



Henry Crouch watches the live stream of our worship service on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

THE INTERIM

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From the Pastor...

While captive in Babylon the Israelites asked, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? (Psalm 137:4 KJV). Though our situation is not as dire as theirs, the world amidst Covid-19 restrictions feels much like a strange land.

This sense of disconnect is especially true when we can't physically meet together for Bible Study and Worship. How can the church be the church without coming together?

In a recent article entitled, *Scattering Church Emerges: Hope for the Church in Days of Covid-19*, church coach Eddie Hammett reminds us that, "the biblical model of the church has included a 'gathered community (*ecclesia*) and a 'scattered,' dispersed (*dispora*) community from the beginning.

Hammett suggests that as treasured as the gathered community is, we have sometimes over focused on gathering and neglected scattering. I like that Hammett sees not only the difficulty of our current situation, but also the opportunities to "rethink, reframe, refocus and retool" the church.

Certainly we are discovering new ways to be together (like Zoom Sunday School and Live-Streamed Worship), but are we also seeking new ways to reach out and be God's people "for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

In conversations with our church members, other pastors and friends I am hearing some things we might do to be the church while also protecting ourselves and others from the virus. Here are a few:

- Lead the way by following restrictions (doing to others as we would have them do – Mathew 7:12).
- Care for those most in need, such as the elderly, sick or lonely; like calling them or shopping for them (in as much – Matthew 25)
- Pray for the sick, those caring for them (pray for each other so that you may be healed – James 5:16).
- Pray for our leaders who have to make difficult decisions (prayers ... be made ... for all those in authority – I Timothy 2:1-2).
- Call, text or digitally group with your friends, neighbors and coworkers to provide community and encouragement (who is my neighbor? Luke 10:36).
- Write notes of encouragement to our medical professionals and leaders (spur one another toward love and good deed – Hebrews 10:24).
- Invite others to join our community as we "gather" digitally (not giving up meeting together But encouraging one another – Hebrews 10:25).

This list is by no means exhaustive and I'd love for you to call or email me (nelson@statesvillefbc.org) with your thoughts and ideas about how we can be the church in this challenging time.

One final thought. Hammett mentions in his article the "nones" and "dones." These are the growing number of people who have no religious affiliation or have given up on church entirely. I agree with my friend Eddie Hammett that how we respond in this time has the potential to show them how relevant and impactful faith in Christ can be.

Virtual Sunday School & Worship

Our church is learning new ways to interact during this time when we should all be staying home as much as possible. I know that all of this new technology can be intimidating, it is even for me at times. We want to continue to create as much interaction and community as possible while still following the directions we have been given regarding social distancing.

Zoom

We can use Zoom Meetings to see and talk to each other just like we would be able to if we were in the same room. We will continue to send you zoom links for some events and you should be able to click on the link and follow the directions on your screen to get into the meetings. If you are having trouble, we have several people who may be able to help. If your group would like to set up a Zoom call just for your Sunday School class, let me know and I can help you do that. For questions or help with Zoom, please contact Melissa Wilson, melissa@statesvillefbc.org.

Zoom Tips

- If at all possible - use the video feature. We love to see your face and it makes it more like we are all there together!
- When you join a meeting, it is very helpful to mute yourself. The meeting goes much more smoothly if we all keep our own devices muted unless we are the one talking.
- You can also type in a question to a specific person or the whole group. You can do this using the chat feature.

Live Stream

We are also streaming worship and Sunday School. You can see the live stream of Sunday School and worship by clicking on the link on our webpage www.statesvillefbc.org. With the live stream you can comment during the service. After the service is over we see the comments. It is encouraging to know that you are there, especially when we can't all be in the same room.

We know that right now church is looking very different, but we are so fortunate to have these tools to help us stay connected.

Zoom Links to Sunday School Lessons for Sunday, March 29, 2020

Youth

<https://zoom.us/j/822971194?pwd=V1gvY2VudEZXSdRENfDpSkdYU2plZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 971 194

Password: 007692

Crosswalk:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5836118334>

Meeting ID: 583 611 8334

No Password

Horizons

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Adult Class:

<https://zoom.us/j/607320906>

Meeting ID: 607 320 906

Children

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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

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Financial Statistics

	March	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	70,293.00	477,113.00
Budget Receipts	43,364.00	417,313.00
Needed to Meet Goals	26,929.00	59,800.00
Alms	30.00	3,777.00
Designated	8,265.00	40,974.00

Children's Virtual Sunday School Lesson

Our Minister to Children Melissa Wilson prepared a virtual Sunday School lesson for our children. The children enjoyed the story of how Jesus calmed the storm and two crafts.



