



# THE INTERIM

Elizabeth Allen, Emily Ashley, & Jenna Martin volunteer at Operation Inasmuch in 2019.

Volume 78 Issue 15

July 18, 2021

## From the Pastor...

Churches tend to focus a lot on outreach. After all, our Lord told us to “go into all the world and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). We want to follow God’s Great Commission and we want to grow as a congregation.

As much as we want to reach new people, we also want to appreciate those whose faithfulness supports our mission year after year. If I ever get discouraged, I can take out our directory and look at the faces of God’s people. Your example of service, generosity and commitment always inspires me.

As a way of recognizing the importance of long term faithfulness, First Baptist Church celebrates Jubilee Sunday each July. It’s the time we honor members who have been in our congregation 50 plus years or who are over 90 years of age.

This year’s Jubilee Sunday will be July 25, 2021, and we look forward to recognizing these special folks in our church. After all, scripture tells us to honor our elders. Here are just a few verses that remind us to respect those who a friend of mine calls the “wiser generation”.

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is obtained by following a righteous path.” (Proverbs 16:31)

“Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:32)

“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” (Isaiah 46:4)

Of course our church wants to continue to reach people of all ages; and our Growing Young emphasis is vital to the life of our congregation. On Jubilee Sunday, however, we will take time to remember that faithfulness is what sustains our ministries from generation to generation.



## Schedule

### Sunday, July 18

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

### Monday, July 19

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Meeting

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, July 21

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, July 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Sunday, July 25

#### Jubilee Sunday

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

### Monday, July 26

9:00 a.m. Adventure on Discovery Island VBS

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Tuesday, July 27

9:00 a.m. Adventure on Discovery Island VBS

### Wednesday, July 28

9:00 a.m. Adventure on Discovery Island VBS

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, July 29

9:00 a.m. Adventure on Discovery Island VBS

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Friday, July 30

9:00 a.m. Adventure on Discovery Island VBS

## Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister  
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship  
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth  
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions  
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri  
Tel: 704-873-7231

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## A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

We are excited to announce that we will be having our first FALL Operation Inasmuch on August 28, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. for a time of prayer and a light breakfast. Then we will divide out of projects and head to our different sites, 8:30- 9:00 a.m. There will be a few new and different projects this year. More to follow in the next issue of *The Interim*. If you are interested in serving or leading a team for Operation Inasmuch, please let me know and I would love to get you plugged in. We will be having sign-up sheets available at the beginning of August online and in person.

Please mark your calendars and begin praying for the community and city and the ways in which God is moving to allow us to work together!

Many thoughts and prayers,  
Elizabeth



**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, August 28**

## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of July 4 & 11, 2021

	7/4	7/11
Live Stream Views.....	14	22
In-Person.....	174	145
Sunday School.....	88	110

## Financial Statistics

	July	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	55,278.00	715,159.00
Budget Receipts	29,311.00	669,224.00
Goals Net Yet Met	(25,967.00)	(45,935.00)
Alms	793.00	5,397.00
Designated	50.00	95,597.00

## Loving (The People) Where We Live

### By Carson Foushee - [www.cbfblog.com](http://www.cbfblog.com)

For the first two years we lived in Tokyo, we were out the door early each morning to board packed trains for our commute to Japanese language school, located near the second busiest station in the world. After wrapping up our studies each afternoon, we would return home with just enough daylight remaining to take a walk in the park next to our apartment before making dinner and then hitting the books again.



Saturdays provided some time to relax, yet we often found ourselves going out to explore other areas of our city. Sundays meant once again boarding trains to attend worship and various other church activities before returning home to prepare for Monday classes. And though we enjoyed our studies and friends at school as well as the relationships and growth we experienced at church, we really did not get to know the people and neighborhood in our immediate surroundings very well.

When we arrived back in Tokyo in December of last year from an extended period away due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, we decided to work from home and avoid travel outside of our neighborhood as much as possible.

Couple this with returning with a child who had begun walking while we were away and playtime on local playgrounds as well as outdoor walks and exercise became a part of the daily routine. With this change in our lifestyle to live more locally, came a dramatic shift in the relationships we have established with people around us. Suddenly, we got to know the parents of children our daughter would play alongside on the swings or in the sandbox. This led to introductions to other parents and children, which led to deeper conversations over time, especially about the struggles of parenting during a pandemic.

Probably our greatest ministry has been found in offering empathy and prayer for mothers who are caring for their children seemingly alone as their husbands work very late or are sent on long-term work assignments in other prefectures and even other countries.

This shift has also has created a greater appreciation for our neighborhood. We live a three-minute walk away from a train station few people know and that we often describe to locals as being two stops north of a famous happy hour neighborhood. And though we've always loved the beautiful park next door and greenway just steps away, we have not really learned about where we live.

COVID-19 has forced us to slow down, look around, and see the beauty of the people and places outside of our front door. We realize the privileges we have in being able to stay closer to home as we work alongside our Baptist partners in Japan and honestly long to be able to get back to more in-person ministry as soon as possible. However, we are trying to be simply be grateful for the opportunity for this time and to be Christ's presence to our neighbors in the place we call home.

*Carson Foushee is a CBF field personnel serving alongside his wife, Laura, in Tokyo, Japan. Learn more at [www.cbf.net/foushee](http://www.cbf.net/foushee).*

## Announcements

### Opportunity to Serve Clothes Closet Seeking Volunteers

Clothes Closet volunteers are needed to love on the shoppers that are already starting to shop for fall. If you are interested please see Elizabeth Kilby. You may also call the church office at 704.873.7231.

### Wednesday Evening Meals Return September 8, 2021

We will resume our Wednesday evening meals on Wednesday, September 8. The meals will be catered by JD's Catering. Please plan to make a reservation and begin dining with us in September.



## Learning to Pray

After J. C. Penney gave up the reins of his national retail chain in 1917, he became the company's chairman and spent most of his time running the J. C. Penney Foundation, which was used for many charitable endeavors, including aiding adoptions and caring for retired ministers and church workers.

When the stock market crashed, he went from great wealth to owning just the home he lived in. He even had to dismiss his staff and close all but two rooms of his mansion to avoid heating the whole building.

These are his own words from his autobiography: "I didn't pray during this shattering experience, for the reason that I could not. The plain fact is I had not learned how to pray."

For years Penney had struggled spiritually until the day he admitted himself to the Kellogg Sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan, for a variety of health problems. Walking past the chapel one day, he heard some people singing the words, "God will take care of you". From that moment he decided he would never again take God or prayer for granted. By the time the Great Depression arrived, he felt more than prepared. As he explained in his autobiography, "I am learning to pray, and I feel the efficacy of prayer....I have much less now than once I had; but what matters is that in place of material possessions I believe I have been guided to a much better conception of what life really means".

(Taken from "The History of Prayer in America, One Nation Under God", by James P. Moore, Jr.)

I can't think of anything as sad as being a Christian and not knowing how to pray. Join us on Monday mornings at 9:00 and let's learn together.

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather



## Discovery on Adventure Island Vacation Bible School

July 26-30

Register Today!



At Discovery on Adventure Island VBS, students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time on their quest for God's great light. They will become Explorers and discover how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day.

VBS is for children ages 3 - Grade 5.

Visit our [www.statesvillefbc.org](http://www.statesvillefbc.org) to register your child or call the church office at 704.873.7231.

### Promotion Sunday August 29, 2021

The children will move to their new Sunday School classes. The sixth graders will join the Venture students on the student hall and the first graders will receive their Bibles.

### Back to School Bash Wednesday, September 1

We will have a Back to School Bash on the front lawn.