



Our Sewing Group (Brenda Falter, Laura Marsh, & Connie Minnix) made Pastor Nelson a beautiful quilt.

THE INTERIM

Volume 77 Issue 4

February 16, 2020

From the Pastor...

We are quickly coming to the end of Epiphany and headed toward Lent. March 26 is Ash Wednesday, which Marks the beginning of Lent. Epiphany is the season of light when we rejoice that Jesus is the Light of the World. During this time we have been examining how Christ illumines our lives.

Lent is known as the season of shadows. It recognizes the shadow of the cross, which looms over Jesus' life and ministry. It reminds us that salvation has a cost – the very life of Christ. It calls us to join our Master in giving of our lives in service.

Many Christians will give up something for Lent as a reminder of Christ's call to sacrificial living. Self-denial is a healthy practice that points us past our own wants and redirects us to a higher calling. It is also good, however, to add things to our lives during Lent.

Here a few suggestions on what we might give up and add for Lent:

Give Up:

- Negative attitudes toward ourselves and others
- Prejudices that separate us from one another
- Over indulgences or unhealthy habits
- Digital and electronic distractions

Add:

- Daily time for Bible reading and prayer
- A special offering to a worthy cause
- Time spent with family and friends
- A service project to help the needy

Of course there are many other things you could give up or add during Lent. Take time to pray and think about what God would have you to do. Make sure it is both meaningful and realistic. Challenge yourself and let God give you the strength to accomplish something worthwhile.

"When you call me, and come pray to me, I will listen to you."
Jeremiah 29:12

Schedule

Sunday, February 16

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Handbells
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, February 17

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 18

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

Wednesday, February 19

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: Amy Feimster, Hospice of Iredell County
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 20

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, February 23

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Handbells
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, February 24

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

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
 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 27

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, February 17

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

Tuesday, February 18

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, February 19

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, February 20

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

Friday, February 21

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, February 26

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

Thursday, February 27

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

Friday, February 28

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
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Financial Statistics

| | January | Year-to-Date |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Giving Goal | 43,933.00 | 340,920.00 |
| Budget Receipts | 38,085.00 | 272,359.00 |
| Needed to Meet Goals | 5,848.00 | 68,561.00 |
| Alms | 788.00 | 3,190.00 |
| Designated | 1,173.00 | 26,670.00 |

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 2 & 9, 2020

| | 2/2 | 2/9 |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Church in Bible Study | 101 | 103 |
| Church in Worship | 198 | 195 |

Continuing the Dream Update



Thank you for your support of our *Continuing the Dream* Capital Campaign. We surpassed our \$500,000 pledge goal by committing \$526,465 dollars! To date, we have collected \$191,762, which has given us a great start toward accomplishing much needed work. As we continue to give over the next three years, we will be able to do all of the much needed projects.

The Sanctuary Stone Restoration is almost complete and we have had no water infiltration on the repaired areas despite all of the recent rain! Together we've accomplished a great deal. The Sanctuary exterior has been cleaned. Loose mortar has been removed and replaced. Damaged facades have been repaired. The bell tower roof has been resealed. New drains have been run to take water away from the building. Sidewalks and steps have been fixed. And the entire building has been water proofed.

All that is left to be done on the sanctuary project is general clean up and completing a punch list our architect will provide the contractor. Because of your generosity, we will only have to borrow around \$40,000 (from our reserve funds) to complete this project. Hopefully we will be able to repay ourselves quickly and move on to the next projects.

As funds become available, we look forward to renovating the main hallway of the sanctuary building, replacing the bell tower carillon, refinishing the gym floor, and repairing the organ. Thanks to great work from our team and architect the exterior sanctuary project should come in within budget. We thank Tom Brandon, Jody Parlier, and Neill Pardue for all of their time and hard work.

New Arrival!

Congratulations to Zach and Anna Gordan on the arrival of a daughter, Emma Rose Gordon, on November 7, 2019. The proud grandparents are Harry & Ellen Tsumas.



The Prayers Offered in Faith (An addendum to last week's Sunday School Lesson)

"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven" (James 5:15).

When doctors see patients get well, even those patients with incurable cancer, they usually explain it as a wrong diagnosis, or a cause that they missed in their original diagnosis. Even if they said their diagnosis was correct, they explain the healing as a results of an unexplainable cause, most are never willing to admit that the unexplainable cause might be God,

A few doctors may say that prayers make people feel better. And since hope as theraputic value for medicinal causes (and psychological causes), then prayer gives people hope and makes them better. When the whole psychological and physical systems of the individual are "up," then the body works better, and heals itself.

