

Giving Thanks

A CENTURY OF CARING

2024 MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING WEEK of PRAYER MAY 5-11, 2024

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Mother's Day Offering as they are the source of hope for those who receive these funds. Your gifts to this Offering make a life-changing difference for patients and their families burdened by enormous medical bills incurred at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Every dollar of your gift is used as a source of hope, to help patients in great need pay their medical bills. Each recipient receives a letter from me stating their bill has been paid in the name of Jesus Christ and His love. Recovering from a devastating illness and facing a frightening financial burden, God touches patients and families through you and your gift, restoring hope, producing heartfelt thankfulness, and leading them closer to Christ in genuine gratitude.

For 100 years gifts to the Mother's Day Offering have made an enormous difference in the lives of individuals and families. Many others suffer alone with the same fears and needs. Together we can help them.

Thank you for reaching out through your gifts and making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ and His love.

Please join me in praying for God to bless this mission of hope in 2024.

Please give generously to the Mother's Day Offering.

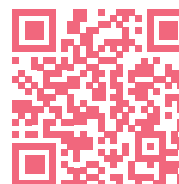
In Christ's love,



Brian K. Davis, DMin
Director, Community and Congregational Engagement
FaithHealth Division
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist



*"That they may see and know and consider and understand together that the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it." **Isaiah 41:20***



Scan this code or visit mothersdayoffering.org to watch our brief **2024 Mother's Day Offering Video** and learn how you can make an impact on the lives of patients in need.

It's hard to believe that the annual Mother's Day Offering is now 100 years old!

Much has changed since the first offering was received in 1924. In 1924, the first private insurance was still five years away, but it would take years before most people had access to insurance. In 1924, Medicare and Medicaid were still 41 years away, meaning that there was no national healthcare safety net. This means that all patients of NC Baptist Hospital, now Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, were responsible to pay their medical bills in full.

Some hospitals in that day were charity care hospitals, meaning that there were no charges for a patient's care. This was a great debate among Baptists in the days leading up to the opening of the Hospital. Should the new NC Baptist Hospital be a full charity care hospital, or should patients with financial means be expected to pay? While it was agreed that those who could pay, should pay, how would the multitude of poor and needy patients receive the care they needed? It was out of these important conversations that the annual Mother's Day Offering was established. With a goal to help those patients, in desperate need of care but without the means to fully pay their bills, Baptist congregations across the state receive the first Mother's Day Offering in 1924 and continue to do so to this day.

In 1927, Rev. G.T. Lumpkin, the first Superintendent of NC Baptist Hospital (what we now call President of the Hospital) made this statement to the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina: *"This Hospital does not ask for this Mother's Day Offering to support the operating expenses or to supplement them in any way.*

We raise enough money each year to pay all of our running expenses and put into charity around \$6,000 a year. We make this plea for the sake of the sick Baptists who need our help in the extreme moment of life, and all we get plus all we can use out of our cash receipts go into this. It is not a question of supporting the hospital, but of caring for our own Baptist who are sick and poor and need our help."

In those early days, many of the Hospital's patients were Baptists, but the expert level of care provided

quickly changed the public's perception that only Baptists should go there to receive care. It wasn't long before people from any and every faith community, as well as those with no faith background at all, began seeking care at the Baptist Hospital. Today, the Hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Center with specialty hospitals and clinics that are sought out by individuals from across the nation and around the world. And it is that unmistakable commitment to the

provision of compassionate care that continues to tie what is now a world class medical center to the purposes first set forth in that single, modest, brick building that opened 100 years ago to care for the poor and needy in the name of Jesus Christ and His love. Your gifts to the annual Mother's Day Offering have helped make that commitment a reality.

Over the course of the last century, gifts both large and small have been received. Some churches simply receive the offering at Mother's Day, while others place the offering in their budget and give monthly to support this important benevolence effort at the Hospital.

God has blessed the Mother's Day Offering in an amazing way as more than \$25 Million dollars have been contributed to the offering since 1924. Your gifts this year connect your congregation to that legacy, and we thank you!



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MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING REPRESENTATIVE:

THANK YOU for working with your pastor and church leaders to promote the Mother's Day Offering!

PLEASE PRAY for this ministry of Christ's love!

Please Visit our Website at mothersdayoffering.org

- Share creative ways to promote the Offering with others in your church and community
- Watch our new video and see how your gifts are changing lives
- Share the promotional resources with church members

