



Carla Wimpy prepares to tell a Bible story to preschoolers at Vacation Bible School.

THE INTERIM

Volume 76 Issue 16

August 4, 2019

From the Pastor...

First Baptist Church is a “Big Tent Congregation.” By this we mean that we gather a diverse group of people who are united by a commitment to Christ. We might have various opinions and viewpoints, but we realize there is something bigger than ourselves. We are broken people who are being healed by Christ. Because we have been loved (despite our sins), we love others (despite our differences).

I believe God desires Big Tent Congregations because God’s Kingdom is a broad kingdom. In fact, God’s Kingdom is bigger than any earthly kingdom. Jesus united a motley crew of disciples by calling them to something greater than themselves or their own ideologies. In the same group you had a Roman tax collector and a zealot committed to the overthrow of Rome. Jesus pointed them to a greater Kingdom and taught them how to love and respect one another.

Unfortunately we live in a polarized world and this makes it extremely difficult to be a Big Tent Congregation. We live in a time when power is gained by dividing and denigrating instead of loving and lifting. We tend to listen to those who are like us instead of trying to understand those who are different. Just because this is how things are, however, doesn’t mean it is right or has to be this way.

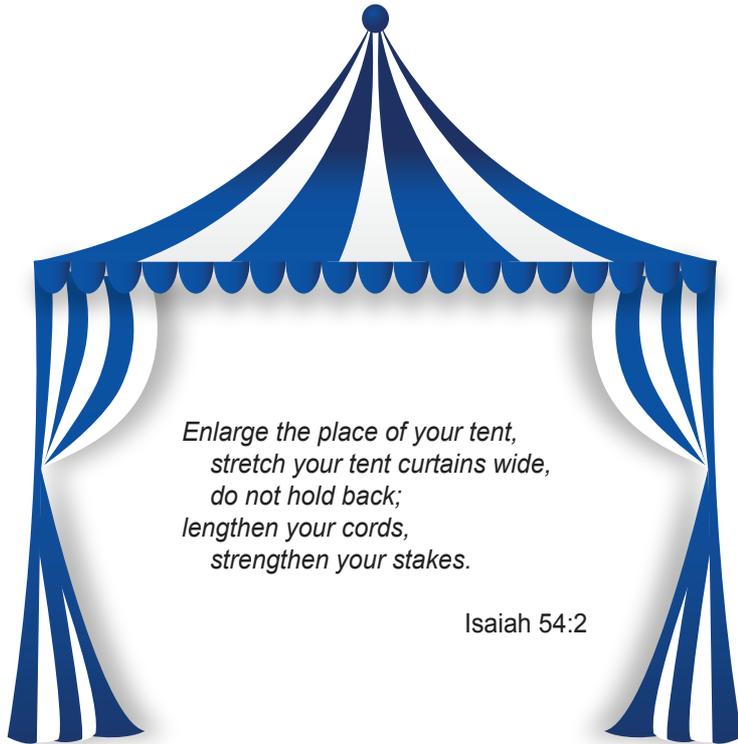
In I Corinthians Paul tells us there is a more excellent way – LOVE! Paul describes love in this way:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Living in love and respect is a challenge, but it is the right way to show our faith. Jesus said that the world will recognize His disciples by our love (John 13:35).

I am grateful to be part of a Big Tent Congregation who seek to know and love Jesus Christ and make him known. I am proud that we seek to minister to the “least of these” and welcome all who are seeking to grow in Christ. It’s not always easy, but it’s what we are called to do. We will be in perfect love and unity in heaven. When we show that love now, we bring a little heaven to earth.



*Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.*

Isaiah 54:2

Schedule

Sunday, August 4

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

Monday, August 5

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 6

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, August 7

12:00 p.m. Lunch Hour Bible Study - Adams Hall

Thursday, August 8

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, August 11

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

Monday, August 12

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 13

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, August 14

12:00 p.m. Lunch Hour Bible Study - Adams Hall

Thursday, August 15

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet



Monday Evening Pickleball

Mondays

6:00-8:00 p.m. - Gym

Our pickleball group has added an evening time slot. All are welcome to play Monday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m., beginning July 29. Pickleballers also meet Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday mornings

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, August 5

9:00 a.m. Pickleball

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

6:00 p.m. Pickleball

Tuesday, August 6

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, August 7

8:00 a.m. Pickleball

Thursday, August 8

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, August 9

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, August 12

9:00 a.m. Pickleball

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

6:00 p.m. Pickleball

Tuesday, August 13

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, August 14

8:00 a.m. Pickleball

Thursday, August 15

9:00 a.m. Pickleball

7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Financial Statistics

	July	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	56,237.00	727,560.00
Budget Receipts	41,027.00	683,593.00
Needed to Meet Goals	15,210.00	43,967.00
Alms	517.00	5,470.00
Designated	11,459.00	156,383.00

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
 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

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of July 21 & 28, 2019

	7/21	7/28
Church in Bible Study	125	132
Church in Worship	203	204



Athens: Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth

July 22-26, 2019

Vacation Bible School was a great success. We had over 100 children attend and over 60 volunteers! Thank you to all who made this week a great success!



