

HEART



SOUL



MIND



STRENGTH

THE TIE

MAY 2023

Summer Is Just Around the Corner!

April

- April 30 - Children's Musical - 5PM in the Sanctuary
- April 30 - Last day to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

May

- May 9 - Golf Fellowship - 5:30PM at Lakeside Country Club
- May 14 - Ministry to the Aging Offering during worship
- May 14 - Mother's Day
- May 21 - Graduate Recognition - during morning worship
- May 23 - Golf Fellowship - 5:30PM at Lakeside Country Club
- May 29 - Memorial Service - during morning worship

June

- June 2-4 - Camp McCall
- June 11-15 - VBS
- June 18 - Father's Day
- June 26-29 - Passport Kids

MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 4pm Martha Franks Fellowship Bland Roper Grayson Forsyth	2 7am Men's Group Nicole Firmin	3 5-7pm VBS Work Night Ray Hawkins	4	5 8am Senior Adult Trip to Strawberry Hill Robert Sherer Roy Lee	6 Joyce Dennis David Coggins Ruth Thompson Matt Strickland Lindsay Edwards
7 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 5:30pm Women's Group 6pm Men's Group Sally Hall	8	9 7am Men's Group 5:30pm Golf Fellowship	10 5-7pm VBS Work Night Nancy Burden Rhett Cothran Linda Wessel Melissa Rush	11 Herbert Adams Jeff Thompson Jim Young	12 Vickie Searer Tiffany Hudson Jon Downs	13 Colin Harlan Ashley Buhrmaster
14 Mother's Day Ministry to the Aging Offering During Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 5:30pm Women's Group 6pm Men's Group Bettie Howe Vicki Coleman Faye Yates Carson Bolding	15 7pm Deacon's Meeting Anna Beth Martin	16 7am Men's Group 11am CWA Meeting Pat Meadows Van Tumblin Jennifer Davis Dallas Pridgen	17 5-7pm VBS Work Night Karen Jacks James Hall	18 2pm Knitting Group Dale Byerly	19 Reid Taylor	20 Ami Hardy
21 Graduate Recognition During Morning Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 5:30pm Women's Group 6pm Men's Group Murphy Rush	22 Cecil Brown Miranda Langston	23 7am Men's Group 5:30pm Golf Fellowship Nancy Todd	24 5-7pm VBS Work Night Jason Pridgen	25 Autry Martin	26 Chris McCameron Preston Mahon Chad Edwards	27 Dick Noble
28 Memorial Service During Morning Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 5pm 1 st -5 th Grade Children's Musical 5:30pm Women's Group 6pm Men's Group	29 FBC Offices Closed for Memorial Day	30 7am Men's Group Rose Tumblin Pete Angelakos Deb Wright	31 5-7pm VBS Work Night VBS Leader Meetings Rebekah Smith Travis Riddle			

Dear Church Family and Friends,

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:1-3, NIV)

Eternal life. It's impossible to imagine sometimes. Life that extends beyond the grave. But, more than that, life that extends much longer and further than we can possibly comprehend.

However, in Jesus' day and in John's gospel, eternal life is so much more than just the duration of life. Living forever can be just as scary as the idea of not living forever, especially if life is difficult, filled with pain and hopelessness. Many people have and continue to experience life such as this. No, this is not the gift that Jesus gives to us.

Have you ever been to the Zoo? Rebecca and I were talking the other day that it might be fun to visit the Greenville Zoo. When we lived in Elon, we visited the Asheboro, North Carolina, Zoo frequently. While we can see animals like elephants, polar bears, and alligators in books, we cannot observe them like we can at the Zoo. There, we watch them eat, walk, play with their young and do things that they enjoy. A Zoo is a place where we may observe the quality of an animal species' life. The Greek word translated “life” in this passage is *zoe*, from which the science “zoology” is named. The name for a girl, Zoe, that has become more common in recent years, also comes from this Greek word. Its definition is more than just life processes. It's the good life or thriving life.

But then there is also this word we translate “eternal.” The Greek word is an adjective, just like the English word. But it has another meaning besides “forever.” Have you ever observed a point where life has really changed? The invention of the smart phone and its consequent popularity in the past fifteen years has changed life forever. For me, it was the advent of computers. Beginning in college, I learned how to use a computer, send email, connect to the internet. It was something new. For me, in 1996, at college, my life entered a new “era” as I learned to use a PC. The Greek word *aionion*, which is the adjectival form of the noun *aion*, is best translated “era” or “age.”

