



Valerie & Nelson Granade rang the church bell 400 times on January 18 in memory of the 400,000 lives lost to Covid-19.



THE INTERIM



Volume 78 Issue 3

January 31, 2021

From the Pastor...

A few months ago, David Deal asked permission to ring our church tower bell as we began worship each week. Organist Eddie Wiseman has always played the Westminster Chimes followed by the chiming of the hour; but that is only heard inside the church. David wanted to make sure folks around us knew that our congregation is still worshipping and ministering.

I quickly agreed to this wonderful idea and David has been faithfully ringing each week. Several of our neighbors have noted how they enjoy hearing the bells. We are doing more, however, than just entertaining our neighbors. We are rejoining a Christian tradition that dates back to the 6th Century. We are beckoning people to come hear the Good News.

David's ringing has also opened other opportunities for our church. In December, a local veteran asked several Statesville churches to ring our bells at midnight New Year's Eve. He thought 2020 needed a demarcation and we agreed. So, at midnight on December 31, 2020, James and Debi Martin joined David and Nancy Deal to ring in the New Year.

On January 18, 2021 Valerie and I were watching the 5:00 p.m. news and heard a call for churches to ring their bells 400 times at 5:30 p.m. to honor the 400,000 lives lost to COVID. We didn't have time to call anyone else, so we quickly drove to the church and ran up the stairs to add First Baptist Church's bell to the remembrance.

I didn't realize how much work ringing a bell can be until we tried to count out 400 tolls. Valerie joined in, but the rope almost pulled her into the air. It made me think about the kid in the Sound of Music riding the bell rope up and down. It also made me appreciate David Deal even more.

As I've thought about David's original desire to let our community know about our church's worship and ministry, I've wondered what other ways we could accomplish this goal. Ringing our bell is great, but living out our witness is even better. In the midst of anxious times, people need to hear a resounding call to hope. It is Christ's church that needs to ring that out the loudest.

Nelson

Schedule

Note: All in-person events subject to change.

Sunday, January 31

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson
Uploaded to YouTube

8:45 a.m. Sunday School - Zoom

10:00 a.m. Worship - Live Stream

Wednesday, February 3

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

5:30 p.m. To-Go Meals

Menu: chicken cordon bleu, yellow saffron rice, green beans, & chocolate chip cookies

Thursday, February 4

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, February 7

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson
Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - FLC & Zoom

10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, February 8

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, February 9

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

5:30 p.m. To-Go Meals

Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, & banana pudding

Thursday, February 10

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet



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
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A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

We are finished with the first month of the year. Did you accomplish all that you set out to accomplish this month? Have you still remained focused on your goals and your resolutions if you made one, or are you content with just making it through the day? There are times when making it through the day is a HUGE monumental task; however, I commit to that not being the objective every day. May we commit to looking for ways that we can reach others. May we seek out opportunities to safely serve, safely learn and simply lean into what God is calling us to do in this season of our lives. For me, that looks like savoring the moments and enjoying the little things. What does that look like for you? We are learning and adapting our methods of schooling, working, teaching, and church. Why not also adapt our perspectives to looking continuously for the good and the joy in situations? It is hard! Sometimes it seems as if there is a void of good BUT GOD, in his wonderful consistent, meaningful, and steadfast nature allows us to see things in new lights, enjoy simple pleasures, and cast our burdens and cares upon Him because He cares for us.

Know that I care for you and am looking forward to hearing the ways God shows up in your life unexpectedly.

Many thoughts and prayers.
Elizabeth

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 17 & 24, 2021

	1/17	1/24
Live Stream Views.....	72.....	76

Note: Due to Covid-19, there was no in-person worship for the month of January.

Financial Statistics

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	43,186.00	335,123.00
Budget Receipts	35,129.00	287,506.00
Goals Not Yet Met	8,057.00	47,617.00
Alms	885.00	2,370.00
Designated	1,821.00	22,826.00

Building Renovation Updates



While we have been out of our building, the Building and Grounds Team has been busy with some updates. You have now given enough toward *Continuing the Dream* to complete our next project – repainting and re-carpeting behind the sanctuary and through the Heritage Hall/Library area.

To save money, volunteers have already begun stripping vinyl baseboard coverings and smoothing these surfaces. The paint crew is scheduled to begin the week of February 8th and hopes to be finished by the end of the month. The carpet crew is scheduled to begin its work at the beginning of March. A couple of sample walls have already been painted requisite gray and a carpet sample is available in Mary Jane's office.

