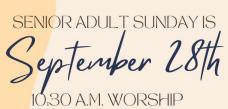
Volume LVI No. 9d September 25, 2025

First Baptist News

FBC Lumberton is a community of faith committed to living out the love of Christ by serving God and all people.







Dr. Glenn Jonas will be our guesi preacher & Senior Adulis will lead in various elemenis of Worship.

First Baptist Church

Coming up this week. . .

Sunday, September 28

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship (in Cherry Fellowship Hall)

10:30 a.m. Worship (online)

Monday, September 29

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Conf. Rm.)
12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn (at First Pres)

Tuesday, September 30

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 1

Rev. Doug Reedy's 20th Year of Service 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Rm D-113)

Youth Doing Missions (Act Bld) Children's Music & Missions

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 4

Snr/Retired Adults to Northwood Temple Dinner Show

3:00 p.m. Hispanic Ministry Bible Study (Act. Bld.)

Preparing for Sunday, September 28, 2025 Senior Adult Sunday "Unfinished Business" Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 am and Worship in-person at 10:30 am in Cherry Fellowship Hall or online on Facebook Live <u>facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc</u> or online on YouTube <u>youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/</u>

We're excited to welcome back a familiar face as our guest preacher for Senior Adult Sunday! Dr. Glenn Jonas has been part of Campbell University since 1994, where he now serves as Charles Howard Professor of Religion and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Over the years, he's also stepped into the pulpit as interim pastor for 16 different churches across eastern North Carolina—including right here at First Baptist Lumberton back in 2007–2008.

A Mars Hill grad with seminary training from Southwestern and a Ph.D. from Baylor, Dr. Jonas brings a deep love for both teaching and the church. These days, he's also serving as pastor of Westfield Baptist Church in Dunn. We're grateful for his wisdom, warmth, and faithful leadership.



A Called Church Conference will take place immediately following Worship on Sunday, October 5. 2025 for the purpose of Deacon Election. Five (5) Deacons will be elected.

A ballot with less than or more than 5 selected will be considered void and will not be counted. One deacon will take office immediately to fill a vacancy. The other 4 elected will take office Jan. 1, 2026.

Absentee voting is available Monday, Sept. 29 through Thursday, Oct. 2 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Other times by appointment only.

Deacon Nominees

Deacon Election is Sunday, October 5, 2025





Allison Branch (Alli)

Joined FBCL in 2008 Been at FBC her whole life

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Positions held at FBC: Deacon, Sunday School teacher, Children's & Youth Committees, Committee on Committees

Family: Dustin Branch (spouse), Grayson (15), Anna (10)



Donna Hardee

Joined FBCL in 2004

Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor

Positions held at FBC: Young Adult Sunday School teacher, Deacon, Deacon Reporter, Youth Committee, Children's Committee, ECM Committee, Youth Sunday School Teacher, Nominating Committee, Youth Volunteer

Family: Keith Hardee (spouse), Meghan Walsh (34), Jerrad Babson (29), Gabrielle Hardee (17)

Deacon Nominees



Keith Hardee

Joined FBCL in 2004

IT Manager

Positions held at FBC: Deacon, Pastor Search Committee, Youth Sunday School

Family: Donna Hardee (spouse), Meghan Walsh (34), Jerrad Babson (29), Gabrielle Hardee (17)

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Gail S. Johnson

Joined FBCL as a teen and rejoined in 2023

Retired

Positions held at FBC: WMU Director, Sr. Ad. Committee, Missions Committee, Susan Welsh Sunday School Class President

Family: Johnnie Johnson (deceased); Marcia Floyd, Amy West, Robby Freeman, and 7 grandchildren



Charles "Jeffery" Kinlaw

Joined FBCL in 1964 & 2023

Retired University Professor, teaching part-time

Positions held at FBC: Bylaws Committee, Bridge Class Sunday School Teacher

Family: Jean Kinlaw (spouse), stepsons Steve & Eric West

Deacon Nominees



Ella "Dean" **Kinlaw**

Joined FBCL in 2008

Retired

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Positions held at FBC: Susan Welsh Sunday School teacher, WMU Director, Sanctuary Choir, Worship Greeter

