

**Called Church Conference this Sunday Morning, May 2  
 9:20 AM in the Sanctuary (No Adult Sunday School Classes Will Meet)  
 See Agenda Inside Newsletter  
 Youth, Children, & Preschool Sunday School Classes will Meet as Usual**

**Deacon Selection this Sunday Morning, May 2  
 Please pick up a ballot on your way into the worship service.  
 See Details on Deacon Selection Inside Newsletter**

***The Pastor's Pen***

**My Retirement**

I sent a letter to all members of our church on April 20 announcing my retirement, and announced it in person last Sunday. For the benefit of nonmembers who attend our church regularly but were not here last Sunday, I want to share some of the details of the announcement.

My retirement will become effective August 1, 2021. My last day of ministry will be Sunday, July 11. I will take July 12–31 as vacation. I have chosen the second Sunday of July as my last Sunday as it will mark my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as your pastor. This timing will also allow me to retire with Lisa, as she is retiring at the end of this school year after a 30-year career as a teacher.

Lisa and I consider coming to Pickens FBC to be one of the Lord's greatest blessings of our lives. We have only love and gratitude in our hearts for you, our church family, for the privilege you have given us of being a part of your lives and serving the Lord together for all these years.

While Lisa and I will no longer be members of the church after I retire, we plan to remain in this great community. Even though I will not be your pastor after retirement, I will continue to be your friend and hope that our paths will cross from time to time.

# First 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](http://www.fbcpickens.org)  
 Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Thursday  
 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday

### 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

### Called Church Conference Sunday Morning, May 2, 2021 9:20 am in the Sanctuary (No Sunday School on May 2)

The Deacons will present a recommendation concerning the following matters on Sunday morning, May 2:

- Repair entryway outside the sanctuary and add portico
- Make connector between sanctuary vestibule and old educational building more accessible and add restrooms close to vestibule
- Make all ground floor entrances more accessible
- Add a Children's Ministry hallway check-in room/station
- Replace educational building HVAC units

The church will vote on the recommendation on Sunday, May 9, in the morning worship services.

### Parent-Child Dedication – May 9 in the 10:30 AM Worship Service

Parents who would like to participate in this dedication are asked to do two things.

1. Sign-up by calling the church office (878-6564) or email Jennifer Hendrix ([jennifer@fbcpickens.org](mailto:jennifer@fbcpickens.org)) by Monday, May 3.
2. Email 5 pictures of your child to [media@fbcpickens.org](mailto:media@fbcpickens.org) by Monday, May 3. Please include the names of the parents, child, and the child's date of birth.

COUNT YOUR  
**BLESSINGS.**  
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.  
COUNT YOUR  
**MANY BLESSINGS**  
SEE WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE.

## ***Discipleship and Missions from Jeff***

### **Cafe Connections is in need of the following:**

1. Prayer Encouragers to "adopt" a client as a secret sister/brother for approximately 8-10 weeks as clients are in recovery. Encouragers are asked to commit to staying in touch with their "adoptee" once per month, if not weekly (most preferable). Encouragers are asked to pray, and on occasion provide a small gift like a candy bar, journal or maybe a \$5 gift card to a local eatery, for their "adoptee". BOTH the "encourager" and "adoptee" will remain anonymous to each other, and will ONLY be known by their first names. Cards and gifts can be dropped off at Cafe Connections. Please call for hours of operation.
2. A small group, individual, or business to provide a meal ONCE per month for 15-20 Behavioral Health Clients and Homeless thru October, 2021. This would be for a Monday OR Tuesday, during the 4th week of every month. For more info call Ann @ 201-1772.

### **Samaritan's Purse**

We have an opportunity to go to the Samaritan's Purse processing center on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and help assemble shoeboxes that will be going to restricted countries! Instead of making their own shoeboxes this year many people paid online to have Samaritan's Purse build them a shoebox. Now Samaritan's Purse has all the contents but needs help putting them together. The exciting part of this is that every one of these boxes will go to countries who restrict the Gospel from entering in other ways. We only have a few spots available, so if you are interested in going and helping with this exciting opportunity then please contact Jeff at 878-6564 ext. 105. We will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. and will return to the church at approximately 9:00 p.m.

### **Mission Trip to Honduras with Carpenters For Christ**

Carpenters For Christ has been asked to come to San Marcos de Colon, Honduras to help the Good Samaritan Ministry with several projects such as well digging, construction, teaching, VBS, evangelism, and many other opportunities to share the gospel.

Trip date: Saturday, June 12 - Saturday, June 19, 2021

Trip cost \$1650.00

If you have any questions concerning this trip, please call Randy Atkins (864-612-0165) or Mike Ravan (864-621-0916).

## ***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 and 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 *Graduate Recognition Service* on Sunday, May 16 at 10:30am. Please include the school he/she is graduating from and degree. All pictures and information need to be emailed by Tuesday, May 4th to [mike@fbcpickens.org](mailto:mike@fbcpickens.org).

### **Terrific Thursdays During the Summer**

On selected Thursdays throughout the summer, our preschool, children, youth, and their families are invited for a time of fun. All events are free and open to all family members and their friends/guests.

- June 10: Otter Creek Water Park in Greenville  
**We have rented the entire park for our church** from 5:45pm-7:45pm. PFBC families and friends will have **FREE** access to all rides and pools. Families will meet at Otter Creek and are responsible for any food and drinks they buy while at the park.
- June 24: Table Rock State Park in Pickens  
We will meet at the playground area from 10:30am-12:30pm. From there we will have access to the beach, hiking trails, waterfalls, canoes, pedal boats, grills, etc. Beginning around noon, a free picnic will be provided to everyone.
- July 8: Sliding Rock in Pickens  
We will meet at Sliding Rock for a time of fun from 10:30am-12:30pm. A free picnic will be provided around noon.
- July 22: Pool party and cookout at Davey Hiott's house  
We will meet at Davey Hiott's house from 5:45pm-7:45pm to swim and have a cookout. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

If we get rained out on one of these Thursdays, we will go bowling at Rock Springs or roller skating in Easley. Make sure you are receiving the children and/or youth texting updates from Mike.

