



THE INTERIM

Jones, Izzy, and Ben Faulkenberry
clean medical equipment at
Operation Inasmuch.

From the Pastor...

I was so disappointed when we had to delay our fall activities due to COVID. It feels like we will never get out of this pandemic. I know God is at work and will bring us through, but I wish God would act quicker. We are all tired of masking and social distancing. We don't like restrictions, much less ones that last months on end.

As difficult as this is on churches, I feel even more for others who are struggling. My heart goes out to teachers, who are having to figure out how to teach students amidst outbreaks. My prayers go out to health care workers, who are discouraged and overwhelmed. My thoughts are with businesses and their employees, who are struggling to make ends meet.

I wonder amidst all of this, "What is God trying to teach us?" The way we keep going round and round reminds me of the Children of Israel wandering in the wilderness. When I was a kid there was a country-gospel song called *Take Another Lap Around Mount Sinai*. The chorus went like this: Go on and take another lap around Mt. Sinai

Till you learn your lesson
Till you stop your whining and you quit your rebelein'
Till you learn to stand in your day of testin'
By trustin' and obeyin' in the Lord

I resonated with that song because it reminded me of how our coaches often made us run laps when we weren't doing right. We may not have understood all they wanted, but eventually we were worn down enough to listen. I'm not saying that God is punishing us, but I do believe there are lessons we can learn amidst this crisis.

Starting Sunday, I will preach a series of sermons entitled: *Lessons from the Desert*. We will follow the Children of Israel along their wilderness wanderings. I pray that it won't take us forty years to listen to and obey God. I hope, when the time is right, we will be able discern and enter God's bright future for First Baptist Church.

Lessons From the Desert

Fall Sermon Series

September 12, 2021
You're Here, Accept It
Exodus 17:1-7

September 19, 2021
Get Some Help
Exodus 18:1-12 & 13-27

September 26, 2021
Obey the Rules
Exodus 19:1-12; 20:1-20

October 3, 2021
God Will Provide
Exodus 16:1-18

October 10, 2021
Don't Get Distracted
Exodus 32:1-14

October 17, 2021
Camp, But Keep Moving
Exodus 13:20-22 & 40:33-38

October 24, 2021
Move On When God Leads
Joshua 1:1-12

October 31, 2021
Facing Our Fears
Psalm 34:1-8

Schedule

Sunday, September 12

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson
 Uploaded to YouTube & Facebook

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream
 Budget Vote

Monday, September 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, September 15

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 16

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, September 19

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson
 Uploaded to YouTube & Facebook

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, September 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, September 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 23

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
 Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
 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

THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks

by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,
 Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
 First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Grief comes in so many different forms. Four deaths have impacted me in the past two months and processing grief for each one of them has been different and difficult. I am reminded that grief, no matter what our situation, our circumstances in life or our status, happens for each of us. Somehow that alone gives me comfort. Though we may not all grieve at once, we all grieve at different times. Together we can support one another, because that sense of grief is not foreign to us. This support is what gives me hope.

We hope for a brighter tomorrow, a better day, and an easier road. Sometimes we get it and sometimes we don't. What we do find is that we become a little stronger in our faith each time. The hope is that we lean a little harder and closer to the One who created all things, and we realize our grasp will always be limited but His will always be limitless. This hope allows me to still want to do things for one another (albeit in smaller groups these days) but intentionally focusing on "together" on "relationship" and on "community" because that is exactly what Jesus did.

In the midst of all the crowds, all the pain, and all the fear, Jesus had community pouring into his select group around him. Those people would then, in His name, continue to influence the world even after He was gone. We still get to be a part of that influence today. We get to reach people in their grief and help them walk, crawl, stand, kneel, or sit with God and that inspires me to keep our mission clear, to know and love Jesus and to make Him known.

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of August 29 & September 5, 2021

	8/29	9/5
Live Stream Views	13	21
In-Person.	132	104
Sunday School.	90	82

Financial Statistics

	September	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	69,097.00	863,718.00
Budget Receipts	12,040.00	781,674.00
Goals Net Yet Met	(57,057)	(82,044.00)
Alms	543.00	8,271.00
Designated	1,075.00	106,062.00

Operation Inasmuch - August 28, 2021

On this special day of service, our members completed several community projects. We cleaned the equipment in our Medical Equipment Ministry; assembled bean soup mix, measured flour, sugar, and dog food for Iredell Christian Ministries; organized the food pantry and clothing closet at Fifth Street Ministries; worked on the landscaping for Children's Home of Iredell County; organized clothing at Yokefellow Ministry; and spruced things up at the Brookwood Inn. Thank you to everyone who came out, worked, prayed, and contributed!





Announcements

2021-2022 Church Budget Vote

This Sunday, September 12, the proposed 2021-2022 budget will be presented for approval (without discussion) in a called conference during the morning worship.

The Business Management Team is recommending adding sealing and striping of the upper parking lot and repairing the lower parking lot to our *Continuing the Dream* projects. This motion will be presented alongside the budget proposal as outlined above.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - Encountering Jesus

You are invited to join us in the Sanctuary or online for Bible study and prayer time at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Our focus will be on "Encountering Jesus". We will look at various people in the Gospels who encountered Jesus and how we can experience Jesus today. We will also spend time sharing our concerns and praying for one another. If you join us in-person, please wear a mask over your mouth and nose. If wish to join on-line you can go to our website (www.statesvillefbc.org) and click on our YouTube channel or join us via Facebook live.

Ladies Thursday Evening Dinner

Just when we thought things would be better, here we go again. Because of the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19 ,the Ladies Thursday Steering Committee has decided it is in the best interest of our church members and others in the community to postpone the October 14, 2021 Dinner Meeting. The Steering Committee will meet in late October to review the possibility for rescheduling. Our main concern is for everyone's safety and health.

Dawn Smith Jordan supports our decision and will be looking forward to a time when we can reschedule the dinner event. Dawn's statement, "I'm praying for First Baptist Church as you seek the Lord and what would be best for your church and community. Lord willing, I look forward to being with you and in HIS timing."

Just a note to bring you up to date on how close we were to having everything in place. Fifteen (15) committees were ready to proceed with the task that they would need to do to bring this program to fruition. The meal was planned, the guest musician had been selected, the ladies that would be on stage to introduce the speaker, musician, have the opening prayer, etc. We are ready to proceed whenever it is safe to go forward with this program and as Dawn says, IN HIS TIMING..

Happy Birthday

September 2

Peggy Sykes
Catherine Taylor

September 3

Tyler Williams
Kelly Wilson

September 4

Damon Spearman

September 5

Jerry Campbell

September 6

Sarah Johnson
Ruth Shankle

September 7

Kim Allen

September 8

Brenda Johnston
John Jones
Amanda Tompkins

September 10

Emily Ashley
Patricia Fyfe
Betty Watts

September 11

Bradley Hedrick

September 12

Angie Travis Roberts

September 13

Kathy Johnson
Emily Mullins

September 14

Terri Helms

September 15

Renee Barker
Kevin Smith

Danny Stikeleather

September 16

Lillie Laws

Dennis Lackey

September 19

Curtis Abell

September 20

Brenda Baker

September 21

Sherry Ashley

Mackenzie Barker

Ted Evans

September 25

Mary Hunt

Lillian Marsh

September 27

Ben Faulkenberry
James Hunter

Jackson Wimpy

September 29

Beth McDaniel

September 30

Betty Grant

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 24 • 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

All children are invited to our Trunk or Treat for some fall fun! If you would like to decorate your car, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We also need lots of candy and prizes! If you are unable to decorate your car, please pick up an extra bag of candy or other prizes at the store!