

April Church Conference report

At the April 10 Church Conference, Treasurer Don Myers said we pretty much broke even the first quarter of 2022. We received \$68,170, with \$69,515 spent. The difference came out of savings. We had three Sundays with snow and no church in January. There was no major repair this quarter. For the same period in 2021 we took in \$69,000 and spent \$68,000.

Tom Folk was unanimously approved to fill an unexpired term as Trustee, replacing Ray Chambers.

The Trustees received approval to “work in consultation with the Stewardship Committee to allocate appropriate funds to cover the cost of representing the church in the civil lawsuit stemming from an alleged incident of impropriety by a leader of the Boy Scout troop that met in the church facilities in the past. The Trustees will report regularly to the congregation on the standing of the suit and the fees involved.” The alleged incident occurred from 1954 and 1955. The claim was brought by a plaintiff through a law firm. FBC and two Boy Scout organizations are named in the suit, one individual and one incident. The incident did not occur on church property but since the troop was sponsored by the church, the leader is held responsible as is the church. The troop leader is probably deceased. We have not yet hired an attorney to represent us because we’ve been advised that we don’t need that cost at this time. There is a lot of discussion about what is the responsibility and role of the local congregation. Our liability insurance should cover the lawsuit if we can find the insurance provider in 1954-55 and if we had the right kind of insurance.

Wesley Group report

Wesley Community Development presented their findings on the property and health of the church on April 10. Information was gleaned from interviews in person in small groups and one-on-one and via Zoom. Wesley found that family and friends brought people to church and keep them here. There were several issues noted: increasing building costs; decline in membership partially due to pastoral turnover; aging congregation on a fixed income; scars and active wounds present from past divisions; lack of open-mindedness about change; club-minded mentality; Sunday School sometimes more important than the church; leadership challenges; and unhealthy expectation things will get better with a new minister.

Most of the giving (40%) comes from ages 80+ but as people age they don’t give more to the church but give to other causes.

Projection of operating expense vs. income based on 2021: We should be able to make it thru the middle of this year before expenses exceed giving.

Projection of building expense only based on 2021: We can make it until mid 2027 (no staff, programs) before expenses exceed giving.

Projected expenses vs. giving vs. income based on 2021: We can make it until 2025 if we sell the Communities in Schools (Youth) building.

Downtown development around the church is both a blessing and a hindrance. The stadium, new social district, new restaurants and bars, a hotel and the use of our parking lot all draw people to the area. There have been offers to purchase our property.

Wesley presented several options: doing nothing is not a viable option; sell the Communities in School (Youth) building, use part of the proceeds for immediate needs like an operating budget, and invest the rest, using only the interest. This could be a problem if someone later wants to purchase the entire property; a joint venture with a developer could be problematic; or sell the campus, move to a smaller location nearer members or potential members or merge. The last option was Wesley’s recommendation.

Members met April 24 for discussion on options. These results will be made available soon. There will also be another congregational meeting at a future date.

Please see Dr. Rogers’ column inside for more information.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

405 N. Main St., High Point, N.C. 27260-5088

336-883-0178

www.fbchighpoint.org – www.facebook.com/firstbaptisthighpoint

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. in person in the sanctuary or via Facebook Live.

Offering and Income

March 27, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$9,811.37
Total Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$9,811.37
Budget Receipts to Date	\$85,826.00
	\$68,320.54

April 3, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$5,279.00
Total Budget Receipts	\$800.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$6,079.00
Budget Receipts to Date	\$92,428.00
	\$74,399.54

April 10, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$3,006.50
Total Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$3,006.50
Budget Receipts to Date	\$99,030.00
	\$77,406.04

April 17, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$6,026.00
Total Budget Receipts	\$900.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$6,926.00
Budget Receipts to Date	\$105,632.00
	\$84,332.04

There are several ways you can support FBC with your monetary gifts.

Online, go to www.fbchighpoint.org, and click on the word "GIVE" in the blue bar. Instructions will appear for giving online with credit and debit cards using Tithely. There are also instructions for setting up an automatic bank draft.

