



STEEPLE VIEWS

First Baptist Church • Monroe • North Carolina

Issue 6 – February 5, 2025

Oldies But Goodies

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, February 16, 11:30 a.m.

Family Life Center

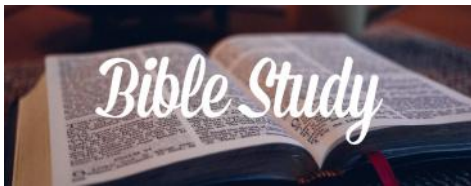
For all those who are 65 and above

Menu:

grilled marinated chicken breasts
mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole, salad
rolls and dessert

— **NO CHARGE** —

Reservations are required ... sign up on a form available in the worship bulletin, or call/email the church office by Monday, February 10



Join us on the Wednesday evenings of February at 6:30 in Room 308 as Ben Potter leads us in Bible Study



**Young Adults & Families
are invited to a**

**Valentine's Cookies and
Cocoa Fellowship**

**Saturday, February 15, 10:30 a.m.
at the home of Ben and Brittany Potter
(1009 Kemp Road in Indian Trail)**

February Prayer Focus

Local/Global Partnerships - Loving Beyond

Our Helping Church's Thrive prayer topic for the month of February is developing Local and Global Partnerships.

Thriving church families work for transformation in their communities and the world, which requires dynamic connections with other individuals, other church families, and other organizations and institutions that are actively working to pursue a common mission of sharing Jesus' love.

Let's come together and ask God to make way for this church family to develop partnerships, both locally and globally, so we might give Him honor and glory in the way we serve Him.



Connie Harrell is a published author. She and her husband Timothy reside in Wingate, North Carolina. They have three adult children. Connie enjoys time with her family, writing, reading and spending quiet time with God. She is a member of The First Baptist Church of Monroe and currently serves on the Mission Board. Connie loves giving testimony to others about the importance of a relationship with God. She believes having a healthy relationship with Him is easier than most people realize. The daily Christ-like walk is what she finds most challenging but it's the moments of spiritual clarity that quickly remind us that nothing is impossible when walking with God.



Assessment Inventory

As FBC continues the Thrive journey, you are invited and encouraged to participate.

Currently, one of the most important ways you can participate is by completing an online assessment form by February 23. Printed forms are also available in the church office and in the Sanctuary on days. To access the online form, please use the link: <https://form.jotform.com/243395563166161>. The data will be compiled and analyzed by our Thrive Team to aid in developing activities, programs and ministries that will enrich the church's life and mission. Your voice matters!

4th Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Everyone is invited to have fellowship and lunch together on
Wednesday, February 26 at 11:30 a.m.
at Mayfair Restaurant
Bring a friend!

Facts & Figures:

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Weekly Budget Requirements	\$	6,875
Budget Receipts	\$	1,660
Budget Receipts to Date	\$	144,214
Expenses to Date	\$	141,080

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 9

9:30 am Bible Fellowship - Room 308
 10:30 am Morning Worship - Sanctuary/Facebook

Monday, February 10

6:00 pm Faith in Fiction Book Club - FLC

Tuesday, February 11

6:30 pm Board of Trustees - Conference Room

Wednesday, February 12

6:30 pm Bible Study - Room 308
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Saturday, February 15

10:30 am Young Families Fellowship - Potter's Home

Faith in Fiction Book Club

Book Club members invite you to join them at their next meeting, Monday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. They will discuss Nicholas Sparks' book *Counting Miracles*

Prayer Requests

Reggy Gaddy - Joe Harris - Jo Holland
 Frances Vaughan - Dot Bates - Josh Handy
 John Luke Collins, newborn of David Collins and his wife in Thailand
 Bill Shaw, uncle of Jenna Bailey
 Savanah Britt
 Gary Clontz
 Elliott Atwood, daughter of friends of Brittany Potter
 Paula Hightower, friend of Kiki Myers
 Joel Penegar, brother of Max Penegar
 Charles Penegar, brother of Max Penegar
 Sam Goodwin, father of Sally Goodwin
 Those affected by the California fires
 For peace between Ukraine and Russia
 For peace to take hold in the Middle East

