



Cate Taylor plays on the inflatable obstacle course at the Fall Kickoff on Wednesday, August 29, 2018.



THE INTERIM

Volume 75 Issue 18

September 2, 2018

From the Pastor...



Modern life can be crazy. There are so many things to be done. Young parents run themselves ragged trying to get kids to multiple events. Middle aged folks are caught between caring for teens and aging parents. And senior adults are so busy they wonder how they ever had time for work.

Even when we try to simplify things, life just seems to get more complicated. We buy computers, phones, and tablets to organize ourselves only to find that they require us to learn new ways of thinking. And as soon as you get the technology figured out, they do an update that changes everything.

Though we think of this as a modern day problem, people have always been challenged to get everything done. Life might have been simpler years ago, but it was harder. Work still had to be done often requiring long hours on farms or in factories. Houses still had to be cleaned, but without modern equipment. And meals took hours of preparation and clean up.

The reality is that no matter what generation you're from, you still only have 24 hours in a day. We all have the same amount of time and we all have finite amounts of energy and resources. We literally "spend" our lives moment by moment and hour by hour. Then we wonder what became of our days and whether or not we made any difference.

Since we can't truly "do it all," we must find ways of prioritizing. Jesus confronted both his followers and distractors with the need to seek first the Kingdom of God. Jesus was resolute in his quests to share the good news of God's grace and to call people to repentance and salvation. Not a moment of Jesus' life was wasted.

If we want to live full and meaningful lives, we too must set priorities. As followers of Christ, we are challenged to live into his priorities. But before we can do so, we must discover what these priorities are and make a commitment to live faithfully to Christ. This is hard, however, because we already have so much crowding into our lives.

One way Jesus got through the clutter and noise of his day was to tell parables. They were a way of getting the listener's attention, requiring the hearer to think more deeply and challenging each person to a higher purpose. Over the next few weeks we will be examining both Parables and Priorities.

It is my hope that this sermon series will be life transforming to us all. The first challenge in this series is to make Sunday Worship a priority. I invite you to join your church family as we learn afresh and anew the priorities of Jesus for our lives.

Miles

Parables and Priorities Sunday Sermon Series

September 9

The Priority of the Kingdom
Matthew 13:44-45

September 16

The Priority of Active Love
Luke 10: 25-37

September 23

The Priority of the Least
Matthew 25:31-46

September 30

The Priority of the Lost
Luke 15:1-7

October 7

The Priorities of Humility and Hospitality
Luke 14:7-15
(World Communion Day)

October 14

The Priority of Forgiveness
Matthew 18:21-35

October 21

The Priority of Prayer
Luke 18:1-8

October 28

The Priority of Preparedness
Matthew 25:1-13



Schedule

Sunday, September 2
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Venture Students
Monday, September 3
Happy Labor Day!
Church Office Closed
Tuesday, September 4
10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
6:00 p.m. Precept Study
Wednesday, September 5
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 6
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
Sunday, September 9
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 10
9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
Tuesday, September 11
10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
6:00 p.m. Precept Study
Wednesday, September 12
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 13
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of August 19 & 26, 2018

| | 8/19 | 8/26 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| Church in Bible Study | 135 | 154 |
| Church in Worship. | 199 | 219 |

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

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, September 3
Church Office Closed
Tuesday, September 4
7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball
Wednesday, September 5
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
7:15 p.m. Pickleball
Thursday, September 6
9:30 a.m. Pickleball
7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball
Friday, September 7
11:45 a.m. Line Dancers
Monday, September 10
9:00 a.m. Pickleball
11:45 a.m. Line Dancers
Tuesday, September 11
7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball
Wednesday, September 12
5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Options
7:15 p.m. Pickleball
Thursday, September 13
9:30 a.m. Pickleball
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball
Friday, September 14
11:45 p.m. Line Dancers

Financial Statistics

| | August | Year-to-Date |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Giving Goal | 76,999.00 | 769,995.00 |
| Budget Receipts | 42,171.00 | 732,985.00 |
| Needed to Meet Goal | 34,828.00 | 37,010.00 |
| Alms | 715.00 | 9,321.00 |
| Designated | 12,058.00 | 104,528.00 |

Financial Update

Celebrations:

- We have repaid ALL of the monies borrowed in years past from our reserve funds.
- We are well on our way to funding the new pew cushions and prayer room.

Challenges:

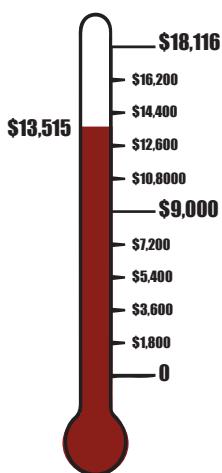
- We have fallen \$ 37,010 behind our year to date goal and need strong giving in September to fulfill our 2017-18 ministry budget.
- We want to fully support mission endeavors beyond our own church and making budget will enable us to do so.

