

CONNECT

Volume 75 Number 1

January 1, 2026

Mission Emphasis

Gideons

Sunday, January 18

Prayer Requests

To share a prayer request, please send emails to elucas@fbcasheboro.com or call the church office, from 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday.

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

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Romans 12:2 Project

Restore. Renew. Rejuvenate.



In 2018, First Baptist Church began assessing needed improvements and renovations by appointing the Facilities Review Committee. Since then, our church has experienced Covid disruptions and major staff changes putting the renovation process on hold. Throughout this time, the Facilities Review Committee, chaired by Charles Havens, has continued to plan, pray, and prepare.

Ecclesiastes reminds us there is a time and a season for all things. God has now opened doors, answered prayers, and set circumstances in motion, allowing the committee to present an updated plan on **January 21 at 6:10 pm**. This plan focuses on renovating our 65-year-old educational building.

A vote will be held on **February 8** to determine how we move forward together. This is an important and exciting season in the life of our church. We encourage all members to attend on **Wednesday, January 21, at 6:10 pm** in the **Sanctuary**. Thank you for your continued prayers.

There's a great list found on Cru.org that talks about reasons to read the Bible. Here's their list:

1. It's How God Reveals His Character
2. It Gives Instruction for Daily Life
3. It Teaches You How to Pray
4. It Explains the Gospel
5. It Explains How to Share the Gospel
6. It Teaches You How to Trust God
7. It Shows What God's Will Is
8. It Is Full of God's Promises
9. It's Historically Accurate
10. It Teaches You How to Forgive
11. It's Full of Truth
12. It Asks and Answers Big Questions
13. It's Culturally Relevant
14. It Reveals How Much God Loves You

All these reasons are absolutely right and valid! I am sure we can even add dozens and hundreds of other reasons to read the Bible. The #1 reason I personally read the Bible is because it draws me closer to God. When I spend time in His Word, my eyes are open to who He is and who He is calling me to be. It makes me aware of how He is working all around me. It shows me how to turn to Him in my time of need; and it calls me out when I am wandering off to the wrong path. When I read through God's Word, I draw closer to Him as I am focused on my daily walk with Him!

I would love to say I have always been perfectly obedient in reading His Word daily, but honestly, it was a hard discipline for me to learn and still is a struggle some days. Let me remind all of us what Matthew 4:4 tells us. Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, and He was hungry. Satan tries to tempt Him to make His own food, giving into His fleshy cravings. Jesus responds to Satan by saying, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." The Word of God has more value than the food we eat! The Bible is essential for daily life! The Word of God is really that important.

So, I want to invite you as we journey together through the Word of God. We will begin a reading plan together to read the whole Bible in a year. Now the goal is not to just finish the plan and check it off the list; it is to journey together. Some might need to take a little longer and some might go a little faster. Let's strive to read God's Word **together** so we draw closer to God and to each other.

I look forward to an amazing 2026 year together in God's Word!

PASTOR ON CALL

January 3-4.....	Stephen Owen/828-292-4627
January 10-11.....	Aaron Littell/828-719-7716
January 17-18.....	Michael Thames/336-971-6798
January 24-25.....	Jenn York/336-906-6779
January 31– February 1.....	Stephen Owen/828-292-4627

Giving Numbers

Received: November 2025	\$152,346.00
Budgeted: November 2025	\$111,795.00
Received Year to Date 2025	\$1,202,605.00
Budgeted Year to Date 2025	\$1,250,596.00

Walk Offering	Goal	Received
Lottie Moon	\$30,000.00.....	\$37,542.00
FBC International Missions	\$10,000.00.....	\$11,547.00
Totals	\$40,000.00.....	\$49,089.00

We all want to make a difference. We all want our work to matter. When we look back at 2025 we can probably come up with a list of things we have done, things we hope made someone else's life better.

Have you ever thought about church that way? When you do something to help at the church it will make a difference. When you volunteer at church it matters. You make other people's lives better when you share in music, teach a group, pack a box, serve meals, open doors with a smile, clean up after meals...well, you get the idea.

The reason every moment you share of your time in church matters is because we share ourselves out of a love for God and each other. We may not even think about how it changes lives. We may not even serve with changing lives on our minds.

But what if we did all of it thinking about God changing lives through us? What if the greatest value was not getting a "job" done for the church? What if the greatest value we could offer is serving with an understanding that God is changing lives through our faithfulness?

In the new year, I encourage you to remember why we serve. The Gospel of Jesus is lived out through the time that we share for others. Why we serve will matter far more than just counting what we did last year. It makes a difference. It changes lives. Thank you for serving God by serving others at First Baptist!



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

AARON LITTELL

Youth & Parent Meeting—All youth and parents are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and a Bible study on Sunday, January 11 at 6:00 pm in the Christian Life Center. We will also talk about upcoming plans for 2026. Hope to see everyone there!



