



THE INTERIM

The Crain Family enjoys the cookie social on December 22, 2019.

From the Pastor...



Perspective is important. I don't agree that perspective is reality – truth is truth. I do, however, believe that our outlook affects how we perceive and deal with life's circumstances. When we are down, the world often seems much darker. When we are up, things seem brighter.

When we are aware of our thoughts and feelings, we can better control our attitudes and actions. In fact, we can change our perspective to a more positive outlook. For instance, I became aware of some negative thoughts this past Sunday during worship and asked God to help me to reframe them.



As worship started, I was looking out at the congregation. My mind immediately went to how many empty spaces I saw (most pastors can't help personalizing attendance). I caught myself focusing on wood (empty spots in the pews) instead of people. I said a quick prayer and asked God to change my attitude.

God told me to look at the people instead of the pews. I immediately saw Valerie who was smiling. I thanked God for her supportive presence in our ministry. I then focused on several folks who I know to be in their nineties. I marveled at the faithfulness of our senior adults and hoped I would be as faithful at their age.



My attention then turned to the growing number of young families we have with us. I remembered how difficult it is to get kids up and ready and thanked God that these parents prioritize spiritual formation for their children. I also noticed the kids. Some were squirming and a few were napping; but all were present and engaged at some level.

I also saw a number of youth and thought about all of the other places they could be. I remembered the angst of these formative years and was inspired by our teens' commitment to be faithful in a challenging culture. I prayed that God would give me words that would be relevant and helpful to a new generation as well as to my own.

I then noticed several new faces in the congregation and thought about the many guests God was leading to our doors. I wondered about their stories and how our church could be of help to them. I hoped they would sense the warmth of our fellowship and find their place among us. I prayed that God would give them direction and discernment as they seek the right church family.



As I focused on the many faces throughout our sanctuary, it occurred to me that each and every person had chosen to worship at First Baptist Church that morning. I thought about the many life stories that were intersecting at that moment to seek God's direction for their lives. I was humbled that so many folks were giving me the privilege to speak to them.

As my focus changed from pews to people, something within me shifted. I no longer wondered why we didn't have more people, but was amazed by how many folks were actually present. I was not offended that more didn't attend, but was honored by the ones who did. Sometimes we compare ourselves to other congregations or to yesteryears. I pray we'll see what wonderful things God is doing among us today.

Schedule

Sunday, January 19

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all age
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, January 20

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 21

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

Wednesday, January 22

9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir
 5:00 p.m. Time of Fellowship
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Children's & Teen Missions; Preschool Choir
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Guest Speaker: Cindy Ray, CareNet Counseling

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 23

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, January 27

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 28

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

Wednesday, January 29

9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir
 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Children's & Teen Missions; Preschool Choir
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Guest Speaker: Natalie Storment; PowerCross Ministries

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 30

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, January 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 11:45 a.m. Linedancers
 7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, January 21

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, January 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, January 23

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, January 24

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, January 27

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 11:45 a.m. Linedancers
 7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, January 28

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, January 29

8:30 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time
 5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, January 30

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, January 31

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

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

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	43,933.00	340,920.00
Budget Receipts	29,791.00	264,067.00
Needed to Meet Goals	14,142.00	76,853.00
Alms	788.00	3,190.00
Designated	632.00	26,129.00

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 5 & 12, 2019

	1/5	1/12
Church in Bible Study	124	122
Church in Worship.	220	215

New Wednesday Evening Schedule

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
4:00 p.m. Children's Choir
5:00 p.m. Fellowship
5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study &
Activities for Children & Students
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Family Night Meal Reservations Needed by Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Standing Reservation: If you plan to attend most Wednesdays, make a standing reservation. Call 704-873-7231 or e-mail christine@statesvillefbc.org to cancel.

Call or E-mail: Call 704-873-7231 or e-mail christine@statesvillefbc.org to make your reservation each week by Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Remind App: Text "@fbcmeals" to 81010 to join. You will receive a text each Sunday with Wednesday's menu. Simply reply to the text with your reservation.

Missions Partners

We will have guest speakers from our local mission partners sharing about their work in the community.

Sticky Faith Led by Elizabeth Kilby

This is a study for all families to grow and to learn how to develop faith that sticks for themselves, their spouses, and their children.

