



THE INTERIM

Kinley Crain excitedly opens her at-home worship bag all the children received..

From the Pastor...

It doesn't feel like Easter! Yes, the weather is warming up, the birds are singing and flowers are blooming. We, however, are locked in our houses and can't even gather for worship. Many of our usual Easter traditions aren't happening or are having to be altered considerably.

Fortunately, Easter doesn't depend upon how we feel. The disciples were devastated at Jesus' death, but that didn't stop Easter. Early Christians were persecuted, jailed, beaten and martyred, but that didn't stop Easter. Churches have been burned, bombed and bulldozed, but none of it stopped Easter.

We are not the first to experience Easter in stressful times. The world has experienced plagues, famines, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, wars and more. Individuals have experienced sickness, grief, depression and death. None of these have been able to stop Easter, because Easter is an unstoppable force!

How we feel doesn't stop Easter, but Easter can affect how we feel. It has this power whether it overwhelms us on Easter Sunday or comes to us gradually over weeks. There have been Easters when I felt held in God' grace. There have also been Easters when I was depressed and only felt the grace over time. Both were transforming.

I love the Easter season. Kids looking for eggs make me smile. Upbeat music proclaiming the resurrection stirs my soul. Easter dinner with family warms my heart. Brothers and sisters in Christ proclaiming "He is risen indeed" inspires my faith. I'll miss many of these things this year, but Easter still has power.

If ever we needed Easter, it's now. We need to be reminded that when things looked the bleakest, God brought the brightest hope. For those feeling locked down, Easter promises release. For those experiencing loneliness, Easter offers God's presence. For those battling illness, Easter gives strength. And for those grieving loss, Easter assures eternal life. Easter Will Come – He Is Risen – Thanks Be To God!

Nolan

Easter Sunday
April 12

Live Stream - www.statesvillefbc.org
Listen to WSIC Radio
105.9 FM, 100.7FM, or 1400 AM
Sunday School Lesson 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

How to Pass the Time During the Pandemic

Hope this finds you well and coping during this trying time. By now most of us are getting tired of being housebound and running out of things to keep busy. Those of you who are really in trouble have cleaned and dusted, scrubbed the floors, and stored everything in its place. Next you will be washing windows.

Forget all that; use some of that energy creatively.

1. Give yourself singing lessons. Practice your favorite songs. Learn all the verses. Out loud and in front of a mirror. Force yourself to sing for thirty minutes.
2. Carry on conversations with yourself. Out loud. Just don't get into arguments with yourself. During this time it is perfectly okay to want to hear people talk.
3. Begin learning a new language. Seek help on the internet. Learn thirty new words each day.
4. Read. Read. Read. Everyone has a book or two that is waiting to be read. If not, you can find free books for reading on the internet.
5. Research something that you are not necessarily interested in.
6. Make a list of old friends you have not heard from in years. Call or write them a note.
7. Make a list of all your current friends. Call and check on them even if they are not checking on you.
8. Make a list of all your relatives - cousins, second cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws.
9. Make a list of all the people you know in your neighborhood. Call and check on them.
10. Write down in detail all the good things that have happened in your life this year.
11. Read one of the most obscure books of the Bible each day. Don't try to analyze it; just read it.
12. Make a five year plan for what you want to do after the virus pandemic.
13. Look in the mirror for wrinkles and then contemplate how you got them. Then be thankful that you are still able to see them.
14. Comb your hair differently every hour for a whole day. Experiment and smile with each rendition. (This won't work if you do not have hair)
15. Make a list of all those things in your pantry that need eating. Make menus for using those things in your freezer that you have been overlooking. Use them creatively since you now have time to ponder over them. If you still don't want it, then don't feel guilty about throwing it away.
16. Take naps without feeling guilty or silly or worse yet - old.
17. Go three hours without worrying. Time yourself if necessary.
18. Exercise. Take a book to the other end of the house and then go back and get it - fifty times.
19. Find a dictionary and read it. Learn at least twenty new words each day. Write them down.
20. Pray for specific people or groups of people who are hurting - those who are losing jobs, who are losing business, nursing homes full of people, those who are angry, those who are afraid.
21. Make a list of the blessings you have received in your lifetime. Stop when you get to a thousand and spend a whole day being thankful.
22. Say to yourself that any loneliness you are feeling at the time can be cured by a phone call to a friend or some of your own loud and lusty singing. Your choice.
23. If you record yourself singing, you can have something to do - dance - everybody your age knows how to do the twist. Just to be careful for some of your parts may not react like Chubby Checker's at your age and stage.
24. Above all, do whatever it is that keeps your spirits up. Do not let yourself get down on yourself and don't let yourself get down on other people. Everyone is just trying to take care of themselves and cope with all the changes that are affecting their lives. Pray for them as they struggle to make good decisions.

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These are some places. I have not checked all of them, but have used Project Gutenberg

Jerry Campbell

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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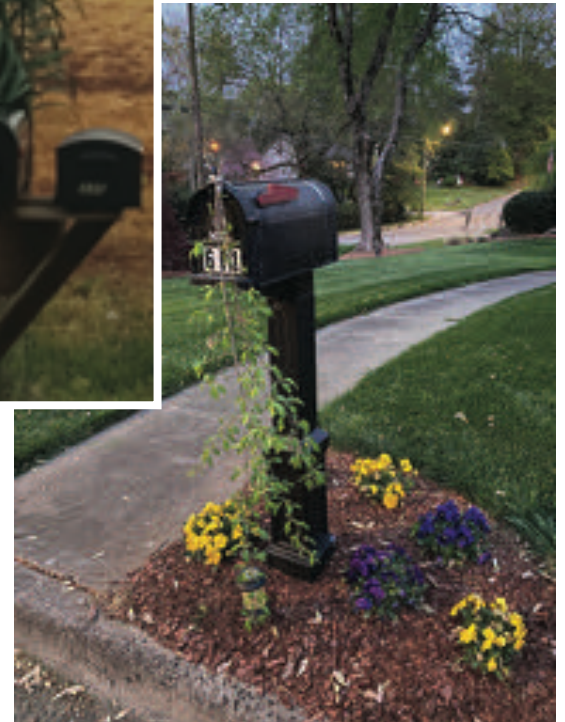
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Financial Statistics

