



Darbee Lewis and Jenna Martin brighten the entrance to the preschool with sidewalk chalk.

THE INTERIM



Volume 78 Issue 10

May 9, 2021

From the Pastor...

It's amazing how God can bring something good out of the most difficult situations. This is even true of COVID. When we had to shut down many of our activities, it forced us to reexamine the basics of our faith. Once again, we were reminded that the Church is not the building or even our programs.

The Church is the people of God. Therefore, the Church was never shut down, only rearranged for a while. Though it is important for the church to gather for worship and fellowship, we serve best when we are scattered for mission and ministry.

This past Sunday I preached on the Seven Acts of Mercy as seen in our balcony window. Each is represented by an angel holding the phrases:

Feed the Hungry	Shelter the Stranger	Visit the Sick	Bury the Dead
Clothe the Naked	Visit the Fatherless	Help the Prisoner	

Of course, these are not the only ways we can show God's love; but they are a good reminder that we are always to be on mission.

I challenged us to view missions as more of a way of life than an event here and there. I also gave you some homework – to find ways to show God's love this week. I'm hoping to hear some great examples of how you showed God's love to others this week!

Some examples of actions you might take as individuals or families might include: helping a neighbor with yard work, writing one of our home bound or veterans, taking food to someone in need, or volunteering at a local ministry. (Elizabeth Kilby has details about this in her article). I also mentioned preparing a "helping bag" to give folks in need.

All of these would be great first steps, but the real work of missions comes in making relationships with those in need. Jesus didn't talk about helping out just one time, he talked about recognizing his presence in the "least of these." You see, when you serve others, in the end you are blessed.

Schedule

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, May 10

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, May 12

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, May 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, May 16

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, May 17

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, May 19

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, May 20

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
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A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

There are many different ways you can be hands and feet in the local area. Pastor Nelson talked about Inasmuch and blessing bags, and there are other organizations in our community which we are blessed to be able to bless and have as partners.

So many places are looking for extra willing hearts to make a difference. We have some amazing partners. I want to share their contact information with you so you can, if you are able, be a blessing to them as they continue to reach the lost, hurting, and least of these in our communities. This is not the entirety of our partners, however it does comprise our partners that are looking for volunteer opportunities at this time.

- Yokefellow Ministries is looking for volunteers, donation items, and board members. (Neil Furr -704-682-1729)
- Fifth Street Ministries is looking for volunteers to help in their kitchen (Heather Myers, Volunteer Coordinator 704-872-4045 ext 235)
- Iredell Christian Ministries is looking for drivers shoppers, interviewers, and food donations. (Joy Morrison 704-924-6700)

For additional partners and resources, please e-mail me esb7432@gmail.com and I will be happy to share additional resources with you. If you do volunteer at one of these locations, please let me know. I would love to talk about your experience and highlight the ways in which we can best meet the need.

Many thoughts and prayers.
Elizabeth

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of April 25 & May 2, 2021

	4/25	5/2
Live Stream Views.....	.32	35
In-Person.....	139	118
Sunday School.....	87	86

Financial Statistics

	May	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	67,370.00	596,829.00
Budget Receipts	17,821.00	495,829.00
Goals Not Yet Met	49,549.00	101,551.00
Alms	260.00	3,700.00
Designated	190.00	80,414.00

National Day of Prayer

Ever since our nation's founding, our nation's leaders have always called for days of prayer, thanksgiving, and fasting.

In fact, according to Wikipedia, National Day of Prayer began similarly to Thanksgiving:

“In the New England Colonies under British rule, traditional observances in late fall called for prayer and thanksgiving, while observances in the spring or summer called for prayer and fasting. The fall observance was established by President Abraham Lincoln as the official Thanksgiving holiday in 1863. The spring observance was established by President Harry S. Truman in 1952 as the National Day of Prayer.”

While National Day of Prayer certainly isn't as widely accepted as Thanksgiving, it is a widespread and much-loved tradition that still takes place every year!

While National Day of Prayer is often thought of as a Christian holiday, it is not exclusive only to Christians. Many people of faith celebrate National Day of Prayer, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs. Anyone of any faith can participate!

In fact, over 40,000 prayer gatherings are held every year—at churches, courthouses, mosques, synagogues, temples, and schools—which means millions of people are in prayer on this day.

Each year, the President signs a new proclamation for National Day of Prayer, and each year has a slightly different theme or focus.

Not surprisingly, the theme of the 2021 National Day of Prayer is love, life, and liberty.

Not sure what to pray? Here's a list of things to pray for on National Day of Prayer:

1. The President (Joe Biden)
2. The Vice President (Kamala Harris)
3. Future elections (that the right person will be elected)
4. Our nation's military
5. For our country's leaders to have wisdom in decision making
6. For our country to submit to God and His authority

Prefer to choose topics specifically in line with the National Day of Prayer 2021 theme? Here are a few suggestions specific to 2021:

1. Our nation to unite
2. Our nation's leaders to focus on liberty
3. Our nation to be more compassionate and understanding with one another
4. Our nation to learn to respect life – ALL life

May 6 was the official Day of Prayer, but I urge you to take a moment and pray for our nation when you receive this newsletter.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather





Announcements



New Arrival!

Congratulations to Marian and John Moore on the birth of a daughter, Mary Elliott, on April 20, 2021. The proud grandparents are Pat and Wanda Rushton.

Join the Sanctuary Choir

*“How good it is to sing praises to our God!”
“Sing to the Lord a new song,
His praise in the assembly of the faithful.”*

The Psalmist is right, it is good to sing praises and it is good to sing with each other in worship. We were all created to worship and singing is a huge part of how we offer praise. We sing and offer praise in joy, in sadness, in grief, and in celebration. No matter what, we sing and offer praise. All of us can do this simple act of praise and sing in worship. So, each week as we gather to worship and sing praises, do your part and sing praise to our God.

To help with this, it is time for the Sanctuary Choir to get back to practicing and to singing God’s praises in worship. Here’s the plan:

- Practice begins Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the SANCTUARY.
- During the month of June a few choir members will be in the choir loft to help with hymns during worship.
- The full choir will begin singing in worship on July 4.

Come join the choir and help us “sing a new song”! All are welcome and invited to join the Sanctuary Choir on Wednesday, May 19. Contact James Martin at the church with any questions (jmartin@statesvillefbc.org).

James

Fifth Street Ministries Christmas in July Sunday, July 18, 2021 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Drive thru lunch is \$10.00/plate
Online Auction (bake sale included)

*Additional donations will also be accepted at the drive-thru.

Most of all, come meet our guests. A guest story will be given with each plate. Guests will help serve and you will get to see and hear about the lives being changed by this work and your support.

To reserve a plate, call 704-872-4045 or e-mail Amy at afreeze@fifthstreetministries.com or register online. A direct link is on our church website, www.statesvillefbc.org.

