

Sylvia Williams, Nelson Granade, and Andrea Williams smile in Petra during the trip to Holy Land in January.



THE INTERIM

Volume 76 Issue 5

March 3, 2019

From the Pastor...

I always hope my preaching is relevant, but sometimes it hits too close to home for my own comfort. Tuesday before last was one of those occasions. I was working on a sermon about handling our grief. In the midst of my thoughts I got a call from my sister telling me that our dad wasn't doing well. I asked if I needed to come and she said yes.

When I arrived I found that our dad had suffered a mild heart attack, but was conversant and alert. It wasn't just the heart attack, however, that we were worried about. Dad was suffering from congestive heart failure due to a leaky valve that was beyond repair. He was also suffering from kidney failure and had developed a blood infection. Things were grim.

I thought about all of the things I had planned to say about grief to you. My opening was going to be, "We all experience grief." Now that truth was staring me and my family in the face. I was also going to talk about the stages of grief and the necessity to tend to all of our emotions. To be honest, I really didn't like my sermon too much at that point. I didn't want to feel this pain.

Of all of the points I had hoped to make to you, however, one truth seemed to help –

"We don't walk alone." My sisters were also losing their dad. My kids and my nieces and nephews were saying goodbye to their grandfather. My dad's special friend, Natalie, was grieving someone who provided love and companionship. We weren't alone, because we were in this together.

Even more, we weren't alone because there were others who came to support us. Valerie encouraged me continuously. Friends and church members called and sent numerous texts. Dad's friends and surviving family came to his bedside. It was a beautiful time of sharing memories and remembering the blessings of life. Despite his declining medical condition, dad's last days were filled with love and joy.

More importantly, we were never alone because we were held in God's great grace. I could let go because I trusted God to take dad into a place beyond imagination. When dad realized his days were very short, he asked me to speak at his funeral if I was able. I asked him what he wanted me to say and this was his answer: "I want the church to reflect the goodness of God." It was emotionally difficult, but the sermon wrote itself. All I had to do was speak the truth of God's goodness in dad's life.

As we enter into the season of Lent, we are reminded of the grief that surrounded Christ's sacrifice. Yet, Jesus' life, death and resurrection are literally the apex of God's goodness to us. Lent is often thought of as a time of darkness, but it actually means lengthening of the light (because the days are getting longer). In the midst of the darkness of my grief, there were so many moments of light. It is my prayer that the light of God's grace will break upon us all in these days of Lent.

Schedule

Sunday, March 3

- 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, March 4

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

- 9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study
- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary

- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, March 7

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, March 10

- 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, March 11

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 12

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

Wednesday, March 13

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

Thursday, March 14

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet



Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 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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FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, March 4

- 9:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

- 8:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, March 11

- 9:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Tuesday, March 12

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

Wednesday, March 13

- 8:00 a.m. Pickleball
- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, March 14

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

Friday, March 15

- 11:45 a.m. Linedancers



Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 17 & 24, 2019

	2/17	2/24
Church in Bible Study	116	107
Church in Worship	166	159

Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	65,902.00	406,836.00
Budget Receipts	46,121.00	350,621.00
Needed to Meet Goals	19,781.00	56,215.00
Alms	598.00	2,680.00
Designated	6,214.00	56,739.00

Ash Wednesday Service

March 6, 2019 - 6:15 p.m. - Sanctuary

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 altar blessed and sprinkled with holy water and censured. Members of the congregation then kneel at the altar rails and the minister touches their forehead with a portion of the ash, saying "*Remember O man, thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.*"

The Ash Wednesday Service will immediately follow the Wednesday Family Night Meal. We will begin serving the meal at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

His Eye is on the Sparrow - and You

Many times we don't bother to pray because we feel so insignificant compared to the omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient God. But that's precisely the reason we SHOULD pray! "Why should I bother God with my little problem when He has much bigger things to attend to?" So we struggle with our problem, trying to fix it ourselves, when God is just waiting for us to bring it to Him, no matter how little it seems or how insignificant we feel. The Bible says, "His eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him". (2 Chron. 16:9)

Heavenly Father, today I totally commit my heart to You. I repent of the sin of prayerlessness. I know that no problem is too big or too small for You. No one is insignificant in Your sight. Lord, help me to remember: if You see every sparrow that falls, there's no way You can miss me!

