

Ben & Allison Faulkenberry enjoy the Thanksgiving Celebration with their children Izzie & Jones.



THE INTERIM

Volume 76 Issue 25

December 8, 2019

From the Pastor...

It's going to be a great Christmas at First Baptist Church of Statesville! You have already given yourself a wonderful present. We've gone over our Continuing the Dream goal! **You've pledged \$512,065 to date** and the commitments are still coming in. Your generosity is a tangible expression of the giving nature of Christmas.

Our next step will be to accomplish our much needed projects. The restoration of the sanctuary and bell tower stone work is already underway and should be completed by the end of the year. Funds are coming in steadily and we hope to borrow very little of \$240,000 we've estimated to complete this project.

Other projects will be undertaken as funds become available. The first of these will be updating the paint and carpet in the office area and hallway behind the Sanctuary. Our goal is to create a warm welcome that reflects the splendor of the rest of the facility. Cost for this work is estimated to be \$67,000.

Continuing the Dream

Pledged: \$512,065

Given: \$85,035



After the repairs and updates on the exterior and interior of the Sanctuary are completed, we will move to other projects as funds are given. These include replacing the bell tower carillon (\$30,000), refinishing the gym floor (\$13,500) and repairing or replacing the organ (\$145,500).

So we are already "opening" some of our Christmas gifts and will have to wait on a few others. We will do everything we can to be good stewards of these gifts, but some of these projects may run over or estimates. If, however, there are any funds left over, we will decide as a congregation on their best use.

Of course Christmas means much more than meeting goals and updating facilities. The true celebration is of the Christ-child, who is Emmanuel – God with us! As beautiful as they are, our facilities are only tools to be used for Christ's ministry. The best Christmas present was given when God sent Jesus to save us. We give of our best, because God has given God's best.

Schedule

Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 10

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, December 11

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays After-School Program
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study & Ornament Decorating

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, December 12

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, December 13

6:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

Sunday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 17

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, December 18

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays After-School Program
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
6:00 p.m. Bean Soup Mix Assembly for ICM & Christmas Caroling
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, December 19

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, December 9

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
11:45 a.m. Linedancers
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, December 11

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays After-School Program
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study & Ornament Decorating

Thursday, December 12

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, December 13

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
11:45 a.m. Linedancers
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays After-School Program
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Bean Soup Mix Assembly for ICM & Christmas Caroling

Thursday, December 19

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, December 20

11:45 a.m. Linedancers



White Christmas is Here! Saturday, December 7, 2019

Families will arrive this Saturday, December 7 to receive their food, toys, and most of all our love. Volunteers will gather in the gym at 8:15 a.m. to receive instructions. There will be a place for everyone to serve!

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of November 24 & December 1, 2019

	11/24	12/1
Church in Bible Study	120	110
Church in Worship	206	191

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, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
Tel: 704-873-7231

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Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	158,159.00	296,987.00
Budget Receipts	11,702.00	158,664.00
Needed to Meet Goals	146,457.00	1138,323.00
Alms	714.00	2,262.00
Designated	1,983.00	21,415.00

Thanksgiving Celebration - Sunday, November 24, 2019



Medical Equipment Ministry Update

First Baptist Church's Medical Ministry is one of our most quiet ministries, but it is also one of our most active. Every week Bob Dellinger confidentially meets people in need and loans them much needed equipment that has been donated to our church. Over the last year 167 items have been loaned, returned and re-loaned.

Here are some of the items FBCS has helped provide to those in need:

Wheel Chairs – 44	Toilet Risers – 5	Back Scratcher - 1
Walkers – 34	Bed Rails – 3	Crutch – 1
Bath Seats – 31	Grab Bars – 3	Exer-Cycle – 1
Potty Chairs – 17	Shower Hoses – 2	Forearm Crutch – 1
Rollators – 12	Bed Tables – 2	Foot Boot- 1
Knee Walkers – 6	Canes – 2	Hover Lift – 1
Transport Chairs – 51	Back Brace – 11	Blood Pressure Cuff – 1

If you would like to donate items or know of someone in need, call the church office and leave a message for Bob Dellinger. Due to limited space, we are not able to accept hospital beds, motorized chairs, motorized lifts or soft goods (such as adult diapers).

