

Clay Lunsford and Matthew Weaver  
perform at the Senior Adult Luncheon  
on January 25, 2018.

# THE INTERIM

Volume 75 Issue 3



February 4, 2018

## From the Pastor..



February will bring us something rare this year. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday will fall on the same day – February 14, 2018. This hasn't happened since 1945 and we won't see it again until 2024.

Many are saying that these two recognitions are at odds. After all, Valentine's Day is a day of excess. We buy tons of candy, flowers, and cards. We also enjoy a special meal with our loved one. Some estimate that Americans spend over twenty billion dollars on Valentine's Day.

On the contrary, Ash Wednesday is a day of paucity. It is the day Christians begin Lent – a season of repentance and sacrifice. We mark it by placing ashes on our head and remembering that we came from dust and to dust we will return. Many even decide to give up something during this season.

So how do you give both of these days their due when they seem so opposite? Several Christian leaders are suggesting celebrating Valentine's Day on Mardi Gras (February 13). That's a day when excess is actually encouraged. Perhaps that's a good compromise.

I wonder, however, if these two days are really that far apart. St. Valentine was a third century martyr who gave his life for Christ's work. It is believed that he conducted Christian weddings despite them being declared illegal by Emperor Claudius II. More importantly, he refused to stop sharing Christ and even tried to convert the Emperor who ordered his execution.

So when you get down to it, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are occasions when we have the opportunity to declare our love for God. True love is sacrificial and both of these days recognize sacrifice. It is good and appropriate to share this day with ones you love.

It is also appropriate to remember that we are sinful creatures and yet, God loves us the most. As Paul proclaimed, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8. Likewise, John reminds us that love is from God, because God is love.

My advice is to not diminish either day. Spend time with those you love, but don't skip out on our Ash Wednesday service (6:00 p.m.). Perhaps when you look into the eyes of the one you love and also see the ashes on their forehead, you will remember that you are loved by both them and God.

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Please join us after the Wednesday evening meal for this special Ash Wednesday service.

*Nolan*



*All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.*  
Ecclesiastes 3:20

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good...*  
Romans 12:9



## Schedule

### Sunday, February 4

- 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 5

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, February 6

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 1:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive - Adams Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Study

### Wednesday, February 7

- 9:30 a.m. Precept Study
- 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 Practice

### Thursday, February 8

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

### Sunday, February 11

- 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 12

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, February 13

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

### Wednesday, February 14

- 9:30 a.m. Precept Study
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary

### Thursday, February 15

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

### Saturday, February 17

- 5:30 p.m. Love Makes the World Go Round
- Valentine Night Out - FLC

## FLC Activities Schedule

### Monday, February 5

- 9:30 a.m. Pickleball
- 11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

### Tuesday, February 6

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

### Wednesday, February 7

- 7:15 p.m. Pickleball

### Thursday, February 8

- 9:30 a.m. Pickleball - Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

### Friday, February 9

- 11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

### Monday, February 12

- 9:30 a.m. Pickleball - Gym
- 11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

### Tuesday, February 13

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

### Wednesday, February 14

- 7:15 p.m. Pickleball

### Thursday, February 15

- 9:30 a.m. Pickleball

### Friday, February 16

- 11:45 p.m. Line Dancers

### Saturday, February 17

- 5:30 p.m. Love Makes the World Go Round
- Chuchwide Night Out

## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of January 21 & 28, 2018

	1/21	1/28
Church in Bible Study	132	133
Church in Worship	201	180

## Financial Statistics

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	41,848.00	332,956.00
Budget Receipts	43,397.00	324,737.00
Goal Met	1,549.00	8,219.00
Alms	733.00	2,885.00
Designated	8,841.00	47,523.00



*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but may have eternal life.*

John 3:16

## 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

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

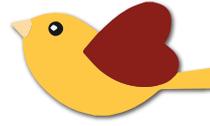
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# Unsung Heroes

## Ken & Brenda Wilson



For the past month, Ken & Brenda Wilson have put many hours of work into planning our churchwide Valentine Night Out. They are extremely organized and have done a wonderful job at recruiting many members of our congregation to help with this event. Everyone is excited about this evening of fellowship. The Wilsons have done an amazing job!

Additionally, Brenda leads our Flower Committee - the committee that is responsible for putting flowers in our sanctuary each Sunday, and Ken serves on our Business Management Team and as chair of the Personnel Team.

