



1. Red Bud



2. Shumard Oak



3. Kousa Dogwood



4. Sugar Maple



5. Jane Magnolia



6. Little Gem Magnolia

From the Pastor...

If you haven't noticed, we're planting trees. Over the years, we've lost several of our large oaks to disease and aging. We had to take down three just his past year. It's always a grief to see these majestic trees go, but we are fortunate to have many others to continue to enjoy.

These beautiful trees were already growing when First Baptist Church moved from downtown to 815 Davie Avenue in 1954. Our sanctuary was set so that the grandeur of the building would be well complimented by the landscape. We are grateful for those who did such marvelous work.

For many decades, these stately oaks have lent us their shade and beauty. We did nothing to plant them and little to maintain them. We have simply enjoyed the fruit of other's labors and the blessings of God's abundance.

When we lost several of these trees last year, it dawned on us that we must plant more trees if we want coming generations to enjoy the same blessings. As we walked around the property, someone said, "These trees are a little like our church. If we want it to go on, we need to do some planting."

I thought that was a great insight. Each generation builds on what others have done, but also builds for the future. I'm glad we are planting new trees, but I wonder what else we might need to plant for the future of First Baptist Church?

On New Year's Day I asked us each to make a resolution to introduce at least one person to First Baptist Church this year. I encourage you to ask God to lead you to a person who would benefit from our ministries. As new folks join existing members, we will grow in beauty and service.

We are grateful to the Building and Grounds Team for leading the effort to plant new trees. We give a special thanks to Nan Johnson, Valerie Granade and New River Landscaping for researching and choosing trees that will provide beauty and grow well in our area. We are even more grateful to all who are helping to grow our church each day.



Schedule

Sunday, January 15

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Teachers Meeting

Monday, January 16

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, January 17

10:00 a.m. "Jesus In Me" Bible Study

Wednesday, January 18

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

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

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Preschool Choir, Children's Choir,
& Missions

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 19

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, January 22

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

11:00 a.m. Look Up Lodge Interest Meeting

Monday, January 23

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, January 24

10:00 a.m. "Jesus In Me" Bible Study

Wednesday, January 25

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

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

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Preschool Choir, Children's Choir,
& Missions

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 26

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. 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
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Called Church Conference To Celebrate *Continuing the Dream* Sunday, January 29, 2023

We will have a called church conference, Sunday, January 29, 2023 to celebrate the completion of our *Continuing the Dream Capital Campaign*. A motion will be presented to transfer remaining funds and funds given in the future into our Building Fund.

Because of your generosity, we surpassed our \$500,000 goal by \$31,161, accomplished all our projects, and added in some needed parking lot repairs. Here are a few things we accomplished together:

- Restored and Resealed the Sanctuary Stonework
- Renovated First Floor Hallways with new paint & carpet
- Refloored and Painted Choir Room
- Replaced Bell Tower Carillon
- Refinished Gymnasium Floor
- Replaced Organ
- Repaired Parking Lots

Thank you again for you support of Continuing the Dream. The dream lives on!

Financial Update

We missed our giving goals for December, which is usually our largest giving month of the year. We had stronger giving than expected in November, but we are still behind budget goals by \$32,949 at the. Thank you for your faithful giving. With your help, we can make up this shortfall.

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 1 & 8, 2023

	1/1	1/8
Live Stream Views.	n/a	n/a
In-Person.	116	106
Sunday School.	95	95

Financial Statistics

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	47,090.00	365,416.00
Budget Receipts	9,934.00	295,311.00
Goals Not Yet Met	(37,156.00)	(70,105.00)
Alms	722.00	6,444.00
Designated	156.00	26,794.00

A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

We are excited about all the things the new year can bring, from resolutions, to words, cleaning out, and more. We get excited about the little changes that make a big difference in our lives. Please mark your calendars for April 22nd. We will have our Operation Inasmuch event here at the church where we serve our community with our hands and feet.

What a fun time it is to be together to learn, to grow, and to move where God is calling us.

Many thoughts and prayers,
Elizabeth

Song of Emmanuel Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 18, 2022





Announcements

Wednesday Evening Menus

January 18
boston butt

January 25
breakfast for dinner

No reservation is needed.
Cost is \$5.00/adult and \$4.00/child.

Sunday School Teachers Meeting Sunday, January 15, 2023 11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall

All adult Sunday School teachers will meet immediately following the worship service.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Service Sunday, January 15, 2023 4:00-6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

The Iredell County MLK Planning Committee invites the public to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King, Jr. at a special celebration service in FBC's sanctuary.

"Jesus In Me" Bible Study Begins Tuesday, January 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.

In this 8-week study, Anne Graham Lotz draws on her own rich biblical knowledge as well as her personal story to help us understand that the Holy Spirit is not a magic genie but a Person who prays for us, guides us, comforts us, and stays by our side. Cost of the workbook is \$12.00. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or use the QR code.



Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, January 19, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Clay Lunsford and Matthew Weaver will give the program followed by a lunch of soup and salad. Please make your reservation by Monday, January 16 at 12:00 p.m.

Look Up Lodge Interest Meeting Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall

If you have a student interested in attending Look Up Lodge this summer, please attend an interest meeting with Melissa Wilsom immediately following the worship service.

Welcome to our Church Family!

Pam Benfield joined our congregation on Sunday January 1. Welcome to our church family!



A Note of Appreciation from Mary Jo Anderson

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the prayers, calls, and cards sent to me during my recent fall. I appreciate it all so much and thankful to have such a great church family.

May God bless you all.

Love, Mary Jo

