



Venture Voices, the youth praise choir, sing at the Valentine Night Out on February 17.

THE INTERIM



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

Volume 75 Issue 5

March 4, 2018

From the Pastor..



I did something last Saturday that I've never done in February before. I mowed my lawn! With all of the warm weather and bountiful rain, the grass decided to start growing in the middle of winter. I didn't even mow grass this time of year when I lived in South Georgia. Nevertheless, it needed to be done, so I mowed in February.

The longer I live the more I learn that things don't always happen as you expect them to and that you have to tend to the situation as it really is. I never expected to mow in February, but it needed to be done. I could have denied that the grass was growing, but that wouldn't have solved the problem.

Ministry is much the same way. You have to be aware of changing issues and rise to the occasion. We never thought our church would experience a fire, but it did. We faced reality and used the tragedy as an opportunity to rethink our use of the Family Life Center. Now we have a vibrant recreational ministry and wonderful opportunities for fellowship.

I never thought the culture would shift to a place where church didn't take priority, but it has and we now minister within this reality. For many, church has become irrelevant to their daily lives. We can deny this and just keep doing things the same way we always have or we can choose to find more relevant ways to speak the gospel in a new era.

People aren't just going to "fall" into the church anymore. We have to go to them and show them the difference Christ can make in their lives. Each and every one of us has a circle of influence. We have friends, business associates, family and acquaintances we see each week. These are the people God has placed within our reach.

Several weeks ago I asked you to pray for a person in your life that needs God and look for opportunities to share with them. I also invited you to share that person's name with me and I'd join you in prayer. Many of you have done this and I've been praying for these folks with you. Whether or not you chose someone, are you willing to be God's witness to those around you?

Easter is approaching fast and it is the best time of year to invite someone to worship the risen Lord with you. Even people who show no interest in church are longing for hope and meaning. We who ARE the Church can lead them to a life changing experience with Christ. The Early Church was formed during a tremendous cultural shift and they turned the world upside down.

When I was mowing that grass – that didn't have sense enough not to grow in February – I kept thinking about something Jesus said. In John 4, Jesus told us to "open our eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." Perhaps something more is going on than we realize. Maybe God is bringing an unexpected harvest in the midst of a spiritual winter. Will we see it and be God's workers?

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

John 4:34-38

Schedule

Sunday, March 4

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 5

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 6

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, March 7

9:30 a.m. Precept Study

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, March 8

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, March 11

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 12

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 13

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, March 14

9:30 a.m. Precept Study

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal - Adams Hall

5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study - Adams Hall

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, March 15

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - Adams Hall

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
 Dr. Larry Gregg.....Minister of Christian Education & Administration
 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 5

9:30 a.m. Pickleball

11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Tuesday, March 6

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, March 7

7:15 p.m. Pickleball

Thursday, March 8

9:30 a.m. Pickleball

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

Friday, March 9

11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Monday, March 12

9:30 a.m. Pickleball - Gym

11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Tuesday, March 13

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

Wednesday, March 14

7:15 p.m. Pickleball

Thursday, March 15

9:30 a.m. Pickleball - Gym

Friday, March 16

11:45 p.m. Line Dancers

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 18 & 25, 2018

	2/18	2/25
Church in Bible Study	131	135
Church in Worship.	214	193

Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	62,771.00	387,264.00
Budget Receipts	51,406.00	384,362.00
Needed to Meet Goal	11,365.00	3,146.00
Alms	434.00	3,319.00
Designated	4,828.00	52,351.00



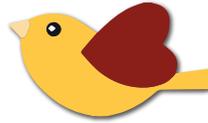
*"So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord.
 His going forth is as certain as the dawn;
 And He will come to us like the rain,
 Like the spring rain watering the earth."*

Hosea 6:3



Unsung Hero

Hilda Lee



You can usually find Hilda in the kitchen, along with Sharron Parish, preparing our meals for the Wednesday Evening Bible Study and the Senior Adult Luncheons and even refreshments for committee meetings. Hilda also dedicates her time volunteering in the office throughout the week. She answers the phone, helps with church-wide mailings, and places the monthly calendars inside issues of *The Interim*. Along with coordinating our office volunteers, Hilda also coordinates transportation for some of our homebound members. She makes sure these members are able to make their various appointments on time.

Thanks for all you do to make FBC great!

Each issue of The Interim will feature a member that does great and often unrecognized things for FBC. If you would like to see someone recognized as an Unsung Hero, please e-mail Kayley Crouch at kayley@statesvillefbc.org or call 704-873-7231.

Humility

Lord, it just dawned on me: humility is removing oneself from the position of control. Many of us have never yet come to that place. Whether it's dealing with family, friends, enemies—or even You, God—we just cannot let go of our “perceived” power. We must be in charge of “our” world, or the world will fall apart! Your Word says, “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” (1 Peter 5:5, Prov. 3:34)

Dr. Charles Stanley gives four reasons why humility is essential in a believer's life:

1. There is no salvation apart from humility.
2. We can never walk in daily fellowship with Christ as Lord without a spirit of humility.
3. Humility is necessary for our sanctification.
4. A humble spirit is essential for good relationships.

