



Piper Lewis and Kendyl King attended the Ash Wednesday Service, February 10, 2016. They learned the history of the day and why our foreheads are marked with ashes on this day.

THE INTERIM



Volume 73 Issue 4

February 14, 2016

From the Pastor...



"We're Baptist and we don't give up nothing for nobody!" Those were the words of a little boy when asked about Lent by his Catholic friend. I hope as more mature Christians we see the value of observing Lent. It's not about giving up chocolate. It's about doing something to focus our lives upon Christ. Perhaps what we need to give are our Sundays and Wednesdays.

Lent literally means lengthening. It originally referred to the lengthening days and the approach of spring. A deeper meaning of Lent is the opportunity we have to stretch ourselves. It once served as the time for new converts to be educated in Christianity, but it now offers us all the opportunity to grow in our faith.

Some ways you might observe Lent include: self-denial, intentional prayer, examination of our lives, repentance and giving of ourselves. If you 'give up something,' let the craving you experience remind you that God is more important. If you want to pray more, find a prayer partner who can hold you accountable. If you want to examine your life, keep a diary or talk to someone you trust. If you want to serve others, we can help you find an opportunity.

Lent is not just for our more liturgical brothers and sisters in Christ. Lent is part of the Christian Tradition we all share. Though it may be newer to some of us, it has its origins among the very first Christians. It is an ancient truth that being more intentional about our faith during Lent makes Easter more meaningful to us today. Easter is most meaningful when we first understand the suffering of the cross.

- Dr. Nelson Granade, Senior Pastor

Upcoming Sermons

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Listen to Him!

Mark 9:2-8

Epiphany is the season when we realize we don't know it all. Lent is the season where we seek God's knowledge to live more faithfully and fully. Jesus' transfiguration is the event that bridges Epiphany and Lent. This sermon invites us to not only see Jesus's glory, but also to listen to Jesus' teachings throughout the season of Lent.

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Suffering: Not Me!

Mark 8:31-38

The health and wealth gospel is spreading fast. Even some mainline churches are "skipping Lent," because it's too depressing. Yet, Jesus commanded us to deny ourselves and embrace suffering. The purpose of this sermon is to examine how suffering can be redeemed into a newness of life.



Happy Valentine's Day!

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4 (NRSV)



Schedule

Sunday, February 14

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students
- 5:15 p.m. Belize Team Meeting

Monday, February 15

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, February 16

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, February 17

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

Thursday, February 18

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - FLC
- 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, February 19

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, February 21

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students
- 5:15 p.m. Belize Team Meeting

Monday, February 22

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, February 23

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, February 24

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

Thursday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, February 26

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym
- 6:00 p.m. 4th & 5th Grades Sleep Over

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 31 & February 7, 2016

	1/31	
Church in Bible Study	102	116
Church in Worship	212	225
8:30 a.m. service	48	52
10:55 a.m. service	164	173

Financial Statistics

Weeks of January 31 & February 7, 2016

	1/31	
Budget - Received	19,161.50	17,024.64
Alms	0.00	1,060.00
Designated - Received	2,248.00	671.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 1/31/16		21,409.50
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/7/16		18,845.64
Budget for 2015-2016		893,174.00
Weekly Budget Needed		17,176.42
Budget Needs To Date		326,352.04
Budget Given to Date		353,884.49
Budget Ahead		27,532.45
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		44,136.43
Alms Received-Year to Date		3,776.50
Total Giving-Year to Date		409,282.42
Sound System Fund		7,485.00

Inclement Weather Policy



Our church follows the Iredell-Statesville Schools policy for closings due to inclement weather. If the schools are closed, the church office is closed and all church activities for that day are canceled. You may check the church closing status by calling the church office and checking the recording (704-873-7231), checking our website (www.statesvillefbc.org), and checking the following TV stations (WBTV, Charlotte; WSOC-TV, Charlotte; WCNC-TV, Charlotte).

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 Tel: 704-873-7231

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The Gift of Prayer

Thank You, Father, for the precious gift of Prayer! You give us the gift. You wait expectantly as we unwrap it and begin falteringly to use it—learning bit by bit the joy of communicating with the God of the universe. You wait even more patiently as we discover the listening side of Prayer—there is so much You want to tell us, so many secrets You long to share. I can only imagine how elated You must be when we begin to pray Your Word back to You. (“They’re finally getting it!”) And finally, as Your desires become our desires and our only goal is to partner with You in the orchestration of the events of our lives and circumstances, I see You celebrating with all the saints and angels around Your throne. Now! Your will is being accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.

The “Amen” to this prayer will be when we all, in one accord, seek God together for His will for our lives and for His Church.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

Minister of Students Search Team Formed

Because we recognize the importance of a strong youth ministry, our deacons appointing a Minister of Students Search Team. The congregation voted and approved this team at a called church conference Wednesday, February 10. Members of the team include:

Jason Allen
Buzz Holshouser
Nancy Deal
Debi Martin

Chris Simon
Jim Van Zee
Jan Wuertz

Starting this as a part-time position will allow us to begin our search immediately, while staying within our current means. We hope to expand the position as our church and youth ministry grow. We especially appreciate James Martin who has helped maintain and strengthen our youth ministry and will continue to do so until a more permanent Student Minister is called.