Worship - February 9 10:30 AM

Words of Welcome Michelle Dawson
 Call to Worship Michelle Dawson
 Gathering Music: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"
 Scripture: Psalm 138 Dr. Melanie Williams
 Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
 Scripture: I Corinthians 15: 1-11 Ann Handy
 Sharing of Prayer Concerns Ann Handy
 Prayer for the People Ann Handy
 Lord's Prayer
 Hymn: "In the Garden"
 Anthem: "Goodness of God" Children/Chancel Choirs
 Sermon Text: Exodus 33: 7-11 Connie Harrell
 Sermon Connie Harrell
 Prayer Connie Harrell
 Hymn: "Take Time to Be Holy"
 Stewardship of Tithing and Fellowship
 Sending Song: "As We Leave"
 Closing Voluntary Elaine Potter

This Week's Committees

Livestreaming Equipment for Worship:
 Tim McBride
Nursery: Debby McBride
Ushers: Ken and Ann Handy, Tim McBride
Lay Leader: Ann Handy
Money Counters: Jim Griffin, Harvey Whitle



Steeple Views

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Web-sitewww.fbcmonroenc.com
 Christopher S. Dawson, Senior Ministercdawson@fbcmonroenc.com
 Melanie Williams, Minister of Worship Arts
 Elaine Potter, Church Accompanist
 Marsha Sexton, Business Managermsexton@fbcmonroenc.com
 Kathy Cole, Ministry Coordinatorkcole@fbcmonroenc.com

Vision Statement: "First Baptist Church Monroe exists to Love God, Love Within, and Love Beyond"

Quarterly Church Meeting - January 29, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Harvey Whitley and Dr. Chris Dawson opened with prayer.

The Treasurer's report was given by Mr. Joel Myers. He presented the Financial Summary as of December 31, 2024, and for the four-months, September 2024 through December 2024. Mr. Myers pointed out the Total Revenue \$113,890 and Expenses \$113,486, which leaves a Net of \$406 for this Quarter. The Preschool Checking balance is \$7,805.

Following the Financial Report was the Church Clerk, Crystal Brantley. Ms. Brantley reported that the Church now has a total membership of 311. She reported for this quarter that our new members that joined by Faith - Jennifer Murray, Lost by Death - Jane Murray and Lost by Letter - Jim Sherrill and Margie Sue Earnhardt

The Board of Trustee Report was from Carolyn White. The Steeple repair will take place in Spring/Summer when weather is better. The Trustees decided to have the programming of the HVAC System take place after the Steeple is repaired. On May 18th, the Trustees approved for a one-day basketball camp to be held in the Family Life Center.

The next report was from the Board of Missions by Dr. Chris Dawson (Debby McBride was not able to attend). This year the Mission Board continues to prepare and deliver Food Packs weekly to 40 students at Rock Rest Elementary. Also, before the Holiday Break, bookbags were filled with food and other useful personal items for the children. Rock Rest sent a Certificate of Appreciation 2024 signed by the principal. Other missions include 23 5-gallon buckets filled with donated and purchased cleaning items for the Disaster Relief Cleanup. Seventy-two stockings filled with personal items and food were delivered to the residents at the Cotton Street Apartments while Caroling with the Choir. The Angel tree (Pruitt Health) had 58 residents this year. Gifts were donated and bought and delivered for their party.

The next report from the Board of Deacons was given by Dr. Chris Dawson (Melody Hawkins was not able to attend). This quarter the Deacons mailed a devotional book and packets of hot chocolate to all the homebound and nursing home members.

