



# THE INTERIM

Volume 74 Issue 26

Volunteers prepare to carry the bags of toys and boxes of food out to the families' cars during our Christmas Joy celebration on Sunday, December 10, 2017.



December 24, 2017

## From the Pastor...



For most of us, Christmas is more about giving than receiving. As children, we are eager to see what's under the tree. As we mature, we are excited to see the faces of those opening the gifts. Their joy and gratitude are what give us the Christmas spirit.

In that vein, Valerie and I'd like to thank you for the many kindnesses you've shown us in this season and throughout the entire year. We are so grateful for the generous monetary gift, but we are even more thankful for the love that it represents.

As we think back on this past year, we realize how blessed we are to be in such a loving congregation. Your prayers and acts of kindness helped get us through my surgery and recovery early in the year and your continued faithfulness has sustained us for the entire year.

We also celebrate the continued progress at First Baptist Church. We've seen old friends return and new ones join. We've survived a major fire and come together through the recovery. We've been blessed in worship and gone out in service.

Because you are faithful people who want to see God's work go forward, we know you will help us finish the year on a solid financial footing. Valerie and I plan to give a generous "Christmas Gift" to First Baptist Church to honor the one whose birthday we celebrate.

We invite you to join us in making a generous year end donation to the ongoing work of Christ. How can we not give back to the one who is the greatest gift of all? For it was Jesus that taught us that, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We continue to be grateful for all of the blessings of life and look forward to seeing what God will do in the coming year. Thank you again for your generosity to us and to God's church.



## Merry Christmas

Love, Nelson & Valerie



## Schedule

### Sunday, December 24

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Monday, December 25

#### Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

### Wednesday, December 27

No Wednesday Evening Activities

### Thursday, December 28

2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

### Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

### Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 2

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

### Wednesday, January 3

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, January 4

2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

## Inclement Weather Policy

Our church follows the Iredell-Statesville Schools policy for closings due to inclement weather. If the schools are closed, the church office is closed and all church activities for that day are canceled. You may check the church closing status by checking our website ([www.statesvillefb.org](http://www.statesvillefb.org)), and checking the following TV stations (WBTV, Charlotte; WSOC-TV, Charlotte; WCNC-TV, Charlotte). You will also receive a church-wide call to let you know of any delays or closings.

## 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

### THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

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## Spiritual Statistics

### Week of December 10, 2017

	12/10
Church in Bible Study .....	131
Church in Worship.....	200

*Note: The Spiritual Statistics for the week of 12/17 will be posted in the next issue.*

## Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	150,561.00	282,889.00
Budget Receipts	32,563.00	180,808.00
Needed to Meet Goal	118,088.00	102,081.00
Alms	737.00	2,152.00
Designated	5,216.00	33,263.00



## Prayer & a Holy Life

Holiness – it is a subject that seems to have been lost in the shuffle at the end of the second millennium. It has been forgotten in light of the fact that most of us aren't living holy lives and have, therefore, very little to say to others about holiness.

Why am I talking about holiness as related to prayer? For too long I have focused on giving people the tools to pray better and more effectively, not realizing that without holiness, prayers can go unanswered. This is not telling God what He can't do...He can do whatever He wants. Instead, it is recognizing that God normally does not answer the prayers of those who are not making every effort to walk in holiness. God Himself lays it out for us very clearly in His Word:

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18)

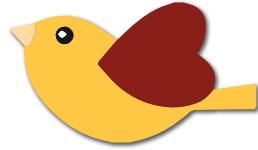
"Your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2)

"Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face, O God of Jacob." (Psalm 24:3-6)

Holy God, how often I have barged into Your Presence unprepared and unrepentant! Draw my heart towards a life of holiness before You and transform my heart so that I might ascend the hill of the Lord and stand in the holy place of prayer.

*Adapted from the article Personal Holiness: Unlocking the Door to Effective Prayer by Dave Butts, author of the book Desperate for Change: Forty Days of Prayer for America. This resource is available at [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org).*

# Unsung Hero Fleeta Speaks



Every Wednesday morning, Fleeta can be found at the volunteer desk in the church office. Fleeta performs many duties around the office. She organizes the drawers and cabinets. She helps with the mailings. She does anything that is asked of her.



Next time you walk through the breezeway of the church, please take the time to notice the beauty and health of the peace lillies. Fleeta takes care of all of the indoor plants around the church.

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.*

# Merry Christmas

From the First Baptist Church Staff

Nels

Larry

Dawn

Melissa

Joti

Mary Jane

Kayley

Don

# Christmas Joy





FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
STATESVILLE

Messages by: Nelson Granade

Volume 74 Issue 26

December 24, 2017

#### CBF Mission Bite

##### Bite 62: Compassion over personal gain

*"One Iranian refugee family with three young children started video chatting with me weekly. I met them online through my husband's short-term mission trip to Turkey. I helped them practice English using Bible stories and songs. One week, I shared the story of Jesus sending his disciples out in a boat among the wind and waves of a storm and then his calming the storm to rescue them. Later that day, I learned their personal experience of Jesus in their boat. This family, like many others, was desperate to leave Turkey and travel to Greece. They bought a rubber raft for the journey. After some distance from shore, the raft sprang a leak and the father tried to row back, but he lost one of the oars. With much prayer, they managed to return to the Turkish coast.*

*After they got out of the raft another refugee said to Mohammad, 'You can sell the boat and make some money.' Mohammad, realizing how the damaged raft could endanger another family as it had his own, took a knife and began to cut up the raft. "Way to go!" said another refugee in response to seeing Mohammad's quick choice of compassion over personal gain."*

- Pat, CBF field personnel, U.S. Persian Ministry

## Announcements

### A Note of Appreciation from Sara Brandon

To First Baptist Church:

Thank you so much for the visits, cards, phone calls, flowers, food, and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital. It brought joy to my heart. Thank you for being such a caring and loving church family.

Sara Brandon

### A Big Christmas Joy Thank You

Sunday certainly was a joyous day. There was snow on the ground and the temperature was way below normal, but by the end of the day our hearts were warmed and filled with gratitude to God for the blessings of that day. Thank you to all who donated money, food, and toys; helped with the necessary paper work and announcements; moved tables and set up the gym; purchased food and packed the food boxes; shopped for clothes and toys; worked countless hours in the clothes closet; checked and packed the toy bags; prepared lunch for the volunteers; prepared delicious desserts for our guests; set up the dessert tables; greeted our guests with smiles and hugs; offered words of encouragement and fellowship around the tables; worked the entire time Sunday directing traffic in the cold, cold weather; as well as those who carried out the heavy boxes of food and bags of toys; cleaned up the gym; and prayed for our Christmas Joy Ministry. Your willingness to give your time and resources and pitch in wherever needed was appreciated so much.

Our goal has always been to touch others with the love of God, and you certainly did just that this year. It takes the entire church to do Christmas Joy. Whatever part you played, please know it was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve.

Love & Prayers,  
Carol & Luther Hunter

### Family Life Center Grand Reopening

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Following the worship service on Sunday, January 7, we celebrate the grand reopening of our Family Life Center. We will enjoy a wonderful lunch, recognize our Jubilee members, and celebrate new ministries that will launch in the FLC!



*Christmas Eve*  
\*CANDLELIGHT SERVICE\*

*Sunday, December 24, 2017  
4:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary*