

Cate Taylor, Leah Johnson, and Forde & Tanner Show celebrate the start of summer at the FBC Preschool's drive thru luau celebration



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THE INTERIM First Baptist Preschool

Volume 77 Issue 12

June 7, 2020

From the Pastor...

The cruel killing of George Floyd has sparked outrage in our country. Of course, the anger has been there for a long time – usually dwelling below the surface, but often erupting into view. Or at least that is what it seems like to those of us who aren't burdened by racism on a daily basis.

Our African-American brothers and sisters have a different experience. They live with the realities of racism every day. Their grief over George Floyd is just one more wound in a long line of offenses. They understand, as we must come to know, that racism is perpetual and systematic and will not be defeated quickly or easily.

Racism, in all of its ugly forms, will only end when those of us who have power and privilege care enough to change and demand change in others. It is easy to focus on the riots and miss the cry of desperation they represent. It is easy to condemn overt acts of racism and not examine our role in systemic racism.

Larry Hovis, Coordinate for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, recently asked some of his African-American colleagues for guidance on what white Christians might do to help. Here is what they suggested:

- **Pray** – Yes, we must do more than pray, but we dare not do less. Let us “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17) for our nation, our African-American (and Latino) brothers and sisters, and our leaders.
- **Repent** – White Christians must repent of the part we have played in creating and perpetuating an unjust system.
- **Listen** – We must genuinely and deeply listen to the voices of people color, and of the experiences of discrimination, brutality and injustice they and their ancestors have experienced for four centuries.
- **Speak** – Those of us who have positions of privilege must speak up. Now is not the time to keep quiet.
- **Educate** – White Americans, including white Christians, are woefully ignorant when it comes to race. CBFNC offers much information on racial equity and justice on its website at <https://cbfnc.org/embrace/racial-reconciliation-and-justice/>.
- **Advocate** – Starting with our own personal relationships and moving to our churches, communities, nation and world, we must advocate for just policies, laws and structures for all people – policies, laws and structures that address past injustices and create a more just world for everyone, especially those for whom justice has been both delayed and denied.

The easy thing to do is to just let racism be someone else's problem. Christ, however, never took the easy way. He always cared for the downtrodden and constantly confronted injustice. Ultimately Jesus took up the cross for us and called us to take up the cross for others. Christ was compelled by love. Are we?

Nolan

Schedule

Sunday, June 7

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Live Stream
10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, June 8

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

Wednesday, June 10

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, June 11

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

Sunday, June 14

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Live Stream
10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, June 15

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

Wednesday, June 17

8:30 a.m. Pickleball
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, June 18

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

Sunday School Zoom Links

You can use these links to access your Sunday School class meeting every Sunday.

Youth

<https://zoom.us/j/498935664?pwd=dzZXSHVwTmRZW-jc2cldpbXJKam1Fdz09>
Meeting ID: 498 935 664
Password: FBCSYOUTH

Links on the church website and Facebook page have been deactivated for internet safety.

Horizons

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74224580015?pwd=NFVWRz-JKc040c3daajdSbytpNnVtUT09>
Meeting ID: 742 2458 0015
Password: 0NDGPa

Crosswalk

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5836118334?pwd=SHhFZzdF-ZlI4ZVRGdW95Mzh3THlCdz09>
Meeting ID: 583 611 8334
Password: 3760

Adults

Adults will view the Sunday School through the live stream.

Children

Melissa records a new lesson for the children each week. You can access the link in your weekly e-mail, on the church Facebook page, and on the church website, www.statesvillefbc.org.

Noon Bible Study On Zoom

Acts: An Unhindered Gospel

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.,.

Pastor Nelson will lead the Wednesday Bible Study on Zoom on Wednesdays at noon. We will study the book of Acts: An Unhindered Gospel. To help you follow along, an outline will be e-mailed to you each week. You can join online or by phone. To join online, go to <https://zoom.us/j/259365815?pwd=RS9HUkk1OGsvdE5uT0NHbCtQNjhnZz09>

Meeting ID: 259 365 815 Password: 978702

To join by phone, call the following number and enter the Meeting ID and Password:

Phone: 929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 259 365 815 Password: 978702

June 10, 2020

Sharing the Good News Boldly
(3:1-5:42)

June 17, 2020

Faithful Witnesses Overcoming Barriers
(6:1-8:40)

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
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

THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks
by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,
Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

Financial Statistics

	May	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	68,536.00	607,324.00
Budget Receipts	50,104.00	553,471.00
Needed to Meet Goals	18,432.00	53,684.00
Alms	270.00	4,442.00
Designated	8,785.00	54,753.00

A Different Kind of Vacation Bible School

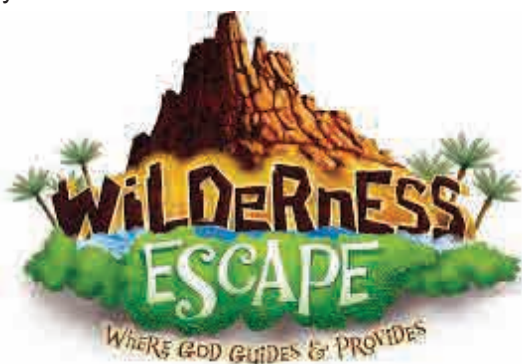
The Covid-19 crisis means our summer will be different – including Vacation Bible School. With a little creativity, however, we can still achieve our goals of showing God’s love, providing a safe loving environment, and sharing the good news of Jesus.

Our plan is to host 4 separate VBS Days (July 14, 16, 20, 22) with each day offering an entire week of VBS. We will register up to 40 children per day and divide them into small groups. This way they will receive more individual attention, maintain healthy social distancing and give us time to disinfect between groups.

