

Children gather to begin the
Easter Egg Hunt on
Saturday, April 15, 2017.

THE INTERIM

Volume 74 Issue 9

April 30, 2017



From the Pastor...



"We've never done it that way before!" These are words often heard in churches. They are also called "the last words of a dying church." Of course change for the sake of change is useless and disruptive. Change, however, for the sake of improvement and effectiveness is essential.

This year we are making a change in Operation Inasmuch. We've moved the event from Saturday to Sunday. In fact, it's this Sunday, April 30, 2017. We've also moved the times of our service. To get us out to our projects quicker, we are having a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in Adams Hall and a commissioning worship service at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. This way we can be at our mission projects by 10:00 a.m.

So how does this change truly help? Churches that have tried a Sunday missions event have doubled and tripled participation. If we truly want Operation Inasmuch to be a churchwide event, it makes sense to do it at a time when most of our folks are already committed to being at church. This year, we are simply taking church to those in need.

Yes, there is a risk that our worship attendance might dip that day. Not everyone wants to get up earlier and wearing work clothes to church might not "feel worshipful" to some. Scripture, however, is very clear that obedient action is better than worship/sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22). Jesus himself encountered criticism for healing on the Sabbath, but he made it clear that is right to do good on any day (Mark 3:1-6).

In reality, we're really not making that big of a change. One reason I accepted the call to be your pastor is my sincere respect for your deep commitment to missions. In other words, stretching to do more missions is part of our heritage. So reaching out to our community on a Sunday is more rooted tradition than it is in change. We have always been "First Baptist Church," which means we like to lead the way.

I think this year's Operation Inasmuch has the potential to do two great things. First, it can unite our congregation more than ever around our core mission of making Christ known. Second, it can show our community that First Baptist Church is alive and well and still cares deeply about those in need. These are two great goals and I'm confident that you all will rise to meet them.

I'm so proud of our staff, missions' team, deacons and congregation for the work that has gone into planning this event. Many in our community have commented about our churches ability to flourish amidst a major fire and a pastor out recuperating. It is my hope that every single member will show up this Sunday ready to work. I know I will! Let's show our community the true nature of First Baptist Church by making this the most successful Operation Inasmuch ever.



Sunday, April 30, 2017

8:30 a.m. Pastries & Fruit in Adams Hall
9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Service Projects

- Serve mid-day meal at Fifth Street Ministries
- Build steps at Iredell Christian Ministries
- Build deck for local senior citizen
- Office and repair projects at PowerCross
- Yard Work
- Wash windows at homes of local senior citizens
- Various repair projects for local senior citizens
- Home painting
- Gutter & HC Ramp Repair
- Bean Soup Assembly for Iredell Christian Ministries
- Singing at local assisted living facilities

**INASMUCH AS YOU DID IT FOR THE
LEAST OF THESE, YOU DID IT FOR ME.**
—JESUS

Schedule

Sunday, April 30

Operation Inasmuch

8:30 a.m. Pastries & Fruit - Adams Hall

9:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Operation Inasmuch Projects

Monday, May 1

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 2

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

Wednesday, May 3

9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, May 4

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

Sunday, May 7

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, May 8

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 9

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

Wednesday, May 10

9:00 a.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal

5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, May 11

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

Weeks of April 16 & 23, 2017

	4/16	4/23
Church in Bible Study	128	132
Church in Worship.....	262	175

Financial Statistics

	April	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	61,239.00	536,274.00
Budget Receipts	60,759.00	478,505.00
Needed to Meet Goal	480.00	57,769.00
Alms	467.00	3,375.00
Designated	4,741.00	44,191.00

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Operation Inasmuch

Thursday, May 4, 2017

National Day of Prayer

Sunday, May 14, 2017

Mother's Day

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Senior Adult Luncheon

Monday, May 29, 2017

Memorial Day

June 20-23, 2017

Children at Camp Passport

June 25-30, 2017

Students at Look Up Lodge

July 15-22, 2017

Miami Mission Trip

August 7-11

Rome: Paul & the Underground Church

VBS



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, 2017





Messages by: Nelson Granade

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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 reaching international students with daily Christ-centered action .

"For 17 days in February, we hosted a delightful group of 13 international students from China. We said 'grace' before our meals at home. After a few days, one of the young men staying with us had cooked some Chinese food for our dinner. We were talking about how excited we were to start eating and he said, 'Wait, aren't we going to say grace first?' So we believe that our Christian witness in word and deed made an impact. They asked many questions about church and about God and our prayer is that as they return to China to finish their education, select their career, and establish families, that thoughts of Jesus will come to their minds and that their hearts will turn toward God."

- Lita and Rick Sample, CBF field personnel in Fremont, Calif.

Our Church is pleased to support CBF Global Missions in moments like these where bearing witness to Jesus Christ takes form through lessons that connect nutritional health and faith.

"Recently in our various children's and mothers' groups we talked about something that might seem spiritually irrelevant: good nutrition. What foods should we eat more of, and what should we eat less of? Through simple games and activities, we're giving these families tools to make better decisions about what they put into their bodies."

Is this mission work? Does Jesus care what we eat? Absolutely -- remember the times he fed crowds of people who were hungry? And remember that Paul said our bodies are temples to care for? It's a simple way to remind these children that God cares about more than just their souls -- God loves all of us. Jesus came so that we could go to heaven, but also so that we could live 'life to the full' here and now."

- Jon and Tanya Parks, CBF field personnel in Slovakia

Announcements

Bean Soup Mix

As part of Operation Inasmuch, we will assemble Bean Soup Mix for Fifth Street Ministries. Please bring various types of dried beans, onion soup mix, canned tomatoes, and quart-size zip lock bags.

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet is now accepting donations of spring and summer clothes for all ages. Donation receipts are available.

Wednesday Evening Menus

Wednesday, May 3

Cheeseburgers, French Fries, & Cookies
Children's Menu: same

Wednesday, May 10

Chicken Divan, Noodles, Green Beans, Rolls, &
Apple-Pear Crisp
Children's Menu: Grilled Cheese & Chips

Continuing to Pray the 23rd Psalm (You Prepare a Table Before Me)

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Thank You, Father, that when I am hungry I can always come home. Thank you that Your children ALWAYS have a seat at Your table. Not only when we deserve it, but mostly when we don't. It's a table replete with everything we need to nourish our souls, grow godly character, and build strong, spiritual muscles—much to the chagrin of our ever-present enemies. No matter how badly we may be treated by the world, we have Your assurance that we can come to Your table, sit down with You, and eat to our heart's content. Thank you, God for preparing the table, and for Jesus who serves us.

PS: Your desserts are heavenly!

*The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.*



Song of Solomon 2:12