



**THE BEACON**

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Our deepest Sympathy for:

Family and friends of Jim Rodgers.

Family and friends of Mary Alice Miller.

Michael Davis in the loss of his uncle, John Beam.

First Baptist Church,

Thank you all so very much for the wonderful meal you prepared and provided for our huge family at Mother's passing. Everything was delicious. You were all so very kind and patient with us as we came in sort of scattered. I especially appreciate the giving of your time on a busy Sunday afternoon and evening to see that we were well fed and had time to chat with one another, Your kind words and remembrances of Mom meant so much. Thank you again and God bless each and every one.

Jane O. Burgess and the O' Neal Family

**Sunday, May 20: GRADUATE RECOGNITION SERVICE AND BRUNCH**

If you are graduating from High School or College please plan to be a part of this special celebration. We'd like three photos of you, one graduation photo and two from earlier stages of life for our slideshow. We'd also like a photo of you for our monthly newsletter, the Beacon (this can be the same graduation photo from above if you wish.) If you are dropping off media to be copied, please place in an envelope. Label the envelope with the graduate's name. You may also submit media on CD, thumb drive, or email as JPEG files to Sharon Royals: [sharon.royals@andersonfbc.org](mailto:sharon.royals@andersonfbc.org) by 4:00pm **Friday, May 11**. You should receive a letter in the mail with more information. If you haven't received a letter, please contact Amy Brown (224-1622) for more information.

**First Baptist Church Contact Information**

307 S. Manning Street, Anderson, SC 29624  
CHURCH OFFICE — 224-1622

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 - 4:00; Fri. 9:00 - 3:00

Dr. James R. Thomason, Pastor

**MINISTER ON CALL:** (after hours & weekends)

Call: 224-1622, Press 6, leave name, number and a brief message and the MINISTER ON CALL will return your call promptly.



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www.andersonfbc.org

Opportunities at First Baptist

**Sunday, April 22**

- 8:15 AM Baraca Sunday School Class (record)
- 9:30 AM Worship—Youth Sunday
- 10:00 AM Baraca Service 107.7 WHQA-FM; 1280 WANS-AM
- 10:30 AM Bible Study
- 4:00 PM VBS Planning
- 5:00 PM Youth Open Gym
- 6:00 PM Youth Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Youth Praise Team Rehearsal

**Tuesday, April 24**

- 10:00 AM Margaret Williams Bible Study

**Wednesday, April 25**

- 12:00 PM Bible Study/Luncheon
- 4:00 PM Youth - Open Gym
- 5:30 PM M & M Check-In - 3rd Floor
- 5:45 PM Children's Music and Missions
- 6:00 PM Youth Bible Study
- Praise Team Rehearsal
- Conversation Café Room 212
- 6:15 PM Adult Bible Study - Chapel
- 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- GA & RA Check-Out - 3rd Floor

**Sunday, April 29**

- 8:15 AM Baraca Sunday School Class (record)
- 9:30 AM Worship
- 10:00 AM Baraca Service 107.7 WHQA-FM; 1280 WANS-AM
- 10:30 AM Bible Study
- 11:30 AM Church Conference and Luncheon
- 4:00 PM Youth - Bazooka Ball at Battlecat Sports

**Tuesday, May 1**

- 7:07 AM Youth Breakfast Club

**Wednesday, May 2**

- 12:00 PM Bible Study/Luncheon
- 4:00 PM Youth - Open Gym
- 5:00 PM Supper
- 5:30 PM M & M Check-In - 3rd Floor
- 5:45 PM Children's Music and Missions
- 6:00 PM Youth Worship - Youth SS Room
- Praise Team Rehearsal
- Conversation Café Room 212
- 6:15 PM Adult Bible Study - Chapel
- 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- GA & RA Check-Out - 3rd Floor

# THE BEACON

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First Baptist Church

307 South Manning Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29624 864.224.1622 / [www.andersonfbc.org](http://www.andersonfbc.org)

