



The Builder

Volume XIII Number 45

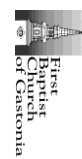
Week of November 24, 2024

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 17
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship/Pastor Dwayne

Wednesday, November 20
12:00 Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 24
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service @
St. Mark' s Episcopal Church



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GRACE

College Essay

This college application essay was written by a 17 year-old Gaston County student who has given us permission to share. The author is one of only 43 Gaston County high school students to receive academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program.

6:35 am used to be the moment I dreaded the most – it was the start of a relentless cycle that often stretched to 6:45, the 6:55 and finally 7:05 as I repeatedly struggled to style my hair. May natural hair seemed to defy all the beauty standards around me. Each strand felt like a symbol of my insecurities, and each attempt to fix it chipped away at my confidence as a biracial teen. I constantly felt defeated. It was impossible to embrace the characteristics that made me who I am.

Everything changed on May 2, 2021, at 4:15 pm, during my first hair appointment for braids, a style I had not considered before. That day marked a pivotal turning point, igniting a newfound reverence for the aspects of myself that make me unique. My hair, once a source of frustration, transformed into my proudest form of self-expression. What had once filled me with dread became a source of empowerment, reshaping my perception of challenges in to opportunities to celebrate my identity, and fueling my journey of self-discovery and resilience.

After that day, I set out to learn how to style my hair on my own, experimenting with techniques and products until I found what worked for me. Through this process, I discovered beauty in uniqueness and the essence of my natural hair. I learned to embrace challenges and find strength in my difference. I also notice positive changes in various aspects of my life, particularly in my interactions with others. One example of this was during my time volunteering at the local library. A little girl approached me, here eyes lighting up as she admired my braids. In that moment, I realized I wanted to be a role model not just for how I present my hair, but also for my confidence, drive and character.

Now, when I look in the mirror, I see not just my reflection but growth, acceptance, and perseverance. I face obstacles head-on with a confidence that extends beyond my hair and into every aspect of my life. I aspire to show others, especially young girls, that embracing our uniqueness can lead to true strength. Currently, I'm focused on my goal of growing out my natural hair by gradually trimming off the damaged ends. This process has been challenging, but it serves as a reminder to keep pushing forward. Each trim symbolizes by commitment to personal growth and resilience, teaching me to navigate obstacles with determination and learn from every experience.

I take pride in who I've become and the determination I've developed along the way. That pivotal hair appointment on May 21, 2021 ignited my journey of self-discovery. I've learned patience, resourcefulness, and a quite strength that empowers me. My hair no longer defines me; instead, it represents the progress I've made and the resilience that shapes my identity today.

Website: www.fbcgastonia.org

Email: fbcogastonia@gmail.com

Worship Greeters

November:
Sam & Rita Robinson



November 20-30
20 – Heather Wynkoop
28 – Tim Griffin
29 – Regina Cann
30 – Lisa Pardo
30 – Liz Talluri



WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Fruit of the Spirit Review
November 20:
1 Corinthians 13

November 27: No Bible Study (Thanksgiving)

Sunday, December 1
beginning of Advent

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE @ 5 PM ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- *****
- UPCOMING EVENTS**
- Sunday, November 24**
Community Thanksgiving Service
 - Monday, November 25**
Finance and Deacons
 - Wednesday, November 27**
Alice vacation day
 - Thursday, November 28**
Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed
 - Friday, November 29**
Church Office Closed
 - Saturday, November 30**
Decorate for Christmas

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

First Baptist Church, Gastonia North Carolina

First Baptist Church 704-865-8576

2650 Union Road Fax: 704-865-8579
Gastonia NC 28054 -Mailing: PO Box 6298, Gastonia NC 28054-6018

A place to belong, a place to become, a place to bear witness

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Focus for

November, and December

Provide a Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner to the backpack families we Serve. Please contribute to the Backpack ministry fund and mark your Financial donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

The Backpack Ministry is now serving 7 families at Southwest Jr. High School. This consists of 30 people each week.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD CAMPAIGN

Troop 6, Pack 6 and Crew 6

Will be collecting canned goods and dry goods. Boxes will be placed in the SS hallway. Saturday, November 23rd is the last day to bring your goods.

MEMORIAL

In Memory of: Mike Spargo

By: David and Linda Wright

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of: Alice Foy and Steve Medlin

By: David and Linda Wright

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone, Please fill out form below. Poinsettias are \$10.00 this year. Last date to place your order is: Sunday, December 8

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Placed by:

Number of plants:____; Amount Included _____

YOU CAN HELP

With the closure of the Salvation Army's overnight shelter, Gaston County has seen an increase in homelessness and the loss of the only place in the area where the homeless could get a daily breakfast. This has created a significant gap in services, but you can help make a difference by providing Breakfast Blessing Bags. Each bag can include five items from the list below, offering essential nourishment to those in need. Gateway Gaston, in partnership with St. Mark's Episcopal, Gastonia Street Ministries, West View Baptist, Greater Gaston Baptist Association, Salvation Church, and others, will distribute these bags to ensure no one in our community goes without breakfast. You may bring your Breakfast Blessing Bags to the church Narthex or office, and Gateway Gaston, along with its partners, will handle distribution. This initiative is a part of FBCG's commitment to Financial Vitality, extending our outreach to care for the physical and spiritual needs of those around us. Let's come together to show God's love through action!

Grab and God Breakfast Bags Any 5 of these items will make a good Grab and go Breakfast Bag. NOTICE: Simple is best. Items that require refrigeration or prep are tough for our unhoused neighbors to utilize.

- Granola Bars or Protein Bars
- Fruit (such as an orange or banana with peels that do not require washing).
- Bottle Water
- Juice Box
- Muffins or Pastries (Individually wrapped for easy consumption).
- Cheese sticks or Individual Cheese portions.
- Peanut Butter or Nut Butter Packets
- Snack Crackers
- Dried Fruit Packs

Daily Prayer Prompts

You are invited to use this guide as you pray for First Baptist Gastonia and these four key focus areas.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prayer for Economic Vitality	Prayer for Domestic Violence Prevention	Prayer for Foster Care and Adoption	Prayer for Knowing God	Prayer for Economic Vitality	Prayer for Domestic Violence Prevention	Prayer for Foster Care and Adoption
Lord, bless those struggling in poverty with opportunities for financial stability and hope for a brighter future. Inspire us to provide support and resources to those in need. Amen.	Lord, provide safety and refuge to those in abusive situations, and open pathways to support and healing. Move us to be vigilant and supportive. Amen.	Lord, help those in foster care feel Your comforting presence, and ease the hearts of those who fear the unknown future. May we all reach out to offer support and kindness. Amen.	Lord, draw us closer to You each day, and help us to understand Your will for our lives. Inspire us to seek Your presence in all that we do. Amen.	Holy God, guide the wealthy to use their resources wisely and generously to uplift those in need. Encourage us to advocate for responsible and compassionate use of wealth. Amen.	Holy God, grant strength to survivors of abuse as they rebuild their lives. Bring peace and renewal. Inspire us to help and encourage.. Amen.	Holy God, bless adoptive families with understanding and patience, and calm the anxieties of children longing for stability. Inspire us to advocate for their needs. Amen.

When God said a joyful heart (or laughing heart) is good medicine, I believe he was literal in His meaning. The medical world has verified that laughter releases endorphins, God's natural painkillers, which are fifty to one hundred times more powerful than morphine. Don't you love that? The God of the universe has said all along that a joyful heart is good medicine. God has given us a prescription. All we have to do is fill the prescription.

Marilyn Meberg