

The children sing and dance at Children's Choir.



FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
STATESVILLE

# THE INTERIM

Volume 80 Issue 3

January 29, 2023

## From the Pastor...

My friend David Smith writes an online devotional entitled *The Manna Connection*. His recent post on church unity caught my eye. David reflected on his time as a missionary in Ecuador. At one point he served as an interim pastor of an international church. This meant he had members from all over the world.

David pointed out that this was a very diverse congregation. It had members from London, Norway, Burma, Taiwan, Germany, France, the United States, and various Central and South American Countries.

The people had varying political, social and theological views. Can you imagine trying to unify a church with so much diversity? Yet, the church had great unity.

Most of the people were separated from their homes and families, so they relied on each other. Even more, they were committed to Jesus Christ. David said, "The members humbled themselves before each other; they treated each other with love; they were patient and kind; and they sought to be unified in the Spirit."

I agree with my friend David that unity does not mean we all think alike, act alike, vote alike, or interpret scripture alike. In fact, unity cannot be found in our own strength. Unity comes as a gift from God as we humble ourselves and seek God's

face. Unity is found in our common mission of knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

In a recent conversation, David made another profound statement about unity. He said, "Church unity is not uniformity. That is a cult!" We will never all think exactly alike, because God created us differently. What's more, we need each other and

the strength diversity can bring.

I am grateful for the diversity of our congregation. I'm thankful that others can help me see things in a new way and expand my horizons. It's not always fun to disagree, but there is always the opportunity to learn and grow. The church's ability to model unity among diversity is one of our greatest witnesses to the world.

## Schedule

### Sunday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream  
 Called Church Conference

### Monday, January 30

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Tuesday, January 31

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

### Wednesday, February 1

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, February 2

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Sunday, February 5

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream  
 11:00 a.m. Soup Lunch Fundraiser

### Monday, February 6

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Tuesday, February 7

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

### Wednesday, February 8

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, February 9

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  
 Tel: 704-873-7231

### THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks  
 by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,  
 Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM  
 First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

## Happy Birthday

### February 5

Ellie Mitchell

### February 6

Houston Garris

### February 7

Susan Foushee

Tracy Roberts

### February 9

Bella Jones

### February 10

Jeff Benfield

### February 11

Liv Lowrance

### February 13

Debby Sipe

### February 14

Lela Jones

### February 15

Ella Milwood

### February 16

Jason Allen

Kendyl King

James Martin

### February 17

Nancy Gatton

### February 18

Bethany Falter

### February 19

Elizabeth Allen

Roger Elliott

Jeff Pettit

Doug Price

### February 20

Diane Hall

Tuck Lazenby

Libby Purcell

### February 22

Dawn Hayes

### February 23

Linda Patterson

### February 25

Calan Hall

### February 26

Jerry Mills

Bentley Whitson

### February 27

Sara Brandon

### February 28

Sonja Lewis

## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of January 15 & 22, 2023

	1/15	1/22
Live Stream Views.....	31	15
In-Person.....	136	121
Sunday School.....	103	95

## Financial Statistics

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	47,090.00	365,416.00
Budget Receipts	53,958.00	339,335.00
Goals Not Yet Met	6,868.00	(26,081.00)
Alms	1,072.00	6,794.00
Designated	2,170.00	28,808.00

## **A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby**

What a great time to finish the month well. I don't know about you but your resolutions might not be as solid as they first started this month. We have so many things that can often clutter our hearts and minds during the start of the year, and things can often feel overwhelming and daunting. It is my prayer for you during this next week that you can rest in the Hope that Jesus gives us and be reminded that He is the consistency that we need in our lives. Our humanity fails us at times, but we can be kind to one another, learn from one another and show joy more often than we do. What are some things each day that you are thankful for, that give meaning and purpose, and value to your life? If it is a person, thank them for their love and their support.

