

**FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR**

These are exciting times at FBC Pickens. You voted this last week to move forward with necessary repairs and renovations to your facility. By repairing damage done to your building by water intrusion, you are insuring the use of your building for generations to come. Your facility is one of the most beautiful and worshipful in which I have preached and it is well worth the investment you are making to maintain it's usefulness.

Additionally, you are taking steps to make your building far more accessible to those with special needs than it has been in the past. The widening of some doors and the additional restrooms will make it far more accessible to some. And, it is a very commendable thing to do. Imagine if you went to a church and the entrance was only 3 feet high. Could you join them for worship? Perhaps, but for most it would not be without great difficulty. That is a difficulty those in wheelchairs face every day of their lives when attempting to gain entrance to buildings that do not accommodate their special needs. Churches can unwittingly send a message to special needs worshippers that they aren't as welcome as others. As someone who has only been around a couple of months I can attest to the fact that is not the mentality of FBC Pickens. Your love for people shows. I commend you for having the insight to make these repairs and renovations. While it momentarily places you in debt, it is good stewardship to make this move.

Additionally, I hope you will be prayerful about what God would have you give or pledge toward this endeavor. Your generosity on the front end of this project will save the church thousands of dollars in interest over the course of time. With God's help, you can pay off this debt in record time.

# First Focus

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

- All Church Members.....Ministers
- Ralph Carter, Jr. ....Interim 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

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

### **Bible Training Center for Pastors and Church Leaders**

We have recently started teaching the second course (OT Survey) of the Bible Training Center for Pastors via Zoom to Peruvian Pastors and Church Leaders. We have more than 90 students participating. We would like to share a couple of letters we have received from two pastors expressing how these courses have impacted their ministries and how grateful they are to PFBC for providing, not only the course, but also the text book and a study bible.

#### **From Pastor Asencio Cruzado:**

Hola Pickens First Baptist Church, por este medio quiero agradecer al Señor y a ustedes, por haberme permitido estudiar este curso que sin duda a sido de mucha inspiración para mí vida y ministerio. Además, agradecerles por el libro del curso y por otras bendiciones que ustedes nos compartan. Espero en el Señor, seguir estudiando en el Centro de entrenamiento Bíblico para pastores y líderes. Dios les bendiga, y sigan adelante.

Ps. Asencio Cruzado

#### **Translation:**

Hello Pickens First Baptist Church, I want to thank the Lord and all of you for allowing me to study this OT Survey course that has undoubtedly been a great inspiration for my life and ministry. Also, thank you for the course book and the study bible. They are true blessings to us. I hope in the Lord that I will be able to keep studying at the Bible Training Center for Pastors and Church Leaders. God Bless you, and keep carrying on.

Pastor Ascencio Cruzado

#### **From Pastor Victor and Mariam Caballero:**

Buenos dias Pickens First Baptist Church, permitame agradecerle a usted y a todos los pastores encargados de hacer posible los estudios de capacitacion que yo y mi esposa venimos recibiendo, gracias por los libros de perspectiva general del antiguo testamento y por las biblias de estudio Reina Valera Contemporanea, estamos muy agradecidos por dichos presentes y por todo el amor de Dios que tienen en sus corazones. Que Dios siga bendiciendo su ministerio y de todos los ministros del Centro de Capacitacion biblica para pastores. Un abrazo, la amamos en el Señor.

Ps. Victor Caballero y Mariam

#### **Translation:**

Good morning Pickens First Baptist Church! Let me thank you and all the pastors in charge of making possible the training studies that I and my wife have been receiving. Thank you for the Old Testament Survey course book and for the Study Bibles, we are very grateful for these presents and for the love that you have shown us. May God continue to bless the ministry of him and of all the ministers of the Biblical Training Center for Pastors. A hug, we love you in the Lord.

Pastor Victor and Mariam

### **Elijah Ladies Bible Study**

Old Testament heroes are best known for their most celebrated moments: Moses dividing the Red Sea; David slaying Goliath; Gideon routing an insurmountable army; Joshua marching around the defiant walls of Jericho.

And Elijah—calling down fire on Mount Carmel.

Blinded by the remarkable narratives of our biblical heroes, we can forget that they each had a backstory—months and years of development, even difficulty, which fortified their spiritual muscle and prepared them for the tasks that made their lives unforgettable.

