

Preston McLain, Piper Lewis, & Jason Allen carry gifts to cars as part of FBC's White Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 6, 2015. FBC served over 50 families in need this holiday season.

THE INTERIM

Volume 72 Issue 26

December 20, 2015



From the Pastor...



"For unto you is born ... a Savior!" It sounds so familiar and strange all at the time. We've heard it many times in Christmas pageants, cantatas and sermons. Yet, the old King James still seems a little foreign to our modern ear. Perhaps, that's what makes it seem more holy.

Do we truly get Christmas? Do we understand that Christ's birth changed the world forever? Do we know that this birth is "unto us?" In other words, Christmas is both immense and personal. It is a worldwide event that is experienced on an individual level. God is saving the world by transforming our lives.

It is easy to get lost in the enormity of Christmas and miss the personal message of peace. The angels sang from heaven, but each shepherd heard with their own ears. This child, who would change the world, had come into their lives. It was their opportunity for salvation. The tag on the present said, "Unto You!"

Christmas is bigger than you we can imagine and closer than we realize. God brought salvation into the world and offered it to us.

The tag on our present says, "Unto You!" We don't have to spend so much time and energy trying to make Christmas any bigger. We just have to accept God's love and grace in the form of a baby.

Valerie and I are so excited to be spending our first Christmas with you all. First Baptist Church has so many wonderful holiday traditions that make it a special time. What makes it most special, however, is simply realizing God's presence in one another. We look forward to seeing you Sunday!

Guest Speaker ~ Dr. Larry Gregg

We welcome Dr. Larry Gregg to our pulpit, Sunday, December 27, 2015. Dr. Gregg is a long time friend of our pastor, a talented preacher and a biblical scholar. He has served churches in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and North Carolina as well as teaching at Gardner-Webb University, Isothermal Community College and Limestone College. Dr. Gregg also consults with numerous churches and community groups as president of Covecraft Consulting.

First Baptist Church Christmas Cantata

Sing We Now of Christmas: A Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 20, 2015 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary



Come hear the FBC Sanctuary Choir and orchestra, along with a live nativity presented by the FBC Children's Choir, in *Sing We Now of Christmas: A Service of Lessons and Carols*. This is a wonderful experience which assembles various scriptures and other readings along with music to re-tell the story of Jesus' birth. The voices of Old Testament prophets, the angel Gabriel, Mary, and Gospel authors join together to unfold an elegant narrative pointing to the great mystery of the Incarnation. And the interspersed music helps reflect, emphasize, and in some cases foreshadow the various readings. Come and enjoy the simplicity of this age-old form of the Christmas story. A Christmas Cookie Fellowship will follow in Adams Hall. Please bring treats to share.

Schedule

Sunday, December 20 ~ Zechariah 1-7

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Cookie Social - Adams Hall

Monday, December 21 ~ Zechariah 8-14

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, December 22 ~ Esther 1-5

- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 23 ~ Esther 6-10

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, December 24 ~ Ezra 7-10

Church Office Closed

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - *Sanctuary*

Friday, December 25 ~ Nehemiah 1-5

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 26 ~ Nehemiah 6-7

Sunday, December 27 ~ Nehemiah 8-10

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Joint Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, December 28 ~ Nehemiah 11-13 & Psalm 126

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, December 29 ~ Malachi 1-4

- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 30

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, December 31

Friday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!*



When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Luke 2:15-16

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of December 6 & 13, 2015

	12/6	12/13
Church in Bible Study	111	98
Church in Worship	206	212
8:30 a.m. service	53	43
10:55 a.m. service	153	169

Financial Statistics

Weeks of December 6 & 13, 2015

	12/6	12/13
Budget - Received	27,540.34	\$57,044.99
Alms	486.50	0.00
Designated - Received	3,682.00	2,966.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 12/6/15		31,708.84
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 12/13/15		60,010.99
Budget for 2015-2016		893,174.00
Weekly Budget Needed		17,176.42
Budget Needs To Date		188,940.65
Budget Given to Date		184,462.66
Behind Budget		(4,477.99)
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		34,050.43
Alms Received-Year to Date		2,299.50
Total Giving-Year to Date		220,812.59

Shannon and Sherry Ashley work on the assembly line at Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe box warehouse in Charlotte, NC. FBC took a group to work the line on Wednesday, December 9.



Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur Tel: 704-873-7231

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White Christmas Celebration ~ Sunday, December 6, 2015

FBC served over 50 families for the holiday season. FBC helped these families provide Christmas gifts for the children. Each family also received a box of food for the holidays.

FBC members also enjoyed a spaghetti lunch with the families.



Venture Students Progressive Dinner ~ Sunday, December 13, 2015

The Venture Students celebrated the Christmas season with a progressive dinner. They enjoyed dinner out followed by an ice cream sundae bar and a gift exchange at the home of Shannon & Sherry Ashley.





Message by: Dr. Nelson Granade (12/20) & Dr. Larry Gregg (12/27)

Worship with us Sundays 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.

The 8:30 a.m. service will be held in the Sanctuary Sunday, December 20.

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Announcements

New Arrival!

Congratulations to Jud and Bianca Van Zee of Holly Springs, NC on the birth of a son, Jax Anthony, on December 3, 2015. The proud grandparents are Jim and Nedra Van Zee.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to family and friends of Raymond Hawkins of Clemmons, NC in his death on December 3, 2015.

Joint Worship Services

Sunday, December 27, 2015 & Sunday, January 3, 2016

We will have joint worship services on Sunday, December 27 and Sunday, January 3. We will have Deacon Ordination and Installment on Sunday, January 3. Newly elected deacons Crystal Beale and Jeff Templeton will be ordained and installed as deacons. Don Daniel will be installed as deacon as well. Sunday School will be on regular schedule.

Precept Bible Study on John

Begins Tuesday, January 5 & Wednesday, January 6, 2016

We will begin a Precept Bible on the book of John beginning in January. Everyone is invited to take part. Please sign up at the Welcome Center with your preferred time, Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Thursday, December 24, 2015
4:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary**



Prayer Point

This Sunday we will be lighting the fourth candle of Advent. As we meditate on the meaning of each of these candles, and how all they represent is bound up in the person of Jesus Christ, may we take time to thank Him for all He has done for us and all that knowing Him means to us:

HOPE—Salvation through Christ
PEACE—Rest in Christ
JOY—Relationship with Christ
LOVE—Total Security from Christ

Thank You, Jesus, that everyone who has repented of their sins and placed their faith in You has the HOPE (assurance) of being with You eternally. Thank You that no matter how turbulent the storms of life become, You speak PEACE to the problem, providing rest for Your children. Thank You for the greatest of all relationships—the JOY of knowing You, laughing, crying, dancing with You, sharing life with You—incompletely now at best, but perfectly when we see You face to face. Last and most, thank You for loving us so much that You died for us; so much that You promised never to leave us or forsake us. We are totally secure in Your LOVE!

JESUS! What a NAME! The name that embodies HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE.

