



Mary Hunt, Macie Durfee, Caroline Bentley, Lillie Laws, & Beth Webb were all in the same frame of mind when getting dressed for church on Sunday, October 18.



THE INTERIM

From the Pastor...

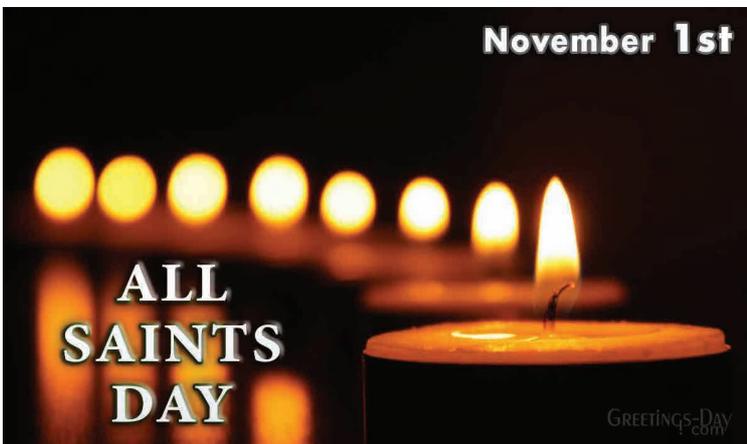
I recently saw a funny cartoon. It showed a woman putting Halloween decorations in her yard. Her neighbors were putting up the usual pumpkins, spider webs and ghosts. She, however, just put up a big sign that said "2020!" The caption read, "It's the scariest thing I could think of."

2020 has had more than its share of anxiety producing events, like: the COVID pandemic, racial unrest, hurricanes, wild fires, earthquakes and a major election. Real life has been so scary that we really don't need Halloween this year. Of course, those claiming the name of Christ have no reason to fear Halloween anyway.

In fact, Halloween is actually a Christian holiday – or at least the night before it. Halloween is simply a contraction of All Hallows' Eve or what we call All Saints Day. Pagans used to fear the return of the souls of the dead to haunt them. So, they lit fires to keep away bad spirits and put on masks so the haunts couldn't recognize them.

Christians, however, embrace All Saints Day because it is an opportunity to rejoice. We know that the souls of our dearly departed are resting in the grace of God. We do not fear anyone haunting us, but rather remember them and celebrate the lives we shared in Christ. We mourn their loss among us, but hope to be reunited in glory.

It's fine to let the kids dress up and eat a little candy. It might even be fun to watch something scary and escape from reality for a little while. Whatever we do, however, we need to remember that God is with us and we have nothing to fear. During this season, I hope you will remember and thank God for all of the saints who have gone before us.



Our church will formally celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 1, 2020. During our worship service, we will read the names of church members who have gone to be with the Lord since last All Saints Day. We will also chime a bell and place a white rose in their memory. Whether you attend this service in person or online, I hope it will be a meaningful time of remembrance for you.

Nolan

Schedule

Sunday, October 25

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

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - FLC & Zoom
10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, October 26

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, October 28

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening To-Go Meal
Menu: pulled pork BBQ, baked beans, slaw,
& brownies

Thursday, October 29

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Day

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson
Uploaded to YouTube
9:00 a.m. Sunday School - FLC & Zoom
10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, November 2

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, November 4

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening To-Go Meals

Thursday, November 5

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of October 11 & 18, 2020

	10/11	10/18
In-Person	.66	.62
Live Stream Views	n/a	62

Note: The Live Stream was not working properly on October 11.

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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Year End Financial Update

First Baptist Church completed our 2019-2020 budget year in a strong position. Below are some of the challenges and celebrations as of the end of September. Because of your faithfulness, the celebrations far outnumber the challenges.

Challenges:

- We fell short of our annual budget by \$51,274.
- Our year-to-date spending was down \$17,230 from last year (though we celebrate the frugality of our staff, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from carrying out many of our ministry plans).
- We have had significant HVAC repairs and face more in the coming days.

Celebrations:

- Our year-to-date receipts were up \$36,595 over last year.
- Our available undesignated cash is \$136,461 compared to \$89,773 last year.
- We fulfilled all of our mission goals, which helped support 16 local, national and international ministry groups spread the gospel and assist those in need.
- We used our benevolence funds (Alms Offering) to help several church families affected by the pandemic and made significant contributions to our community's relief efforts. You helped pay rent, keep power on, feed children, and move families to safer housing.
- We replaced the worn out ground cover on the playground with new artificial turf and the kids love it!
- We replenished our reserve funds for potential HVAC, roof or electrical repairs.

Continuing the Dream

- We've collected \$311,888 and spent \$245,579 to complete exterior rock work/waterproofing and refinish the gym floor.
- We are in the process of bidding out our next project – repainting and re-carpeting the hallway and rooms behind the sanctuary.
- Because of additional gifts, we will also be able to repaint and re-carpet the library, Heritage Hall and the hallway in-between.

Thank you for your continued faithful support. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure make a difference to our ministries and, together, we make a difference to our community. We face many challenges ahead, but together we will do what God has called us to do.

