



Steeple Talk

Faith Fellowship Mission

First Baptist Church - Lexington, NC

November 2021

Dear Church Family,

November's edition of Steeple Talk is filled with opportunities for the church to meet, to minister, to fellowship and to worship. In addition to the events that you see, we have Deacon Committees that are working behind the scenes on financial recovery, informal opportunities for fellowship, team recognition—special events to honor those who have and continue to serve during the Pandemic!

Our church family reflects the views of the general public on the Pandemic and the recovery. We have many in our church who feel we should have been doing these things months ago. They feel we have been too cautious. We also have many in our church who are not yet comfortable coming back to worship in the sanctuary and feel we may be moving too fast in returning to in person activities.

Regardless of how you feel, I hope you will know this. Every decision that has been made during the Pandemic has been made in good faith with the safety and well-being of our church members at heart. The church is a family, and we don't always agree on the way we do things, but there is no question that we love one another and are quick to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4: 32)

With this in mind, I hope we as a church can come together in love to serve others, to worship God, to minister to the needy, and to celebrate Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas as a family.

Grace and Peace,

Ray

FriendsGiving--Gathering to Give November 14th

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, our church will have a FriendsGiving—A Gathering to Give on Sunday, November 14th from 3-5 p.m. The floating event in and around our Fellowship Hall (both inside and outside) will be a wonderful opportunity for rich fellowship and delicious refreshments—Apple Cider and Krispy Kreme Donuts. This is the deadline for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and the Sweet Potatoes for Pastor's Pantry. You can also adopt your Christmas Angel for the Salvation Army and make a donation for the Christmas Food Boxes. There will be other opportunities to give as well.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 14TH

Our observance of All Saints Day will be on Sunday, November 14th. This is the day that we remember our church members and loved ones of our church family who have passed away in the last year. If you have lost a member of your family that you would like to remember in this service, please let Ray know at raynancehowell3@gmail.com. When we observed All Saints Day last year no one could be in the sanctuary due to COVID. If you had a loved one who was honored last year and would like to be able to light a candle in person at this year's service, just let Ray know.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS ANGELS

There are many, many children in our community who will not have a joyful Christmas without our help. Salvation Army Christmas Angels will be available on Sunday, November 7, and at our church gathering on November 14. Jean Ashley, Sara Briggs, and Richard Baxley will be coordinating this year's campaign. Our church is the leading church in Davidson County for adopting Christmas Angels. Plan to be a part of this important ministry!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 1st

Our quarterly business meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, December 1st at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This will be the first in-person meeting we have had since the Pandemic began. There will be important updates and a proposed revision to the church by-laws that will be presented.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall on the morning of December 8th to prepare our Christmas Food Boxes. This is a long-standing ministry through our church Sunday School program. Families in need are identified through our local schools and agencies. You can make a financial contribution to help support this great ministry. Julia Dunn and Jim Honeycutt are coordinating this year's effort.

CHRISMON TREE

We welcome the return of our beautiful Chrismon Tree to our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas seasons. We have a new Balsam Hill tree and many outstanding new Chrismon ornaments that represent our Lord Jesus Christ. After missing the Chrismon tree last year, we are excited to welcome its return!

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. Already, 181 cans have been donated, but we still need more. 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. Time is becoming short and any assistance you can lend is greatly appreciated.

BIBLE OPENERS

11/7/2021	Lane Hopkins
11/14/2021	Braden Williams
11/21/2021	Wilder Boyle
11/28/2021	Easton Boyle
12/5/2021	Elaine Allen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

On November 5th, Beverly Khemlani will celebrate her 21st year with us as our organist. Our worship services would not be as beautiful as they are without Beverly's God given talents behind our pipe organ. We are beyond grateful and thankful for the service Beverly has given and continues to give to our church each and every Sunday!

STELLA NICHOLS MISSION GROUP

The Stella Nichols Mission Group will be meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, November 9th at 1PM. Our speaker will be Lisa Childress, former Elementary Social Worker for Lexington City Schools. She currently works with the Dragonfly House and will be talking to our group about suicide among children and teens in Lexington and Davidson County. If any of you ladies are interested in joining us, we would love to have you. We need you to contact:

Brenda Hipp
(bwhipp48@gmail.com) or
Jim Honeycutt
(judgejim22@gmail.com)

with your email address, so that you can be invited to the Zoom meeting. The invite will come on November 9th from Jim.

