



THE INTERIM

James & Debi Martin and Renee, Lynn, & Mackenzie Barker enjoy the Cookie Social after the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 17, 2017.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
STATESVILLE

Volume 75 Issue 1

January 7, 2018

From the Pastor...



It's here. It's here. It's finally here! Our Grand Reopening of the Family Life Center is this Sunday, January 7, 2018! I hope you will join us for Sunday School and worship. Then bring a dessert and stay for a special catered celebration luncheon in the Family Life Center.

We have so much to celebrate. Since we weren't able to have our luncheon for Jubilee Members, we'll start by recognizing them (Jubilee Members are those who have been here fifty years or more or are over ninety years old).

Next we will honor the Fire Fighters and other First Responders who came to our aid last March. These men and women do so much for our community and this is a great opportunity to thank them. So please make these folks welcome.

We will also thank those within the church who helped guide the process of renovation. Jody Parlier, Neill Pardue and the rest of the Building and Grounds Team worked countless hours. Larry Gregg and Don Hawkins also took on a great deal of extra work. All of these people deserve our thanks.

Lastly, we will rededicate the Family Life Center and share ways that we will be reclaiming its original purpose of being an outreach tool. Over the past few months we've heard ideas from many of you on how to best use our facilities. Now it's time to implement our vision.

Speaking of outreach, I also want to encourage you to participate in a special Sunday and Wednesday night series entitled, Making Christ Known. In the fall of 2017 we focused on the first half of our mission statement – "To know and love Jesus." Now we will focus on the second half "and to make Christ known."

Each Sunday I will focus on our calling to share our faith, and each Wednesday Larry and I will give practical help on how to witness in a natural manner. The focus will be on relational evangelism, which is a non-intimidating witnessing style.

There are so many wonderful things happening at First Baptist Church. Why not make being more involved your top New Year's Resolution? I promise you that it will make a positive difference in your life and the lives of those you love.

Nolan

Making Jesus Known Sunday Sermon Series

January 7, 2018

Be Salt & Light
Matthew 5:13-16

January 14, 2018

Be an Example
Philippians 3:17-4:1

January 21, 2018

Be an Introducer
John 1:35-42

January 28, 2018

Be Biblical
Acts 8:26-40

February 4, 2018

Be Brave (Even When You're Afraid)
Acts 9:10-24

February 11, 2018

Be Aware
Mark 9:2-9

Making Christ Known Naturally Wednesday Night Series

January 10, 2018

The Right Soil Part One

January 17, 2018

The Right Soil Part Two

January 24, 2018

Developing a Sharing Strategy

January 31, 2018

Relationships: Positive Platforms for the Gospel

February 7, 2018

Following the Holy Spirit's Guidance

Schedule

Sunday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Family Life Center Grand Reopening Celebration

Monday, January 8

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 9

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, January 10

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday January 11

2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

Sunday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. Drop In Baby Shower Honoring Justin & Lauren Cox

Monday, January 15

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 16

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, January 17

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 18

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon

2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Dr. Larry Gregg.....Minister of Christian Education & Administration
 Rev. Justin Cox.....Minister to Students
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

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

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Spiritual Statistics

Week of December 17, 24, & 31, 2017

	12/17	12/24	12/31
Church in Bible Study	111	132	110
Church in Worship.	227	205	152

Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	150,561.00	282,889.00
Budget Receipts	141,314.00	289,559.00
Needed to Meet Dec. Goal/Goal Met YTD	9,337.00	6,670.00
Alms	737.00	2,152.00
Designated	10,635.00	38,682.00

Financial Update

Celebrations:

- After three months, we are ahead of our giving cumulative goal by \$6,670!
- Because of strong giving, we have been able to send more to mission causes.
- Our actual expenditures continue to be down from last year.

Challenges:

- Regaining access to the Family Life Center will increase our ongoing expenditures.
- We need to continue to meet our goals in the coming months.
- Our reserve funds need to be restored to cover future maintenance needs.

Prayer

A matter of time and desperation

The Holy Spirit waits for the people of God to cry unto Him. He knows our circumstances. He is longing to deliver us. When God met Moses in the Midianite desert, He told him, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry. . . . So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians" (Exodus 3:7-8).

There are two conditions that must be fulfilled in order for God to deliver His people. First, we must wait for His timing. God knew the circumstances of the children of Israel. But He had promised deliverance after four hundred years of bondage (Genesis 15:13-14). God is never late and never early; He is always right on time. At the close of four hundred years He raised up a deliverer for the people.

Second, when God gets ready to move among His people, He always stirs them to cry unto Him. Although God is sovereign, He chooses to include man in His divine plan of action. Therefore, God waits for us to cry out to Him. He will even allow circumstances to enter our lives that will cause us to pray and seek Him with our whole hearts.

