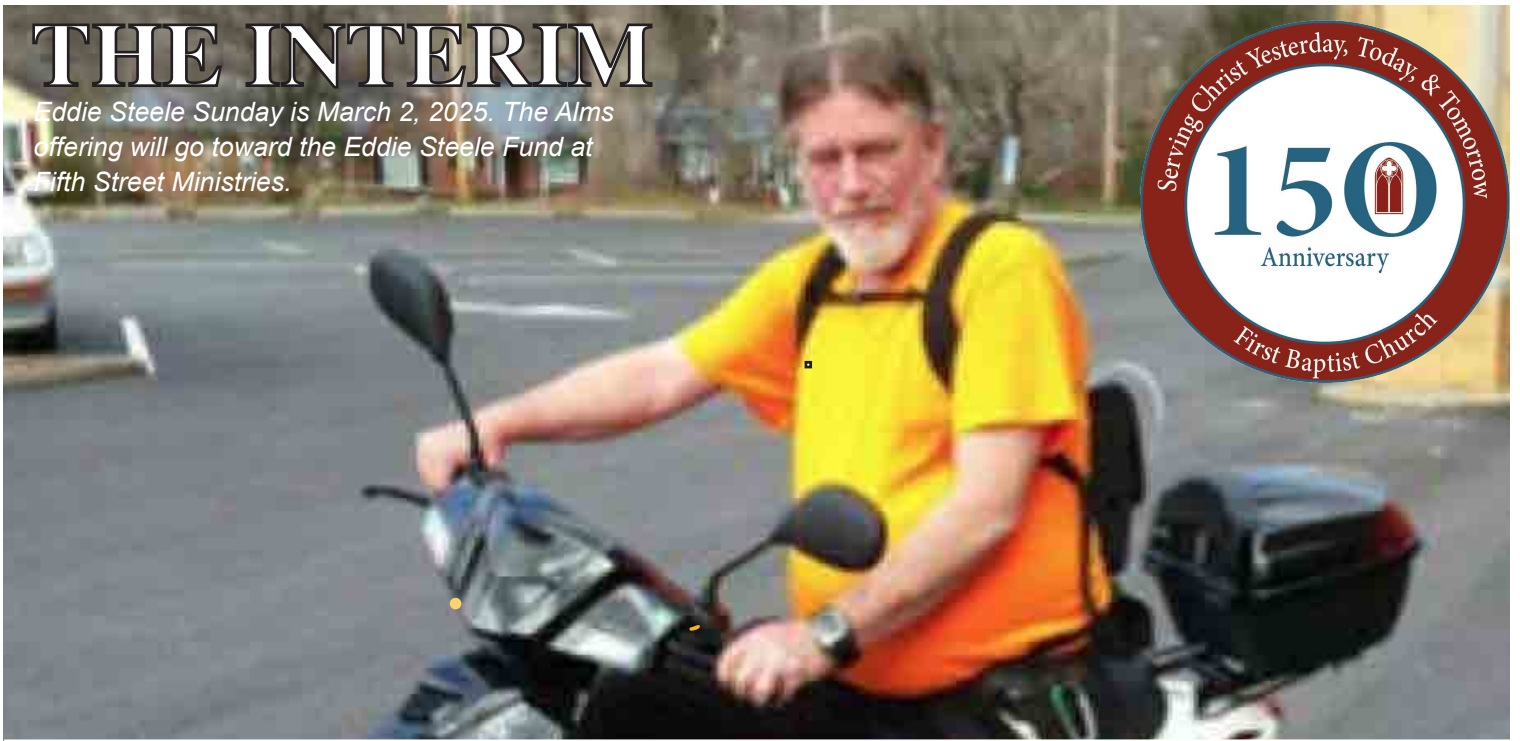


# THE INTERIM

*Eddie Steele Sunday is March 2, 2025. The Alms offering will go toward the Eddie Steele Fund at Fifth Street Ministries.*



Volume 82 Issue 4

February 23, 2025

## From the Pastor...

Our March 2<sup>nd</sup> Alms offering will be put towards the Eddie Steele Fund at Fifth Street Ministries. It has been some time since Eddie went on to be with the Lord, and not everyone reading this will remember him. Whether or not you knew Eddie, if you are a part of First Baptist Church, he affected your life.

Eddie Steele was a man our congregation helped, and he ended up helping us even more. When Payton Morris first saw Eddie, Eddie was living in the woods and wouldn't come near anyone. Over time, Payton and others gained Eddie's trust by leaving him food.

Once Eddie began to talk with us, we learned he needed medical attention to stay steadier in life. Drs. Foushee and Hunter both assisted. Several folks worked together to provide Eddie with food, clothing, and a small apartment. The Fellowship Class even bought him a scooter.

We all soon learned that Eddie was a gentle loving soul who had lost his way in life. Eddie reminded us that God does not judge on the exterior, but the heart. There was much more to Eddie than a bearded homeless man walking the roads in a dirty Dallas Cowboy Jacket.

As Eddie stabilized, he soon began to give back. Eddie became our number one facilities volunteer. He did whatever we asked of him. He loved to set up tables and chairs and always made sure they were perfectly aligned. He would wash dishes for hours, standing in a cloud of steam with a smile on his face.

Unfortunately, Eddie began to move slower. He had to wear an oxygen tank on his back just to keep walking. Despite all this, Eddie kept working and kept smiling. Unfortunately, Eddie's health continued to decline, and he eventually had to be admitted to a nursing home.

