



James Martin leads the children in song at Worship Camp on Wednesday, August 30.



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September 10, 2023

From the Pastor...

Most people want their church to grow, but how do you help that happen? Churches spend a lot of time and energy trying to attract people. We focus on offering quality ministries and meaningful worship hoping folks will find us and connect with us.

A Pew Research Poll revealed the top reasons people to come to church are: 1) To become closer to God, 2) So children will have a moral foundation, 3) To make themselves a better person and 4) For comfort in times of trouble/sorrow (Pew Research Center, Aug. 1, 2018, "Why Americans Go (and Don't Go) to Religious Services).

When we did our *Growing Young* emphasis, we were reminded that young people are attracted to churches that: 1) give them a place to serve, 2) empathize with their lives, 3) take Jesus' message seriously, 4) offer real community, and 5) serve their neighbors.

We who come to First Baptist Church know that it is a place you can experience God, grow in your faith and find community. We've worked hard to make sure we are focusing on our mission to know and love Jesus Christ and to make him known.

All this is good, but it doesn't help us grow, unless we share it with our community. There are a lot of things we can do to help connect folks once they visit our church. There is one thing that works best to get someone to our church the first time – a personal invitation!

The vast majority of folks who visit a church do so simply because they were invited. Advertising can get our name out. Working in the community can produce goodwill. Having effective ministries and meaningful worship can help people engage. Getting folks here to begin with takes you inviting them.

One good way to invite someone to First Baptist Church is ask them to a special event. First Fellowship is just such an event. We have designed this to be relaxed time of fellowship that will be a less intimidating way to introduce your friends to First Baptist Church. We'll simply enjoy some food and games on our front lawn.

For First Fellowship to be a success, we need you to both show up and bring someone with you. If you don't know who to bring, pray about it and let God reveal that person. Do you know someone who is lonely? Do you know of someone new to town? Do you know someone who is searching for meaning in life? If so, invite them to First Fellowship!

First Fellowship
Sunday, September 24
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Introduce a friend to our congregation by inviting them to this event! Together we will enjoy a cookout and fellowship on the front lawn.

Schedule

Sunday, September 10

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, September 11

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, September 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

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

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's Worship Camp

6:00 p.m. Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Study: The Commands of Jesus

7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, September 14

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, September 18

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, September 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

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

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's Worship Camp

6:00 p.m. Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Study: The Commands of Jesus

7:00 p.m. Choir

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 21

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon

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. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate
 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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A Message from Minister of Children & Youth Melissa Wilson

Two weeks ago, Kristina and I were able to attend a training in New Orleans, Louisiana. This training was for a way of sharing the stories of our faith using a Montessori approach. This method is called Godly Play. Kristina and I are now both trained in this method and are excited to begin sharing these stories with the children during Kids Worship. We hope to begin in January incorporating one Godly play session each month.

In order for us to be able to move forward with this method of storytelling, there are some materials we need. I am certain there are some members of our congregation that can help! I am looking for people who enjoy wood working of various skill levels. I have some simple wooden trays that need to be built, but I also have more complex projects that would require the use of a band saw. Don Daniel started us off well by building this beautiful stand for our Bible which will be a focal point in our Godly Play space. If you would like to help, please come talk to me so I can show you the different projects we currently have available.



Spiritual Statistics

	8/27	9/3
In Person	177	156
Live Stream	20	13
Sunday School	94	82

Financial Statistics

	August	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	86,645.00	866,450.00
Budget Receipts	43,582.00	798,902.00
Goals Not Met	(43,063.00)	(67,548.00)
Alms	1,372.00	13,372.00
Designated	9,763.00	66,847.00

A Message from Minister of Young Families & Mission Elizabeth Kilby

Thank you everyone for all you collected and donated for the back to school drive and for Yokefellow and Iredell Christian Ministries (ICM). We were able to collect over 55 peanut butter jars, over 75 cereal boxes, and 5 full paper boxes of school supplies. The peanut butter and cereal were divided in half to Yokefellow and ICM and were greatly appreciated as they were dropped off. The pantries were very low on supplies. Due to the increase in food costs, they are serving additional people and giving away more food. The school supplies are divided up among schools and will be dispersed as the first quarter ends and many of students' initial supplies are used or need a boost. Thank you for your continued generosity both to our church and our partners.

