

Preschool Teacher Sandy teaches FBC Pre-K class about the water cycle. The FBC Preschool featured the letter W in the first of week of January.



THE INTERIM



Volume 74 Issue 2

January 22, 2017

From the Pastor...



It's always great to see new faces in worship and we are thrilled when folks join with us. Growth is always worth celebrating, but so is faithfulness. As I look out each Sunday it is encouraging to see how many families faithfully support First Baptist Church week in and week out. Healthy ministries are built on faithfulness!

When God's people faithfully give, we have the resources for ministry. When God's people faithfully teach, we experience spiritual and numerical growth. When God's people faithfully worship, we please God with our praise. When God's people faithfully serve, we show ourselves to be a loving Christ-like church. When God's people faithfully share the good news, people come to salvation in Christ.

I see acts of faithfulness constantly at FBCS. We missed church due to the winter storm and several folks brought by or mailed in their gifts. Their faithfulness will help fill the financial gap and their example will inspire us all to be more generous. We had a time without a custodian this week and one of our deacons volunteered to be "custodian for a day." His faithfulness inspired several others to volunteer and make sure things kept running.

Faithfulness begets faithfulness. Parents who faithfully attend Sunday School and worship raise kids who are much more likely to be active in church. People who faithfully engage in missions are also more engaged in community service. Persons who faithfully help others are often surprised by the abundance of care that returns when they are in need.

As one who is relatively new to First Baptist Church, I applaud the faithfulness of those who have kept our ministries vibrant for many years. It is such a pleasure to join this great team of lay leaders and ministers in being faithful to our next great chapter. Larry, Justin and I all appreciate the wonderful ministerial team we have joined. James, Melissa, Eddie, Mary Jane, and Kayley are each to be applauded for their faithfulness.

As we highlight faithfulness, there are two upcoming anniversaries especially worth recognition. Eddie Wiseman and Mary Jane Rash are both celebrating ten years of service at First Baptist Church on Sunday, January 29, 2017. We will recognize them during our morning worship that day. You will also have the opportunity to thank them personally at a brief reception after worship.

Nolan



Happy 10th Anniversary at First Baptist Church Mary Jane Rash & Eddie Wiseman

Congratulations to Mary Jane Rash and Eddie Wiseman who are both completing ten years of service to First Baptist Church. Please join us for a reception in Adams Hall, immediately following worship, January 29. At the reception we will present Eddie and Mary Jane each with a "Basket of Thanks." Please write a thank you note and place it in Eddie and Mary Jane's baskets in Adams Hall as you enter the reception.



Schedule

Sunday, January 22

- 7:30 a.m. Building & Grounds Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Miami Mission Trip Interest Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Deacon Retreat

Monday, January 23

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 24

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, January 25

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Groups
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, January 26

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

Sunday, January 29

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Reception to Honor Mary Jane Rash & Eddie Wiseman

Monday, January 30

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 31

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, February 1

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Groups
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, February 2

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

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

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Spiritual Statistics

Week of January 15, 2017

Note: No service on January 8, 2017 due to inclement weather.

Church in Bible Study 129
 Church in Worship..... 198

Financial Statistics

	January	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	43,742.00	339,436.00
Budget Receipts	25,603.00	288,275.00
Needed to Meet Goal	18,139.00	51,161.00
Alms	80.00	1,437.00
Designated	1,192.00	29,461.00

Biblical Prayer

In his work, A Cry for the Kingdom, Stanley Grenz makes the following statement relating to prayer and the Church. He says, "The church of Jesus Christ faces many challenges today. Yet the greatest challenge is not what might initially come to mind. The greatest challenge is not that of urging Christians to speak out on the great social issues of the day . . . Nor is our greatest challenge that of encouraging each other to be more fervent in evangelizing the world, . . . Rather, the greatest challenge facing the church of Jesus Christ today, and therefore every local congregation, is motivating the people of God to engage in sincere, honest, fervent prayer."

