

**THE BEACON**  
 USPS 571-380 Dated Material  
 Published semi-monthly  
 by The First Baptist Church  
 307 S. Manning St., Anderson, SC.  
 Periodicals postage paid at Anderson, SC 29621.  
**Postmaster: Send address correction to  
 The Beacon, First Baptist Church  
 307 South Manning Street, Anderson, SC 29624.**

**OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST**

**Sunday, August 25**  
 9:30 AM Worship and Parent & Child Dedication  
 10:30 AM Church Conference  
 5:00 PM Youth Group and Dinner

**Monday, August 26**  
 12:00 PM Church Office Closes for Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, August 28**  
 5:45 PM Children's Music and Missions  
 Youth Group  
 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 Youth Homework and Hangout

**Thursday, August 29**  
 12:00 PM Lunch Time Bible Study

**Sunday, September 1**  
 9:30 AM Worship  
 10:30 AM Sunday School  
 4:00 PM Youth Group and Dinner

**Monday, September 2 - Labor Day**  
 Church Office Closed

**Wednesday, September 4**  
 5:30 PM Handbell Choir (above the Chapel)  
 5:45 PM Children's Music and Missions  
 Youth Group  
 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 Youth Homework and Hangout

**Thursday, September 5**  
 12:00 PM Senior Adult Ministry Lunch at Grits and  
 Groceries (To carpool, meet at the  
 Church at 11:30 AM.)

**PLEASE NOTE**

The Church Office will close  
 at noon on August 26.

**MEMBERS IN ACTION**

**August 25**

**Deacons of the Week:**

Susan Reed, Offertory Prayer  
 Sonny Reed, Visitor Outreach

**Security:**

Bill Wilson and Adam Gathers

**September 1**

**Deacons of the Week:**

Leslie Walker, Offertory Prayer  
 Leslie Walker, Visitor Outreach

**Security:**

Donnie Campbell and Jeff Neal



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
 ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

307 South Manning Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29624 864.224.1622 / andersonfbc.org

# THE BEACON

August 23, 2024 Volume 63 Issue 16



**This Sunday, August 25**  
**9:30 AM**

**PARENT AND CHILD DEDICATION SERVICE FOR**

*Dorotheia Wimpey*

CHURCH

**CONFERENCE**

**ALSO THIS SUNDAY**

**10:30 AM**

**IN THE SANCTUARY**

Please note that the conference will be held in the sanctuary following morning worship. We will not have Sunday School or our customary pre-conference meal that day. Childcare will be provided.

### *From One Minister to Another...*

The quote from Mahatma Gandhi, "I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ," can be a bit unsettling, can't it? Determining if such a statement is "fair" really depends on which Christians one encounters. We all know some people who seem to embody Christ's teachings faithfully and beautifully, while others might make us question if they even understand Jesus at all.

Over time, I've come to realize that I can't control how others perceive Christians as a whole. What I can control is my own actions and how they reflect my faith.

This responsibility extends to anyone who identifies as a follower of Christ.

It's crucial not to dismiss Gandhi's comment too quickly, as many people who aren't Christians might share his viewpoint, whether they voice it or not. People of faith are often held to higher standards, both by others and by God, and our hypocritical behavior discourages others from following Jesus. You must be mindful of how your actions represent Christ in your everyday interactions.

Christians often face this criticism, and while some of it may be unfair, it's a reality for many who are exploring faith or trying to return to the church after past disappointments.

Let's be honest: we will all inevitably fall short of others' expectations at times. Only Jesus fully meets those expectations. We remain imperfect reflections of Him.

Just as Jesus atoned for our sin because our "righteousness is as filthy rags," (Isaiah 64:6) we need to present the true essence of Jesus to those seeking to understand our faith. If someone says they'd like to believe in Christ but hasn't seen a Christian who reflects Him, let's not take offense or argue. Instead, we should offer them Christ Himself, and through our humble, imperfect attempts, introduce them to the Good News so they can discover the real Jesus for themselves.

Ultimately, while Christians are sometimes obstacles to faith, the authentic Jesus is compelling and difficult to resist.