Financial Statistics

	September	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	70,293.00	878,661.00
Budget Receipts	52,031.00	827,386.00
Needed to Meet Goals	18,262.00	51,275.00
Alms	135.00	5,472.00
Designated	2,893.00	67,829.00

White Christmas

Sunday, December 5, 2020

Wow! We are already almost through with October. This year, even with all the times we have pivoted, has flown by like every other year. The weather is starting to get cooler, and we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the end of the year and the transition of seasons. We have been, and continue to be, very fortunate with wonderful church members and staff with their planning for Christmas festivities. This includes but is not limited to White Christmas, continuation of the Clothes Closet, Christmas Eve services and other activities that often go unnoticed.

We already have a date for White Christmas - Sunday, December 5. It will look different than last year with less volunteers on site but still as much help needed to make this amazing event happen. If you would like to volunteer for the day of the event, please e-mail Christine at christine@statesvillefbc.org. If you would like to donate to this ministry, please mark your donations "Christmas Ministries"

If you would like to shop for a child or two or three, please call Janet McLain, Sherry Ashley or Carol Hunter. As we prepare for all things holiday, the most important thing we need to do is prepare our hearts and minds for the season. I often think of the wise men looking for Jesus. They were expectant they were going to find him, but only God was capable of showing them the way. God will show us amazing things that he is capable of and reveal himself in amazing ways if our eyes and hearts are kept open to Him and his leading.

These ministries don't happen alone. Together we are better; we rise by lifting others up.

Many thoughts and prayers.
Elizabeth



Sin, Repentance, & Prayer

When was the last time you made a request for forgiveness of sin a part of your daily prayer? And I don't mean just saying, "forgive my sins", I mean naming them specifically to the Lord. I listen very carefully to prayers being prayed (mine included) and seldom do I hear sin mentioned. Seldom do I hear repentance mentioned. How far we have come from the days of the Old Testament when God demanded holiness from His people! How far we have come from the days of the New Testament when Peter and Paul preached holiness to the church of God! Why study the Word of God if we're not determined to live by it? I know times have changed; I know we live in a totally different culture, but times are just as bad and the culture is just as sinful now as then. God said to Israel, "I am God, I do not change", and Hebrews assures us that "Christ is the SAME: yesterday, today, and forever"! I believe it is the church that has changed. Let us humble ourselves, admit our sin, repent as individuals (and churches), and see what great things God will do!

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18)

"Your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

"But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am Holy.'" (1 Peter 1:15-16)

"For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." (Eph. 1:4)

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 200: A Gift From God; Together For God

For years, I have been plugging away on the Davar: Bridging to Literacy website.

All of the games for teaching preschool skills have been uploaded in English and in Romanian. Ideally, there would also be PDFs of all the games. One member of the Davar Team, an independent missionary in Romania, usually organizes camps and VBS programs throughout the summer. What will she do this year? She spontaneously volunteered to make all these PDFs. And she volunteered to lay out and print up a booklet in Romanian of all the Davar games (Start Games, Math Games, Parent-Child Club). It should be available for the Roma Workers Network conference. This, for me personally, is a gift from God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Please pray with us that the use of Davar games will improve education among Romany children.

Mary Van Rheenen, CBF field personnel, Netherlands

Mission Bite 201: Remembering the Past

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Those famous words by Spanish philosopher George Santayana are on prominent display in the first building we entered on our tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Oswiecim, Poland. We have taken many groups, mostly short-term ministry teams, on tours through the World War 2 Concentration Camp. This time was different. We took a group of Roma from Jelsava and Vazec\.

It was a powerful experience as the guide shared with the group about the history of the camp. This was made even more meaningful as she shared specifically about Slovakia during the war and the plight of Roma and Sinti. We were also able to visit the memorial erected at the location of the Roma Family Camp in Birkenau. Our visit was the week after the commemoration of the liquidation of almost 3,000 Roma men, women, and children that occurred on the night of 2-3 August 1944.

Some of the participants were learning for the first time about the impact on the Roma. One woman had a relative who survived their time in a concentration camp during the war. All were surprised to learn that there were work camps for Roma in the area they now live in Slovakia. Explaining to one of the young men from Vazec that while the Jews refer to this as the Holocaust the Roma call their experience during the war, Porajmos, or "devouring."

- Dianne & Shane McNary, field personnel serving in Slovakia

Announcements

Welcome to Our Church Family!

Kaye Martin joined our congregation during the worship service on Sunday, October 18. Welcome to our church family!



A Note of Appreciation from Jeff & Elizabeth Benfield

To the Horizons Sunday School Class, Thank you for your caring during the loss of Jeff's mother. The oak leaf hydrangea was planted and will live for many years as a reminder of your thoughtfulness. The gift card will be enjoyed also.

Thank you,
Elizabeth and Jeff Benfield

Welcome New Facilities Assistant Wayne Laws

Wayne Laws has joined our staff as a Facilities Assistant. Wayne is replacing Jack Huffman who retired due to medical issues.



Deacon Election

We are now accepting nominations for our Deacon Ministry Team. You may mail in your nomination form or call in your nominations to Mary Jane Rash. Nominations are due Sunday, October 25. Those nominated and willing to serve will be on the ballot. The vote will be Sunday, November 8. You may vote in the worship service or drop off your ballot on Sunday, November 8, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Deacons will be at the Adams Hall entrance to collect ballots.