



# Steeple Talk

Faith Fellowship Mission

First Baptist Church - Lexington, NC

December 2021

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 5th	Second Sunday of Advent—Dedication of New Chrismon Tree
December 12th	47 <sup>th</sup> Annual Nine Lessons and Carols
December 19th	Fourth Sunday of Advent—Will We Be Shepherds or Disciples?
December 24th	5: 30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
December 26	Informal Worship at 11 a.m.

## OUR CHURCH'S CHRISMON TREE

The Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia pioneered the first "Chrismon" tree in 1957. The word "Chrismon" is a cross between Christ and Monogram. A Chrismon is a handmade ornament that proclaims the message of Christmas through symbolism. Al Martin, our former Minister of Music, took a group to Danville in 1977 to learn about Chrismons. With the help of Miheepa Jones of First United Methodist Church, our Chrismon ministry was born. For many years, we had live evergreen trees, but in recent years we have used an artificial tree. In January of 2020, we purchased a new Balsam Hill tree. Last year we were not able to have the Chrismon Tree due to the Pandemic, but this year we have our new tree adorned with dozens of new Chrismons that have been crafted in the past two years. In total, we have well over 300 beautiful, handmade Chrismons. On Sunday, December 5th, we will dedicate our new Chrismon tree.

## NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The 47th Annual Nine Lessons and Carols will be Sunday, December 12th at 11AM. The Sanctuary Choir and orchestra will be under the direction of Wes Richardson. We look forward to this powerful service of worship.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 8th. That is the day we will be packing 60 boxes of food for children and families in Davidson County so they may have a Christmas meal. We will begin at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall and should be complete by 11:30. If you are able to help pack, please let either Julia Dunn or Jim Honeycutt know.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We have many faithful Christians who attend or watch our services on a regular basis who are not officially church members. We consider you a part of our family and would love for you to become a member of First Baptist Church. If you are interested in church membership, please contact Ray at [raynancehowell3@gmail.com](mailto:raynancehowell3@gmail.com).

## MISSIONS

At the Finance Committee meeting this past week, a motion was made and approved to complete payments to our outstanding obligation to our mission commitments. A total of \$63,660.00 has been paid out due to your faithfulness!

## MBCC DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Carson Huff as the new director of the Martha Best Children's Center. Carson has been the interim director for the past two months and has done a fantastic job! Previously, she was a teacher at the center. She is a West Davidson graduate and received her degree in Early Childhood Education from Davidson-Davie Community College. She has continued her education by becoming certified as a children's center director and holds many other certifications. We officially welcome Carson to her new role. Congratulations!

## PASTORS PANTRY CANNED SWEET POTATOES

Due to the generosity of our church, the Pastor's Pantry goal of 450 cans of sweet potatoes was smashed. We were able to donate 546 cans! It is a testament to our church that we can come together to support such a worthy cause. **THANK YOU!**

### THANK YOU!

Greetings Church Family,

I wish to extend profound gratitude for the outpouring of kindness and prayers you've extended to me. The time you've taken to prepare and deliver "delicious" food meant so much to Tim and I. The texts, posts and phone calls help on the hardest days. We are grateful to be members of a Church with so much kindness for others in their time of need. It speaks highly of who we are as a Family serving Christ.

I look forward to the day when I can literally sit down with you again and celebrate HIS word! We'd appreciate your continued Prayers.

Most of all, Tim and I wish you all a Christmas filled with Merriment, Peace and Good Health.

With warm regards,

Tim & Lisa Michael

**GOD IS AWESOME!**

### CAROLYN PHILLIPS MISSION GROUP

The Carolyn Phillips Mission Group will have its December meeting on Tuesday, December 14th at 1pm by Zoom. Our speaker will be Kim Wyatt. She and her husband, Marc, are CBF field personnel serving in NC. They live in Raleigh, and their work involves helping churches establish and/or support Welcome Houses. These are homes primarily used to welcome and provide temporary housing for refugees. We will learn ways to support this ministry.

Email Brenda Hipp at [bwhipp48@gmail.com](mailto:bwhipp48@gmail.com) and expect an email invite to the zoom meeting from [judgejim22@gmail.com](mailto:judgejim22@gmail.com) a little before 1pm on December 14th.

### PROJECT FOR THE HOMELESS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Carolyn Phillips Mission Group backpack project for the homeless. As you find other items to contribute, you can drop them off in the designated basket in the church's elevator lobby. Needs listed to the right.

