

Established 1825

DECEMBER 2022

Vol. 62, No. 12

FBC
High Point

THE HERALD

WORKING WITH GOD'S BLUEPRINTS

Holiday **LUNCHEON**
Dec. 4 at Noon

Come join your First Baptist friends and prospective members as we gather for a catered holiday luncheon.

Please bring a congealed salad or dessert.

The event is free but donations are appreciated.



Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Morning Worship Only at 11 a.m.

There will be no Sunday School.

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

October 31, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$5,113.73
Total Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$5,113.73
Budget Receipts to Date	\$290,488.00
	\$240,108.07

November 6, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$10,963.63
Total Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$10,963.63
Budget Receipts to Date	\$297,090.00
	\$251,071.70

November 13, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$4,179.00
Total Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$4,179.00
Budget Receipts to Date	\$303,692.00
	\$255,250.70

November 20, 2022

Weekly Budget Need	
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,602.00
Building Use/ Recreation/ Parking	\$2,270.00
Total Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Budget Needs to Date	\$2,270.00
Budget Receipts to Date	\$310,294.00
	\$257,520.70

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 Tithe.ly. There are also instructions for setting up an automatic bank draft.

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

Gathering together

In each of the last two Advent/Christmas seasons, I heard about the "Poinsettia Tree" that filled the baptistry beginning with the first Sunday in Advent. But I had never seen it. The first season, in 2020, we were still not gathering in person for worship, so only the platform was decorated. The second season, in 2021, we were worshipping in person again, and although the Chrismon Tree and wreaths and garlands returned, the Poinsettia Tree did not. This season, in 2022, it's back, and I am delighted to paraphrase Job in both words and wonder: "I had heard of it, but now my eye sees it." It's more lovely even than I imagined.

Last Sunday evening, I made what has become a weekly pilgrimage over the last month, visiting one of our members, first in ICU in Winston-Salem and now in rehab in Greensboro. Before I left the building (and for this, I am asking forgiveness because I did not ask permission),



I procured (some might say, "pilfered") a spare pot from the boxes in which the poinsettias for the tree are stored. After my initial greeting in the room, I said, "It's the first Sunday in Advent, and the Poinsettia Tree is up again. It's beautiful." He smiled and nodded. I said, "Since you can't come to the tree, I brought the tree to you," and I held up the poinsettia so he could see it. He smiled again and mouthed the words, "Thank you, Jeff." I placed it by the window in his room and prayed with him and for him before I left for home.

The journey of that small poinsettia is a parable of sorts. As lovely as the tree to which it belongs is, the most important part of it is what we share with people who cannot or will not come to the tree. In this Advent/Christmas season, take it all in. And then share it: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

– Dr. Jeff Rogers

Scriptures for December Worship

Advent II, December 4 – Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 2:8-14
Advent III, December 11 – Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 2:1-12
Advent IV, December 18 – Isaiah 7:1-16; Luke 2:15-20
Christmas Eve: No Sermon
Christmas Day, December 25 – Luke 2:15-19
Christmas I, January 1 – Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23

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.

Financial Report Year-to-Date

October receipts were \$20,473 and spending \$20,187, which gives us a surplus of \$286. I'm almost surprised that we even hit \$20,000 because the weekly receipts were low. This \$20,000 is over a month with five Sundays.

With eight Sundays until year end, \$300,000 in receipts is not out of reach. As you can tell from a \$342,000 annual budget, to begin re-staffing it's clear we'll have to spend from savings for a while once positions are filled. Surpluses now will buy us more time to get traction.

Year-to-date we're at \$240,000 in receipts and \$226,000 in expenses, which is surplus of \$14,604. A larger surplus would be nice going forward but we'll still be grateful to be ahead at this point.

– Don Myers, treasurer

Deadline for information for the JANUARY Herald is DECEMBER 22. Please email your information to Carol Brooks at cab1@northstate.net.

Don't Forget: A Simple Gesture pickup date is Dec. 17.

