

Youth campers worshiping at Passport Camp.



THE INTERIM

Volume 82 Issue 15

July 27, 2025

From the Pastor...

We're highlighting the oldest and youngest among us this week. Jubilee Sunday is July 27, 2025. It is the day we celebrate those who have been members for at least 50 years or are 90 years of age or above. This is certainly an elite group of folks who deserve to be honored.

July 28-August 1, 2025, is Vacation Bible School. It's a time when kids are front and center in the life of our church. VBS is vital for faith development as the extended time allows us to cover multiple Bible stories. It's also the only time some of the children get to be with us.

I like having these two events in close proximity, because it lets us focus on both our heritage and our future. I'm so appreciative of our Jubilee folks and all they have and continue to contribute to our mutual ministry. I'm also thrilled to see the energy and excitement the next generation brings.

I encourage you to invite and bring children to VBS to experience *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*. Through Bible stories, games, crafts and treats they will learn:

- When We Wonder, We Can Trust Jesus
- When We Feel Alone, We Can Trust Jesus
- When We Feel Powerless, We Can Trust Jesus
- When We Need Hope, We Can Trust Jesus
- When We Need Help, We Can Trust Jesus

Our Jubilee friends have lived out these truths and now a new generation is learning them as well.

Schedule

Sunday, July 27

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, July 28

9:00 a.m. True North VBS

Tuesday, July 29

9:00 a.m. True North VBS

Wednesday, July 30

9:00 a.m. True North VBS

Thursday, July 31

9:00 a.m. True North VBS

Friday, August 1

9:00 a.m. True North VBS

Sunday, August 3

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, August 4

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, August 6

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Thursday, August 7

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

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

August 1

Lynda Card

Garrett Gilliam

August 3

Nedra Broyhill

August 5

Sandy Brown

Kay Martin

Carrie Sykes

Linda Tinsley

August 6

Jared Church

August 7

Ken Marsh

August 9

Sawyer Hinceman

August 11

Wayne Rash

Joe Stephens

August 14

Jessie Jackson

Kathy Mullins

August 15

Angie Shook

August 16

Lynn Barker

Chris Buckner

Nancy Deal

Gavin Sykes

Harry Tsumas

August 18

Connie Linyard

August 20

Walt Tillery

Meg Tillery

August 21

Vester Boone

August 25

Pam Benfield

August 26

Laura Marsh

August 27

Pat Rushton

August 29

Ralph Bentley

Martha Boyles

Jackie Holshouser

Eddy Sipe

August 30

Sandy Clements

August 31

Mary Bryan

Bobby Stegall

Henry Crouch

Spiritual Statistics

	7/13	7/20
In Person	163	166
Live Stream	16	18
Sunday School	82	84

Financial Statistics

	July	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	73,866.00	748,326.00
Budget Receipts	30,317.00	730,132.00
Goals Not Met	(43,549.00)	(18,194.00)

Full Circle at Megumi Kindergarten

By Laura Foushee, www.cbf.net/blog

When our family returned to Kanazawa after nearly six years in Tokyo to serve alongside Kanazawa Baptist Church again, one of the things that excited us was for our daughter, Ada, to attend Kanazawa Megumi Kindergarten. The preschool has been a ministry of Kanazawa Baptist Church for 70 years, and it was one of the first communities we served when we moved to Japan in 2013. In addition to teaching English to the preschoolers several times a month, we also taught English conversation classes for mothers. When we returned to Kanazawa, we were delighted to find out some of Ada's classmates were the younger siblings and children of parents we had befriended over eight years earlier. I sat between two of those mothers at the school's Christmas pageant this past year and told them, "I never imagined 10 years ago that I would be sitting with the two of you as we watch our children play Mary, Joseph and one of the wise men in the pageant together."



As we prepared this winter for Ada's graduation in March, I recalled attending previous graduations as a teacher and crying as the younger students sang songs to say goodbye to their older "brothers and sisters," dressed like little grown-ups in frilly dresses and suits with shorts, who were preparing to move on to elementary school. This year, I attended as a parent as my own concluded her sweet preschool years and was anxiously awaited the big transition to primary school. And yes, I cried. A lot.

To be honest, I was not sure that Ada would graduate from Megumi Kindergarten. Since our first three years in Kanazawa, Megumi's student population is half of what it was then. A national declining birth rate and an increase in dual income families in the heart of city has meant fewer families find that traditional half-day preschool models meet their family's childcare needs. As the school has watched other preschools like them shut their doors in recent years, it has continued to adjust to survive, knowing that difficult decisions might have to be made in the coming years.

Now that Ada has graduated and our younger child will begin there this spring, we have experienced firsthand the Christian witness of this preschool. Though many of the teachers and most of the students are not Christian, the children learn how to pray, recite scripture and sing hymns daily. But even more than that, the school has created an environment that exercises openness, patience and grace for each student that walks into the school.

For us, the school embraced Ada as a three-and-a-half-year-old who did not speak Japanese (and the teachers did not speak English!) and love her through all the communication gaps. And then they celebrated with us over a year later as Ada finally started outputting the Japanese she had been hearing and connecting with her classmates on a different level.

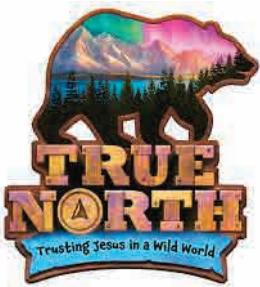
I do not know what the future of Megumi Kindergarten will be, but I give thanks to God that in a full-circle moment that has come through our long-term presence, I have been a part of the ministry of this school as both a teacher and a parent. I give thanks to God for 70 years of showing the love of Christ to the thousands of students and families it has served, praying that the seeds planted even years ago will take root in the hearts of those whom it has loved.



Volume 82 Issue 15

July 27, 2025

Announcements



Vacation Bible School July 28 - August 1

Come on the wilderness adventure of True North Vacation Bible School, July 28-August 1!

Explore trusting Jesus with Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, and more!

Register now at www.fbcstatesville.org.

Upcoming Events

Jubilee Sunday
July 27

Promotion Sunday
August 17

Wednesday Evening Activities Resume
August 20

Operation Inasmuch
August 23

Parents Night Out
September 5

Congregation Visioning Session
September 14

150th Anniversary Celebration
November 16

A Message from Minister of Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Fall is Almost Here! As the seasons shift, we're preparing for the return of routines, fresh schedules—and two big opportunities to give back.

Back-to-School Supply Drive: We're collecting school supplies for local students in need. Your donations will go directly to our partner schools and help set kids up for success this school year.

Sheet Set Collection: In partnership with Fifth Street's newly reopened wing, we're also collecting twin, twin XL, and queen sheet sets—new or gently used. A cozy bed brings a sense of stability to children facing housing insecurity, and your donation can make a real difference.

It may be an unexpected pair—supplies and sheets—but both bring comfort, consistency, and care. Thank you for being a community that gives generously and shows up for others.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ministry.

Congregational Visioning Session Sunday, September 14, 2025

We've spent a lot of time during our Sesquicentennial Celebration focusing on our past and present ministries. It is now time to look forward as well! Please plan to be present Sunday, September 14, 2025, for the first of four congregational visioning sessions.

After worship, we will have a quick lunch followed by a time of exploring our core values. Michael Cheuk, a consultant with the Center for Congregational Health, will lead our time together. We need your input, so please make plans to attend.