



THE INTERIM

Caroline Williams signs the hymns in the worship service on August 22.

Volume 78 Issue 18

August 29, 2021

From the Pastor...

We've been spending a lot of time in the book of James lately. I've been preaching on James in August and our Sunday School lesson will soon be from James. During difficult days, when so much is beyond our control, James helps us to focus on the things we can actually control. James also reminds us that the rest is up to God to control.

Starting in September, our Sunday School classes will study the book, *The Making of Authentic Faith, Wisdom that Works*. I hope you will join a class in person or online as we learn how to live out our faith in practical ways. Too often faith can seem ethereal and difficult to pin down, but James has a way of urging us to action.

James cuts through the trapping of religion and takes on real life challenges. He hits hard issues head on, like: enduring in difficulty, overcoming temptation, acting in love, controlling our tongue, hearing God's direction, employing God's wisdom, and investing our resources.

Last Sunday I noted that the Book of James almost didn't make it into the New Testament. That was because some thought James focused too much on works and not enough on grace. Christians certainly recognize that we cannot save ourselves and need God's grace.

James, however, wants to make sure that those saved by grace also practice their faith. Living out our faith is a sign of our newness in Christ. James puts it this way:

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. James 2:18

I rather like and agree with James' assertion and his later conclusion that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Or as the old saying goes, "actions speak louder than words."

First Baptist Church of Statesville is known for its missional mindset. We build accessibility ramps. We distribute clothing. We support food pantries. We house the homeless and provide for those who are in danger of being evicted or having their power shut off. We both act and partner with others who act.

We do all of these things, and so much more, because we want to put our faith into action. Like God's first chosen people, we bless because we have been blessed. As some of God's contemporary beloved people, we love because we have been loved. After all, they will "know we are Christians by our love" (John 13:35).

Schedule

Sunday, August 29

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube & Facebook

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Promotion Sunday

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

11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Teachers Meeting

Monday, August 30

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, September 1

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 2

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, September 5

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube & Facebook

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

11:00 a.m. Business Management Team Available
for Budget Questions - Adams Hall

Monday, September 6

Labor Day

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, September 8

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study &
Budget Discussion

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 9

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

As I am writing this article and praying for the day that is to come for Operation Inasmuch, I am grateful. By the time you read this, most likely our project day will have passed. However, I would be remiss if I did not thank all the people that it takes to make a day like this possible. The ones who donated supplies, time, and energy, those who tithe; those who pray; and those who walk with us - thank you! With seven projects in various locations around the city, it takes a village of love, prayers, and support, and that is what we have. I am reminded that though we still are not out of the dark with COVID there is light in some wonderful places. Our partners have suffered this past year as well, and we are providing hope. Our families have carried burdens, and we are providing joy.

Ministry is still taking place, just different, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. We have been able to adapt and shift as the times and situations allowed. That is exactly what scripture calls us to do. One of my favorite quotes from a pastor is that we are to "muddle in the messes with people". When this happens, that means that we too will get messy. However from the mess and working with one another we learn, we grow, and we change, into who, what, and where God is calling us to be. So yes, this fall things do not look the same. They are not supposed to. We are working together to learn to adapt and be the presence of Christ to all people. Circumstances will always change but our God is faithful and consistent and that gives me hope to look for the joy, the good, and the light in situations.

Many thoughts and prayers,
Elizabeth

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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Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of August 15 & 22, 2021

	8/15	8/22
Live Stream Views.	11	22
In-Person.	116	134
Sunday School.	89	106

Financial Statistics

The Financial Statistics will be updated in the issue of *The Interim* (September 12, 2021)

Afghanistan in Crisis

by Rick Sample - cbfblog.org (published August 20, 2021)

The events unfolding in recent days in war-torn Afghanistan have shocked and horrified Americans, none more so than Afghan-American immigrants.

Since 2002, for almost twenty years, Lita and I have served as missionaries among internationals in the San Francisco Bay Area, living in the multi-ethnic suburb of Fremont, Calif., home to the largest Afghan community in North America with approximately 60,000 Afghans, a largely refugee population. Many of our ministry initiatives during the last two decades have focused on engagement with our Afghan neighbors. We have cultivated beloved community by building relationships with local Afghan leaders and business owners, developed friendships with individual Afghan families, and organized events designed to bring Muslims and Christians together. These activities addressed physical and social needs while bearing witness to Jesus Christ all along the way. It is a joy to serve God in this manner in this location among these people.

Since the United States evacuation began just a few days ago, we have phoned or visited a number of our Afghan friends and neighbors in our community. They are all frantic!