Staff

Dr. Jeff Rogers
Interim Minister
jeff@fbchighpoint.org

Heather Absher
Director of Finance
and Communication
heather@fbchighpoint.org

Rob Fincher
Organist/Choir Master
sgrady@triad.rr.com

Rob Fincher
Building Superintendent
rfincher@triad.rr.com

Carol Brooks
Herald editor, Webmaster
cab1@northstate.net

Pastoral Care Line
881-6480

Happy Birthday Jesus

Christ's Little Acorns Preschool loved packing 37 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children around the world. Operation Christmas Child is a wonderful ministry we have participated in since 1995 as a preschool and church. Imagine all those smiles on the faces of 37 precious children as they open their gifts of love and most importantly as they hear about the love of Jesus Christ! Happy Birthday, Jesus! We love you. Thank you for loving us so much!

The congregation of First Baptist Church is invited to join us to watch our annual Christmas Pageant in the sanctuary on Friday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. You will be glad you did! It will warm your heart with Christmas blessings.



Join the Choir

Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Sympathy

... to Bryan Culbreth in the death of his mother, Frankie.
... to the family of Rachel Brooks.
... to Bernie Sheffield in the death of his sister, Maxine Sellers.

For your Christmas card list

Dr. Jeff Rogers,
110 Creekside Road, Greer, SC 29650

Stan Grady,
518 Haworth Circle, High Point, 27262

Heather Absher, 3131 Central Ave., Apt B
Charlotte, NC 28205

Rob Fincher,
801 Shamrock Rd., High Point 27265

Bruce Hartgrove,
206 W. Parkway Ave., High Point, 27262

Trustees Report

The Trustees have begun the process of selecting and interviewing broker/realtors. The first interview has taken place with several more to take place soon. The goal is to have one hired by early December.

Carl Hunnicutt, chair



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.

Greeters

December 4

Rick Smoot, Diania Baum

December 11

Don and Janet Hritz

December 18

Don and Adele Myers

December 25

Rick and Nanette Cornwell

Deacons on Call

December 4

Linda Causby

Rob Fincher

December 11

Debbie Edwards

Mike McGaha

December 18

Jeanneen Adamcik

Alisha Hunnicutt

December 25

Donna Willis

Teena Reddeck

Church Conference January 8 Following Worship

The only agenda item at this point is per the Bylaws:

The Stewardship Committee shall determine if there has accumulated a surplus from unspent budgeted funds for the previous year and, if there is a surplus, the committee shall apportion same to mission projects supported by this Church, the new Church budget, or to programs and special projects and interests of the Church with a specific recommendation to the Church at the January Church Conference, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Welcome to Stan Grady

Stan Grady has joined the First Baptist staff as organist/choir master. He comes to us after 32 years as music director at Forest Hills Presbyterian and interim at First Presbyterian. He also has served as associate organist at Jamestown United Methodist for 18 years.

He was director of Advanced Piano and AP Music Theory at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts for 16 years, directed the High Point Chorale for five years and has taught private piano and organ lessons for 50

years.

He also was department chair of Information Systems at Forsyth Technical Community College for 32 years and taught Information Systems part-time at Davidson Community College, High Point University and Gardner-Webb University.

Stan has a bachelor's degree in Music and a master's degree in Keyboard Performance and a second master's in Information Systems.

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.



Wednesday nights

Regular Wednesday evening Virtual Prayer Service and Bible Study will begin at 6:15 p.m. starting Nov. 30.

On Second Wednesdays, bring your own food and gather in the dining room for fellowship on Second Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study and prayer time will take place as usual.

On the Fourth Wednesday evenings, we will gather at a restaurant to socialize. An email will be sent to announce the location.



Evelynn Clark	Dec. 1	Kathleen Culbreth	Dec. 18
Braiden Spires	Dec. 1	Chelsea Reddeck	Dec. 19
John Adamcik	Dec. 3	Kyle Wooden	Dec. 19
Linda Causby	Dec. 3	Sharon Chastain	Dec. 20
Jefferson Burgess	Dec. 6	Gayle Blackwell	Dec. 22
Phil McNeill	Dec. 11	David Farrington	Dec. 26
Joy Key	Dec. 14	Carole Meredith	Dec. 28

Sunday Worship Live Stream Every Sunday

at 11:00 a.m. on



Midweek Prayer and Bible Study: The Virtual Edition

Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.

via 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.