



Steeple Talk

Faith Fellowship Mission

November 2024

First Baptist Church Lexington, NC

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 3rd All Saints Sunday
November 10th Jim Edminson Ordination
November 24th Thanksgiving Worship

JIM EDMINSON ORDINATION November 10th

We are honored as a church to host the Ordination Service for Jim Edminson on Sunday, November 10th. The Ordination Council, which consists of all ordained individuals (deacon or clergy) will meet at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Ordination Service will begin at 11 a.m.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3rd

One of the most meaningful Sundays of the year is All Saints Sunday. This is when we remember our loved ones and friends who have passed away during the past year. We light a candle of hope from the Christ candle, not only to remember our loved ones, but to be reminded of the promise of life everlasting. All of our church members who have passed away will be remembered. Many of you have lost family members, and we want to give you the opportunity to include them in this powerful service. Please contact Ray (raynancehowell3@gmail.com or 336-239-4828) if you would like your loved one to be included.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are now taking orders for Poinsettias for Advent in memory or honor of loved ones. The cost is \$30 each and the deadline to order is November 15th.



NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

December 15th, 2024, marks a special day in our heritage at First Baptist Church. We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our annual Nine Lessons and Carols service. Not only will the sanctuary be filled with beautiful, poignant music, but we also will be honoring a few of our former Minister's of Music and their families. Al Martin, the one who brought this tradition to our church, will be in attendance all the way from California, as well as Phil Rector and Paul Freeman. From the inception of this hallowed service to today, these three, and many others, have honored this tradition with their work and dedication. They, and the ones who can't be here with us in December, all have upheld the tradition of significant music making not only for this service, but year-round. I am fortunate to have heard of the stories of former choir directors from our choir and church members and am thrilled to get to share this experience with everyone here at First Baptist Church in December.

I have been planning this service for a few years and the time is quickly approaching! This service is important to the choir members, the congregation, and our community. There is no other church around our area that showcases the talents we have here at First Baptist Church like we do in December. The work of our former Minister's of Music has NOT been forgotten and lives on in this place. Good music is still important here and is valued. Worship services NEED the choir, and we are still happy to provide our best, especially during the advent season.

So please join us as we thank our directors for their legacy and for paving the way for us to continue to thrive in music, faith, and love. Join us to hear the beautiful voices of our hard-working, dedicated choir members. And join us to be together, under one roof, to be reminded of the most precious gift to humanity: the birth of Christ.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Operation Christmas Child box collection week will be November 18th-24th. Boxes are now located in the Vestibule, by the Elevator on first floor and the lobby by the elevator. The children that get the least amount of boxes are boys 2 to 4 and boys 10 to 14 so, please consider this when you are shopping. This year, you may purchase a box online for \$25 at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline and they do the buying and pay the shipping. For more information please contact Trish Allred at 417-682-4000 and to report online orders.

THE DRAGONFLY HOUSE

Parker Miller, Community Outreach Advocate for The Dragonfly House (CAC-Child Advocacy Center) spoke to The Carolyn Phillips Missions Group in October. She made us aware of what a CAC does as well as mandatory laws requiring suspected child abuse or neglect to be reported to DSS or Law Enforcement. The Dragonfly House is a non-profit Children's Advocacy Center, located in Mocksville. NC. We are made up of a multidisciplinary team, including Davidson and Davie County Sheriff's offices, Davidson/Davie DSS, Lexington Police Department, Davidson/Davie DA's Office and Davie/Davidson School Districts. Our on site team is made up of victim advocates, trauma informed mental health counselors, a medical provider, a nurse, and a forensic interviewer. We have services including forensic interviews, child abuse medical exams, victim advocacy, trauma focused mental health treatment and community outreach education. All together we work to offer hope and healing to victims of child abuse. During appointments, we provide each child a t-shirt, blanket and snacks. If anyone is interested in donating to our agency, we recommend mini water bottles, yoo-hoo chocolate milk, juice boxes and individually wrapped snacks. T Shirts can be youth to adult sizes. We appreciate monetary donations as well. Primarily, we want to educate and remind each person (18 +) of mandatory reporting laws. **If you see something, say something!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATTERS

Connie I. Russell

Our Sunday School is continuing to make positive strides. We finished the 2023-2024 Church Year averaging 97 per Sunday. For the first seven Sundays of the 2024-2025 Church Year, we are averaging 102 per Sunday. May we all continue working together in order to increase our Sunday School Attendance. I have heard the following phrase many times in College and Seminary Classes: "As the Sunday School goes, so goes the church." In other words, Sunday School is the backbone of the church. If you are not presently involved in a class, Joe and I will be glad to help you find a class that will meet your needs! Thank you for your attendance at our October First Stop! We had the largest attendance we have had yet. Please continue to encourage your class to participate in this special time of fellowship before going to Sunday School. Our next First Stop Fellowship will be November 3, 2024. We hope to see you there! Our next Leadership Meeting will be November 10th at 4:00pm. This is a change from our normal schedule. We will not have a Leadership Meeting in December. We want everyone to enjoy the Advent Season. On behalf of the Sunday School Leaders, we want to wish you and your families a most blessed Thanksgiving Holiday! Our Sunday School: "Learning, Praying, Serving, and Growing Together In Love!"

"DRIVING MISS DAISY,"

"First Presbyterian Church's Race Unification Committee (RUC) cordially invites members of First Baptist Church on West Third Avenue and other area churches to a discussion of the award-winning play and film, "Driving Miss Daisy," Thursday, Nov. 14th, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian fellowship hall, 15 West Third Avenue in Lexington. The discussion follows the presentation of "Driving Miss Daisy," the play, Oct. 18th-20th by Lexington Live Community Theatre at Arts/Theatre 202 on North Main Street. Julie Meyer, who played Miss Daisy in the local theater production, plans to attend the discussion. Those who missed the play but have seen the movie, or have an interest in seeing either version, might also find the discussion interesting. Admission, popcorn, and other refreshments are free. For more information, contact RUC member Bill Keesler at 336-250-0439 (cell phone) or wkeesler@triad.rr.com."

FBC FALL/WINTER CALENDAR

Nov 3rd	Daylight Savings Time ends	Dec 9th	Stage Set-up Nine Lessons and Carols
Nov 3rd	Christmas Shoe Box Ministry starts	Dec 11th	Christmas Food Boxes
Nov 10th	Salvation Army Christmas Angels Event starts	Dec 15th	Third Sunday of Advent
Nov 11th	Veteran's Day Holiday	Dec 15th	Finance Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Nov 13th	Budget Proposal Discussion - 6:30pm - Fellowship Hall	Dec 15th	Nine Lessons and Carols (50th Anniversary) 11am Sanctuary
Nov 17th	Finance Committee Meeting	Dec 19th	Cancer Services Christmas Party – Fellowship Hall
Nov 20th	Dinner with Mary Huff - 5:30 (reservations required)	Dec 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nov 24th	Deacons Meeting - 4pm - Church Parlor	Dec 22nd	Tentative – Deacons Meeting – 4:00pm
Nov 25th - 27th	Decorate Church for Christmas Begins	Dec 24th-26th	Christmas Holidays – Church Office and MBCC CLOSED
Nov 27th	Church Office closes at 1pm	Dec 24th	Candlelight/Communion Christmas Service – 5:30pm Sanctuary
Nov 28th - 29th	Thanksgiving Holidays - Church Office Closed	Dec 29th	Informal Worship Service – 10:30am Sanctuary
Dec 1st	First Sunday of Advent		No Sunday School
Dec 4th	Quarterly Church Business Meeting - 6:30pm Fellowship Hall	Dec 31st	End of the Church Financial Year

FINANCIAL INFORMATION – AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

FBC

- Total Assets - \$372,226.52
- Sept. Income - \$44,379.49
- Sept. Expenses - \$66,618.16
- Sept. Shortfall - \$22,238.69
- Shortfall YTD - \$50,985.44
- 2024 Budget - \$711,925.46
- Budget Amount Still Needed - \$298,730.29

MBCC

- Total Assets - \$338,163.93
- Sept. Income - \$57,696.29
- Sept. Expenses - \$49,394.54
- Sept. Surplus - \$8,301.75
- Total Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 - \$808,501.00

FBC ENDOWMENT

- Balance as of Aug. 30, 2024 - \$2,297,246.95
- Balance as of Sept. 30 - \$2,329,152.46
- Change In Value for the month - \$24,789.18

MEALS ON WHEELS

Volunteers are needed on the First Baptist route for Meals on Wheels of Lexington. Julie Householder and Rena Morrison, long time volunteers, will be retiring soon. We thank them for their dedicated service to this ministry. If you have about an hour to give between 10:30 and 11:30 on alternating Fridays, please call or text Jim Honeycutt at 336-408-7294. Thank you.

