

Mia Acosta and Cassidy Barker eagerly wait for the time of worship to begin at VBS.



THE INTERIM

Volume 75 Issue 19

September 16, 2018

From the Pastor...



What's your top priority in life? We may espouse many noble priorities and truly want to live up to them. What we really value, however, is shown in what we do. I've often heard it said that if you want to know someone's true values, look at his or her check-book and calendar.

Where a church puts its time and money demonstrates its true commitment as well. Our congregation is in the process of adopting a ministry budget to guide us from October 2018 through September 2019. You will soon get a copy of the proposed budget and I hope you will consider it carefully.

Like budgets before, the 2018-2019 Ministry Budget reflects some of the historical priorities of our congregation – like a strong commitment to local and global missions. It also provides funding to ensure that our facility is kept sound and accessible. And it underwrites our ongoing spiritual formation and discipleship programs.

The 2018-2019 Ministry Budget will also stretch us to do some new things. Our Wonderful Wednesday after-school ministry is a new investment that has the potential to expand our children's ministry. Special Events funding is also being increased to provide more outreach opportunities. And our staff is receiving a cost of living increase for the first time in several years.

Taken together, these challenges represent a 5% increase in a total ministry budget of \$878,696. It is a budget that will stretch us somewhat, but if we make it a priority, it is well within our reach. I encourage you to come to the budget presentations, study the proposed budget and ask whatever questions you might have. I implore you even more to support it with your tithes and offerings.

This past week I began a series of sermons entitled, *Parables and Priorities*. Together we looked at two parables about the value of the Kingdom of God (*The Treasure in the Field and The Pearl of Great Price*). In both of these stories, Jesus implied that the Kingdom of God is worth our best. I believe that the part of the Kingdom we know as First Baptist Church of Statesville also deserves our best as well.

2018-2019 Ministry Budget Discussion Opportunities

Because this is such an important process, we are providing the following opportunities for your involvement:

- **Wednesday, September 19:** Budget presented to congregation at called conference (5:30 p.m.)
- **Sunday, September 23:** Business Management Team available in Heritage Hall after worship for questions (11:00 a.m.)
- **Wednesday, September 26:** Second opportunity for questions (5:30 p.m.)
- **Sunday, September 30:** Proposed Budget presented for adoption without discussion

Schedule

Sunday, September 16
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. Medical Emergency Response Discussion
 4:00 p.m. Venture Voices
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, September 17
 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 18
 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
 6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, September 19
 9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 20
 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, September 23
 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, September 24
 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 25
 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
 6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, September 26
 9:30 a.m. Precept Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 27
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, September 17
 9:30 a.m. Pickleball
 11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Tuesday, September 18
 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, September 19
 8:00 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 7:15 p.m. Pickleball

Thursday, September 20
 9:30 a.m. Pickleball
 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, September 21
 11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Saturday, September 22
 8:00 a.m. Pregnancy Resource Center LifeWalk

Monday, September 24
 9:00 a.m. Pickleball
 11:45 a.m. Line Dancers

Tuesday, September 25
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Wednesday, September 26
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
 7:15 p.m. Pickleball

Thursday, September 27
 9:30 a.m. Pickleball
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, September 28
 11:45 p.m. Line Dancers

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of September 2 & 9, 2018

	9/2	9/9
Church in Bible Study	112	151
Church in Worship	151	211

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

THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks

by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,
 Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

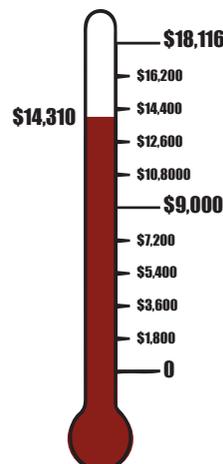
POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
 First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

Financial Statistics

	September	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	66,956.00	836,951.00
Budget Receipts	43,173.00	776,158.00
Needed to Meet Goal	23,783.00	60,793.00

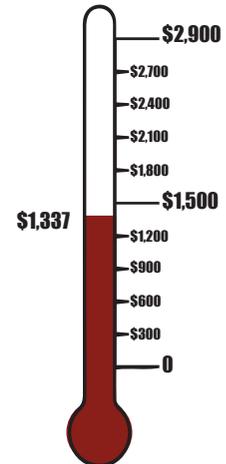
Pew Cushion Fund

Goal: \$18,116



Lydia Prayer Room Fund

Goal: \$2,900



A Note from Dr. Larry Gregg

For the past two and one-half years, Peggy and I have been honored to be part of the FBCS family. You have blessed me as I served as your Minister of Education and Administration. Together we have experienced God's blessings in a strengthened and growing ministry. The time has now come for FBCS to look toward the future under the leadership of Dr. Granade as pastor. It is time for me to step back into retirement so the church can explore how best to staff for the future. With this in mind, and after careful discussion and prayer with Dr. Granade, I have informed the Deacons that I will be leaving this position at the end of January 2019. Meanwhile, I look forward to continuing to serve with you during these remaining months.

D. Larry Gregg, PhD
Minister of Education & Administration

A Second Word from the Pastor

As you've read above, Larry Gregg has made the announcement of his approaching re-retirement at the end of January. Because Larry has been so vital to our ministry, you are probably wondering what this means to our church moving forward.

Thankfully, Larry has several more months with us. This will allow him to complete or hand off several projects. It also gives us time to evaluate our ongoing staffing needs and to make adjustments that will ensure effective ministry.

