

Pat and Jerry Campbell celebrate at the luncheon on Jubilee Sunday, July 31. Pat has been a member of First Baptist Church for 57 years.

THE INTERIM



Volume 73 Issue 16

August 7, 2016

From the Pastor...



First Baptist people rise to the occasion! That is what I was told and now I'm experiencing it myself. Last week I sent out a letter pointing out two things. First, our church is growing and our ministries are expanding. Second, increased ministry means increased expenses. I challenged you to join me in increasing your giving so our growth may continue. You responded by giving the largest budget offering since my arrival.

Last Sunday's budget offering was \$39,953.80! This is four times the size of our average offering. Thank you so much! This is a great accomplishment that will help shore up our cash flow and provide for our ministries. If we continue this generosity, it can be a wonderful beginning to fully providing for our expanding ministries at First Baptist Church.

As I noted in my letter, God is moving in wonderful ways. Our Sunday School participation is up twenty people per week (17%). Our youth ministry has new faces each week, and they have grown 30% since Justin's arrival. Seventeen of our kids (four more than last year) are about to go to Bible camp and we had 160 energetic children in our Vacation Bible School. We are seeing new faces in our choir and James is exploring adding new musical groups to further enhance our worship service.

While we are experiencing this internal growth, we continue to reach out to our community and beyond. Our Baptists on Mission group has built five handicap ramps for families with special needs. We just collected a hundred pairs of shoes for kids going back to school. Despite being behind in giving, we have continued to fund to local mission groups – like Iredell Christian Ministries. We also had a very productive mission trip to Belize and are exploring how we can use our experiences on the mission field closer to home.

These great strides forward have come because you have stepped out in faith and God has blessed your efforts. You have supported Melissa and James as they have served you faithfully through good times and bad. Now our Children's and Music Ministries are experiencing an upswing. You called me to be your pastor and welcomed Valerie and me with open arms. Now we're uniting together to know and love Jesus and make Him known. You extended yourself to call Larry and Justin. Now much of our growth is coming through our Christian Education and Youth Ministries.

Everywhere you have made an investment; God has brought a great return! As we move forward our choice will be to increase our investment by giving of our time, talents and financial resources. If we continue to do so, God will continue to bless our efforts. If we pull back, however, we will have to make some difficult choices that will negatively impact our growth. Thank you again for responding to my call to action. Let's keep it going!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nelson".

Upcoming Sermons

Sunday, August 7

To Live, We Have to Die
Romans 6:5-11

Self-preservation is a natural instinct. We all want to survive and thrive. Eternal life, however, only comes when we are willing to put to death our old way of life and embrace a new birth. This message will help us see the possibilities of new life in Christ.

Sunday, August 14

To Save Our Lives, We Have to Lose Them
Luke 9:23-27

We all want to succeed in life. To do so, we often put ourselves first. Jesus taught the opposite. He said that we only save ourselves for the Kingdom. This sermon urges us to find new and abundant life by giving up our own desires to embrace the blessings God has for us.

Schedule

Sunday, August 7

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Deacon Ministry Team
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, August 8

- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:30 p.m. Line Dancers

Tuesday, August 9

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, August 10

- 12:00 p.m. Noon Bible Study - Adams Hall

Thursday, August 11

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga

Friday, August 12

- 12:30 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, August 14

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 9:00 a.m. Joint Adult Sunday School & Meeting - FLC
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, August 15

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

Tuesday, August 16

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga -FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, August 17

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, August 18

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga
- 10:00 a.m. Senior Adult Games & Fellowship
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, August 19

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

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.....Interim Minister of Christian Education
 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 July 24 & 31, 2016

	7/24	
Church in Bible Study	138	146
Church in Worship	199	234

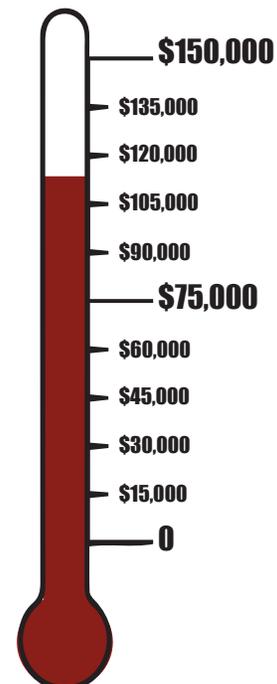
Financial Statistics

Weeks of July 24 & 31, 2016

	7/24	
Budget - Received	7,258.00	
Alms	0.00	
Designated - Received	125.00	
Sound System	15,685.00	
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 7/24/16		23,068.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 7/31/16		50,506.12
Budget for 2015-2016		893,174.00
Weekly Budget Needed		17,176.42
Budget Needs To Date		755,762.63
Budget Given to Date		657,632.39
Behind Budget		(98,130.23)
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		95,983.44
Alms Received-Year to Date		6,415.50
Total Giving-Year to Date		876,722.33
So All May See & Hear		116,691.00

So All May See & Hear

Given



A Reflection on the Mission in Belize



We come to church to worship as a community of believers – one God and one faith, to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. We live out that calling as we go outside the walls of our church into our community and beyond to share the love of Christ with believers and non-believers alike. Having the opportunity to worship with brothers and sisters in Christ at the Light of the Gospel Evangelical Church in Cristo Rey, Belize helped me to better know Christ. Meeting and speaking with the people of the village afforded me the chance to make Him known to those who, like us, need a Savior.

