



THE INTERIM

Pastor Nelson, Don Daniel, & Dave Crosby install the new pew cushions on Wednesday, November 28.



Volume 75 Issue 25

December 9, 2018

From the Pastor...

Christmas and music are integrally linked. It's often the sounds of the season that put us in the Christmas mood. Fun tunes we learned as kids, like *Jingle Bells*, take us back to our childhood. Sacred carols, like *Silent Night*, focus on the deep spirituality of the season.

Music has been a part of Christmas from its inception. When Mary visited Elizabeth they rejoiced together and Mary broke out into a song of praise. We call this first "Christmas Carol" the *Magnificat* and it is a beautiful song of praise, mercy, and justice.

Likewise, the angels break forth in song at the birth of Christ. They light up the entire night sky singing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Songs of praise and adoration have always been a part of Christmas and always will be.

TAPESTRY OF LIGHT
A CELTIC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
by Joseph M. Martin

Sunday, December 16, 2018
6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary
Cookie Social to follow
Please bring your favorite Christmas treat to share.

Harold Flammer
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As we move deeper into Advent, we look forward to singing our favorite Christmas carols in worship. *O Come All Ye Faithful* urges us to come together to adore Christ. *What Child Is This* asks us to focus on who Jesus truly is. *O Holy Night* reminds us of the sacredness of Christmas Day. And *Go Tell It On the Mountain* compels us to share the great news of Christ.

Christmas also offers us many opportunities to experience seasonal concerts. One of the most meaningful of these will be right here at First Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 16, 2018. Our music ministry will present, *Tapestry of Light: A Celtic Christmas Celebration*. This special service will feature our children, youth, and adult choirs as well as a Celtic orchestra.

Tapestry of Light will brighten our celebration of Christmas through traditional carols (primarily from the British Isles) that focus on the light Christ brings to our world. Movements include: The Light of Creation, The Light of Preparation, The Light of Anticipation, The Light of Annunciation, The Light of Incarnation, The Light of Declaration, The Light of Revelation, The Light of Proclamation, The Light of Consecration, and The Light of Celebration.

I hope this special season brings a song to your heart and that song in turn brings a deep sense of the hope, peace, joy and love of the season. Whether you're capable of singing a solo or usually sing so low that no one can hear, I hope you will raise your voice in jubilant song. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"

Nelson

Schedule

Sunday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 12:30 p.m. White Christmas Celebration

Monday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 11

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, December 12

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, December 13

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 6:00 p.m. Group Home Children's Party - Adams Hall
 6:00 p.m. Preschool Christmas Program
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Practice

Friday, December 14

7:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Practice

Sunday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m. Tapestry of Light- Sanctuary

Monday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 18

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, December 19

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, December 20

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Dr. Larry Gregg.....Minister of Christian Education & Administration
 Rev. Justin Cox.....Minister to Students
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

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

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FLC Activities Schedule

Tuesday, December 11

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, December 12

8:00 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options

Thursday, December 13

9:30 a.m. Pickleball
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, December 14

11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Monday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Pickleball
 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Tuesday, December 18

7:00 p.m. Pickleball

Wednesday, December 19

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options

Thursday, December 20

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, December 21

11:45 a.m. Linedancers



Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of November 25 & December 2, 2018

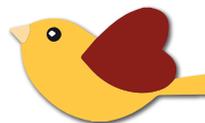
| | 11/25 | 12/2 |
|-----------------------|-------|------|
| Church in Bible Study | 108 | 125 |
| Church in Worship | 173 | 210 |

Financial Statistics

| | December | Year-to-Date |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Giving Goal | 158,165.00 | 296,999.00 |
| Budget Receipts | 57,186.00 | 155,000.00 |
| Needed to Meet Goal | 100,979.00 | 141,999.00 |
| Alms | 816.00 | 1,947.00 |
| Designated | 10,568.00 | 34,279.00 |

Unsung Hero

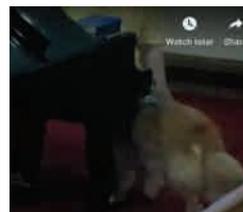
Theresa Martin



Similar to her brother, James, Theresa is extremely musically talented. She shares her talents with her church family as a member of the choir and the handbell ensemble. You will even be able to find her beautifully playing the piano during some of our worship services; and occasionally her faithful companion Denali will have his head on her knee as she plays.

