

In 2025, **Ash Wednesday** will be observed on **March 5**. This day marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and repentance leading up to Easter. **First Baptist Church will have a joint service on Ashe Wednesday at First United Methodist Church in Taylorsville @ 6:30 PM.** **Easter** in 2025 will be celebrated on **April 20**. It's the culmination of Holy Week, which starts with Palm Sunday on April 13 and includes events like Maundy Thursday April 17 and Good Friday April 18.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**  
*Rev. Scott Henson*  
 (980) 477-1412 or  
 (828) 640-0664

**Financial Secretary**  
*Melody Carpenter*

**Receptionist/  
 Secretary**  
*Sharon Frye*

**Music Director**  
*Bernadette Watts*

**Church Organist**  
*Debbie Gilreath*

**Church Pianist**  
*Joel King*

**CDC Director**  
*Mollie Lail*

**Food Service Director**  
*Nancy Holsclaw*

**Church Custodian**  
*Vicki Williams*

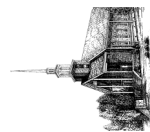
**Child Development  
 Center Custodian**  
*Sheryl Williams*

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**Church Office Hours**  
*Monday-Thursday*  
*9:00 AM—5:00PM*  
*Closed Friday*

**FBC Telephone**  
*828-632-4225*

**Child Development  
 Center Telephone**  
*828-632-7859*



First Baptist Church  
 PO Box 305  
 Taylorsville, NC 28681  
 Return Service Requested

First Baptist Church  
 PO Box 305  
 321 West Main Avenue  
 Taylorsville, NC 28681  
 www.taylorsvillefirstbaptist.com



# The Tie

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At the CBFNC's Church Sustainability Initiative Summit on January 31st & February 1st, Lindsey Watts, Hughey Gardner, Joy Gardner, Sandra Hawkins, Larry Yoder, and I learned about the seven congregational narratives of struggling churches. Yes, you read that right; I said "struggling churches." I believe that term applies to First Baptist Church to a degree. We're not as vibrant as we were years ago. Attendance isn't where it used to be. Financially, we're only a few deaths away from feeling a pinch. We're at a crossroads for the future, and we need God to show us the way.

The "struggling church" narratives are based on the study of real churches and their responses to their declining state. The "Collaborator" church is a congregation that no longer utilizes all of its building space due to declining numbers. These churches choose to use their space to build "missional connections with the community" and generate revenue by leasing parts of their buildings. The "Unfulfilled Promises" church knows they need change, so they hire a new pastor to help them change. Then, this type of church resists the changes, even the smallest

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ones. The “Reset” church doesn’t try to over-program; in other words, they don’t try to offer everything to everybody. This type of church focuses on meaningful and strategic programs and activities that better fit their current congregational makeup. The “Legacy Church” is the type of church that is so near closing its doors that it decides to take actions like folding the church. This type of church may sell its property and use the proceeds to benefit another non-profit or church. The “Mythical Comeback Kid” is the type of church that hires a young pastor with kids and expects their situation to magically turn around from the brink. The “Merger Church” is the type of church that joins with another like-minded. The “Reboot” is the type of church that ‘strips it down to the studs,’ so to speak. This type of church may be a church that decides to sell their large building that is way too big for their needs and move into a smaller building or even a storefront in a strip mall.

On March 30th, we plan on coming together as a church to discuss which of these narratives most closely resemble First Baptist Church. Maybe there are elements from more than one of these narratives that apply to us, or maybe none of these elements apply. I encourage Y'all to pray and do some soul-searching to see which direction First Baptist Church should go. May we pray for God’s discernment! LORD show us the way! Join us at the church wide discussion on Sunday, March 30th.

In Christ, Rev. Scott Henson

**NC BAPTIST SINGERS & ORCHESTRA**

**Event Location :** Western Avenue Baptist Church-- Statesville, NC  
**Monday April 14, 2025 @ 6:45 P.M.**  
**Cost:** \$5.00 Bus Fee — Bus will leave from FBC @ **5:30 P.M.**

FBC is thrilled to have Bernadette Watts leading our Choir, with Debbie Gilreath on the organ and Joel King on the piano. It’s been some time since we’ve enjoyed the rich harmonies created by an organist and pianist during our worship. FBC eagerly anticipates uplifting our time of praise through beautiful music and song to honor the Lord.

**Charleston South Carolina**

Deposit of \$75 due at sign up.  
 Full Payment is due by April 7, 2025

Length of Trip	Amazing Price	Date of Trip
5 Days - 4 Nights	\$805 pp/Double Occupancy	May 05 - 09, 2025

**\*Add \$270.00 for single occupancy.**

**This Tour Includes:**

- Motorcoach transportation
- 4 nights lodging in the Charleston area
- Visit to The Historic Charleston City Market
- Relaxing Harbor Cruise in Charleston
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- Visit to Famous and Historic Middleton Place
- Guided Tour of Charleston
- Tour of a Historic Charleston Home
- Guided Tour of a Historic Charleston Plantation

**CHRISTIAN CRISIS CENTER OF ALEXANDER COUNTY**

**SAUSAGE & PANCAKE Fundraising Brunch**

Friday, March 28th 9am-1pm \$10 per plate

**AT EAST TAYLORSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH GYM**

Eat, fellowship & help us better serve our community!

844 First Avenue Drive SE, Taylorsville, NC 28681

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*

Numbers 6:24-26

**Thank You!**  
 Taylorsville First Baptist Church,  
 Thank you for the flowers you Sent for Mother’s service.  
 We appreciate it, The Maris Story Family.

**Alaska Cruise/ Christian Tours**  
 7 –Nights /Cruise Aboard Carnival Spirit  
 9 Days: September 1—9, 2025

[www.burkechristiantours.com/pdf/2025Openhouse-Preview Dinners.pdf](http://www.burkechristiantours.com/pdf/2025Openhouse-Preview Dinners.pdf)

Day 1 Flight to Seattle, Day 2 Seattle –Carnival Spirit, Day 3 At Sea, Day 4 Cruise Tracy Arm Fjord, Day 5 Skagway, Day 6 Juneau, Day 7 Ketchikan, Day 8 Victoria, BC, Day 9 Seattle--Home.

**Price Per Person:**

Category	Room	Price
4A	INTERIOR	\$1329
4K	INTERIOR with French Doors	\$1379
6A	OCEANVIEW	\$1669
8A	BALCONY	\$2179
8D	BALCONY	\$2219

Plus Port & Government Taxes: \$549.00  
 AIRFARE (from Charlotte, NC): \$795

Questions Call 828-632 -2412 Janet Linney

To join trip, Call Christian Tours 828-465-3900 or 800-476-3900

Pick up more information @ FBC Office.