Oppurtunities of the Week

Sunday, December 3
9:00 Prayer Ministry Team
9:15 Deacon Prayer
9:45 Bible Study
10:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Wee Worship
1:15 Youth Handbells
4:15 Youth Choir
6:00 Hanging of the Greens
6:30 Greeters

Monday, December 4
6:30 Greet Team
7:30 Sunday School
9:00 First Ringers Handbells

Tuesday, December 5
5:30 Welcome Table
6:00 Hanging of the Greens
9:45 Bible Study
10:00 Morning Worship
5:00 Pre-Deacon Meal

Wednesday, December 6
6:30 Greeters/Baptists/Women
5:30 First Ringers Handbells

Fellowship Class

First Baptist Church
Rutherfordton, NC
P.O. Box 390
28139
828-286-9047
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF**

**Tim Marsh**  
Pastor  
828-755-1616  
tmarsh0307@gmail.com

**Beth Heffner**  
Minister of Music and Families  
828-980-2761  
bethfbcr@gmail.com

**John Miller**  
Minister of Youth and Outreach  
704-472-5860  
jmiller818@gmail.com

**Kenneth West**  
Organist  
**Alison Moore**  
Pianist  
**Debbie Turner**  
Secretary  
debbiefbcr@gmail.com

**Garry Cuthbertson**  
Custodian  
**George Hughes**  
Grounds Maintenance

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**ACOLYTES**

December 3.................... Jacob Craig  
December 10.................... Abby Miller  
December 17.................... Hannah Parker

**BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK**

December 3...............Ryan Beheler  
December 4.............. John McMahan  
December 5.............. Alesia Wilkins  
December 6.............. Bud Grissom  
December 7.............. Eddie Robinson

**CAREER BAPTIST WOMEN**

Tuesday, December 5  
6:30 PM  
Welcome Center

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**USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

**Team 2:** Calvin McGinnis, Daryl Camper, Scott Lawrence, Emily Kay, Vicki Hughes, Ronnie Wilson, Lane Parton, Stan Clements

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**DEACON AT THE DOOR**

Nell Bovender

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**COLLEGE STUDENT**

Bailey Graeper  
Catawba College  
2300 W. Innes Street  
Campus Box 225  
Salisbury, NC 28144

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**COUNTERS FOR DECEMBER**

Jane Simpson  
Jerry Farmer  
Willis Archer

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**Records for November 26, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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**Budget to Date**

Required by 11-26-17...$77,976.00  
Received by 11-26-17...$74,429.52

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**Building Fund**

Received $201.00  
Capital Campaign $414,324.71

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**WEDNESDAY MEAL:** December 6  
**Menu:** Ham, Turkey, Dressing, Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Potatoes, Bread, Dessert  
**Cost:** Adult $5.00 (6th Grade and up)  
Children $3.00 (5th Grade and under)  
**Maximum per family:** $16  
**Time:** 5:30-6:30 PM

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**SOUP FOR YOKEFELLOW**

September-November Soup Goal: 90  
September-November Soup Donations: 170  
December Soup Goal: 30  
December Soup Donations: 0

This will be the last month for soup donations. Please continue to remember the needy. Thank you for your generous contributions to this vital ministry!

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**

Mees on Wheels is a program through which hot lunches are provided to shut-ins. Our church participates by delivering meals in Spindale two or three Fridays per month. Deliveries take about an hour, and volunteers would work 2—3 times each year. Would you consider joining in this ministry, or are you unable to continue helping? If so, please contact the church office or Lynn Blanton—429-4864.

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**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

*No Sunday night outreach (ILLUMINATE) until the end of January  
*This Wednesday (12/6)—Youth Christmas Party in the Youth Basement!  
**Details:** 6-7 pm, bring a $5 or less gift, wear tacky/crazy Christmas shirts/attire, be prepared to have lots of fun  
*We will not meet on Wednesday nights after our Christmas Party until January 3rd.

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**WELCOME TABLE**

We will be providing Welcome Table meals Mondays, December 4 and 11. We always need desserts and volunteers. Prayerfully consider how you might join this rewarding ministry. Sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center. Questions? See Nell Bovender or Billy Honeycutt.