Grenz is on target with this statement, but only partially. He is correct in that he believes churches need to be about the task of prayer. I have never heard a church say that it spent too much time in prayer—but many have said the opposite. Grenz is also correct in that honest, fervent prayers are needed. Yet, I would add to his assessment that the greatest need is for churches today to return to the Christ of the Bible through heartfelt Bible-based prayer. Biblical prayer that focuses on relationship with Christ and His kingdom/mission-centered desires is the greatest need facing the Church today! ("The Bible and Church Prayer", by J. Chris Schofield)

In our Monday morning prayer meetings we pray for our church, our staff, and the world using the Bible as our guide. Won't you join us from 9-10 am each week? We learn to pray by listening to each other, and we learn God's Word by praying it!

His servant and your friend,
 Ginny Stikeleather

Inclement Weather Policy

Our church follows the Iredell-Statesville Schools policy for closings due to inclement weather. If the schools are closed, the church office is closed and all church activities for that day are canceled. You may check the church closing status by calling the church office and checking the recording (704-873-7231), checking our website (www.statesvillefbc.org), and checking the following TV stations (WBTV, Charlotte; WSOC-TV, Charlotte; WCNC-TV, Charlotte).

3 Lessons We Can Learn From Snow

Snow days always have a way of changing my plans.

When school or activities are canceled due to snow or wintery conditions, my first inclination is to stay home, start a fire in our wood stove, make some hot chocolate, and spend time reading with my children under piles of blankets. But I know firsthand that kids (and moms) can start to get restless after too many days stuck in the house. Where I live, snow days can last for weeks upon weeks!

But, what if instead of letting the snow dictate our days, we take back a little control and make a plan to use the frosty days to teach our kids more about God? I love the idea of the snow becoming a symbol and reminder of God's character and power. I started brainstorming and thought of these three lessons you can teach your kids through snow, with activity ideas to keep the long winter days fun.

Snow Day Lesson #1 – God is incredibly creative.

There are things about God that people cannot see — His eternal power and all the things that make Him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy to understand. They are made clear by what God has made. — Romans 1:20a

Did you know that in a snowstorm that produces about 5 inches of snow over 2000 square miles will contain 5 quintillion snowflakes? Even though there is some question about whether there are really no two snowflakes alike, there are too many possible snowflake formations to count. God's creativity can be seen throughout creation, but when you think of the incredible detail and diversity of snowflakes, you realize just how limitless His creative power really is! And if He cares enough to create so many different varieties of something so tiny and temporary as a snowflake, how much more must He care about His children.

Activity idea

Take a black piece of construction paper outside and catch some snowflakes on it. Take a close look at the incredible detail of the snowflakes you catch. When everyone gets cold, bring the kids inside and have them draw some of the snowflake designs they saw, or cut paper snowflakes to hang around the house. See how many designs you can make! No two will be alike!

Snow Day Lesson #2 – Jesus makes us white as snow.

Your sins are red like deep red cloth. But they can be as white as snow. — Isaiah 1:18

In the early winter, after the colors of Autumn have faded and before the snowy season hits, things are rather ugly, to put it bluntly. Everything is varying shades of brown, the grass is dead, and nothing looks appealing. Then it snows, and suddenly the dead landscape turns into something clean and beautiful.

Snowy days are reminders that this is what God does to our hearts when we believe in Jesus.

What was dead and ugly, full of sin, is now washed clean and bright through the blood of Jesus. He doesn't just cover over the sin and

ugliness, but goes a step further and removes our sins, transforming us into something completely new. What the snow does for the outdoors is a reflection of God's transforming power, not just for landscapes, but for our hearts and lives when we put our trust in Him.

Activity idea

When the weather forecast shows a snowstorm in the near future, send your kids out with a camera to take some pictures of the winter landscape before it snows; then after the storm, send them out again to take those same pictures when everything is covered in white. Make your own before/after slideshow or photo book. If you can't plan that far ahead, your kids can still head outside with a camera to take pictures of the snow as a fun photo project. Admire your wonderland pictures and talk about how Jesus can make our sins whiter than snow.

Snow Day Lesson #3 – Snow always accomplishes God's purpose, just like His Word.

Rain and snow fall from the sky. They don't return without watering the ground... The words I say do the same thing. They will not return to me empty. They make the things happen that I want to happen. They succeed in doing what I send them to do. — Isaiah 55:10a-11

We have long winters in my part of the country, and I always see a shift in how people view snow after Christmas. What was exciting, fresh, and festive is suddenly dreary and cold, and people start wishing for the thaw. But even when we wish the snow would go away, without those spring snows that seem to never end, we wouldn't have our beautiful green summers. The purpose of snow is to water the ground so that our warmer months can come with new growth and blooms. The Bible specifically compares rain (and snow) to God's Word. Just like the moisture isn't for nothing, God's Word always accomplishes God's purposes and helps us to grow.

