

The FBC Sewing Group presented blankets, hand towels, and bracelets to Scott & Terri Huffman. The Huffmans travel to India to minister to slum orphans and widows. Find out more about the Huffmans and their ministry at christcares4ministries.com.



THE INTERIM

Volume 75 Issue 21

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From the Pastor...



We all want to be a part of a great church, but do we all want to be great church members? Great churches are made up of great members. Pastors, deacons and other leaders are important, but the real health of a congregation is found in faithful members.

In his book, *I Am a Church Member*, Thom S. Rainer argues that church membership isn't about privilege, but rather church membership is a privilege. He sees being part of a congregation as something to be celebrated and treasured.

Rainer says the first step in building highly functioning churches is to build functioning church members. In other words, if you want your congregation to be productive, you have to invest yourself into the life of the church. Even more, you have to see yourself as vital to God's mission.

I once heard a pastor ask his congregation, "If every member attended like you, gave like you and worked like you; how healthy would our church be?" It's a pretty good question. We can't expect others to do what we are not willing to do ourselves.

Rainer also says that highly functioning congregations have members who seek unity. A sports team cannot win unless it is unified and neither can a congregation. To promote unity, Rainer suggests that we continually guard against gossip and negative talk and offer forgiveness when we are wronged.

Rainer further says that church membership cannot be about one's own preferences or desires. He notes that the word servant occurs fifty-seven times in the New Testament. Church is not a place where we come to "get our way," but to seek God's way. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve.

Rainer goes on to encourage church members to pray for church leaders. Here is one place I'd expand upon Rainer's admonition. As much as I appreciate and covet your prayers, I'd encourage us to pray for all of our church members. We all need prayer and support.

Churches truly are as strong as their members. In a day in which many congregations are in decline, it is easy to get discouraged. How well our congregation does, however, has a lot to do with how we live out our calling to be faithful disciples of Christ. Better still, God holds us and our church in God's loving hands.

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

Schedule

Sunday, October 14

Last Day to Submit Deacon Nominations

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, October 15

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 16

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

Wednesday, October 17

9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, October 18

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - FLC
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, October 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. Meeting with Prospective Deacons
 4:00 p.m. Venture Voices
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, October 22

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 24

9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, October 25

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, October 15

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

Tuesday, October 16

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, October 17

8:00 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 7:15 p.m. Pickleball

Thursday, October 18

9:30 a.m. Pickleball
 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, October 19

11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Monday, October 22

9:00 a.m. Pickleball
 11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Tuesday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 24

8:00 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 7:15 p.m. Pickleball

Thursday, October 25

9:30 a.m. Pickleball
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, October 26

11:45 p.m. Line Dancers



Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of September 30 & October 7, 2018

	9/30	10/7
Church in Bible Study	140	140
Church in Worship	241	194

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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Financial Statistics

	September	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	66,956.00	836,951.00
Budget Receipts	83,452.00	816,438.00
Monthly Goal Met / Needed to Meet YTD Goal	16,497.00	20,513.00
Alms	546	9,867
Designated	13,661	118,189

Church Budget Passes

At a called conference on Sunday, September 30, 2018 our congregation unanimously adopted our 2018-2019 Ministry Budget. Thank you for your participation in this process. Thank you even more for your faithful support of our ministries through your regular giving.

In the same conference our congregation also approved two other motions. The first enables the Business Management Team to use gifts from the *So All May See and Hear Campaign* to help pay for the new pew cushions as well as other miscellaneous items. The second authorizes use of reserve funds to replace the playground surface.

Fall Festival Fun - Sunday, October 7, 2018



Plow Through

What do you do when trials and tribulations pop up? The natural thing for most people is to stay right where they are, paralyzed by worry or fear. We tend to take our eyes off Jesus and stare at the problem. The devil then moves right in to hinder us in our spiritual growth. We don't feel like reading the Bible; we feel it's no use to pray; we don't feel like associating with fellow believers (who seem to have no problems). Notice the key word in each of these scenarios: "feel". The Bible teaches us not to live by feelings, but by faith.

