

Join us for
Christmas Eve Worship
6:00 or 11:00 p.m.

Child care provided at 6:00 p.m.

*You are cordially invited to
a luncheon honoring
Paul Sims
for his twelve years of ministry
with First Baptist Church
to be held on Sunday, January 8
immediately following worship
in the Multipurpose Room
Please RSVP by calling or emailing
the church office
by noon on Tuesday, January 2*

There is no charge for the luncheon

Missions-First

The Board of Missions encourages you to be involved in the mission endeavors of First Baptist. Each week a list of current endeavors is published in the newsletter. Take a moment to check the list and decide where you would like to help.

- **The Loose Change Offering** for December will benefit the Union County Community Shelter. An offering will also be received at the Christmas Eve Services. The Loose Change Offering for January will benefit the Union County Homeless Shelter.
- **School Uniform Closet** - First Baptist provides school uniforms for children in need in Union County Schools. Especially needed: navy blue collared shirts in M, L, XL and khaki pants (girls and boys) in sizes 6-14. Contact Glenda Poindexter to help.
- **Food Paks 4 Kids ministry** provides food-filled backpacks on weekends for children at Rock Rest Elementary. A list of needed food items can be found on the church website. Please place donations in the Gathering Area. Contact Carol Tyson to help.
- Thank you for your support of our **Promise Partners Ministry** and for the way you have responded to the needs of the Faulkner family. To learn of additional needs, or to volunteer to help with on-going support of the family, please contact Debby McBride at 704-506-6401.

THANKS FOR HELPING!

Thank you ...

A heart-felt thank you to all those who helped with the recent Blanket Workshop. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to deliver twenty blankets to United Family Services, who will give the blankets to people in need.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 25

10:45 AM Service of Worship

Monday, December 26

6:00 PM Faith & Fitness Group, Church Parking Lot

6:30 PM TOPS

Wednesday, December 28

No Evening Activities

Sunday, January 1

9:30 AM Bible Fellowship

10:30 AM Child Care

10:45 AM Service of Worship
Children Worship & Wonder

Monday, January 2

6:00 PM Faith & Fitness Group, Church Parking Lot

6:30 PM TOPS

7:00 PM Board of Christian Education
Board of Missions

Wednesday, January 4

5:30 PM Fellowship Meal
Buffet: spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert

6:15 PM Child Care
Children's Missions
Youth — First Fun Wednesday
John Danford's Report on Trip to Malawi

7:15 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 5

7:00 PM Faith and Fiction Book Club - Parlor

By the Numbers ...

Sunday, December 18, 2011

Bible Fellowship Attendance.....	98
Worship Attendance.....	145
Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$ 9,853
Weekly Budget Receipts	\$ 12,509
Budget Receipts to Date.....	\$141,770
Expenses to Date.....	\$138,055

Pastoral Care Emergencies

Minister on Call December 24-January 7

Sara Spahr Stubbs — 704-219-0076

Love Offering ...

A love offering is being received for Paul Sims and will be presented to him on January 8. Place your gift of **cash** (no checks, please) in an envelope, greeting card, etc. and bring by the church office.



"The CBF Offering for Global Missions brings us together to become part of God's mission"

The offering is used to help spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the world

Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 25:

Morning Worship Service at 10:45

Church offices closed:

December 26, 27, 28 29 & January 2

Wednesdays, December 28:

No Evening Activities

Sunday, January 1:

Normal Schedule

Bible Fellowship at 9:30 - Worship at 10:45

Please Note: If you have an emergency during the Christmas holidays and need to contact the church, please call Sara Spahr Stubbs at 704-291-0076, Kathy Cole at 704-635-7385 or 704-292-4640, or Marsha Sexton at 704-989-6858.

FBC

Mission Minded Youth

January 4

First Fun Wednesday

January 8

Public Service Appreciation

January 15

Lunch at Community Shelter



The Worship of God

December 25 - 10:45 am

CHRISTMAS DAY

Scripture Lessons & the Singing of Carols

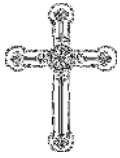
Sermon by Gene Derryberry

"I Wonder What Merry Christmas Really Means"

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-9; John 1:1-14

Audio CDs of our worship services are available in the church office.