## DR. THOMASON ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT FOR MARCH 2019

Formation of Pastor Search Team Begins with Nominations from the Congregation on April 29 (cf. More details in Pastor's Article)

This Sunday, April 22 - 9:30am  
**YOUTH SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, April 29th - 11:30am  
**CHURCH CONFERENCE & LUNCHEON**

Fellowship Hall

(12:15pm if attending the conference only)

**Elect Nominating and Deacon Committees**

Menu: Baked Ham, Potato Salad, Pineapple Casserole, Veggie Bake, Strawberry Spring Salad, Dessert, Tea/Coffee  
**(Adults \$5.00 and Children \$2.50)**

Please make reservations for lunch by calling 224-1622.



**From one Minister to Another...**

At the close of worship yesterday (April 15), I announced to our church my intentions to retire as Pastor in March of 2019. This was not a hasty decision, but one to which I've given thought and prayer for some time. Since this announcement caught many of you by surprise, though, I want to share with you how I arrived at this decision.

First, I want to make clear that no one in the church suggested to me that it might be time to do this. When Mathias Richardson, Chair of our Personnel Committee, came to me last year to discuss the proposed budget, he told me that the committee had voted "unanimously and enthusiastically" that they wanted to see our entire staff remain in place—in other words, no changes!

I assured him that I felt the same way—what a privilege to work and serve alongside every member of our church staff: all gifted at what they do, and all good people to be around. We actually enjoy each other! We express this to each other often. And we count it a privilege to do what we do here at Anderson First Baptist Church. If you were not such a good church family, we would likely not be able to be a good staff. The two always go hand in hand.

Before Mathias shared this with me, however, I had been giving serious consideration to two important time lines: First Baptist's—with our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary just three years away, and my own personal time line—with my 64<sup>th</sup>, and soon thereafter my 65<sup>th</sup> (or 95<sup>th</sup>?—you had to be here) birthdays approaching. As I thought about the life and ministry of this church that I love, I reached this conviction.

It was my privilege to lead this church in the celebration of its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I was still the "new pastor" back then. But if I'm the one leading our 200<sup>th</sup> celebration, I'll be "the old guy whose gotta' retire sometime preacher." I don't believe that's in the best interest of our church.

We will certainly celebrate the 200 years of mission and ministry that we and all those who've come before us here have shared in. We will thank God for this rich and fruitful past.

But even more important on this occasion will be our focus on what God has in store for the future of His church here. To bring clarity to this, I am convinced Anderson First Baptist should have a new pastor in place to provide the leadership and energy needed as we enter a new century of ministry together.

I've been around here so long I'm like a pair of old shoes—too comfortable—both for me... and you! I love this relationship we have. In fact, it's the best it's ever been! I really think I could keep on doing this for quite a while. But for our church to tread boldly into her next chapter, I think it's going to require some new shoes. Just as the Lord called me to take on this ministry 23 years ago, I believe He's giving me His blessing now to turn this task over to someone else.

Yes, new shoes require some breaking in and occasionally result in a blister or two—but the time comes when they are necessary. I hope you understand. I believe this is "all good!" I will continue to love you and serve you in the months ahead with all the strength and ability the Lord gives me, and I will rejoice with you when you make the important decision concerning who your next pastor will be.

I encourage all of us to begin praying about this now, beginning with the nomination process which takes place on Sunday, April 29. Our bylaws instruct the deacons to oversee the election of a 7-member Pastor Search Team. You will be asked to come to worship on the 29<sup>th</sup> prepared to nominate up to seven individuals for this purpose. From these nominations, 14 persons will be placed in nomination. As soon as these fourteen have agreed to serve if elected, you'll be asked to vote for seven.

The seven with the highest number of votes will form the team. The person with the most votes will serve as it's chair. On your behalf, the Pastor Search Team will begin the process of discerning who the next pastor of this church should be. When that decision is reached, they will present this individual to you for a vote. It's the Baptist way—every member has a voice and a vote in the process. Every member also has the responsibility to pray for the search team, beginning with its selection and throughout the course of its vital work.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you this Sunday. Our youth are in charge of the service and we will be blessed by their ministry among us. Year after year, they make us proud!!!

