

Wednesday Night Schedule Resumes on April 14

We will resume our Wednesday night schedule on April 14. Everything starts at 6:30 pm and concludes at 7:15 pm each week. The groups and rooms will be as follows:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service: Fellowship Hall

Adult Choir & Orchestra: Sanctuary

Youth Bible Study (Grades 6-12): The Xchange (Pizza available @ 6:15 pm)

Children (Grades 1-5): J.A.M (Jesus And Me), includes games, crafts, and Bible study. Registration is not required but parents will need to check-in their children each week. Classes meet in the children’s Sunday School classrooms, down the hall from the church office.

Preschoolers: Preschool Hallway Rooms

The Pastor’s Pen

Dr. Ralph Carter Preaching this Sunday, April 11

Dr. Ralph Carter will be preaching this Sunday as I plan to be on vacation the week of spring break. He and his wife, Regina, have two adult children and two grandchildren. Ralph has been one of my closest friends for over 35 years. I highly respect him as a wise and faithful man of God.

Ralph retired about three years ago after serving 25 years as pastor of Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Taylors, SC. Before going to Brushy Creek, he pastored a church in North Carolina for 15 years. Ralph is one of the most respected pastors in the Carolinas. He served in leadership positions in the Baptist conventions of both states, including a term as president of the SC Baptist Convention. Ralph is a gifted leader who led both churches he pastored to relocate their campuses, and by God’s grace, to experience consistent, healthy growth. He is also one of

(Continued Inside)

Firs Focus

A Weekly Newsletter for the Family and Friends of Pickens First Baptist

- All Church Members.....Ministers
- Fred Stone (859-5853).....Senior Pastor
- Bryan Hester (704-4802).....Worship & Associate Pastor
- Jeff Rafferty (607-8306).....Discipleship & Missions Pastor
- Mike Sterlachini (395-5880).....Student & Family Pastor
- Jennifer Hendrix (449-5381).....Preschool Director
- Katie Freeman.....Financial Secretary
- Tricia McJunkin.....Church Secretary

Church Phone: 864-878-6564

Website: www.fbcpickens.org

Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Thursday

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday

The Pastor's Pen Continued

the best preachers I have heard. Some of you will remember him preaching in revival services here many years ago. I know you will be blessed by Ralph's preaching this Sunday. I will look forward to being back on April 18 and resuming our study in Philippians.

Great Easter Celebration and Return to Regular Schedule

We had a great Easter celebration yesterday as we returned to our pre-pandemic Sunday morning schedule. Both worship services were well attended. We anticipated having our largest attendance in over a year, and thought it was safe and necessary to open all the pews on both sides of the sanctuary floor and in the balcony to accommodate the crowd. As it turned out, we would not have been able to seat everyone in either service without those pews.

We considered it safe to do that for several reasons: people in the COVID-19 high risk category have had time to receive the vaccine, infection numbers have been down significantly in Pickens County, and the CDC has reduced social distancing from 6 to 3 feet for schools. However, for the benefit of those who prefer to maintain more social distancing, we kept every other pew roped off in the middle section of the sanctuary floor. Hopefully, we will be able to remove those ropes in the near future and return to a normal, pandemic-free way of life.

Deacon Selection – May 2

We will select 5 new deacons on Sunday morning, May 2. As set forth in our church bylaws, deacons are chosen from among the men of our church who are at least 21 years of age and have been a member of the church for at least one year. For the convenience of our church family, a list of men who meet this age and membership requirement is available in the vestibule. However, our church has higher qualifications for deacons than just age and membership requirements.

We require deacons to meet the biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7. Generally, these qualifications require that a man demonstrate Godly character, doctrinal soundness, and the spiritual qualities necessary to provide effective leadership in his home and the church. He should also be faithful to the church in attendance, service, and giving.

Please keep these qualifications in mind as you prayerfully look through the list of men in our church. On Sunday morning, May 2, be prepared to vote for 5 men who meet these qualifications. Keep in mind that this is not a nomination process. The top five qualified men who agree to serve will be presented to the church on August 8 for confirmation.

The men whose names are listed below are currently serving as deacons. Those rotating off this year are ineligible for re-election for one year.

Rotate Off in 2021

Milledge Cassell
Brett Garrison
Michael Hendrix
Davey Hiott
William Reece

Rotate Off in 2022

Joe Dunn
Lynn Fisher
Larry Martin
Roger Smith
Mendel Stewart

Rotate Off in 2023

Zander Clarkson
Jimmy Dickard
David Harper
Don Shuman
Jeff Turner

Discipleship and Missions from Jeff

Mission Trip to Dakota Sonshine

We are making plans for a mission trip to Dakota Sonshine from June 26th – July 3rd. The trip will consist of either working with the Native American children in camp, or small work projects such as painting, etc. Cost of the trip will be \$500 for church members. Please contact Jeff at either 878-6564 ext. 105 or Jeff@fbcpickens.org if interested in participating or with questions. The deadline is May 1, 2021 to turn in a deposit of \$100.00.

Mission Focus:

Praying for Pastor Juan in Peru!