Family: Willie P Kinlaw (deceased), Darryl Kinlaw, Stephen Kinlaw, Carol Dadson



E. Regan McIntyre III (Regg)

Joined FBCL in 1969

Radiation Therapist for Southeastern Dermatology

Positions held at FBC: Deacon, Fellowship Class President, Sanctuary Choir, Building & Grounds, Worship Committee, Missions Committee, Church Clerk



Pieter Monteiro, II (PJ)

Joined FBCL in 2001 Been at FBC his whole life

Police Officer

Positions held at FBC: Children's Committee

Family: Heather Monteiro (spouse), Waylon (3)



Results will be announced following certification by the Elections **Committee (Betty** Graham, Phyllis Gibson, and **Christy** Strickland).

The Standards of **Deacon for First** Baptist may be found in the bylaws on page 6, and an excerpt is listed to the left of this column.

Church office: 910-739-4336

The Standards of Deacon for First Baptist Lumberton

*Informing Biblical Texts Include (the example and teachings of Jesus, but also 1 Timothy 3: 8-13, Acts 6: 1-7, and Romans 16: 1-2.

As recorded in bylaws adopted on 7/30/25 beginning on pg. 6

These standards are not intended in any way to depart from the spirit or the intent of what the scriptures say about the eligibility of persons. The Church Standards for deacons shall include the expectations that deacons will be people who have:

- 1. Demonstrated commitment to the will and ways of Jesus Christ.
- 2. Full membership in the church with sufficient experience in the congregation to be effective.
- 3. A pattern of consistent participation in the life and ministry of the church.
- 4. A record of constructive servant-leadership in the church.
- 5. A pattern of faithful stewardship of their gifts, talents, energies, and money.



FBC Lumberton is a community of faith committed to living out the love of Christ by serving God and all people The most important responsibility of the Deacons is offering spiritual servant leadership to the congregation. They also have certain legal and fiduciary responsibilities. In all of their work, they are accountable to the congregation; all actions and decisions of the Deacons are subject to the will of the church in business meetings. As spiritual servant leaders, they are responsible for:

- 1. Providing, through their own practices of faith, models of spiritual maturity.
- 2. Serving others through acts of compassion and
- 3. Participating in worship leadership.
- 4. Serving the vision and mission of the church and providing for their realization by:
 - a. Guiding the congregation's on-going discernment and articulation of its vision and mission.
 - b. Setting strategic areas of focus and direction which serve the vision and mission.
 - c. Clarifying significant goals which support the areas of strategic focus.
 - d. Leading the development of necessary human, financial, and capital resources for the achievement of the congregation's vision and mission.
- 5. Evaluating the congregation's progress toward achievement of its vision and mission.
- 6. Reporting and listening regularly to the congregation about the vision and mission, needs and hopes of the church.

A Note from the Pastor's Desk October 2025

Last weekend, I was in Rhode Island for a football game. When I woke up Saturday morning, it was a crisp 55 degrees! To say it had me excited for fall would be an understatement. It was fitting since Monday (Sept. 22) was the first day of fall. As we look towards the fall season, there are some exciting prospects ahead for our church. Marquee annual events like our Trunk-or-Treat on October 29th (*last year we had over 500 children attend, not counting their families*) and the youth BBQ fundraiser on November 21st, as well as highlight worship



Sundays like Senior Adult Sunday (Sept. 28th) and Friends of Jesus Sunday (Oct. 12), highlight the calendar. Then of course, there is the fun of fall activities like pumpkin patches and hayrides, and awaiting the celebration of holidays like Thanksgiving, and just off in the distance, Advent and Christmas!

