



**Dec 3:** Adult Bible Study, E100, 6:00 pm  
**Dec 7:** Sunday School, 10:00 am  
**Dec 7:** Missions Around the World, S150, 5:00 pm  
**Dec 10:** Adult Bible Study, E100, 6:00 pm  
**Dec 12:** Children’s Christmas Party, E100, 5:00 pm  
**Dec 14:** Lessons and Carols, S150, 9:45 - 10:45 am  
**Dec 14:** Children’s Christmas Pageant (During Worship)  
**Dec 17:** Adult Bible Study, E100, 6:00 pm  
**Dec 21:** Churchwide Christmas Breakfast, S150, 9:00 am  
**Dec 21:** Sunday School, 10:00 am  
**Dec 21:** Deacons Meeting, 12:15 pm  
**Dec 21:** Christmas Caroling, (meet at church at 1:30 pm)  
**Dec 24:** Christmas Eve Communion Service, 6:00 pm  
**Dec 24:** Christmas Eve (Church office closed)  
**Dec 25:** Christmas Day (Church office closed)  
**Dec 28:** Sunday School, 10:00 am  
**Dec 31:** New Years Eve, (no bible study)



*With Deepest Sympathy*

Heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the families of:

Ellen Forester and  
Fumiko Davis  
who passed away.

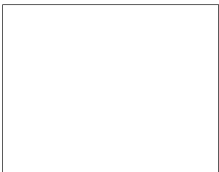
**Missions Around the World  
Sunday, December 7 @ 5:00 pm**

Come enjoy a taste of food from different countries around the world on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm as we enjoy meeting Lottie Moon and discovering more about International Mission Work. Children are invited to the tasting and then moving upstairs for lessons about missions. Contact Debbie Holloway, Elaine Callicutt or Melissa Ewing for more info. We hope to see you there.



**The First Baptist Informer**

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December 1 - 31

*Address Service Requested*

**Church Staff**

**Interim Pastor: Rev. David Kessler**  
**Accompanists: Gloria Kessler/Crystal Coen**  
**John Thompson, Admin/Finance Assistant**  
[john.fbcrock@gmail.com](mailto:john.fbcrock@gmail.com)



**Attendance Report**

**Sunday, Nov 2, 2025**

Sunday School - 51  
Worship Service - 65

**Sunday, Nov 9, 2025**

Sunday School - 33  
Worship Service - 47

**Sunday, Nov 16, 2025**

Sunday School - 44  
Worship Service - 47

**Sunday, Nov 23, 2025**

Sunday School - 28  
Worship Service - 38

**Sunday, Nov 30, 2025**

Sunday School - 34  
Worship Service - 35

**Tithing Report  
General Fund**

**Sunday  
Nov 2, 2025**

\$6,665.93

**Sunday  
Nov 9, 2025**

\$3,306.31

**Sunday  
Nov 16, 2025**

\$2,754.00

**Sunday  
Nov 23, 2025**

\$1,191.00

**Sunday  
Nov 30, 2025**

\$1,991.71.00

# The First Baptist Informer

## Rockingham, North Carolina

“To know Christ and make Him known”

Vol. XLVIII(48) \* Number 12 \* Dec 1, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025



This November 30, 2025, we celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent beginning the 2025 Christmas season. I would like to share with you another 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, November 28, 1943.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a prominent German Pastor and Theologian, was imprisoned for his opposition to Adolf Hitler and Germany’s Third Reich during WW II. Before his imprisonment, Bonhoeffer had bought a stock of Advent cards with a nativity scene painted in 1511 by Albrecht Altdorfer. It shows the Holy Family huddled together in a dilapidated house which looks for all the world like a modern bomb shelter. In a letter to his parents from Tegel Prison on November 28, 1943, Bonhoeffer referred to this painting:

*“Although I am not at all clear about whether, or, how, letters get to you, I want to write on this afternoon of Advent Sunday: Remember the Altdorfer Christmas scene, in which the Holy Family is depicted with the manger amidst the ruins of a broken-down house? It is really contemporary. We can, and should also, celebrate Christmas despite the ruins around us. I think of you as you now sit together with the children and with all the Advent decorations—as in earlier years you did with us. We must do all this, even more intensively, because we do not know how much longer we have.”*

He also wrote, *“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.”*

The word Advent means “arrival.” That is our greatest hope – “*something greater*” to come. Jesus “arrived” over 2000 years ago the first time, left us instructions on how to live in the meantime, and promised us he would return a second time. May we be busy about His business as we work until His next “arrival.”

