



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

THE INTERIM

Volume 78 Issue 25

December 5, 2021

From the Pastor...

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" That statement is both a song title and a description of this time of year. That's what songs do. They capture reality, preserve it, and bring it to life again.

It is often said that we learn more theology through songs than sermons. Perhaps that's why you can remember hundreds of hymns, but few homilies. That's not a slight to preaching, but rather a compliment to the power of music. I think this is because God loves music.

God tells Job that, at creation, the "morning stars sang together" (Job 38:7). God inspired David and others to write the Psalms and many of them call us to "sing" or "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 95; 100:104).

**Advent Sermon Series
The Carols of Christmas**

December 5
**Peace: I Heard the Bells
on Christmas Day**
Luke 1:68-79

December 12
**Joy: Good Christian
Friends Rejoice**
Isaiah 12:1-6

December 19
**Love: Love Came Down
at Christmas**
I John 4:7-12, 19-21

Christmas Eve
What Child is This?
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Songs were also used to celebrate and commemorate God's redeeming actions. Moses and Miriam sang to celebrate God bringing God's children out of captivity (Exodus 15). Mary sang when she expressed to Elizabeth her joy at being selected to bear Jesus (Luke 1:46-56). Zachariah sang at the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:67-79).

We also know that Jesus sang with his disciples (Matthew 26:30). Paul and Silas sang even in prison (Acts 16). Paul also encouraged churches to sing (Ephesians 5:19) and even incorporated songs into his writings (Philippians 2). And John's Revelation is full of music (Revelation 4:8, 4:11, 5:9-14, 7:12, 11:17-18, 15:3-4, 16:5-6).

Music was around at the beginning of creation. Music has always been a part of worship. And music will be forever in glory. So it's no wonder that music is dear to the heart of people of faith – especially during Advent and Christmas.

Because music is so important, my Advent and Christmas messages will focus on some of the Carols of Christmas. I wish I had time to talk about more carols – since there are so many. The ones I picked, however, reflect the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Schedule

Sunday, December 5

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson
Uploaded to YouTube & Facebook

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, December 6

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday
After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, December 9

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

1:30 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, December 12

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson
Uploaded to YouTube & Facebook

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, December 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday
After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

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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CBF Mission Bite

Mission Bite 246: Continually Amazed

Caesar makes about \$55 a month. He is a guard that watches over someone else's property and stuff. Six days a week, for about 12 hours a day he sits and guards. His salary supports his wife and two kids. One day recently he again asked me for a small loan.

In trying to help him become more sustainable we examined his budget. \$30 a month on rent. \$25 a month on food. He started to list other expenses and I stopped him and said you've already reached your total income. He looked down and shrugged.

We talked about him returning to his rural village to try to survive there. He didn't want to go yet.

In early June, COVID-19 began hitting Uganda hard. Everything is again in lockdown. How will Caesar and his family survive on his salary? Now that Uganda is in lockdown they can't return to his village.

I am continually amazed at how people survive on so little. And amazed that when Caesar is off on a Sunday he will be in church.

Jade Acker, CBF field personnel serving in Kampala, Uganda



Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of November 21 & 28, 2021

	11/21	11/28
Live Stream Views.	14	16
In-Person.	142	155
Sunday School.	101	116

Financial Statistics

	November	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	67,806.00	137,351.00
Budget Receipts	118,239.00	211,434.00
Goals Met	50,433.00	74,083.00
Alms	2,072.00	2,920.00
Designated	7,815.00	21,424.00

A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

2021 Advent Devotional

I never thought about how mission-minded the month of December is until I became a Missions Pastor. There is so much that we do for other people during this month. We have poured into our White Christmas, then we get together and pour into each other during our services, our music programs, our outreaches, clothes closet, and even Wednesday night activities. These outlets allow us to focus on others and prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. While there are gifts under our trees we are also thrilled to think about being the hands and feet for putting gifts under someone else's tree. We have been able to package some supplies for the White Christmas families for stockings, and in the coming Wednesday nights, we get to prepare holiday yard signs to share love and then create Christmas crafts for those we care about.

We also get the sheer joy of daily reading the Advent devotional which I am so grateful to everyone who contributed to make it such a success. Thankful and merry just touches the tip of what I am grateful for this year.

Many thoughts and prayers,
Elizabeth

Learning More About Our Members Gale Hall

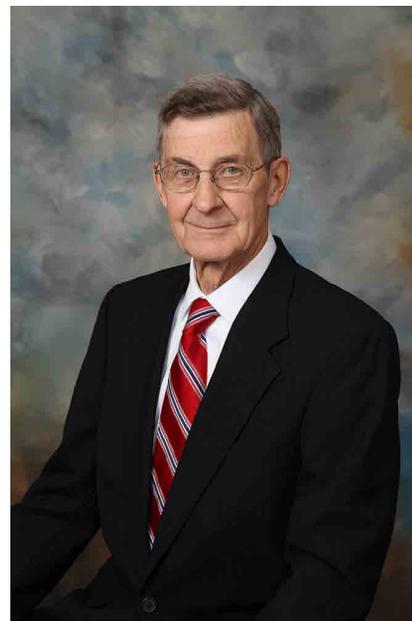
Gale Hall joined FBC on February 10, 1969 when his job brought his wife, Teddie, and his two children, Tracy and Rob, to Statesville. He grew up in First Baptist Church in Burnsville, NC so it was only natural to join First Baptist Church in Statesville. Teddie also grew up in Burnsville. They met shortly after Teddie's birth when Gale was 4 months old. While they attended the same schools, they did not date until they both finished college.

Before retiring, Gale was the Human Resource Director for Southern Furniture Company in Conover for 30 years. Before that he taught public school in Orlando, Florida for seven years.

He is president of the Fellowship Sunday School Class and acts as the substitute teacher. Gale plans the monthly Senior Adult Luncheons and annual Senior Adult Trips. He also lends a hand each year getting the food ready for White Christmas. Gale has also served three terms as a deacon in the early 90s. On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings enjoys playing pickle ball with other FBC members.

Outside of church, Gale enjoys going to the beach and visiting his hometown of Burnsville.

Each issue of The Interim will feature a different member or family of our church. If there is anyone you would like to learn more about, please e-mail their name to kayley@statesvillefbc.org or call the church office.





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Announcements

Welcome to Our Church Family!

Darbee Lewis made a profession of faith on Sunday, November 28 and is a candidate for baptism.



Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, December 9, 2021
1:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Please visit redcrossblood.org and enter: FBC Statesville to schedule an appointment.

Wednesday Evening Menus

December 8

pot roast, roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables,
& jello

Kids meal: cheeseburgers

December 15

manicotti with meatballs, peas, & brownies

Kids meal: mac & cheese

Be sure to make your reservations by Monday at 10:00 a.m. by calling the church office, e-mailing kayley@statesvillefbc.org, or using the Remind App.

A decorative graphic featuring green holly leaves, red berries, and gold stars on a dark green background.

Christmas at FBC

Join us in-person or online.

Christmas Music Program
“Sing We Now of Christmas”
Sunday, December 19
6:00 p.m.

Two Christmas Eve Services
12:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.
The 12:00 p.m. service is tailored to young families.