Thanks for all you do to make FBC great!

Each issue of The Interim will feature a member that does great and often unrecognized things for FBC. If you would like to see someone recognized as an Unsung Hero, please e-mail Kayley Crouch at kayley@statesvillefbc.org or call 704-873-7231.



New Pew Cushions Have Arrived!



Our sanctuary has new pew cushions! Thank you to all who gave to the fund, to Dennis Lackey for leading this project, and to those who helped with the installation.

A Tree...or a Twig? By Anne Graham Lotz

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Psalm 1:1-3

God plants you and me in our faith to grow us into “trees” of righteousness. He uses adversity to make us strong. And He leads us to endure — not “somehow,” but victoriously as we choose to trust Him.

King David knew that the secret of victory over adversity was a conscious choice to trust God. He cried out in prayer,

How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?... But I trust in Your unfailing love. —

Psalm 13:2, Psalm 13:5

David exercised his will to trust God even when he didn't feel like it. He had learned to walk by faith, not by feelings.

What about you? Will you grow into a tree of righteousness—or remain a twig? Will you have victory over adversity—or remain defeated? It's your choice.

Choose to be strong! Choose to trust in Him!



CBF Misson Bites

Bite 108: Family Camp

June 2018 marked the 15th year that Lita and I have coordinated mission teams from CBF churches to conduct a VBS during a Family Camp of the Iranian Christian Church network of northern California.

There are about five Iranian churches that gather in June for a retreat called "Family Camp." About 400 participants gather at Redwood Christian Park retreat center in the Santa Cruz mountains for the Family Camp.

Adults have worship, Bible studies and other activities in Farsi. Our CBF mission volunteers conduct a VBS (in English) for their children.

This has been hugely successful, much appreciated by the parents and leadership of the Iranian Christian Church, and so much fun!

Rick Sample, CBF field personnel, Fremont, Calif.



Announcements

A Note of Appreciation from Jeff Templeton

Dear FBC Family,
Thank you for allowing me serve as your as your deacon the past three years and deacon chairperson this last year. It has been an honor and blessing to work with our fine deacon board and church staff.

May God bless our church as we seek His will and direction.

Most respectfully,
Jeff Templeton, *Deacon Chairperson*

First Baptist Church Ornaments Available

We have First Baptist Church ornaments available for a donation. These ornaments are availalbe through the church office or on Wednesday evenings.

Iredell Christian Ministries Needs Volunteers

Iredell Christian Ministries is in need of volunteers to answer phones, interview clients, help clients select food, carry food to cars, and stock shelves. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 704-924-6700 or visit www.iredellcm.org.

Precept Bible Study Begins January 8 & 9

"Revelation Part 2, Unveiling the Book of Revelation (Chapters 4-22)" will begin Tuesday, January 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, January 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m. You may sign up at the Welcome Center now. If you have always wanted to understand Revelation, now is your time. The class discussion and video make understanding much easier; plus, by doing the homework, you will learn to discover Bible truth for yourself. If you did not take Revelation Part 1, no worries! We will do a review of chapters 1-3 to bring you up to speed. Please join us for this revelation of future events.

**Habitat for Humanity Day
Saturday, January 12, 2019**

Habitat for Humanity has asked our church for volunteers on January 12 to do punch list work and cleaning at 1115 Partnership Way. The work day will begin at 7:45 a.m. There will be a short safety talk and then tasks will be assigned. We should have everything accomplished at 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call David Potter at 704-657-7227.

