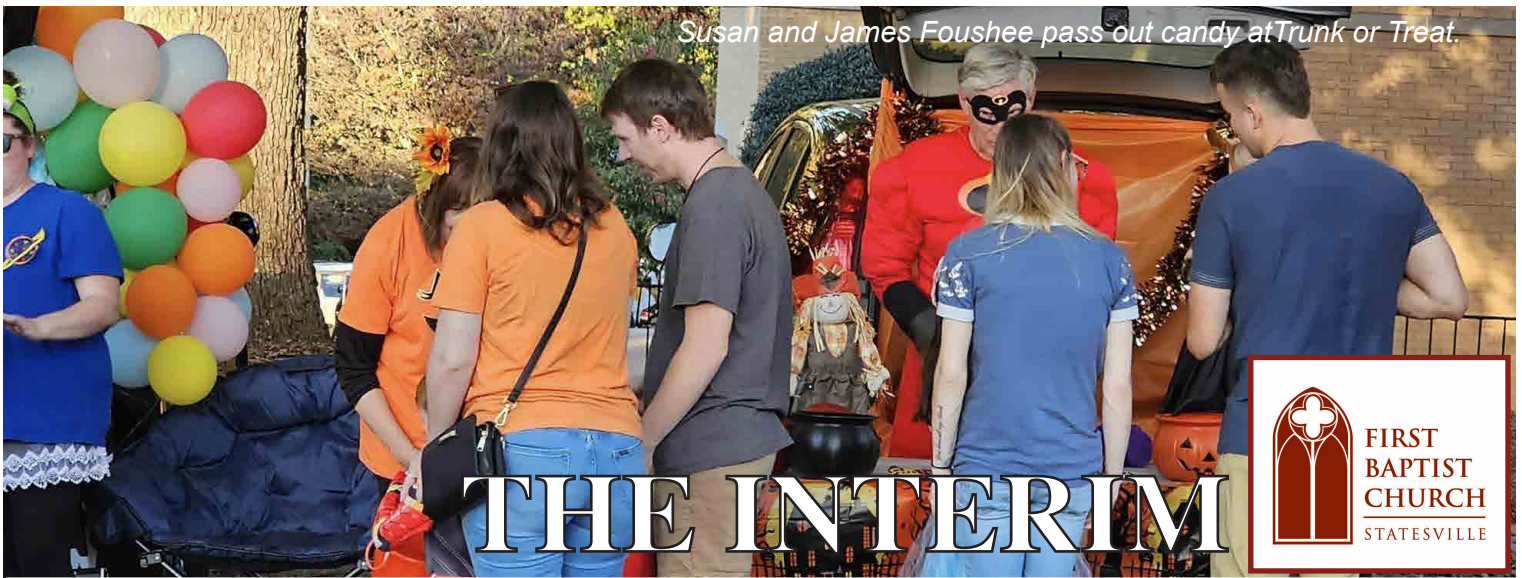


*Susan and James Foushee pass out candy at Trunk or Treat.*



# THE INTERIM

Volume 80 Issue 23

November 5, 2023

## From the Pastor...

On Sunday, October 29, 2023, our congregation voted to formally cut ties with the Southern Baptist Convention. It was a strong statement of support for women in our ministry as 95% of our people voted in favor. As we move forward, however, it is wise to think about what else this decision means.

Leaving a partnership we have had for 147 years obviously involves grief. Many of us were raised and nurtured in the SBC, and we appreciate what it gave to us. We realize, however, that the SBC has become a more legalistic and controlling organization, so much of our grief is over something that is no longer.

Setting a new course also involves a sense of freedom and celebration. As a Baptist congregation, we have always had autonomy to follow the Spirit's leading. We are free to choose our ministry partners and to engage in ministry in creative ways. We continue to partner with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), CBF of North Carolina, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and over a dozen local ministries.

Our mission partnerships, however, do not define us. Technically, we were never a "SBC church", nor are we a "CBF church". We are a Baptist congregation that chooses ministry partnerships that help us fulfill our mission of knowing and loving Jesus Christ and making Him known. Our major mission partners, CBF and CBFNC, better align with who we are and our mission.

The most impactful consequence of this decision, however, is that it better defines our church to our community. We know we are a congregation that supports both men and women, but actions by the SBC were reflecting negatively upon us. Those who need a loving grace filled church are more likely to find us now.

