



# NEWS and VIEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA  
(828) 758-8428 • fbclenoir.com

December, 2021



## A Word from the Pastor

Hello Friends,  
Christmas is almost upon us. And as we walk expectantly through these weeks of Advent, I hope you participate with us fully so that you might gain strength and encouragement this season.

First, we have our Hanging of the Greens workshop on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. From 9 AM to 12 noon, we will work together as a fellowship in preparing decorations for our sanctuary and the rest of the building. This is a great time to reconnect with those friends you may have missed recently, and there will be a meal as we finish. The next day, Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, we will not only have morning worship, but we will have our annual Hanging of the Greens service at 6 PM. This is a great time of worship and song as we adorn our church with the decorations prepared the day before.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have our special Christmas music with the orchestra. Our choir will pair with outside musicians to lead us in one of the most powerful services of the year. And as always, we will have a special Christmas Eve service December 24<sup>th</sup>. I look

forward to worshipping with you each Sunday, and on these special occasions.

As we make our preparations for that special day, let us remember that Christmas is never about what we receive under our tree. Rather, Christmas is about receiving God's gift of Jesus Christ our Lord and living differently because of it. So, this Christmas season, think not of yourself, but rather, think about what you can do for someone else. When we share our monies and time generously in the name of God, lives are touched, needs are met, and people are changed. I have come to recognize that the scripture really is true: "It is better to give than to receive."

And as we look forward to the New Year, let us pause and remember that while 2021 was incredibly difficult as we walked through the pandemic, our church grew in giving, in missions, and in ministries. In fact, I believe time will prove that we will be better as a fellowship for having walked together through COVID-19. May God bless you and fill you with hope and joy, even as we walk through uncertain days.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

The Hughes Family (Josh, Ginger, Ella, Elam, and Emelia!)

## Calendar

### Sundays

9:45 AM Sunday School  
11 AM Worship  
6 PM Youth Group

### Wednesdays

5:15-6 PM Supper Served  
6 PM Bible Study, Adult Choir,  
Children's & Youth Activities

### Saturday, December 4

9 AM Hanging of the  
Greens Workshop  
4 PM Room at the Table

### Sunday, December 5

6 PM Hanging of the  
Greens Service  
No Evening Youth Activities

### Wednesday, December 15

6PM Vote on Church Budget

### Sunday, December 19

Christmas Worship with Choir  
& Orchestra

### Friday, December 24

6 PM Christmas Candlelight  
Service

### Sunday, December 26

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



We missed it last year . . .

The church family will gather this Saturday, December 4, for the Hanging of the Greens workshop. We will work from 9:00 – noon and then enjoy lunch. We need all types of workers.

On Sunday evening we will gather in the sanctuary at 6:00 PM for the Hanging of the Greens service to sing in the greenery. We will have a time of fellowship after the service but you do not need to bring any food to share. The church will provide desserts.



Sunday, December 19th  
11:00 AM  
**Christmas Worship**  
with the  
**Adult Choir & Orchestra**



## Candlelight Christmas Service

*Sunday, December 24th, 6:00 PM*



- We will vote on the church budget for 2022 on Wednesday, December 15, at 6:00 PM
- We will not have Sunday School on December 26 or January 2nd



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT meal

Supper is served from 5:15 to 6:00 PM each Wednesday. Please add your name to the permanent reservation list or contact the church office by noon on Tuesday each week to make a reservation for that Wednesday.

December 1 ..... Taco Bar, Rice, Beans, Dessert

December 8 ..... Party Foods! Cocktail Weenies, Baked Chicken Dip, Lots of other goodies, Dessert

December 15 ..... Soup, Salad, Dessert

**No Wednesday evening activities/meal on December 22nd and 29th.**



Dear Church Family,

During this season of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, we are preparing for a "New Season" as we relocate to be closer to family in Burlington, NC. For the past 15 years, FBC has been our church home, and we are deeply grateful for the fellowship and friendship we have enjoyed and shared with you and the Lenoir community. We have been blessed by your presence in our lives and we thank you for the support, encouragement, concern, and prayers during our time here. Leaving this beautiful area of God's creation is bittersweet as we have so loved being close to these majestic mountains. Please know that we carry with us wonderful memories of you and Lenoir friends. If you are in our area, please think of us, stop by, or give us a call.

With love, appreciation, and thanksgiving to God for you and the ministry of FBC,

Bud and Helen Fisher

Our new address **after Dec.6th:**

1500 Jon Hus Court, Burlington, NC 27215

Bud's cell: 828-292-2171 Helen's cell: 828-292-2128



Saturday, Dec. 4 ..... Hanging of the Greens Workshop  
9:00—Noon

Sunday, Dec. 5 ..... Hanging of the Greens Service 6:00  
(No Youth Group)

Sunday, Dec. 12 ..... Shopping for Angels AND Christmas  
Progressive Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 19 ..... No Youth Group

Sunday, Dec. 26 ..... No Youth Group

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Budget Needs for 2021

**\$833,698.00**

YTD Budget Receipts

**\$606,713.32**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 12/1 Scott Fox  
Zac Martin (13)
- 12/2 Barbara Hicks
- 12/4 Bruce Cannon  
Ann Spann
- 12/5 Sue Ellen Brookshire  
Ginger Hughes
- 12/6 Carson Davis (19)
- 12/9 Anna Holloway  
Jeni Stilwell  
Nick Walker  
Kim Johnson
- 12/11 Susan Gray  
Pam Byers  
Brody Ester (8)
- 12/13 Steve Page  
Teresa Transou
- 12/14 Mark Suddreth  
Isaac Spears
- 12/15 Susan Floyd  
David Stevens
- 12/18 Sarah Lovins  
Mason Pritchard
- 12/20 Debra Trivette  
John Moore  
Kirstie Waters
- 12/21 Phillip Pritchard  
Janie Mangum
- 12/22 Amy Moore  
Benjamin McKinney (8)
- 12/26 Butch Smith
- 12/27 John Dockery  
Ragan Brown
- 12/28 Art Sherwood  
Liam Pannenbacker (9)
- 12/29 Paul McCurry
- 12/30 Joey Greene
- 12/31 Tori Davis (17)



The packages in this picture contain 633 coats! Because of your generous donations to our Coat Ministry, FBC was able to purchase these coats that will be delivered to children in our local schools. Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry.

#### **STAFF**

**Rev. Josh Hughes**  
SENIOR PASTOR  
**Dr. Thomas R. Hinton**  
MINISTER OF MUSIC & YOUTH  
**Dr. David B. Smith**  
ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF  
PASTORAL CARE  
**Rebecca K. Lawing**  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
**Carla Reid**  
ORGANIST  
**Nan R. Benfield**  
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR  
**Gary Johnson**  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
**Diane Palmer**  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT  
**Brenda Walters**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
**Kathy Keck**  
MISSIONS ADMIN. ASSISTANT  
**Nicki Blevins**  
CHURCH HOSTESS  
**Robert Benfield**  
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR  
**Bill Wakefield**  
MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT  
**Krista Hamby**  
CUSTODIAN