

November 2011 Issue



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First Assembly
1501 Hwy 24/27 West
P.O. Box 516
Albemarle, NC 28002

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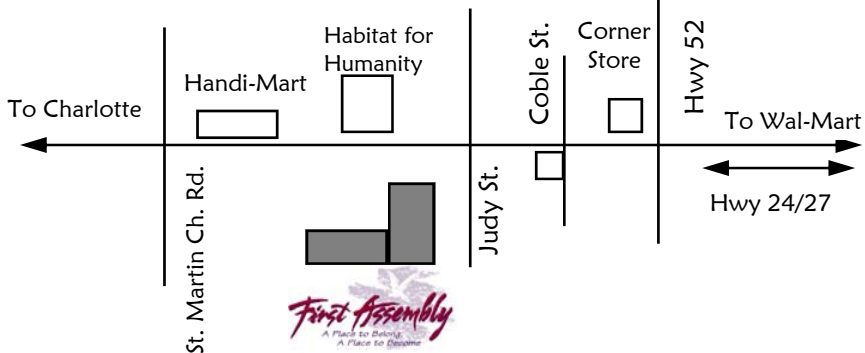
Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bob Gruver ~ Senior Pastor
Rev. George Mullen ~ Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. Matt Miller ~ Youth Pastor
Rev. Randy Thompson ~ Children's Pastor
Matt Gilliam ~ Music/Media Minister

Church Office

Hours:
Monday ~ Thursday
9 AM – 5 PM
Friday 9 AM - 1 PM
Phone:
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(704) 982-7276

www.albemarlefirst.org



November 2011



*****Workers Appreciation Banquet - Monday, Nov. 7th @ 7pm-SRMC*****

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday 9am: Adult, Youth & Children Sunday School 10am: Adult Worship Children's Church	Sunday 6pm: Worship Service 6:30pm Christmas Drama Practice - YRoom	1 1pm: Ladies Intercessory Prayer @ Bea Cox's Home 7pm: Rooms 100-102 Victorious Overcomers	2 7pm: Small Group	3 10am: WM's 1 Hour With Him In Sanctuary 6:30pm-7:30pm: Praise Team Practice 7:30 - 8:30pm Christmas Choir Practice	4 7pm: Couples For Christ Jr. Ch. Church	5 Children's Choir Christmas Program Rehearsal (speaking parts only) 9am - 11:30am Jr. Children's Church
6 Communion DLS Time End 8am - 9am: Praise Choir Practice	7 Worker's Appreciation Dinner - SRMC 7pm	8 1pm: Ladies Intercessory Prayer @ Bea Cox's Home 7pm: Rooms 100-102 Victorious Overcomers	9 7pm: New Directions	10 10am: WM's 1 Hour With Him In Sanctuary 6:30pm-7:30pm: Praise Team Practice 7:30 - 8:30pm Christmas Choir Practice	11 Olan Mills 2pm - 9:30pm Youth Convention - Koury Convention Center	12 10am: Connect365 Coffee & Brunch Rms. 101/102 6:30pm: Couples for Christ Turkey Dinner OM: 9:30pm - 5:30pm
13 8am - 9am: Praise Choir Practice	14 7pm: Stephen Ministry Training - Rm 100 7pm: Stephen Ministry CE - Rm 101 7pm: Connect365 Bible Study @ Sheila Holland's and Mindy Blankenship's	15 1pm: Ladies Intercessory Prayer @ Bea Cox's Home 7pm: Rooms 100-102 Victorious Overcomers	16 7pm: Small Group	17 10am: WM's 1 Hr. With Him Senior Saints Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch Rms 101/102 - 12pm 6:30pm-7:30pm: Praise Team Practice 7:30pm - 8:15pm Christmas Choir Practice	18 7pm: Couples For Christ Jr. Ch. Church	19 Children's Choir Christmas Program Rehearsal 9am - 1:30am Sanctuary
20 8am - 9am: Praise Choir Practice Connect365 Bake Sale 7PM: Thanksgiving Community Service First Baptist Church Albemarle Nursing Home Ministry @ Forrest Oaks	21 7pm: Stephen Ministry Training - Rm 100 Olan Mills: 2pm - 9:30pm Rms 202 - 203	22 1pm: Ladies Prayer @ Bea Cox's Home 11:30AM LunchBunch	23 No Evening activities	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 Thanksgiving Office Closed	26
27 8am - 9am: Praise Choir Practice Nursing Home Ministry @ Bethany Woods	28 7pm: Stephen Ministry Training - Rm 100 7pm: Stephen Ministry CE - Rm 101 Olan Mills: 2pm - 9:30pm Rms 202 - 203	29 1pm: Ladies Prayer @ Bea Cox's 7pm: Rooms 100-102 Victorious Overcomers	30 7pm: 5th Wednesday Small Group Fellowship	Monday 5:30pm - 7pm: Kid's Band Practice 7pm: Visitation Men's Prayer	Tuesday 6:30pm-8pm: Adult Band Practice 8pm - 8:45pm Christmas Band Practice	Wednesday 7pm: Fusion Children's Ministries