A Brief History of the Lenten Season

The origin of Lent lies in two directions: the fast which preceded the Pascha (pas-ka), and the period of preparation prescribed for candidates of baptism.

Originally Good Friday and Easter Day were observed as a single festival of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord, and from very early times this probably included a fast which kept before the commemoration of the Resurrection, but it certainly did not last nearly as long as the present forty days of Lent. The period before Easter was the time when converts from paganism were instructed in the Christian religion and prepared for baptism.

The actual duration of the Lenten Fast varied in different churches. Some made last three weeks, some six, some seven; some omitted Saturdays as well as Sundays from the days the observed. With the passage of time this season also became a time when who had lapsed in their faith were restored to the community of believers.

Gradually the whole Church developed the practice of putting itself to penance during Lent, and this was symbolized by the ceremonial use of ashes with a solemn penitential service in the churches. To strew ashes upon the head was in Old Testament times a sign of grief and mourning. It was an early custom for penitents under excommunication to sprinkle ashes upon their heads and stand at the door of a church to beseech the prayers of those who were entering, that they might be absolved and readmitted to Communion.

Ash Wednesday - February 10, 2016

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. As the ceremony of the reconciliation of penitents fell into disuse, the practice arose of marking the heads of all the faithful with an ashen cross as a visible symbol of the penitential season which began on this day. Thus Ash Wednesday served to call the entire Christian community to repentance and preparation for the journey toward the cross and Resurrection.

In the rite for Ash Wednesday ashes, made by burning the palm leaves which had been blessed on the Palm Sunday of the year before, are placed upon the alter blessed, and sprinkled with holy water and censed. The congregation then kneel at the alter rails and the priest touches their forehead with a portion of the ash, saying “*Remember O man, thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.*”

- Dr. Larry Gregg, *Interim Minister of Christian Education*





Message by: **Dr. Nelson Granade**

Worship with us Sundays 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.

February 14, 2016

Announcements

A Note From Elaine Harris

To my dear church family,
I wish to say thank you for your prayers, concerns, cards, visits, and to the men for their assistance in getting moved. I have a new home address and it is room 315 at The Gardens. Please come or call (704-872-2945) to we can share the many blessings that we have experienced through the years. My life has been blessed and I cherish each memory of friends and family. May God bless each of you and First Baptist Church as you work through out the area to spread God's message.

Elaine Harris

Library News

Cold winter evenings provide a great time for enjoying good books, and our church library has a large selection of books for all age groups. For children we have beginning reading books in addition to beautiful picture books, Bible story books, chapter books, biographies and many others. Visit often with your children and enjoy reading together.

New adult books include Jan Karon's latest fiction "Come Rain or Come Shine". Other recent additions are "All the Places to Go" by John Ortberg and "Love Language Minute Devotional" by Gary Chapman. If you feel your life has become too complicated we have a copy of Bill Hybel's book entitled "Simplify" that may be of help to you.

An assistant will be in the library on Sunday mornings 9:15 until 9:45 a.m. and also on Wednesday afternoons 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. At other times you may use the directions on the circulation desk to check out your own books at your convenience.

Sunday School Leadership Meeting & Luncheon Sunday, February 21, 2015 12:00 p.m. ~ Adams Hall

Sunday School Leaders are inviting to a meeting and luncheon with Dr. Larry Gregg. A sign up sheet will be placed in your Sunday School class Sunday, February 14. Please provide the number of leaders from your class attending the luncheon along with your contact information and return to the church office.

New Deacon Officers

The Deacon Ministry Team has named Mike McLain to serve as chair for the 2016 year. David Deal is serving vice-chair. Other Deacons serving this year are Sherry Ashely, Crystal Beale, Jerry Campbell, Don Daniel, Bill Henderson, Ginny Stikeleather, and Jeff Templeton.

Coffee Rotation Sunday, February 14

Melissa Wilson

Sunday, February 21

David Potter

Clothes Closet Rotation Thursday, February 18

Phil Crowder & Jesse Jackson

Thursday, February 25

Bob Turnipseed & Jeff Templeton

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, February 18, 2016 11:00 a.m. ~ FLC

The February meeting will be held in the Family Life Center at 11:00 a.m. Those in attendance who are 90 and over will be honored and those 85 and over will be recognized. We are happy to have Dr. Granade deliver our devotion. Our program will consist of an encore performance by Ulysses Long, long-time local musician and former contestant on America's Got Talent. He will sing some of our favorite love songs along with some others. The meal will be served at 12:00 at a cost of \$6.00 payable at the door. We hope you will attend and will call the church at 704-873-7231 to reserve your seat.

Weekday Preschool Registration Begins March 1

Our Weekday Preschool will begin fall registration on Tuesday, 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 Renae Keesbury, Director, for further information. She can be reached weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and noon at 704-873-7231, ext. 209 or at renae@statesvillefnc.org.

