

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Wednesday, January 11

5:30 pm Family First Feast

Menu: Taco Soup with sour cream/cheese, Corn chips, brownie, drink 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 15

9:45 am Sunday School, Chapel Class

11:00 am Morning Worship – Sanctuary & Streamed Live Rev. Dwayne Burks Kid’s Zone – Room 106

Wednesday, January 18

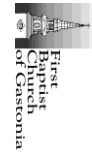
5:30 pm Family First Feast

Menu: Pork Tenderloin Sliders/Slaw/Baked Beans/ Coconut Custard Pie/Drink 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 22

9:45 am Sunday School, Chapel Class

11:00 am Morning Worship – Sanctuary & Streamed Live Rev. Dwayne Burks Quarterly Business Meeting Kid’s Zone – Room 106



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# The Builder

First Baptist Church of Gastonia

Volume XII Number 1

Week of January 15, 2023

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR DEACON CHAIR

Thanks to Rev. Dwayne Burks for leading our Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services. Thanks to the Worship committee & Avis for preparing for the Christmas Eve communion and to the deacons who helped with that portion of that service. Thanks to Dottie Eddings for her rendition of Mary Did you Know? The Christmas Eve candlelight communion was a beautiful celebration and well attended.

### Normal church schedule resuming this week

This week we will return to our “normal” post-pandemic schedule with the Family First Feasts resuming on Wednesday evening starting serving at 5:30pm and ending around 6:30, followed by choir rehearsal at 7pm. Sunday school also started back this past Sunday so please plan for that at 9:45pm on Sundays.

### Event coming up – Jan. 22nd

The Pastor Search Committee is meeting this week to draft a letter to the congregation so please be on the lookout for that, and we’re tentatively scheduling our 1st quarterly church business meeting of 2023 for Sunday, January 22nd immediately after the service. At this writing we’re anticipating the primary order of business will be the presentation of the Pastor Search Committee of a candidate for Interim Pastor, followed by a vote on that candidate by the members in attendance.

### Final installment of Dr. Aldrich’s last sermon to FBC Gastonia

In this week’s Builder is the last portion of Dr. Aldrich’s last sermon preached in our pulpit on December 30th, 2012. He was 91 at that time. He turned 101 in December and his message is as meaningful and impactful now as it was then. Enjoy!

I look forward to seeing you in church!

Church E-Mail: [fbcogastonia@gmail.com](mailto:fbcogastonia@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.fbcgastonia.org](http://www.fbcgastonia.org)

### Worship Greeters

#### January

Donnie Cann, Sam Robinson, Avis Taylor

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### MEMORIALS/HONORARIUM

In Memory of: Norma Coleman

By: Joyce Laws

In Memory of: W. C. & Nita Groves Pearl Bell

By: David & Shelia Groves

In Memory of: Ronald Holland and Kitty Holland Johnson

By: Ken and Cindy Holland

In Memory of: Wesley Long

By: Larry & Loretta Harris, Ann Siva

In Memory of: Geri Pearson

By: Joyce Laws

In Memory of: Bettye Psomadakis

By: Joyce Laws

In Memory of: Audrey Rainey

By: Joyce Laws

In Honor of: Ben Johnson

By: Ken and Cindy Holland

### CMC – Charlotte

Sharon Smith

Christian Sympathy is extended to Suzanne Long and family upon the death of her son, Wesley Long, Sunday, January 1, 2023

### IN LOVING MEMORY WESLEY LONG JANUARY 1, 2023

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family the Rev. Dr. Ann Charlescraft, upon her death in Virginia. Ann was Associate Minister of Christian Education under the leadership of the late Dr. E. Leon Smith

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



**January 9 - 22, 2023**

- 9 – Lewis Denton
- James Harvey
- 10 – Patti Black
- 16 – Sue Harvey
- 25- Carrie Desmond

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**This is the seventh and final portion of the transcript of Dr. Aldrich's last sermon delivered to the First Baptist Church of Gastonia on December 30th, 2012.**

The seventh turning point has led me from resisting the aging process to embracing it. I might as well - it is not going away. I never dreamed I would live this long. This means facing life's declining energy, dealing with increasing health problems, and coping with the inevitable grief experiences.

