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Church Calendar

Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 4th at 4:00 pm to plan for February, March, and April.

Join us for a **Crock-Pot meal** on Sunday, the 11th at 5:00 pm. Please bring your favorite Crock-pot meal to share.

Baptist Men’s Day will be celebrated on Sunday, January 25th. We invite everyone to attend a breakfast, provided by our Baptist Men, on that Sunday at 8:30 am.

Missions Offering

Thank you for your donations to our missions offering. We raised \$610.00 for Lottie Moon, \$50 for Global Missions, and \$1,317.23 for the W-S Rescue Mission for meals.

Children’s Church - Ages 3 to 10

January 6 th	Lisa Young
January 11 th	Susan Hilton
January 18 th	Julie Striplin
January 25 th	Marianne Casas

January Birthdays

1/1	Crista Church
1/6	Sara VonCannon
1/9	Mary Hill
1/12	Judy Daniels
1/13	Steve Hurley
1/18	Beverly Weavil
1/19	Paul East, Adam Woods
1/20	Susan Cheek
1/20	Stoney Longworth, Kathy Mills, Terri Turner
1/24	Ann Huth
1/30	Brenda Grose, Kathy Horton
1/31	Felix Smith

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Return Service
Requested

Dr. Adam Woods
Mrs. Gayle Smith
Rev. Marty Daniels
Mrs. Angie Weavil
Mrs. Sara VonCannon
Mrs. Teresa Tucker

Pastor
Music Director
Minister of Education
Organist
Pianist
Office Administrator

Union Cross
Baptist News

Vol. 48 January 1, 2026 No. 1



Message from the Pastor

A man applies for a job. His prospective employer asks about his previous work. The man says, “I was a dog catcher in a small Texas town, but they had to let me go when the position was eliminated.” The employer asks, “Was it eliminated because of funding cuts? "The man says, “No. It was eliminated because I caught the dog.”

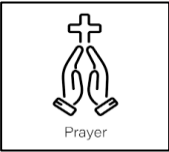
Have you ever felt like that dog catcher — that you have outlasted your usefulness and are no longer necessary? It’s been known to happen. One way we sometimes deal with it is simply to let the dog back out on the street and chase it some more. We may not accomplish much in the long run, but at least we keep busy. There is, however, a better way.

Robert Schuller says that one of the most difficult times in his life was after he had, at a relatively young age, reached all of his goals. He began to wonder if there were any new mountains to climb — any new dogs to catch, so to speak. The result was that Schuller began to dream bigger dreams, moving his ministry beyond the borders of his Southern California community, to reaching people through books and TV.

In the Old Testament, there’s a story of a Babylonian slave named Nehemiah. Nehemiah had a big dream: he wanted to rebuild the walls of the city of Jerusalem. Against all odds, he accomplished his goal. What next? Tear down the walls and build them again? Instead, Nehemiah moved to a new level. He developed a new dream, bigger and more ambitious than the first: reuniting the people of Israel. This is what he wrote: *At that time, the city was large and spacious, but the population was small. And only a few houses were scattered throughout the city. So my God gave me the idea to call together all the leaders of the city, along with the ordinary citizens, for registration. (Nehemiah 7:4-5)*

Instead of questioning his own usefulness, Nehemiah upgraded his goals in life; he made the transition from building walls to building people. If your life has become a circle of letting the dog out so you can catch it again...of tearing down walls so you can rebuild them...it may be time to upgrade your goals. God gave Nehemiah an idea of what to do next. He has an idea for you, too.

Grace and Peace
Adam



Prayer Concerns: Darrell Beaver, Ellen Bobbitt, Roger Burnett (Lisa Young’s father), Marianne Casas’ father, Ellen Cook, Bobby & Irene Cheek, Jr. Clodfelter, Marty & Judy Daniels, Ann Huth, Laura Boers (friend of Kathy Mills), Delbert & Becky Lauten, Jr. (Delbert Parkinson’s), Ritchie & Stoney Longworth, Juan & Lidia Mendoza (neighbors of Hal & Melissa Little), Ron Mills, Ron & Doris Pinyan, Derek Reavis (friend of Mark Reavis), Dylan Ward, and unspoken prayers.

Financial Summary

December 7, 2025		
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 9,730.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 670.25
Total Offering		\$10,400.25
December 14, 2025		
Undesignated Gifts		\$8,100.00
Designated Gifts		\$1,224.75
Total Offering		\$9,324.75
December 21, 2025		
Undesignated Gifts		\$3,295.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 187.00
Total Offering		\$3,482.00

General Fund

November General Fund Receipts	\$14,575.01
November General Fund Expenses	-\$12,116.07
November General Fund Net	\$ 2,815.93
November Fund Balance	\$101,390.94



Women on Mission ladies had their December email meeting on November 24, 2025.

DECEMBER WOM ACTIVITIES:

Hospice Ministry Note: Ann reports that snack donations continued for both WS & HP Hospice Homes.

December Mission Projects & Outreach—Members voted & approved the following:

- \$600 to Baptist Children’s Home in Thomasville to provide Christmas for one of the cottages. Our donation was given during their match challenge, which means our gift will become \$1,200.
- Sponsored the WS Rescue Mission Christmas Meals emphasis & \$139.65 of WOM funds were used to provide 35 Christmas meals.
- Approved supporting Senior Services of Forsyth County “Remember in December” focus by using \$135 of WOM to purchase items from their wish list like shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, disposable wipes, and dishwashing liquid.
- 53 gifts were purchased for the Eastern Forsyth Toy Store with \$900 of WOM funds. With the congregation’s help, I am pleased to report a total of 162 toys were provided for the toy store, 604 articles of clothing (gloves, toboggans, hats, socks & underwear), 7 coats & 39 books. What UCBC did was amazing!

Additional WOM News:

- Kathy Idol was welcomed into WOM as our 23rd member.
- 5 ladies from our church volunteered at the Toy Store on December 13th. FYI, 82 local families were served with 220 children receiving toys along with books, clothing, & each family received a Bible, 2 bags of food, along with spiritual counseling & prayer that day. It was an honor to be a part of this outpouring of love by area churches coming together for the community.
- 5 of our church members also went to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox distribution center in Charlotte to volunteer their services on December 8th.
- A big thank you to those ladies who helped separate, count & bag all the BTS toys by age & gender on Sunday afternoon, December 7th.

Also, 14 ladies in our congregation adopted 12 Angel Tree residents at Bradford Village West Nursing Center & purchased Christmas gifts as requested on the residents’ wish lists.

Another year is dawning & so are the opportunities of extending Christian love, concern & compassion through our outreach mission projects. With continued prayer for guidance, we will seek to assist our “*brothers & sisters*” in need throughout 2026 as **UNION CROSS REACHES OUT TO SHOW HIS LOVE.**

--Jane Sutphin