Our Deacon Ministry Team has appointed a Task Force to lead us through an evaluation of our staffing needs. This group will not make any final decisions on the size and shape of our staff. Rather, they will lead the church through a process that will result in a congregational decision on the best course forward.

The team has been selected to represent a cross-section of the congregation. They include: Kevin Beale (who will chair the process), Lynette King, Jeff Templeton, Andrea Williams, and Ken Wilson. Please pray for this team as they begin to organize and pray for our church as we move through this transition.

Pew Cushion Update

We've received word from the vendor that the material has been milled and being shipped to the manufacturer. There is one order ahead of ours and then they will produce our cushions. We hope to have the new cushions by Thanksgiving.

Since cushions were ordered for the new seating arrangement (that includes wheelchair wells), we will make those changes when the cushions arrive. Thank you for your support of these projects. We are well on our way to paying for the cushions, but we still need \$3,806.00 to completely cover the cost of this project.

Pray Now!

"If all the prayers that were promised were actually prayed, this would be a different world by now!"

So instead of promising future prayer, what I try to do nowadays is stop, right there in the moment, and pray. Right then and there. It's funny how many Christians this actually throws off guard. "You mean, right now?" "Yes — absolutely. Let's pray."

In the restaurant, in the car, on the plane, wherever. If it's a text or e-mail request, I'll start praying as I type my response, typing out a prayer for them right then and there. Not only does it help me follow through, but it helps them to agree right along with what I have prayed, and agreement is mighty powerful, as we know.

I'm thinking of St. Patrick, how he would pray through the course of the day as he worked: "Tending flocks was my daily work, and I would pray constantly through the daylight hours. The love of God and the fear of Him surrounded me more and more — and faith grew and the spirit was roused, so that in one day I would say as many as a hundred prayers and after dark nearly as many again."

He simply did it right there, in the moment. For the truth is, there is no "later."

Now is the time to pray, for now is all we really have.

Excerpted with permission from *Moving Mountains* by John Eldredge, copyright John Eldredge, 2016.

* * *

Pray Now! That would make a great note to stick on the fridge, or car dashboard, or desk. Today and going forward, when we hear that prayer is needed, let's not respond, "I'll pray", but pray right then and there instead!



**FBC Mission Moment
Iredell Christian Ministries**

Did you know that First Baptist Church is one of the founding churches of Iredell Christian Ministries (ICM) and that we have maintained a vital partnership for over ten years? Originally set up to serve around 100 families a month, ICM now serves 750 – 800 families per month (which translates to 2,700 people receiving food).

So who are these hungry people and how are they helped? The largest group being served at ICM is families with children and the second largest group is senior adults on fixed incomes. Because ICM is a client choice food pantry, people who are food insecure actually get to “shop” for what they need most.

First Baptist Church gives quarterly to ICM and we have several of our members who volunteer each week as well as four members on the ICM Board. This is wonderful, but much more help is needed. If you are interested in contributing food, resources or time, any help would be appreciated. Just call ICM at 704-924-6700.

One other interesting development at ICM is a partnership with Carolina Farm Trust to develop an Urban Farm at ICM. This is the first of several “micro-farms” that will form an Urban Farm Network within Iredell County. These farms will help address both Food Insecurity and Food Access issues. In other words they will help those most in need in the places with the least access to healthy food.



CBF Mission Bites

Bite 99: The Value of Relationships

CBF field personnel Karen Morrow shares with others that refugees resettled in the United States receive pre-planned support for six months. That includes the basics, such as a place to live, homemaking necessities, a first job. “But from then on, they’re lost,” she says, explaining newcomers still need help learning to adjust to and fit into their adopted country.

“A Congolese father told me: ‘We do not want your things (although they still could use more things). We want your relationship. Where we came from, our aunts and uncles taught us how to make a life. We do not know how to live here.’ So, we’re here to create community, to make them feel welcome, to teach them how to live here.”

Karen Morrow does that in the name and spirit of Christ. She crosses language, ethnic and religious barriers with friendly support and the love of Jesus.



Announcements

**Medical Emergency Response Discussion
Sunday, September 16, 2018
11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall**

We will hold a discussion about how our church will respond to emergencies. At the time, you will have the opportunity to sign up for the Medical Response Team and our Safety Team.

**Senior Adult Luncheon
Thursday, September 20, 2018
11:00 a.m. - FLC**

Get ready for an exciting new year of third Thursday Luncheons and a fabulous trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre on December 11. Our first program will feature the Duck Creek Band with Ed McClelland, David Saleeby, Stan Childress, and James Carroll. You may sign up no later than noon on Monday, September 17, by calling the church at 704-873-7231, or you may be contacted by phone, or you may sign up in your Sunday School class. Meals are \$6.00 payable at the door.

Menu: fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, rolls, & dessert

**Belize Mission Trip Interest Meeting
Sunday, September 23, 2018
11:00 a.m. - Adams Hall**

First Baptist Church has a rich history of missions. One of our long standing partnerships is helping the people of Belize. We have taken six mission trips to Belize since 2003, with most of those in the past few years.



During these trips we have done multiple forms of ministry – repairing churches, conducting Bible schools, providing dental care and sharing the good news of Christ.

Our upcoming trip this summer promises to be one of our best. If you’d like the opportunity to minister and share Jesus, this is a great opportunity.

If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Belize this summer, please attend the interest meeting immediately following the worship service on Sunday, September 23.



I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Psalm 91:2