Praying for Change

Is everything in your life just the way you want it? I think most of us would make some changes if we could. I came across a formula for change that I want to share with you: "Ask God for change, seek His Word about the change, then persistently PRAY until He brings it about." Sounds simple doesn't it? Of course we are told in the Bible to ask, seek, and knock and it will be given, we will find, and it shall be opened to us. We should ask God for the change we desire, search His Word for His will and humble ourselves to accept it, choosing His will over ours. As we seek God in His Word, He will speak into our situation, whatever it is. Now we can come boldly before His throne, ask Him for change, and expect Him to bring it about. James tells us that "fervent" (persistent) prayer avails much, so keep praying until God brings about the change He wants for you.

Remember: "God is able to do exceeding, abundantly, above all we could ever think or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 155: Give What You Have

D., an American Christian in her 70's and recently widowed takes violin lessons. She loves to play the old hymns, but has never played much in public before. She is a member of the First Baptist Church where the Persian church meets.

Recently, D. volunteered to play her violin in the Persian Church's worship service. In the process of preparing for D. to play, I realized that she would be an answer to prayer to find a way to introduce old hymns into the Persian worship service. The translation of these hymns (some 130 of them) was completed years ago by missionaries in Iran. For the most part they are not being used in the Persian Churches. They are a valuable Persian resource "lying on the shelf."

D. is up for the challenge—one hymn per month.

This is a message to all of us—an example of the power of the Lord at work through a willing servant. I am reminded of the feeding of the 5,000. Like the little boy, D. has offered her "lunch." She gave what she had and the Lord is multiplying her investment in a significant way.

- Pat, CBF field personnel among Persian speakers (Afghan, Iranian & Tajik) in the United States

Mission Bite 156: Imagination Station

Led by partner churches all summer, students learned about creating alongside God and imagining a more just world. The theme for camp was "Imagination Station," and the curriculum encouraged big dreaming and creative responses from the kids. We played improv games, came up with creative solutions to problems, and imagined together a world where everyone is treated with kindness and respect. We visited the New York Hall of Science, the zoo, and Coney Island.

-Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey, field personnel in New York City, N.Y.



Announcements



Welcome to our Church Family!

Ella Milwood came forward to join our church at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 1. Ella is scheduled to be baptized soon.

And There Was Light

Sunday, December 22, 2019

6:00 p.m. - Cookie Social to Follow

This year's Christmas program is entitled "And There Was Light", by Joseph Martin. The musical presentation uses scripture, song and narration to share the story of Jesus' birth. The cantata is a celebration of light. Filled with time-honored carols and expressive original songs, this work will be sure to inspire all. The first half of the cantata is dedicated to hopeful prophecies associated with the coming of the "Light of the World." With the birth of Jesus, the second part moves forward to declare the tidings of great joy. The FBC Sanctuary Choir will be accompanied by a consort of instruments, which will include flute, clarinet, trumpets, trombone, percussion, and keyboard. The FBC children's choir will once again portray our live nativity during the performance.

A Note of Appreciation From CBFNC

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Thursday November 21 2019 is a date that will long be remembered in the annals of the history of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. We had a wonderful evening celebrating the ministry of your Pastor Emeritus, Jack Causey, and his dear, late wife, Mary Lib.

Folks came from all over our states and beyond for this special occasion and your church was the perfect venue. Not only is it the location where the Causeys served you faithfully for many years, but it was the launch pad for Jack's larger ministry around our state.

Your staff were the consummate hosts for this event. Please accept our gratitude for lending their leadership and service as we undertook this effort.

Our celebration of the Causeys served not only to remember the many ways they ministered to all of us, but also to perpetuate their legacy through the establishment of the Jack and Mary Lib Causey Fund for Congregational Leadership. May your generosity spread to other Christians and churches so that leaders are developed who will further God's Mission from North Carolina to the ends of the earth.

Gratefully Yours,

Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator