used clothing.
- **Gift Cards**—Gift cards in small amounts (\$10, \$20, \$25) can be used to help a family buy groceries or gas, as well as help provide some stimulation for our local economy. Recommended stores are Walmart, Food Lion, and Lowes Foods. Gift cards may be mailed (606 N Walnut St., Lumberton, NC, 28358). Please indicate the amount on each card.
- **Prayer**—Pray for those displaced and affected by the storm, for those working to serve the community, and for those in leadership making decisions.

It's October, which means my brain is switching to Trunk or Treat mode! As I prepare for this year, I'm reminded of our Trunk or Treat that we hosted in 2016. It was just a few weeks after Hurricane Matthew hit. Schools were still out, water was scarce, and there was a yearning for a return to normalcy. We weren't able to offer our traditional free meal, but we did open our parking lot to all who wanted to come. And boy, did they come.

What I remember most about that evening was that, for a moment, life felt normal again. Friends reunited, children ran around the parking lot, and everyone enjoyed just being together. A night full of costumes and candy turned into a true ministry and breath of fresh air for our community.

Sadly, we find ourselves in the same situation just two years later. Even though some things are different (we have running water!), experiencing Florence has been overwhelming and exhausting for our community once again. There's a heaviness that we all feel.

And yet, once again, here comes Trunk or Treat. Even though a little more normalcy may be on the way before October 31, this night will be a significant moment for us to offer a little joy and a little familiarity to those around us.

I'm not saying that Trunk or Treat is the solution to all the world's problems. Passing out candy doesn't take away from the pain and destruction that so many in Robeson County have experienced. Still, there's something to be said for taking a night to enjoy fellowship with one another, ooh and ahh over the costumes, and offering kindness and candy to the families that attend. We might even find a glimpse of the Kingdom.

As we get ready for this event, there are several ways you can help:

- 1) **Donate candy!** We can only accept individually wrapped candy to pass out. As it will be Halloween night, we're expecting a big crowd.
- 2) **Decorate a trunk!** Please arrive by 5:30 p.m. to set up. If you need access to electricity for your set up, please let me know.
- 3) **Pass out candy with a smile!** Even if you can't set up a trunk, bring a lawn chair and pass out candy.

*Erin*



Thursday, October 11 at 11:00 a.m.

Activity Building

Sheryl Taylor will present "The Upside of Aging." Bring a sandwich and a friend!

### Welcome West Lumberton Baptist Church!

West Lumberton Baptist was flooded out again. We have offered and they have accepted the offer to use our facilities for their Sunday and Wednesday activities. Here's what their schedule will be.

#### Sundays

- 9:00 am - Morning Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:45 am - Sunday School (adults in Fellowship Hall, children/youth on 2nd floor of Education Building)
- 4:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm - Evening Worship (sanctuary)

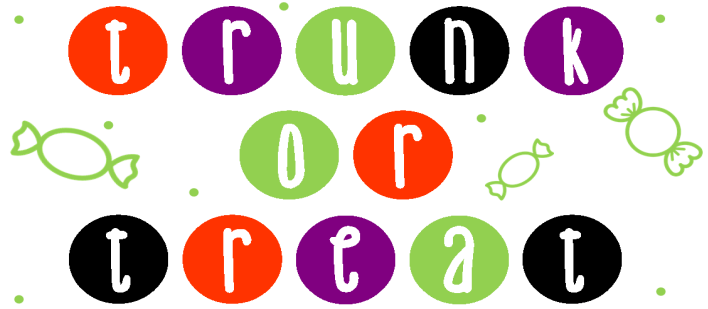
#### Wednesdays

- 7:00 pm - Adult Bible study (Fellowship Hall) and children's activities (2nd floor of Education Building)

Please assist these guests with navigating the facility as needed. We are asking all able-bodied members to park at the old bank building (on Pine Street) or in the Lumbee Guaranty Bank lot. If you have small children, please do not park far away!



Due to Hurricane Florence, we have rescheduled our annual Deacon Election. Our nominees will be announced in the November 1st edition of *First Baptist News* and our election will be held on November 4th. Absentee ballots will be available in the church office on October 29th.



## Wednesday, October 31 at First Baptist, Lumberton

(7th & Walnut St.)

5:15-6:00 pm - FREE hot dog supper in the Fellowship Hall

6:00-7:00 pm - Trunk or Treat in the 6th Street lot (will be moved indoors if it rains)

**Don't forget to wear your costume and bring a bag to collect candy!**

Questions? Contact the church office (739-4336).



Prizes will be awarded for the most creative car, funniest car, and people's choice. We will need plenty of cars and plenty of candy. Please bring individually wrapped candy to the church office.

### Hosting our friends from

#### Christian Aid Ministries. . .

Christian Aid Ministries offers help to areas who have been hit by natural disasters. They have once again come to Lumberton help with disaster relief and they are staying on the 2nd floor of the Durham Building. What does this mean for us? All classes that meet on that floor will be relocated for a while!



New Wednesday evening classroom locations are as follows:

- 5:45 - 1st-3rd Grade choir (chapel)
- 4th-6th grade choir (sanctuary choir room)
- Preschool Bible (parlor)
- 6:30 - 1st-3rd grade Bible study (D113)
- 4th-6th grade bells (sanctuary choir room)
- Preschool choir (chapel)

New Sunday School Classroom locations are as follows:

- Bridge Class—D110
- Circle of Friends—D108
- 1st-6th Grade—D111

First Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC  
 606 N. Walnut Street  
 Lumberton, NC 28358  
 (910) 739-4336  
 The **FIRST BAPTIST NEWS** (USPS 192-260)  
 published monthly by First Baptist Church,  
 606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358  
*Periodical Postage Paid at Lumberton, NC*

### For the Record

Budgeted 2018.....	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2018) .....	\$13,461.54
Received Sept. 30 .....	\$7,356.78
Need to date .....	\$525,510.02
Received to date.....	\$453,510.02
Over (Under) Budget.....	(\$71,489.98)

Sunday School Attendance,  
 September 30—160

### *Family Night Supper Menus—October*

**October 10**—Red Ticket: Pork Loin, Grilled Mixed Vegetables, Spanish Rice, Rolls, Salad, Chocolate Cake (Sugar-free)  
 Blue Ticket: Pizza, Chips, Fruit

**October 17**—Red Ticket: Chicken & Rice, Sweet Peas, Rolls, Salad, Strawberry Shortcake  
 Blue Ticket: Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit

**October 24**—Red Ticket: Stew Beef & Rice, Flat Pole Beans, Rolls, Salad, Banana Pudding  
 Blue Ticket: Chicken Nuggets, Chips, Fruit

**October 31**—Trunk or Treat—Hot Dogs, French Fries, Cookies

Schools may have been closed in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, but FBC Youth have been busy! Our teenagers have spent the last two weeks moving water-logged furniture, appliances, rugs, and baseboards. They have removed limbs, carried logs, and raked yards and they have cleaned and prepared and unused church hallway for another local Baptist church's youth group to have a home. We are thankful for this group of hardworking young people!



Tickets for our Annual Barbecue Plate Sale (November 16th) are available now! They are \$7.00 each and can be purchased from any First Baptist Youth.

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Contact us at 739-4336 or  
[daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org)  
[www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)

Mrs. Nancy Bass —Financial Coordinator

Rev. Erin Collier—Associate Pastor of Families and Worship

Dr. David Elks—Pastor

Mrs. Daphne Fletcher — Administrative Assistant

Rev. Tim Little—Minister of Music and Facilities

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey—Administrative Assistant

Rev. Doug Reedy—Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions