

The Scope

First Baptist Church
of North Wilkesboro

510 D. Street ~ North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

January 2026
Volume 62: Issue 1

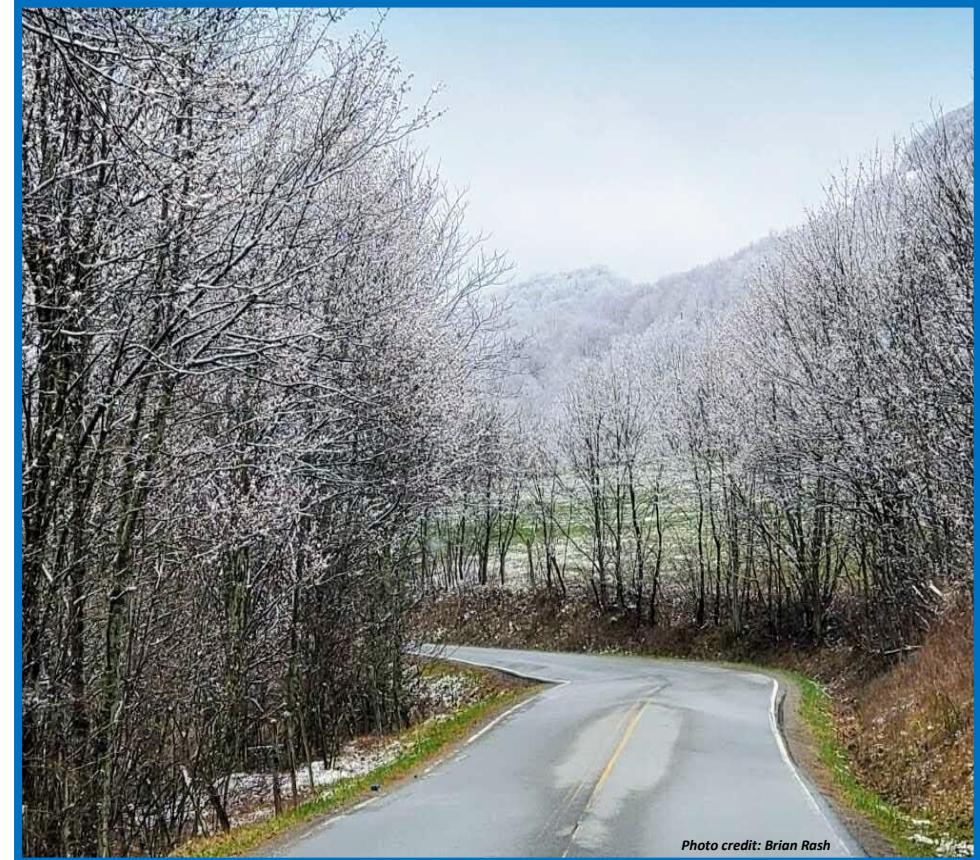


Photo credit: Brian Rash

Faith. Friendship. Community.

*"There is a seat at the table
for everyone at First Baptist"*

DR. BERT YOUNG

First Baptist Ministerial Staff
Senior Pastor: Dr. Bert Young
Associate Pastor: Rev. Patricia Turner
Music Director: Larisa Leapley
Children's Director: Jamie Higginbotham
Pianist & Organist: Tammy Prevette

What An Incredible Year!

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow! Gratitude, Humility, and Awe overwhelm me as I pause (briefly) to reflect on the past year and all the Lord has done through the incredibly talented, faithful, and generous members of the First Baptist Church Family. I cannot cite everything here, but think about the Food Boxes we packed at Hope Ministries to help feed senior adults in Wilkes and surrounding counties who are in need. We supported our school systems, our schoolchildren and their athletic teams financially this year. We made a difference with our gifts to Safe Spot, Circles of Care, Hope Ministries, the Wilkes Free Dental Clinic and the Hospitality House among others. In addition to our budget, many individuals and SS Classes supported local charities to the tune of \$26,000 and the Women of the Church Christmas

Bazaar chipped in another \$11,000. We mailed 130 boxes full of love and presents to needy folks in Appalachia this Christmas. We also began a Food Giveaway ministry that will continue into this year.