	April	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	61,506.00	538,619.00
Budget Receipts	26,189.00	452,215.00
Needed to Meet Goals	35,317.00	86,404.00
Alms	n/a	3,877.00
Designated	1,224	42,627.00

Palm Sunday - April 5, 2020



Although we were unable to gather on Palm Sunday, some of our members still found ways to honor the day. James and Leah Johnson made their own palm leaves. Several of our members decorated mailboxes and doors for Palm Sunday. The mailboxes of David and Nancy Deal and Marc Poole are pictured here.

Resurrection Prayer (By Geevetha Mary Samuel)

Heavenly Father, we praise You, our Everlasting Father, our Great and Awesome God. We glorify You for Your Almighty power that raised Jesus Christ from His death.

We thank You for Your great plan of salvation for us through His life, death and resurrection, paving the way for us to have new life with You. All praise to You for Your great love for humanity.

Thank You for giving us a Lord, a Conqueror, Victor, Redeemer, Deliverer and a Friend in Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

And thank You for making us overcomers during this time as we trust in the resurrected Christ!

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 173: The Right Place

The ministry house in Antwerp, Belgium, has been renovated into a lively place of worship. However, the laws change so quickly here that we were unaware that we needed new paperwork when we bought the building. In order to get the proper permit, we must fill in mounds of paperwork which use complicated Dutch architectural language. We have found plans and city letters from 1910, 1947, 1948, 1965, 1968. These all should answer the original questions that the city had about our building in their attempts to stop our permit process. They said we needed to prove the location of the stairs before 1979 and we have done that back to 1910. Praise God!

As Janée and Leen (her Belgian ministry partner) work on the large Dutch-language application and meet with the police and the city offices, pray that this permit will come in 2020!

-Janée Angel, among the Arabic speaking community, Antwerp, Belgium

Mission Bite 174: Collecting Currency

Along the Central American migrant route, one 14-year-old boy chose not to think about all he was leaving behind—the house where he was born, his four older siblings, his grandmother, his school and friends. And the death threats, fear of walking in his neighborhood, and constant harassment from gangs.

Denis collected coins and colorful bills from each country along the way. "I want to remember the good things, not the bad," he said. Collecting currency provided a distraction, something else to focus on, and took away some of the pain of leaving.

We often forget that those who seek asylum are human beings like us. They're moms and dads and kids, desperate for safety and security and stability.

Dear God, we pray for those who are seeking asylum; for those in shelters with their lives on hold; for those in the U.S. awaiting court dates. May they feel Your Presence to help ease the loneliness and pain of loss.

-Sue and Greg Smith, Ministry with Latino Immigrants, Fredericksburg, Va.

Mission Bite 175: True Peace

Sandra was only a child when soldiers in her country killed her parents. She arrived to Uganda at the age of 16. Instead of peace, she experienced trafficking and exploitation. Sandra came to our women's shelter when she was only 18. She was severely traumatized and fragile.

Through intensive counseling, therapy, vocational training, discipleship and care, God began to heal and transform Sandra's life. At the shelter she found a new family of fellow residents and staff and a place to belong. Through the shelter she discovered that she was created in God's image and love. The shelter provided her the opportunity to experience true peace through God's healing and transformation. Today Sandra is a vibrant and joyful woman, empowered through God's love and hope.

- Missy Ward-Angalla, CBF field personnel in Kampala, Uganda

Announcements

Ladies Thursday Ministry Series

We ALL worked so hard on the Indoor Yard Sale and were delighted with the success of raising \$3600.00 to begin the Ladies Thursday Ministry on April 30, 2020. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak, we will postpone the program to later in the year, possibly September or October. We hope and pray that by the fall of the year, the coronavirus issues will be resolved. In the meantime we will be working on getting all of the committees set up, so you may be receiving a call asking you to serve on a committee. Of course we would love for anyone to volunteer as well. We still are excited about reviving this program and feel that God is leading us to go forward with this ministry. Our speaker for the first meeting is Dawn Smith Jordan.

I am sharing the following statement from Dawn's website:

My Life Scripture, Proverbs 3:5-6 says, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. Dawn says: The Lord has allowed me to walk through enough seasons of uncertainty, devastating losses, tragedy, and life-altering times of despair to know this: He is trustworthy. Just as He carried me through each and every one of those times, I know He will do the same again, for each of us that have put trust in Him. While we are all watching and waiting as the continuously changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19 unfold WE PRAY. For each other. For protection over a virus that has become a worldwide pandemic. For doctors and nurses and healthcare workers that are on the front lines of a war that we were not prepared for. For our leaders, our government, our president. Our country, The world. We have never seen anything like it. II Chronicles 20:12 says: We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. May that be true like never before, as we, the people of God, choose faith over fear, and point this world to the Lord Jesus Christ. Many thanks, love, prayers for you and your families, and blessings. Dawn

Let us all join with our minister, Dr. Nelson Grenade, and all the church leaders here at First Baptist Church, as well as with Dawn Smith Jordan in prayerfully seeking guidance from our Heavenly Father through these troubling times.

For anyone that would like to volunteer to serve on a Ladies Thursday committee please call 704-902-1715.

Mary Hunt