

Welcome, to our new minister

# Paul Olson



At 45 years old, Paul brings over two decades of experience in local and global ministry. He has been a lead pastor, church starter and youth pastor.

Paul and Heather have four children, Asher (16), Qolbe (15), John (13) and Ava (10). Heather and the children will stay in Minnesota until school is out.

## Thanking God

Greetings First Baptist High Point Church and welcome to 2025! A new year comes with hopes, expectations and perhaps some fears and anxiety too.

One prayer practice I learned this past year was to regularly “thank God in advance”. This is a powerful reality because we know (no matter what the circumstance) that God is good, God is faithful, God is filled with loving kindness and has promised to never forsake us.

We know in advance that each day of 2025, our relentless comforter the Holy Spirit will invite us to experience the Kingdom of God “on earth as it is in heaven”.

Please pray with me: *God I thank you in advance for the blessings and opportunities you will put in my life in 2025. I also thank you in advance for the challenges and struggles I will endure as I put my hope and trust in you. Most of all I thank you in advance for your enduring, steadfast love for me and those around me and for those who will hear and experience your salvation this year through your church. I pray expectantly with these hopes and desires in your holy precious name Jesus. Amen.*

– Paul Olson

**Tentative start date is February 2**

Celebrating  
**FBC**  
200<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

405 N. Main St., High Point, N.C. 27260-5088

336-883-0178

[www.fbchighpoint.org](http://www.fbchighpoint.org) – [www.facebook.com/firstbaptisthighpoint](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptisthighpoint)

**Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. in person in the sanctuary or via Facebook Live.**

## Offering and Income

### November 17, 2024

Weekly Budget Need \$6,786.37  
Tithes & Offerings \$3,274.50  
Total Budget Receipts  
Budget Needs to Date \$3,274.50  
Budget Receipts to Date \$312,173.02  
\$178,330.11

### November 24, 2024

Weekly Budget Need \$6,786.37  
Tithes & Offerings \$6,025.50  
Total Budget Receipts  
Budget Needs to Date \$6,025.50  
Budget Receipts to Date \$318,959.39  
\$184,355.61

### December 1, 2024

Weekly Budget Need \$6,786.37  
Tithes & Offerings \$2,715.00  
Total Budget Receipts  
Budget Needs to Date \$2,715.00  
Budget Receipts to Date \$325,745.76  
\$187,070.61

### December 8, 2024

Weekly Budget Need \$6,786.37  
Tithes & Offerings \$3,431.50  
Total Budget Receipts  
Budget Needs to Date \$3,431.50  
Budget Receipts to Date \$332,532.13  
\$190,502.11

### December 8, 2024

Weekly Budget Need \$6,786.37  
Tithes & Offerings \$3,290.00  
Total Budget Receipts  
Budget Needs to Date \$3,290.00  
Budget Receipts to Date \$339,318.50  
\$193,792.11



## Online Giving

It is easy to support FBC with your monetary gifts online. Go to the church's website, [www.fbchighpoint.org](http://www.fbchighpoint.org), and click on the word "GIVE" in the blue bar at the top of the homepage. Instructions will appear for giving online with credit and debit cards using [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly). There are also instructions for setting up an automatic bank draft.

## Gathering together



Every interim is different. And for me, this one has been even more different than usual.

The first and most obvious difference is that my time with you has been more than twice as long as any other interim I have served. Because of that, I have come to enjoy much longer and deeper relationships with you than is typical in an interim. Based on the welcome, care, and relationships I have experienced with you, I am excited about what is ahead for Paul, Heather, Asher, Qolby, John, and Ava. Please welcome, care for, and love them at least as well as you have me. Good things will happen if you will.

A second difference is that in my time with you we worked together through several challenges that I would characterize as nothing less than "once-in-a-congregational-lifetime" developments. I arrived during the lockdown of the pandemic (and preached to an iPhone in an empty sanctuary for eight months!). My first and best relationships were forged by "virtual" prayer time and Bible study as we interacted with each other on screens. In the months after the pandemic, we went through an extended adjustment period as we waited out the uncertainty of who was coming back and who was not and who was staying the course for the long haul and who was not. And as if a pastor search was not a formidable enough exercise, you voted midstream, first, to put the current property on the market and, second, to sell it to the City of High

## Sympathy

... to Betsy Hines in the death of her mother-in-law, Pauline Hines.  
... to Sarah Carter in the death of her brother, David Clapp.  
... to the Perdue family in Wayne's death.