Whatever “ruins” you may feel or have around you this year, my prayer is that you will find the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ that comes from knowing Him and celebrating His arrival during this holiday season.

May we be thankful for all that God has done for us and honor the celebration of the birth of His Son, our King – the Savior of the world.

God’s richest blessings upon you all, Pastor David

*He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely, I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:20 KJV).*



# Merry Christmas

We hope everyone has a safe and joyful Christmas season.

Rev. David Kessler

John Thompson

Gloria Kessler

Crystal Coen

Christmas Eve Communion Service  
Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm  
First Baptist Church Sanctuary

Leave the hustle and bustle of your preparation outside and relax for a short time at the candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Celebrate the birth of Our Lord with your Church Family and Friends. Everyone is invited.

## In Memory of

**JC Lamm**

Jason and Crystal Coen  
Janice Coen  
Jeffrey Lamm  
Marjorie Rainey  
Frances Godwin  
Michael and Kaye Beale  
William and Tammy Butler

**Gene Barnes**

Jason and Crystal Coen  
Janice Coen  
  
**Fumiko Davis**  
Pam Mitchum  
Michael and Kaye Beale  
Dicky and Jan Smith

**Ellen Forester**

Michael and Kaye Beale  
  
**Judy S. Blount**  
Davis Blount



Christmas is the season for giving. Because God gave the world His son and our Savior, we also have the privilege, the blessing, and the responsibility to give our prayers and money to support Baptist Missionaries who seek to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through multiple avenues around the globe. Such a monumental task requires participation from every believer, and at FBC we have the opportunity to support missions through two Baptist groups:

The Global Missions Offering (CBF)  
and  
The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (SBC)

The goal at First Baptist Church is \$1,000. Please designate your gifts to these mission organizations.

**Hebrews 13:16** – And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 12/2 Jackie Sherrill  
12/12 Leah Melvin  
12/22 Carol Chappell  
12/28 Hank Lampley
- 12/6 Ben Ewing  
12/12 Daine Stokes  
12/23 Jacob Coen  
12/30 Alex Cockerton
- 12/7 Pat Buckner  
12/15 Bloddie Featherston  
12/25 Helen Cox



## Children's Christmas Party

Friday, December 12th at 5 pm

All children are invited to join in for a wonderful time of crafts, fun, food, laughter, singing, the Christmas story, and a dress rehearsal!



- 12/1 Kevin and Stephanie Shaw - 18 yrs
- 12/23 Jon and Wendy Gossage - 10 yrs
- 12/24 Clay and Melissa Ewing - 30 yrs
- 12/29 Matt and Lindsey Poston - 9 yrs

Church  
office  
closed

Wednesday and Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
for the Christmas Holiday.

TITHES & OFFERINGS		
GIVE UNTO THE LORD		
Giving Summary	October 2025	November 2025
General Fund	9,892	15,908
Poinsettias	0	225
Memorials & Honor	175	6,880
NC Missions	255	220
SBC	0	0
Local Missions	0	0
Sundy School Literature	0	0
Lottie Moon	0	30
Senior Adults	0	0
Youth	0	97
Local Benevolence	0	0
VBS (One Perfect Gift)	0	0
Total Gifts	10,322	23,360
Budget req. to date		214,615
Gifts to date		157,071
YTD req. under actual gifts		(57,544)
% giving to req.		73%



## Cast

Mary - Wini Poston  
Joseph - Waylon Lampley  
Angel - Gia Gregory  
Shepherd - Jonah Poston  
Star - Hank Lampley

Please join us for worship on December 14<sup>th</sup> as we enjoy a short Christmas Pageant from our children. They will be singing “Away in a Manger” and “Joy to the World” with the congregation joining in song. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate the season with our children.