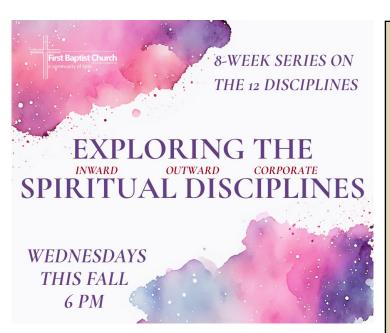
Excitement abounds in the church as we wind down a full 2025 and anticipate an equally active 2026. Our finance committee is well on its way to formulating a 2026 budget. Your worship committee is working in conjunction with the ministry staff to plan a theme for the year to guide our worship service planning and other discipleship activities. Attempts are being made to plan multiple mission experiences, both locally and in other parts of the country, for various ages. Summer camps have been booked, senior adult excursions are taking deposits, and opportunities for mission and service to our neighbors are being ironed out among various groups.

I want to highlight the positives and excitement of our community of faith because it seems that there continues to be so much negativity in the world around us that it can zap us of our joy. With the assaults or assassinations of leaders and influencers from various political persuasions, continued wars between countries, and the continued severing of civility and basic human decency, it would be easy to lose our joy. But I am reminded of a quote from Canadian author Robin Sharma, who once said, "What you focus on grows, what you think about expands, and what you dwell upon determines your destiny."

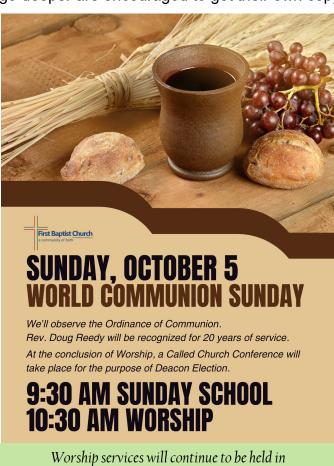
The Bible is full of people who fell on hard times, but there remained a constant element across all of those experiences...keep your mind, and your heart, focused on the Lord. While there are many hard things going on around us (side note: maybe we should all let go of our social media a lot more), there is much we can and should be grateful for. So I hope you will join me in choosing to hold to the words from this week's psalter, Psalm 146, which opens declaring, "Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, Senior Pastor

Josha Ouey



This fall starting September 17th, our Wednesday night adult Bible study will be "Exploring the Spiritual Disciplines." Together we'll look at twelve classic spiritual practices that have shaped Christian faith throughout the centuries. We'll use Richard Foster's classic book, *Celebration of Discipline*, as a resource. While you are not required to purchase the book, those who want to go deeper are encouraged to get their own copy.



Cherry Fellowship Hall until further notice.

Worship with Us

606 N. Walnut Street fbclumbertonnc.org

Childcare is available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Nursey care (birth-age 2) is available in room D-107. Children age 3—K are invited to attend Extended Session after the children's sermon on Sundays in Room D-111. Children in 1st grade and older attend the full worship service.

Sundays Worship in Cherry Fellowship Hall will continue until further notice

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Worship in-person or online 4:45 p.m.—Youth Bells Rehearsal 6:00 p.m.—Youth Bible Study 6:00 p.m.—Adult Bells Rehearsal (starting 10/5)

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.—Adult Bible Study, Youth Doing Missions, and Children's Music and Missions 7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Worship services are livestreamed on Facebook Live facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc and on YouTube youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/



First Baptist ECM has openings in some classes and need your help filling them. If you or someone you know needs childcare for a 2, 3, or 4 year old, refer them to us. We offer a quality program with curriculum, hot meals, loving staff, and in a Christian environment. If you are a currently enrolled family, you will earn a FREE week of childcare for each successful enrollment you refer to us. Call our ECM at 910-738-6608 for more info!

From Our Associate Pastor

Twenty years used to seem like a long time. As I approach my 20th year anniversary at First Baptist, it doesn't seem possible that it has been that long. I feel the same way about my 21st anniversary with Bonnie. Time most definitely flies when you are having fun.