Activity idea

Help your kids make some decorative memory verse cards, and spend some of those snowy days hiding God's Word in your hearts. Play "freeze" tag either inside or outside – when your kids are tagged, they must freeze in place until they recite (or read) a Bible verse. You will get their energy out and motivate them to learn their verses at the same time.

To add another snowy element to the fun, you can use the Frost Bible to look up the Bible verses for your kids' memory verse cards. This Bible has a glittery cover, and snowflake-covered pages that explain biblical concepts in more detail, along with beautifully illustrated Bible timelines. You could even give this Bible as a reward when your kids succeed in memorizing their snowy day scripture passage!

Winter days can mean more time spent at home with your kids, and that can be a very good thing, especially when you can use the time to creatively point your kids to the Lord. Snow, or reminders of snow, are everywhere during the winter. I hope that with these lessons your family will be reminded of God's creativity, His Word, and His transformative power whenever it snows.

**This article was written by Through Clouded Glass blogger, Callie Martinez for www.faithgateway.com and published on December 28, 2015. Callie is a wife, a mother, a part-time dental hygienist, and a fan of coffee. She has been writing regularly on her blog, Through Clouded Glass, since 2008, and she serves on the publicity team for her local MOPS group. When she is not taking care of her three children (all under four years old), she enjoys spending time with her husband, reading, and working on her endless list of DIY and sewing projects. She is passionate about her faith in Jesus Christ, her family, and encouraging others to keep an eternal perspective through the day-to-day.*



Message by: Dr. Nelson Granade
 Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Announcements

CBF Mission Bites

Our Church is pleased to support CBF Global Missions in moments like these where bearing witness to Jesus Christ takes form through partnership and collaboration around the world to transform communities through the love of Christ.

"One Saturday, I visited a local Spanish church that uses a storefront for its space. It was a special gathering. Christians from different churches in the community had been invited to come together to discuss how we could work together to transform our community. It wasn't a grand Cathedral or the living room of a house church, it was a simple storefront church, but we were there, praying, worshiping and being replenished in community so that we could serve our community. That is the beautiful picture of the church that I hope to see and of which I want to be a part of."

- Matt Norman, CBF field personnel in Spain

Our Church is pleased to support CBF Global Missions in moments like these where bearing witness to Jesus Christ takes form through welcoming immigrants and affirming our calling through Matthew 25.

"Since its founding 12 years ago, LUCHA Ministries has been committed to serving the first-generation Latino immigrant community in Fredericksburg, Virginia through social, spiritual and community development programs. Taking on the task of helping all legally-qualified immigrants, both Latino and non-Latino alike, to legalize their status through our LUCHA Ministries' Immigration Legal Services program is a new, yet daunting, task. But we believe this is an essential step in our calling as Christians to welcome the stranger among us (Matthew 25:35-36)."

- Greg and Sue Smith, CBF field personnel in Fredericksburg, Va.



Wednesday Evening Menus

Wednesday, January 25

Country Style Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, & Apple Pear Crumble

Kids' Menu: Cheeseburgers & Fries

Wednesday, February 1

Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Roasted Cauliflower & Broccoli, & Cake

Kids' Menu: Macaroni & Cheese

Miami Mission Trip Interest Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2017

11:00 a.m. ~ Adams Hall

If you are interested in participating in a mission trip to Miami this July, please attend this interest meeting.

Welcome Carson & Laura Foushee!



We look forward to welcoming Carson and Laura Foushee home this Sunday, January 22, 2017. Carson grew up in our congregation and was called to missions here. The Foushees have recently completed their first

three years of service in Japan and are home raising support to continue their ministry in Japan. Carson and Laura will share from their experiences as they bring our message in worship. The Foushees will also join us next Wednesday evening, January 25, 2017. They will share in a question and answer time during our fellowship meal and then spend time with our children and youth. Please join us for both of these special events as we learn about "our" missionaries to Japan.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

1:00 - 5:30 p.m. ~ FLC

The Red Cross is in the midst of a severe blood and platelet shortage. Please plan to stop by on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 7 to donate.