You can still mail checks to 405 N. Main St.

Gathering together

April 2022 was the month we began to talk and listen in earnest about the shape of the future God has in mind for us as First Baptist High Point.

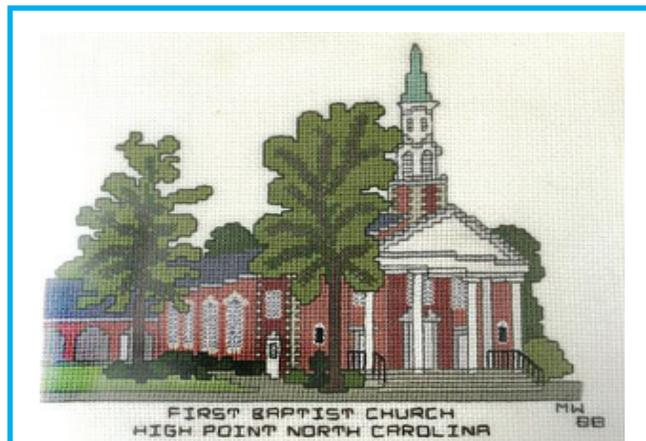
The presentation on April 10 by staff from the Wesley Community Development Corporation provided the congregation with an independent, third-party assessment of our congregational demographics, facilities, finances, and the potential market value of the church property. This assessment was requested by the Trustees, with congregational approval, in order to acquire an expert opinion on the basis of which to evaluate the unsolicited offers for the property received last year from local developers. As Joel Gilland, Wesley's CEO, said in his presentation, WDC was hired to make a recommendation about the property. "The program" of the church, he said, rightly, is the responsibility of the congregation.

To that end, the two-hour gathering of 46

First Baptist members in the Dining Room on "Low Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter) was a testimony to the spirit and dedication of this congregation as we pray and discern our way into the future God has in mind for us. Each person in attendance was heard, every response to the questions was recorded, and the responses are being tabulated to give us a picture of our individual and collective thinking at this juncture in our journey into God's future for us.

On Sunday morning, May 8, representatives of the Trustees will meet with Sunday School classes for conversation and a question-and-answer opportunity following up on these two important meetings in April. I hope you will be present in your Sunday School class that morning, and that you will continue to pray and talk and listen earnestly as we go forward together.

– Jeff Rogers, Interim Minister



Planned Giving

Are you aware of the many ways you can give to First Baptist Church?

Did you know that First Baptist is available for planned estate giving? We also have the ability to accept stock transfers.

Contact Heather Absher for details.

Scripture readings for Sunday worship

May 1 – Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

May 8 – Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

May 15 – Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

May 22 – Psalm 67; John 14:23-29

May 29 – Psalm 47; Luke 24:44-53

RMC Doors

Please note, for safety reasons, the doors to the Recreation Ministries Center will be locked at 10:45 Sunday mornings. If you arrive after that time, please use one of the doors to the sanctuary.

Staff

Dr. Jeff Rogers
Interim Minister
jeff@fbchighpoint.org

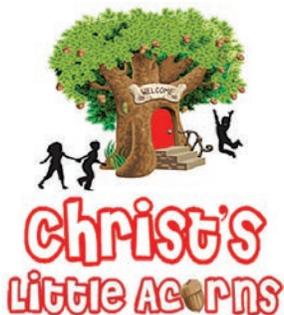
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Preschool and Simple Gesture

Christ's Little Acorns Preschool families collected 26 green bags filled with food for A Simple Gesture in a joint ministry project with First Baptist Church. Together we can make a difference and fight hunger in our community. We can be the hands and feet of Christ and reach out to those in need. What a blessing to see so much food collected for others!



Preschool Registration

Registration is now open for the 2022-23 school year for Christ's Little Acorns Preschool. Free tours are available. Registration forms may be found at <https://christslittleacornspreeschool.org>. For more information, call 336-889-6169.



Gym use

Church members who have been at church at night have noticed busy activity in the gym.

The Team Rise basketball organization has scheduled practices on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights and sometimes on Friday nights through July. The Team pays on a monthly basis per hour use for the gym. Team Rise basketball consists of different age groups of teams that travel for competition on a high level. Kecia Gunthrop, the contact person, is an English professor at High Point University. She is the director of the basketball operations and works with the team members on their academic success and college prep. The unique purpose and mission of this organization is not only to teach a high level of basketball but to prepare these young people for life all in a Christian context. Please check further on their website "Team Rise Basketball" for more information.

Communities in School reached out to First Baptist a few years ago to ask about using the gym for their students. The church granted the request as a way of outreach to a non-profit group.

The purpose of this request was to reward the students for participating in the after school program. Communities in School has been such a positive influence on students from its beginning. Cyril Jefferson, a board member and a City of High Point Councilman, has praised the organization for his success for helping him as a student at High Point Central. The person heading this program checks with me to see when the gym is available. The group uses the gym usually once a week and lets me know when they are on site.

Church members may not know that High Point Christian Academy has rented the gym for the past 12 years for their sports teams' practices. The rental fees from the school has generated from \$4-\$5 thousand dollars each year for the church.

I am the contact person for all of these groups and before permission is granted, I run it by the Building and Grounds committee for a final say so.

– Gary Pressley, building superintendent

A Simple Gesture

The next pickup date for A Simple Gesture bags is May 28. Empty bags may be picked up in the RMC lobby. Full bags may be returned to the same location.

Deadline for information for the JUNE Herald is May 23.

Please email your information to Carol Brooks at cab1@northstate.net.

Sympathy

... to the family of Marilyn Freeman.

Prayer Needs

Email heather@fbchighpoint.org or call Heather Absher at 336-883-0178 when you or someone in your immediate family is in the hospital and/or is in need of prayer. Please provide their address so we may mail the prayer sheet to them. Please get permission to publish their names on our prayer chain and email and Phonetree notifications. Also please let us know when it is time to remove their name from the list.

Greeters

May 1

Barbara and TL Smith

May 8

Bill Logan, Cynthia Eddinger

May 15

Don and Adele Myers

May 22

Libby and Mike McGaha

May 29

Lib and Bud Blackwell

Deacons on Call

May 1

TL Smith, Joy Key

May 8

Linda Causby, Rob Fincher

May 15

Debbie Edwards, Mike McGaha

May 22

Rick Hines, Alisha Hunnicutt

May 29

Donna Willis, Teena Reddeck

Pastoral Care Line

881-6480



Don't forget the Blessing Box

We need to keep the box filled with things that will be a blessing to people in need, like canned food (cans with pop tops are especially helpful), band-aids, diapers, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, hand warmers and more. Grocery and personal items are the most needed.

Please consider donating to our Blessing Box any time of the year. This is the one thing we can all help with.

You can bring your contributions to the Church Recreation Ministries lobby, but it might be easier to keep up with filling the Blessing Box ourselves if possible. It is in front of the church.

If you need more information, contact Diana Baxendale at diana.baxendale@gmail.com or 336-870-9395.



BIRTHDAYS in



Brenda Pressley	May 1	Gerson Counou	May 15
Hannah Garis	May 3	Donna Fincher	May 17
Linda Winslow	May 3	Ray Chambers	May 20
Jo Ellen Godfrey	May 4	Barrett Baxendale	May 22
Carolyn Futch	May 6	Martha Lancaster	May 22
Adam Jones	May 7	Helen Lowery	May 22
Barbara Culler	May 10	Trey Perdue	May 22
Shirley Smith	May 11	Lisa Powell	May 24
Misty Holt	May 12	Elizabeth Blackwell	May 26
Linda Swan	May 14	Nicole Hutchins	May 26

CALENDAR



**Sunday Worship
Live Stream Every Sunday
at 11:00 a.m. on**



**Midweek Prayer
and Bible Study:
The Virtual Edition
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

Jeff Rogers leads a weekly virtual prayer time and Bible study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom. We will share our cares and concerns and praises, pray together and then engage in a Bible study.

Instructions, the phone number for calling in, and the link for Internet users will be distributed by email prior to each meeting.