



THE INTERIM

Volume 77 Issue 3

February 2, 2020

From the Pastor...

Missions is an essential aspect of the heritage and hope of First Baptist Church. As Baptists, missions is a part of our very being. From our inception, Baptists have been on mission to share the Good News of Christ throughout the entire world. The very founding of First Baptist Church of Statesville was one aspect of this mission.

Because we were founded as a part of the call to missions, we have always made missions a central aspect of our ministry. First Baptist Church helped start both Western Avenue Baptist Church and Front Street Baptist Church. We also helped several local ministries get their start; including Iredell Christian Ministries, Fifth Street Ministries, Habitat for Humanity and the CareNet Counseling Center.

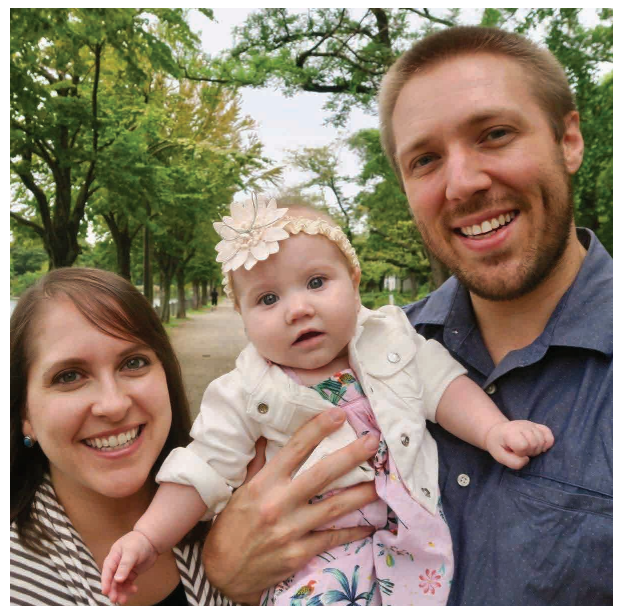
Globally we have funded missionaries through both the International Mission Board (SBC) and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Along with giving a portion of our offerings to support thousands of missionaries, members of our own church have heeded the Gospel call. First Baptist missionaries have served in Japan, China, Indonesia and the Middle East.

As a part of celebrating our legacy of missions, First Baptist Church will hear from our own missionaries to Japan this Sunday, February 2, 2020. Carson (who grew up at FBCS) and Laura Foushee will share about their work partnering with the Japanese Baptist Convention. We will also renew our covenant with them to be an Encourager Congregation.

We are also in the midst of celebrating and strengthening our partnerships with local mission organizations. Each Wednesday evening in January and February we are hearing from ministry groups we support with our funds and volunteers. So far we have heard from Iredell Statesville Schools Bible Association, Habitat for Humanity, CareNet Counseling, and Power Cross Ministries.

We are looking forward to hearing from Fifth Street Ministries (2/5/20), the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC (2/12/20) and Hospice of Iredell (2/19/20). We are also currently collecting food to support Iredell Christian Ministries and look forward to hearing from them at sometime in the future. First Baptist Church has been and will continue to be one of the strongest supporters of missions in Iredell and beyond.

It is said the Church lives by missions and so do local congregations. As much as we celebrate our deep heritage of mission involvement, our hope is rooted in sharing the Gospel as well. Each generation must find relevant ways to show God's love within our communities and world. First Baptist Church of Statesville will continue to be a shining light of God's grace..



Missionaries to Japan Carson & Laura Foushee, pictured with their daughter Ada, will give the message at the worship service on Sunday, February 2.