Peace of Christ,



### BIBLE STUDY



Thursday, August 29  
at Noon in the  
Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10.00

Menu: Amish Chicken, Corn  
Muffin, Squash Casserole,  
Romaine Salad, Pineapple Cake

Please call the church office to  
make a reservation by 3:00 PM  
on Friday, August 23.

### THANK YOU NOTE

Dear First Baptist family,

My sister Emily Dobson and I want to think the church family for their kind words and deeds during our sister Fredda Lee's illness and death.

We were heartbroken to lose Fredda but the support of the church helped us so much!

With thanks to:

- Rev. Hunt for his loving and thoughtful eulogy and many services to our family. Thank you Rev. Hunt for your visits with Fredda at NHC and in the hospital and for your kind acts before and following her passing.
- Thank you Larry Mitchell for your many visits with Fredda and our family. Your loving and comforting presence did much to sustain us.
- Thank you Kelly Neal for your attention to Fredda and always comforting words. NHC is fortunate to have you on their team!
- And, to fellow church member Bolt McLain at Sullivan King for his support at this difficult time.

First Baptist has been part of both our late mom and late dad's family for over 100 years and we are so thankful for this legacy of love and concern.

Best Wishes,  
Cliff Smith  
Emily Dobson

# VOTING INFORMATION FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CONFERENCE

### FBC MEMBERS,

Several of you have reached out in various ways to ask exactly what the procedure will be for voting in our Church Conference on August 25, in order to ensure it is done in a fair and secure manner. According to our bylaws, there are two different ways to vote:

#### Absentee Ballots

"In case of a written ballot, Members may vote by absentee ballot if they cannot attend because of physical incapacity or absence from the city. Absentee voting is possible only in advance of the meeting at which voting by written ballot is scheduled." (Article IV; Section 5). A person who meets these requirements may at this time request a ballot from the office, or come by the office to vote if they will not be here on August 25.

Please note the member who will be voting must request the ballot, and someone may not request or pick up a ballot on behalf of another person. Sharon will make a note of those who have requested the ballot. When a ballot is returned, she will note the name on the return address of the envelope, and place the ballot inside a locked box that will not be opened until the Business Conference. **If there is no return address on the exterior envelope, the ballot will not be counted.** The only way to ensure a person does not vote twice is to log who has already voted. If a person is concerned with the privacy of their vote, they may put their marked ballot inside a blank, sealed envelope, and then put that sealed envelope in a second, exterior envelope that contains their name and the church address so that their ballot may be secret. That way Sharon can log who returned the ballot without seeing a vote. Please also note that all absentee ballots will be on a blue sheet of paper, so they will be distinct from in-person ballots.

#### Business Conference

For those who will be present to vote on August 25, during the conference, if you regularly attend worship and/or Sunday School, there will be a sealed envelope with your name on the outside and your ballot inside. We will distribute these envelopes during the Conference. If someone does not receive an envelope, there will be a table where that person can go and request their ballot from Bob Lingle, Linda Chadbourne, and Chris Liles, who will verify their membership status, and that they did not already cast an absentee ballot. Then they will receive their ballot in order to vote. At the conclusion of the voting period, marked ballots will be placed in the same locked ballot box as the absentee ballots.

#### Vote Counting

At the conclusion of discussion and our voting period, our counting team made up of Ann Campbell (in her official capacity as Recording Secretary), and three of our Deacons, Becky Campbell, Al Whitney, and Pat Vickery, will carry the ballot box into the Choir Suite. There they will unlock the box, count, record, and verify the votes. Once they agree on the official tally, the results will be announced to the congregation, and the ballots will be kept on file in the church fire safe until August 25, 2025, so that anyone who has any doubts about the reported total may review them for themselves.

If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to let me know through email ([chris.liles@andersonfbc.org](mailto:chris.liles@andersonfbc.org)) or by calling the church office at 864-224-1622.

Grace and Peace,

Chris Liles

### MUSIC MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Handbell Choir Rehearsals Resume — 5:30 PM above the Chapel

Christmas Choir Rehearsals Begin — 7:00 - 7:30 PM

We will dismiss the Christmas singers and continue our service music through 8:30 PM.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Resounding Faith (5th Sunday Music Service) — 9:30 AM