Dave Colescott has graciously offered to provide all the socks needed. We want to add gloves and tobaggons to the list already provided.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL/ EXTENDED SESSION

We invite all of our children to come back to Sunday School beginning **December 5th**. At this time we are able to accommodate children **Sunday School** ages 1 through 5th grade. The smaller children will be in room 226 for now.

The Extended Session for the church service desperately needs parent volunteers. This is a time of rebuilding, and we need your help. Please consider contributing your time, and we also need lead volunteers to organize the extended session schedule.

If you were teaching before the Pandemic started, please contact Debbie Auman at [kdcauman@windstream.net](mailto:kdcauman@windstream.net) to let her know your plans going forward.

### BIBLE OPENERS

12/5/21	Elaine Allen
12/12/21	Thomas Allen
12/19/21	Julia Allen
12/26/21	Informal Worship
01/2/22	Wade Myers

### Backpack Program Needs: (Pop top cans preferred)

Canned Pasta with Protein  
Pudding Cups  
Fruit Cups  
Applesauce Cups  
Pop Tarts  
Raman Noodles  
Chicken Noodle Soup

Hair Accessories Notepads and Pencils  
Tissues Lip Balm Toothbrush  
Toothpaste Hand Lotion Hand  
Wipes Sunscreen Blankets First Aid  
Kit Hairbrush and Comb Water Bottle  
Soap Packaged Snacks Wash Cloths  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Small Sewing Kit Hand Sanitizer

## MEMORIALS

**General Fund:** *Jimmy Snyder* by Dick & Sandi Johnson, Carol Jean Stutts-Wall and Ramona Phelps; *Miriam Conner* by Sally Davis.

**Belize Training Center:** *Heman's Mother, Dr. Bob Lamb and Dennis Hipp* by Brenda Hipp

## HONORARIUMS

**Music Ministry:** *Kelly Newsome* by Cateen & Hubert Olive

**Building & Grounds:** *Parker & Joann McLendon* by Hal & Donna Routh

**Christmas Food Boxes:** *Ray Howell III, Jim Skotthy, Sherri Salinas and Wes Richardson* by Julia & David Dunn

## CHURCH BUDGET DISCUSSION

The proposed budget for the 2022 church year is now complete and has been sent out via mail, and a discussion was held at our quarterly business meeting on Wednesday, December 1st. There will be a final vote scheduled for Wednesday, January 5th.



## BUDGET UPDATE

As of October 2021

Budget Received: \$ 51,008.59

Expenses: \$ 45,886.89

Excess: \$ 5,121.70

### Year to Date

2021 Projected Budget: \$ 709,303.00

Budget Received: \$ 557,043.83 (Includes PPP Loan Transfers of \$65,943.06)

Expenses: \$ 476,387.95

Excess: \$ 80,655.88

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 are pleased to report that we have fulfilled all of our mission obligations for this year. We are grateful to you all for continuing to remember the church!

## UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED!

Have you changed addresses, phone numbers, emails? Please contact the church office and give us your updated information so we can make sure you are receiving church information and emails. Even if you think we have it, it'll only take a moment to verify. Please either email the church [fbclexington@fbclex.org](mailto:fbclexington@fbclex.org) or call the office and give us your contact information.

## CONTACT US!

### Office Hours

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

Phone: 336-245-1261 Website: [fbclex.org](http://fbclex.org) Email: [fbclexington@fbclex.org](mailto:fbclexington@fbclex.org)

**Ray Howell** – Senior Minister - [ray@fbclex.org](mailto:ray@fbclex.org), (336) 239-4828 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 104

**Jim Skotthy** – Business Administrator – [jskotthy@fbclex.org](mailto:jskotthy@fbclex.org), (336) 250-0302 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 101

**Wes Richardson** - Minister of Music - [wes@fbclex.org](mailto:wes@fbclex.org), (336) 970-3983 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 105

Martha Best Children's Center – (336) 245-1261 Ext. 108

**Sherri Salinas** – Financial Assistant – [sherri@fbclex.org](mailto:sherri@fbclex.org) or [fbclexington@fbclex.org](mailto:fbclexington@fbclex.org), (336) 245-1261 Ext. 103

**Beryl Phillips** (Newsletter): [bhphillips1960@outlook.com](mailto:bhphillips1960@outlook.com), (336) 245-1261  
(Information Deadline is the 23rd of each month)



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