



Debbie Burgiss and William Barnard help with registration at Kingdom Fest Fall Festival on Sunday, October 25.



# THE INTERIM

Volume 72 Issue 24

November 22, 2015

## From the Pastor...



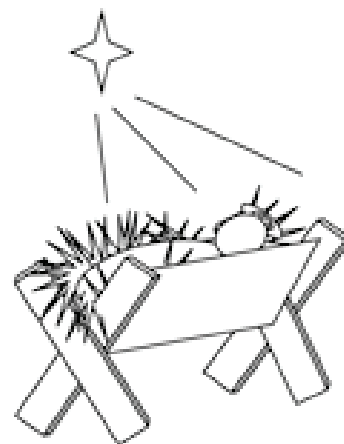
The song says, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." If you look around the stores, you'd probably agree. Christmas is a great celebration, but it takes more preparation than a little tinsel to truly experience the significance of Christ's birth. The stores jump from Halloween to Christmas to maximize profits, but we need to slow down to maximize meaning.

First, let's not skip over Thanksgiving! Gratitude is an important aspect of our faith. Without gratitude, we become presumptuous and self-centered. Thanksgiving helps us appreciate our blessings and focus on God's work. I hope you will join your church family this Sunday for a joint service of gratitude and a lunch of Thanksgiving. Together we will celebrate the blessings God has bestowed this past year.

Second, let's observe Advent. Notice I said, "observe." We celebrate Christmas and observe Advent. It is a time of prepara-

tion and expectation. It requires prayer and meditation to properly prepare our hearts for Christmas – that is Advent. Each Sunday will bring a new theme (Hope, Peace, Joy and Love) and a few more decorations. Together, we will prepare our hearts to receive the blessing of Christmas.

Third, let's not rush through Christmas. Christmas is a whole season, not just one day. Christ's birth is one of the greatest miracles of all time and we should take the time to observe it. Our congregation will observe all twelve days of Christmas, but I hope the impact will last the entire year. I look forward to sharing my first Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas with you!



## Worship Notes

The season of Advent is fast approaching. This season includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas: it is a season of waiting, a spiritual call to pilgrimage with Christmas as its destination. Advent is a corporate spiritual journey that calls for expectant waiting and readiness for the coming of the Christ-child. When the church travels this journey and treats it as a discipline of life and prayer, the joy of Christmas is immeasurably intensified.

The Worship Ministry Team wishes to enhance this journey of expectation by doing what we are calling an ongoing Hanging of the Green. The idea is to decorate the sanctuary slowly throughout the Sundays of Advent as a way to build anticipation for Christmas. We will start with only the Advent Wreath and candles on the first Sunday (November 29), then add the garland and other wreaths the next Sunday (December 6), and finally we will add the Chrismon Tree on the third Sunday of Advent (December 13). In addition, we will be adding banners to coincide with the lighting of the Advent Candles.

It is the Worship Ministry Team's and my hope that this will serve to enhance our corporate worship experience. We know this approach to Advent will help us all truly know the great proclamation "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

James Martin  
Minister of Worship and Music



## Schedule

### Sunday, November 22 ~ Jeremiah 51-52

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Celebration - FLC

### Monday, November 23 ~ Lamentations 1:1 - 3:36

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

### Tuesday, November 24 ~ Lamentations 3:37 - 5:22

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

### Wednesday, November 25 ~ Ezekiel 1-4

No Wednesday Evening Activities

### Thursday, November 26 ~ Ezekiel 5-8

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
**Church Office Closed**

### Friday, November 27 ~ Ezekiel 9-12

**Church Office Closed**

### Saturday, November 28 ~ Ezekiel 12-15

### Sunday, November 29 ~ Ezekiel 16-17

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

### Monday, November 30 ~ Ezekiel 18-19

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

### Tuesday, December 1 ~ Ezekiel 20-21

- 9:00 a.m. Senior Adult Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

### Wednesday, December 2 ~ Ezekiel 22-23

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal - FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Students & Children
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 3 ~ Ezekiel 24-27

- 8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

### Friday, December 4 ~ Ezekiel 28-31

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

### Saturday, December 5 ~ Ezekiel 32-34

Happy  
Thanksgiving



<sup>6</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of November 8 & 15, 2015

	11/8	11/15
Church in Bible Study	106	105
Church in Worship	229	183
8:30 a.m. service	54	50
10:55 a.m. service	175	133

## Financial Statistics

### Weeks of November 8 & 15, 2015

	11/8	11/15
Budget - Received	\$8,488.00	\$9,472.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	1,675.00	3,979.00
Building Reserve - Received	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 11/8/15</b>		10,163.00
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 11/15/15</b>		13,451.00
<b>Budget for 2015-2016</b>		893,174.00
Budget Needs To Date		120,235.96
Budget Given to Date		82,334.33
Behind Budget		(37,900.63)
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		19,185.00
Alms Received-Year to Date		1,813.00
Building Reserve-Year to Date		125.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		103,584.03

To give you a clearer picture, we are changing the way we are reporting ongoing budget giving. Instead of simply showing a yearly amount funded and unfunded, the Interim will show our Budget Needs to Date and Budget Given to Date. This way you will have a snapshot of how well we are meeting our ministry needs. Though our budget numbers are not the same as our actual expenses/cash flow, they are a direct reflection of the ministry we hope to accomplish together. We encourage all of our members to generously support the budget first and foremost, so that we might do the work to which God has called us.

