



# THE INTERIM

The Venture Students Christmas  
caroled at Brookdale-Peachtree  
on Sunday, December 3.



Volume 74 Issue 25

December 10, 2017

## From the Pastor..



Our church received a wonderful Christmas present this past week. We officially have our Certificate of Occupancy for the Family Life Center! This means we can begin the task of moving all of our furnishings back into the building and have full access the first of the year.

We are very grateful to Jody Parlier and Neill Pardue, Co-Chairs of our Building and Grounds Team, who have given many hours of their time to oversee this project. We are also grateful to Larry Gregg, who has worked diligently to coordinate the process as well.

A Grand Reopening Celebration is being planned for Sunday, January 7, 2018. After worship we will enjoy a celebration luncheon where we will honor those who helped along the way and unveil future plans for the FLC. Please plan to join us for this great occasion.

One other piece of good news is that we will be able to use the gymnasium for Christmas Joy this Sunday. Carol Hunter recently commented how appropriate it is to have the first event back in the FLC be a mission project. I agree wholeheartedly and think it reaffirms our church's long focus on missions.

It is my hope that our FLC will always be a "missions center." The FLC was built with outreach in mind and we have the opportunity before us to reclaim that purpose. Whether it be recreational activities, special events, or direct mission projects; the FLC is a great resource for missions.

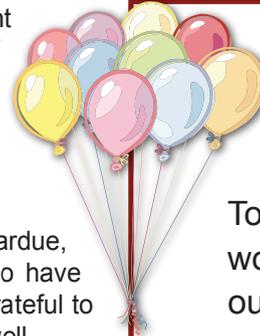
Sometimes it takes being without something for a while to remind you of what a blessing it is. This has been the case with the FLC. We are blessed that faithful people gave sacrificially to provide this facility. We are blessed that our insurance company has been generous in its renovation. And we are blessed to have new opportunities for its use.

*Neel*



*For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



### FAMILY LIFE CENTER GRAND REOPENING

**Sunday, January 7**

Together we will enjoy a wonderful lunch, recognize our Jubilee Members, and celebrate new ministries that will launch in the FLC!

## Schedule

### Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Christmas Joy Celebration
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

### Monday, December 11

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, December 12

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

### Wednesday, December 13

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Remembering the Least of These at Christmas by ICM
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 14

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

### Sunday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. A Night for Rejoicing: A Cantata for Christmas
- 7:00 p.m. Cookie Social - Adams Hall

### Monday, December 18

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, December 19

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

### Wednesday, December 20

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Housing the Homeless by Fifth Street Ministries
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 21

- 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

### Weeks of November 26 & December 3, 2017

	11/26	12/3
Church in Bible Study .....	141	167
Church in Worship.....	205	201

## Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	150,651.00	282,889.00
Budget Receipts	19,318.00	167,563.00
Needed to Meet Goal	131,333.00	115,326.00
Alms	637.00	2,052.00
Designated	2,203.00	4,735.00

### November Financial Update

November was a very good month for First Baptist Church financially. We received some special gifts that helped put us ahead of our budget goal. We are grateful for the sacrificial gifts of each of our members.

It is, however, essential that we have a strong finish to 2017. Almost one fifth of our giving is received in December and this month can make or break us for the 2017-2018 budget year.

As you contemplate your end of year giving, please consider a special gift to First Baptist Church. What better way to celebrate Christ's birth than to give to His ongoing ministry?



## Advent Celebrations At FBC

*Sunday, December 10, 2017  
 Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace*

*Sunday December 10, 2017  
 Christmas Joy Celebration & Gift Distribution*

*Sunday, December 17, 2017  
 Third Sunday of Advent - Joy*

*Sunday, December 17, 2017  
 A Night for Rejoicing: A Cantata for Christmas  
 & Cookie Fellowship  
 6:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary*

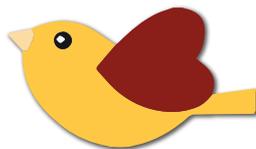
*Sunday, December 24, 2017  
 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love*

*Sunday, December 24, 2017  
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
 4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary*



# Unsung Heroes

## Mike & Monica Edwards



Have you noticed how nice the acolytes look as they walk down the aisle of the church each Sunday? And have you noticed how the microphones in the Sanctuary always seem to pick up the ministers' voices at the perfect time? These things are all thanks to Mike & Monica Edwards.

Monica helps the acolytes put on their robes and tells them when to walk down the aisle, and Mike runs the sound system in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Mike even took time out of some weekdays to learn the new sound system.

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](mailto:kayley@statesvillefbc.org) or call 704-873-7231.*

## Christmas Joy Celebration

### Sunday, December 10, 2017

Our Christmas Joy Celebration is here. This Sunday, our guests will be arriving to pick up their toys, food, and our love.