**Deadline for information for the FEBRUARY Herald is JANUARY 22. Please email your information to Carol Brooks at [cab1@northstate.net](mailto:cab1@northstate.net).**

Point. Based on the remarkable persistence and resilience I have seen from you for the last four-and-a-half years, I am enthusiastic about the future of this church. Please be at least as persistent and resilient with Paul as you have been with me. Good things will happen if you will.

With the apostle Paul, "I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with

joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:3-6).

– Jeff Rogers, interim minister

## Wednesday nights meals for January

### To be announced

Please sign up by Monday noon before the meal either by calling the church or emailing Heather Absher by 1 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is available at the RMC Lobby Desk or you may call the church to have your name added to the list.

## Thank You

Please let your church members know how much I appreciate their prayers for baby Obadiah. He is drinking only mother's milk now and nursing. He continued to gain weight was able to go home Dec. 17. That was a great Christmas gift for the family.

Norma Dennis, Obadiah's great-grandmother

## Prayer Needs

Email [heather@fbchighpoint.org](mailto:heather@fbchighpoint.org) or call Heather Absher at 336-883-0178 when you or someone in your immediate family is in the hospital and/or is in need of prayer. Please provide their address so we may mail the prayer sheet to them. Please get permission to publish their names on our prayer chain and email notifications. Also please let us know when it is time to remove their name from the list.

## Staff

**Dr. Jeff Rogers**  
Interim Minister  
[jeff@fbchighpoint.org](mailto:jeff@fbchighpoint.org)

**Heather Absher**  
Director of Finance  
and Communication  
[heather@fbchighpoint.org](mailto:heather@fbchighpoint.org)

**Stan Grady**  
Organist/Choir Master  
[sgrady@triad.rr.com](mailto:sgrady@triad.rr.com)

**Rob Fincher**  
Building Superintendent  
[rfincher@triad.rr.com](mailto:rfincher@triad.rr.com)

**Carol Brooks**  
Herald Editor, Webmaster  
[cab1@northstate.net](mailto:cab1@northstate.net)

**Pastoral Care Line**  
**881-6480**

# CHILI Cookoff!!



**January 12**  
**followed by Church**  
**Conference Jan. 12 and**  
**All-Committee meetings**

Contact Shirley Garis to sign up to bring chili.

## January 19 Covered dish lunch and reception for Dr. Jeff Rogers

### Love Offering

Dear Church Family,

Goodbyes are never easy and this one is no exception. Our beloved interim pastor, Dr. Jeff Rogers, has become one of us over the past four and a half years and we are proud to call him our minister. He will be departing on January 19 to serve another congregation soon, even as we prepare to welcome our full-time minister, Rev. Paul Olson, in February. God certainly knew what he was doing when he sent us Jeff. What an exceptional blessing Jeff has been to First Baptist Church as we explored options to right-size our facilities, sell our building and forge ahead to serve God and the community in High Point. Jeff's legacy among us will no doubt bear much fruit in years to come!

Will you join the Diaconate, Church Council and the Stewardship Committee in supporting a love offering for Dr. Rogers? Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church, with the memo line "Love Offering - Dr. Rogers." Cash donations may be placed in an offering envelope with "Love Offering - Dr. Rogers" written on the outside. Please have funds to Heather Absher or in the offering plate no later than Sunday, January 12, so that they may be tallied and available to present to Jeff on **Sunday, January 19, during our celebration and luncheon.**

Thank you for your contributions and support to make this a very special gift and time of appreciation for Jeff's service and faithfulness to First Baptist Church.

Many blessings,

Alisha Hunnicutt, Diaconate Chair

Debbie Edwards, Stewardship Chair

*\*Please note that in accordance with IRS laws, designated gifts or Love Offerings for an individual are not tax deductible for the donor.*

### Treasurer's report

Financial Report through November 2024

	YTD 2024	Last Year to Date October 2023
Budget Receipts	\$182,790	\$196,486
Budget Spending	\$244,166	\$250,002
< Budget Deficits >	(\$61,376)	(\$53,516)
Lease & Non-Budget	\$65,099	\$16,333
< Net Deficit >	(\$126,475)	(\$69,849)

Receipts are below last year and so is spending. At the budget level we are just a little worse off than one year ago with a deficit of \$61,000. The lease and non-budget part takes out another \$65,000 which is half of the total shortfall. At least the lease and non-budget things go away when we relocate.

At the time of writing this for the Herald there are a few more days left in the year. We will see if there's a good yearend bump as usual.

- Don Myers, Treasurer

### Anthems in honor of Bruce Hartgrove

Former Minister of Music Bruce Hargrove has had two anthems commissioned in his honor.

As part of the 200th Anniversary celebration, the church choir will present these on Jan. 26 during worship.

"The Heavens Are Singing" was commissioned in 1994 in recognition of Bruce's 12 years with the church.

"Songs That Never Cease" was commissioned in 2000 in his honor for the 175th anniversary of First Baptist.



### Missions

Thank you to all who bought gifts to help three High Point families have a Merry Christmas! The gifts, including four bicycles and a hover board, were delivered to the High Point Department of Social Services office on Wednesday, Dec 18. It was a joyful delivery as the social workers marveled at the quality and quantity of gifts. And many thanks to Bicycle Toy & Hobby on North Main Street for helping with the bicycles!

And another thank you for supporting our gift to Western North Carolina disaster relief. The gift cards we purchased were delivered to CBFNC and from there have been delivered to Western North Carolina for distribution.

And finally, thank you for supporting FBC missions this year! We're looking forward to another year of mission opportunities in 2025!

- Linda Winslow, Missions Coordinator

### Totes by John hit 20,000

Since inception, Totes by John have sewn 20,170 tote bags! John Rhodenhiser began the mission in 2010 to begin sewing the bags and donating them to the local hospital. Since then, we have reached out to several local non-profits and shelters. The bags have even gone global. Terry Eddinger has taken them on several trips abroad. At times, the sewers have also made bags for walkers.

- Adele Myers



# Ideas for 2025 200th Anniversary



The 200th Anniversary Committee has been considering several ideas to celebrate our big anniversary. Here are just a few.

One idea that Dr. Rogers had was a history tour on the bus. We could go to Abbott's Creek Church, basically our home church, the site in Jamestown where the current church started, and perhaps to the log structure of Sandy Creek Primitive Baptist in Randolph County where Shubal Stearns, a Baptist minister built a meeting house and organized a church in 1755. A member of Sandy Creek later became the minister of Abbott's Creek.

We are hoping to have a hot dog cookout in the summer.

The Music Ministry is planning another hymn sing as well as presenting the two anthems that have been written in honor of Bruce Hartgrove.

## Can you help?

We would like to invite back all former ministers to preach, if they would like, but we do not have addresses for Dr. Al Cadenhead, Dr. Bill Slater, Dr. Tim Cannon, Rev. Gil Gulick and Dr. Joel Campbell. If you have these emails and physical addresses, please contact Carol Brooks at [cab1@northstate.net](mailto:cab1@northstate.net).

For the Sept. 7 celebration, we also want to invite back interims and former staff. Rev. Tom Warrington and, of course, Dr. Jeff Rogers, are on that list. If you have information about former staff, please contact Carol Brooks.

Did you know that the Anniversary Committee has a church email address? We encourage you to share [200thanniversary@fbchighpoint.org](mailto:200thanniversary@fbchighpoint.org) with former church members and staff. Invite them to share some of their favorite memories of First Baptist Church. We want to collect the myriad stories people have.

Church members old and new are also encouraged to share ideas, to this email address, for ways our church should mark this milestone anniversary. We have some great ideas already, sure, but don't let that deter you from sharing. We would rather hear an idea multiple times than to never hear it at all!

Looking forward!

The Anniversary Committee

## Greeters

January 5

Don & Adele Myers

January 12

Rick & Nanette Cornwell

January 19

Pam Myers

Betsy Hines

January 26

Barbara & TL Smith

## Deacons on Call

January 5

Diania Baum

Brian Garis

January 12

Linda Winslow

?

January 19

Cynthia Eddinger

Shirley Garis

January 26

Linda Causby

Marty Key



## BIRTHDAYS

Annah Wolfe	January 4	Michele Gardner	January 17
Tom Freeman	January 5	Clyde Hall	January 19
Janice Grady	January 5	Kerry Jones	January 19
Clif Kelley, Jr.	January 6	Marie Stone	January 20
Braddock Rhodenhiser	January 9	Daniel Pruden	January 25
Hershel Reddeck	January 13	Steve Chapman	January 27
Diana Baxendale	January 15	Thomas Key	January 28
Bernie Sheffield	January 15	Cy Brooks	January 31

## Sunday Worship Live Stream Every Sunday

at 11:00 a.m. on



The Lobby Desk hours are  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
from  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pastoral Care Line  
336-881-6480