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**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who donated the toilet tissue rolls. Our Advent Calendars were a success and will enhance the learning, preparing, and joy of the season.
Lighting Lives with the Promises of Advent

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79, NRSV)

Advent and Christmas are special times of the year for us. Families gather. Gifts are purchased and exchanged with love. And, we remember the love and mercy of God to send Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Yet, these times can be difficult. For some, they will celebrate with an empty chair at the table. A loved one has passed between last Christmas and this. Or, others may celebrate knowing that it’s the last Christmas they will spend with their loved one. For others, life has been cruel. Through circumstances beyond their choosing, they are in a predicament that’s hardened them to God’s love. Others, through a handful of mistakes, are out in the cold forever.

The blessings of Christmas are not for the deserving. They are not for those who have made good choices. They are not for those who have done well in life. The blessings of Christmas are for all. This Advent, I will preach a series of messages titled Lighting Lives with the Promises of Advent. The good news of Jesus is meant to be shared with all. It is a message of forgiveness. The past doesn’t have to define us. It is a message of hope. The future is bright for all those in Christ. It is a message of peace. The present circumstances do not have to keep us from living lives of joy. It’s a message of love. We are loved unconditionally so that we may in turn demonstrate the love to others, not just in sentiment, but in tangible expressions.

This year, we will have three special opportunities to give. First, please consider making a gift to foreign missions. Each year during Advent, we have the opportunity to support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Global Missions Offering through the Global Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We support both the Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at First Baptist. Your mission gifts will help to fund Baptist Missionaries around the globe as they share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. We will receive this offering through the end of December using the envelopes provided in the your envelopes for church contributions.

Second, we will continue to participate in the Salvation Army Christmas Stocking ministry. Christmas stockings will be available this Sunday, December 3 for you to pick. Think about the age and gender of the child you wish to sponsor, and then fill that stocking for them. We will provide a list of do’s and don’ts for each gender and age. Then, we will receive the stockings on Sunday, December 10. They will be distributed to children in Rutherford County who are in need.

Lastly, we will have a hygiene item ingathering on Sunday, December 17. For a year now, through John Miller’s ministry, we have helped provide hygiene items for RS Middle School. These items include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, and other items (a list will be provided). Please bring these items to church on December 17 and help students in need at RS Middle School.

Our world needs to know that God loves them. They need to hear the good news proclaimed. And, they need to see it in action. Let’s light up someone’s life in the name of Jesus this year!

Grace and peace,
Tim
Greetings and Announcements
John Miller
Leader: The Lord is Risen!
People: He is Risen indeed!

Lighting the Acolyte Candles
Lighting the Candle of Hope
Senior High Seniors

Adult Choir
“Come, Lord Jesus, Come” Raney
Jane Simpson, Handbells

Litany
Leader: Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.
All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to
the darkness.
Leader: Advent is a time to remember that God’s love extends
to all people.
All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.
Leader: Advent is a time to renew our determination.
All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring
righteousness.
Leader: Advent is a time to strive for understanding.
All: We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

Prayer
*Hymn 79 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
*Invocation Nell Bovender

REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS
Children’s Message Dale and Dane Heffner
Voluntary “Celtic Advent Carol” Angerman/Barrett
First Baptist Youth Choir
Morning Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer Beth Heffner
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

*Hymn of Offertory 85 “Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming”
*Scripture and Prayer of Offertory Matthew 6:2-4 Evan Revis

PLEADING SAVIOR
Offertory

HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD
The Written Word Mark 13:24-37; Isaiah 64:1-9 Tim Marsh
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem “Blessed Are the Ones Who Wait for You” Foley
How silent lie the city streets; the very roads to Zion mourn.
No resting place, just empty gates; the former splendor now is gone.
The captives held in exile are fed the bread of tears;
No laughter fills the lonely who grieve for Zion.

Chorus: Blessed are the ones who wait for You.
Blessed are the ones whose hearts are true.
O come, Emmanuel. Come, God of Israel.
We lift our longing hearts to You.

In You our souls will always hope;
We pray You’ll answer when we call.
Come now and cheer our spirits here;
O Dayspring, come redeem us all.

More eager than the watchmen who search the sky for dawn,
We’re looking for the rising of joy in Zion. (Repeat Chorus)

The Spoken Word “Hope for the Desperate“ Tim Marsh

CCLI#1858884

Go Forth to Love and Serve

Departing Song (80) “Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love” BAUGH
Hope, peace, joy, and love! These are gifts You bring from above.
Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of Your hope, reflected in me.

*CCLI#1858884

*Postlude

*Congregation Standing
**Please remember to silence your cell phones or electronic devices**