



From the Pastor...



Church is about relationships. Our purpose is to bring people into a transforming relationship with Christ and to allow Christ's love to transform our relationships with each other. Jesus set these goals for us when he reaffirmed the two greatest commandments – to love God with our total being and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Jesus further told us that the world will know we are his disciples by our love for one another. This is quite a task in a world that often feels torn apart by prejudices, disagreements and partisanship. Yet, the challenges and obstacles to loving one another do not negate the call to do so. Despite our differences, we are called to be one in Christ.

As we've looked at what successful churches are doing to "Grow Young," it is amazing how much of the achievement of these congregations is based on relationships. Areas like "Empathizing with Today's Young People" and "Fueling Warm Community" are all about authentic relationships. Similarly, "Taking Jesus' Message Seriously" (to love each other) and "Being the Best Neighbors" are also relational.

In fact, everything we do to attract younger people will also attract folks of every age. Just this past Sunday we had a variety of guests with us. I saw a young couple, two middle aged single persons and an older couple who were all new to our congregation. I also saw each one of these folks make connections with those who were sitting around them.

I am very pleased that our congregation reaches out to welcome guests of every age. For these folks to connect more deeply with us, however, will require us to form relationships that go beyond the surface. A pastor friend of mine, Bo Prosser, has a saying I like; "People go where they know they are cared for and prepared for."

If you look at the photo above, one of our young people, Katie Allen, has given us a wonderful visual of how Christian relationships work. Katie has placed all of our youth on branches of a tree. They are all related and rooted in Christ. This reminds us that congregations are organic and that growth comes by tending to our relationships with Christ and each other.

I am excited about what God is doing at First Baptist Church of Statesville. As we continue to keep our focus on loving Christ and sharing that love with one another and the world, God will bless our efforts. Growth is not a goal. It is a side effect of doing ministry well. If we faithfully plant and tend to the relationships God brings our way. God will produce the fruit.

Nolan

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:12-13

Schedule

Sunday, February 17

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Venture Voices
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, February 18

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 19

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study

Wednesday, February 20

- 9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study
- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 21

- 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, February 24

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. Festival of Choirs - First Presbyterian Church

- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 26

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, February 27

1:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive - Adams Hall

- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 28

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Saturday, March 2

7:45 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Day

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, February 18

- 9:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Tuesday, February 19

- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, February 20

- 8:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, February 21

- 9:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, February 22

- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Tuesday, February 26

- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, February 27

- 8:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, February 28

- 9:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, March 1

- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers



Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 3 & 10, 2019

	2/3	2/10
Church in Bible Study	132	125
Church in Worship.	206	205

Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	65,902.00	340,934.00
Budget Receipts	23,929.00	304,500.00
Needed to Meet Goals	41,973.00	78,407.00
Alms	598.00	2,680.00
Designated	3,270.00	53,795.00

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Rev. Justin Cox.....Minister to Students
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur Tel: 704-873-7231

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Katie Allen Illustrates Close Connections

Recently, Katie worked on a personal project as part of her academic curriculum at South Iredell IB. Katie chose to create a mural at our church which illustrated the close connections within the Student Ministry and our community. Part of the mural incorporates candid photos from various events or activities involving our students at First Baptist Church that are not permanently affixed -- with the idea that as time goes by, students are encouraged to exchange photos with new or different ones. The purpose is to create a living work of art which can change and grow with the Student Ministry of our church over time.

Valentine Dinner & Variety Show - Saturday, February 9, 2019

We had a wonderful time celebrating Valentine's Day with a dinner, show, and dessert auction. Thank you to all who attended. Through this event, we raised more than \$1700 for our mission trip to Belize this summer.



How are our Prayer Meetings?

That's the big question in all our praying for revivals. The acid test of New Testament revival is the Church. And the acid test of the Church and of the churches is prayer and prayer meetings.

The devil is no fool! He knows what's going on in our lives, and in our churches. He also knows God's plan. So he is very busy working overtime, to kill churches. All he has to do is kill abiding prayer and prayer meetings and that church is dead!

The Spirit of Prayer is the Spirit of Revival. The first revival in any genuine revival is a revival of prayer. The revival spirit leaves churches when true prayer meetings depart; and revival returns with the return of abiding prayer and prayer meetings. It's that simple! And there is no other way.