*In a Spirit of Partnership...*

*James R. Thomason, Pastor*

**Our Members in Action**

**April 22**

**Worship Childcare:**

Paula Ballentine

**Deacons of the Week:**

Sonny Reed, Offertory Prayer

Susan Reed, Visitor Outreach

**Security:**

David Turner & Jimmy Newton

**April 29**

**Worship Childcare:**

Lisa Wallace

**Deacons of the Week:**

Mathias Richardson,

Offertory Prayer

David Stoddard,

Visitor Outreach

**Security:**

Ed Sokol & Bradley Orr

**April Collection Committee**

Chad Waters, Skip Brown,

Guy Eichman, Michael Hatchett,

Mike Lowe, Jim McCombs

**Wednesday Lunch & Supper**

**April 25**

**Lunch and Supper**

Meat Loaf, Creamed Potatoes,

Lima Beans, Slaw, Dessert,

Tea/Coffee

**May 2**

**Lunch and Supper**

Beef Tips over Rice, Macaroni

and Cheese, Green Peas,

Cantaloupe, Dessert,

Tea/Coffee

**Lunch & Supper Reservations**  
Please contact the church office by Noon on Tuesdays to make or cancel your reservations.



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday            | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------|---|--|
| <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; background-color: #76923c; color: white;"> <p><b>Passport Kids Breakfast Fundraiser - May 6</b><br/>Look for order forms in your Sunday School Class folders. Please submit your class orders by April 29. Thank you!</p> </div> |   |  |   |                     |   |  |
|   |   | 1<br>7:07am Youth Breakfast Club   | 2<br>Noon and 6:15pm Bible Study<br><br>6:00pm Youth Bible Study  | 3                   | 4   | 5  |
| 6<br>9:30am CHILDREN'S SUNDAY<br>10:30am PASSPORT KIDS BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER<br>6:00pm Youth Bible Study   | 7   | 8  | 9<br>Noon and 6:15pm Bible Study<br><br>6:00pm Youth Bible Study  | 10<br>Beacon Mailed | 11  | 12   |
| 13<br>MOTHER'S DAY<br>9:30am Worship Service<br>The Prophets 2: GET CLOSE<br>Isaiah 40:11-14,28-31<br>PARENT AND CHILD DEDICATION   | 14  | 15<br>7:07am Youth Breakfast Club  | 16<br>Noon and 6:15pm Bible Study<br>6:00pm Children's Spring Program Dress Rehearsal<br>6:00pm Youth Bible Study   | 17                  | 18  | 19<br>10:30am - 5:00pm Youth: Girls Day at the Biltmore<br>Sign up by April 13. Cost: \$35 |
| 20<br>9:30am Worship Service<br>The Prophets 3: BE SUCCESSFUL<br>Isaiah 26:3-4<br>Graduate Recognition<br>6:00pm Youth Bible Study  | 21<br>6:00pm Stewardship Meeting                        | 22<br>10:00am Margaret Williams Bible Study<br>2:00-9:00pm Directory Picture Make Up Day | 23<br>No Noon Bible study or Luncheon<br>5:00pm Supper<br>**Please note: This is the last supper before summer break. Suppers will resume 9/5/18.<br>6:00pm CHILDREN'S SPRING PROGRAM | 24<br>Beacon Mailed | 25  | 26   |
| 27<br>9:30am Worship Service<br>The Prophets 4: TRUST GOD<br>Isaiah 46:1-9b<br>6:00pm Youth Bible Study   | 28<br>MEMORIAL DAY<br>Church Office Closed<br>No School | 29   | 30<br>6:00pm RA RACERS and Hot Dog Supper   | 31                  | <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white;"> <p><b>Parent Child Dedication Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13</b><br/>9:30 AM Worship Service<br/>Celebrate this special Day with us!<br/>Please call the church office (224-1622) if you plan to participate.</p> </div> |  |