at

First glance

November, 2011

“Remember - it’s Thanksgiving...”

Historically we think of Thanksgiving as a time of feasting for the Pilgrims and Indians. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had been in America less than a year. During those months, over half their original population died from disease or starvation. **The Pilgrims hosted the first feast not to try out their latest recipes, but to celebrate life with their Indian friends and give thanks to God for His provision in difficult circumstances.**

But somehow **Thanksgiving is becoming a forgotten holiday.** Thanksgiving has found itself sandwiched between Halloween and Christmas. When Char and I travel across our country, we enjoy eating at Cracker Barrel restaurants. Char loves to look over all the seasonal sales and more. Although we find Thanksgiving goods for sale at Cracker Barrel, I have noticed that at most stores Thanksgiving is just a side note. Almost everything is focused on Christmas. If you search hard, you might find one small section of Thanksgiving cards, autumn decorations, and a turkey platter in the seasonal plates and serving ware section. However, everywhere throughout the store are Halloween costumes, Christmas decorations, and toys. Another disturbing thing I find is that many people are referring to Thanksgiving as “Turkey Day.” Beloved, Thanksgiving is much more than the turkey.

When people become selfish and forget to remember the many blessings that they can be thankful for, they will soon lose their anchor of life. Throughout scripture men are reminded to “...give thanks always,” in the good times and bad times. This year make it a priority to give thanks to our Lord for what He has provided. “Give thanks for everything because this is the will of God.”(1 Thess. 5:18). This year make Thanksgiving more special than ever before and make it more than football and turkey...Invite Christ to your meal.

On the same note, “thank you” everyone for your wonderful expressions of love during Pastor Appreciation weekend. The reception could not have been more delightful and the food was delicious. Sunday’s service was a true surprise and a wonderful blessing. Char and I sat at home Sunday evening and enjoyed reading your many cards. We give thanks to you all for allowing us to be a part of your lives for these past 14 years. We love you beyond measure...

**Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving,
Pastor Bob**



**Daylight Savings Time
Ends Sunday, Nov. 6th!
Remember To Turn Your
Clocks Back One Hour Before
You Go To Bed On Saturday,
Nov. 5th!!!**

**First Assembly...
a place to belong
a place to become**

FUSION FACTS Music Notes Firestorm Ministries

Erica, Liam and I would like to thank you, the church, for making our Pastor Appreciation Service special. Thank you for all the kind words and sweet spirited cards! It is an honor and privilege to be one of your pastors! Thank you for all your love and support. It has made these past SIX years some of the best ever! November means Erica and I are the parents of a TWO YEAR OLD! God has been so good to Erica and I and we are blessed to have our little man! Erica and I are so thankful for the adopted grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Our little man is one of the most loved baby boys in the world because of you! With November comes Thanksgiving! Are you planning now on how you are going to show how thankful you are to your loved ones? Make this year an extra special Thanksgiving and go above and beyond the normal celebration and family get-togethers.