1. Please continue to pray for this ministry and the families we will serve.
2. Please continue to give generously. Mark your donations "Christmas Ministries". We still need money to pay for the food and toys.
3. We still need homemade desserts to serve our guests. Due to the fact that we are just now getting back into the FLC, we will not be serving our guests lunch, but will be serving desserts.
4. Plan to come and help Sunday, December 10. We will meet in Adams Hall right after the 10:00 a.m. service for a snack lunch and instructions. Our guests will be arriving at 12:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests and visit with them in the Fellowship Hall while they enjoy cake, cookies, and goodies; to carry out the boxes of food and bags of toys; and to help direct traffic.
5. So that we may plan for the snack lunch for volunteers, please call me or the church office to let us know you are coming.

Carol Hunter - 704-876-1462 or 704-682-2131

## Venture Students Go Caroling



## Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know when you awoke that day  
your life would change forever?  
Did you know that your dreams and plans  
would now be shaped by heaven?  
Did you know that an angel's words  
would set your life's direction?  
And did you know that God himself  
would now own all your affection?

Mary, did you know (How could you know?)  
when you sang your song of joy,  
that all of heaven's angels came  
to praise your precious boy?  
Did you know you altered history  
by your one obedient choice?  
That kings and beggars, wise men and fools  
would now all have one voice?

Mary, did you know that a girl of fourteen  
would become a woman of the ages?  
Did you know you would carry the Word  
that astounded priests and sages?  
Did you know that time's clock was set  
by your baby's birth and death  
And could you know the dead would live  
by his eternal breath!?

Mary, did you know the price you'd pay  
for saying "yes" that day?  
Did you know the shame you'd feel  
when others turned away?  
Did you know the tears you'd cry  
when cruel men laughed and scorned?  
Did you know the pain you would feel  
as his flesh was being torn?

Mary, did you know the prayers you'd raise  
for God to spare your son?  
Knowing all the while that His will  
and His will only must be done?  
Did you fully understand  
with every crushing loss,  
that the eternal weight of glory  
would far outweigh your earthly cross?

Mary, did you know your love for God  
would grow beyond all measure?  
And how could you know the joy derived  
from seeking only His pleasure?  
Did you know your darkest days  
would all outshine the sun?  
That glorious day, when pure grace,  
you said "Yes" to the Holy One

Mary, did you know?  
How could you know!

Ginny Stikeleather  
December 10, 2005



Messages by: Nelson Granade

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### CBF Mission Bites

#### Bite 59: A Beloved Community of Believers

*"Beloved Community looks like a community of believers in Moldova working together on an oral translation project. Local Romany believer, Catea, learned and retold the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42. A Dutch woman living in Romania, an American woman living in Romania, a Romanian-speaking Moldovan and myself, an American living in the Netherlands, all worked alongside Catea. The next day, the women's Bible study discussed the story. Thanks to the teamwork the day before, the women listened to the story in their own language and understood it much better."*

- Mary van Rheenen, CBF field personnel in the Netherlands

#### Bite 60: Speaking out against hate

*"We recently visited with an Indian congregation here. After the service, one of the deacons talked with us about the persecution of Christians and Muslims in his home region. An extremist Hindu was recently elected as president of the area and his rhetoric had encouraged violence against non-Hindus. The persecution of people of faith around the world seems endless."*

*We meet and work with migrants and refugees on a regular basis. Their suffering and the suffering of their families back home is ongoing. Pray for persecuted peoples around the world and speak out against hate speech and actions wherever it takes place."*

- David and Julie Brown, CBF field personnel in Paris, France



### Advent Sermon Series The Characters of Christmas

**December 10, 2017**

2nd Sunday of Advent – Peace  
Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

**December 17, 2017**

3rd Sunday of Advent – Joy  
Angels (Luke 2:8-14)

**December 24, 2017**

4th Sunday of Advent – Love  
Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)

**December 24, 2017**

Christmas Eve Service  
Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)

## Announcements

### A Note of Appreciation from the Family of Phil & Jerry Mills

The family of Phil and Jerry Mills wish to thank you for all your prayers of healing since Dad's stroke October 8. Your love has been evidenced through all the encouraging calls, inspiring cards, welcomed visits, delicious meals, and beautiful flowers!

Our family has truly been blessed by all God's infinite love, grace, and healing! We praise His glory and have felt His love through all your acts of kindness.

Again, our entire family is eternally grateful for your outpouring of love and support!

In Christian Love,  
The Phil Mills Family

A Night  
for Rejoicing  
A Cantata for Christmas

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

*The cookie social will follow the program in Adams Hall.*

by Lee Dengler and Susan Naus Dengler

Jubilate  
MUSIC