Amazing Race—January 23

Volunteers—The Amazing Race is coming and will be bigger than ever! This year, it will occur from 6:00 pm to midnight. We will be partnering with Journey Church so we will need even more volunteers. We need volunteers to be drivers, to help out at stations, and help serve food. If this sounds like something you would like to be part of, or if you have questions please reach out to Aaron Littell or sign up by scanning the QR code.



Youth—You will team up to complete challenges, solve puzzles, and race around Asheboro to win the Amazing Race! Meet at 6:00 pm in the youth room for instructions. The race will start shortly after and run until midnight. We will take a break in the middle for food and Bible study. Please sign up by January 11.



Young Adults

Bible Study—You're invited to a Bible study kick-off at Stephen and Emily's home (1662 Old Cox Rd. Asheboro, NC) on Sunday, January 4 from 6:30–8:30 pm! Come connect with others, dive into God's Word, and start the year encouraged and inspired. We'd love for you to be part of what God is doing!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JENNIFER YORK

Thank you to all the choir leaders and volunteers that made this year's children's Christmas play wonderful. Thank you to the parents and children who dedicated time to making this a great telling of Jesus' birth and the true reason for the season.



Thank you to the children and volunteers that made the Christmas Eve family worship so special. Being able to celebrate the birth of Jesus with you truly brings more meaning to the day.



January Birthdays:

Samuel Plott (1/1), Ainsley York (1/11), Elise Winters (1/23)

FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

Friday, January 23

Sir Pizza | Randleman

5:30 pm



(Pizza's on us; drinks and extras are on you)

RSVP by January 19



RAs, GAs, Mission Friends, and Choir

Is your child in Pre-K, kindergarten, or 1st-6th grade? If so, we would love to have them join us beginning on Wednesday, January 7 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Contact Jenn at jyork@fbcasheboro.com for more information.

THE GROWING PLACE

KATHERINE DAVIS

The link below will take you to a wonderful video highlighting our Outdoor Learning Environment. The children and staff enjoyed creating it to share with families locally and across the state, showcasing best practices for outdoor learning.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UX_OumL5IE&t=1s

This month, the children have been busy making Christmas crafts for their parents. They have loved learning about the Christmas story and singing Christmas songs. The staff also enjoyed a break at Topgolf for their annual Christmas party, where they had a wonderful time filled with fun and laughter.



As I reflect on the Christmas season, I feel deeply grateful for how the Holy Spirit worked throughout all our big Christmas events, especially through Christmas on Sunset and Christmas at First. These events were made meaningful not only by the music, drama, and celebration, but by the countless volunteers, musicians, leaders, and church members who gave their time, talents, prayers, and encouragement. Every act of service—seen and unseen—helped create moments of joy, worship, and connection that truly meant so much.

At the heart of both celebrations was the message of the star that led the way to the manger. While many lights may compete for our attention, Christ is the true Light—steady, faithful, and unchanging. As we move into the new year, may that same light continue to guide us forward, shaping our choices, strengthening our faith, and calling us to share hope and love with those around us. With grateful hearts, we look ahead with confidence, trusting that the Light of Christ will lead us into every season to come.



CHURCH NEWS

Prime Time Update: The Prime Time section of the Connect is now a separate document. Copies of it are located in Sunday School classes and at the church office entrance. For any questions, please contact Michael Thames at mthames@fbcasheboro.com.



"Thank you so much for the many kindnesses shown to our family."

Stan, Beverly, and Joshua Beck

LOOKING AHEAD

January 1	Church Office Closed
January 5	<i>Coffee & Inspiration (Senior Adults)</i>
January 7	<i>Wednesday Nights Start Back</i>
January 8	<i>Our Daily Bread (Senior Adults)</i>
January 19	<i>Hearts & Hands Craft Group</i>
January 21	<i>Churchwide Budget & Renovation Meeting</i>
January 23	<i>Amazing Race (Youth)</i>
January 24	<i>Retirement Celebration for Rick Davis</i>
January 25	<i>Children & Youth Volunteer Training</i>
January 26	<i>Cracker Barrel Lunch (Senior Adults)</i>
January 30	<i>Men's Chili Cook-Off & Cornhole Tournament</i>

Connect will next be published on

January 27, 2025

The deadline for submitting information is
Noon on Wednesday, January 21, 2025.

See the weekly **Ministry Guide** for
more upcoming events.



WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am & 11:00 am

With Livestream on YouTube @ 11 am

BONUS TEACHING HOUR

(infant—4 year-olds Bible learning activities)

8:30 am & 11:00 am

1st floor of The Growing Place Childcare Center

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(For all ages)

9:45-10:45 am

133 N. Church Street

Asheboro, NC 27203

336.629.9191 | www.fbcasheboro.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm