

Ovaline Watts, Odell Aman, and Louise Taylor attended the Senior Adult Birthday Party honoring those 90 and above on February 16, 2017.



Volume 74 Issue 5

March 5, 2017

## From the Pastor..



I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather as much as I am. I love that we're having a little bit more daylight as well. These shifts remind us that spring is on the way and that Easter is just around the corner. Before we rush into Easter, however, we need to examine ourselves by focusing on Lent.

Lent literally means "lengthening" as in the lengthening of days moving toward spring. We can also take its meaning to be stretching – as in stretching ourselves to grow in faith. It is a time we remember Jesus' forty days of temptation in which he rejected Satan and reaffirmed God's will for his life.

Though many Baptists do not observe Lent, what better way to prepare for Easter than rooting out the evil in our lives and reaffirming God's will for ourselves? Lent isn't just about "giving up something." Lent is about embracing our faith and making room for what's right and holy.

We began Lent a few days ago with an Ash Wednesday Service that was moving and meaningful. We will continue in Lent until Easter Sunday, April 16. During this time Larry and I will be bringing a series of sermons entitled: Respecting God's Commandments.

On Wednesday evenings will all come back together and Larry and I will delve more deeply into the Ten Commandments. Together we will focus on Respecting God, Respecting the Rhythms of Life, Respecting Our Heritage, Respecting One Another and Respecting Ourselves.

I look forward to being with you for as many of these sermons and studies as possible, but my health will dictate how much I'm able to lead. Right now, it looks like I will be facing surgery in the latter part of March and will be out for at least two weeks. It is my hope is to rejoin you on Easter Sunday!

*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

Philippians 3:10-11

### Respecting God's Commandments 2017 Lenten Sermon Series

**March 5, 2017**

***Respecting God***

Exodus 20:1-7 (1st - 3rd Commandments)

**March 12, 2017**

***Respecting the Rhythms of Life***

Exodus 20:8-11 (4th Commandment)

**March 19, 2017**

***Respecting Our Heritage***

Exodus 20:12 (5th Commandment)

**March 26, 2017**

***Respecting One Another***

Exodus 20:13-16 (6th - 9th Commandments)

**April 2, 2017**

***Respecting Ourselves***

Exodus 20:17 (10th Commandment)

## Schedule

### Sunday, March 5

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, March 6

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, March 7

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

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

7:00 p.m. Tennessee Tech University Chorale Concert- Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

### Wednesday, March 8

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, March 9

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group

### Sunday, March 12

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, March 13

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

### Tuesday, March 14

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

### Wednesday, March 15

9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study

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, March 16

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - FLC

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

## Spiritual Statistics

### Week of February 19, 2017

**Note: Statistics for February 26 will be published in the next issue of *The Interim*.**

	2/19
Church in Bible Study .....	147
Church in Worship. ....	208

## Financial Statistics

**Note: These financial statistics run through Sunday, February 19. Statistics for February 26 will be published in the next issue of *The Interim*.**

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	65,613.00	405,049.00
Budget Receipts	37,885.00	315,647.00
Needed to Meet Goal	27,728.00	89,402.00
Alms	598.00	2,235.00
Designated	2,893.00	34,698.00

## Announcements

### Miami Mission Trip Applications Due Sunday, March 5

Completed applications (including \$75.00 deposit) need to be returned to the church office by this Sunday, March 5. Please see Melissa Wilson for a application. Space is limited. The trip is planned for July 15-22.

### Tennessee Tech Chorale Concert at FBC

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

**7:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary**

The Tennessee Tech University Chorale will perform in the FBC sanctuary on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. as part of their Spring Tour of 2017. The concert will include a wide range of music from sacred to modern. The ensemble is comprised of students majoring in music as well as other degree programs. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Craig Zamer.

We need your help to house these students. Please contact James Martin if you are able to house two or more of these students.

### Senior Adult Luncheon

**Thursday, March 16, 2017**

**11:00 a.m. ~ FLC**

Our program this month will feature Andy Lackey, Associate Pastor at Western Avenue Baptist Church. He will present a Gospel Illusion Show. Please call the church at 704-873-7231 or sign up in your Sunday School class no later than Sunday, March 12. Lunch will be \$6.00 payable at the door.

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur Tel: 704-873-7231

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*Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations...*

Matthew 28:19

CBFNC Annual Gathering

as you go 

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## A Note From Minister to Students Justin Cox

When I first came to First Baptist it didn't take me long to hear about other ministers in the area. After a few phone calls and cups of coffee, I found myself sitting across from Wesley Pitts and Carrilea Potter. Wes is the Director of Education at First Presbyterian and Carrilea is the Associate Pastor at Broad Street United Methodist Church. Our initial meetings were at first more focused on pastoral support, but we soon discovered that many of our conversations led toward our involvement with our different youth groups.