*Audio recordings of sermons are available at
www.monroefirstbaptist.org*



January 1 - 10:45 am

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Scripture Lessons & the Singing of Carols

Sermon by Sara Spahr Stubbs

Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-11; Luke 2:22-40

Audio CDs of our worship services are available in the church office.

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PLEASE NOTE

This is a double issue — please keep this copy
for two weeks

Second Sunday Series

Sunday, January 15, 5:00 p.m. - Multipurpose Room

Chili Supper served at 5:00 (no cost)
followed by "Poetry as Faith Statements" led
by Sylvia Little-Sweat of Wingate University

Reservations are not needed

Faith and Fiction Book Club

for their January 5 meeting, participants
have chosen the book ***One Foot in Eden***
by Ron Rash for review and discussion

Committees

Week of December 25:

Security:

Gathering Area –Joel Myers
Narthex-Don Haver

Ushers:

Don Haver, Barbara Austin, Carolyn and
Lorey White, John Looney

Offertory:

Nathan Hopper, Sid Handsel, Ron Sumrow,
Sylvia Baker

Money Counters:

Mary Ellen Hopper, Aileen Sowder

Week of January 1:

Bible Fellowship Greeters:

Tapestries Class

Church Office Volunteer:

Frances Vaughan

Security:

Gathering Area –Joel Myers
Narthex-R. V. Lee

Ushers:

R. V. Lee, Ann Wild, Aileen Sowder,
Nancy Thomas, Frances Vaughan

Offertory:

Joe Litaker, Vickie and Larry Tuggle,
Lynda Looney

Children Worship & Wonder

Robin Haas, Eleanor O'Neill

Money Counters:

Frances Vaughan, Ray Sowder

Wednesday Night Helpers (January 4):

Diane Whitley, Annette Kilby,
Pat Turner

First Baptist Family

Please remember the following in prayer:

Mary Ellen Hopper
Jim Turner
Allen Poovey
Wert Carte, friend of Denise Hopper
Gavin Jones, great-nephew of Richard and
Emily Massey
John Kilby, father of Alvin Kilby
Gordon Springs
Deb Stein
Alvin Robinson, father of Annette Kilby
Carol Brooks, mother of Pam Caskey
Ritch Hothem, cousin of Don Haver

SYMPATHY

To Tom Coffey and family in the death of
his mother, Dakota Coffey

The Christ Child...The Light of the World

We have been in the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus. Nancy, Tim, Denise, and Ted have written devotions to help us consider the place of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in our time of waiting. In worship, we have taken time to light candles as we have considered how the Prophets, the Holy Family, the Shepherds, and the Magi are guiding us on our journey to Bethlehem. And now...our time of waiting is over. We will light our last candle, the Christ Candle, in the middle of our Advent wreath. The prophet, Isaiah, described the light of our Savior with these words:

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2

Darkness is a place of mystery, confusion and misunderstanding. Imagine stumbling around furniture and other objects in a dark room. When you turn on the light, the obstacles do not magically move out of the way...the light helps you see a pathway through the obstacles on the floor. That’s what the light of Christ does for us; it shines a pathway of hope through the dark places of our lives. Obstacles don’t disappear, but we find a place of hope in the mystery, confusion and misunderstandings in our lives with the light of Christ shining before us.

Where are the dark places of your life today? Where are you most in need of the light of Christ? Let the Christ candle that we light this Christmas be a symbol of the hope, peace, joy, and love you need most in your life this season. We will light the Christ Candle and the Advent wreath will be packed away for another year. But, that Christ Candle will remain in the sanctuary, and it will be lighted each time we worship together. The Light of Christ isn’t just for the Christmas season...it shines on the paths of our lives throughout each day of the year. When you find yourself in the pain of darkness, look to the light...the Light of the World.