Elizabeth Kilby



Juana Mikels



Mary Mikels

*Come hear
Juana Mikels*



Thursday, October 5, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Make plans to attend a meaningful evening complete with a delicious meal, good music, inspirational message and wonderful fellowship with other ladies.

After knowing something was missing in her marriage, Juana goes in search for peace and happiness. She leaves behind her husband, home and friends. Juana became a Christ follower during her two year separation. Her marriage was reconciled, with her husband coming to faith in Christ seven years later.

She was encouraged to write her story after an interview on Elisabeth Elliott's radio program. Elisabeth Elliott wrote the forward for Juana's first book, *Choosing Him All Over Again: A Story of Romance and Redemption*.

Juana's daughter, Mary, who was born totally blind, will sing following the message. Mary was selected by the North Carolina Master Chorale, official chorus of the NC Symphony. She was also selected by American Idol in the first round.

Tickets are \$20.00 each.

Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, in the Welcome Center.

9:40-9:55 a.m. and 11:00-11:15 a.m.

These times are before and after Sunday Worship services.

Sales begin Sunday, September 3 until Sunday, September 24, 2023

Purchase your ticket now!





Announcements

Thank You Don Hawkins



A big thank you to Don Hawkins who has served as one of our two facility assistants for the last six years. Don has done a wonderful job working with our Building and Grounds Team to keep our facilities in good shape. Don will be retiring September 15,

2023. He and his wife, Lois, will remain a vital part of our congregation as active members.

Welcome Ed Martin



We welcome Ed Martin as our new facilities assistant. Ed Martin, recently retired as a high school teacher and soccer coach in Wilkes County. Before his teaching career, Ed worked as a Senior Logistic Analyst at Lowe's Companies. Ed will work

with us on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please welcome Ed as you see him around the building. We are also grateful to Wayne Laws, who will continue his work as our other facilities assistant.

2023-2024 Ministry Budget

A copy of the 2023-2024 Ministry Budget has been mailed to all members.

Sunday, September 10 - 10:00 a.m.

Budget presented for approval without discussion in Sunday worship service.

Senior Adult Luncheon

Thursday, September 21, 2023

11:00 a.m. - FLC

The 2023/2024 Seniors Luncheon season begins Thursday, September 21 at 11:00 a.m. with Clay Lunsford and the Gospel Voices. Lunch will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and dessert. Cost is \$6.00.

Welcome to Our Church Family!



Megan Mullins joined our congregation on Sunday, August 27. She is pictured with her husband, Andrew. Welcome to our church family!

A Note of Appreciation from Phil & Brenda Johnston

There are no words to adequately express our gratitude for the kindness, love, and prayers you have sent during Phil's illness and surgery. He still has a long way to go but with your continued prayers and support God will surely be by his side,

Thank you,
Phil and Brenda Johnston

Deacon Ministry Team Nominees

The following church members have agreed to serve on the Deacon Ministry Team if elected. The congregation will vote by ballot on Sunday, October 1. The three with the most votes will begin to serve January 2024.

Kim Allen	Vicki Marsh
Lynn Barker	Andrew Mullins
Don Daniel	Mike Plyler
David Deal	David Potter
Art Fincannon	Harry Tsumas
Nancy Rogers Hughes	Katie Welborn
Nan Johnson	Donna Wike
Emily Leonard	Andrea Williams

Wednesday Evening Menus

Cost of the meal is \$6.00/adult and \$4.00/child. No reservation is needed.

September 13

salad bar & baked potatoes

September 20

BBQ, slaw, beans, mac & cheese, rolls, & dessert