

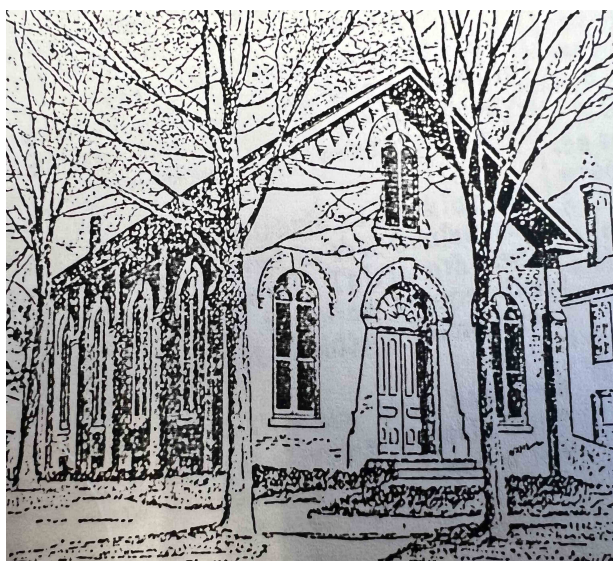
From the Pastor...

Last Sunday we kicked off our Sesquicentennial Celebration. Several folks mentioned that they enjoyed hearing some of the history behind our church's founding, so I thought I would share some more here. Statesville was founded in 1789, but First Baptist Church didn't come into existence until 86 years later in 1875. Perhaps this was because most of Statesville's founders were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians – with a few Lutherans lumped in. The few Baptist that were around were mostly in the county and many were people of color.

Baptists saw Statesville as a mission field and a number of evangelists held meetings here just before and after the Civil War. These included Dr. Matthew Yates, who later became a celebrated missionary to China; and Rev. Francis Marion Jordan, who was said to have “baptized believers in every river, creek and pool in North Carolina.”

Rev. Jordan mentioned in his memoirs that,

“I dined with old Sister Gillespie, who had been about the only Baptist in Statesville for many years, but who had been true and faithful, hoping and praying for Baptist preaching and a Baptist church in Statesville.”



So one of the most earliest and most prominent Baptists in Statesville was a woman, Mrs. A.L. Gillispie. She would also become founding a founding member of First Baptist Church when Rev. J.B. Boone was sent by the State Mission Board to plant a Baptist congregation in Statesville.

In a July 22, 1908 article entitled The Life and Character of J.B. Boone, we find out how difficult it was to begin a Baptist work in Statesville and how Rev. Boone rose to the occasion. Here are two quotes that note these circumstances and Boone's determination:

“In 1875, again under the State Mission Board, Elder JB Boone took charge of the work at Statesville and

...continued on page 3

Schedule

Sunday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, January 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, January 15

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's & Youth Activities

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 16

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, January 19

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, January 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, January 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's & Youth Activities

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 23

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate / Preschool Director
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
Tel: 704-873-7231

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Financial Statistics

| | 12/29 | 1/5 |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|
| In Person | 69 | 164 |
| Live Stream | 24 | 22 |
| Sunday School | 30 | 95 |

Financial Statistics

| | January | Year-to-Date |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Giving Goal | 48,974.00 | 380,040.00 |
| Budget Receipts | 12,043.00 | 300,709.00 |
| Goals Not Met | (36,931.00) | (79,331.00) |
| Alms | 1,408.00 | 4,580.00 |
| Designated | 117.00 | 39,071.00 |

From the Pastor..continued from page 1

Salisbury. None but a brave soul could undertake work in these two towns, in those days, for Baptists. This people were little known in these places and known mainly to be held in derision.”

“His level head, strong will, and, if possible, stronger convictions, made him the steady hand that guided through those years, when deep foundations were being laid.”

The article goes on to state that Rev. Boone was a “strong preacher, but not a popular preacher;” because he didn’t use “sprightly forms of speech.” I, however, love the description of Rev. Boone’s preaching.


“But there was a depth to his thinking and his feeling that at times swept you by its might. He left you with the impression, that behind what he had said was an exhaustless reservoir of power. You heard the murmur of the mighty far-out deep in the little wave that rolled’ up at your feet.”

Rev. Boone served First Baptist Church of Statesville for seven years. In this time the congregation immediately began a Sunday School for all ages and constructed the first church facility on the corner of Broad and Tradd Streets. From these humble beginning grew a vibrant congregation.

We will discover much more about our congregation’s history, but for now I want you to remember that First Baptist Church:

1. Was started by missionaries and maintains its missions’ spirit.
2. Benefited from Christian women and continues to celebrate women in ministry.
3. Immediately affirmed Christian education and remains committed to promoting spiritual growth.

Lastly, our founding was based upon the Baptist belief that the Gospel of Jesus Christ requires an individual choice to follow Jesus. We call this the Priesthood of Believers and will examine it more closely this Sunday.



*“For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11



Volume 82 Issue 1

January 12, 2025

Announcements

FBC Begins 150th Anniversary Celebration

We have begun our Sesquicentennial (150 year) celebration of First Baptist Church of Statesville. First Baptist Church was founded November 21, 1875. Our largest celebration will be on November 16, 2025, so mark your calendars for this special day. We will, however, be celebrating the entire year as we look at some of First Baptist Church's core values:

January – Our Baptist Distinctives

February – Our Church's Resilience

March – Our Affirmation of Women

April – Our Commitment to Christ

May – Our Development of Leaders

June – Our Focus on Missions

July – Our Practice of Ministry

August – Our Discipling All Ages

September – Our Fellowship and Caring

October – Our Priority on Worship

November – Our Reaffirmation to Serve God: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.



Welcome to our Church Family!

Jason and Renee Gilliam (pictures with their sons Benjamin, Garrett, and Parker) and Linda Reed joined our congregation on Sunday, December 1, 2024. Welcome to our church family!

FBC Begins 150th Anniversary Celebration

The first focus of our 150th Anniversary is our Baptist Heritage. Please join us each Sunday in January as we examine our Baptist distinctives.

January 12, 2025
Priests In a Baptist Church?
I Peter 2:9-10

January 19, 2025
People of the Book
II Timothy 3:14-17

January 26, 2025
A Free Church in A Free State
Matthew 22:15-22

Wednesday Night Study in January Baptist Distinctives

Join us on Wednesday evenings in January as we take a closer look at our Baptist distinctives and how they differentiate us from other Christian denominations. If you've ever wondered what it means to be a Baptist this study is for you. Come explore our commonalities and distinctions with Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and others.

Senior Adult Luncheon
Thursday, January 16, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Clay Lunsford and Matthew Weaver will entertain. The menu includes soup and salad. Cost is \$6.00 payable at the door. Please make your reservation by Monday, January 13 at noon.