Take Time to Pray

Have you ever thought, "I just don't have time to cultivate a prayer life"? Well now you do! Many of us are so busy, we hurry through our prayers. Then we feel guilty that we aren't praying as we should. During this downtime we can work on that. A prayer list is a good place to start. Sit down, take time and list all those you know who need prayer. Then pray for them. Pray for the immediate needs of our world and our own nation. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our ministers. Pray for revival in our churches, our families, and our own lives. The most important element of prayer is TIME. As you dedicate a little time, you'll find yourself needing more time. What could be more important than talking with God!? I just know God will be pleased if, after this crisis is over, we have made it a priority to spend more time with Him.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 171: Greatest of the Least

Bombed out of her home, escaped to another country, little 4-year-old "Bale" (pronounced Ballet) is so happy with her new clothes, bear backpack, and scarf. The weather is very warm, but she is happy for the help to her and her family of food and clothing. God's face, God's love is shown by Missionaries in the Middle East to the refugees from Syria.



Lord protect those who are your hands and feet as they reach out to the "Least of these."

"I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Matt 25:40

-CBF field personnel serving in the Middle East

Mission Bite 172: It's So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

At this year's Thanksgiving Showcase, we had a packed house at our Overtown site as parents and relatives gathered for dinner and a show. We host this event as an opportunity to get to build stronger bonds with our families outside and bless our community with a memorable meal as Amanda, our Spiritual Formation Director leads the show each year.

Every class had a different song they performed, each with a powerful message on the love of Christ. Our students practiced for weeks, and when it came down to performing, they really rocked out! It was terrific seeing the crowd record the show on their cell phones, stand up and clap, and sing along. Not only could you see all the families beaming with pride, but you saw each instructors' eyes light up watching their students perform.

One particular performance stood out –our 4th -5th-grade "Marlins" group. One minute into the song, the music unexpectedly stopped, the class looked over at their TML instructor, Ms. Ashley with concern on their faces. Ms. Ashley kept her cool and encouraged her students to keep singing and continue their choreography without the music. As everyone else cheered them on, the children belted out lyrics,

*"In every circumstance
no matter where I am
I will trust you
I will trust in You!
It's so sweet to trust in Jesus."*

At that moment, the words seemed to come alive for everyone under the sound of the students' voices. Singing passionately, even amidst the technical difficulty, the children reminded us that no matter what the situation, God has everything under control. What could have been a disaster and awkward ending to their performance, turned into a great lesson of overcoming and victory. It was beautiful to see the teamwork and self-confidence we teach our students on display.

Let us carry the lyrics within us – "It's so sweet to trust in Jesus."

-Angel and Jason Pittman, Touching Miami with Love, Miami, Fla

Announcements



Easter at FBC

We are all looking forward to Easter and plan to celebrate it whether or not we can do so in person. Our staff and deacons are working on the best way to make Holy Week and Easter both safe and meaningful. Listen for announcements via the phone tree, e-mails and Facebook. More information to follow.



Online Giving

You can now support FBC with online giving. Simply go to our website, www.statesvillefbc.org, and click the Giving tab. Follow the link to the online form. This form will enable you to give toward the church budget online.

Happy Birthday

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| April 2
Betty Dyckes
Keith Milsead
Taylor Osborne
Gavin Williams | April 11
Art Fincannon
April 12
Charles Guy
Marc Poole
April 14
Jane Carson French
April 15
Jeff Jones
April 16
Losi Hawkins
Chris Hedrick
Anna Tsumas Gordon
April 17
Jeff Templeton
Susan Webb
April 18
Gloria Hunter
Susan Plyler
Jim Van Zee | April 21
Bob Turnipseed
Brock Lowrance
April 22
Maggie Hayes
Elenore Munday
April 23
David McDaniel
April 25
Charlie Boggs
Melissa Tompkins
April 26
Leah Johnson
Mary Jane Rash
April 27
Peggy Yeckley
April 28
Max James
April 30
Allen Lippard
Julie Wellman |
| April 3
Carter Purcell
April 4
Lydia Green
April 5
Amanda Church
April 6
Kevin Beale
April 7
Jack Devine
Darbee Lewis
April 8
Shirley Deal
April 9
Judy Pisano
Jenna Simon
Ovaline Watts | | |