

**THE BEACON**  
 USPS 571-380 Dated Material  
 Published semi-monthly  
 by The First Baptist Church  
 307 S. Manning St., Anderson, SC.  
 Periodicals postage paid at Anderson, SC 29621.  
**Postmaster: Send address correction to  
 The Beacon, First Baptist Church  
 307 South Manning Street, Anderson, SC 29624.**

**OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST**

- Sunday, May 5**  
 9:30 AM Worship and Graduate Recognition  
 10:30 AM Sunday School  
 5:00 PM Youth Group and Dinner
- Monday, May 6**  
 1:00 PM Staff Meeting
- Wednesday, May 8**  
 5:30 PM Handbell Choir (above the Chapel)  
 6:00 PM Children's Choir Spring Performance  
 Followed by refreshments (Rock Room)  
 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 Youth Homework and Hangout
- Thursday, May 9**  
 12:00 PM Lunch Time Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day**  
 9:30 AM Worship  
 10:30 AM Sunday School
- Monday, May 13**  
 1:00 PM Staff Meeting
- Wednesday, May 15**  
 5:30 PM Handbell Choir (above the Chapel)  
 5:45 PM Children's Missions Racers and Spring  
 Party  
 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 Youth Homework and Hangout
- Thursday, May 16**  
 The Beacon Published  
 12:00 PM Third Thursday (Fellowship Hall)



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

- Rev. Naomi Black-Bass, Assoc. Pastor (Youth and Connections)  
 Mr. Mike Darby, Housing Ministry Manager  
 Mrs. Shannon Griffin, CDC Director  
 Mrs. Ramona Hallman, Organist  
 Mrs. Lesley Hudgins, Financial Manager  
 Dr. Josh Hunt, Pastor  
 Rev. Chris Liles, Associate Pastor (Administration and Missions)  
 Mrs. Sharon Royals, Communications Manager  
 Miss Natalie Rutledge, Musician in Residence  
 Mr. Jamie Smith, Asst. Music Director  
 Mrs. Kelly Smith, Pianist  
 Mr. Addrian Wilson, Minister of Music  
 Mr. Greg Wilson, Facilities Manager

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.



FirstBaptistAnderson  
 FBCAndersonSC  
 andersonfbc.org

**MEMBERS IN ACTION**

**May 5**

**Deacons of the Week:**  
 Sonny Reed, Offertory Prayer  
 Susan Reed, Visitor Outreach  
**Children's Worship:** Anna Logan Dickson  
**Nursery:** Debbie Cooley  
**Security:** Dean Cate and Jeff Neal

**May 12**

**Deacons of the Week:**  
 Carlie Taylor, Offertory Prayer  
 Tom Martin, Visitor Outreach  
**Children's Worship:** Linda Chadbourne  
**Nursery:** TBD  
**Security:** Charlie Campbell and Eddie Wentzky



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
 ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

307 South Manning Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29624 864.224.1622 / andersonfbc.org

**THE BEACON**

May 3, 2024 Volume 63 Issue 9

**GRADUATE  
 RECOGNITION SERVICE**

This Sunday, May 5, 2024



**HIGH SCHOOL**

**COLLEGE**



Rachel Kay Stone  
 Wren High School



Anna Ree Darby  
 University of Tennessee,  
 Knoxville



Kelly Newton  
 College of Charleston



Natalie Rutledge  
 Anderson University

### From One Minister to Another...

I went to my shelf Sunday afternoon to retrieve a book I've read multiple times before. *Life Together* is Dietrich Bonhoeffer's exploration of Christian community and fellowship. It was published in 1939 when the Nazi regime was on the rise in Germany. Set in that harrowing context, Bonhoeffer examines what it means to be called in community, what spiritual growth looks like in relationships, and the challenges Christians face in a perilous world.

Its lessons are timeless.

Bonhoeffer suggested that, unlike affinity groups, the church of Jesus Christ is not based on shared opinions and does not require like-minded individuals; rather, the church is based on a deep shared commitment to Jesus Christ and to each other that supersedes anything that would hinder community. True community, says Bonhoeffer, is characterized by selflessness, forgiveness, and a willingness to bear one another's burdens.

