

THE BEACON
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Access the FBC Prayer Guide here:

andersonfbc.org/prayer-guide



307 S. Manning Street, Anderson, SC 29624
CHURCH OFFICE — 224-1622
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER — 224-2635
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 - 4:00; Fri. 9:00 - 3:00

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MINISTER ON CALL: (after hours & weekends)
Call: 224-1622, Press 6, leave name, number and a brief message
and the MINISTER ON CALL will return your call promptly.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Colquitt Buckner

December 29, 2020

Proud Parents:

Nick and Trinity Buckner

Grandmother:

Kerin Buckner

Great-Grandmother:

Betty Madden

Holland Chase Darby

December 31, 2020

7 lbs. 7 oz. 19 1/4 in.

Proud Parents:

Jake and Amber Darby

Sisters:

Audrey and Blake

Grandparents:

Alicia Darby

Mike and Lyn Darby

Great-Grandparents:

Judy Darby

Jerry and Patricia Neal

CONDOLENCES

Family and friends on the passing of
Barbara Standeffer on 01/01/21

Betty Kimbrell and Margaret Hicks on the passing
of their brother, Ben Brabson, on 1/6/2021

PLEASE NOTE

If you have a change in address,
phone number or email, please notify
the church office: 224-1622 or
email: sharon.royals@andersonfbc.org
Thank you!



FIRST BAPTIST
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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THE BEACON

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Watch Worship live on Sunday Mornings

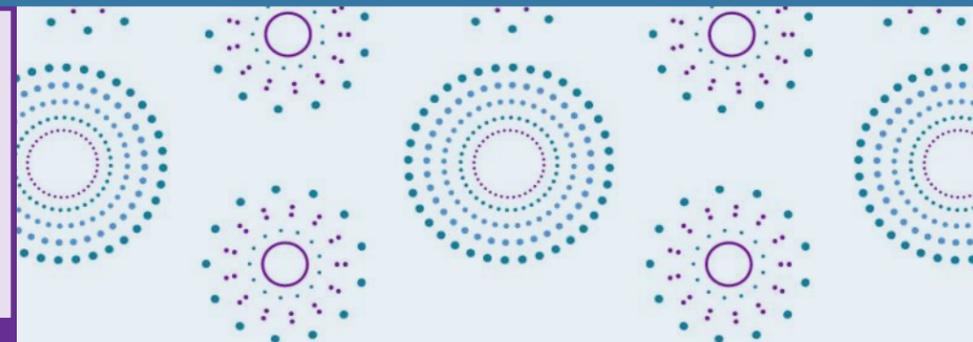
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WATCH | LIVE STREAM
Sundays at 9:30 AM



**LOTTIE MOON/
GLOBAL MISSIONS
CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Goal: \$10,000
Given: \$6,455



JANUARY BICENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

FELLOWSHIP

CONTACT 2 PEOPLE A WEEK AND ASK THESE QUESTIONS:
HOW ARE YOU?
HOW CAN I PRAY FOR YOU?

We are looking forward to our Bicentennial with another monthly challenge for our congregation. For the month of January, we are challenged to contact at least 2 people from our congregation each week. You decide if you will reach out to an old friend or someone you don't know as well with a phone call, text message, or letter. Our fellowship will strengthen as we continue to look ahead and share the good news about the community found at First Baptist Church.

Ask these two questions to everyone:

1. How are you?
2. How can I pray for you?



From One Minister to Another...

We know well, at this point, there are twelve days of Christmas. More than simply the lyrics to a popular song, liturgically, the celebration of Jesus's birth that begins on December 25, concludes twelve days later on January 6, with the celebration of Epiphany, the "Arrival," or "Appearing." On this day, we remember the arrival of the magi who, despite what our manger scenes popularly depict, did not find Jesus until potentially up to two years after his birth.

But Epiphany gives us an opportunity to consider an important aspect of Baby Jesus. Though we often consider it to be mostly about the magi, I believe Epiphany is, liturgically, one of the most significant days of our Christian year for disciples of Christ.

For religious and cultural reasons, Christmas is so very important to us. There are traditions older than ourselves that we uphold. Many things shut down to (in theory) focus on the birth of Jesus, the "Reason for the Season." From that perspective, Epiphany can almost come as an imposition, trying to push us past Christmas. Yet that is why it is so very important. Our temptation is to linger at that beautifully rustic scene, keeping watch over the peaceful babe in the manger, God made flesh. The problem, of course, is that God did not become flesh to stay in the manger.

In terms of Christian discipleship, it makes perfect sense for us to love the Baby Jesus. After all, Baby Jesus asks nothing of us. The problem is Jesus grew up. Starting with Epiphany, we follow the magi who embark on a dangerous and subversive journey to find Jesus. A Jesus who, in the Gospel accounts, rapidly grows into an adult whose prophetic message ultimately leads to death on a cross. A cross he tells his disciples they should pick up as well.

Don't get me wrong: Christmas, rightfully, should be recognized and celebrated. The Word became flesh. God took on skin in an overwhelmingly remarkable act of love that quite literally changed everything for eternity. But Epiphany reminds us not to dwell too long at that manger. As the star once drew the magi to Jesus, every year we again celebrate its significance, the difference being this time, instead of drawing us in, it sends us out to live and love just as the Jesus who grew up and calls us to follow him.

The path of discipleship is not an easy one. It asks a lot of us. It is not an overstatement to say that it indeed asks *everything* of us. But we walk that journey in communion with each other, and with God. This Epiphany, the Light still shines, commissioning us to go out into the challenges of the world. Let us journey in that divine Light together.

Grace and Peace,
Chris

Each month during this momentous year, our Bicentennial Committee will share an article in *The Beacon* drawn from First Baptist's rich history in celebration of our 200th Anniversary as a community of faith.



As a young girl growing up at First Baptist Church, Georgia Hamlet had a dream... to write a history of First Baptist Church. She, along with many faithful FBC members, compiled a brief history of our church and presented it to Rev. James P. Craine in July of 1979. This brief history covers the years from 1821 through 1979.

Below is an excerpt from Chapter I entitled "THE EARLY BEGINNINGS".

"The First Baptist Church of Anderson was originally known as Mount Tabor Baptist Church. The church was organized in July, 1821, seven years before the founding of the town of Anderson, and was located about one and a half miles south of Anderson where Orr Mills now stands. The site is two blocks behind the present mill, off Harris Street and Jaynes Street. By 1820 Pendleton District had become thickly settled, and a number of people of the Baptist faith lived between the Shockley Ferry Baptist Church and Big Creek Baptist Church to whom attending either meant quite a journey. It was to serve these people that the Mount Tabor Baptist Church came into being.

For four years preceding the organization of the church, the Reverend James Burriss, a pioneer Baptist preacher and a member of the Shockley Ferry Baptist Church, had been preaching to the people of this area. His congregation gathered under a brush arbor where the Orr Mill is now located. The date was 1817. In 1819 a comfortable house of worship, built of large logs hewn by contributed labor, replaced the brush arbor. The building was situated in a beautiful grove of young cedars. It became a branch of the Shockley Ferry Baptist Church, ministering to a growing community. In 1821 Mount Tabor became an independent church with a membership of 56 persons. Sanford Vandiver was the first pastor, a position he successfully filled until 1842.

By an Act of the General Assembly of South Carolina, Pendleton District was divided into Anderson and Pickens Counties in 1826. The new county seat, Anderson, soon became the center of life for the county, and it was deemed advisable to move Mount Tabor into the village of Anderson. This move came in 1834 when a small frame building was erected on the present site of First Baptist Church, covering a part of what is now the cemetery."