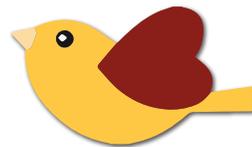
Holy Spirit, help me to trust that You will hear and answer when I cry out to You...in Your perfect timing! You know my circumstances even better than I do. Besides my own situation, please give me a heart to cry out on behalf of my family, neighbors, church, city, nation and world!

Adapted from The Prayer Factor by Sammy Tippit.

Christmas at FBC



Unsung Heroes Jody Parlier & Neill Pardue



Our congregation owes a huge thank you to Jody Parlier and Neill Pardue. Jody and Neill, along with the Building and Grounds Team, took responsibility for overseeing the renovation of the Family Life Center after the fire last year. Jody and Neill made sure the carpet was replaced, the kitchen equipment was installed correctly, the gym floor was cleaned, and many other projects were completed.

Thanks for all you do to make First Baptist Church great!

Each issue of The Interim will feature a member that does great and often unrecognized things for FBC. If you would like to see someone recognized as an *Unsung Hero*, please e-mail Kayley Crouch at kayley@statesvillefbc.org or call 704-873-7231.



Jody & Cathy Parlier



Neill & Tonya Pardue



Messages by: Nelson Granade

Volume 75 Issue 1

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CBF Mission Bites

Bite 63: Wrapped in comfort and peace

"With Christmas nearing, I reflect on my family and my Karen, Chin and Karenni friends who think of me as one of their own. I sit in the chapel in our Karen language worship. My Karen friends around me sing old familiar hymns and Christmas carols. Their voices flow around my heart in a familiar foreign language that fills my soul with joy and peace.

This past year and a half has been difficult. My father, mother and uncle passed away. The distance between me and my siblings has prevented me from being part of the grieving and healing process, but being in the loving fellowship of my beloved community, the people of Burma living in Louisville, I have been surrounded and wrapped in God's comfort and peace. How wonderful it is to be in this Beloved Community.

I pray that each of you find your home in the beloved community of faith that surrounds you, and let God give you the peace and joy of Christ this Christmas season."

- Steve Clark, CBF field personnel in Louisville, Ky.

Bite 64: New life

"I didn't play music until I came to Uganda. Now I play cello and feel peaceful when I'm playing," Jamilah says.

Her older sister came to my office and said, 'Missy, I've found my sister. She's been missing for a year, please help her.' Soldiers had invaded her house, killed her mom and took her. We helped her enroll in our shelter program where she received counseling, education and vocational and leadership training. After she graduated from the shelter, we helped her enroll in a university that teaches music. 'Here,' Jamilah says, 'I have gotten a new life.'"

- Missy Ward-Angalla, CBF field personnel in Uganda

Bite 65: Translation for the translator

"One Sunday in Moldova I saw a beautiful example of cultivating Beloved Community. Usually, when I am there, someone translates the worship services from Romanian for me--the pastor's wife Olesea or a young person like Dana. This helps me participate in the faith community. But what happens when a Romany pastor preaches in his own language? A Romany woman from the pew behind Olesea and Dana leaned forward and translated for the translators."

- Mary van Rheenen, CBF field personnel in the Netherlands

Announcements

**Family Life Center Grand Reopening
Sunday, January 7, 2018**

Following the worship service on Sunday, January 7, we celebrate the grand reopening of our Family Life Center. We will enjoy a wonderful lunch, recognize our Jubilee members, and celebrate new ministries that will launch in the FLC! Please bring a your favorite dessert to share!



**You are Invited to a Baby Shower
Honoring Justin & Lauren Cox
Sunday, January 14, 2018
Drop In: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Adams Hall**



Justin and Lauren will welcome a baby girl in February. Please come by to help us celebrate!

**Senior Adult Luncheon
Thursday, January 18, 2018
11:00 a.m. ~ Family Life Center**

The first luncheon of the new year will feature thumb picker Clay Lunsford and keyboard musician Matthew Weaver. If you have heard them in the past, then you know that we're in for a special treat. To sign up, someone may call you, or you can sign up in your Sunday School Class, or you may call the church office at 704-873-7231. Cost of the meal to be served at 12:00 noon is \$6.00 payable at the door. Deadline to sign up is noon on Monday, January 15, 2018. We will meet in the newly reopened Family Life Center.

**Meet Our New Facilities Assistant
Jack Huffman**



Jack joined our staff as a Facilities Assistant on January 2. Jack is a member of South River Baptist Church where he is the Deacon Chairman and a Sunday School teacher. He has been married to his wife, Wilma, for 50 years. They have two sons and four grandchildren.