CAROLYN PHILLIPS MISSION GROUP MEETING Representative from Baptist on Mission

The Carolyn Phillips Mission Group will meet on Tuesday, November 12th at noon at Yarboroughs. Our speaker is from Baptist on Mission. Please feel free to join us, but let Brenda Hipp know by Sunday, November 10th so she can give an estimate of the number attending. The group will also pack hygiene bags for needy middle and high school students. A collection basket is in the downstairs foyer.

PRESENTATION BY MARY HUFF & DINNER

A Dinner and Presentation by Mary Huff will be held on November 20th. Mary Huff, for whom we are an Encourager Church, is in the states and will share with us about her work in Thailand. There will be a catered meal for \$10 (\$6 for children under ten). The meal will start at 5:30pm and Mary will speak before choir members need to leave at 7pm. Reservations can be made by calling Sherri at the church office, and these need to be made by November 6th.

2025 CHURCH BUDGET PROPOSAL DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

The 2025 Church Budget Proposal has been completed by the Budget and Planning Committee. The Finance Committee and the Deacons have reviewed the proposal and given their approval. The Church Congregation will have the opportunity to review, discuss and ask questions on the proposal at a meeting on November 13, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a vote to approve the proposal during the Quarterly Business Meeting on December 4, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Church Members are urged to attend both of these meetings regarding the budget process for our Church.

CRANBERRY SAUCE COLLECTION

We have been asked to provide the cranberry sauce for Pastor's Pantry's holiday meals for their clients. 450 cans are needed! Let's make the month of October our Cranberry Sauce Collection month. If we average 125 cans per week, we will exceed our goal. Collection containers are located in the vestibule as well as the elevator lobby.

GRAPE JELLY & SOUP FOR FIRST HOPE MINISTRIES

For many years we collected Grape Jelly and Tomato Soup for the Crisis Ministry of Davidson County. Crisis Ministry is now First Hope Ministries but the need for jelly and soup remains. Please bring Grape Jelly and any type of soup to the container in the elevator lobby. Thanks to Ralph and Jean Ashley

MEMORIALS

General Fund: *Phil Mickey and Hillary Rhodes* by Gloria & Vinnon Williams, Bruce & Ginger Hill and Bob & Ann Cole; *Hillary Rhodes, Lucille Radick, Ronnie Tew, and Jerry Hubert* by Peggy Barnhardt; *Hillary Rhodes* by Paul & Jemmietta Allred and Catherine Olive; *Dottie Hopkins* by Bruce & Ginger Hill

MBCC Scholarship Fund: *Hillary Rhodes* by Gerald Smith

Building & Grounds Fund: *Ronnie Tew, Phil Mickey and Hillary Rhodes* by Hal & Donna Routh

WORSHIP STREAMING VIA TELEPHONE

Sunday morning worship services are now available via telephone.
Call 833-659-9737 and listen to the service.

CONTACT US!

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

Jim Tate – Business Administrator – tate@fbclex.org, (336)689-1392 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 111

Wes Richardson - Minister of Music & Director of Youth & Children - wes@fbclex.org, (336) 970-3983 or (336) 245-1261 Ext. 105

Krystal Craven - Martha Best Children's Center Director – krystal@fbclex.org, (336) 245-1261 Ex. 108

Sherri Salinas – Financial Assistant – sherri@fbclex.org (336) 245-1261 Ext. 103

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



Periodical Postage paid at Lexington, NC
Return Service Requested

Steeple Talk (USPS 763-910)
Published monthly by
First Baptist Church
Post Office Box 436
Lexington, North Carolina 27293