Many thoughts and prayers,  
Elizabeth Kilby

---

### **Holy Moments**

#### **(Update from Carson & Laura Foushee, Missionaries to Japan)**

Our family took an exciting step this month in renewing our partnership with Kanazawa Baptist Church when we joined the church as members. During worship on September 25, we looked out upon the faces of brothers and sisters who have welcomed us back to continue our missional journey together.

An aspect that we most appreciate about new membership in Japan Baptist Convention churches is that each person stands before the congregation to offer his or her testimony. In our time in Japan, we have been witnesses to these holy moments in several churches, yet continue to be amazed at the ways that the Spirit moves in the world.

In just the last several years at Tokiwadai Baptist in Tokyo, several testimonies left us in awe. There was the man who was working for a Japanese company in Myanmar amidst the unrest of the coup d'etat and COVID-related supply issues who felt a desire to attend church for the very first time. He decided to look for a church in his neighborhood in Japan to attend online and happened upon Tokiwadai Baptist, which he proceeded to attend virtually each week. When his company moved him back to Japan, he made a profession of faith and joined the church in-person on Easter Sunday before being transferred to work in Europe with full intention of continuing his virtual attendance.

There was the man in his nineties who began regularly attending church with his wife. Though she had been a Christian for decades, he finally made a decision to become a Christian himself and joined the church. And there was the first-grader who, along with her mother, became a follower of Christ through the ministry of the church's preschool. She stood before everyone to speak, but became nervous in front of such a big group. Our pastor, and her former preschool principal, stepped forward to help ease her tension and lead the congregation in singing "Jesus Loves Me" as she gathered herself to finish. Holy moments.

A COVID positive close contact at Kanazawa Baptist Church led the congregation to gather in the worship hall to watch a screen for worship on a recent Sunday as the pastor preached in an empty congregation on the second floor via video. This and other congregations in the Japan Baptist Convention continue to discern the safest way to handle meeting as they seek to be good witnesses in their communities amidst the ongoing pandemic.

This month, it was our chance to offer testimonies of how we have been shaped and formed by God and God's people in communities across the globe over the years. We shared about our parents who created loving homes and modeled the way of the faith for us. We spoke of our home churches in North Carolina, FBC Statesville and Ridge Road Baptist, as well as FBC Elon, where Carson attended while in college. It was under the guidance of these brothers and sisters that we were raised in the faith and challenged to dig deeper. We shared about formative internship experiences with Passport Camps and CBF's Student.Go mission program which opened our eyes to a wider world and helped to confirm our calls to ministry. And we shared about how our previous work with Kanazawa Baptist helped to confirm a long-term calling to serve in Japan alongside the Japan Baptist Convention. Holy moments.

We are grateful for the warm reception by Kanazawa Baptist and are hopeful for the ways that, in partnership, we may be Christ's hands and feet to others, so that they too may be able to stand before ours or another congregation somewhere in the world to offer a testimony of how the Spirit has moved in their lives and led them to follow Jesus.



## Announcements

### Baptismal Discussion Small Group Listening Sessions

Our baptismal study and discussion has been postponed and shifted back one week. The new schedule is as follows:

- Core Baptist Beliefs and Baptism (February 1, 2023)
- Exploring the Strengths and Weaknesses of Various Policies (February 8, 2023)
- Listening to Each Other – Small Group Sessions
  - 11:00 am, February 12 (Alternate time if you cannot do Wednesdays)
  - 6:00 pm, February 15, 2023 (Preferred time if possible)

This is an important study and discussion for our congregation. Please make every effort to participate.



The preschoolers draw a mural how to help people during their time of missions on Wednesday, January 18.

### 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!

### Soup Lunch Fundraiser Sunday, February 5, 2023 11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall

The students will host a soup lunch to raise funds for their trip to Look Up Lodge this summer. Please come by immediately after the worship service to have lunch and to make a donation.

### Wednesday Evening Menus

**February 1**  
baked potato & salad bar

**February 8**  
tacos

Cost is \$5.00/adult and \$4.00/child.