THE INTERIM

The FBC Preschoolers learned the correct way to brush and floss from Flossy the Squirrel of Charles W Roberts' Pediatric Dentistry.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STATESVILLE

Volume 74 Issue 7 **April 2, 2017**

From the Pastor...

Having your mitral valve repaired is quite an experience. I've run the gamut of feelings. There have been moments of fear and dread, but also inexpressible gratitude and joy. My recovery continues slowly, but surely; and I long to be with you as soon as possible.

One thought that has come consistently is how much a hospital is like a church. Of course, hospitals mainly focus on physical health and churches on spiritual health. Both, however, have a crossover in caring for body, mind and spirit. In fact, I was in a hospital founded by a church.

In my next two interim articles, I'll explore this similarity between hospitals and congregations and how we can learn from one another. Some of my thoughts include: how we deal with pain, the necessity of loving care, and the significance of hope (which I'll share Easter morning if at all possible).

Pain is a part of life! It can serve as an indicator of trouble or it can be an essential part of healing. First and foremost, pain is something that gets our attention. It says, "Hey, tend to yourself." God warned Cain to pay attention to his emotional pain, but instead, he killed his brother. Ignoring pain has great consequences.

Pain also serves as a warning to us. Most of us teach our children to stay away from the stove by saying something like, "Hot, hot – hurt baby!" God did the same thing for us in giving us the law. God does everything God can to warn us away from sin. When we ignore God's warnings, the result is always pain and suffering.

Not all pain, however, is the result of sin. Jesus clearly taught that pain is a part of life and can even be redeemed by God. When the disciples encountered a blind man, they immediately wanted to know who sinned. Jesus' reply was, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3).

If there is one thing I've learned about the painful times in my life, it's that I never want to waste one iota of pain. It's just too costly not to learn and grow through it. Whatever the source of our pain, God can use it to make us stronger. In fact, pain can be a sign of healing. As much as this surgery has hurt, I know that the pain I currently feel is a sign of healing.

As I write, I realize that I am not the only one in pain. Many in our congregation are going through physical, emotional and spiritual pain. Even our congregation as a whole is in the midst of a painful time from the fire. I am so grateful for your care and prayers for me and I know you are reaching out to one another as well. I truly believe God is redeeming our pain.

Continued on Page 2.

Thank You

Valerie and I would like to express our overwhelming gratitude for all you have done to help us get through my surgery and my ongoing recovery. Your prayers are not only felt, but they get us through some of the toughest days. We appreciate the many calls, cards and meals that show your love and concern. We also appreciate the discretion you're using in giving us space for rest and recovery. Larry Gregg and Mike McLain did a wonderful job representing the entire congregation on the day of surgery.

We long to be back with you and look forward to the day that will be possible. My hope is to preach Easter, but my doctor will only say, "We'll see." In the meantime we continue to covet your prayer and appreciate the continued kindness so many are showing toward us. It is such a comfort to know you all are carrying on in our absence. Our congregation is growing even through these challenges!

Schedule

Sunday, April 2
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Spaghetti Luncheon - Adams Hall
5:00 p.m. Handbells
Monday, April 3
9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
Tuesday, April 4
10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
Wednesday, April 5
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room
Thursday, April 6
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
Sunday, April 9
Palm Sunday
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Handbells
5:00 p.m. Venture Students
Monday, April 10
9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
Tuesday, April 11
10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym
Wednesday, April 12
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room
Thursday, April 13
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service - Sanctuary
Friday, April 14
12:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Service - Sanctuary
Saturday, April 15
10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Church Staff Directory

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

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Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of March 19 & 26, 2017

	3/19	3/26
Church in Bible Study	135	142
Church in Worship	194	211

Financial Statistics

	March	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	69,987.00	475,036.00
Budget Receipts	51,371.00	417,746.00
Needed to Meet Goal	18,616.00	57,290.00
Alms	673.00	2,908.00
Designated	3,650.00	16,195.00

Continued from the pastor's column on Page 1.

As we move toward the final weeks of Lent, I encourage you to give your pain to God. Remember, Jesus was called a man of sorrows. He understands our pain and invites us to bring our pain to Him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

Spaghetti Luncheon
Sunday, April 2, 2017
11:00 a.m. ~ Adams Hall

The Youth will host a spaghetti luncheon immediately following the worship service. Spaghetti with a variety of sauces, salads, garlic bread, and dessert will be served. To-go plates will be available. This event will raise funds for the Youth trip to Look Up Lodge this summer. Please come to have lunch and make a donation.

Continuing to Pray the Twenty-Third Psalm

(He leads me in the path of righteousness)

Lord, guide me in paths of righteousness today so that You may receive the honor and glory that You deserve and are worthy of. May all my words and transactions with others point away from me—to You—and cause those around me to stand in awe of Your holiness. Let all of my deeds result in goodness and kindness to the end that others will long to know the One who works through me. ("May those who fear You rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in Your Word." Psalm 119:74) ("May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17)

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me today as You direct my steps in the paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake. In the name of the Father, my creator; the Son, my savior; and the Holy Spirit, my helper, I pray. Amen

The Meaning of Holy Week

The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important events in the entire scriptural narrative. These days feature not only the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper, and crucifixion but also poignant prayers and prophetic teachings of our Lord. John's gospel devotes eight of its 21 chapters to this week alone! The week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday and ends with the "three days" (also called the Triduum, from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter Day), the period during which all Christians mark Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection.