However, there are Bible promises that God heals in answer to prayer, i.e., "The prayer of faitg sgall save the sick" (jas. 5:15). God will answer prayers for healing when we approach Him properly. Yes, there are laws that govern the universe, but first let's define law, i.e. law is then extension of God's nature and power that He uses to govovern the universe. Since law comes from God, cannot God create a higher power/higher law to override the existing ones? Can't God do anything within His will that He desires to do? And can't God govern His spiritual world by spiritual laws? The anser is YES!

God, You are able to do above and beyond all we can thing and imagine! I bow my heart to the Devine Mystery wgo uses the weak and insignificant people to do great and glorious things for Your kingdom! Your creative power governs the universe to save and to heal. I believe that You and You lone have the power to heal hearts, circumstances, relationships and physical bodies. As mhy faith is set inin YOu, I yield myself to be used as an instrument of healing for the sake of Your kingdom.

--Adapted from Giving Ouselves to PRayer: An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry (Chapter 15, Problems of seemingly Unansweed Prayer by Elmer L. Towns). This book is available in our church library.



CBF Mission Bite

Mission Bite 165: A Little Help

Internationals (in particular refugees) often need help when they first arrive. Help is rendered for a while and then we may not ever hear from them again. There are a variety of reasons. Many move to the suburbs or even out of state. They become deeply involved in the day to day work of making a life here. We don't always know how they adjust or the impact we might have had on them as we try to be the presence of Christ each day.

Last week, I received a text from a refugee I had helped soon after his arrival in Houston. He had been here only two weeks when we delivered a welcome food basket to him. He had been a translator for the American military in Afghanistan. It had become dangerous for him to remain there due to his association with the U.S. I helped him procure some furniture, his driver's license and enjoyed taking him to a local Afghani restaurant for the first time. Like other refugees arriving in the U.S., he was a survivor. He was willing to make many sacrifices to begin his new life in such a different country. After purchasing a car, his first job was delivering pizzas. He was determined to make his way. I had not heard from him in quite a long time. And then his text came:

"Hi this is M. A., it's been a while I did not heard anything from you hope you and your family are doing well. I appreciate your all help when I came to America and I tell everyone that how helpful you where to me on the time. I moved to Denver about 2 years ago. Hope all is well with you and hear from you soon..."

This really made my day. I did not do much at all for him. Yet, it made an impact on his life. There are people all around us who just need a little help and to know someone cares. This is one way we can truly love our neighbor and be the presence of Christ.

-Butch and Nell Green, CBF field personnel in Houston, Texas

Thank You From Our Youth

Thank you to all who gave donations and ate soup with us on Souper Bowl Sunday. Because of your generosity we collected over \$1,400 to help defray the cost of our summer camp. Look Up Lodge cost \$339 per camper plus transportation. Your gifts will help reduce these expenses and scholarship those in need. Thank you also to our parents and other caring adults who made the soup and helped us serve.

**Indoor Yard Sale
Saturday, March 7, 2020**

An "Indoor Yard Sale" will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 to help raise funds for the Ladies Ministry Dinner Series. All kinds of handmade crafts, household items, needlework, baskets, pictures, frames, vases, decorative dishes, or any item that you would like to donate will be welcomed. Please place donated items in the bathroom hallway Family Life Center. No TV's. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Hunt at 704-902-1715.

Announcements

Welcome to our Church Family

Kebyl & Lisa Houston joined our congregation at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2020.



Kevin Houston & Nicole Pratt joined our congregation at 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2020.



Mamye Hacker joined our congregation at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 2, 2020.



**McDowell Music Club Choir Festival
Sunday, February 23, 2020**

3:30 p.m. - Forest Park Presbyterian Church

First Baptist Church's Sanctuary Choir will participate in this year's Choir Festival. The event takes place on Sunday, February 23, at 3:30 in the afternoon at Forest Park Presbyterian. Please come and support our choir along with other local choirs in this free concert.

Audio/Visual Team Help Needed

FBC is in desperate need of help with our audio/visual team. This team is a vital part of Sunday morning worship as well Wednesday evening bible study. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact James Martin.

**Senior Adult Luncheon
Thursday, February 20, 2020**

Come and hear the Life Adventure stories of our own James Martin and Eddie Wiseman. You might even hear a little music. You should call the church office at 704 873-7231 to reserve a seat, or sign up if someone calls you, or sign up in your Sunday School Class. Program at 11:00 and lunch (\$6.00) at 12:00. Must be signed up no later than noon, Monday, Feb. 17.