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur Tel: 704-873-7231
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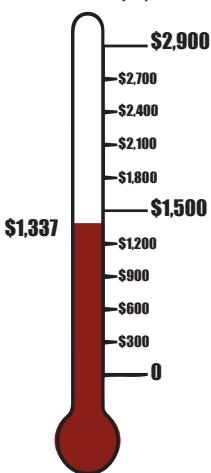
POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

Pew Cushion Fund

Goal: \$18,116

**Lydia Prayer Room Fund**

Goal: \$2,900


wonderful
WEDNESDAYS
2:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Kids will be picked up from school and transported to the church where they will enjoy a snack, receive help with homework, play in the gym, and learn about missions with Ms. Melissa. After Wonderful Wednesdays, be sure to enjoy our Family Night Meal before the kids head to Children's Choir and adults experience one of our great Bible studies! Register your child by visiting our website - www.statesvillefbc.org

Family Night Meal**5:00 - 6:00 p.m.***Cost: \$6.00/adult, \$5.00/child, or \$22.00/family***Activities for Children & Students****6:00 - 7:00 p.m.****Adult Bible Study Options****6:00 - 7:00 p.m.****Footsteps of Jesus**

Led by Dr. Granade & Dr. Gregg
Family Life Center

Christian Active Parenting

Led by Jason & Kim Allen
with David & Nancy Deal

Jesus on Leadership

Led by William Barnard
Small Classroom in FLC

Unsung Heroes

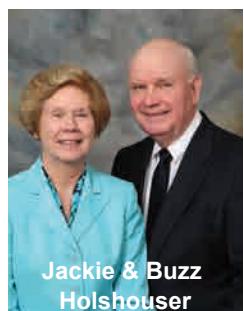
Jan Wuertz & Jackie Holshouser



As we kick off our fall season, it is only appropriate that we thank Jan Wuertz and Jackie Holshouser for their faithfulness to our Preschool Choir. Every Wednesday, Jan and Jackie teach our preschoolers new songs about Jesus. It is so delightful to watch the preschoolers perform the songs they have learned over the course of the year in May.

Thanks for all you do to make FBC great!

Each issue of The Interim will feature a member that does great and often unrecognized things for FBC. If you would like to see someone recognized as an Unsung Hero, please e-mail Kayley Crouch at kayley@statesvillefbc.org or call 704-873-7231.

**Thank God For His Mercy**

"Oh Lord, You are my judge! It is You who will save me." (Isa. 33:22) I thank you that You are a forgiving God. If You were not, I would be the most lost creature on the planet. "High up in the throne of God are the everlasting springs of (God's) divine mercy." (Charles H. Spurgeon)

Thank you, God, for not showing Jesus mercy on the cross—but reserving it for me!

Our God is rich in mercy. May we be rich in our thankfulness!

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



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CBF Mission Bites

Bite 97: Teachers at all ages and stages

"I'm very thankful for our volunteer teachers at the Ready for School Program, a literacy based program for refugee preschoolers and their parents which helps prepare them to enter U.S. schools. Between the four classes in Fort Worth, we touched the lives of 100 refugee families this past year. Our volunteers are from all ages and stages of life and lovingly give their time to invest in the lives of refugee families. To these families they are all 'teacher' as they learn colors, numbers, shapes and skills they will need to begin school. A big thank you to all the teachers as we begin another school year. Please pray for our volunteers and families as the new school year begins, and pray that we have even more volunteer teachers this year."

- Karen Morrow, CBF field personnel in Fort Worth, Texas



Bite 98: Learning to love better

"I've spent time interviewing Muslim migrants on a nearby island. For them, 'halal' describes things permissible within Islam while 'haram' refers to forbidden things. Often these terms refer to food.

Moving to a place where most of the population isn't Muslim, many of these migrants face the dilemma of where and what to eat. Their Christian neighbors welcome them and invite them to their celebrations. Unfortunately, ignorance on both sides is often misinterpreted as insult. The migrants attend, but don't eat, which offends other party goers. The migrants, expecting their Christian friends to understand, feel disrespected and hungry.

I wonder how many times our hospitality is misunderstood by our neighbors from different backgrounds. I pray that we would all learn more about our neighbors, their cultures and their faith, so that we might better know how to love them."

- Brooke and Mike, CBF field personnel, Southeast Asia

Announcements



Welcome to Our Church Family!

William and Sophia Caldwell joined our congregation at the worship service on Sunday, August 19. Welcome to our church family!

William & Sophia Caldwell & Isabella

A Note of Appreciation from James & Wilma McNeil

With Our Thanks to First Baptist

Sincere "Thanks" for all your cards, visits, telephone calls and especially your "Prayers and Thoughts" during all my surgeries, Wilma's surgery and our son, Tim's surgery. We truly felt the "Love" of the church and all our dear Christian Friends during these difficult times.

In Christian Love,
James & Wilma McNeil

Wednesday Evening Discipleship Opportunities Begin Wednesday, September 5, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

Footsteps of Jesus
Led by Dr. Nelson Granade & Dr. Larry Gregg

Jesus on Leadership
Led by William Barnard

Christian Active Parenting
Led by Jason & Kim Allen & David & Nancy Deal

Precept Study Book of Revelation Begins Tuesday, September 4 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. & Wednesday, September 5 - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Have you ever thought, "I'll NEVER understand the book of Revelation"? Well now you can! We will begin our fall Precept Bible Study with the first three chapters, "Jesus' Message to the Church". The introductory classes will be Tuesday, September 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, September 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (You choose which day is most convenient for you.) After that the class will run for ten weeks—through November 13 and 14. We will begin again in January with chapter 4. Precept classes study God's Word, not man's word. Please join us for this exciting adventure. You may sign up at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office at 704-873-7231.