Of course, not every moment of every day is "fun". We have traveled through some rough patches. Both major hurricanes tested us but ultimately brought us closer together as a church. We have also survived our share of controversies and attacks from without and within. Throughout all of this, one constant remains. We want to follow the lead of Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have been willing to agree to disagree on the best way to emulate Jesus from time to time, but I cannot think of a more positive time than now. Everyone wants our church to do well and we are working together to get it done. We have so many challenges related to our aging buildings, city population decline, and changing culture, but we forge ahead. We have an active class of young adults and a sizable number of preschoolers.

We have the courage to stand our ground when under attack from elements of our community. We try hard to serve not only each other, but also the least of these. We have become more diverse politically, racially, and socioeconomically over the years. I am proud to have served alongside you during this time and look forward to our time ahead.

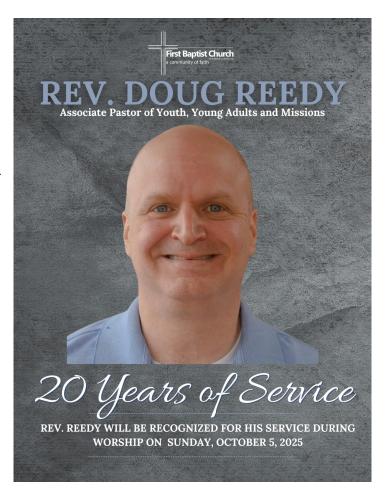
So, thank you FBC. Thank you, Bonnie and Kaitlyn, (and Cream) for tolerating multiple nights, weekends, and summer trips away. I am so happy Kaitlyn has experienced so many great experiences with the youth group she had to sacrifice so much of her dad time to when she was younger. Thank you to Josh, Tim, Kandace, and Len plus the variety of ministers and staff I have worked with over the years. I have learned so much from each of you.

I have a huge thank you to the many youth I have had the pleasure to work with over the years. Watching you grow spiritually and emotionally during your time with our group, then watching you become adults, begin careers, and get married (whether or not I did the service haha) has been special. You continually impress and inspire me.

There is however no time like the present. Our youth group, like our congregation, is not as huge in numbers as it was 20, 30, or more years ago. But I have a great deal of hope in the current generation. They will accomplish great things and make God's kingdom on earth a better reflection of God's kingdom in heaven. This is not the largest youth group I have walked alongside of, but their impact will be huge. I love every one of them dearly (but Kaitlyn is my favorite lol).

As to the future, I'll leave you with an Irish blessing "May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future". Let's help make that happen for everyone.

Grace & Peace, *Doug*



Rev. Doug Reedy's 20th Year!

On October 1st, Rev. Doug Reedy (a.k.a. "Doug") reaches a BIG milestone — 20 years of faithfully serving our students and families at First Baptist Lumberton! Doug isn't one for fanfare, but we still want to honor him in a meaningful way. We invite you to share a word of thanks, a memory, or a blessing. These messages will be collected and given to Doug on Sunday, October 5th during worship. We'll have a basket available for those who wish to bring a handwritten card.

Please share this opportunity with others who know Doug — let's shower him with gratitude for two decades of faithful ministry! Everyone is invited to join us for worship on October 5th as we celebrate Doug together.

Parents of Youth, check your email and/or texts from Doug for specifics for upcoming activities and trips.

Sign up through Rev. Doug, or scan the QR code on the flyers to securely register and pay online via card.



Trunk or Treat!

We are excited for our Trunk or Treat community event on Wednesday, October 29th! We anticipate the need for lots of candy and treats again this year!

How you can help make this year's event the best ever:

CANDY & TREATS

Halloween candy seems to sell out quickly so we ask for donations well in advance of the event. Donations may be dropped off in the office, or if you have an Amazon Prime or Walmart+ you can have the candy shipped directly to us! Use mailing address 606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358 if you choose this option.

