

Minister to Students Justin Cox honors FBC's 2017 high school graduates, Dale Wilson, Tyler Williams, Thomas Tillery, and Grace Ashley at the June 4, 2017 worship service.

# THE INTERIM



Volume 74 Issue 12

June 11, 2017

## From the Pastor...



"Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades," goes the old saying. I, however, think close counts in a lot of aspects of our lives. Setting goals is a great way to stretch ourselves and to grow. Will we make every goal we set? Certainly not, but we'll make none of them if we never set a goal.

This past Sunday our congregation made great strides in Sunday School. We had 196 people studying God's Word together. We didn't make our 200 goal, but we accomplished many things. First, our attendance increased greatly. On June 4, we had 79 more people in Bible Study than the week before. That's a 60% increase in one week!

Second, we had a number of new faces in Sunday School. As I visited each class, I saw several regular worship participants trying out a Sunday School Class. I also saw a number of guests who were with us for the first time. I'm sure many of these people will see the value in small group Bible study and join with one of our classes.

Third, we demonstrated what our congregation is capable of in Sunday School. With a little work, Larry and I believe we could average 175 in Bible Study right now. With even more effort, we will reach the day when we surpass 200 almost every week. The work it took for high attendance is the same work we need to do every week.

To grow in Sunday School we must make contacts, care for those in our classes, and present lessons that are both biblically based and relevant to today. As my friend Bo Prosser says, "People go where they know they are cared for and prepared for." I am grateful for all of the hard work so many put into making our high attendance day a success. I will be thrilled when we do this every week!

Last Sunday I preached that we need to "pull in the oars and let out the sails." By this I meant that we need to catch the Spirit more than push the boat. Both take work. Tending the sails, however, is much more exciting. I think we caught a fresh spirit this past Sunday in Sunday School. I hope you will pray about your own participation in Bible Study and ask God who you might reach out to as well.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nolan".

*"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.*

Matthew 24:32 (NRSV)



## Schedule

### Sunday, June 11

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

### Monday, June 12

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, June 13

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

### Wednesday, June 14

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

### Thursday, June 15

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Sunday, June 18

#### Father's Day

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

### Monday, June 19

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, June 20

#### Children leave for Passport Missions Camp

- 10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

### Wednesday, June 21

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

### Thursday, June 22

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Friday, June 23, 2017

#### Children return from Passport Missions Camp

## 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

### Weeks of May 28 & June 4, 2017

Church in Bible Study ..... 117.....196  
 Church in Worship.....180.....229

## Financial Statistics

	May
Giving Goal	68,237.00
Budget Receipts	67,232.00
Needed to Meet Goal	1,005.00
Alms	543.00
Designated	8,718.00
	June
Giving Goal	63,863.00
Budget Receipts	18,589.00
Needed to Meet Goal	45,274.00
Alms (Miami Mission Trip)	4,318.00
Designated	799.00



### Special Offering for Miami Mission Trip

Thank you to all who donated to the Miami Mission Trip at the June 4 worship service. We raised \$4,318 for this trip.



## Prayer Point

While studying my SS lesson from the Teacher's book last week, I read: "Pain is often a door to future blessing". Lord, keep reminding me of this. And this: "Obedience enables the follower of God to actually hear and remain with the Lord." What powerful words! "Service to the Lord, even when it requires strenuous obedience, always leads to tremendous blessing and new doors of opportunities". Also: "Receiving direction from the Lord for our lives often involves a combination of situating ourselves within contexts conducive to listening, as well as an open and willing heart". When God speaks, we will then be prepared to receive what He says.

Oh, Lord, change me! From now on may I have a willing heart, a listening ear, and an obedient life. (all this is from the account of Samuel's early life in 1 Sam. 1-3)

His servant and your friend,  
 Ginny Stikeleather

# Summer at First Baptist Church

## Children at Passport Mission Camp

June 20-23, 2017

## Youth at Look Up Lodge

June 25-30, 2017

## Miami Mission Trip

July 15-22, 2017

## Adult Bible School

We will meet in Adams Hall for each event.

