



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

Volume 82 Issue 26

December 28, 2025

THE INTERIM

From the Pastor...

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you doing well and ready for 2026. This past year was a wonderful one as we celebrated 150 years of ministry. Next year promises to be even better as we start into our next 150 years.

We always want to build on our heritage, but 2026 will be a year of looking ahead. We will continue our Spiritual Discernment – Visioning Process. Please mark your calendars and join us at these important times of planning.

- **Community Focus, 6 pm, Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

This will be a time of hearing about the needs of our community from various community leaders. It will help us ensure that our ministries are relevant to the needs of Statesville today.

- **Asset Mapping, 11 am, Sunday, March 1, 2026**

This will be a time of celebrating all the gifts God has given us to use for ministry and thinking of ways we can best use our assets.

- **Future Stories, 11 am, Sunday, April 19, 2026**

This will be a time of writing the future story and stories of our congregation. We will consider our legacy, community and assets to set goals for the next 3 to 5 years.

These are exciting and blessed times at First Baptist Church. You are important to our ministry and your input is vital. I look forward to sharing this new year and seeing where God will lead.

Schedule

Sunday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

11:15 a.m. After Worship Sunday School

Monday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, December 31

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

11:15 a.m. After Worship Sunday School

Monday, January 5

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, January 7

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:00 p.m. Wond. Wed. After School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Music & Missions & Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 8

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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Happy Birthday

January 1

Bill Yeckley

January 2

Don Koepnick

Lisa Shankle

January 3

Dennis Deal

January 5

Katherine Webb

January 8

Jones Faulkenberry

Mike McLain

January 9

Carol Heckel

Ike Wuertz

January 10

Cassidy Barker

Carol Boroughs

January 11

Jean Elledge

January 12

Kaye Daniel

Edwin Hunter

January 13

Carolyn Garner

Bill Henderson

January 15

Andy Hall

January 16

Trevor Devine

January 17

Brett Eckerman

January 18

David Lewis

January 19

Ken Vance

January 23

Ginny Stikeleather

January 24

Backy Beasley

Matthew Johnson

January 25

Audrey Tompkins-Horne

January 27

Darrell Bare

Luke Kilby

January 30

Matilda Kilby

January 31

Jan Hunter

January 31

Betsy Kennington

Amy Moore

Spiritual Statistics

	12/14	12/21
In-Person	217	187
Online	20	20
Sunday School	102	97

Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	187,444.00	351,977.00
Budget Receipts	25,815.00	169,344.00
Goals Not Met	(161,632)	(182,634.00)
Alms	2,410.00	8,880.00
Designated	5,356.00	67,427.00



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Announcements

New Year, Same Promises

2026 Epiphany Preaching Schedule

Epiphany is the time we recognize the light of Christ entering the world. We celebrate the revelation of God's presence among us. It also coincides with the new year, when many of us make resolutions. Unfortunately, these are often the same broken promises from last year. As we observe Epiphany in 2026, we will celebrate that God never breaks God's promises. Join us for this special sermon Series.

January 4, 2026

God's Promise of Salvation (Epiphany Sunday)

Matthew 2:1-12

God has brought salvation in Jesus Christ.
Will we recognize and follow?

January 11, 2026

God's Promise of Ministry (Baptism of Our Lord)

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptism is the ordination of
all Christians to ministry.

January 18, 2026

God's Promise of Faithfulness

I Corinthians 1:1-9

God is faithful, even when we are not.

January 25, 2026

God's Promise of Involvement

Matthew 4:12-23

It is God who transforms us,
but only when we follow.

February 1, 2026

God's Promise of Blessing

Matthew 5:1-13

We are blessed, even when we don't see it.

February 8, 2026

God's Promise of Guidance

Mathew 5:13-20

We must choose how to live
in response to God's Grace.

End of Year Giving

We appreciate you remembering First Baptist Church in your end of year giving. We want to make sure you get credit for any gifts you want recorded in 2025. Please make sure your donations are either postmarked by December 31, 2025, or are brought to the church office by noon on December 31, 2025. We will be closing after this time and will not be able to postdate contributions.

A Message from Minister of Missions Elizabeth Kilby

As we are celebrating this special time of year we are also thinking about the year that is coming. All our hopes and dreams are wrapped up not only in the holiday season but in the year that is to come. We set goals, make plans and often times it is forgotten by March. We hope that the devotional that is coming out Sunday, January 4, will help you focus in on the beginning of the year and provide a lens for the year that is full of hope and encouragement.



Festival of Carols

Sunday, December 14, 2025

