

The First Baptist Informer

Rockingham, North Carolina

“To know Christ and make Him known”

Volume XLI* Number 5* May 1, 2018 - May 31, 2018

Resource Recording Team

Monday, May 7, 2018

Bonnie Barnes, Joanne Cadieu

Monday, May 14, 2018

Mary Joyner, Judy McEntire

Monday, May 21, 2018

Charles Harrill, J.C. Lamm, Bill Featherston

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Sally Pierce, Beverly Carnes

Attendance Report

Sunday, Apr 1, 2018 Sunday, Apr 8, 2018

Sunday School-70 Sunday School-60

Worship Service-89 Worship Service-82

Sunday, Apr 15, 2018 Sunday, Apr 22, 2018

Sunday School-81 Sunday School-76

Worship Service-110 Worship Service-100

Serving on Sunday, May 6, 2018

Nursery: Betty Davis/Lee Chavis

2's & 3s: Jackeline and Alex Cockerton

Children's Church: Angela Cockerton/Leah Melvin

Church Security: Graham Jenkins

Greeters: Mary Joyner/John and Beth Ray/Marjorie Rainey

Serving on Sunday, May 13, 2018

Nursery: Virginia Auman/Kathy Griffis

2s & 3s: Monica Yates

Children's Church: Judy Harrelson/Lea Dietch

Church Security: Michael Beale

Greeters: Steve and Cynthia Morris

Serving on Sunday, May 20, 2018

Nursery: Joanne Taylor/Graeson Diaz

2s & 3s: Mary Catherine and Joey Moree

Children's Church: Debbie Knight/Dana Pope

Church Security:

Greeters: Ric and Pat Buckner/Jill Emerson

Serving on Sunday, May 27, 2018

Nursery: Elaine Davis/Carolyn Bridgman

2s & 3s: Brenda Tyler/Joanna Wall

Children's Church: Debbie McIver/Kathy Griffis

Church Security: Steve Morris

Greeters: Inell Allen/Mandy Allen/Sally Pierce

Dear Church Family,

A little less than 9 years ago, I received a telephone call from Gene Coen and the pastor search committee inviting me to come and preach a “trial sermon” in view of a call to be your pastor...and you know the rest of the story. Believing the time was right and sensing God’s leadership, I accepted the call. My first official sermon was on the last Sunday in June, 2009. In other words, for almost nine years we have worked together, planned together, prayed together, played together, cried and laughed together, grieved and rejoiced together, and worshipped together...all in an effort to build this congregation, advance God’s kingdom and glorify His name. In some ways we have succeeded. In other ways we have fallen short of our hopes and dreams. But I hope and pray that along our journey together we have felt the presence of Christ and that divine awareness has enabled us to walk a little closer to God. For me, I have not only felt but have also experienced your encouragement and your love, and I thank you from the depths of my heart for the privilege you gave me to serve our Savior along with you. I love you, I will miss you, and will surely be in prayer for you as you move forward together.

Trust in and don’t forget God’s promise: “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” So let us give praise to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. To Him be the glory in the church...“known as the First Baptist Church of Rockingham, North Carolina”. May God bless each of you.

For those of you who may not have been present, the following is the letter that I read after the morning worship on April 15th.

“Dear First Baptist Family, In Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon wrote these words: There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven...and to Solomon’s list of activities I would add, “There is a time for beginnings and there is a time for endings. And so it seems that the time has come for Twyla and me to begin a new chapter in our lives—the chapter called retirement.” Consequently, after more than a year of praying, evaluating and considering our future and after 43 years of full-time ministry in six churches,

across four states, it is with anticipation and anxiety as well as with joy and sorrow that I am announcing my retirement to be effective on May 31, 2018, but with my last Sunday in the pulpit being May 20. While I will surely miss you as well as the fellowship and ministry of the First Baptist Church of Rockingham, I must confess that I will enjoy sitting on the back pew of a church and listening to someone else’s voice. While this decision means change for each of us and while it creates uneasiness in all of us because of so many unknowns, it also provides God an opportunity to work His will in and through us in ways beyond our imagination. Twyla and I covet your prayers, and we will lift you up in our prayers as you enter into this time of transition. May God richly bless each of you as together you grow and strengthen the ministry of First Baptist Church. Sincerely with love, your Pastor, Jim Nelson.



One date as I begin: Children and Youth Sunday will be June 10th. I hope you all will make it a point to come as our children and youth assist in worship on that day!

