

**THE BEACON**  
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307 S. Manning Street, Anderson, SC 29624  
 CHURCH OFFICE — 224-1622  
 CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER — 224-2635  
 Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 - 4:00; Fri. 9:00 - 3:00

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 Miss Mary Alice Edmonds, Interim Organist  
 Mrs. Shannon Griffin, CDC Director  
 Mrs. Lesley Hudgins, Financial Manager  
 Dr. Josh Hunt, Pastor  
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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.



FirstBaptistAnderson  
 FBCAndersonSC  
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**CONDOLENCES**

Mae Whitt and family on the passing of her son,  
 Alan Madden, on October 3, 2024

**OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST**

**Sunday, October 13**  
 9:30 AM Worship  
 10:30 AM Sunday School  
 5:00 PM Youth Group and Dinner

**Monday, October 14**  
 1:00 PM Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, October 16**  
 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, October 17**  
 12:00 PM Lunch Time Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

**Sunday, October 20**  
 9:30 AM Worship  
 10:30 AM Sunday School  
 4:00 PM Youth Group and Dinner

**Wednesday, October 23**  
 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, October 24**  
 The Beacon Published

**MEMBERS IN ACTION**

**October 13**

**Deacons of the Week:**

Al Whitney, Offertory Prayer  
 JoAnn Vickery, Visitor Outreach

**Security:**

Roger Cason and Dale Ellenburg

**October 20**

**Deacons of the Week:**

Lillian Bevill, Offertory Prayer  
 John Bone, Visitor Outreach

**Security:**

Jerry Minyard and Vince Rutledge



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
 ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

**THE BEACON**

**October 10, 2024 Volume 63 Issue 19**



**THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**

**Guest Preacher**

**Elizabeth Nance-Coker, CBFSC Coordinator**

Elizabeth Nance-Coker became CBFSC Coordinator in June 2022. A cradle Baptist and raised in a mission-minded home, Elizabeth discerned the call into ministry while a student at East Texas Baptist College. She then served in music and discipleship ministry for decades in a variety of locations and denominational traditions before returning to Baptist life. Ordained in 2016 at Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, Elizabeth is the former pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church in Camden.

In addition to leadership of community and civic boards and councils, her lifelong passion for spiritual and pastoral involvement has given her an enthusiasm for cultivating relationships between people, worship planning, and providing opportunities for people to grow in faith as they follow Christ together. Elizabeth earned the Doctor of Worship Studies with a theological focus upon the Psalms of Lament from The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, a Master of Music from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and an undergraduate degree in Secondary Music Education with minors in English, History, Speech Communication and Elementary Education from Saint Mary's University.

A military family for 22 years, Elizabeth and her husband Dennis enjoyed living throughout the United States and overseas. Now making their home in Columbia, they are the proud parents of three grown children and two teenagers. Elizabeth enjoys reading, cross stitching historic samplers, and long walks with Rosie, her Golden Pyrenees.

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

This past Sunday in a special called church conference, the church approved a mutual agreement of separation that means that my ministry as your pastor is drawing to a close. My final Sunday in the pulpit will be Sunday, October 20.

The church's recent overwhelming vote to preclude certain groups of people from seeking church membership flies in the face of my understanding of Jesus' "whosoever will may come" ethic (Rev. 22:17). I simply cannot subscribe to that vision of ministry, though I respect the church's right to make that decision.

I believe God's calling remains on First Baptist, and I believe God's calling remains on me. Since I believe we can best live out our callings apart from one another, I have prayed that God would release me from my calling as your pastor. I am thankful that God has answered that prayer.

I am even more thankful for the privilege of serving as your pastor. You have opened your arms and your lives to me and my family. Together we have celebrated births, baptisms, graduations, and ordinations. We have cried together at the bedsides of dying saints, and we have offered gratitude lives of our brothers and sisters in funerals and memorial services. We have marveled at the work of the Holy Spirit of God among us and within us.

My heart is full of gratitude for our wonderful years together, not animosity for the recent season that has been the single most challenging time of my adult life.

In my twelve years at First Baptist, I have seen you rise to the occasion when the church has been in between ministers. I am praying this will happen again. As I have had the privilege of witnessing it first-hand, the formula for this success is quite simple:

#### **More engagement.**

I know that it's possible to have "too many cooks in the kitchen," but, to follow the image, First Baptist's immediate challenge is that not enough people are cooking. In the leadership vacuum the church is facing, I pray for greater involvement by more people, challenging the dysfunctional assumption that is already creeping in that a few leaders should lock the proverbial kitchen doors and do all the cooking themselves! Many hands make light work, and I'm certain that God is calling more—not fewer—people to His work.

#### **More praying.**

Pray for your church. Pray for your work in the church. Pray for the ways you contribute to the life of the church: to the budget, to the activities, to worship, to the atmosphere, to the narrative, to the spirit of the church.

Pray for God's blessing for the people He is calling elsewhere. If someone feels God leading them to another congregation, wish them well. Your friendship may have been established at First Baptist, but their leaving First Baptist does not make them your enemy. Pray for their best. Ask them to offer the same prayer for you.

Pray, too, for the people who feel led to stay and continue the work in this historic congregation. There is much work to be done, and, as is always the case, the church will only be successful in its work under God's leadership.

Pray for our staff. I truly love these people and have enjoyed working on this wonderful team. Please pray for Chris and Naomi and their families as they face a new chapter in their lives and work. I am so grateful to call them my colleagues. Pray for the staff who will continue serving you well. Please be expressive of your appreciation for them. Do not take them for granted—especially now—because their work among you will be more demanding during this interim season. Practice lots of grace and show lots of love.

I committed months ago to preach this Sunday at a Homecoming service at the church I served in North Carolina. I look forward to being back with you on October 20, as we worship God together.

In the meantime, know of my abiding love and fervent prayers for you.

Peace of Christ,



COMING SOON!

# HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

**Thursday, October 31**  
**5:30 - 8:30 PM**  
**1807 Lindale Rd., Anderson, SC 29621**

**Crafts, Games, Hot Chocolate,  
Roast Marshmallows, and  
Lots of Candy**

We need lots of volunteers, candy, crockpots of soup/chili, and individually packaged desserts. If you are interested in helping, please contact Timothy Clardy. (Please bring candy donations to the church office or drop off in the vestibule.)

BIBLE STUDY

YOUTH MINISTRY

**LUNCH TIME BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursday, October 17**  
**Noon in the Fellowship Hall**

**Cost: \$10.00**

**Menu: Chick-Fil-A**

**Please call the church office to make a reservation by 3:00 PM on Tuesday, October 15.**

**YOUTH Fall Retreat**

**November 1-3**  
**Camp Glisson**

**\$100 per student**

Two male chaperones are needed for the Youth Fall Retreat. If you would like to volunteer

CHURCH WIDE MINISTRY

# ALL SAINTS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**  
**9:30 AM**

Join us for this special service as we memorialize the FBC members who have passed away over the last year.