

Carson & Laura Foushee, missionaries to Japan, deliver the sermon "Extending Hospitality" on Sunday, January 22, 2017.



THE INTERIM



Volume 74 Issue 3

February 5, 2017

From the Pastor...



Are you making big plans? Some of you might take that question and think about the Super Bowl. Others might consider it and think of Valentine's Day. My advice is to be excited about the game, but do something bigger for the one you love. For those of us who are romantically challenged (that's all of us guys), we'll have to get a little creative.

There are a lot of things you can do to show your love. You can go out to eat, buy chocolates, write a poem, or a dozen other such gestures. I once hand dipped a dozen strawberries in chocolate. It scored me some points, but Valerie would just as soon get a nice foot rub. It's really not about topping what you did last year or what anyone else is doing. It's about communicating the depth of your love.

Perhaps our best course of action might come from emulating the one who loves us most. That is not our wife, husband, boyfriend, girlfriend, parent or child. God is the one who loves us most and loves us best! God shows God's love by giving us life, by providing for our needs and by giving us purpose. The greatest act of God's love, however, was giving us Jesus Christ.

We are not too far removed from Advent and Christmas, when we celebrated Emmanuel – God who is with us. We are in the midst of Epiphany, where we celebrate the light Christ brings to our lives. Soon we will travel through Lent examining Jesus' teachings and call to holiness. Our celebrations will culminate on Easter when we remember Jesus death, burial and resurrection.

Hallmark used to have the slogan, "when you care enough to send the very best." With all due respect to their marketing, God is the one who cared enough to send the very best. This Sunday we will celebrate communion together. It is a time when we remember the great love God has shown us in Christ – God's greatest Valentine. I look forward to this wonderful time with you.



A Note From the Deacon Ministry Team

Dear Church Family,

A retreat was held for the Deacon Ministry Team on Sunday, January 22 at Starrette Retreat Center in Statesville. All deacons and church ministry staff were in attendance. Chris Gamble from Baptist Hospital was our facilitator.

We spent time interacting with each other, discussing what it means to be a deacon, and discussing what the congregational needs might be for the coming year and beyond. It was time well spent getting to know each other a little better and working together.

We want to be a proactive team led by God with the best interest of our church in mind. We want everyone to be informed of actions needed or taken. This is done through *The Interim* email or publication, the website, Sunday and Wednesday evening announcements, letters to the church family, minutes of meetings, and talking with your deacons or ministry staff.

It has been an honor to serve as Deacon Chair this past year, and I look forward to serving another year as Chair, along with David Deal as Vice Chair.

Yours In Christ,
Mike McLain

Schedule

Sunday, February 5

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Soup Lunch Fundraiser
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, February 6

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 7

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 5:30 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive - Adams Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, February 8

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Groups
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, February 9

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

Sunday, February 12

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

Monday, February 13

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 14

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, February 15

- 9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Groups
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, February 16

- 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

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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Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 22 & 29, 2017

	1/22	1/29
Church in Bible Study	146	160
Church in Worship.	223	243

Financial Statistics

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	43,742.00	339,436.00
Budget Receipts	51,692.00	314,364.00
Needed to Meet Goal	(7,950.00)	25,027.00
Alms	280.00	2,874.00
Designated	5,066.00	31,398.00

Announcements

Soup Lunch Fundraiser for Passport Missions Camp Sunday, February 5, 2017

The children will host a soup lunch to raise funds for their trip to Passport Missions Camp this summer. Please come have lunch and make a donation. If you would like to donate a pot of soup, please contact Melissa Wilson at 704-873-7231 or melissa@statesvillefbc.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. ~ FLC

The Red Cross is in the midst of a severe blood and platelet shortage. Please plan to stop by on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 7 to donate.

Precept Bible Study Begins Tuesday, February 14 & Wednesday, February 15

Precept Bible Study will begin Tuesday, February 14 (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.) and Wednesday, February 15 (9:30-11:30 a.m.). We will study the Sermon on the Mount. Please be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center so we can order the correct amount of books.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:00 a.m. ~ FLC

This is our annual 90s and older birthday celebration honoring those who are 90 and above. Those 85 and older will also be recognized. Danny Wicker will have the program singing love songs and some others. If you plan to attend, please sign up in your Sunday School class or call the church office at 704-873-7231. The meal is \$6.00 payable at the door.

