



Our Minister of Children & Missions, Melissa Wilson was ordained at a special service on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

THE INTERIM

Volume 76 Issue 23

November 10, 2019

From the Pastor...

I've always been fascinated by construction. When I was a kid, we bought the third house in a neighborhood that eventually grew to a hundred homes. That meant that I got to see ninety-seven homes built.

A few of the construction workers thought we neighborhood kids were a nuisance, but most of them were very kind. Some even taught me a few things. I learned how to hammer a nail without bending it, which meant I also learned how to pull out bent nails.

One of the men, who was actually a neighbor as well, taught me how to read a blueprint and lay out a wall. Of course, most of the time I was simply free labor doing the grunt work of restocking nails and toting boards. I didn't mind, however, because I loved being there.

One of my favorite jobs was throwing bricks to the masons working off scaffolding. They taught me how to place a brick on a board and let it slide off as I slung it upward. I was amazed at how high you can sling a brick and at how well these guys could catch them.

Brick work was interesting because you could see it go up row by row. It was easy to track and was impressive to watch. In some ways, ministry is a lot like laying brick. God has established a foundation and called us to build upon it.

Paul advised the Corinthian Church to be careful how they built, because the permanence of their work would be tested (1 Corinthians 3). He encouraged them to give their best, but also to use the best materials. This lesson is both figurative and literal.

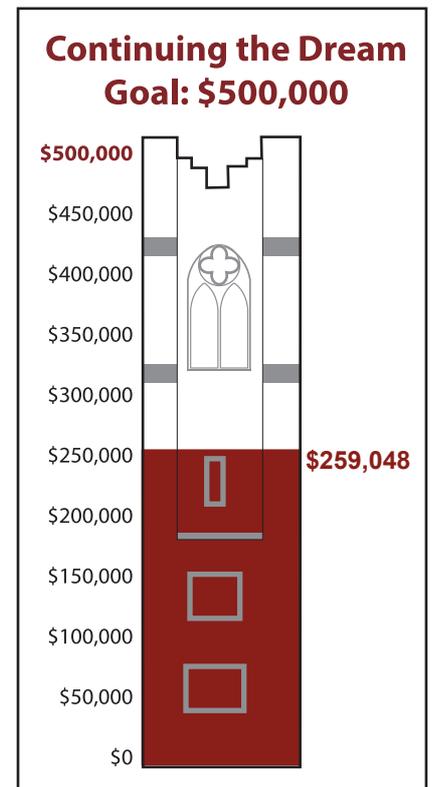
Many times our efforts are intangible. Like when we are helping others to grow in Christ. Other times our work is tangible. Like when we are giving to do repairs to our facilities. Both of these are vital to a church.

I hope you are excited that our facility is getting some much needed repair. The construction has brought out the kid in me. I've been fascinated to see how the workers grind out old mortar and pipe in new. I haven't picked up a trowel yet, but I'm ready if they need some help.

When you give to the Continuing the Dream Capital Campaign, you are helping to build our church. You might never touch a stone, but your contributions will make these repairs possible. I am pleased to tell you that we have already received many pledges and are almost at the halfway point to our final goal.

I hope you will make a commitment worthy of this great task. One of the enduring lessons I learned from construction is that many hands make the work possible. We need each and every person who loves First Baptist Church to step up and build on the foundation others have already laid.

Melvin



Schedule

Sunday, November 10

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

Monday, November 11

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 12

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

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

Wednesday, November 13

9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays After-School Program

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 14

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, November 17

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

Monday, November 18

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 19

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study

Wednesday, November 20

9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays 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. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 21

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

6:00 p.m. Causey Fund Celebration Dinner

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, November 11

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, November 12

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, November 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays After-School Program

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, November 14

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

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

Friday, November 15

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, November 18

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, November 19

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, November 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays After-School Program

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, November 21

9:00 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

6:00 p.m. Causey Fund Celebration Dinner

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

Friday, November 22

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Financial Statistics

	November	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	68,536.00	138,828.00
Budget Receipts	14,764.00	69,506.00
Needed to Meet Goals	53,772.00	69,322.00
Alms	643.00	1,448.00
Designated	895.00	8,551.00

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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Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of October 27 & November 3, 2019

	10/27	11/3
Church in Bible Study	102	110
Church in Worship	170	173

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

Deadline: Sunday, November 24, 2019

If you would like to fill a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child, please turn in your filled shoe box to Melissa Wilson by Sunday, November 24.