You may laugh at me but I have a list right by the door before I go out of my apartment. And the list has on it: Did you take your pills this morning? Did you put your ear phones in? Did you put your teeth in? Did you put your glasses on? Some you have gotten to the point where you know what I'm talking about. Well, that's a part of the aging process and we just have to embrace it.

Let me deal with the grief situation in closing. I don't believe I fear death, but I'm a coward when it comes to facing the death of a loved one. When Edna Lou died, I literally went numb. I almost felt, I think I did feel God forsaken. I felt lost and alone, yet a strange thing happened. It proved to be a mystical experience and I'm not given to many mystical experiences. But this was mystical. One word was burning itself on my consciousness. I was unable to erase that word - I couldn't get it off my mind. It just kept on pressing itself on me. You know what that word was? It was gratitude. I thought - why am I thinking about gratitude? I just lost my wife, the dearest treasure of my life. The more I reflected, the more I realize that God was there with me. He was telling me to be grateful. Why not? After all, I had had more than 64 years of marriage to this wonderful woman, wife, mother and grandmother.

**(continued next column)**

**Dr. Aldrich's final transcript continued from column 1.**

I have 2 rewarding children and their wonderful spouses. I have five grandchildren – no, I now have six, because my oldest grandson married a lovely young lady who is here this morning.

You know, I could have chosen self-pity. I could have chosen anger. I could have chosen bitterness. I could have chosen withdrawal. No. I've chosen gratitude, and that has made all the difference.

So, life's turning points have led to broader horizons and they challenge me to keep on growing, even at the age of 91. My biggest discovery about life is the all-inclusiveness of the love of God. No one is left out.

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**Domestic Violence Sunday  
Sunday, January 29**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE takes many forms. It can involve mental, emotional, physical, and even spiritual abuse. Over 10,000,000 Americans experience domestic abuse annually. On a typical day over 19,000 calls flood domestic violence hotlines.

Yet, the church tends to remain, for the most part, silent on this crucial issue that increased 42% during the most recent period for which data is available.

Please plan to join us at 11 am on January 29 when a member of our own community will share her story of rising above abuse. Hope United will also be on site and available with their expertise and services.

This is a great opportunity to invite friends, families, members, and colleagues who are interested in learning more about this important topic.

KeEp DaNciN'  
Pastor Dwayne

**Domestic Violence Realities:**

- In the short time it takes to read this article, at least 35 people will experience domestic abuse
- An abuser's access to a firearm increases the risk of intimate partner femicide by 400%.

**Source**

[https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/domestic\\_violence-2020080709350855.pdf?1596828650457men](https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/domestic_violence-2020080709350855.pdf?1596828650457men)

**WORSHIP**

Rev. Dwayne Burks will be preaching the month of January.

**Sermons and Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, January 15**  
"Brokenness"  
II Chronicles 20:1-22

**Sunday, January 22**  
"Reckless Radical Grace"  
Philippines 2:6-11

**Sunday, January 29**  
"Freedom"  
I Peter 1:1-11  
Domestic Violence Sunday  
Special Guest: Gina Robinson



**Message from the Pastor Search Committee**

The interim period can be an opportunity for congregational development and renewal, rather than just a time to keep the doors open a planned interim pastorate can have positive and long-lasting benefits for the congregation. This in-between-ministers time can prove to be valuable for our congregation not just to give continuity until a new pastor arrives, but to provide a designated period to resolve problems, evaluate ourselves, and select priorities and goals for the future.

**MISSIONS**

**BACK PACK MINISTRY**

**Monetary donations are needed to buy the items that are needed. Thanks for your help.**

We now have 8 families with a total of 42 people. The bags are now delivered to Southwest Middle School on Tuesdays before 10:00 am.

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**THANK YOU FROM  
LEAST OF THESE**

First Baptist Church, Happy New Year! LOTC wants to take time to say Thank You for your partnership with us this past year! You guys are SO gracious to us to let caregivers get gifts wrapped in your facility for 12 of Christmas. Over 850 children were served this year from all Christmas events and we could not do this as smoothly if it were not for your dependable facility. We are excited for 2023 with you!  
Love, LOTC Team