Weekday Preschool Registration Begins March 1

Our Weekday Preschool will begin fall registration on Wednesday, March 1. Current families and church members are guaranteed placement if forms are submitted before open registration begins on March 14. If you have, or know of, a child who will be around 18 months to 5 years old by August 31, please contact Melissa Wilson, Director, for more information. She can be reached weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and noon at 704-873-7231, ext. 209 or at melissa@www.statesvillefbc.org.

10 years

Reception to Honor Mary Jane Rash & Eddie Wiseman



On Sunday, January 29, 2017, we honored Pastor's Secretary Mary Jane Rash and Organist Eddie Wiseman for 10 years of faithful service at FBC at a reception following the worship service.

Prayer Point

"How lovely is Your dwelling place (you and me—1 Cor. 3:16 and 6:19), O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God." (Psalm 84:1-2)

O Lord, this is my prayer and my passionate declaration for 2017.

Won't you join me in lifting this prayer to our Heavenly Father each day?

"May the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His wonderful passion and purity;
O thou Spirit Divine,
All my nature refine—
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me!" (Albert Orsborn)

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



Message by: Dr. Nelson Granade
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 welcoming those on the margins and offering holistic ministry and outreach.

"In Strasbourg, France a group of internationals from local churches have joined together through the "Ladies in Waiting" ministry, reaching out and ministering in holistic and meaningful ways to the prostitutes who work the streets. This ministry has already made an impact in the lives of over 30 prostitutes coming from the countries of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, France, Ghana, and Nigeria. The outreach teams of the ministry also spend time praying for each of the women they have met, praying that they would understand about a personal relationship with Christ."

- Joel and Tiffne Whitley, CBF field personnel in Strasbourg, France.

Our Church is pleased to support CBF Global Missions in moments like these where bearing witness to Jesus Christ takes form through welcoming refugee families and experiencing moments of great joy together.

"After helping a new Afghan refugee family coming to Raleigh settle into their home, one neighbor brought over a home-cooked meal for the whole family to enjoy. When the mother saw that her neighbor was an Afghan mom just like her, she began to cry. We believe they were tears of happiness. She and her family are now home, safe and sound after such a long, long journey. In those covered dishes, her new neighbor gave her much more than food."

- Kim and Marc Wyatt, CBF field personnel in the North Carolina Research Triangle



Wednesday Evening Menus

Wednesday, February 8

Chicken Pie, Mixed Vegetables, Slaw, Death by Chocolate
Kids' Menu: Chicken Nuggets & Fries

Wednesday, February 15

Potato & Vegetable Beef Soups, Salad, & Cherry Pie
Kids' Menu: Grilled Cheese & Chips



Welcome to Our Church Family!

Wesley Kufeld and Talisha Handy made professions of faith at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 22. They are to be married in April!

A Note of Appreciation From Mary Jane Rash

I want to thank everyone for making Sunday such a special day for me. Your cards were so touching; your hugs, encouragement, and love were overwhelming. I am most grateful to all of you for making this an incredible day. Thank you.

Mary Jane

A Note of Appreciation From Eddie Wiseman

Thank you so much for the beautiful reception recognizing my 10 year anniversary at First Baptist. Your kind words, beautiful cards, and generous gifts were greatly appreciated. It has been my honor to serve at First Baptist for the past ten years and I look forward to continuing to serve alongside of you in the future. Thank you for your love and support, not just this past Sunday, but throughout the entire time I have been with you.

With love and appreciation,
Eddie

A Note of Appreciation From Carson & Laura Foushee

Dear First Baptist Church of Statesville,
It has been a joy to spend time with you during our time in the U.S. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement as we minister in Japan. We look forward to continued partnership with you in the days and years ahead!

Blessings & Love,
Laura & Carson