Our church cooked and served meals at the St. Paul's Crisis Ministry each month and we gave money to support their efforts to help folks in our community pay their bills. We loved each other and ministered to each other in times of sickness and grief. We worshiped together and celebrated the religious seasons of the year with beautiful music, fanfare, as well as reverence. Many grew closer through participation in Small Groups, and we continued to study and talk about scripture in Sunday School. We greeted some wonderful new members to our church family, and we said "until we meet again" to special people who went to be with the Lord.

Oh, and we received 3-year pledges totaling \$691,000 to the campaign to restore and upkeep our church building and \$236,000 has already been paid. (We are still accepting pledges). AND OUR GIVING EXCEEDED OUR CHURCH BUDGET BY \$19,100.

Please know that God is leading us, using us, and empowering us to do amazing and wonderful things! Thank you for your faithfulness to God. To God be the Glory.

Thank You FBC Family

I want to reiterate in The Scope what I said from the pulpit this past Sunday: Thank you Church Family for the outpouring of love and kindness your shared with the Young Family this Christmas. The cards, the gifts, the gift cards, the sweet and savory treats and your benevolent words were overwhelming and life-giving. We are also extremely grateful for the time away to celebrate Christmas with both of our extended families. Please know that we love and appreciate you so much, and I look forward to serving alongside you as your pastor in the year and years ahead.

Blessings and Prayers for 2026,

Bert, Tiffany, Lily Kate, Gwyneth, and Ainsley Young

Upcoming Events

Thurs., Jan. 1: Happy New Year! Office Closed, Tammy and Jamie's Anniversaries at FBC

Sun., Jan. 4: No 1st Kids/Youth

Mon., Jan. 5: WCS back in session.

Thurs., Jan. 15: Bert's Anniversary at FBC

Fri., Jan. 16: No school, FFF 11:30 a.m.

Sun., Jan. 18: Worship with Communion

Mon., Jan. 19: Church office Closed, MLK, Jr. Day

Fri., Jan. 23: Youth Ski Retreat through Sun. 

Sun., Jan. 25: "Parenting in the Pew" and only First Kids tonight, since Youth return today.

Thurs., Feb. 5-7: Choir to Charleston 

Sun., Feb. 8: Souper Bowl Sunday, Luncheon after Church and Super Bowl Party 1st Kids/Youth at The Young's 5:30 p.m. 

Thurs., Feb. 12: Women of the Church "Galentine" Lunch 

Fri., Feb. 13: No School, Fast Food Friday 11:30 a.m.

Mon., Feb. 16: No School, President's Day

Sat. Feb. 27-28: Handbell Festival Mebane 

Financial Report & Donations to Enduring Gifts

Weekly Report Dec. 28, 2025

Designated Receipts	\$ 5,140.91
Budget Receipts	\$ 22,543.37
Weekly Budget Needed	\$ 11,328.87
Budget Needed to Date	\$ 589,101.00
Budget Received to Date	\$ 608,230.22
Budget Surplus	\$ 19,129.22

Donations to Enduring Gifts/Rainy Day Fund

Memorials:

In Memory of Linda Absher: Given by Tracy Absher

In Memory of Doris Bentley: Given by Patricia Alexander

In Memory of Joe & Pat Brooks: Given by Donald Thompson

In Memory of Mary Belle Greene: Given by Sheree & Dick Sloop

In Memory of Joel McDonald: Given by Patricia Alexander

In Memory of Dick McNeil: Given by Tammy & Dwayne Prevette

In Memory of Jerry McNeil: Given by Tom, Lynette, & Tommy Wyatt

In Memory of Buck Lloyd: Given by Harold Lloyd

In Memory of Jamie Martin: Given by Trish Sturdivant, Harry & Deborah Martin, Arnold & Becky Lakey, William & Rhonda Bracknell, Laura Bacon, Barbara McKenzie, Lloyd & Kim Sharp, Dwayne & Tammy Prevette, Wilma Lovette, Ritchie & Tamarah Cornette, Brian & Carol Huffman Family, Patrick & Shari Smith, Vivian Collins, Steve & Pamela Call, Alan Lawrence, Patricia Alexander,

Joel & Charlene Lester, F.D. & Mary Forester

In Memory of Jack & Margaret Nixon: Given by Monette Nixon

In Memory of Dr. Thomas Simpson: Given by Pam Edwards, Blitz Phillips, Betsy Hoppe, & Betty Sutton, The Bartlett Family, Sanford & Karen Rudolf, Mr. & Mrs. George Wolf III

