



# THE BUILDER

The Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Dunn, N.C.  
December 2022 Issue



It is hard to put into words the gratitude Cathy and I feel this morning. Your words and acts of appreciation are overwhelming. You gifted us not only with love but also with things that will remind us of our special day and of the connection we will always share. Cathy loves her bracelet, and I am moved by the wooden Communion set you commissioned Kathy Gower to make for us. Each time I see it I will be reminded of the times we have approached the Lord's Table together to remember our baptisms and reaffirm our commitment to Christ. It was a very special and thoughtful gift that I will cherish. For those who don't know, my doctoral project was titled: Rediscovering The Lord's Supper For Renewal and Rededication. I can't imagine anything more appropriate. Thanks too for a more than generous love offering and the fantastic meal and fellowship. I only wish I could have spoken to everyone there.

Being your pastor has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. You have opened your hearts to me and my family, allowing us to journey with you through these last 20-years. We have welcomed new members, said goodbye to others. We have witnessed baptisms, celebrated weddings, dedicated babies, and honored our loved ones at funerals. We have laughed and cried, been on mission trips overseas and handed out food to our neighbors here at home. We have worshipped, prayed, and studied together. All because we love our Lord, and we want to honor him in how we love one another.

As a pastor, I always knew I wanted to serve a church like the one I grew up in. I prayed it would be a church filled with wonderful people with whom I could grow older. I was blessed to have had a pastor for over 20-years who baptized young people and then later performed their wedding ceremonies and later still dedicated their children. His constant presence and dedication to the church and community only enhanced our understanding of God's ever-present love. I wanted to have a chance to experience that too---when God called me to First Baptist Dunn, that prayer was answered for me. I am thankful to God for allowing me to serve, and the church for trusting me. It has been a blessing.

And while I certainly want to thank you for yesterday and the wonderful celebration and gifts you gave to Cathy and me, I am reminded that it was not just about me and my family, but about all of us. I often mention in premarital counseling that a successful marriage takes the work of both the husband and the wife. Likewise, our success as a church and pastor has been accomplished because it was something we both wanted, and we both worked to achieve. One of my favorite passages of scripture is Romans 1:12 in the Good-News Translation, "*We will both be helped at the same time, you by my faith and I by yours.*" This is what God has done in us these many years. God has been working through all of us to accomplish what God desired. You have helped me grow as a Christian and I pray that I have helped you.

Pastor is a title; friendship is a gift! My name will not appear on the sign or show up on the bulletin beside the morning sermon, but our time together will continue as the legacy of our faith bears fruit. Neil Emory had a professor who told the class that the success of good management may not be seen for years. The impact of what God has been doing is not always evident until later. It often takes time to fully grasp what the Spirit is doing. What I know is that God has been working in us. And God will continue to work in the life of First Baptist Church of Dunn.

Oh, and one more thing---we will never stop loving one another! *Len*



*We wish everyone  
a happy and Christ-filled Christmas!*



# HANGING OF THE GREENS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH  
11AM WORSHIP



## Christmas Cantata

FEATURING THE CHOIRS OF

FBC DUNN AND BENSON BAPTIST

December 11th 7pm at FBC Dunn

DESSERT RECEPTION IN THE PARLOR FOLLOWING



*Join us Christmas morning at 11:00am  
for worship and a time of sharing and  
reflection of what Christ's birth means to us.  
We'll worship him through testimony and  
sing wonderful Christmas carols.  
Dress casual. No Sunday school.*



### Sound System

Dec. 4 Ron Dupree  
Dec. 11 Christopher Moore  
Dec. 18 Michael Stephens  
Dec. 25 Mark Dunham

### Unlocking/Locking

Dec. 4 & 7 Robert Barefoot  
Dec. 11 Robert Barefoot  
Dec. 18 Mark Dunham  
Dec. 25 Ronald Dupree

### Prayer Coordinator Marshall Hinson

**Greeters:** Chris McDaniel  
Larry Snipes  
Robert Barefoot

### Radio Lesson

Dec. 4 David Moore  
Dec. 11 Kelly McLamb  
Dec. 18 Bo Jones  
Dec. 25 Chuck Turnage

