



Volume 80 Issue 5

March 12, 2023

From the Pastor...

Sign ups for church directory appointments (April 25-29, 2023) are underway! We want you in our directory. Whether you're a lifelong member of First Baptist Church, a regular attender, or new to our congregation; we want you to be a part of this directory. In other words, if you connect to our church, we'd like to connect with you.

Most of us need an updated portrait. Just for sitting for your directory picture, you will receive a complimentary 8" x 10" photo. You will also have the opportunity to purchase other photos, but you will not be pressured to buy anything. Each person/family that has their photo taken will receive a free directory as well.

Not only will you get an updated portrait and a directory, but our church will get some benefits as well. Here are a few:

Putting Names to Faces

Ever see someone at church, but can't remember their name? With our new directory you will be able to skim through the faces and find out their name. Then you can greet them by name next time you see them at church.

Help New Members Get to Know Us

It can be difficult to break into a congregation when you are new. There are a lot of people to meet and get to know. Having an updated directory will give us a tool to help newer members get to know us and get involved more quickly.

Help Members Get to Know Each Other

It's not just new members who need to expand their church relationships. We all need to be in fellowship with one another and a new directory will help us make those connections.

Find Addresses and Phone Numbers

A church directory is not just photos. It also contains addresses and phone numbers so we can keep up with each other and encourage one another with calls and notes.

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**Don't Forget to
Make your
Directory Portrait
Appointment**

**Sunday Mornings
Following the Worship
Service in the Welcome Center**

**Wednesday Evenings
Family Life Center Lobby**

**Online
www.ucdir.com
Church code: nc432
Church password: photos**

Schedule

Sunday, March 12

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

Monday, March 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, March 15

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, March 16

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, March 19

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

Monday, March 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, March 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
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, March 23

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

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A Message From Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

As we are thinking ahead to spring and Easter, so many fun things pop in my mind. Fun colors, fun activities, fun times to be outside - all bring a smile to my face. However we often forget that spring is the time for growth and rebirth. No matter how hard we try, this can often be a really hard season of stretching and growing in areas that are unfamiliar or we are not ready for. We love to prepare for this season just like we do Christmas. We spring clean, purge, and get ready to invite new things in. I pray that we can do this also with people in our homes. I pray that we can be open to God leading us to invite others to have hard conversations that are fruitful. I pray that we can donate our time, energy, and money wisely to where God is leading and use it to the best of our ability.

Begin preparing your items for the yard sale. We will take those on Saturday, April 15. Remember that we will not take TV's or clothing for the yard sale. Saturday, April 22 is both our Yard Sale and Operation Inasmuch. Please mark those on your calendar and be in prayer for those that we will be able to impact.



Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 26 & March 5, 2023

	2/26	3/5
Live Stream Views.	13	13
In-Person.	163	174
Sunday School.	102	104

Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	70,634.00	436,050.00
Budget Receipts	57,856.00	407,092.00
Goals Not Yet Met	(12,778.00)	(28,958.00)
Alms	932.00	7,776.00
Designated	3,257.00	32,302.00

From the Pastor...(continued from page 1)

Organize for Ministry

We spend a lot of time trying to find the right people for ministry positions they would enjoy. A directory gives us all a tool to flip through and find new ways to connect with folks we might not think of on our own.

As your pastor, I am asking each one of us to make an appointment and be a part of this new directory. You can sign up each Sunday after worship at the Welcome Center (behind the sanctuary) or on Wednesday evenings in the Family Life Center lobby. You can also sign up on line at www.ucdir.com (Enter nc432 in the Church code field and enter photos in the Church Password field.)

Carson Foushee Celebrates 20 Years of Serving with CBF



Carson Foushee has been serving with his wife Laura in partnership with the Japan Baptist Convention since 2013. Carson served the summer of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. He served in China as a Mandarin language student and assisted with English classes led by CBF affiliate field personnel Don and Karen Barnes. He was a member of the Millennium Development Goals' team in North America, Europe and Africa. He worked alongside CBF field personnel Jade and Shelah Acker in Uganda. Finally, in southeast Asia Carson worked under the direction of CBF field personnel Ron and Melin Green.

"I was discerning God's guidance for my next steps after graduation from college when I attended my home church's Christmas Eve worship service during winter break of my senior year. As I sat among family and friends who had encouraged me in my faith journey throughout my life, I felt God leading me to return to life-giving service opportunities I had experienced in the years that led up to that moment. Growing up in a CBF connected church, my mother suggested serving with CBF, and I found Student.Go online.

I applied for a position in China that drew my interest and was accepted, but still pursued jobs within my field of sport management. A few weeks later I got a call from a neighbor from my hometown who found about my interest in the position in China and shared that she had served in the same city of the internship that few outside of China know about. She prayed for clarity as I discerned my calling. The next morning clarity came when I received a call from a professional sports job. I had been a final candidate and I was not selected. It was then I knew China would be my next destination.

My favorite experiences were the ones that most wouldn't view as all that special. It was the average and even mundane experiences and conversations that confirmed that I had been welcomed by the local partners with whom I served and that my contributions were valuable to the communities where I had been led. Experiences like sitting down for a lunch at a work site of beef rendang and rice packed inside a banana leaf along with the water filtration team from the ministry in Southeast Asia, gathering with friends in my dorm room in China with Chinese friends made on the basketball court, or singing each evening with the MDG team as part of our covenant with each other to sing together each day.

During the MDG team's visit to Ethiopia to serve alongside Water is Life and former field personnel David Harding, I was introduced to Yared who led a team of water well drillers. He was an orphan who had been well cared for by the ministry and then was trained with skills that allowed for his success as a well driller and team leader. He was such a joyful person and it seemed like he was the town mayor everywhere we went. People of all ages excitedly came out to receive him as we traveled to hard-to-reach villages in the bush just to express their gratitude for Yared and his team's work that changed the lives of those in this community.

In China, my call to professional ministry was confirmed as I realized what I knew and realized what I lacked that I could gain through seminary studies for long-term service. Before and during seminary I continued to return to serve with Student.Go for practical experience under the supervision of inspirational field personnel supervisors. Each experience equipped me with new skills that I still use today.

Recently in my role as field personnel, I was able to speak a little with a family in my city in a Southeast Asian language that I learned during an internship which helped develop a new relationship and chance to share the love of Christ. My internships opened my eyes to needs in society, spiritual and physical, that I still seek to address in my service as field personnel."



Announcements

Wednesday Evening Menus

March 15
shepherd's pie

March 22
tacos

No reservation is needed.
Cost is \$5.00/adult and \$4.00/child.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, March 23, 2023 11:00 a.m. - FLC

This month's entertainment will be an hour of gospel music with the Gospel Voices. The menu includes BBQ, baked beans, slaw, and dessert. Please make your reservation by Monday, March 20 at 12:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

July 24-28, 2023

**Registration Opens
June 1**

Launch on a cosmic quest where you'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Rocket on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Palm Sunday
April 2

Maundy Thursday Service
April 6
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Community Service
April 7
12:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 8
10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday
Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.
Service - 10:00 a.m.

Operation Inasmuch
Saturday, April 22

Mission Trip Yard Sale
Saturday, April 22

Church Directory Photos
April 25-29

Vacation Bible School
July 24-28