Jesus described Himself as “gentle and humble in heart”. (Matt. 11:29) Would He ask less of us?

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBFNC Annual Gathering

Friday, March 16, 2018

Knollwood Baptist Church - Winston-Salem

The annual gathering will include worship, over 40 workshops, exhibits, fellowship, and more. Our Minister to Students Justin Cox will lead a workshop “Expanding the Table: How Do We Accommodate Those in Our Communities with Disabilities?” Join a discussion concerning the need for CBF-affiliated churches to develop official statements, adopt language, and create innovative worship practices in the hope of cultivating authentic advocacy for those with physical and mental disabilities.

All Are Called Forum

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Knollwood Baptist Church - Winston-Salem

One of the foundational beliefs of Baptists is that God calls and empowers all Christians to live out their faith in the world. So how can laity and clergy work together to ensure that our congregations and local communities are encouraging physical and spiritual well-being?

Holy Week at First Baptist Church



Holy Week will also include Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary.

There will be guides for individual worship.

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 25, 2018

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, March 29, 2018

7:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friday, March 30, 2017

12:00 p.m. ~ First Presbyterian Church

Carrilea Potter, Associate Pastor of Broad Street Methodist Church will give the message.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 1, 2018

9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast - FLC

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary



CBF Mission Bites

Bite 71: Christ written all over it

"Our local food kitchen, [Espai Sopem], serves the homeless of Vilanova. On January 1, Maria showed up to help. A man came in dressed in less than suitable clothing for the cold weather, received a cup of soup and quietly sat down.

Minutes later someone yelled 'hermano!!' Maria was weeping over the man. It was her brother who had been living on the streets and had a problem with alcohol. They had been estranged for years.

We are currently working on getting this man into a rehabilitation program and off the streets. Everything about this soup kitchen has Christ written all over it. I pray that God will use our presence to speak to the volunteers and to those we serve."

- Elise Pittman, Student.Go intern serving alongside CBF field personnel Matt and Michelle Norman in Spain

Bite 72: Amazing Grace in Action

"Recently, we got free dental work for an Iranian refugee and her son (an estimated \$3,600) through a relationship with a Korean Church's leadership -- a relationship we have been building for a couple years now. The Korean dentist who graciously gave his time and skill to help these refugees was not a believer. He was a friend of one of the Korean church leaders. He expressed gratefulness at the 'opportunity' to do this for this struggling family. He also has started to attend Bible study at the Korean church. The refugees who were helped are planning to take a gift to this benefactor.

Sometimes it is difficult to work through the red tape, but this time the door opened and we saw Amazing Grace in action."

- Pat, CBF field personnel, U.S. Persian Ministrya

Announcements

March Alms Offering

In honor of Eddie Steele's birthday, our March Alms Offering will go toward the Eddie Steele Memorial Fund at Fifth Street Ministries.

Thank You!

Thank you cannot begin to express the gratitude for a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, and food on Saturday, 17 Feb. The event, "Love Makes the World Go Round; Church Wide Night Out", was a premiere event for First Baptist Church. This could not have happened without the hard work of so many volunteers. From workers to performers, almost 50 FBC members came together to provide an evening that will not soon be forgotten. So, thank you to all who helped make this evening a success. A special thank you needs to be given to Ken and Brenda Wilson for their leadership of this team. Here is a list of those who helped: Jason Allen, Margaret and William Barnard, David Crosby, Jean and Phil Crowder, Teddie and Gale Hall, Don Hawkins, Lillie and Wayne Laws, Hilda Lee, Vicki Marsh, Wilma and James McNiel, Lori Milstead, Sharron Parish, Pam Potter, Butch Price, April and Matthew Waugh, Alan Williams, Andrea Williams, Jane and Eddie Wiseman, and Jan and Ike Wuertz. Performances were offered by Venture Voices (Youth Praise Choir), the Children's Choir, Don Daniel, William Barnard, Hannah Beale, Jane and Eddie Wiseman, Ike and Jan Wuertz, Debi and James Martin, and Jason Allen. If I have missed anyone I apologize. So, thank you all for your time and talent, and thank you FBC for your unflinching support. God is good and life is sweet.

James Martin

Welcome to Our Church Family!

Doug Price joined our congregation on Sunday, February 18 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. His wife, Barbara, is already a member. Welcome to our church family!



Yard Sale

Church Only: Saturday, March 3, 2018

Public: Saturday, March 24, 2018

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We will sell some of our unused tables, chairs, and other equipment. Proceeds will be used to defray security costs.

Wednesday Evening Menus

Wednesday, March 7

drumstick supper, rice, rolls, & cookies
Kids' Menu: same

Wednesday, March 14

soup & salad, crackers, & cake
Kids' Menu: grilled cheese & chips

