

# Grace Baptist Church Statesville, NC

## Profile of Church and Community Developed by the Pastor Search Committee, January, 2018

### Church

We are Grace – a ministering people of God, reaching beyond our walls to the needs of our local and global community. We are an intergenerational faith community called and committed to a life of love and servanthood through the experience of celebrative worship, the development of each person's gifts and the work for peace and justice. In our diversity we find strength and a way to understand the inclusiveness of God. We recognize each individual as a child of God. We welcome and affirm ALL people, who and where you are, to join in our common mission through participation and leadership in this community of faith.

#### Location:

719 Club Drive Statesville, NC 28677  
704-872-5130

#### History:

GBC was formed in Statesville in 1970 as a unique expression of church within the Southern Baptist Convention, where women could hold leadership roles such as deacon and minister; and baptism by immersion was not required for membership. For many years, we met in rented buildings and homes, but by 1981, a permanent building for worship, education and fellowship was constructed. GBC continues to meet in this same building but stays true to the sign we have carried with us throughout our journey: "Grace Baptist Meets Here". Most of the work and life of Grace is outside the church walls. Although we left the Southern Baptist Convention and eventually, the State Baptist Convention, we strive to remain true to our Baptist roots through affiliation with the Alliance of Baptist and Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. We also have a relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Convention.

#### Core Values:

- A strong sense of community for its covenant participants
- A commitment to diversity as it welcomes different theological perspectives as well as racial and socioeconomic diversity
- A mission to meet the needs of people who are the less fortunate than we are as well as an increased awareness of social justice issues
- A desire for spiritual growth
- An appreciation for worship that enables us to worship God and to listen to and respond to his voice

#### Participants:

Average Worship Attendance: 50-60

#### Budget:

2018 Annual Budget: \$90,000-\$100,000  
With 20% committed to missions

### Local and National Connections/Alliances:

Throughout our 45+ year history, Grace has been involved in the issues and problems facing the community. This resulted in the creation of a literacy program, a wood ministry, a daycare for lower socio-economic families and dozens of other projects; many of which still exist today. But as needs change, Grace remains attuned to God's call for new ministries. Currently, much of our work involves:

- Delivering meals to 70+ homebound seniors on holidays and in bad weather
- Supporting the work of the local shelter ministry, which operates a soup kitchen, night shelter, emergency shelter and battered women's shelter
- Supporting Iredell Christian Ministries and Yokefellow ministries - two local food pantries and resource agencies for those in need
- Supporting Habitat for Humanity, Alzheimer's Awareness,
- Participating in programs to help low performing schools
- Partnering with the NAACP on community issues
- Hosting and organizing community wide interfaith services at Thanksgiving, Christmas (Longest Night/Blue Christmas) and Easter (service and breakfast at the local shelter)

### Education and Worship

Grace stresses the importance of continued study, reflection and discussion among our participants. Some examples of this are:

- Annual Davis Lectures featuring noted speakers for a 2-3 nights and open to the community
- Partnership with local Episcopal Church's Education for Ministry classes through the University of the South School of Theology
- Lenten Ladies Book Study
- Sunday School classes for all ages

Grace follows the church calendar, but with the guidance of the Worship Committee, we put our own touch to Advent and Lent observances. During the summer, Grace refers to this "ordinary time" as *A Season of Grace* and focuses on a specific topic for the summer months, moving worship to 10 a.m.

With the addition of a readers choir for special seasonal services and the weekly choral offerings from the choir, Grace provides a comfortable setting to be challenged and inspired by a variety of means.

Traditions abound at Grace, including pot lucks and fellowship events, Scary Supper (you have to see it to believe it), cantatas, Good Friday Peace Walk, and more.

## Community

Statesville is the county seat for Iredell County, nestled between the Piedmont and Foothill areas of North Carolina. Rich in history, blessed with beautiful landscapes and views, and fortunate to be located an hour from the N.C. mountains, 4 hours from the Carolina beaches, 50 minutes from Charlotte and 40 minutes from Winston Salem, Statesville is truly “where it all comes together”. Statesville’s population makes up 26,000 of the county’s total 180,000 residents. Diverse in people and cultures, the community of Statesville works hard to offer something for everyone: festivals, concerts, arts and cultural activities, civic clubs, recreational outlets, helping organizations and yes, a wide variety of housing options and churches and religious programs.

### Community Events

- Carolina Balloon Festival
- Carolina Roots Festival
- Full Bloom Film Festival
- Pumpkin Fest
- Summer Friday After 5 Concert Series
- Statesville Theater Annual Productions
- Fourth of July Fireworks
- Haunted Statesville Ghost walks
- Art Crawl
- Hops & Harmony
- Nationally recognized soccer tournaments, major tennis events and annual bicycle races
- Iredell County Public Library programming
- Performing Arts Live - Iredell County Community Concert Series
- Statesville Sculpture Garden

### History

- Fort Dobbs - Historical reenactment every year.
- Iredell Museum- Arts & Heritage
- Statesville Historical Museum

### Recreational Opportunities

- Extensive Greenway System
- Athletic fields - soccer, softball, football, baseball
- Tennis and Golf Courts
- Hiking and Biking Trails throughout the County including Lake Norman State Park
- Boating and Fishing on nearby lakes and rivers
- Indoor and Outdoor pools (swim team)
- YMCA facilities
- Indoor Rock Climbing Wall
- Multiple indoor and outdoor basketball courts
- Horseshoe Pitching Courts
- More than a dozen parks with playgrounds, picnic shelters and more
- Dog Park
- Golf courses

### Education

With more than 20,000 students, Iredell-Statesville Schools ranks among the 20 largest school districts in North Carolina. Student performance continues to improve, placing Iredell-Statesville

Schools among the top 25% of school districts in the state. In fact, our SAT scores, graduation rate, and writing scores are among the best in North Carolina. In addition to traditional school settings, the district provides a wide range of exciting educational opportunities through our choice programs specifically designed for unique student needs.

#### Number of Iredell-Statesville Schools

37 Schools (K-12)

Early colleges, IB program, AP, Spanish Dual Immersion, FAMIS, Career and Technical School, and Leader-in-me

#### Additional Educational Programs

Charter Schools

Faith Based Schools

Montessori Schools

Mitchell Community College

A variety of nearby colleges and universities, including: UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, Lenoir-Rhyne, Gardner-Webb, Catawba College, Wake Forest, Appalachian State, and more.