Ordination of Melissa Wilson



Top Left: Melissa pictured with Dr. Rick Crouse and Dr. Rob Evans, former and current pastors of Dry Ponds Baptist Church where Melissa grew up.



Top Middle: Melissa with her parents Jan & Gary Wilson.

Bottom Left: Melissa with Rev. Ka'thy Gore Gilbert, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry of NC & Dr. Wanda Kidd, Collegiate Engagement Coordinator for CBFNC and mentor to Melissa.



Top Right: Melissa with Matthew, Ryan, James, and Leah Johnson - just one of the families of FBC who love Melissa dearly.

Bottom Right: Melissa with Rev. Bodie Gilbert, Melissa's best friend from seminary school & Music and Worship Pastor of Westbury UMC in Houston, Tx.

Commanded to Pray

"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God" (1 John 5: 3-5).

It's very obvious in Scripture that the Lord wants us to pray. There are many commands given to us concerning prayer: "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1); "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18); "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

These are just a few of many such injunctions in God's Word concerning prayer in our lives. Why is it then, that so many Christians feel so inadequate in their prayer lives? Christians everywhere confess their prayerlessness and long to become people of prayer. Yet, the life of prayer evades so many. How can this be turned around in our lives?

I believe that one important key is to understand the reason behind God's commands to us to pray. It can be difficult to discern the mind of God on a matter, but He has given us much in Scripture to help us understand. There are three reasons given for prayer in God's Word: intimacy, enrichment and partnership. Another way of stating these is: knowing God, obeying God and partnering with God.

Father, Your Word is filled with encouragement and commands to pray...and yet, my prayer life is still so much less than it could be. Forgive me for my prayerlessness and help me to long for intimacy with You so that I might fully participate in the work of Your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

--Adapted from the article Partnering with God in Prayer by Dave Butts



Announcements

CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 152: A Citizen of Two Worlds

Ana beamed alongside sixty other immigrants on that bright September day. The long wait was over. Standing on the lawn of Patrick Henry's Scotchtown, Virginia, home, she was seconds away from taking the Oath of Allegiance to become a new United States citizen!

Naturalized citizens do not take their citizenship for granted. They believe in America's lofty ideals and have pledged to work for its progress and growth.

They're not blind to its failings nor to the anti-immigrant rants they sometimes hear. Yet they freely embrace this land that welcomed them, enabled them to succeed, and invited them to become new citizens.

This is Ana's story. As CBF field personnel, we are proud to have played a small part in helping her dream become real. But becoming American didn't mean Ana gave up her Colombian birthright. Far from it, it meant grafting her new American identity into her native heritage. Ana was now a citizen of two worlds, with love and appreciation for both.

Our Lord, create in us hearts of gratitude both for our country's tradition of receiving the world's most vulnerable and for our immigrant and refugee neighbors whose pride and devotion make us a stronger and more vibrant nation.

-Greg and Sue Smith, field personnel serving in Fredericksburg, Virginia

Iredell Christian Ministries Fall Food Donations November 3-24, 2019

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 cans of green beans, hearty soups and corn to fill the shelves of ICM as the weather turns colder. Members of our Sunday School classes will be placing shopping carts in several locations in the church for the month of November.

Adult Sunday School Teachers Meeting Sunday, November 10, 2019 11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall

There will be a brief meeting for all adult Sunday School teachers immediately following the worship service on Sunday, November 10.

Causey Fund Celebration Dinner Thursday, November 21, 2019 6:00 p.m. - FLC

Join us Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 pm to celebrate the launch of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's The Jack and Mary Elizabeth Causey Fund for Congregational Leadership.

This fund will be utilized for formal theological education scholarships, continuing education for clergy and laity, and for special programs that strengthen congregational leadership. The purpose of the fund reflects the Causeys long commitment to mentoring church leaders for effective, faithful ministry and service.

To register, please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cbfeve/event/807558/> or call Mary Jane Rash at 704-873-7231. Cost of the dinner is \$25.00. Seats are limited. Please register soon.