## 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

**THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)**

Published Every Two Weeks

by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,  
Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM  
First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

# A Thanksgiving Prayer

This week's Prayer Point is a prayer and a suggestion for celebrating a memorable Thanksgiving with those gathered around your table this year. Both are taken from "Mature Living" magazine. In two weeks we will finish our series on "The Lord's Prayer".

Prayer: "Dear God, we thank You for the times of getting together. We know You planned for families as recorded in Your Word. Help us to love each other unconditionally and to accept our differences with the same grace You show to Your children. May our families build their lives and homes with You as the center. Create in us a forgiving spirit. Build in us a desire to follow Your will. Instill in us a passion for making good decisions. We thank You for the many blessings—for all that we have comes from You. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen." (And I would add: Surround the suffering and rescue the refugees. Thank You for all those who have given their lives, and for all those who are now standing between us and the enemies who would take away the freedom with which You have so richly blessed America.)

Suggestion: Place a vinyl tablecloth and colored permanent markers on the table. Ask each person to write a brief blessing for the family. Younger children can draw something they are thankful for. Ask each person to sign his name and add the date. This tradition may continue each holiday. (If eating in a restaurant, just take blank paper and a pack of crayons with you.)

Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving,  
Ginny Stikeleather

## Advent Celebrations at First Baptist Church

*Sunday, November 29, 2015  
First Sunday of Advent*

*Tuesday, December 1, 2015  
Senior Adult Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus in Wytheville, Va*

*Sunday, December 6, 2015  
Second Sunday of Advent*

*Sunday December 6, 2015  
White Christmas Celebration & Gift Distribution*

*Thursday, December 10 & Friday, December 11  
Celtic Christmas Program  
7:30 p.m. New Life Christian Fellowship, Taylorsville*

*Sunday, December 13, 2015  
Third Sunday of Advent*

*Sunday, December 20, 2015  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Sunday, December 20, 2015  
Christmas Choir Cantata  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Cookie Fellowship - Adams Hall*

*Wednesday, December 24, 2015  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
4:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary*





**Message by: Dr. Nelson Granada**

*November 22, 2015: A Grateful Church (1 Thessalonians 1:1-7)*

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

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## Announcements

### Thanksgiving Celebration

*Sunday, November 22, 2015*

*9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages*

*10:55 a.m. Joint Worship in Sanctuary*

*12:00 p.m. Luncheon & Celebration of Church Ministries*

**Join us for a time of fellowship and thanksgiving following the worship service. We will have a brief presentation of all the ministries FBC offers.**

*Menu: company chicken, rice pilaf,  
green beans, & rolls*

*Please bring a homemade, presliced  
dessert to share.*



### Coffee Rotation Sunday, November 29

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

#### **A Note of Appreciation From William Barnard**

Thank you so much for the prayers, visits, cards, the calls and the food during my two surgeries this fall. I am humbled by your show of affection. It has meant the world to me. I love my church family.

Blessings,  
William Barnard

#### **Sound System Fund Established**

A new designated fund has been established by the deacons to raise money for a new sound system in the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please simply write "Sound System" on your envelope and/or check. As with all of our designated funds, please only give above and beyond your budget offering. A new sound system is needed, but our ongoing ministry is always our top priority!

### **White Christmas ~ Sunday, December 6, 2015**

We have been looking forward to and working toward our White Christmas for several months, and it's almost here. December 6 is right around the corner, and there is still a lot of work to be done.

Here are some other things you can do to help:

1. Pray for this ministry and the families we will serve.
2. Please give generously. Mark your donations "White Christmas"
3. Remember the toys have to be wrapped and in the gym by Sunday, November 29.
4. Plan to be a part of this ministry Sunday, Dec. 6. Please plan to come and help. Volunteers are needed to eat lunch and visit with our guests and listen to their stories. Volunteers are also needed to help carry their toys and food to their cars. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 for instructions. Those helping to carry the toys and food will eat first, then go to the gym. Our guests will arrive at 1:00 and we will need volunteers to greet them and take them into the Fellowship Hall, and volunteers to eat with them.
5. In order that we may plan for the meal, please call the church office or call Carol Hunter 704-876-1462 to let us know you are coming.
6. Help is needed Friday, December 4 to get the toys bags ready to be given out. If you can help that day, please call Carol Hunter at 704-876-1462

Because of your willingness to share your time and money with those less fortunate, you are truly expressing the love of Christ and the real meaning of Christmas.