Also this month is the Worker Appreciation Banquet on November 7th! So let me take this opportunity to thank Erica, Stef and Darnell Almond, Mary & Ryan Story, Reba Poplin, Shelley Kerns, Gail Hopkins, Ryan McIntyre and Matt Deal for all their help in FUSION! They are the best youth workers & volunteers a pastor could ever wish for!

**God bless,
Pastor Matt**

Couples For Christ

Small Group
Friday, November 4th & 18th
Jr. Children’s Church

Turkey Dinner

Saturday, November 12th @ 6:30pm

Victorious Overcomers

Tuesdays, November 1st - 29th
7pm - Rooms 100-102

Senior Saints

Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch
Thursday, November 17th @ Noon
Rooms 101/102

Jamie and I want to thank everyone for a wonderful Pastor Appreciation service. We felt very loved and honored. The gifts, cards, and sweet words are very much appreciated! Just wanted to remind all of you that Christmas is coming up quickly! If you are looking to get involved with our Community Christmas service, “God With Us”, and have not contacted me you still can join. We are hoping to make this much more than just a “Christmas Play.” The staff and I see this being a church wide outreach that truly blesses not only our community but our people as well. Contact Jamie or I for more information of how you can get involved. Imagine what 100% participation would do for this event. Even if you feel you cannot offer much, “little is much when God is in it!”

The dates of the event are Wednesday - Saturday, December 14th - 17th at the Agri-Civic center here in Albemarle. We will be meeting Wednesday, December 14th to setup and run a full dress rehearsal. The program will be Thursday and Friday the 15th and 16th at 7pm. Saturday the 17th will just be a day to clean up and get things back to the church. Thank you in advance for all that you have done, all that you do, and all you are going to do for our church and most importantly our community!

**Blessings,
Matt & Jamie**

Connect365 Women’s Ministry

Ladies’ 1 Hour With Him

(Intercessory Prayer)
Thursdays @ 10am - Sanctuary

Connect365 Coffee & Brunch

Saturday, November 12th @ 10am
Rooms 101/102

Ladies’ Bible Study

Monday, November 21st @ 7pm
@ The Homes Of: Sheila Holland
433 Lindsey Lane, Oakboro &
Mindy Blankenship
32865 NC Hwy 740, Badin

Connect365 Bake Sale

Sunday, November 20th After AM Service

LunchBunch with Char

Tuesday, November 22nd @ 11:30am
@ Zaxby’s

I want to start off by saying that Dianne and I want to thank everyone for making us feel so loved on Pastor Appreciation. It was wonderful, from the reception on Saturday to the service on Sunday! Thank you for making us feel at home and making us part of the family here at First Assembly. We are so excited to be here! What an amazing Fall Festival we had! Hundreds of people came out and enjoyed our games, food and all the creative happenings on the stage! Many thanks go out to everyone who participated and made this a HUGE success. God did some amazing "stuff" at the prayer tent. Lives were touched and changed and many victories were won! I can't wait til next year!

During the month of November our kids will be focusing in on a BGMC challenge, "Pop Out" for Missions. BGMC stands for "Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge". They will be asked to give up sodas until Thanksgiving and take that money and give it to BGMC. There are many kids throughout the world that struggle with inadequate food and drinking water - let alone having the luxury of sodas to drink! Please encourage your kids to take the challenge and make this happen! We will launch this on the first Sunday in November and end it the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Speaking of Thanksgiving, my prayer is that you can truly celebrate this special day with your family and be truly thankful for all that God has given to you...yes even sodas!

**Because He Lives,
Pastor Randy**

Mark Your Calendar!

Workers Appreciation Dinner
Monday, Nov. 7th @ 7pm - SRMC

Olan Mills Directory Portraits

Friday, Nov. 11th - 2pm - 9:30pm

Saturday, Nov. 12th - 9:30am - 5:30pm

Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 21st, 22nd,
28th, & 29th - 2pm - 9:30pm

Rooms 202 - 203