



Eddie Wiseman, Keith Milstead, Clarence Poole, and Shannon Ashley organize the grocery boxes for the White Christmas families on Sunday, December 4.



THE INTERIM

Volume 73 Issue 25

December 11, 2016

From the Pastor..



You all make me proud to be your pastor! First Baptist Church has such a great heritage of missions and I was so glad to see that lived out this past Sunday. White Christmas is about helping others, but it also brings out the best in us.

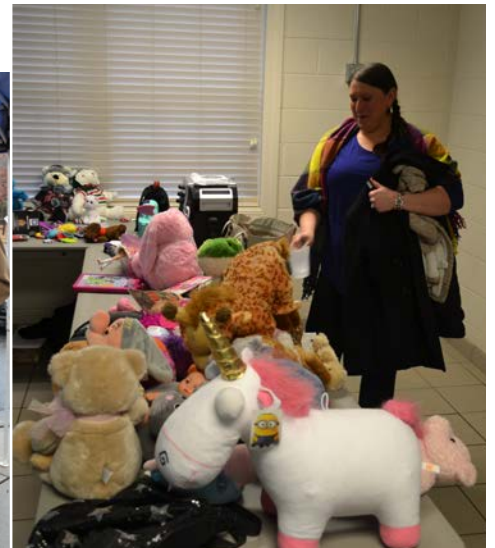
We helped provide toys and groceries to forty-seven families. More importantly we came together to show God's love to those in need. Our entire church mobilized to provide funds, shop for families, gather groceries, cook a meal and do so much work behind the scenes.

As impressive as all of this was, I was touched even more by the one on one love that was shown to our guests. Not only did our greeters and table hosts welcome these families, but everyone went the extra mile to show God's love.

We even had several acts of spontaneous giving. When one of our table hosts found out that a family needed booster seats, she went home and got two that her kids had outgrown. A homeless veteran showed up and one of our veterans sat with him and pointed him toward help. One of our women even took the coat off of her own back to give to a mother without one.

I know I shouldn't brag, but you truly have made your pastor proud. We certainly want to give God the praise and credit and pointing out God's spirit at work in our church is one way to do so. It is great to be part of such a loving congregation. It's even better to know that God is at work in our lives and church.

Nolan



Schedule

Sunday, December 11

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

Monday, December 12

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group

Tuesday, December 13

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - Heritage Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - Heritage Hall

Wednesday, December 14

- 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 - Choir Room

Thursday, December 15

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - Heritage Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, December 18

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Appalachian Winter Christmas Program

Monday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group

Tuesday, December 20

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

Wednesday, December 21

- 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 - Choir Room

Thursday, December 22

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - Heritage Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Saturday, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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)

Published Every Two Weeks

by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,
 Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
 First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of November 27 & December 4, 2016

	11/27	12/4
Church in Bible Study	150	135
Church in Worship.	205	225

Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	157,470.00	295,695.00
Budget Receipts	15,749.00	120,614.00
Needed to Meet Goal	141,721.00	175,081.00
Alms	664.00	1,357.00
Designated	1,395.00	18,853.00
<i>So All May See & Hear</i>		131,980.00

Prayer Point

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:21

Christmas is coming. You know this.

With all the hype, it can be very easy to get caught up in the materialism of the season. You are being absolutely pummeled by advertisements and other forms of media, all of them telling you which stuff you should want the most. Everything is bigger, shinier, faster and smarter than last year.

This materialistic philosophy tells us that life is about what we own. But we know life isn't about stuff. It really doesn't matter what presents we want or what presents we get. None of that stuff will satisfy. If we get caught up in that mentality, it is never enough, and we always end up wanting more than what we already have.

Where is your heart? Is it with God this Christmas? Where is your treasure?

This Christmas, think about what you really want. Think about writing something that will truly satisfy

Here's a simple prayer we all can pray:

Dear God, we are so grateful that we know the truth, that we know what really matters.

Please help us to not get caught up in the mania of the season. Amen.

His servant and your friend,
 Ginny Stikeleather

Excerpted (in part) with permission from Once-a-Day at the Table Family Devotional by Christopher D. Hudson, copyright Zondervan.

A Big White Christmas Thank You

White Christmas Sunday was a damp, cold, rainy day, 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 of you who; donated money, food, and used toys, worked repairing bikes, 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, made beautiful name cards for the white toy bags, prepared a delicious lunch for our guests and our workers as well as packing numerous takeout meals for our guests, 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 rain, as well as those who carried out the heavy boxes of food and bags of toys in the cold rain, cleaned up the gym, and prayed for our White Christmas Ministry.

Your willingness to give your time and resources and pitch in wherever needed was appreciated so much.

Our goal for White Christmas 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 White Christmas. Whatever part you played, please know it was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve.

Love and Prayers,
Carol and Luther Hunter



Shepherds in the Field

by D. Larry Gregg

The sky was bright and clear and cold
The sheep were gathered in their fold.
Shepherds gathered round the fire
While one played softly on the lyre.

They listened to the music sweet
And watched the fire burn at their feet.
The shepherds waited for the sun
To bring the news that night was done.

Away in the East appeared a star.
The shepherds watched it from afar.
It moved toward them in its path
And bathed them in a golden bath

Of light that shines from heaven high
To announce Emmanuel's time was nigh.
So crystal clear and shining bright
Its glory and splendor filled the night.

At the City of David the Star of the East
Stopped in its path, its journey ceased.
At Bethlehem town it came to rest
To announce "Good News" to a people blest.

The day of the birth of the Lord's anointed
Was long ago by the prophets appointed.
At last He came in the fullness of time
To show mankind God's love sublime.

Suddenly the air was filled with sound
And the glory of God shone all around.
The shepherds then saw from heaven above
The ministering angels of God's great love.

"Glory to God in the highest!" they sang
And across the fields their voices rang.
"Hosanna, Hosanna" they shouted with joy
To announce the birth of this baby boy.

The shepherds heeded the heavenly stranger
Who told them to seek Him in a manger.
They hurried quickly to the village inn
And found the Christ-child there within.

They knelt before the newborn child
Who gazed on them with eyes so mild.
They worshipped that night the Master of men
Who came to save our kind from sin.



Message by: Dr. Nelson Granade
Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Volume 73 Issue 25

December 11, 2016

Announcements

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the family of Mike Parlier in his death on November 30, 2016.

Library News



Our church library collection contains an abundance of beautiful Christmas books for children. Many of them are on display just waiting for parents to bring their children in and check them out. Come by the church library on your way to supper on Wednesday night or after the worship service on Sunday.

Come often and enjoy reading together, You will find direction on the circulation desk for checking out books for yourself when no one is there to help you. If you have special requests, feel free to call Teddie Hall at 704-873-4029.



Wednesday Evening Menus

Wednesday, December 14

vegetable beef soup, chicken noodle soup, layered salad, & dessert

Kids' Menu: grilled cheese & chips

Wednesday, December 21

spaghetti, salad, rolls, & dessert

Kids' Menu: same

Parents of Preschool Choir Members

The Preschool Choir will sing for Jesus' birthday on Wednesday, December 21. We will sign our songs on the stage in the Fellowship Hall following supper. We will meet first in our choir room at 5:45 p.m. We look forward to honoring the birth of Jesus with our music.

In His Service,
Preschool Choir Leaders,
Jan Wuertz, Jackie Holshouser



Appalachian Winter

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

By Joseph M. Martin

Sunday, December 18, 2016
6:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

Cookie Fellowship
7:00 p.m. ~ Adams Hall

This program will feature the Christmas choir, Children's Choir, & a live nativity.



Advent Celebrations At FBC

Sunday, December 11, 2016
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

Sunday, December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love

Sunday, December 18, 2016
Christmas Choir Program
6:00 p.m. Christmas Program - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Cookie Fellowship - Adams Hall

Saturday, December 24, 2016
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
4:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25, 2016
Christmas Day Service
10:00 a.m. ~ Sanctuary