



# Steeple Talk

Faith Fellowship Mission

First Baptist Church - Lexington, NC

October 2021

Dear Church Family,

There is an old Bill Gaither song, "I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God." Over these past several months, I have been so glad that I'm a part of the family of God!

You have surrounded me with love and prayers. You have encouraged me with words of faith and hope. You have uplifted me with acts of grace and kindness. You have interceded for me with fervor and faithfulness. You have reminded me that I am not alone; I am a part of a great, compassionate, wonderful family—the family of God.

From the moment I learned I had cancer in June, God has blessed me in marvelous ways. I was blessed to have the very best doctor and an incredible medical team. Wake Forest Baptist provided exceptional healthcare. We are blessed to live in an area surrounded by some of the best healthcare systems in the world.

My surgeon, Dr. Hemal, told me that we were blessed to find the cancer when we did. It was a high PSA level on some routine bloodwork in May that provided the red flag. Because of the aggressive nature of the cancer, it could have easily spread if it had been discovered later. He told me that we were also blessed to have the surgery when we did because the high Covid rates are now causing Baptist to postpone many surgeries.

I have been so blessed to have you, my church family. You have showered me with cards, calls, texts, emails, gifts, meals, prayers, and love. Joyce and I told Dr. Hemal the morning of my surgery that he would not believe how many people were praying for him. A surgeon of great faith, he was touched by this news.

God has richly blessed me with the gift of healing. Dr. Hemal said, "Your pathology report is fantastic. Praise the Lord!" At this point it doesn't look like I will need any additional treatment. I am making great progress healing from the surgery, and I am excited to be back in church again on Sundays.

I've always said that our church is family. Now I have experienced this truth in a powerful and remarkable way. I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!

Thank you for being my family!

Ray

## CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

One of our church's great Christmas mission projects has been providing food boxes for Lexington and Davidson County families with food insecurity. Last year, due to Covid, we provided 60 families with Food Lion gift cards. This December, we hope it will be safe to meet in person to pack actual food boxes. If we are able to pack boxes, we will come together with church volunteers on Wednesday, December 8th. In the past, each food box cost approximately \$75.00. Davidson County and Lexington City School Social Workers work with us to identify families. Once again, we hope to provide 60 food boxes or Food Lion gift cards for our community's neediest families with children. We'd appreciate having monetary donations to the church office by the end of November. Together we can make this important mission project a great success!

Fondly,  
Julia Dunn

## MEMORIALS

**General Fund: Jimmy Snyder** by Gloria & Vinnon Williams, Lewie & Beryl Phillips, Dave Colescott, Suzy Conner, Olen & Ann Easter, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smith, Fredrick & Anne Philpott, Hubert & Cateen Olive, Ashley & Gay Whitfield, Fred & Lynda Belk, Betty Sink, D.H. Beam, Sally Davis, John & Susie Smith, D. Clark Smith, Jr., George & Amy Chambless, Terry Morgan, Frank Edmondson III, Bruce & Ginger Hill, Eddie & Jemmetta Allred and Henry & Priscilla Podgaysky; **John Cotton** by George & Amy Chambless

**Building & Grounds Fund: Jimmy Snyder** by Hal & Donna Routh and Gary & Sue Wikstrom

**Endowment Fund: Don Strickland, Tommy Myers, Paul Epley, Sandye Saintsing, Kerry Saintsing Puckett, R.N. Hardin, Alan Hall, Eddie Sheets, Tommy Riggs, Jim Helvey, Jimmy Snyder and Hunter Huff** by David & Julia Dunn

## HONORARIUMS

**General Fund: Ray Howell III** by Fred & Lynda Belk

**Building & Grounds: Jimmy Snyder's family** by Hal & Donna Routh

**Small Job Ministry: Fred Belk** by G.F. Smith; **Lane Gilliam and Fred Belk** by Connie Russell

## SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS ANGELS

It will soon be time for us to adopt our Christmas Angels through the Salvation Army. We need someone to coordinate this important ministry this year. Please let Ray or Jim know if you can help.

### LAY READERS AND USHERS NEEDED!

We need Lay Readers & Ushers for Sunday Mornings.  
Please contact Jim Skotthy at the Church Office.

## PASTOR'S PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP

The Holidays are quickly approaching and First Baptist Church is partnering with Pastor's Pantry with their Holiday Food boxes this year. We will be collecting cans of sweet potatoes/canned yams with a goal of 450 cans. A container for the donations is in the lobby near the fellowship hall and on Sundays, in the vestibule. All donations need to be received by November 8th. Any assistance you can lend is greatly appreciated.

## BIBLE OPENERS

10/3/2021	Daisy Ward
10/10/2021	Thomas Allen
10/17/2021	Levi Tate
10/24/2021	Cayden McCarthy
10/31/2021	Sophia Tate

Parents, if your child is preschool aged up to 5th grade, please consider letting them open the Bible on Sunday mornings. Please contact Beryl Phillips at [bhphillips1960@outlook.com](mailto:bhphillips1960@outlook.com)

## BUDGET UPDATE

### As of August 2021

Budget Received: \$ 46,657.68

Expenses: \$ 41,576.26

Surplus: \$ 5,081.42

### Year to Date

2021 Projected Budget: \$ 709,303.00

Budget Received: \$ 451,446.30  
(Includes PPP Loan Transfers of \$65,943.06)

Expenses: \$ 377,106.26

Excess: \$ 74,340.04

These numbers reflect the budget as it stood at the end of August. Some of the year to date surplus is due to the fact that we had the Payment Protection Plan loan, but much of it is due to the faithfulness of our church. We continue to see positive flow into our church coffers, and we have been able to maintain our ongoing obligations. We still have some mission payments to complete by the end of the year, and those payments to the missions will continue as we monitor our budget during this COVID crisis. We are grateful to you all for continuing to remember the church!

# *Let Us Pray...*

*Heavenly and Blessed Father, we welcome the new month of October with great expectation and hope.*

*Lord, it's difficult to find the words to express our gratitude for all the ways you have blessed our lives.*

*As we prepare for this new month, we know that we cannot do it without You. But Your love and strength empower us.*

*Thank you for Your unconditional love. We embrace Your love and peace.*

*We will keep our eyes focused on You.  
In Jesus' name we pray.*

*Amen*

## CONTACT US!

### Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m to 5 p.m. Friday 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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(Information Deadline is the 23rd of each month)



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