The first Sunday of Holy Week is commonly called either "Palm Sunday" or "Passion Sunday." Those who call it "Palm Sunday" tend to focus on the entry of Christ into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9). Those who refer to the day as "Passion Sunday" tend to focus on Jesus' suffering. This is especially appropriate in contexts in which participation in midweek services on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday is difficult or minimal, and, as a result, worshipers would sing "Hosanna" on one Sunday and "Christ arose" on the next, with little attention to Jesus' suffering and death in between.

For congregations that celebrate the day as Palm Sunday, like we at First Baptist Statesville do, it's important to capture the irony of the day. This is the day on which Jesus entered the city in triumph as a part of his journey to the cross. Yet, it is also the week in which the crowd's cries of "Hosanna" would soon turn to "Crucify Him!"

On Maundy Thursday the Church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with His disciples in the upper room before His arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three key events in Jesus' last week: His washing of His disciple's feet, His institution of the Lord's Supper, and His new commandment to love one another. The name "Maundy Thursday" comes from the Latin mandatum novum, referring to the "new commandment" Jesus taught His disciples (John 13:34). In other words, this is "new commandment Thursday."

Good Friday marks the death of Jesus Christ. It's called "good" because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption of the world. Worship on this day may focus on three aims: (1) to narrate and remember the events of Jesus' death, (2) to open up the meaning of these events for our understanding of God and the redemption accomplished by the cross, and (3) to invite worshipers to renewed prayer and dedication.

On Easter all the hopes and expectations of Christians are realized in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, making Easter the most celebrative day of the church year.

The Easter morning service is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal. Even churches that do not customarily follow the church year celebrate this day as the culmination of all that the gospel is about.

Because the good news of Easter can hardly be contained in a single day's celebration, Easter is only the first of 50 days of Eastertide, the "Great Fifty Days" that lead up to Pentecost. This season is designed for extended celebration, for exploring the ramifications of Easter for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living.

James Martin, *Minister of Music & Worship*

Holy Week at First Baptist Church

Holy Week will also include Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary.
There will be guides for individual worship.

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9, 2017
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 13, 2017
7:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friday, April 14, 2017
12:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary
First Baptist Church will host this year's Community Good Friday Service
with Phil McCoy of First ARP Church of Statesville delivering the message.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 16, 2017
A light breakfast will be served in Adams Hall.
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STATESVILLE

Messages by: Melissa Wilson (April 2, 2017) & Dr. Larry Gregg (April 9, 2017)
Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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CBF Mission Bites

Our Church is pleased to support CBF Global Missions in moments like these where bearing witness to Jesus Christ takes form through holistic ministry that brings joy and transforms lives.

"Hannah is the first woman who I ministered to when I arrived in Uganda 3.5 years ago. God has done an incredible work in her life as she has healed and overcome incredible adversity. She was among our second group of shelter graduates. She is now in her second year at a Music college (from which she earned a scholarship) and will complete her degree at the end of next year. We are incredibly proud of Hannah and amazed at God's work in her life!"

- Missy Ward-Angalla, CBF field personnel, Kampala, Uganda

Our Church is pleased to support CBF Global Missions in moments like these where bearing witness to Jesus Christ takes form through innovative ministry that improves daily life for refugees.

"Recently the ladies in my ministry and I learned to crochet "plarn" (plastic yarn) mats from used grocery bags -- a very useful skill in a country where these bags are everywhere. The crocheted mats are lightweight and waterproof. For those living in a tent year round with the cold ground in the winter and the hot air in the summer, the mats allow the air to circulate under and through the mats, providing a cooler place to sleep. At first, the ladies were surprised at the idea of using plastic bags like this, but they soon caught on and crocheted all the bags I'd brought with me. They were quite taken with the idea of using something which costs them nothing to create a useful item for their tents."

- Anonymous CBF field personnel serving in the Middle East

Wednesday Evening Menus

Wednesday, April 5

Spaghetti, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread, & Tiramasu Trifle
Kids' Menu: same

Wednesday, April 12

Barbecue Brisket, Slaw, French Fries, Rolls, & Brownies
Kids' Menu: Same

Meals for Nelson & Valerie

If you would like to provide a meal for Nelson and Valerie as Nelson recovers from his surgery, please visit the website www.takethemameal.com.

To find the sign up sheet enter the following
Recipient's Last Name: Granade
Password: fbc

Several dietary considerations are no red meat, no fried foods, dessert only once or twice a week with only two servings of dessert. They would like chicken, fish, vegetables, salads, and fruit. If you have any questions, please call Jane Mitchell at 704-874-4357.

A Note of Appreciation From Melissa Wilson

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, and cards in the death of my grandmother. Your love and support means everything to me.

Melissa Wilson

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, 2017

10:00 a.m. ~ Front Lawn

Please make plans to attend and invite your friends to the Easter Egg Hunt. We need your help filling the eggs with goodies. Plastic eggs will be available this Sunday, April 2. Please pick up a bag to take home and fill with individually wrapped candy. Please bring your bag of filled eggs back before Saturday's hunt! Note: In case of rain, this event is canceled.