It seems that for many May is a busy month. Mother's Day, Memorial Day, exams, and the approaching end of school, all contribute to May's busyness. Knowing that May holds a lot, I would specifically ask for your prayers for our children, youth, and teachers. There can be a great deal of stress connected to the end of the school year, and I know that our youth in particular are holding their share of anxiety around school. I covet your prayers for each of them!

The wise and compassionate Mother Teresa wrote these words about prayer:

Prayer is a joy.
Prayer is the sunshine of God's love,
prayer is hope of eternal happiness,
prayer is the burning flame of God's love
for you and for me.
Let us pray for each other,
for this is the best way to love one another.

As our church is entering a period of transition, I want to encourage us all to pray...to pray for the Nelsons as they begin this next stage in their lives...to pray for our church as we seek to continue faithfully following God's will...to pray for wisdom and guidance for us all...to pray for the search committee that will be formed as they work to discern who God is calling to be the next Senior Pastor here...to pray for the person who will be the next pastor here...to pray for each other as together we move forward into the future. Mother Teresa reminds us that prayer is an act of love. In these days, weeks, and months, let us all be prayerful and loving, for surely this is pleasing to God.



I wish I had a large enough vocabulary to properly thank ALL the participants for Festival of Tables. There were so many who made this happen. Thanks to Beth Ray and her crew for the welcoming outside décor; the table designers for all the unique creations; Kenneth Robinette, Judy McEntire and all the kitchen workers for the fabulous food; John Thompson for putting up with me and all the last minute changes on programs, tickets, etc.; Daniel for helping us with set up and break down plus cleaning up behind us. I am sure I have missed someone but it was a beautiful weekend and I was very proud to be a part of it. Thank you one and all for making this happen for First Baptist Church. - Myra Deane

Happy Anniversary!



5/5 Bobby and Kathleen Mumford - 56 yrs	5/7 Jerry and Elaine Davis - 56 yrs
5/23 Dan and Inell Allen - 48 yrs	5/24 John and Carolyn Dawkins - 49 yrs
5/25 Hal and Bess Shuler - 33 yrs	5/31 Mark and Angela Cockerton - 32 yrs

5/3 Madelyn Goodwin	5/4 Betty Matthews	5/9 Andrew Danner	5/14 William Bryant
5/15 Bess Shuler	5/18 Beverly Carnes	5/19 Linda Byrd	5/22 Jerry Davis
5/24 Leroy Yates	5/24 Flo Aiken	5/25 Norvin Forester	5/28 Ellen Forester
	5/29 Danny Griffis	5/30 Mabel Danner	



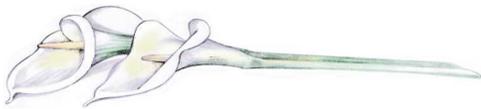


On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, Judy Harrelson and I are blessed by the smiles, hugs and boundless energy of seven preschoolers in cherub choir. Their enthusiasm for singing and playing instruments is infectious! With the arrival of spring, we began learning the children's song "God Loves Me".

"Little bird and flow'r and bee Tell me that God loves me.
Sun and wind and rain, all three, Tell me that God loves me.
Moon and stars at night I see Tell me that God loves me."

Our precious preschoolers, through the simplicity of these words, are learning to see God's love in the beauty of his creation. This begs the question, "how and where do we, as adults, see God's love for us?". Are we so busy that we fail to see God's love in and around us? Challenge us, O God, to see your unfailing love and may your love dwell within us for others to see.

In Memory



Mr. Robert Smith

Frank and Cathy Roofe

Capt. Samuel Phillips, USMC

Mrs. Betty Evans

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School this year is going to be at the First Presbyterian Church, July 9-13 from 9-12 each morning. If you are willing to volunteer during that week, please see Patricia as soon as possible. We are excited about this week and the chance to work with the Presbyterian and Methodist churches to minister to our children.



Giving Summary	March 2018	April 1-22 2018
General Fund	30,163	28,181
Chall. to Maint.	0	0
Memorials & Honor	5,495	85
Radio Ministry/Sound	800	800
Baptist Men/Ramp Min.	1,431	1,000
Fellowship Fund	0	580
Easter Lilies	0	30
Heating and Air Cond.	1,610	570
Wed. Fellowship Meals	247	265
Missions	375	171
O'Brien Fund	1,043	0
Youth	0	10
Total Gifts	41,165	32,695
Budget req. to date	118,325	
Gifts to date	100,940	
YTD req. under actual gifts	(17,385)	
% giving to req.	85%	

Mission's Offering

Church Goal: \$2,000
Given to date: \$171.50

Support missions by giving to the

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering (SBC)
or to the

Global Missions Offering (CBF).