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

P.S. We have a box for prayer requests on the table in the prayer room. If you would like to submit a request just write it out and drop it in the box. You can either sign your name or leave it anonymous. All requests WILL be kept confidential. You may also want to join us each Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for prayer.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Annual Gathering

First Baptist Church Greensboro

March 28-29, 2019

Leadership Institute
with Tod Bolsinger
FBC Greensboro
March 28

Anniversary Celebration
Revolution Mill
March 28

Friday Gathering
FBC Greensboro
March 29



Announcements

CBF Misson Bites

Mission Bite 118: Icing on the Cake

I recently received an invitation to tutor high school aged students in music, which is different than my long-time adult based literacy ministry with an age requirement of 18 and over.

For years, my goal has been to work with adults who need to learn to read or speak English or pass a high school equivalency test. This new opportunity sort of feels like icing on the cake, so to speak, and it has been such fun!

Everyone should have the chance to sing. So much of my worship comes from praising God through song.

I have a 15 year history of teaching vocal music prior to my current position in the mission field, so it comes naturally to me to work with young people who are learning to sing.

I thank God for this new opportunity, and encourage others to welcome new ministry opportunities as they come. You never know...it may feel like icing on the cake!

- Diann Berry, CBF field personnel in Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Mission Bite 119: Beloved Community in an Unexpected Place

Mentoring inmates through art-making is one of the ways I live out the presence of Christ in community. I assist programs in both the men's and women's prisons. The women are inspirational and a delight to work with. Simply delivering new art supplies for them to use is met with delight and gratefulness.

Even though life is not easy, they try to make the best of their time and are so thankful. I truly love mentoring them. As Jesus said, "When I was in prison you visited me...when you did it to the least of these you did it to me."

We create beloved community in many ways. For me this is the heart of what it means to be the presence of Christ: presence, time, and energy given out of love. A beloved community in an unexpected place.

At the request of the warden I initiated a beautification effort in the prison through creating large wall murals. The first was completed in early October. Four of the Narwastu Art Community students who are from Serbia joined in and taught the women how to properly create a large-scale mural. Currently the women are painting murals in the visit area.

- Tina Bailey, field personnel in Bali, Indonesia



Welcome to Our Church Family!

Theresa Faires joined our congregation by a statement of faith at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 17. Welcome to our church family!

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Jane Carson French and family in the death of her father John Carson on February 20, 2019.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Nelson and Valerie Granade in the death of Nelson's father, Napp Granade, on February 22, 2019.

Habitat for Humanity Day Saturday, March 2, 2019

Habitat for Humanity has asked our church for volunteers on Saturday, March 2 to do some work at 1112 Partnership Way. The work day will begin at 7:45 a.m. There will be a short safety walk and then tasks will be assigned. We should have everything accomplished at 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call David Potter at 704-657-7227.

Eddie Steele Fund at Fifth Street Ministries Alms Sunday - March 3, 2019

This Sunday, March 3 is Alms Sunday. Our alms for the month of March will go toward the Eddie Steele Fund at Fifth Street Ministries.

Sunday School Teachers & Workers Meeting Sunday, March 3, 2019 11:15 a.m. - Adams Hall

All adult Sunday School teachers and workers should make every effort to attend a meeting in Adams Hall this Sunday after the worship service.

Caregiver Support Group Begins Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Esther Classroom

CareNet Counseling will be offering a 6-week support group for caregivers of loved ones who have been diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's, beginning March 20. This group will offer tools and resources for caregiving and self-care, as well as a supportive space to share questions or concerns. Sessions will meet on Wednesday mornings, from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the Esther Sunday School Classroom. Space is limited to 12 participants. To register, please contact Kayley Crouch at 704-873-7231.