



At the Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 22, 2015, the congregation wrote down things for which we are thankful, on leaves and put together a beautiful Thanksgiving Tree.



# THE INTERIM

Volume 72 Issue 25

December 6, 2015

## From the Pastor...



Have you made your list and checked it twice? Some folks love Christmas shopping and others can hardly stand it. However you feel about it, Christmas shopping is upon us. We're all making our list and looking for those perfect gifts that will express our love and appreciation.

As you're making your Christmas list, I'd encourage you to remember one thing – it's Jesus' birthday! Years ago my parents taught me that, since we were celebrating the birth of Christ, we should give our best gift to the work of Christ.

Our family rule was to give a gift to God's work that was larger than the most expensive present we bought for anyone else. Sometimes we'd give it to mission work or a special cause, but we often made a sacrificial gift to the ongoing work of the church. I still follow this rule today.

As Valerie and I look at the needs of First Baptist Church, we've decided to make a special gift above our tithe to the ongoing ministry budget. There are many good causes to support, but right now

the ongoing work of our church is not being adequately funded. So our First Baptist Church Budget needs the most help.

Our ministry budget isn't just about money. It represents the goals of our congregation. Without increased gifts, our work will suffer. When we don't meet budget, we don't have the means to care for our facilities, pay our staff or support mission work. In short, unless we first take care of our ministry base, we will not be able to reach beyond.

I encourage you during this special season to make a "birthday gift to Jesus." There are many good causes you can support this time of year and I encourage you to be generous as God leads you. I invite you, however, to join Valerie and me in making the work of Christ at First Baptist Church your greatest gift.

### Let's Get To Know Each Other!

During December we are asking everyone to wear name tags so we can get to know each other better. This will help our new pastor and the many guests we have during the Advent and Christmas season. It will also help us to get to know each other as well!

## First Baptist Church Christmas Cantata

### *Sing We Now of Christmas: A Service of Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 20, 2015 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary



Come hear the FBC Sanctuary Choir and orchestra, along with a live nativity presented by the FBC Children's Choir, in *Sing We Now of Christmas: A Service of Lessons and Carols*. This is a wonderful experience which assembles various scriptures and other readings along with music to re-tell the story of Jesus' birth. The voices of Old Testament prophets, the angel Gabriel, Mary, and Gospel authors join together to unfold an elegant narrative pointing to the great mystery of the Incarnation. And the interspersed music helps reflect, emphasize, and in some cases foreshadow the various readings. Come and enjoy the simplicity of this age-old form of the Christmas story. A Christmas Cookie Fellowship will follow in Adams Hall. Please bring treats to share.

## Schedule

### Sunday, December 6 ~ Ezekiel 35-37

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. White Christmas Celebration - FLC

### Monday, December 7 ~ Ezekiel 38-39

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 10:00 a.m. Applewhite Group - Adams Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

### Tuesday, December 8 ~ Ezekiel 40-41

- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

### Wednesday, December 9 ~ Ezekiel 42-43

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal - FLC (chicken alfredo, tossed salad, garlic bread, & dessert)
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Students & Children
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 10 ~ Ezekiel 44-45

- 7:30 p.m. Celtic Christmas Concert - New Life Christian Fellowship
- 8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

### Friday, December 11 ~ Ezekiel 46-38

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym
- 7:30 p.m. Celtic Christmas Concert - New Life Christian Fellowship

### Saturday, December 12 ~ Joel 1-3

### Sunday, December 13 ~ Daniel 1-3

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

### Monday, December 14 ~ Daniel 4-6

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

### Tuesday, December 15 ~ Daniel 7-9

- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

### Wednesday, December 16 ~ Daniel 10-12

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal - FLC (baked ham, sweet potato casserole, lima beans, & dessert)
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Students & Children
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 17 ~ Ezra 1-3

- 8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

### Friday, December 18 ~ Ezra 4-6 & Psalm 137

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

### Saturday, December 19 ~ Haggai 1-2

## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of November 22 & 29, 2015

	11/22	11/29
Church in Bible Study . . . . .	112	95
Church in Worship. . . . .	211	236
8:30 a.m. service. . . . .		57
10:55 a.m. service. . . . .	211	179

## Financial Statistics

### Weeks of November 22 & 29, 2015

	11/22	11/29
Budget - Received	\$6,416.00	\$9,472.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	5,065.43	3,979.00
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 11/22/15</b>		11,481.43
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 11/29/15</b>		14,279.00
<b>Budget for 2015-2016</b>		893,174.00
Weekly Budget Needed		17,176.42
Budget Needs To Date		154,587.81
Budget Given to Date		99,877.33
Behind Budget		(54,710.48)
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		27,402.43
Alms Received-Year to Date		1,813.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		129,092.76

To give you a clearer picture, we are changing the way we are reporting ongoing budget giving. Instead of simply showing a yearly amount funded and unfunded, the Interim will show our Budget Needs to Date and Budget Given to Date. This way you will have a snapshot of how well we are meeting our ministry needs. Though our budget numbers are not the same as our actual expenses/cash flow, they are a direct reflection of the ministry we hope to accomplish together. We encourage all of our members to generously support the budget first and foremost, so that we might do the work to which God has called us.

## Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister  
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship  
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families  
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

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# Prayer Point Thine is the Kingdom...

For Thine, O Lord, is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory—forever! Amen. From everlasting to everlasting, You are God. The great “I Am”, God of the past, the present, and the future. King of the Universe, and King of who I am. You were crowned King on the cross with a crown of thorns by the very ones who put You to death. (No, they did not know what they were doing!) You took your throne when You ascended to heaven. You have established your throne in heaven, and Your sovereignty rules over all. Only one thing left—for Your enemies to be made Your footstool, when You return and put them under Your feet. That’s when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What a glorious day that will be—when we will no longer pray this prayer, but will experience the reality of it! When Jesus taught His disciples to pray this prayer, He “saw” them—and everyone who would ever believe on His name—reveling in His Glory. And that’s just what we will do throughout endless ages.

May these thoughts on our Lord’s Prayer add deep meaning as we pray or sing it back to Him each time we gather with our church family.

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather

## Advent Celebrations at First Baptist Church



*Sunday, December 6, 2015  
Second Sunday of Advent*

*Sunday December 6, 2015  
White Christmas Celebration & Gift Distribution*

*Thursday, December 10 & Friday, December 11  
Celtic Christmas Program  
7:30 p.m. New Life Christian Fellowship, Taylorsville*

*Sunday, December 13, 2015  
Third Sunday of Advent*

*Sunday, December 20, 2015  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Sunday, December 20, 2015  
Christmas Choir Cantata  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Cookie Fellowship - Adams Hall*

*Thursday, December 24, 2015  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
4:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary*



Message by: Dr. Nelson Granade

Worship with us Sundays 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.

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## Announcements

### Deacon Ministry Team Minutes

The Deacon Ministry Team minutes are available in a notebook at the Welcome Center.

### Celtic Christmas

Thursday, December 10 & Friday, December 11

New Life Christian Fellowship ~ 7:30 p.m.

You are invited to enjoy an evening concert of Celtic Christmas Music to bring joy to the heart and celebrate the season. This is a free concert offered by FBC friend Kathy Estes and friends, which includes fiddles, flutes, whistles, guitar, drums, singing, and much more. Refreshments will be offered and a love offering will be taken. Tickets are required because of limited seating. Call James Martin at FBC

### Office Changes

If you've noticed some changes around the office, you're very perceptive. The pastor's secretary, Mary Jane Rash, has moved directly across from the Welcome Center. Our Communications Coordinator, Kayley Crouch, will be moving to Mary Jane's old office (behind the sanctuary). We have moved our conference room to the other side of the pastor's office. Burwell Whittenton and our volunteers will remain in the office beside the Welcome Center. These changes will help our staff be more efficient and better able to serve you.

### A Note of Appreciation from Jean Crowder

Thank you for all the prayers, food, and cards. I am most appreciative of your show of affection. I am so happy to be part of a wonderful church family.

Jean Crowder

### Coffee Rotation Sunday, December 6

Emanons Class

### Sunday, December 13

Melissa Wilson

### A Note of Appreciation from Vera Webster

While hospitalized, and at home, I have received prayers, cards, calls, visits, a gift basket, inspirational reading materials, and Sunday School studies. This thoughtful support has provided me with pleasure, encouragement and motivation. I value the fellowship I share with the FBC family.

Thanks,  
Vera Webster

### Sound System Fund Established

A new designated fund has been established by the deacons to raise money for a new sound system in the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please simply write "Sound System" on your envelope and/or check. As with all of our designated funds, please only give above and beyond your budget offering. A new sound system is needed, but our ongoing ministry is always our top priority!

### White Christmas ~ This Sunday, December 6, 2015

We've been working toward our White Christmas Day for several months, and it's finally here. Families will be coming this Sunday, December 6 to receive their toys, food, clothes, and most of all our love.

Please come and be a part of this ministry. There is a place for everyone. We need help greeting our guests and taking those staying for lunch into the Fellowship Hall. We need our church members eating at the table with our guests, listening to their stories, and offering words of encouragement. We need lots of help in the gym to carry the heavy food boxes and toy bags. We need several outside directing traffic.

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. for instructions. If you are helping with traffic or in the gym to carry the food and toys, please eat first so you can get to the gym. Those who are greeting the guests will go to the entrance way and take the guests to their table. After our guests are seated, our members will find empty spaces and eat with the guests. There will be child care for your children. If you have any question please call Carol Hunter - 704-876-1462.

Thank you for all the work that has gone on before this day. Thank you for your donations of food, clothes, toys, money, and your time to shop, fix bicycles, sew baby doll clothes, work in the clothes closet, fix lunch, or type labels. It takes everyone working together to make White Christmas a success.

See you Sunday.