In Memory of Helen Shinaman: Given by Kathy & Tom Boyette

In Memory of Roger Trivette: Given by Dan Boone, Stephen & Jeanette Bumgarner, Ellington for N. Mecklenburg Republicans, North Wilkesboro Rotary Club, Lloyd & Kim Sharp, David & Carol Bauguess, Mac & Nathan Atwood Families, Judy Faw

In Memory of Melissa Miller Utt: Given by Chip, Paula Miller & Sons

In Memory of Philathea Class who are now with the Lord: Given by Teachers of the Philathea Class

Honorariums:

In Honor of Libby Brooks: Given by Matthew Brooks
In Honor of Ron & Carolyn Carpenter: Given by Tom, Lynette, & Tommy Wyatt

In Honor of Nelle Lloyd: Given by Harold Lloyd

In Honor of FBC Music Program: Given by Shirley Deal
In Honor of each member of the Philathea Class, and each of those who recently joined us from the Rehoboth Class:

Given by the Philathea Class teachers.

Small Groups Contact Information, All Are Welcome in All Groups!

Handbell Choir Small Group--Contact Debra Kilpatrick (804) 337-6965

Nursing Home Visitation--Contact Janet Atwood (336) 452-0008 for schedule

Current Events--Contact Nellie Archibald (336) 528-1898

Sermon Discussion Group--Contact Bert Young (910) 876-4247

Trailblazers Hiking/Walking--Wednesdays 9am, Cub Creek by E-chargers. Contact Donna Greene (828) 381-3433

Supper Group--Contact the church office for info, 336-838-5197

Planning Group--(2nd and 4th Wednesdays) 4:30-5:30 in the Wayland Hall; Contact Annette Battle (336) 500-3383

Reading Between the Vines--Contact Tiffany Young (910) 876-4616

Lunch Group--We will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays. Contact Patricia Turner (704) 473-4644. **1st Monday:** The 50's, **2nd Monday:** Moravian Falls Grill, **3rd Monday:** Cagney's; **4th Monday:** Amalfi's

Fishing Group--Contact Bert Young (910) 876-4247

Board/Card Games Group--Contact Tory Norwood (336) 469-2441

Poverty Book Study Group--Wed, Jan. at 9:30am Gathering Place

Happy Wanderers Small Group--Thurs., Jan. 15th at Carl & Sandra Elledge's home 3:30 p.m. Contacts: Jerry Swaim (336) 262-2855 or (336) 818-1450 and Jim McRae (336) 981-7082

Food Drive for HOPE Ministry

January is our month to collect nonperishable food, toiletries, and baby items for HOPE Ministry. We will have bins available in the Narthex, Portico Lobby, and the back entrance to the Education Building.

Current Special Needs:

Cereal, Pop Tarts, Ramen Noodles

Ongoing Needs:

Peanut butter, crackers, mac & cheese, spaghetti sauce and noodles, instant oatmeal (flavored), soup, canned meats, vegetables, fruit, pastas, hygiene items.

Baby Closet Needs:

Diapers, wipes, baby lotion, clothes (up to 5T) and car seats

FBC Library News

Our church library is a welcoming and enriching space for all ages, offering a wide variety of books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles to enjoy. Whether you're looking to learn something new, spend quiet time reflecting, or take home a puzzle to enjoy during the week, there is truly something for everyone. We warmly encourage our congregation to explore this wonderful resource during Sunday School and worship hours. See all that is available via this link:

www.librarycat.org/lib/fbcnwlibrary

Finance Update

There is still time to turn in a pledge card for next year's Ministry Plan Budget. So far, we have had a total of 74 pledges returned, in comparison to last year's 83 pledges. If you need a pledge card, contact Katie in the office. Thank you.

Youth News

First let me say thank you to everyone for all the cards, gifts, encouragement and support for Christmas. It is a joy to serve here at FBCNW and you made Christmas special for me. I appreciate each of you.

It is hard to believe that 2026 is here. I am looking forward to another great year of ministering together. FBCNW members, your prayers, encouragement and support of the youth ministry is wonderful. FBNCW youth are looking forward to a great 2026 of ministry together.