BUDGET UPDATE

As of September 2021

Budget Received: \$ 49,316.60

Expenses: \$ 53,394.80

Deficit: \$4,078.20

Year to Date

2021 Projected Budget: \$ 709,303.00

Budget Received: \$ 500,762.90 (Includes PPP Loan Transfers of \$65,943.06)

Expenses: \$ 430,501.06

Excess: \$ 70,261.84

These numbers reflect the budget as it stood at the end of September. 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!

BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA NOVEMBER 28th

The Season of Advent is a season of hope. For more than 130 years the heart of Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina has beat with a rhythm of hope that extends to children, families, and adults throughout North Carolina and beyond. BCH serves all 100 North Carolina counties with locations in 30 communities throughout North Carolina, South Carolina, and Guatemala. We will focus on the ministry of Baptist Children's Homes during the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th.

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Church Sanctuary during the Advent season, please call Sherri at the church office for more information. Poinsettias are \$16.50 each, and the deadline to order is Tuesday, November 23rd.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the very generous gifts to our family. Your kindness, love and support have encouraged us during this time. We know that God's plans are at work in our lives, and we are thankful for His grace and love. We are thankful for each of you and for each prayer lifted. We know the prayers have carried us through during this time. Thank you again!

Love,
Randy and Luann Everhart

Bereavement Committee,

On behalf of our family, we are so appreciative of the delicious meal provided by the church when Daddy passed away. It was perfect for feeding our family and friends after the service. FBC has been such a large part of my dad's and our family's lives. We are grateful for your love and support!

Love,
Courtney Brown, Elizabeth Lancaster, Sandra Snyder & Family

THANK YOU

MEMORIALS

General Fund: *Jimmy Snyder* by Frank & Betsy Beck, Marylyn "Booty" Hilton, Susan & Ken Gardner, Jean & Ralph Ashley, Guy Comman, Peggy Barnhardt, Teenie & Woody Tilley, Mary Powell, Dunlap White, Bob & Ann Cole and Betsy & Jim Buchanan; *Sarah Ingle* by Peggy Barnhardt

Building & Grounds Fund: *Jimmy Snyder, Sandye Saintsing and Paul Epley* by Shirley Crotts

Benevolent Fund: *Jimmy Snyder* by Jeri & Charles Wynn

HONORARIUMS

MBCC Scholarship Fund: *Jim Honeycutt* by Courtney Foster Byerly

Passing of Dr. Robert (Bob) Lamb

At FBC Lexington, we primarily know Bob Lamb (Dr. Robert Lamb) as the person who, with Dennis Hipp, launched the Baptist Bible School (BBSB) in Belize. Bob served as Coordinator of the school for years and brought in many distinguished teachers. He also faithfully raised funds for the school. His many scholarly and service achievements are documented in his obituary which you can find at <https://www.cecilburtonfuneralhome.com/obituary/dr-robert-lamb>. It was providential that Bob and Dennis met when they both had the time and the vision, and Bob had the expertise to follow God's leadership to establish a school that provided training for more than fifteen plus pastors and more than fifteen lay leaders. There were over 30 graduates of the BBSB, and there were a number of others who took courses but did not complete the program. The impact of the BBSB remains in churches all over Belize. Many of you gave to support that school. Thanks be to God.

TOMMY WILSON TO PREACH—November 7th

Tommy will be preaching from Daniel 3, the story of the Fiery Furnace.

WE'RE GOING TO RIVERDALE—NOVEMBER 21st

We are returning to Riverdale on November 21st along with special music by Brannon Gilliam. The Thanksgiving narrative is titled: "What a Wonderful World." Don't miss our visit to that wonderful town where people care and life is usually fair."

NINE LESSONS AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We are planning for the Nine Lessons and Carols on December 19th and for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service on Friday, December 24th.

USHERS AND LAY READERS NEEDED!

Please call Jim Skotthy at the church office for more information..

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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