One of the highlights of this year's trip was getting re-acquainted with Anastasio Chan, or "Reg" as he is called. I met him three years ago when I was on a prayer walk through the village of Cristo Rey with Sarah Faulk and Rosie Alexander. Reg is 100% Mayan and traditionally the Maya worship a pantheon of nature gods, each of which had both a benevolent side and a malevolent side. Reg's family held to the Mayan beliefs but Reg told us he was interested in the Christian faith but had questions about it. Sarah, Rosie and I sat down with Reg in front of his house, opened our Bibles and spent the next hour and a half answering questions and examining our faith. The Spirit of God was with us like I have rarely experienced and the conversation flowed very easily. Like many Belizeans, Reg thought he needed to earn his salvation. As we explained the gift of salvation, we prayed with Reg for his personal salvation.

This year as I was addressing the congregation at Light of the Gospel, I recognized Reg sitting at the back of the church. Afterwards, he came to me to remind me of the day we spent at his house and told me that this is his church now. He was proud to say his wife and son are now believers and also attend the church. As the week went on, I realized that Reg's wife was one of the ladies that cooked for our group all week and that it was his son, Aaron who worked so hard with us on the construction crew and who has such a gentle and loving spirit. What a blessing to see this family serving God!

At the end of the week, Reg presented me with a gift for our church. One of the things Reg does to support his family is wood carving and he has many beautiful pieces that he has carved by hand. The gift for First Baptist-Statesville is a wooden tray made from the poison ivy tree in Belize. The tree is so toxic that you can get a bad case of poison ivy simply by walking under the tree. However, when the wood is dried out and sanded, it makes a beautiful piece. This is so representative of our faith in that we have to die to ourselves as God makes us into a new person.

This is only one of so many stories the Belize team could share with you about how we saw God at work in the small village of Cristo Rey, Belize. Please ask one of the Wimpy family, Terry, Carla, Jackson or Luke about the relationships they made or ask William Barnard, David Potter, Lexie Blackwelder or Melissa about the 100+ children we spent the week with at VBS. Or ask Renee, Mackenzie or Cassidy Barker how ministering in Belize the last 4 years has deepened their walk with Jesus. Thank you First Baptist Church for supporting all of the Mission Team Members that have made the trek to Belize over the years through your prayers and financial support. You will see the rest of the story on the other side of this life.

In Christ,
Lynn Barker





Message by: **Dr. Nelson Granade**

Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 a.m. this summer.

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Announcements

Prayer Point

A Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Open my eyes, gracious Lord, as I turn to your word.
I long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed.
Examine me, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.
Amen.

A Prayer After Reading Scripture

May the word I have read, Lord, be planted deeply in my mind and heart.
Help me not to walk away and forget it, but to meditate on it and obey it
and so build my life on the rock of your truth.
Amen.

Taken from the 95 prayers in *Prayers for Our Lives: 95 Lifelines to God* by Mel Lawrenz.

Would it be a good idea to cut this prayer out and keep it in your Bible?

Combined Adult Sunday School Sunday, August 14, 2016 9:00 a.m. ~ Family Life Center

Great strides are being made in our Sunday School and we want everyone's participation as we continue to grow. That is why we are holding a combined Adult Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 14. Dr. Larry Gregg will be teaching the Bible Study and leading a discussion on new opportunities for the fall. He will be sharing ways we can support our teachers to provide even more meaningful Bible study to our people. Please plan to join us for this special occasion.

Attention Senior Adults Devotion and Bingo ~ Thursday, August 18, 2016

We have planned a get together for Thursday, August 18. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in Adams Hall for a devotion, bingo, and light snacks. You should bring one item or more from the Dollar Tree, or something you may already own, to be used as prizes. At 12:00 p.m., we will adjourn and those who wish to do so may randomly get together and go to a restaurant for lunch. Please call the church office at 704-873-7231 if you will attend.

Deacon Election Nominations

For the first two weeks of August, we are taking nominations for our Deacon Ministry Team. Please fill out the form in the worship bulletin and put in the offering plate or turn into the church office. We will vote on Sunday, October 2, 2016.

Clothes Closet Rotation Thursday, August 11

Jeff Templeton & Mac Funderburk

Thursday, August 18

Phil Crowder & Jesse Jackson

Worship at First Baptist Church

We have experienced a great summer of combined worship! Where most churches usually experience an attendance slump in the summer, we are holding steady. Your attitude of expectancy and your openness to various styles of worship are producing a great energy in our services. As we have intentionally drawn on a variety of the rich traditions of our faith, we have experienced renewal and meaning that lasts well past Sunday.

As we move toward the fall and a new church year, we have both opportunities and choices to make as a congregation. It is clear from your input that worship is dear to all of our members. It is also clear that we gain meaning from a variety of styles and want to ensure that we reach out to all. Our staff and deacons are listening and will make a recommendation to the church during worship on August 14.

Precept Bible Study ~ John Part 3 Begins Tuesday September 13 ~ 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. & Wednesday, September 14 ~ 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

It's time once again to sign up for Precept Bible Study. John Part 3 will cover the Last Supper, an in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' High Priestly prayer, His crucifixion, and resurrection. Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 13 (6:00-8:00 p.m.), and Wednesday, September 14 (9:30-11:30 a.m.). We will break for Thanksgiving and Christmas on November 15 and 16 and finish up in January. Note: John Parts 1 and 2 are NOT required. John Part 3 is a complete study in itself. The study will be led by Ginny Stikeleather and Caroline Bentley. Please sign up in the Welcome Center today for a great time of fellowship, discussion, and learning.

Promotion Sunday Sunday, August 28, 2016

Please save the date for Promotion Sunday! On this special Sunday, the children will attend their new Sunday School classes. The rising sixth graders will move to the Student Hall and the rising first graders will receive their Bible!