With a new year it is time for Passport Missions registration deposits to be due. Passport Missions will be June 7-11 at Lees McRae College in Banner Elk, NC serving our neighbors. Total cost is \$250 per youth. Only 20 spaces available so a \$100 deposit is due by Sunday, January 18!! FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!! New for this year our youth will be joining other CBFNC youth groups on a Ski Retreat at Winterplace in West Virginia, January 23-25. Skiing is a big part of the weekend but also fellowship and worship together will be experienced. Please pray for these youth as they go for safety on the slopes but also for spiritual renewal and learning. Camden Higginbotham, Blake Huffman, Ainsley Young, James Carlson, Noah Horton, Jordan Johnson, Henry Welborn, Grayce Mitchell, Charlea Abrams and Lake Carver will all be participating. Also I am so appreciative for these chaperones, Patrick Sazama and Rod and Tammy Watts. Please pray for them as they invest in the lives of these teenagers.

FBNCW youth will continue to meet from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Sundays. Breakfast at the 50's at 6:15 a.m. on Fridays. Bible Study and worship will continue at the same time. Looking forward to a great 2026!! Blessing on the 2026 year,

Patricia

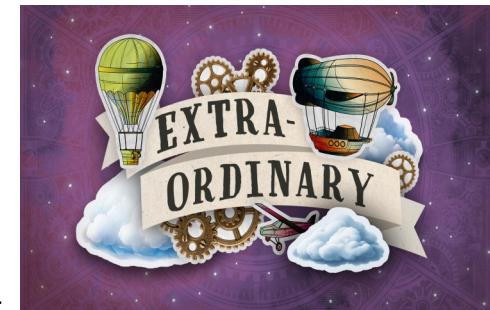
First Kids

Happy New Year Families! The Children's Ministry is excited for the New Year. We have a lot of wonderful new themes, fellowship opportunities, and growing in the word of God!

We have a new small group for our children.

We will focus on drama such as skits, creative writing, set making and eventually full length plays. Eventually, this will be intergenerational but will always be focused on our children. Be looking for more information on this small group in February!

EXTRA-ORDINARY: A 4-Week Series from the



Gospels on Jesus' Early Life & Ministry

SERIES OVERVIEW: Inventors take ordinary objects and transform them into extraordinary innovations with some creativity and a lot of tinkering. But Jesus didn't need tools, blueprints, or a workshop to make extraordinary things happen. On the outside, Jesus may have seemed ordinary, but his life, actions, and love regularly defied expectations. He transformed ordinary people and situations, showing us what an extraordinary God can do. In this 4-week series, kids will learn that Jesus is one of a kind, Jesus is humble, Jesus trusted God, and Jesus calls us to follow.

Our 2026 Nursery Volunteer Sign-up is up and running! Please make sure to sign-up for a few days this year or make it a part of your monthly routine and sign-up for one slot each month.

Though I might be a bit biased, I feel that this is a very important ministry in our church. Not only do our little humans feel the love of Jesus but their parents are able to worship knowing their children are safe and being loved.

Forever Young

We are looking forward to another wonderful year of fellowship and fun in 2026! Stay tuned for some more opportunities to get to know your friends in Forever Young over the coming year!

Teams and Committee Meetings

Finance Committee

Tues., Jan. 13 at 2:30 p.m.

Executive Committee

Tues., Jan. 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Diaconate

Sun., Jan. 18 at 8:30 a.m.

Shelf Indulgence Book Club

Thurs., Jan. 22 "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee

CARENET Alzheimer/Dementia Caregivers' Support Group

2nd/4th Thursdays, Jan. 8 & 22.

St. Paul's Crisis Ministry

"Team A" will prepare lunch on Thurs., Jan. 22.

Women of the Church

On Fri., Jan. 16, from 1-2 pm, we will be at the Wayland Hall Kitchen Entrance Circle driveway to accept your donations of gently used Christmas Décor for next year's Bazaar.

**Be sure to mark Thurs., Feb. 12 on your calendars for our "Galentine's" Luncheon! More info to come!

Happy New Year!**

**Keep Your Info Up to Date**

If you have any changes to your email, phone number, or address, please contact Katie in the church office, and she will make those changes to the church records. Thank you!