### Candle Lighter

Dec. 4 Lillian Moore  
Dec. 11 Caroline Phillips  
Dec. 18 Wyatt West  
Dec. 25 Allison Wise

### Children's Church

Dec. 4 None-Family Worship Time  
Dec. 11 Sara Williams/Miranda Moore  
Dec. 18 None-Children's Christmas Program  
Dec. 25 None-Family Worship Time

### Scripture Reader

Dec. 4 Kamryn Wise  
Dec. 11 Julia Scott  
Dec. 18 Ron McLamb  
Dec. 25 Zoey Godwin

### Children's Sunday School

Dec. 4 Jan Jernigan  
Dec. 11 Miranda Moore  
Dec. 18 Kelly McLamb  
Dec. 25 None

### Nursery

Dec. 4 Meredith & Ella Holland  
Dec. 11 Tory Byrd  
Dec. 18 Denise Jarrell  
Dec. 25 Melissa & Julia Scott








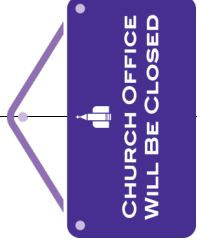


Budget Update 11-20-22  
Received \$368,234.79  
Required \$408,543.27  
Budget Deficit YTD (\$40,308.48)

Online Giving at  
[www.fbcdunn.com/Click Give](http://www.fbcdunn.com/Click Give).

Year End Contributions  
should be postmarked or  
delivered to the church no  
later than December 31st.  
There is a secure drop box  
on the office door  
for your convenience.

# DECEMBER EVENT & BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b><u>Regular Activities</u></b> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 6:00 Youth Fellowship			<b><u>Regular Activities</u></b> 6:30 Kids Club 252 6:30 Youth Bible Study 7:30 Choir Practice			
 4 9:30 Breakfast 11:00 Hanging of the Greens 2:00 Cantata Practice Nicole Davis Cathy Keever George Stewart	5 7:00 Deacon's Meeting	6 Carl Barbour Len Keever	7 <b>6:30 Kids Club Christmas Practice</b> Ron Dupree Chuck Turnage Brian Watson Mike Wise	1 Wiley Davis Sarah Frances Pope 8 <b>6:00 Adult Cantata Practice w/Orchestra</b> Jacquelyn Alphin Cashie Parrish	2 Doris Godwin Lloyd Pope 9 <b>YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN</b> Wayne Beasley Nancy Godwin Herb Ruark Phyllis Turnage	3  Kids Club to Theatre Joe Poe
11 	12 Lisa Cox Joe Miriello	13 Bertie Stewart	14 <b>6:30 Pack Feeding Our Neighbors Boxes</b> 	15 Cooper Davis Doris Perego Elizabeth Wells	16 	17 
18 <b>11:00 CHRISTMAS!</b> <i>By the Children's Choir</i> 3:00 Food Delivery Timothy Godwin	19 7:00 Women's Fellowship Donna Aldredge Vicki Dupree	20 Rachel Johnson	21 **No evening Activities** Paige Houston	22 Eli Williams	23 	24 Boyd Dixon Zoey Godwin
25  11:00 Worship Only	26 Lynn Ruark	27 	28 Chris Boswell Katelyn Stephens Patrice Thompson	29 	30 JaynaRae Jackson	31 Elizabeth Godwin

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Dunn, NC  
Permit #51

First Baptist Church of Dunn, Inc.  
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[www.fbcdunn.com](http://www.fbcdunn.com)



Pastor  
Minister to Families & Outreach  
Minister of Music  
Accompanist  
Administrative Assistant  
Custodian

Dr. Len Keever  
Sara Williams  
Kathryn Wise  
Mary Sue Godwin  
Angela Jones  
Kevin Snipes



*Join us on Wednesday, December 14th  
at 6:30 to pack the food boxes.*

*We will meet at the Dunn United  
Ministerial Association Food Pantry at  
319 E. Broad Street, Dunn.*

*Everyone of ALL ages can participate.*

*Also plan to come, Sunday, December 18th  
at 3:00 to help deliver the boxes.*



*Hey kids!  
We need your help to hang  
the Chrismons on the  
tree during our  
Hanging of the Greens Service  
Sunday morning, Dec. 4th.  
See you then!*