Thank you for all you do to make FBC great!

*Each issue of The Interim will feature a member that does great and often unrecognized things for FBC. If you would like to see someone recognized as an Unsung Hero, please e-mail Kayley Crouch at [kayley@statesvillefbc.org](mailto:kayley@statesvillefbc.org) or call 704-873-7231.*

## Life is a Choice - Choose the Best

Every day is filled with choices. We can choose the places we go, the people we associate with, the words we say, the literature we read, how much TV we watch, what kind and how much food we consume—on and on. The most important choice we can make is to carve out time to spend talking with our Heavenly Father and getting to know Him through His Word. When we pray we talk to God; when we read the Bible He talks to us. What have you talked to God about lately? What has He said to you? Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Choose you this day..." Don't wait until tomorrow! Choose to talk to God today and spend time in His Word—He has so much to say to you!

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather



## Church Wide Night Out

Saturday, February 17, 2018

5:30 p.m.

Family Life Center

Join us for an evening of fun, party food,  
entertainment, & fellowship.

**\*\* Please bring your favorite homemade (pre-sliced) dessert to share.\*\***



Messages by: Nelson Granade

Volume 75 Issue 3

February 4, 2018

**CBF Mission Bites**

**Bite 68: Restoration Church**

*"I left my country, Congo Democratic, as a refugee, due to the rebellion that started. My family was among those arrested and killed. After fleeing and living in Nigeria almost 12 years, the United States accepted me into the resettlement program. Refugees coming to the U.S. face a lot of challenges. Not speaking English can make people feel isolated, so I had the idea of starting a new church for Swahili-speakers. With the help of CBF field personnel Marc and Kim Wyatt and CBF's New Church Start's Initiative, I have been able to start a church. From there, God started talking to me about how he's going to restore people's lives."*

- Felix Iyoko, CBF church starter in Raleigh, N.C.

**Bite 69: Our daily bread**

*"Food ministry has been part of what we do from the beginning. Mike tells this story of how his bread ministry came to help create Beloved Community at Grace & Main: 'After starting a relationship with Josh, I was at Walmart working and a lady from Grace & Main came up to me and said she needed some bread because she had 3 homeless people living with her. That really got to me. Each week I started delivering bread to her house. One day they invited me to come in and help fix lunches and I have been with them ever since. To sit down and have a meal with somebody, to help the marginalized and less fortunate, that's the heart of Jesus, with the forgotten people of the world.'"*

- Jessica Hearne, CBF field personnel in Danville, Va.



**Announcements**

**A Note of Appreciation From John Carson**

Thank you for all your cards. They are very nice. I sure miss all of you. God bless you.

John Carson

**A Note of Appreciation from Jeff & Paulette Templeton**

Dear FBC Family,  
Thank you for your cards, visits, and prayers during mom's recent illness and passing. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

May God bless,  
Jeff & Paulette Templeton

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

**1:00 - 5:30 p.m. • Adams Hall**

Please call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter IMH to schedule an appointment.

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

**6:00 p.m. • Sanctuary**

Immediately following the Wednesday Night Meal, we will have our Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary.

**Senior Adult Luncheon**

**Thursday, February 15, 2018**

**11:00 a.m. • Adams Hall**

This will be our annual birthday party honoring our 90s and older members. In addition, those members 85 and older will be recognized. Entertainment will be provided by Carol Froehlick, featuring the accordion, piano, and voice. To register, someone may call you, or you may sign up in your Sunday School class, or you may call the church office at 704-873-7231 no later than noon on Monday, February 12. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon at a cost of \$6.00 payable at the door.

**Pickleball**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays**

We have an additional opportunity to play Pickleball. Please join this group after the Wednesday evening Bible study at 7:15 p.m. in the gym. Steve Koontz and Dianne Parker will be there to teach you how to play the game. You may also play on Monday and Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to wear athletic shoes and gym attire.

**Making Jesus Known  
Sunday Sermon Series**

**February 4, 2018**

*Be Brave*

*(Even When You're Afraid)*

Acts 9:10-19

**February 11, 2018**

*Be Aware*

Mark 9:2-9

**Making Christ  
Known Naturally  
Wednesday Night Series**

**February 7, 2018**

*Following the Holy Spirit's  
Guidance*