### **Volunteers Needed!**

We are in need of AWANA volunteers for the fall. If you are interested in serving in this very important ministry, you can sign up in the vestibule. Information on the volunteer positions is also posted there. Leaders must love children, be members of the church, and pass a background check. See Chad Blackston or Mike Sterlachini if you have any questions.





**Welcome New Member!**

**Olivia Stone**

(daughter of David and Amy Stone)  
550 Old Bethlehem School Rd  
Pickens SC 29671

***Bryan's Notes***

Hello Church Family,

I want to make you aware of three trips that we are planning again this year. Two of them are in the fall and at Christmas and one is right around the corner in May. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these trips as soon as possible so reservations can be made. **Sign Up sheets are located outside Adult IV or you can call me or email me about signing up.**

- **Thursday, May 6th: Trip to Eat Lunch at The Junction and to get Strawberries at Strawberry Hill USA**

**Cost:** Lunch and how many strawberries you buy

**Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, May 2.**

- **October 11 - 14: (Monday - Thursday) Celebrators in Pigeon Forge, TN.**

Speakers include Dr. David Jeremiah, Phil Waldrep, Former Vice President Mike Pence, Dennis Swanberg. Musical Guest include Charles Billingsley, The Collingsworth Family, The Gaither Vocal Band, and Gordon Mote.

**The Cost is:**

\* \$298 - 2 to a room

\* \$224 - 3 to a room

\* \$186 - 4 to a room

\* \$522 - 1 to a room

\*No meals are included except for breakfast at the hotel on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We are staying at the LaQuinta Inn in Pigeon Forge, TN, 125 Community Center Drive.

**Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, May 30th - \$100 per person due that day.**

- **December 2 - 4: (Thursday - Saturday) Trip to Myrtle Beach to see 2 Christmas Shows**

The cost includes 2 Christmas Shows at the Alabama Theater and The Carolina Opry; 2 Dinners at Chuck's Steakhouse and Original Benjamins; breakfast at the hotel Friday and Saturday mornings; and lodging at the Beach Cove Resort. *\*Right now we are planning to take our church bus. If we get a good number to go, we could charter a bus. That would bring the cost per person up by \$50-\$75 per person. We will have to see how many people sign up.*

**The Cost is: (Without a Charter Bus)**

\* \$227 per person - 2 to a room

\* \$307 per person - 1 to a room

**Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, June 27th- \$100 per person due that day.**

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

**May 2:** Babies & 1's, Jeff & Kelly Turner; 2's & 3's, Doug & Jeanine Hayes; K4's & K5's, Jennifer Hendrix

**May 9:** Babies & 1's, Jennifer Hendrix; 2's & 3's, Sarah Rafferty; K4's & K5's, Phillip & Cheryl Aguero

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**Safety Team Rotation Assignment**

**The Month Of May**

**2nd** - Team B

**9th** - Team C

**16th** - Team D

**23rd** - Team A

**30th** - Team B

### Pickens First Baptist Church Schedule

#### Sunday, May 2

8:00 a.m. - 1st Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. - Called Church Conf.  
10:30 a.m. - 2nd Worship Service

#### Wednesday, May 5

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

### FACTS & FIGURES

April 25, 2021

Sunday School - 207  
Offering - \$18,167.00  
Offering to Date - \$354,592.05  
Goal to Date - \$371,230.02

Building Fund: \$565,047.21

Annie Armstrong: \$4,855.00

## CONTACT information



If you have an address, phone number, or email address change, please contact the church office to let us know so we can update your information (878-6564 or [tricia@fbcpickens.org](mailto:tricia@fbcpickens.org)).

If you have a MyPFBC account, log in to update your information.

Thank you so much for your help! We want everyone included in the church's communications.



1. Monthly literature including *Home Life*, *Mature Living*, *Journey*, *Stand Firm*, and *Living With Teenagers* is available in the Welcome Center. Please feel free to come by each month and pick up a copy.
2. Offering envelopes are available in the church office, on the table in the vestibule, and on the desk in the Welcome Center if you are in need of any.
3. If you would like us to email you a newsletter each week, please provide us with your email address.
4. Please call the church office at 878-6564 if we can help you in any way!

Free copies of the book, *Pickens: The Town and The First Baptist Church, 1891-1991*, by Jane Morris are available in the church office. The book was written for the centennial celebration of the church in 1991.

### CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

	<a href="https://fbcpickens.org/youtube">fbcpickens.org/youtube</a>
	<a href="https://fbcpickens.org/facebook">fbcpickens.org/facebook</a>
	<a href="https://fbcpickens.org/instagram">fbcpickens.org/instagram</a>
	<a href="https://fbcpickens.org/twitter">fbcpickens.org/twitter</a>

# Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

May 2, 2021

Opening Song

*His Mercy Is More*

Scripture

Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed is the man[a]  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
2 but his delight is in the law[b] of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

Congregational Songs

*For The Cause*

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Welcome and Prayer

Message In Song.....Richard Painter

Message From God's Word.....Pastor Fred Stone

Song Of Commitment

*Glorify Thy Name*

Closing Prayer

8:00 a.m. - Mendel Stewart

10:30 a.m. - Jeff Turner

Closing Song

Hymn No. 202 *All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name*

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](http://fbcpickens.org/youtube)

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

go to: [www.fbcpickens.org](http://www.fbcpickens.org)