2. CAR DECORATING & CANDY DISTRIBUTION We also need people to sign-up to decorate their vehicle and/or hand out candy. Call the church office or Rev. Doug Reedy if you are willing to help (910-739-4336).

Servants this Sunday

Please enter for Worship at Cherry Fellowship Hall Lobby.

9:30 Sunday School

Entrance Greeters 9:00 – 9:30 am 6th Street Ramp (Handicap) - Dianne & Layton Britt ECM Entrance (Handicap) - Gene Horne

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

FH Lobby 10:00—11:30 am Jimmy & Billie Dail

Nursery — Jenna Davis, Brooke Blackmon

Extended Session — Brooke Blackmon, Alli Branch

Bus Team — Stephania Noncil, volunteer rider needed

Contact Us

Please call the office to make sure someone is in the office before stopping by.

Mailing address: 606 N. Walnut Street,

Lumberton, NC 28358

Office Phone: 910-739-4336 ECM Phone: 910-738-6608

Website: www.fbclumbertonnc.org
General Email: office@fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities;

timlittle@fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Josh Owens — Senior Pastor; joshowens@fbclumbertonnc.org

Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent; lenpower@fbclumbertonnc.org

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant; kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Doug Reedy — Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions; dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org

Person of the Week

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance to our very special person this week.

Rev. Doug Reedy & Family 3720 Kale Drive Lumberton, NC 28358





Monthly Food Drive

Many of us have never experienced true hunger, but some in our community do. In the coming weeks, you can help feed the hungry in our community by bringing canned or dry goods to donate. Donations collected will be sent to local food banks to be distributed safely and efficiently. As you are out and about town running errands, pick up an extra can and bring it with you Sunday. Suggestions: Pop-top canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, pasta & pasta sauce. Items should be in-date and in their original packaging.



The Committee on Committees is currently meeting and preparing for the 2026 report. Please in prayer for those willing to serve on this committee as they call folks to determine their willingness to serve in various ministries. The Committee on Committees report is scheduled to be presented during Church Conference October 22.



For the Record

Budgeted 2025	\$646,000.00
Weekly Need (2025)	\$12,423.08
Received September 21	\$11,150.71
Need to date	\$472,077.04
Received to date	\$433,158.36
Over (Under) Budget	(\$38,918.68)

Sept. 21st was the 38th Sunday of the year. Number of Sundays remaining in 2025 = 14

Give to First Baptist Church!

Here are some ways to donate to our ministries:

- Give during Sunday worship.
- Give through our secure online portal at fbclumbertonnc.org/give.
- Scan the QR code.
- Send us your contribution by mail: 606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358
- Text FBC606 to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*

*Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.



GIVING

Coming Up:

Oct. 5 — World Communion Sunday, Deacon Election, and Rev. Doug Reedy recognized for 20 years of service.

Oct 5 — Adult Bells rehearsals begin, 6 pm

Oct. 7 — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Oct. 8 — Youth Wilderness Trail deposit due (\$100)

Oct. 9 — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, at Susan Noble's home in Elizabethtown

Oct. 12 — Friends of Jesus Sunday

Oct. 13-15 — Snr Ad Caswell Fall Retreat

Oct. 14—Lower Cape Fear Life Care Lunch & Learn for clergy, Act. Bld.

Oct. 18 — Community Café hosted by Collins Class

Oct. 19 — Youth Haunted House Trip

Oct. 20 — WMU, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Oct. 20 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7 pm in the Activities Building.

Oct. 21 — Snr. Ad. shopping trip to McBee's Market

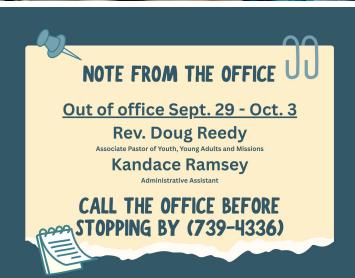
Oct. 22 — Quarterly Church Conference w/

Committee on Committees Report

Oct. 24-26 — CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat

Oct. 29 — Trunk or Treat! Starting at 6 pm in the 6th Street parking lot. We are now accepting candy donations and volunteers to decorate their cars for this event. See Rev. Doug Reedy for more information.





