



# THE INTERIM

The Emanons Sunday School Class and a few other FBC members packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child at the processing center in Charlotte.



Volume 74 Issue 24

November 26, 2017

## From the Pastor...



What do you want for Christmas? It's a question we usually ask children, but it's one we might all want to consider. When I was a child, my mother gave me the Sears Catalogue and asked me to circle a few things I wanted. I simply turned to the toy section and circled every page in the boys' section. As I've aged, however, I've gotten a little more discerning.

Like many of you, my Christmas wants have transitioned from things to dreams. There is really not a lot I need, but there is a lot I'd like to see happen. I always want my family close and for us to enjoy one another. I pray for our church to be united around knowing Jesus and making Jesus known. I hope for peace and justice to come into our world.

Perhaps my Christmas list can be summed up in the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Advent is a time of longing. Like people of every generation, we long for a better world. As people who walk in darkness, we hope for a great light. As Christians, however, we know that the Light has already come into the world and that we are also called to be light.

If we truly want to have a meaningful Christmas, we need to experience Advent. We need to remember what the world is like without Christ and celebrate how Christ can change our lives. We need to let the light of Christ shine in and through us. Only then can we find the hope, peace, joy and love of the season.

I hope you will join us each Sunday of Advent. This year we will focus on the characters of Christmas: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, and Jesus. Children can't wait for Christmas to come and adults can't believe how fast it gets here. Whatever our age, let's make every effort to focus on the true meaning of this season.

*Nolan*

### Advent Sermon Series The Characters of Christmas

**December 3, 2017**

First Sunday of Advent – Hope  
Mary – Luke 1:26-38

**December 10, 2017**

Second Sunday of Advent – Peace  
Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

**December 17, 2017**

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy  
Angels (Luke 2:8-14)

**December 24, 2017**

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love  
Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)

**December 24, 2017**

Christmas Eve Service  
Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)



*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*  
John 1:9

## Schedule

### Sunday, November 26

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

### Monday, November 27

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, November 28

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

### Wednesday, November 29

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, November 30

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

### Sunday, December 3

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

### Monday, December 4

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, December 5

#### Senior Adult Trip

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

### Wednesday, December 6

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 7

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Party for RCBC Group Home

### Friday, December 8

- 7:30 p.m. Celtic Christmas Concert - Taylorsville, NC

### Saturday, December 9

- 7:30 p.m. Celtic Christmas Concert - Taylorsville, NC

## 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

### THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

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## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of November 12 & 19, 2017

	11/12	11/19
Church in Bible Study	135	147
Church in Worship	197	194

## Financial Statistics

	November	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	65,282.00	132,238.00
Budget Receipts	26,664.00	84,848.00
Needed to Meet Goal	38,618.00	47,390.00
Alms	536.00	1,365.00
Designated	4,068.00	17,281.00



## Advent Celebrations At FBC

Sunday, December 3, 2017  
 First Sunday of Advent ~ Hope

Tuesday, December 5, 2017  
 Senior Adult Trip to  
 Barn Dinner Theatre ~ Greensboro, NC

Thursday, December 7, 2017  
 Christmas Party for Realistic Change by Choice  
 Group Home

Friday, December 8 - Saturday, December 9  
 Celtic Christmas Program  
 7:30 p.m. Alexander Central Auditorium

Sunday, December 10, 2017  
 Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace

Sunday December 10, 2017  
 Christmas Joy Celebration & Gift Distribution

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
 Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
 A Night for Rejoicing: A Cantata for Christmas  
 & Cookie Fellowship  
 6:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

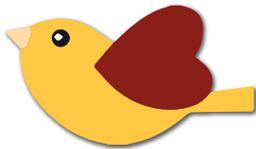
Sunday, December 24, 2017  
 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

Sunday, December 24, 2017  
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
 4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary



# Unsung Hero

## Phil Mills



Have you ever noticed how the candles by the pulpit burn so evenly on Sunday mornings?

Every Sunday morning, Phil Mills uses his pocket knife to whittle away the extra wax. In the recent weeks, Phil has not been able to attend on Sunday mornings due to health issues, so his daughter, Jeri Koontz, picked up the candles from the church and took them to him. He is still taking care of the candles.



Phil & Jerry Mills

Thanks for all you do to make First Baptist Church 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](mailto:kayley@statesvillefbc.org) or call 704-873-7231.*

## Horizons Build Wheelchair Ramp

Thank you to the Horizons Sunday School Class for building a wheelchair ramp for a local person in need! Thank you for sharing your time and talent!