**Sunday, July 16 • 6:00 p.m.**

*Supporting Your Church's Ministry From Heaven • Speaker: TBA*

**Monday, July 17 • 6:00 p.m.**

*Making Everything Legal While You Can • Speaker: Kevin Beale*

**Tuesday, July 18 • 6:00 p.m.**

*Hospice Presentation • Speaker: Karen Lawler*

**Wednesday, July 19 • 12:00 p.m.**

*Connecting Across Generations • Speaker: Justin Cox*

**Thursday, July 20 • 6:00 p.m.**

*Avoiding Identity Theft • Speaker: TBA*

## Vacation Bible School Rome: Paul & the Underground Church

August 7-11, 2017

*Join us in Rome! You'll explore the caves of the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-times projects, play high-energy games, sample tasty Mediterranean snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!*

*VBS is for children ages 3 - Grade 5. Be on the lookout for registration to open.*

*If you would like to volunteer, please contact Melissa Wilson at 704-873-7231 or*

*melissa@statesvillefbc.org.*



Messages by: Nelson Granade

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### CBF Mission Bites

#### Bite 35: Re-learning the world, re-learning God

*"Archie came to us directly from prison, not having been out in civilian life since 1993. I began to think about current events and what life was like here in Halifax County 24 years ago. Overwhelmed was my reaction as I thought about the advent of cell phone technology and even our money system.*

*We have much work to do with Archie. His adjustment has been difficult as he learns about life in this new 21st century world. Hopefully, through our work with homeless men like Archie at Union Mission in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., we can help them see how God can support and sustain both in the present and future."*

- Anna and LaCount Anderson, CBF field personnel in Eastern North Carolina

#### Bite 35: Providing hope at a stoplight

*"All over our city, at every stoplight, we are faced with refugee children and mothers with small babies begging at car windows. For this reason, I keep packaged snacks in the car to hand out. Often, these children are being used by adults who place them there with no food or water to beg from anyone passing.*

*This particular day, I only had two small packages of popped popcorn which were tied inside a plastic grocery bag. There were two young boys at the stoplight, so I handed them the whole bag directing them to share, and said 'Jesus Christ loves you!'*

*Before I got through the intersection, I glanced into my rear-view mirror and saw a shocking sight. Both boys were pulling at the grocery bag towards themselves like a tug of war, and then, one boy began ripping the grocery bag with his teeth to get to the smaller bags of popcorn -- they were so hungry.*

*The snacks in the car are my way of helping children in the most effective and least abusive way. This day, I was humbled by their need, and their hunger. A certain numbness comes from the constant bombardment of beggars at every light. Those children are seeing the Lord's face through gifts given to CBF to support our Syrian relief work. "*

- CBF field personnel in the Middle East

## Announcements

### Continuing Operation Inasmuch

We had a wonderful Operation Inasmuch this year! Not only did we more than double the number of people who served in the community, but we added new and different projects this year. The Missions Team is excited about the impact we were able to make on our community. We are beginning to make plans for next year and how we can continue to grow this ministry, but we don't have to wait until next year to serve our community. When Jesus said "inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it unto me," I don't think he meant once a year. There continues to be many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus in and around our community throughout the year.

The Missions Team had several requests that we were unable to fulfill at Operation Inasmuch. We will be putting together small informal teams to go out and accomplish these projects over the next several months. We need your help! We need you to be a part of this important ministry. This is your invitation. We will be advertising different projects that need to be completed along with the project leader in *The Interim* and in the Sunday announcement sheets. We need you to partner with us in completing these projects. If you would be willing to serve as a project leader by calling and recruiting workers, meeting with the people we will be serving and seeing the project through to completion, please speak with David Potter or Melissa Wilson.

### Back to School Bash

This year we are partnering with Back to School Bash to provide much needed items for children in Iredell-Statesville Schools. Back to School Bash is a ministry that provides shoes and school supplies to children in need right here in Statesville. Last summer we collected shoes for the Back to School Bash. This year we will be collecting school supplies. We need a variety of supplies such as: pencils, pens, highlighters, notebooks, paper, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, erasers, pencil sharpeners, book bags, glue sticks. We will be collecting these items in a large container near the Welcome Center until July 16. Thank you for helping provide for the students of Statesville.