Please join us in giving a special thank you to Nan Johnson of NNJDesigns, along with Tom Brandon and other members of our Building and Grounds Team, for heading up this renovation project. The two remaining projects that are a part of *Continuing the Dream* are the Bell Tower Carillons and organ repair. These will happen as funding comes in.

An additional project, funded by an anonymous donor, is also currently underway in Heritage Hall. A new wall is being built to turn this oversized area into two good sized rooms. This will enable us to bring more Sunday School classes to the ground floor and keep some of our senior adults from having to negotiate stairs each week.

The Right Time to Pray

I was just reading an article by R. A. Torrey, "The Right Time to Pray." (Decision magazine, January) He said, "When any crisis of life is seen to be approaching, we should prepare for it by a season of prayer." But how do we pray? First I would say: search the scriptures. God's voice can be heard on every page, and He wants to speak to you personally. Then I would say: spend time in dialogue with the Lord, letting the Holy Spirit within you prompt you as to what to say. The third and most important thing would be to listen quietly until the Lord speaks, which He most certainly will do if you give Him your time and attention. As you pray the crisis will become smaller and God will become bigger. His peace will engulf you.

Your prayer might go something like this: Dear God, I know I have a crisis coming, the extent of which I can't even imagine. But I will hold fast to your promises: John 14:27; Heb. 13:5; Ps. 91:1 and so many more. Just as for Paul, Your grace is sufficient for me. In the Name of Jesus I trust, Amen.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27





Announcements

Happy Birthday

February 2 Sylvia Lackey	February 18 Bethany Falter
February 3 Kathy Stevenson	February 19 Elizabeth Allen
February 5 Ellie Mitchell	Roger Elliott
February 6 Houston Garriss	Jeff Pettit
February 7 Charlene Hinson	Doug Price
Tracy Roberts	Danny Wicker
February 9 Bella Jones	February 20 Diane Hall
February 10 Jeff Benfield	Tuck Lazenby
February 13 Debby Sipe	Libby Purcell
February 14 Lela Jones	February 21 Logan Adams
February 15 Ella Milwood	February 22 Dawn Hayes
Dianne Parker	February 23 Barbara McCutchan
Forde Snow	Linda Patterson
February 16 Jason Allen	Sylvia Williams
Kendyl King	February 25 Calan Hall
James Martin	February 26 Jerry Mills
February 17 Nancy Gatton	Bentley Whitson
	February 27 Sara Brandon
	February 28 Sonja Lewis

February In-Person Worship Services

The Covid-19 Taskforce will make a decision regarding February in-person worship services and gatherings at FBC on February 3. You will be contacted via phone tree and e-mail when this decision is made. If you are not receiving calls or e-mails from FBC, please e-mail Kayley at kayley@statesvillefbc.org.

Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

If we have in-person worship for the month of February, we will have an Ash Wednesday service. Masks will be required and attendance will be limited to 75.

Eddie Steele Fund March Alms Offering - March 7, 2021

Our March Alms offering will be put toward the Eddie Steele Fund at Fifth Street Ministries in memory of our dear friend Eddie Steele. Eddie was a brother in Christ, a friend, a co-worker, a volunteer, and a caretaker of our campus. Eddie passed away in June of 2016. Each March (Eddie's birthday month), we remember him with a contribution to the fund set up in his name that helps other homeless individuals get back on their feet.

A Note of Appreciation from The Hunter Family

Dear FBC Church Family,

We want to express how appreciative our family is for the many acts of kindness we have received over the last few weeks following the passing of our beloved mothers. Your calls, cards, texts, messages and gifts of sympathy have not only indicated how much you care for us, but how much you loved our mothers. Of course, we are aware that Louise, our "Nana", was loved by so many of you and many of you were recipients of her special smiles, care and concern. She loved her church family so much and she missed being with all of you in person over these past few months. In addition, you all extended such hospitality to Pat and Lou when they would visit us and your notes sharing the memories of Lou, our "Mimi", during Vacation Bible School weeks made us smile and brought back so many happy memories. We would greatly appreciate your continued prayers for our Daddys who are grieving their sweethearts.

We feel the weight of the absence of our precious mothers in our lives, but we have great Hope because of the assurance of their salvation and the confidence of their presence with their Lord. Knowing that they are together in heaven and they are worshiping Jesus with great Joy gives us such Peace.

With love and sincere thankfulness,
James and Jan Hunter

Louisa, Patrick and Katie, and Edward, Leanna and Lawton.