Epiphany Sermon Series

January 19, 2020

Light to See Others

I John 2:7-11

January 26, 2020

Light for the Darkest of Times

Psalm 40: 1-11

February 2, 2020

Missionaries to Japan

Carson & Laura Foushee Speak

February 9, 2020

Light for Right Living

John 3:16-21

February 16, 2020

Light to See the Path

Psalm 119:1-11; 105-112

February 23, 2020

Light to Listen

Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday Evening Menus

January 22, 2020

chicken marsala, boiled potatoes, green bean casserole
& brownies

Children's Meal: cheese burgers

January 29, 2020

meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn, & cookies

Children's Menu: hot dogs

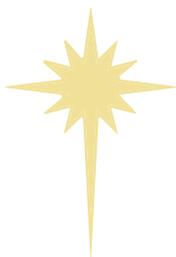
The Heart of the Matter

Last Sunday our pastor preached on Psalm 27, my favorite place to go when I'm discouraged. The very first verse lifts one from despair to delight, from darkness to light, from shadows to sunshine. As you read on, you see that God knows your concerns, sympathizes with your predicaments, instructs you in following Him, and enfolds you in His mighty arms. When you have nowhere else to turn, God is always available. The very heart of Psalm 27, I believe, is verse 8: "My heart has heard You say, 'Come and talk with Me, O My people.' And my heart responds, 'Lord, I am coming.'" (This is from The Living Bible. I urge you to read the entire Psalm from this translation.) God encourages us in verse 14: "Don't be impatient. Wait for the Lord, and He will come and save you! Be brave, stouthearted, and courageous. Yes, wait and He will help you. (TLB)

Could it be that He is waiting on YOU? He has told us to "call on Him and He will show us great and mighty things which we know not". (Jeremiah 33:3)

Let us make prayer a priority in 2020.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Isaiah 60:1



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 162: Treated Like Family

My Student.Go summer internship was nothing short of amazing! I served in Louisville, Ky., at Crescent Hill Baptist Church. God was definitely with me in this new environment where I was taken out of my comfort zone.

This was my first experience working with children in Kindergarten through 5th grade, and I was definitely nervous but excited as well! The congregation of Crescent Hill Baptist Church was welcoming and open to new ideas that we, as interns, were able to provide. They treated us like family from the very first day we arrived.

Throughout the summer, we had a blast planning out Wednesday night Bible lessons, Sunday children's sermons, Messy Art Camp, Vacation Bible School and so many other fun summer events to keep the children active in church and engaged within the community.

Experiencing Louisville and helping refugee children and youth adapt to the United States was wonderful, and helping them to know more about Jesus Christ was a blessing. I will take this experience with me wherever I go and I am very thankful to CBF's Student.Go program for providing me the opportunity to learn more about myself as I discern my next steps in ministry.

-Keenen D. Brinson, Summer 2019 Student.Go Intern in Louisville, Ky.

Mission Bite 163: Call This Place Home

No matter how early you arrive at the Social Security office, you will end up waiting until they call your name.

Not long ago I took a Bosnian woman to the Social Security office because she needed to change her address. While waiting, there was a couple behind us who were also from Bosnia. I heard them talking about how they were going to communicate with the representative, so I asked if they would like me to help. They gladly accepted my offer.

We began talking, and they shared that they arrived to the United States in 1998. They explained that they were in their 50's when they moved here and how difficult it was for them to learn English. Now they are over 70 years old. In the course of the conversation, I asked if they are planning to move back to Bosnia. They looked at me with smiles on their faces, but I could tell these were not happy smiles.

"Where would we go? We lost everything. Everything is different now. We lost many members of my family in the war. Going back will bring all the bad things back to our minds. This is my home now; this is where I belong now. My son lives here, we have grandchildren, and seeing them grow up makes us happy. Even without being able to speak English, this is our home."

I was glad that I was able to help them. As we hear about changes in immigration laws and refugee status, we keep in mind that these people are not here because they wanted to be. They are here because they want to forget what happened to them. They are here for a new beginning. It doesn't matter how old you are, it's not easy to start a new life in new surroundings where you don't speak the same language. But they call this country their home.

-Mira and Sasha Zivanov, CBF field personnel serving in St. Louis.

Announcements

**Security Team Meeting
Sunday, January 19, 2020
11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall**

All members of the security team should attend this meeting immediately following the worship service. Let's make 2020 safe for everyone.

**Souper Sunday
Sunday, February 2, 2020
11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall**

The youth will host a soup lunch fundraiser to raise money for the trip to camp this summer. Please stop by to have lunch and make a donation.



**Boxed Food Drive for Iredell Christian Ministries
February 2-23, 2020**

Many of our church members are involved in various ways with Iredell Christian Ministries. Let's join them in helping stock the shelves for those in need! Please bring boxes of cereal, macaroni & cheese, and granola bars. Members of our Sunday School classes will be placing shopping carts in several locations in the church for the month of February.

**Medical/Dental Mission Trip to Nicaragua
June 13-20, 2020**

Two of our members will lead a medical/dental mission trip and are inviting others to join as they feel called.

Team Leaders: Dr. James Hunter and Jan Hunter

Focus: Team members will help with providing medical and dental care in an established medical clinic in a rural Nicaragua village that offers medical and dental care to patients who cannot afford medical and dental care. Clinica Medica Carlitos is run by Nicaraguan physicians and missionaries from Christ for the City International, Nicaragua. Team members will also have the opportunity to minister to children as well as assist with simple construction projects.

More information available by contacting jan.hhre@gmail.com