When Eddie passed, his was one of the largest funerals we have had at First Baptist Church. We had helped change Eddie's life, and he had changed ours in return. We became a more loving congregation that learned to see the world through God's eyes.

This is why I say, that, if you are a member of First Baptist Church, Eddie Steele has impacted your life. We are a better church because of Eddie. I hope you will give generously this Sunday, so other Eddies might be helped. I hope even more that we will remember to see others as God sees.

## Schedule

### Sunday, February 23

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

### Monday, February 24

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, February 26

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's & Youth Activities

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

### Thursday, February 27

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, February 28

6:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

### Sunday, March 2

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

### Monday, March 3

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, March 5

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's & Youth Activities

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

### Thursday, March 6

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 / Preschool Director  
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

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## A Message from Minister of Missions Elizabeth Kilby

As spring approaches, we are thinking ahead to different things - new life, restoration, sunlight and longer days. With these things, our eyes open in a new way to different opportunities to serve. We think of lending a hand on a project, cooking and sharing a meal, or having a conversation with a friend. Think about what ways you would want to bring hope to those around you and ways to serve. It can be something very simple that God can use in mighty ways.

Many thoughts and prayers.  
Elizabeth Kilby



## Financial Statistics

	2/9	2/16
In Person . . . . .	148 . . . . .	134
Live Stream . . . . .	XX . . . . .	XX
Sunday School . . . . .	85 . . . . .	86

## Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	73,461.00	453,501.00
Budget Receipts	40,382.00	380,203.00
Goals Not Met	(33,079.00)	(73,298.00)
Alms	1,059.00	5,639.00
Designated	2,298.00	41,252.00

# A Resilient Church

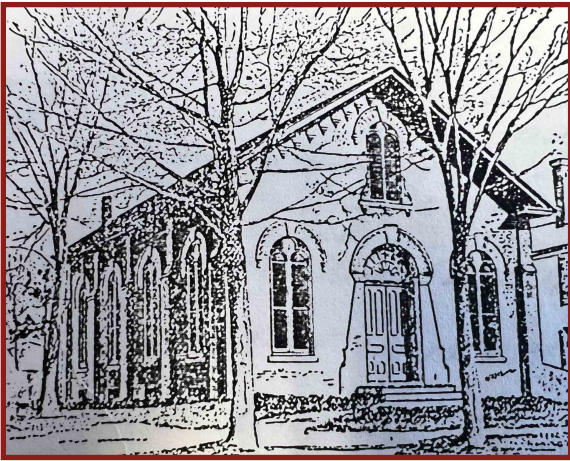
The February theme for our 150th Anniversary Celebration is resiliency. Our church has remained resilient since its birth in 1875.

Formed on the heels on the Civil War, the first members of First Baptist Church of Statesville met in the court house until the first building opened in 1881. That 52' x 56' building served the congregation for 25 years.

In 1907 the congregation began raising funds for the second building. That building cost \$17,000.

On December 8, 1941 (as the United States decides to enter WWII) the deacons held a meeting and decided to start another building fund. That building fund would raise \$25,000 and buy the plot of land our building sits on today. In 1954 the sanctuary opened. In 1972, our Education building opened. Finally in 1988 our Family Life Center opened.

No matter what is going on in the world, First Baptist Church of Statesville lives out our mission of "knowing and loving Jesus Christ and making Him known".



*First Building*



*Second Building*



*Current Building*



*The Dream Team: The Building Committee for the 1972 Education Building.*



*Site of current building*





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## Announcements

### *Happy Birthday*

#### **March 1**

**Mike White**

#### **March 3**

Judy Jackson

#### **March 5**

Connie Minnix

#### **March 6**

Jacob Palmer

#### **March 7**

Caroline Bentley

Ruby Kate Lowrance

#### **March 8**

Luke Williams

#### **March 9**

Bob Dellinger

#### **March 10**

Clarence Poole

#### **March 11**

Margaret Barnard

#### **March 12**

Dianne Lindeman

Nathan Rash

#### **March 13**

Johnie McLeod

#### **March 14**

Donnie Bowers

Kelby Houston

Kevin Houston

#### **March 16**

Barbara Price

Ian Rushton

Tim Tobey

Stan Williams

#### **March 17**

Joel Wilson

#### **March 20**

Hailey Wiseman

#### **March 23**

Tammy Tillery

April Waugh

#### **March 24**

Kristina Kyles

#### **March 25**

Hersey Miller

#### **March 27**

Lori Fincannon

Steve Koontz

#### **March 28**

Bill Stiles

#### **March 31**

Don Daniel

Luke Wimpy

### **Parents Night Out Friday, February 28, 2025 6:00-9:00 p.m.**



Children (birth-grade 5) are invited for a fun evening with Melissa and Kristina. Children will make a craft, play in the gym, eat pizza, and watch a movie. Cost is \$5.00 per child. Use the QR code to register or call the church office at 704-873-7231.

### **Clothes Closet Needs Toiletry Items**

Did you know that we offer toiletry items to the Clothes Closet shoppers? We would appreciate your donations of either regular or travel size items. You may drop them off at the church office. Thank you!



### **Ash Wednesday Service March 5, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a special Ash Wednesday service immediately following the Family Night Meal.

### **Hurricane Helene Relief at Black Mountain Children's Home March 28-30, 2025**

We will head to the Black Mountain Children's Home March 28-30 to help with the damage they sustained from Hurricane Helene. Cost of the trip is \$75.00 covering food and lodging for the week. If you would like to attend, please contact Elizabeth Kilby.