Bonhoeffer's standard for community is extremely high, and he acknowledges the difficulty in living by that standard. He also is frank about the challenges that being in community presents to us: deep relationships are messy, difficult, trying, and even hurtful at times. He offers that these communal challenges are a part of what it means to live a Christian life. They present for the faithful Christian opportunities to grow, reconcile, and offer grace. Bonhoeffer writes, "The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community."

Chris and I led our church in a video study of *Life Together* in late 2020 and early 2021 at what I'm sure you'll remember as a particularly challenging and divisive time in our country's history. (We actually had to postpone a lesson we had planned to discuss on January 6, 2021, because the news of the day left us unable to focus enough to record a book study.)

Three years after our study and 85 years after its initial publication, I commend Bonhoeffer's book to folks who may find themselves discerning the call, depth, and meaning of Christian community today. It is a challenging read, but perhaps it's a challenge we need to hear. (The book is available in the Anderson County Library or on Amazon.)

Bonhoeffer does not need any assistance from Chris and me, though we certainly enjoyed exploring the encouragement and challenge presented in his book. In case you'd like to read the book with us, I'm providing the link to the videos below.

Peace of Christ,

Please visit the link below to watch the Bible Study Series on the book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*.  
[bit.ly/FBC-LIFE-TOGETHER-STUDY](https://bit.ly/FBC-LIFE-TOGETHER-STUDY)

### BIBLE STUDY



Thursday, April 25  
Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10.00 Menu: Lasagna, Salad, Roll, Carrot Cake

Please call the church office to make a reservation by 3:00 PM on Friday, April 19.

Thursday, May 2  
Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10.00 Menu: Fried Chicken Tenders, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Roll, Banana Pudding

Please call the church office to make a reservation by 3:00 PM on Friday, April 26.

### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY



Thursday, May 16  
Noon in Fellowship Hall

Bud Vases for Senior Living Facilities/  
Homebound

Cost: \$10.00 Menu: Sandwiches (Turkey, Ham and Cheese, or Chicken Salad), Tossed Salad, Potato Salad, Banana Pudding

Please call the church office to make a reservation by 3:00 PM on Friday, May 10.

### WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Rebecca Drew (daughter of Sam and Cathy Drew) and Will Council who were married on April 13, 2024.

### CONDOLENCES

Family and friends of Lucy Rogers on her passing on April 19, 2024.

Dennis Fowler and family on the passing of his wife, Nancy Fowler, on April 27, 2024.

Dale Ellenburg and family on the passing of his father, Jim Ellenburg, on May 1, 2024.

### CHURCH WIDE MINISTRY

#### Deacon Led Service Project for May

During the month of May, let's do some In-Reach! The deacon-led service project for May is reaching in to our members who are homebound, in care facilities, or have other needs. There are many people who can't attend church at all, and some who are only able to attend occasionally. The weekly Prayer List includes the names of members who are homebound, in care facilities, or have health concerns. During this month, please reach out to few people with a phone call, card, or visit. Knowing that someone is praying for them and remembering them can mean so much to someone who can't get to church for fellowship with others.

You may know of someone else who would appreciate being remembered as well. If you need more information, please contact Lyn Darby at 864-630-5544 or [lynlarzar@gmail.com](mailto:lynlarzar@gmail.com).



### PENTECOST

Sunday, May 19

We invite you to wear red as a visible reminder of an invisible reality as we celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit at work both in our lives and in the life of our church.

### CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

Sunday, May 26th  
11:30 AM in the Pavilion

Join us after Sunday School for Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, and Dessert. We'll also enjoy Music, Games, and a Memorial Day Recognition.

Please call the church office or scan the QR code with your phone's camera to sign up by 3:00 PM on May 22nd. Let Naomi know if you are interested in helping.



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



### CHILDREN'S SPRING CHOIR PERFORMANCE

May 8 - 6:00 PM

Followed by lemonade and light refreshments in the Rock Room!



### Missions Racers And Hot Dog Supper

May 15 at 5:30-7:30 PM in the Pavilion

Everyone is invited to join!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
June 3-June 6 — 5:30-8:00 PM

For Children who have completed 4K-5th grade.  
Scan the QR code to register by May 13, or visit:  
[bit.ly/FBCVBS2024](https://bit.ly/FBCVBS2024)