**Elijah will be beginning on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in room E250. Taught by Judy Holder and Helen Batson.**





## ***Bryan's Notes***

Look at these upcoming events for the Fall:



- **Look at this special Date Coming in September: Monday, September 13th we will have a Luncheon with the *Upstate Brass Quintet*.** One of our own, Mark Chambliss, plays in this group. We will meet for lunch at 11:30 am and The Upstate Brass Quintet will play for us. You will not want to miss this!! The cost is \$5.00 per person and a gift for Pickens Elementary School (\$5 gift cards to Chick-fil a, \$5 gift card to Coyote Coffee, Hand Sanitizer, Money Gift for a teacher to buy supplies, a box of pencils, box of crayons, dry erase markers) **The Deadline to Sign Up is Sunday, September 12th.** You can sign up outside the Adult 4 Sunday School area on the second floor, call the church office, or go online.
- **Monday, October 4th: Trip to Hendersonville, NC for Apples and Lunch**
- **October 11-14: Celebrators in Pigeon Forge, TN. (Already booked - waiting list only. Please contact me if you would like to be put on a waiting list)**
- **November 8: Lunch and Singing in the Fellowship Hall: 11:30 am - Cost \$5.00 for Lunch plus bring a bag of can goods for United Christian Ministries**
- **December 2-4: Trip to Myrtle Beach for 2 Christmas Shows - (Call me (Bryan) for more information)**
- **December 13: Dillard House Trip in Dillard, Georgia - Cost \$10 per person - Leave at 10:00 am**

\*Please Contact me (Bryan) for more information: [bryan@fbcpickens.org](mailto:bryan@fbcpickens.org); 864-704-4802 (my cell)

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

**September 12:** Babies & 1's, Milledge & Linda Cassell; Older Preschoolers, Amy Sargent & LeAnne Sargent

**September 19:** Babies & 1's, Kim, Riley, & Tara Ann Rogers; Older Preschoolers, Amy, Sophie, & Sadie Sawyer

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### **Safety Team Rotation Assignment**

#### **The Month Of September**

**5th** - Team D  
**12th** - Team A  
**19th** - Team B  
**26th** - Team C

### Giving Sunday

As we approach our "Giving Sunday" on September 12, please prayerfully consider what God would have you do. Depending on the unknowns of the project, over the next 3 years, we may need to raise \$500,000, which is 1/6 of what we would normally give as a budget offering in the same timeframe. Doing this will help keep the church on sound financial ground and pay off our debt sooner, saving thousands of dollars.

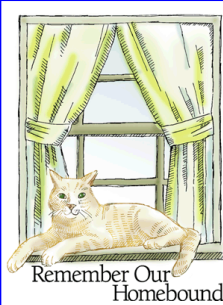
So, if you give weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annually, it doesn't matter. Simply multiply what you are presently giving by 1.166 or divide the amount you are giving by 6 and that is the amount you would need to give to help pay the construction project off in 3 years.

If I was giving \$100 per week, I'd now give \$116.66 weekly.

If I was giving \$1,200 per month, I'd now give \$1,400 per month.

If I was giving \$3,000 annually, I'd now give \$3,500 per year.

Fund Raising Committee



### Homebound Ministry Birthdays For September

Martha Banks - September 30th

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

### IN BRIEF

Dear Pickens First Baptist Church,

The Samaritan Health Clinic would like to thank you for your financial support and your faith in what we do for the low-income and uninsured people of Pickens County.

Despite COVID, this past year we had over 2200 patient visits and filled over 1500 prescriptions. We have also been able to service over 800 patients at our Dental Clinic over the last 5 years. We continue to live out our mission statement by sharing the love of Christ through medical service, health education, and spiritual counseling.

We hope that we can count on your continued support in the future.

Again, thank you for the support.


Blessings,

Lori Buckheister, Ex Dir & your friends at the Clinic

**Bible Quiz**

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)

## Pickens First Baptist Church Schedule

### Sunday, September 12

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

### Tuesday, September 14

9:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible Studies,  
 Room E357 and Room E250

### Monday, September 13

11:00 a.m. - S.A.M. Luncheon, FH

### Wednesday, September 15

6:15 p.m. - Orchestra Rehearsal  
 6:30 p.m. - Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service,  
 FH; Preschool, Awana, and Youth Activities;  
 Adult Choir & Small Groups Rehearsal, Sanc.



**The Janie Chapman Offering For State Missions Goal is \$7,000.00**

### FACTS & FIGURES

**September 5, 2021**

**Building Fund: \$538,558.16**

Sunday School - Information  
 Offering - \$ Not Available  
 Offering to Date - \$ Due to Early Deadline  
 Goal to Date - \$

### 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>

**Thank you for worshipping with us Today!**

*Please complete, tear off, and place in offering plate.*



## Connect with Us Here at PFBC!

Name
Email
Phone Number

I would like to know more about becoming a Christian.

I would like to know more about Pickens First Baptist Church.

# Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

September 12, 2021

The Mainline Quartet Mini Concert

*When We All Get Together*

*Step Into The Water*

*Daystar*

Scripture

Lamentations 3:22-23

<sup>22</sup>

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup>

they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

Congregational Song

*We Will Remember*

Prayer and Welcome

*A Perfect Heart*.....The Mainline Quartet

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

Song of Commitment

*Just As I Am*

Special Offering for Building Project

Closing Prayer

8:00 a.m. - Joe Dunn

10:30 a.m.- Jimmy Dickard

Closing Song

*To God Be The Glory*

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)