## Schedule

**Sunday, November 5**

**All Saints Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

**Monday, November 6**

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

**Wednesday, November 8**

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wed. After School Program

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's Music & Missions

6:00 p.m. Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Study: The Commands of Jesus

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, November 9**

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

**Sunday, November 12**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

**Monday, November 13**

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

**Wednesday, November 15**

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wed. After School Program

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's Music & Missions

6:00 p.m. Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Study: The Commands of Jesus

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, November 16**

11:00 Senior Adult Luncheon

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  
 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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## A Message From Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Thank you so much for all of those who signed up to shop for a family for White Christmas. We appreciate it greatly.

We still have many opportunities to serve on this special day. You can pray for the event, the volunteers, and the families that will receive gifts. Prayer is our most precious gift to those who we are ministering to.

You can donate financially. This event requires funds to make it happen. Each donation supports families and their needs through the food boxes or for the gifts.

You can serve at the event on Saturday, December 9. More information on the day of serving opportunities will come soon.

Thank you so much for all you do.

Many thoughts and prayers.  
 Elizabeth



## Spiritual Statistics

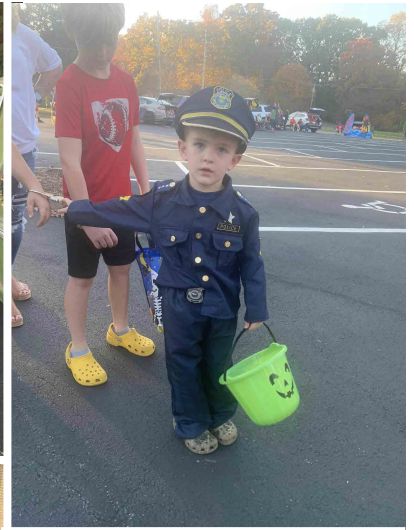
	10/22	10/29
In Person . . . . .	161	169
Live Stream . . . . .	n/a	n/a
Sunday School . . . . .	71	94

## Financial Statistics

	October	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	78,588.00	78,588.00
Budget Receipts	64,921.00	64,921.00
Goals Not Met	(13,667.00)	(13,667.00)
Alms	510.00	510.00
Designated	10,927.00	10,927.00

# Trunk or Treat - October 29, 2023

On October 29, we welcomed more than 450 children and parents and passed out more than 100 pounds of candy and other treats.





## Announcements

### A Note of Appreciation from Ralph Bentley

Thank you for all the cards, calls, and kind words during the recent loss of my brother. They are all so appreciated at this time.

Ralph Bentley

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### A Note of Appreciation from Nina Guy

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the flowers, food, cards, and visits at the time of Charles's expiration. Special thank you to the choir.

With Christ's Love,  
Nina Guy and family

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### Welcome to our Church Family



Ava Waugh made a profession of faith at the worship service on Sunday, October 29.

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### Wednesday Evening Menus

Cost of the meal is \$6.00/adult and \$4.00/child. No reservation is needed.

**November 8**  
breakfast for dinner

**November 15**  
Chef Jody's Choice

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### Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, November 16, 2023

Clay Lunsford & Friends will be the entertainment. Along with Clay, this group includes Scott Lunsford, Matthew Weaver, and Tenille Sherrill. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread. Cost is \$6.00 payable at the door. Please make your reservation by Monday, November 13 at noon.

### All Saints Day

Sunday, November 5, 2023, is All Saints Sunday. It is the day we remember Christians who lived faithfully and inspired our faith. In particular, we honor those who have gone to be with the Lord since last All Saints Day. Please join us as we remember these beloved members:

Jo Anne Alexander  
John Garland  
Charles Guy  
Audrey Higgins  
Sylvia Jolly  
Danny Stikeleather  
Kenneth White  
Sylvia Williams

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### White Christmas

**Saturday, December 9, 2023**

For White Christmas we will have multiple ways to serve. You can serve on the set up team, collect and sort food, buy gifts for the families, provide items for the parents to stuff a stocking for their children, or be a buddy for the shoppers.

We will host in the gym this year, and hope to have the participants come in and pick up the gifts, and make an individualized stocking for their children should they choose. We will have sign ups for shopping for the families on Sunday, November 5 to get a head start on our volunteers. That way we can get the family names to you as soon as we receive them. Gifts will be due Sunday, December 3 and we will have a wonderful day as a community on Saturday, December 9 as we have White Christmas that morning.

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### New Address of Larry & Peggy Gregg

Larry and Peggy Gregg would like to inform everyone of their new address:

1749 Cove Rd  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139