

Our congregation honored Dr. Jack Causey with the title of Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church on Sunday, October 29, 2017.

THE INTERIM



Volume 74 Issue 23

November 12, 2017

From the Pastor..



It is so easy to focus on the negative in our lives and forget all of God's blessings. I must confess, I've been doing this concerning our Family Life Center. We had hoped to have a grand reopening celebration the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, we've hit another snag during the inspection process and it will be a few more weeks before we can reenter the building.

As disappointing as this is, we truly have much more to rejoice over than we have to grouse about. We've been out of our building for a while, but we are one of the few churches in our area that even has a Family Life Center. On top of that, we are getting a totally renovated space with little cost to ourselves. It will truly be one of the nicest facilities for miles around.

Of course our facilities are not the only blessing for which to be grateful. Our church continues to experience a deep sense of renewal. Sunday School is well attended and quality discipleship is taking place. Worship services are filled with excitement, and we're enjoying a plethora of special music. Even our Wednesday night Bible Study is growing as we plunge deeper into God's Word.

We are also coming close to completing all of the projects in our So All May See and Hear Campaign. We've enjoyed our new sound system for over a year and we have new signage throughout the interior of our facilities. Just this past week, our new video system was installed and is already producing greater quality recordings. And we are about to break ground on our new exterior sign.

God is blessing us in so many ways, but at the top of my gratitude list is you – the people of First Baptist Church of Statesville. You continue to support and encourage our staff and me. Our congregation has been through many ups and downs, but God continues to be faithful. It's so easy to complain, but it is much more productive to focus on God's blessings. I never want to miss what God is doing because I'm looking in the wrong direction.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Causey".

Security Update

Our hearts were broken this past week for the people of First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas. Our prayers are with those who are recovering and with the families who lost loved ones. This tragic incident has also raised safety concerns for every church in America.

At First Baptist Church of Statesville we have always taken security seriously. Though we do not publicize our security measures, please be assured that we are watching out for you.

Given this latest incidence, however, we are reexamining safety issues and expanding our efforts. Starting this Sunday, a uniformed officer will be present on our campus. Please make this person feel welcome, but remember that the officer has a job to do.

Schedule

Sunday, November 12

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 13

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 14

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, November 15

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 16

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

Sunday, November 19

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 20

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 21

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, November 22

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!
 Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Church Office Closed

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

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Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of October 29 & November 5, 2017

	10/29	11/5
Church in Bible Study	147.....	153
Church in Worship.	249.....	206

Financial Statistics

	November	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	65,282.00	132,238.00
Budget Receipts	14,853.00	73,037.00
Needed to Meet Goal	50,429.00	59,201.00
Alms	536.00	1,365.00
Designated	1,265.00	14,478.00

Financial Update

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry. Here are a few highlights as of the end of October 2017.

Celebrations

- Because we are frugal, our actual spending was down \$2,883 since last year.
- We donated \$2,000 to Coach on Call in honor of Jack Causey.

Challenges

- Our actual receipts were down \$2,995 as compared to October 2016.
- We missed our October 2017 giving goal by \$8,772.

If we are going to accomplish all we'd like to do in ministry, we will have to increase our giving as we go forward.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, November 16, 2017 11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall

The November program will be a men's musical ensemble led by Mac Funderburk and fellow choir members. The devotion and program will begin at 11:00 a.m. with lunch at 12:00 noon. To attend, please sign up when you are called, or in your Sunday School Class, or by calling the church office. In order to have enough food prepared, it is important that you sign up no later than Monday, November 13.



You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Pastor Emeritus ~ Dr. Jack Causey

Our congregation made our former pastor, Dr. Jack Causey, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church on Sunday, October 29. Pastor Emeritus is an honorary title that recognizes the positive influence made by a former pastor. Dr. Causey served as senior pastor at First Baptist Church from June 1986 through May 2000. Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC Dr. Larry Hovis attended the service to honor Dr. Causey and all the work he does for Coach on Call.



Blessed Are They Who Hunger And Thirst

If we are really thirsty, we will scramble for water; if famished, we will forget everything else until our hunger is assuaged. Food and water are of utmost importance to our physical bodies. How vital is prayer and Bible study to your spiritual soul? The body is only temporary; the soul lives forever. Doesn't it make sense, then, that we give our greatest attention to prayer and the Word of God? Daily prayer and quiet time (time spent communing with God and meditating on His Word), Sunday School, Monday morning prayer time in the sanctuary, Precept Bible study, and Wednesday night Bible study are great opportunities to nourish our souls, not just for this short life, but for eternity.

Job said, "I esteem the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12) Daniel risked his very life for his dedication to prayer. (Daniel 6) Can you imagine what great things God could do in First Baptist Church if we all followed the example of these two men?

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

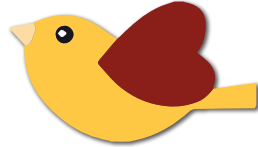


Messages by: Nelson Granade

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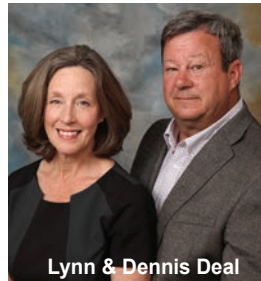
November 12, 2017

Unsung Hero Dennis Deal



On Sunday mornings, the local television station (Spectrum Cable Channel 20) broadcasts our worship service.

Dennis records each service and spends an afternoon editing the recording. Many of our members who are unable to attend on Sunday mornings enjoy watching these recordings on television



Lynn & Dennis Deal

Dennis's daughter, Caroline Taylor, takes over this responsibility when Dennis is unable to attend.

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 or call 704-873-7231.

CBF Mission Bite

Bite 56: Kids still need their dad

Andrés lives in Mexico City -- again. His parents brought him to the U.S. when he was 8, and he was deported at age 19 following an incident with police. Although the charges against him were dropped, it was too late -- he was already in deportation proceedings. He's hoping to return home one day.

"It's been 7 years, and I'm miserable," he says. "I'm not in a safe place, I work a job that barely pays my room and board, and I don't have any family or friends here. But I DID learn Spanish," he joked. His U.S.-born wife and 7-year-old son, who was born around the time Andrés was deported, tried living in Mexico, but they had to return to the states when her parents fell ill. Through our legal services program, we hope to help this young couple understand what options are available so that Andrés can return to the U.S. "I just want a chance to be a dad," he says. "My wife is doing her best, but kids still need their dad."

- Greg and Sue Smith, CBF field personnel in Fredericksburg, Va.

Announcements

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. Volunteer to shop for a family. The names will be in the Sunday School classes this Sunday. We will be at the Welcome Center after the worship service with the family names and the gift cards. There will be a \$75.00 gift card for each child.
4. 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.
5. Mark your calendar now for December 10. This is the day the families will be coming to pick up their gifts. We will need a host of volunteers that day. We need people to greet our guests, sit with them as they eat and hear their stories, strong bodies to carry the bags of toys and boxes of food, and people to direct traffic and load the cars. 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