Think of the farmer who plows his field. When he hits a rock or a root in the ground, he stops long enough to steady the plow. Then he keeps going, never taking his eyes off the end of the row. The rocks are infinitesimal compared to the reward awaiting him when the job is finished. He keeps plowing because he knows that being faithful will produce a good crop.

Whatever our trials in this life: sickness, pain, loneliness, rejection, feelings of inadequacy, helplessness, WHATEVER! They are nothing compared to the reward awaiting the one who keeps his eyes on Jesus and "plows through". When a trial pops up, we "steady the plow" through prayer. Prayer overcomes our fear with faith. Then we move on toward the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ.

Father, help me never to give in, give up, or quit when I am tested for Your sake. Help me to "plow through" the trials and tribulations, ever keeping my eyes on You. Keep me aware of Jesus walking beside me to steady me, and You, Father, waiting with open arms at the end of the row.

"No one having put his hand to the plow and looking back can adequately serve the Kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Misson Bites

Bite 100

Predatory payday lending is one of the greatest injustices the financially desperate face in America. Payday loans promise a rapid economic solution while creating drowning debt.

Fortunately, individuals like Scarlette Jasper, a CBF field personnel, are working to put an end to this abuse. Scarlette has served for many years in various parts of Kentucky as an advocate for her struggling neighbors. She puts her faith into action by facilitating group workshops, offering individualized financial training to help with budgeting and other financial management skills, and partnering with Together for Hope to warn of the entrapment of payday loans. If that were not enough, she is also engineering a micro-loan program to provide a financial alternative for families.

Scarlette is an example of what it is to walk with Christ and others. Her work not only helps those economically disadvantaged, but it professes the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

Bite 101

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. When you think of the contributions of Hispanic Americans, remember the people behind “successful Latinos” – the courageous parents who brought their children to this country seeking “a better life.” Like Miguel, Maria and Dominga, who began their American dream in the fields picking vegetables; Jaime, a construction worker; Silvia, a stay at home mom; Emilia, a cook – all immigrants and U.S. citizens.

Despite the challenges of limited English, functional illiteracy, long hours at hard, low-paying jobs, and life in impoverished neighborhoods, they've raised bilingual, well-rounded youth and young adults with bright futures ahead of them. Ministry to today's immigrant families is an investment in tomorrow's leaders.

Dear God, my prayer today is for Your people to hear the call to engage in tangible ministry efforts that seek to welcome immigrants in our communities. Thank you for the blessing of serving others, and help us to remember the words of Your Son, “For I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” Amen.

Sue Smith, CBF field personnel among Latino Immigrants



Announcements



Welcome to Our Church Family
Phil and Brenda Johnston joined our congregation on Sunday, September 23. They come to us by letter from Charlotte, NC. Welcome to our church family!

Belize Mission Trip Interest Meeting
Sunday, October 14, 2018
11:00 a.m. - Esther Classroom

We will meet immediately following the worship service to discuss and decide on the dates for our trip to Belize this summer. If you have any interest in this mission trip, please attend this meeting.

Senior Adult Luncheon
Thursday, October 18, 2018
11:00 a.m. - FLC

Our program this month will be presented by Joel Reese, the History and Genealogy Librarian at the Iredell County Public Library. We will have good fellowship, good food and a great time together. So, sign up to attend no later than noon on Monday, October 15, by calling the church office at 704-873-7231, or you may be contacted by phone, or you may sign up in your Sunday School Class.

Also, bring your checkbook and sign up for our trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre December 11, \$50.00.

Deacon Election Schedule
October 1-14

Deacon Nominations Accepted

Sunday, October 21
Meeting with Prospective Deacons
11:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 25
Letter sent to Congregation announcing nominees

Sunday, November 11
Deacon Election in Morning Worship

Sunday, January 6, 2019
New Deacons Installed/Ordained