Schedule

Sunday, February 2

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. Souper Sunday Fundraiser

Monday, February 3

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir
 5:00 p.m. Time of Fellowship
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Children's & Teen Missions; Preschool Choir
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 Guest Speaker: Will Long, Fifth Street Ministries
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 6

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, February 9

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, February 10

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir
 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Children's & Teen Missions; Preschool Choir
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 Guest Speaker: Larry Hovis, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 13

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, February 3

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 11:45 a.m. Linedancers
 7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, February 4

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, February 5

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, February 6

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

Friday, February 7

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, February 10

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 11:45 a.m. Linedancers
 7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, February 11

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, February 12

8:30 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, February 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, February 14

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

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
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Financial Statistics

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	43,933.00	340,920.00
Budget Receipts	38,085.00	272,359.00
Needed to Meet Goals	5,848.00	68,561.00
Alms	788.00	3,190.00
Designated	1,173.00	26,670.00

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 19 & 26, 2020

	1/19	1/26
Church in Bible Study	128	105
Church in Worship	248	200

10 Benefits of Being a Church Volunteer

by Brian Dodd

During the summer of 1986, I was working in a grocery store while attending college. This job came with the unbelievable benefit of one unpaid week of vacation per year. So when July came I had a decision to make. Should I go to the beach for sun, fun and relaxation or should I make the strategic decision to teach 2nd graders in Vacation Bible School?

I did not realize it at the time but this one single decision put me on a path I would continue on to this very day. With the exception of two paid staff positions, I have served as a volunteer at my local church for the next 29 years.

As I reflect on the last three decades of my life, the following are 10 Benefits Of Being A Volunteer At A Local Church:

1. Volunteering At My Church Has Given My Life Greater Purpose - There are a numerous important causes in the world and quality places to volunteer your time. But for me, I made the strategic decision to serve at my church because it was there where my efforts could result in someone's life being changed for eternity. It is in a local church where a person could be made brand new and become redeemed.

2. Volunteering At My Church Has Given Me Broader Perspective - Serving others has allowed me to focus on larger issues and others rather than always on myself.

3. Volunteering At My Church Has Given Me Lifelong Friendships - There is a unique relational bond which comes from "being in the foxhole" with someone and serving together. I have made literally hundreds of personal connections and lifelong friends because of volunteering at my church.

4. Volunteering At My Church Has Given Me A Healthier Self-Image - It may sound egotistical but there is a healthy sense of pride which comes from serving others and not being called to a lesser task. You just feel better about yourself when your life matters and makes a difference.

5. Volunteering At My Church Helps Others - Living an internally focused life benefits no one. Serving others relieves suffering, benefits the under-resourced, meets the needs of the marginalized, provides hope, and improves the quality of people's lives.

6. Volunteering At My Church Has Made Me More Generous - Generosity is time, talent and treasure. Church volunteers give sacrificially of their time and talent BEFORE giving sacrificially of their treasure. It is a sequential process. By being generous with my time and talent, financial generosity has been a natural outflow.

7. Volunteering At My Church Taught Me How To Make Better Decisions - When I used to teach Sunday School in college, I could have gone out every Saturday night with the guys. However, I learned early in the process the best decisions come when you give up what is good (Saturday night with the guys) for what is best (studying on Saturday nights to serve others on Sunday mornings).

8. Volunteering At My Church Makes Me A Better Thinker - Being a quality volunteer requires sacrifice, study and preparation. Volunteering at my church has made me smarter.

9. Volunteering At My Church Has Given Me Lasting Influence - My daughter knows nothing other than her parents serving others. A privilege I never planned when I took my first volunteer role in 1986 was one day I would be passing on a legacy of service to the next generation.

10. Volunteering At My Church Will One Day Result In A Greater Reward - Like many of you, I look forward to the day when I hear my Heavenly Father say "Well done my good and faithful servant".

At sporting events those in the stands pay to watch the game. Those on the field get paid! The same is true for church volunteers.

If you are not volunteering in your local church, it is time to get on the field and start getting paid with these incredible benefits I have listed.

Funeral or Wedding

Most of us have at least a little fear of death, even when we know we'll be with Jesus in heaven. The older I get, the more my prayers center on asking God to take away any fear I may have and replace it with anticipation. One of the things I love most about prayer is the way God answers! As Psalm 27 teaches us, when we wait on the Lord, He will answer. Recently, He led me to a devotional which I will paraphrase: Think of death, not as a funeral, but as a wedding. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us in His Father's house, and when He comes back for us it will be a grand wedding celebration. (Adapted from "Fearless" by Max Lucado) Don't you love it? Can you hear the wedding music? What bride looks with foreboding to her wedding day?? So, let's turn our minds around. Instead of dreading death (if you are a Christian), think of it as your ultimate wedding day! (If you don't know Jesus, He's just waiting for you to invite Him into your heart.)