Without exception, each person we talk with is desperately worried about their loved ones in Afghanistan. Many of the people we know have served the United States as military translators who happened to have completed their service and arrived with a special visa over the last several years. These translators are closely connected with relatives and friends, also translators, currently trying to escape an ominous future in Afghanistan. I have seen men weep out of fear for their mothers and sisters who are at the mercy of the Taliban. Women here are petrified for their relatives left behind in Afghanistan. Everyone is hoping their loved ones get out even though there are no guarantees that they will. We are getting requests and inquiries for “help” although we are powerless to provide any help on the ground in Afghanistan.

One of my Afghan Christian friends here in northern California informed me that he just found out that his cousin, a translator, was pulled out of his house by the Taliban and shot just a few days ago. What’s happening over there is greatly impacting our Afghan community here, and it’s probably going to get worse. We have been praying with them and hoping to bring a slight measure of comfort in this moment of great fear.

This is why **presence matters**.

What can any of us do? We can pray, specifically for peace to come to a war-torn country, and for the Prince of Peace to reveal Himself to Afghans who are hurting and tortured, whether physically or emotionally. Christ can provide hope. We can pray for the protection of the hidden Christian minority in Afghanistan who face certain death if they are found out. We can pray for as many innocent and vulnerable Afghans as possible to get out of the country—and for other countries, including the U.S. to welcome them, so they can live their lives in safety. We can pray for the families torn apart by decades of war. And we can pray for the U.S. military to bring about the conclusion of this nightmare in the best way possible.

What else can we do? We can always welcome the immigrants and refugees coming into our own communities. There might even be Afghans living nearby. If so, enjoy a delicious meal at an Afghan restaurant or try to find an Afghan mosque or cultural center to make a visit to show support for the Afghan people or connect with a refugee resettlement agency to see how you and your congregation can help.

Try to find ways to befriend and welcome any Afghans coming to your city. Make sure your church is aware of ways to pray and ways to bless any Afghans in your community such as offering ESL classes. A common trait among Afghans is hospitality. What a blessing it would be for Christians in America to show Christian hospitality to Afghans, a people in crisis. Y’all, join with us.

Rick Sample is a CBF field personnel serving alongside his wife, Lita, in the San Francisco Bay Area. Learn more about and support their ministries at www.cbf.net/sample.





Announcements



Meet Children’s Ministry Associate Kristina Sellers

Kristina Sellers served as the Children’s Ministry Summer Intern but will continue to serve as the Children’s Ministry Associate. She is in the church office on Mondays and Wednesdays and will work with Wonderful Wednesdays, children’s Sunday School curriculum, and children’s mission time on Wednesday evenings. She is working on her Master of Divinity with a concentration in Congregational Health through Formation - Christian Education at Gardner-Webb University. Kristina is engaged to be married to Will Kyles in October 2022. She is super excited to be working here and can’t wait to get to know everyone!

Adult Sunday School Teachers Meeting Sunday, August 29, 2021 11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall

There will be an Adult Sunday School teachers meeting immediately following the worship service on Sunday, August 29 in Adams Hall.

Promotion Sunday August 29, 2021

The children will move to their new Sunday School classes. The sixth graders will join the Venture students on the student hall and the first graders will receive their Bibles.

Wednesday Evening Activities Postponed

Due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases, the Medical Response Team has made the decision to postpone Wednesday evening meals and children’s activities. We will begin a Wednesday evening Bible Study on September 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Masks are strongly encouraged. This study will be live streamed on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. We will continue to have in-person Sunday School and Sunday worship. A pre-recorded Sunday School lesson will continue to be available on our YouTube channel and Facebook page Sundays at 7:00 a.m. The Sunday worship services will be live-steamed.

Deacon Ministry Team

We are accepting nominations for our Deacon Ministry Team. To nominate a member, you may fill in the form in the Sunday morning announcements and place it in the offering plate. You may also e-mail your nominations to Mary Jane Rash at mjrash@statesvillefbc.org or call the church office at 704.873.7231. Please turn in your nominations by Tuesday, August 31. The congregation will elect three new members to the Deacon Ministry Team on Sunday, October 3.

2021-2022 Church Budget

The proposed church budget has been mailed to all members. If you did not receive one, you may contact Mary Jane Rash for a copy. We will two discussions regarding the budget.

- Sunday, September 5: Business Management Team available for questions following the worship service.
- Wednesday, September 8: The budget will be presented at the Wednesday evening Bible Study.
- Sunday, September 12: Budget vote in worship service without discussion.

**“For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord will give grace and glory;
No good thing will He withhold From those
who walk uprightly.”
Psalm 84:11**