## Thanksgiving Prayer

Yes, I am an ugly blob of sin, but thank You, Lord, that You are beautifying me every day through each problem, conflict, and struggle I face. Thank You for chiseling away at my weaknesses, hidden sins, self-centeredness (and especially my self-reliance and pride!). I thank You that You are working all these things together for my good because I love You and have been called according to Your purpose. Each difficulty is changing me from glory to glory so that when I go to live in Your house and pass by the heavenly mirror, I will see the perfectly formed image of Christ. Thank You, Father, for making Jesus an ugly blob of sin on my behalf so that I will one day be the beautiful image of Your Son. In the beautiful Name of Jesus I pray this prayer of thanksgiving. Amen

## Christmas Joy Sunday, December 10, 2017

For over 45 years we have shared in our special Christmas Ministry. Since it hasn't snowed on that day for several years, and since we no longer wrap our gifts in white paper, it seems a more appropriate name for our ministry is Christmas Joy. What we are really doing is sharing Christ's love and joy with the ones we serve. It will take some getting used to, but I think we will see that it really fits our ministry. Plan now to be a part of this ministry. We need your help in the following ways:

1. Pray that God will lead us to the families that need it the most. Pray that He will give us generous, loving, and compassionate hearts, and that He will provide us with the resources and the volunteers needed for this ministry.
2. Please give generously. We need money to purchase the toys and food. Mark your donations "Christmas Ministries".
3. Clean out your closets and bring good, clean children's clothes. We are in desperate need of good children's clothes sizes birth to 12, teen sizes, and winter coats of all sizes.
4. If you would like to purchase a bike for a child, please see Carol Hunter for extra cards.
5. Mark your calendar now for December 10. Due to space limitations we will not serve lunch to the families, but we will serve homemade desserts and refreshments. We have a bagged lunch for our volunteers. We will need a host of volunteers that day to greet the families and to help carry the bags and boxes of food. This is such a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to share God's love with others.

Our First Baptist Church family has always supported this ministry so graciously, and we look forward to another wonderful year.

Carol and Luther Hunter  
704-876-1462 or [lukeandcarol@att.net](mailto:lukeandcarol@att.net)





Messages by: Nelson Granade

Volume 74 Issue 24

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### CBF Mission Bites

#### **Bite 57: Cultivating beloved community in Uganda**

*God doesn't just call us to live in community, but in beloved community. That means we welcome everyone. The world is currently facing the largest refugee crisis in history. Since WWII there have never been this many refugees. Uganda has political refugees coming from over 9 different countries to seek asylum, with over 2,000 refugees a day entering the country. CBF supports us here in our ministry by allowing us to be beloved community to these refugees entering our country. Christ wants us to be welcoming and beloved community, because if people can't find the community inside the church, then I don't know where else they're going to go.*

- Jade and Shelah Acker, CBF field personnel in Uganda

#### **Bite 58: Bearing the pain with neighbors**

*Abdul came to our country 3 years ago. Soon after he left his home of Yemen, civil war broke out. His wife and two children cannot leave the country and he cannot return. Abdul tells me of the struggles his family faces: "They go to sleep wearing their nicest clothes because they might be killed in their sleep due to a rocket attack. But, rockets are not what scares us the most. That happens quick. In my village, there is an outbreak of cholera, an invisible threat and a slower death."*

*Beloved community involves not only helping those in disaster areas, but counseling and comforting those who suffer from afar. Beloved community involves listening to and sharing in the pain of our neighbors.*

- Brooke and Mike, CBF field personnel in Southeast Asia

## Announcements

### Deacon Ministry Team Update

We welcome William Barnard, Clarence Poole, David Potter, and Andrea Williams to our Deacon Ministry Team. We thank Ralph Bentley, Mike McLain (Chair), and David Deal (Vice-chair) for your service.

We also extend thanks to Tim Burgiss who recently resigned from the Deacon Ministry Team (Andrea Williams will fill out his term). We congratulate Jeff Templeton and Crystal Beale, who were elected as Chair and Vice-chair respectively.

Our deacons have planned a retreat in January to get them off to a great start next year. Please pray for the entire Deacon Ministry Team as they serve our Lord and congregation.

### Family Life Center Update

We are still working on getting a Certificate of Occupancy for the Family Life Center and hope to reenter the space in the near future. We have a couple of more inspections to pass before we can be in the building. It will also take some time to return and place the furnishings. Thank you for your patience as we all hope to be back in as soon as possible.

### Sign Update

Work has begun on our new front sign. The foundation has been laid and the brick work has begun. The design complements our existing building by using stone columns that match the sanctuary and yellow brick faces that match the other buildings. The lettering and logo will be made of black aluminum. Thank you to all who have given, or continue to give, to the "So All May See and Hear" campaign. These funds have made our sign possible.

## Joyful Noises Sing at Brookdale Peachtree