With Gratitude

Dear Church Family,

My heart is so full of gratitude for the wonderful experience you provided on November 16th for me and my entire family. The ladies of the Library, Janet Atwood, Dianna Bullock, Pamela Call and Ann Dorsett created a festive setting for the celebration! Those of you who stopped by to buy a book, encourage me and welcome my family are treasures. Your book purchases yielded \$380.25 to the Library Fund. On a personal note, it is a day I will never forget!

Deepest thanks,
Lynne Moree

Thank You

Two hundred-and-eighty-two years ago, Moravians passed through Wilkes before settling in other areas of our state. FBC has continued to tap a Moravian tradition as an opportunity to bring the people of Wilkes together to celebrate Christmas for over ten years. In order to do this, it takes an "army" of volunteers, over 80 people to present this service.....

Planning Team, Dieners, Prep Team, Ushers, Audio-Visual, The Chancel Choir led by Larisa Leapley, Pianist and Organist, Tammy Prevette, Brass Ensemble Musicians, Youth and Rev. Patricia Turner, Our Church Family, Dr. Bert Young, and especially Katie Rash—A Heck of a "Pep Club"!

Once again, my undivided thanks, gratitude, and love to this amazing group of Lovefeast volunteers and participants. —I have the very best "undefeated" team! Thanks be to God!

Love, Hope Coffey

FBC January Birthdays

Jan. 1: Beth Justin, Jan. 3: Dennis Smith, Jim Murphy Jan. 6: Kathleen Caudill, Jan. 9: Tory Norwood, Jan. 10: Stephanie Williams, Ed Martin, Jan. 11: Kiyly Elledge, Viki Taylor, Jan. 14: Joe Woodie, Jan. 16: Hope Coffey, Jan. 17: Missy Mayberry, Matthew Marsh, Jan. 21: Lynne Moree, Jan. 22: Pam Greene, David Smith, Patrick Sazama, Jan. 23: George Larsen, Charles Wooten, Jan. 24: Tom Caudill, Jan. 26: Robert Greene, Sr., Georgia Zamora, Jan. 27: Mark Eller, Jan. 28: Shirley Deal

Looking Ahead to our February Birthdays

Feb. 2: Kellan Barton, Eva Scott, Feb. 4: Sylvia Bare, Linda Bentley, Gary Newman, Jennifer Royall, Feb. 5: Jill Woodie, Jan. 6: Steve Foster, Jan. 7: Holly Piotrowski, Lloyd Sharp, Feb. 8: Cayleigh Davis, Nancy Schuder, River Wilcox, Feb. 11: Daniel Brooks, Feb. 12: Marie Canter, Scott Church, Feb. 13: Danny Dunn, Feb. 14: Carl Elledge, Phyllis Kilby, Feb. 15: David Brown, McKayla Elledge, Feb. 16: Kirby Lowe, Feb. 17: Scotty Williams, Feb. 20: William Prevette, Joann Vestal, Feb. 23: Caleb Higginbotham, Feb. 24: Ryan Abrams, Michael W. Greene, Grayce Mitchell, Feb. 25: Dylan Hill, Astrid Marsh, Feb. 26: Jean Graf, Kaitlyn Holder, Feb. 27: Will Cornette, Noial Handy, Feb. 28: Steve Moree

January Volunteer Schedule

	Jan. 18	Jan. 25
Usher Team	Tommy Caudill	Frank Day
SS Nursery	TBD	Sandy Day
Worship Nursery	TBD	TBD
SS Greeters	David & Hilda Smith	Frank Day
Worship Greeters	Steve Moree	Patrick Smith
Visitor's Table	Marie Waddell	Madelene Johnson
Open Up	Danny Stanley	Danny Stanley
Lock Up	Mike Norwood; Anthony Davis	Mike Norwood; Anthony Davis

A Note from Katie in the Office

If you would like to volunteer to cover phones in the church office on Mondays from 10am-Noon, and/or any other day (flexible) to help with basic organizational tasks, please call 336-838-5197 for an interview. (Just kidding! It's a volunteer position, and any help is appreciated and welcome.) My current volunteers that help me with the Scope mailings are Shari Smith and Ginger Edmiston. You would be in great company!

*New: if you would like a printed monthly calendar, you can pick one up in the church office. A downloadable copy is available on our church website.