We need folks to be "riders" for the bus team route to Wesley Pines!



We have a nice rotation of folks willing to drive our bus to Wesley Pines to pick up residents and bring them to church on Sundays, but we can use a few more "riders" to be just be a presence on the bus and offer support to the driver. If this is a role you can help fill, we will glad to add you to the schedule! Contact the office to express your willingness to assist.

From the pages of history... from the April 28, 2005 publication of First Baptist News

Message from Margie

The famous Swiss psychologist Carl Jung once said "Hurry is not 'of the devil' it is the devil." If this is true, many of us who live busy, hurried lives are tempted by a force that can lead us away from God. We are busy with work, with children's activities, with social events, with church activities, meeting home and family needs—and the list goes on.

It isn't that we are involved in meaningless activities. So many of our "busy" activities are really good, worthwhile things. However, too many really good activities can keep us in a frenzy.

Psalm 4:10 reminds us to "Be quiet and know that I am God." Let me ask you, when was the last time you sat down and did nothing? If we wait until everything else is done, it won't happen. We have to be intentional and plan for this kind of time—a time to meditate, to talk and to listen to God.

These suggestions may help:

- Make time for quiet. It will involve choosing priorities and making adjustments.
- Practice the prayer of quiet. It will help to build a relationship with God who wants to love us into peace and serenity.
- Let go of fear. Quiet, prayerful moments will take away the fears that compel us to scurry about in search of false security.
- Scale down and simplify our lives so we can hear God's voice and yield to His trust and love.

When God spoke to Elijah on the mountain, it was not in the strong wind, or in the earthquake, or in the fire. God spoke to him in a still, quiet voice. He will speak to us today—if we can be still and quiet, and listen.

Stay in touch by signing up for church emails and text messages!

Text "JOIN" & your email to 910-941-3878

or scan this QR code with your cell phone's camera to access the sign up form





If you have signed up for a Senior/Retired Adult events that have a cost, we ask that you go ahead and pay. If want more information about upcoming Senior Adult activities, please contact the office or Phyllis Gibson, chair of the Senior Adult Committee, as soon as possible.

Trips that still have spaces remaining: Oct. 21—Shopping Trip to McBee's Market

Check the office to be added to the waitlist for trips that are full.

What is Community Café? On the third Saturday of each month, we host Community Café. This is a program offered through downtown churches to help feed the hungry in our community.

Thank you to these hosts:

Oct. 18 — Collins Sunday School

Nov. 22* — Youth

Dec. 20 — Bridge Sunday <mark>School</mark> Jan. 17— Fellowship Clas<mark>s</mark>

Feb. 21 —Sanctuary Choir

*switched hosting dates w/Chestnut Methodist

Special Emphasis

(subject to change as we progress thru the year)

Nov. 2 — All Saints Sunday

Nov. 21 — Youth BBO Sale

Nov. 23 — Christ the King Sunday. Hanging of the Green rehearsal will take place during the Sunday School hour. Worship is planned to be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Pending — Community Thanksgiving Service

Nov. 26 — No Wednesday Night activities

Nov. 30 — Hanging of the Green during 10:30 am Worship

Dec. 7 — Christmas Breakfast during Sunday School hour and Friends of Jesus Caroling

Dec. 10 — Children's Spontaneous Nativity & meal at 6 pm in Cherry Fellowship Hall

Dec. 13 — Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 14 — Friends of Jesus Christmas Party following Worship

Dec. 17, 24, 31 — No regular Wednesday night activities

Dec. 17 — Youth's Progressive Dinner

Dec. 21 — Longest Night Service (Memorial Service) at 5 pm in the Chapel

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm

Pending being added to the calendar for December: Children's Caroling Night (usually on a Wednesday) Choir Cantata (usually on a Sunday)