The Extraordinary Life - A Life of Prayer

Because we live in a fallen world, life is not always as we would like it to be. That's why we look forward to heaven, where all things will be perfect. As the Bible tells us, "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away". (Rev. 21:4) That's because we will be forever in the actual, physical presence of Jesus. But until then we can experience not a perfect life, but an extraordinary life, right now in real time. Jesus came to give us abundant life while we're still on this earth. That life is possible by walking hand in hand with Jesus every day by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. A huge part of an extraordinary life is prayer, staying connected with God by talking with Him and listening to Him through His Word and His Spirit. Prayer keeps our lives in order spiritually, physically, relationally, financially, and every other way. Don't settle for an ordinary life! Live the extraordinary life by pressing in to God through prayer. "God steps into the life of the person who prays. He can do more in a moment than you can do in a lifetime." (Dr. Ronnie Floyd)

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



Announcements

CBF Misson Bites

Mission Bite 139: Remembering Marcus

Marcus was one of the first folks from our neighborhood to join the garden team, claiming one of the individual beds in the garden and cultivating beans, squash, okra, and greens. He would eat some, some he would sell, and some he would give away to friends in his neighborhood.

Marcus was diagnosed with cancer last year, but still he came to the garden with us. He couldn't eat much and talking was difficult, but he could pull up a chair and help us pull weeds. He loved the garden, and I think he felt better when he was working.

Marcus passed away last November. He was a generous and caring man, and we will miss him at the Urban Farm.

- Jessica Hearne, CBF field personnel serving in Danville, Va.

Mission Bite 140: The Choice of Mercy

In looking at the experiences of two friends who made wrong choices recently, I've come to the conclusion that mercy is also a choice.

One friend made a bad choice that he didn't realize might hurt someone. Actually, it was more of an honest mistake. He didn't know he was breaking a rule, but when it was discovered that he had broken the rule, he was shamed in front of others and punished. I'm sure that the boss thought he was letting this fellow off easy, but his lack of mercy damaged everything the young man was trying to accomplish.

Another friend made a series of bad choices knowing they would hurt others. Actually, anyone would have known that it was wrong. But when it was discovered that he had done these things not caring who he hurt, the one whom he had injured most had mercy on him. I'm sure some thought he was letting this fellow off easy, but his mercy gave my friend the chance to restore his own life.

Mercy is indeed a choice, and it seems to me it's always a good choice. It certainly is God's choice for all of us, revealed in the Resurrection. What a blessing that God's loving mercy is for everyone, whether we deserve it or not.

- Annette Ellard, CBF field personnel serving in Louisville, Ky.



Christian Sympathy...

is extended to Gale Hall and family in the death of Teddie Hall on July 24, 2019.

VBS Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that helped in any way to make VBS a success. Thank you to our group leaders, entertainers, decorators, traffic directors, snack preparers, and everyone else that helped with VBS. We could not have had a wonderful week without your help.

Melissa Wilson, Minister of Children

Promotion Sunday Sunday, August 18, 2019

Children will move to their new Sunday School classes, and sixth graders will join the Venture Students,

Precept Study: Revelation - the sign of His coming Begins in September

Tuesdays: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. & Wednesdays: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Now is the time to start making plans to attend our Fall Precept Bible Study: "Revelation - the sign of His coming". See Caroline Bentley or Ginny Stikeleather for questions. You may sign up at the Welcome Center.

Fall Kickoff Wednesday, August 21, 2019 5:00 p.m. - FLC

Join us for a hamburger and hot dog dinner as we celebrate the return of our Wednesday evening activities! Please bring your favorite homemade dessert to share! Cost of the meal is \$6.00/adult, \$5.00/child, or \$22.00/family. We will have inflatables and games set up in the gym for a fun evening!

Wonderful Wednesdays Resume Wednesday, August 28, 2019

We currently pick up children from Cool Spring Elementary, American Renaissance School, East Elementary, and Montessori. We are open to expanding with enough interest. Register your child now at www.statesvillefbc.org.