"Go into all the world and
preach the gospel."



"The bad news is, the market threw a wrench into your retirement plans. The good news is, you can probably sell the wrench for \$10 on eBay!"



**Operation Inasmuch
Saturday, May 5, 2018**

All are invited to join together for a day of service to our community. Opportunities are available for all ages, skill levels, gifts, and talents. Please come that morning at 8:30 am to S150 where groups will receive assignments and go out. Sign-up sheets are available, but you do not have to sign up to help. A light snack will be provided.



Check Your Calendar

- May 3 - National Day of Prayer
- May 5 - Operation Inasmuch (S150), 8:30 am
- May 6 - Spring Church Conference, 12:15 pm
- Cherub Choir, 5:30 pm
- May 13 - Mother's Day
- May 14 - Finance Meeting, 6:00 pm
- May 20 - Retirement Reception, 2-4 pm
- Cherub Choir, 5:30 pm
- May 21 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 pm
- May 28 - Memorial Day (Church office closed)



"When you look into your mother's eyes, you know that is the purest love you can find on this earth." - Mitch Albom

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28th in observance of



On Sunday, May 20th from 2-4 pm, there will be a drop-in reception honoring Dr. Nelson and Twyla and their service here at First Baptist. We hope you will come that afternoon and be a part of this special day!



Sympathy for the families of ...



- Jeanne Olive who passed away on March 26th.
- Buddy Burcham who passed away on March 29th. He is Betty Hildreth's brother.
- Capt. Samuel Phillips who passed away on April 3rd. He is BT Phillips' grandson.
- Addie Dawkins who passed away on April 9th. She is John Dawkins' mother.
- Carlton Lamm who passed away on April 16th. He is JC Lamm's nephew.
- Dale Ormsby who passed away on April 20th.
- Marlyn Benoist who passed away on April 20th.

RADIO SPONSORS: If you can't be present in the sanctuary for the worship service, listen to the broadcast on WJSG, G-104 on your FM dial. The following area businesses sponsor the broadcast: Crump Realty, Jenkins Automotive and Industrial Supply, Medical Center Pharmacy and Carter Funeral Home.



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May 1 - 31

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Celebrate Memorial Day on May 30th.

Memorial Day reminds us of the importance of “remembering.” Locked away, down deep inside your heart, is a treasure house that only you can open. Inside are memories and visions from the past that time can never erase. Not all of these memories are pleasant. There are some sad recollections. Some memories are even tinged with tears. But there are happy memories, too, recollections you would not exchange for any sum of money in the world. Memory! What a wonderful gift! Our memories neatly store away many good things from the past.

Memory also helps to carry us through the present. Without the power to remember, we would stumble through a world of terror and confusion, unable to profit from anything we had learned before. We wouldn't even know that we could quench our thirst at a drinking fountain, or that a red traffic light means “stop,” or that a mailbox is a place to mail a letter. Memory is a strange and mysterious gift. Psychologists tell us that it is not really a storehouse or a file which we fill and empty at will. Rather, it is a process by which we rehearse past experiences and call up old associations. And yet, we do forget! Even important things gradually fade away. But we must not forget some things, including Memorial Day and what it means to so many of us. So on this Memorial Day may we pause to remember and thank God for those men and women who gave their lives in the service of our country. May God bless their memories!

(adapted from a sermon by Dr. George Sweeney)



A Mother's Love

Whose is the heart that bursts with pride each time she sees your face.

Whose are the eyes that dart about, to check your world is safe.

Whose are the arms that wrap you up and hold you tight and close.

Whose is the love that's always there whenever you need it most.

Whose is the smile that lights the room when you are smiling too

Whose shoulder is the place to be, when only a cuddle will do.

Whose chest is warm and comforting when you're a weary soul.

Whose motivation only has your happiness as her goal.

Whose are the tears that cry for you as you grow old and free.

Whose is the heart that aches so much, in the space where you should be.

Whose is the head that knows that you must find your path alone.

Whose is the voice who welcomes you each time you go back home.