If you have volunteered with VBS in the past, we still need your help, but how you serve may look different. We know we can count on you to be flexible and make this system work. We want to provide a wonderful experience while keeping our children and volunteers healthy!

We will miss the energy 200 children generate, but it will be exciting to try something new. Please be in prayer for our Vacation Bible School, the children who will come, the volunteers that will serve and that it will be both safe and meaningful.

We will have VBS this year (hopefully in person as described above), but if not we will move to an online experience. Our plans will adapt according to Health Department recommendations. We will do everything possible to keep our children and volunteers safe and healthy.



Choose Your Day!

Tuesday, July 14

Thursday, July 16

Monday, July 20

Wednesday, July 22

Join us at Wilderness Escape VBS, where we’ll explore what life was like for the ancient Israelites. They’ve escaped slavery in Egypt...but now what? You’ll craft cool projects in the Israelite Camp, race through the wilderness as you play games, and visit with Moses. Plus, you’ll meet lots of new friends!

Draw Near to God

Jim Cymbala is pastor of the 10,000 member Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in Brooklyn, NY. About 10 years into his pastorate there (which started with fewer than 10 people) God convicted him to make prayer the barometer that guides the church and the engine that drives the church. In an era when weekly church prayer meetings have turned to Bible studies and seminars, Brooklyn Tabernacle has for decades been drawing more than 1,000 people every Tuesday night for intercession. (I know this to be a fact because I’ve had the privilege of attending this “standing room only” prayer meeting.) Specific prayer requests are printed on cards and passed out to attendees, who alternate between praying and praising God through music for hours. Cymbala says, “Right now there are some very dangerous movements in the church- although attended with numerical success- which are very detrimental to the cause of Christ. It’s Christianity-lite. We have learned how to do church without God, without the Holy Spirit. We need to re-evaluate narrowly scripted programs that seemingly leave no time or space for the Holy Spirit to move and work among the people gathered.”

(Adapted from “Time For Believers To Draw Near To God”, Decision Magazine, May 2020)

During this “downtime” it might be good for us all to do some serious praying and re-evaluating.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 183: Positive Crisis

I just returned from Juarez, Mexico, where on behalf of our non-profit, The Off Ramp, I took a tour of shelters for asylum seekers in and around Juarez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso. Opportunities abound, but there is work to do!

There was laughter. There were tears. There were questions. There was deep appreciation. There was wonder. From children who had not been warm in weeks yet smiled and played, to an 80-year-old woman huddled under blankets yet rising to greet us, our hearts were touched by the situation these forcibly displaced people endured. Still, we were encouraged!

As Enrique Valenzuela put it, "This is not a crisis! We just need to all come together and figure out how we can handle the situation." To think crisis is to think negatively. These people thought in the positive, bringing to the table all the assets of each organization and individual. Result? Dignity and care for the forcibly displaced.

-Butch and Nell Green, CBF field personnel in Houston, Texas

Mission Bite: 184: The God Who Sees

Serving and meeting the needs of refugees can be a bit more problematic these days as churches and businesses are closed and we are asked to be socially distant. Refugees are very hospitable and want you to sit and have a cup of tea with them, yet now I wear a mask and gloves and drop things at the door and run.

Last week I called Justin, a Congolese refugee friend who has a newborn and asked how they were doing. He replied well, but that they were needing formula to supplement breastfeeding. He had gone to several stores and was unable to find what they needed. I told him I would pray that God would provide.

Formula is not something that I typically have donated. Monday, I went to the room at church where I keep donations looking for household items for a newly arrived Afghan family, and sitting on the counter was a bag with 6 cans on formula. Three cans were the formula Justin was looking for. I texted Justin that God had answered our prayer.

Tuesday, I returned to the church to sort bags of children's clothing, which literally covered the entire floor. As I was sorting, I received a text from World Relief asking if I would be able to help a client who was expecting in a month. Of course, as God had already provided everything needed.

That evening as I was packing the car, I received another text stating the newly arrived Afghan mother needed formula with a photo of the formula. It was by no coincidence that it was the remaining three donated cans of formula.

We serve a God who sees and knows needs long before we do, and provides exactly what we need when we need it.

-Karen Morrow, Refugee Ministry and Advocacy, Fort Worth Texas



Announcements

Clothes Closet
Open Thursdays in June
1:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Our Clothes Closet will open for the month of June with social distancing precautions. Masks are required.

In-Person Worship Service
Sunday, June 7, 2020
10:00 a.m. Worship

Please note the changes in our places to gather.

Younger Adults & Children - Adams Hall

(Park behind Education Building and use side entrance on west side of building)

Median Adults & Teens - Sanctuary

(Park at Bunch-Johnson Funeral Home and use either Sanctuary entrance)

Older Adults - Family Life Center

(Park below Fellowship Hall and use Fellowship Hall entrance))

Please observe the following health guidelines: social distance; wear a mask; wash your hands and/or sanitize frequently; do not come if you are ill or in a vulnerable group

A Note of Appreciation From Tim & Melissa Tompkins

We would like to thank you and let you know how much we appreciate the calls, prayers, and expressions of sympathy with the passing of my father William Higgins.

With love,
Melissa and Tim Tompkins & family

A Note of Appreciation From Dean & Angie Roberts

First Baptist Church Family,
Angie and I want to thank you for all your expressions of care and concern for us during my accident in mid-December and subsequent hospitalizations. Your faithfulness... expressed in so many way...during my mother's battle with dementia for several years and her recent death, too, has encouraged me through these months of challenging days. Know that we love and appreciate our church family. A special thanks to our Emanons Sunday School Class for their love and understanding support.

Dean & Angie Roberts