Prayer: Christ, be our Light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our Light! Shine in your church gathered today. Amen. (prayer taken from hymn “Christ, Be Our Light” by Bernadette Farrell)
— Sara Spahr Stubbs

Steeple Views First Baptist Church • 109 Morrow Avenue • Monroe • NC 28112 • 704.283.8534

“Free and faithful Baptists ministering in the heart of Union County since 1852”

Web-site..... www.monroefirstbaptist.org
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Paul M. Sims, Associate Minister paul.sims@monroefirstbaptist.org
Sara Spahr Stubbs, Associate Minister..... sara.stubbs@monroefirstbaptist.org
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Elizabeth Mshar, Weekday Preschool Director..... liz.mshar@monroefirstbaptist.org

MISSION STATEMENT OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: *The First Baptist Church of Monroe exists to glorify God. We desire to be led by the Holy Spirit into the community and the world in order to share the glory and grace of God through Jesus Christ. We are an open fellowship of free and faithful Christians, committed to a journey characterized by serious study, intentional worship, loving and compassionate fellowship and hands-on ministry.*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

The following members of our church family are observing anniversaries and birthdays in January. For additions or corrections, please contact the church office.

Anniversaries:

14 - David and Brooke Mitchell
24 - Mike and Frances Knight

11 - Andrew Marangoni
12 - Peggy Brock, Holley Pegram, Bob Turner
13 - Susie Hinson, Noel Lance, Pat Turner
15 - Mary Wood
16 - Grayland Purcell
17 - Joe Halford
18 - Pam Caskey, Darcy Duncan
19 - Nell Helms, Erin DeHaven
23 - Jane Hawkins, David Lee, Sara Marossy
25 - Graham Hopper, Debbie Reed
27 - Steve Pope, Ken Hedgepath
28 - R. V. Lee, Joel Myers

Birthdays:

2 - Ken Murray
4 - Rusty Cox, Patti Duncan
5 - Pat Baucom, Betty Rogers, Jan Hearn
6 - Emagene Griffin
7 - Margie Parker, Margaret Price
8 - Cindy Starkey
10 - Karen Howie

Called Church Meeting ...

As we near the end of the Transition Team's work and begin the search for a new pastor, the Personnel Committee is calling for a business meeting to be conducted on January 8, 2012, to consider three issues. The committee has been diligent in its efforts to make the transition into a new period of church life run as smoothly as possible. Members of the Personnel Committee are Joe Litaker, Lisa Davis, Denise Hopper, John Looney, Jim Stubbs, Debby McBride, Ken Thomas, and Harvey Whitley. On January 8 the Personnel Committee will make the following recommendations to the congregation: that

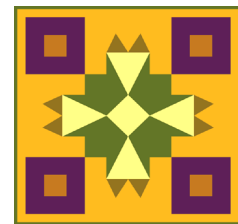
- We hire Timothy Belflowers as Interim Music Director. This will be a part-time interim position and will not affect his position as church organist;
- We hire Wayne Wike as Interim Pastor to begin service on April 1, 2012;
- We extend the covenant with the Center for Congregational Health and Gene Derryberry through February and March. The Personnel Committee wants to express to Gene Derryberry its sincere gratitude for his leadership during the past year. His work with the Transition Team, his ministry to families in need, and his guidance in our healing process has been most appreciated.

The Personnel Committee encourages the congregation to prayerfully consider these issues and to make every effort to attend this important meeting in the life of our church.

Tickets available ...

The Board of Trustees has approved a barbecue fundraiser for the church. Joey Forbes and David Caskey will smoke whole "Boston Butts" to be sold on February 3 and 4 (Super Bowl weekend) at a cost of \$30 each. If you would like to purchase a ticket (or tickets) to give as Christmas gifts or for yourself, please drop by the church office to pick them up. They must be paid for when picked up.

We are also asking members to take a packet of tickets to sell to co-workers, friends, neighbors, etc. If you can help sell tickets, drop by the church office to pick them up.



Quilting Retreat

January 13-14, Multipurpose Room

— led by Kiki Myers —

*To make reservations, call or email
the church office*