Jews in Jesus' time, along with Jesus and his followers, understood life in two ages. This age is the present

age, filled with evil, suffering, personal sin, and death. Yet, when Jesus returns and sin and death are eliminated, we will enter the age to come.

Thus, “eternal life” is life that best possesses the quality of the age to come. It is also something that we may experience now, even if it is for moments.

During April, we celebrated Easter and the promises Jesus' resurrection have brought to our lives and to our world. As we move into May, remember the wonderful gift that we have been given. We've been given a life of love. We have been given a life of purpose. We have been given a relationship with God. And, we have been given the opportunity to share all this with others.

As we prepare for Vacation Bible School, honor our high school graduates, remember the dear people who have gone to be with the Lord during this past year, as we honor the women in our church and as we receive the offering for the South Carolina Ministry to the Aging, may we remember that our participation in these is a participation in the eternal kind of life here and now, in this present age. We can have tomorrow's life today. We can brighten it. Will you join us as we worship, serve, and grow?

Grace and peace,

Tim

Adult Discipleship Opportunities in May:

Sunday Evening

- Women's Group: at 5:00pm in Cooper A-13 (Pairs and Spares Room) led by Bryson Schultz and Jessica Cooper
- Men's Group: A Study of I Corinthians -Meets at 6:00pm in the Craft Room.

Tuesday Morning

- Men's Group: A Study of I Corinthians -Meets at 7:00am in Classroom A.

Attention Men: “Summer Boot Camp”

This summer, we will be offering a six-session study on a specific topic designed to encourage you in your faith and challenge you in your walk with Christ. The study is open to all men, regardless of whether you have been involved in one of our men's studies before. More information on this summer's topic as well as meeting times, etc. will be available soon. Watch your TIE, worship bulletin, and our website for details.



VBS is just around the corner! We'll be working each Wednesday night in May from 5-7pm! We would love to have your help!

- May 1 - Final Passport payment due
- May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 - VBS Work Nights from 5-7pm
- May 14 - Mother's Day!
- May 19 - Last day of FBC Kindergarten
- May 21 - Graduate Recognition Service
- May 28 - Memorial Day Service
- May 29 - FBC Offices Closed
- May 31 - VBS Leader Meetings



Thank you to everyone who supported our Children and Youth Ministry Auction through Prayer, Donations, and Attendance! This event was more successful than we could have imagined!

Meet Our Interns!!!!

We are excited to welcome Collin Harlan and McKenzie Little as our 2023 Youth Interns. Collin and McKenzie will join us at the end of May and serve our Youth and Children's Ministries during the summer.

FBC Golf Fellowships in May are May 9 and May 23, at Lakeside CC. We will play a 9-hole, Captain's Choice format with a shotgun start at 5:30pm. The cost per golfer is \$30. Sign up by calling 984-7500, or email Tommy at tommy@fbclaurens.org. Registration deadline is 5:00pm the day before each round.

CWAs (Comfortable With Age)

Tuesday, May 16 - 11:00am

Adair Rogers will speak about the trip to the Holy Land. Til Culbertson will prepare our meal, the cost is \$5.00. Call the church office to sign up!

Senior Adults to Strawberry Hill

Friday, May 5 - Leave at 8:00

We will have BREAKFAST at Strawberry Hill Cafe and then go get strawberries and other produce. We should be home between 12:00 and 1:00. Call the church office to sign up!

If you have a son or daughter who is a member of this church who will be graduating from college or receiving a higher degree this year, please call the church office by May 15 to let us know so that we can include his/her name in our recognitions on **Graduate Recognition Sunday!**

MINISTER ON CALL

One of our ministers will be on call every weekend, so if you have a need, please don't hesitate to call us! The minister on call schedule is:

May 1-7	Tim Marsh	828-755-1616
May 8-14	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424
May 15-21	Elizabeth Franklin	803-960-9099
May 22-28	Adair Rogers	864-923-1631
May 29-June 4	Andrew Corley	864-923-5841

THE TIE

First Baptist Church
300 West Main St
Laurens, SC 29360

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 70
Laurens, SC 29360

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Financial Record - April 2023

April Needs:	\$110,096.15
April Giving:	\$110,096.15
2023 Needs to Date:	\$396,344.24
2023 Giving to Date:	\$338,726.24