Juan Pacheco is Pastor of the Belén Baptist Church in Collique, Peru. PFBC has had a partnership with Pastor Juan since 2017. Collique is located on the outskirts of Lima, and is a place where social problems such as gangs, consumption and illegal sale of drugs abound in the midst of extreme poverty. For these reasons, Juan developed social assistance programs, such as being a Compassion International Church, aimed at supporting children and needy families in the community. As a result, many of these families have come to know the Lord and have become a part of the church. Pastor Juan has been married to his wife, Yesica for 28 years, and they have three children. In Collique many people have died from Covid. Most of the church families have been affected by Covid through sickness, death of family members, and deeply impacted financially. Pray for Pastor Juan and his wife so that they may continue to serve the Lord and that the church continues to grow stronger.



PRESCHOOL NEWS From Jennifer

Nursery Workers for 2021

We need your help! If you would like to volunteer on a rotation schedule to work with our preschoolers (birth through kindergarten) during the 10:30 a.m. service, please let me know. You may call or text me at 864-449-5381 or email me at jennifer@fbcpickens.org. All volunteers must have a background check completed through the church and have been a member of our church for at least 6 months.



Nursery Workers Needed

Preschool Worship Volunteers, 10:30 a.m. Service

April 11: Babies & 1's, Sheila Dunn & Denise Day; 2's & 3's, Amy Sargent & LeAnne Sargent; K4's & K5's, Philip & Cheryl Aguero

April 18: Babies & 1's, Vicky Hedden & Lisa Hiott; 2's & 3's, Amy, Sophie, and Sadie Sawyer; K4's & K5's, Brett & Lauren Garrison

Safety Team Rotation Assignment

The Month Of April

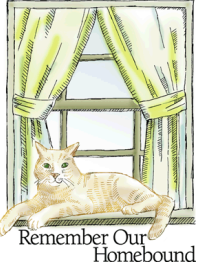
4th - Team B
11th - Team C
18th - Team D
25th - Team A

Student Ministry News from Mike



Graduate Recognition Service

Graduation is right around the corner! If your high school or college student (associate, bachelor, or graduate degree) is graduating, please let Mike know. Also, please email him five pictures of your graduate in a JPEG format. These photos should be a mix of baby, child, and graduation pictures. We will use these pictures at our *Graduation Recognition Service* on Sunday, May 16 at 10:30am. All pictures need to be emailed by Tuesday, May 4 to mike@fbcpickens.org.



Please Remember To Pray For Our Homebound

Please notify the church office if you or a family member would like to be added to our homebound or in-care facility lists.



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions

2021 theme is "The Mission Moves Forward"

Church Goal: \$7,500.00

Given To Date: \$1,985.00

Prayer guides are available in the vestibule and the Welcome Center along with extra envelopes if needed.

*"For God so loved the world
that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16



Disaster Relief Training

There will be a *Disaster Relief* training session at Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Easley on April 17. Space will be limited so if you need your credentials updated, you might want to register early. This is about as close to home as DR training is going to get.

If you know anyone that is interested in becoming a volunteer please pass this on to them.

Pickens First Baptist Church Schedule

Sunday, April 11

8:00 a.m. - 1st Worship Service
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - 2nd Worship Service

Wednesday, April 14

6:30p.m. - Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service, FH;
Preschool, Children's, and Youth Activities;
Adult Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal, Sanc.

FACTS & FIGURES

April 4, 2021

Building Fund: \$562,154.61

Sunday School - 205
Offering - \$24,006.67
Offering to Date - \$287,756.26
Goal to Date - \$305,718.84

To Give Online:

1. Go to www.fbcpickens.org
2. Click on the "MyPFBC" Icon
3. Click on "Give"
4. Choose "Create an Account" or "Give Without A Login" and follow the directions

If you have any questions, you may call Katie in the church office at 878-6564.

Year-End Contribution Statements

If you have a MyPFBC account, your 2020 contribution statement is now available to view/print. To print your contribution statement, please do the following:





- Log-in to your account
- Select the *Giving History* tab
- Click the gray *PDF Tax Statement* button

***Please call or email Katie if you have any questions or if you would like your statement mailed, emailed, or printed for pick-up. 878-6564 / katie@fbcpickens.org



*Year-End
Contribution
Statements*

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

April 11, 2021

Opening Song

Revive Us Again

Scripture

Psalm 85: 5-7

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Congregational Songs

Cornerstone

Speak, O Lord

Welcome and Greeting

Message In Song.....Richard Painter

Message From God's Word.....Dr. Ralph Carter

Song Of Commitment

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

Closing Prayer

8:00 a.m. - David Harper

10:30 a.m. - Davey Hiott

Closing Song

Revive Us Again

Pickens First Baptist Church exists to be a Worshiping, Evangelizing, Learning,
and Loving (W.E.L.L.) family of faith to the glory of God. (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47;
1 Cor. 10:31).

Online Worship Service Available

* On YouTube: On your smart TV, smartphone, iPad, or computer go to:

fbcpickens.org/youtube

* On Pickens FBC Website: On your smartphone, iPad, or computer,

go to: www.fbcpickens.org