Whatever concerns or fears you may have, take them to God in prayer. He will put your mind at rest. His very name is Peace—"Jehovah Shalom".

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 164: The Global Church is Here

Recently, I participated in an Ethnic Church Leadership Conference for San Francisco Bay Area ethnic church pastors and leaders. The event was held on a long Saturday with presentations from various ethnic congregations, music led by a Mongolian church band, and a sumptuous buffet provided by a Korean congregation. Leaders from Korean, Iranian, Afghan, Cambodian, Burmese, Mongolian, Indian, Hmong, and Ethiopian churches represented their congregations and offered stimulating presentations.

I had been invited to facilitate a small group discussion in a breakout session and I felt honored to be one of the very few "American" representatives present at this event. The Global Church is here! And the Global Church is praying for revival in America.

-Rick Sample, CBF field personnel serving in San Francisco, Calif.

Mission Bite 165: Just Like Me!

As a kindergartner, Dustin couldn't focus in class because of the pain in his mouth. He had been living in El Salvador with his grandmother, who hadn't paid much attention to dental hygiene. Dustin's gums were swollen and his teeth throbbed. A local pediatric dentist, Dr. S., agreed to treat him, in spite of Dustin's mom's inability to pay.

Dr. S. has a way with kids. None are thrilled to be spending hours in his dental chair, but he is patient and kind, and works through an interpreter. "I'm sorry it hurts, but I want to help you," he tells them.

Dustin, Carlitos, Jonathan, and Jeycob—Salvadoran, Mexican, and Honduran—all helped by an immigrant dentist from another part of the world who looks like them, with brown skin and an accent. "Maybe I'll be a dentist one day, too," Jonathan told Dr. S.

Lord, we thank you for specialists like Dr. S. Who are willing to donate portions of their time and expertise to help migrant children experiencing physical pain. We give thanks that these children can receive quality treatment. And we thank you especially for immigrant professionals who model care and compassion and offer hope to these children.

-Greg and Sue Smith, CBF field personnel serving in Fredericksburg, Virginia



Announcements

**Souper Sunday
Sunday, February 2, 2020
11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall**

The youth will host a soup lunch fundraiser to raise money for the trip to camp this summer. Please stop by to have lunch and make a donation.

**Boxed Food Drive for Iredell Christian Ministries
February 2-23, 2020**

Many of our church members are involved in various ways with Iredell Christian Ministries. Let's join them in helping stock the shelves for those in need! Please bring boxes of cereal, macaroni & cheese, and granola bars. Members of our Sunday School classes will be placing shopping carts in several locations in the church for the month of February.

**Indoor Yard Sale
Saturday, March 7, 2020**

An "Indoor Yard Sale" will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 to help raise funds for the Ladies Ministry Dinner Series. All kinds of handmade crafts, household items, needlework, baskets, pictures, frames, vases, decorative dishes, or any item that you would like to donate will be welcomed. Please place donated items in the bathroom hallway Family Life Center. No TV's. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Hunt at 704-902-1715.

**Medical/Dental Mission Trip to Nicaragua
June 13-20, 2020**

Two of our members will lead a medical/dental mission trip and are inviting others to join as they feel called.

Team Leaders: Dr. James Hunter and Jan Hunter

Focus: Team members will help with providing medical and dental care in an established medical clinic in a rural Nicaragua village that offers medical and dental care to patients who cannot afford medical and dental care. Clinica Medica Carlitos is run by Nicaraguan physicians and missionaries from Christ for the City International, Nicaragua. Team members will also have the opportunity to minister to children as well as assist with simple construction projects.

More information available by contacting jan.hhre@gmail.com