The last of the Reports was about "Helping Churches Thrive" The First Baptist Church Leadership team is Dr. Chris Dawson, Melanie Williams, Tom Coffey, Lisa Dinkins, Connie Harrell, and Ben Potter. The Leadership Team has asked for the Grant of \$3,000 to be used in our partnership with the Council on Aging. FBC will provide lunch on each 5th Sunday, donate money for the Council on Aging to purchase personal supplies and FBC will buy material for 9 or 10 wheelchair ramps.

Harvey Whitley asked for a motion to accept the reports. Jim Griffin made the motion and Ken Handy 2nd.

Carolyn White presented a By-Law Change that was presented by the Trustees. *The Board of Trustees shall be composed of six Trustees at large, the Clerk and the Treasurer. The six Trustees at large shall constitute the only voting members of the Board of Trustees. The Clerk and the Treasurer shall not be voting members of the Board of Trustees.*

All were in favor and all approved. Harvey Whitley asked for a motion to adjourn. Jim Griffin made the motion and Ken Handy 2nd. All agreed and adjourned.

Respectfully,
Crystal Brantley, Church Clerk

FBC Choral Scholars



Our Choral Scholars from Wingate University bring so much energy to our Music Ministry! Welcome back from Christmas break, Carlos and Aaron, and welcome to our newest scholars, Emma and Sophia!!!

2025 Winter/Spring Loving Within Discipleship Opportunities

As we continue our Mid-Week worship here at FBC Monroe for the 2024-25 church year, I wanted to thank Tom Caldwell for sharing his expertise on legal planning and Tim McBride as he led a study on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's life, sermons from 1963, and how they are still applicable for instruction today, both January offerings.

The students will return for their Spring Loving Within Spiritual Formation on Wednesday, March 5, which is also Ash Wednesday, where the entire church family will gather for this special service in the Family Life Center at 6:30 p.m. as we begin our Lenten journey.

The students will continue to enjoy choir and discipleship opportunities. The youngest students will be led by Ann Handy, Brittany Potter, Patti Duncan, and Sara Cowan, while Matt and Lisa Dinkins will continue leading the older students.

Another group of students, both our choral scholars and other Wingate University students, will be offered a time of spiritual formation with Rev. Caitie Jackson, CBFNC Campus Minister on Wednesday nights. This is a new partnership; please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in this endeavor.

For the adults, we will be led by Ben Potter the four Wednesdays in February to study "One Nation, Two Masters" – Christianity and Politics in America. After our intergenerational Ash Wednesday service on March 5, Tim McBride will lead a Lenten study beginning on Wednesday, March 12 and it will conclude on Wednesday, April 9. The current plan is for Ben's and Tim's studies to take place upstairs, in Room 308.

Another church family Mid-week worship opportunity will be on Maundy Thursday, April 17. It will be a self-guided Stations of the Cross that will have you traveling back to Jesus' time with the disciples in the Upper Room, where the Lord's Supper and Foot/Hand Washing will be observed; you will travel to The Garden, and your journey will conclude at The Cross in anticipation of Resurrection Sunday.

In May, the plan for the adults is to have community organizations come and share what is happening with them and how FBC Monroe might partner alongside them. The only confirmed guest speaker at this time is Kara Kindley Lemon, who will be sharing her expertise on the impact of dementia in our society. The other offerings are TBD. On May 28, we will have a Wrap-Up Night before dismissing for the summer.

There are 2 more dates I would like for you to put on your calendar: first, Wednesday, April 23, there will be no Loving Within Discipleship gatherings because of Spring Break; and second is Wednesday, April 30 will be our Quarterly Business Meeting in the Family Life Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

As this church family continues its CBFNC Helping Churches Thrive journey, I want to say thank you to the Leadership Team (Ben Potter, Connie Harrell, Lisa Dinkins, Melanie Williams & Tom Coffey) for their commitment, and to you, this FBC Monroe church family for embracing this challenge to see how God will continue to lead us and help us grow into the Christ-followers he's called us to be as we strive to thrive.

Grace & Peace,

Chris