Pentecost, let us not forget, came to a prayer meeting in that Upper Room and to those 120 Christians praying in one accord. There the Lord gave the standard, the pattern of revival, indeed, the pattern for every church since Pentecost.

Spirit of Prayer, revive my heart and use me to be an encourager within my church...one who calls others to prayer and intercedes continually for my pastor and leadership to be people of prayer. Draw my faith family to their knees in the desperation of this hour and meet us in our corporate prayer gatherings. May our hearts long for the wisdom that comes, not from our own understanding, but from You alone. Restore our passion for coming together in prayer so that You might be pleased to show up in our midst!

Do we need to revive our prayer meetings?

Adapted from *The Upper Room: God's Revival Model*, by Armin Gesswein

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



Announcements

CBF Misson Bite

Mission Bite 116: Celebrating the Unsung Heroes

During the recent season that is known for giving, our middle and high school students had a greater focus on Civic Engagement with a civic engagement initiative called "Celebrating the Unsung Heroes."

Our first event focused on Mrs. Gloria, our housekeeper at our Overtown Site. The Touching Miami with Love youth worked hard and threw her a surprise "Appreciation Party." In a very simple way our students learned the power of selfless giving and the beauty of loving others in proximity. They learned that you don't have to go far to show love and there are always people around you who deserve appreciation.

Our second initiative was to honor our local firefighters. Our students baked and decorated cookies and delivered them to two local stations near our Overtown Site. The Miami firefighters from Stations 1 and 3 were grateful for their treats! The firefighters even took time to show us around their homes away from home. Making the time even more fun, they put some of our students to work a bit. It was a wonderful exchange of love in the community.

- Gary Francis, Touching Miami with Love, Overtown Youth Coordinator



Mission Bite 117: Opening Doors

God has been nudging my heart with statements and questions that I have heard from refugees over the years of ministry to internationals. Statements such as: "I have been in the United States for 17 years and this is the first time I have been in an American home," and questions like "Can you find me one American friend?"

I have been calling on my network of friends and asking them to host new immigrants in their homes. The degree of hosting varies: for tea, for dinner, overnight. I personally have been hosting and been hosted by Iranians, Afghan and Tajik for many years.

The blessings are many and the relationships are enriching. I am opening the door as wide as possible to help others experience this blessing. God is calling us to this work. The Bible says, "I was a stranger and you invited me in..." Matthew 25:35b. Pray for Christians who will open their doors!

- CBF field personnel ministering to Persian speakers worldwide (Afghan, Iranian and Tajik)

A Note of Appreciation from Larry & Peggy Gregg

Dear FBC Family,

We thank you for all the notes and the love gifts. As we read the notes our hearts were touched by your love for us. The reception on January 27 was a bittersweet time as we said "goodbye." A big thank you to Jane Mitchell, Eleanor Price, Jeri Koontz, and Kaye Daniel for their organization and to all who brought food or decorated for the event. We enjoyed serving FBC with each of you. We wait in prayer for God's leadership in the future. We love you all.

Larry and Peggy

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the family of Louise Lewis in her passing on February 2, 2019

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the family of Ed Saleeby in his passing on February 3, 2019.

Senior Adult Luncheon

Thursday, February 21, 2019

11:00 a.m. - Family Life Center

This month's meeting will consist of a program of music by the Joyful Noises, a group from First Baptist that sings once a month at the Brookdale Peachtree assisted living facility. It will also include a solo by Pat McMillan, a trumpet solo by Don Daniel, and perhaps a trio group composed of Don Daniel, Mac Funderburk, and Theresa Martin. Please call the church at 704-873-7231 prior to noon on Monday, February 18, to reserve your seat. Cost of the meal is \$6.00 payable at the door.

Festival of Choirs

Sunday, February 24, 2019

3:00 p.m. - First Presbyterian Church

Our choir will participate in the Festival of Choirs at First Presbyterian Church at 125 N Meeting St. The festival begins at 3:00 p.m. Please plan to attend for a wonderful Sunday afternoon.

Habitat for Humanity Day

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Habitat for Humanity has asked our church for volunteers on Sunday, March 2 to do some work at 1112 Partnership Way. The work day will begin at 7:45 a.m. There will be a short safety walk and then tasks will be assigned. We should have everything accomplished at 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call David Potter at 704-657-7227.