It didn't take long for us to come to the conclusion that we needed to get our youth together to do a large event. Over the course of several months we met at Broad Street, then First Presbyterian, and we as First Baptist were finally able to play host last month. We had a wonderful time with around 60 students and parents showing up. We played games in our gym, ate pizza in the Fellowship Hall, and did a bit of "denominational trivia" to finish off the night. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and conversations were already starting about what we were going to do next time.

Events like this don't happen without planning and support. Members of our Student Ministry Leadership Team made sure our visitors were fed and felt welcome. Other volunteers sent snacks and desserts for the students to enjoy. I can't thank all these individuals enough for their help. This could not have happened without them.

This is only one example of some of the activities in which our students are taking part. I would encourage all members here at First Baptist to engage with our students. You can do that by simply speaking to them when you see them in or outside of church or by getting involved with our youth program. Right now we are looking for adults to help lead Sunday School one Sunday a month. If this is something you'd be interested in, please stop me in the halls of the church or contact me at 704-873-7231, ext. 212 or [justin@statesvillefbc.org](mailto:justin@statesvillefbc.org).

Thank you for the opportunity to lead and love your students,  
Justin

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## Put "Things" Aside and Focus on God

Do you feel guilty because you think you don't spend enough time in prayer? Don't feel alone. I imagine we all feel that way more than we would like to admit. When "things" get in the way of quality time with God, it is time to put them aside and focus on Him, even if for a short time. A short time will lead to a longer time. Talking and listening to God will become more important, and other things will become less important.

Father, I long to spend more time in prayer with You—not just for asking, seeking, and knocking—but for knowing You better and loving You more! May I so desire that deep relationship with You (which is so much more important than any other thing) that I will put aside all things and count them as loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord. (Phil. 3:8)

"Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord will hear when I call to Him." (Psalm 4:3)

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather

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## CBF Annual Gathering

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina will hold the annual gathering Thursday, March 30 - Saturday, April 1 at First Baptist Church of Hickory. We encourage our members to take part in the multiple events. For more information on the Annual Gathering, please go to <http://www.cbfn.org/congregations/2017-annual-gathering/as-you-go>.

**Leadership Institute**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2017**  
**1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Author Brad Griffin will share the research presented in his book, *Growing Young – Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*. Based on groundbreaking research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations, *Growing Young* provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain young people. Packed with ideas, *Growing Young* shows ministry leaders how to position their churches to reach younger generations in a way that breathes life into the whole church.

**Annual Gathering**  
**Friday, March 31, 2017**  
**8:30 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.**

Worship, workshops, exhibits, fellowship and more! This day will include all of the traditional elements associated with the CBFNC General Assembly and will feature our keynote preacher, Susan Sparks.

**Laugh In Peace Comedy Tour**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2017**  
**7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

A Jewish rabbi (Bob Alper), a Christian minister (Susan Sparks), and a Muslim comedian (Aman Ali) step onto a stage together. It sounds like the set-up to a good joke... Instead, it's the set-up for a great night of entertainment. The Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour, established by Bob Alper more than a decade ago, brings together comedians from different faiths to share jokes and break down barriers. The show will conclude with a question and answer period. The comedians also will mingle with audience members after the show.

**"All Are Called" Forum**  
**Saturday, April 1, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Though we value ordained ministers, we Baptists believe strongly in the Priesthood of ALL Believers. Every Christian is not only a minister, but a missionary in daily life. Through both large-group plenary sessions and small-group workshops, we will explore ways to reclaim the need for all of God's people to live out God's call in their families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and leisure time.

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Message by: Dr. Nelson Granade

Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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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 continued hope for transformation and commitment to sharing the Gospel.

*"Many years ago, Macau was given the slogan 'Macau, city of God, there is none more loyal!' Today, Macau's loyalty is to false gods and the immoral things of man. The city seems to have been sealed up by the evil one, but we must not give up hope. Hope for change, hope for a new day, hope for Macau's people to be truly loyal to God. It is our hope that the Gospel message will gain momentum and soon be multiplying throughout the population resulting in a vast harvest of people for the Kingdom of God."*

- Larry and Sarah Ballew, CBF field personnel in Macau, China

Our Church is pleased to support CBF Global Missions in moments like these showing love and hospitality to refugees in Uganda.

*"Here in Uganda, refugees are required to return to primary school if they want to complete their educations. This often means adults and youth must return to primary school, even as far back as the first grade. Can you imagine returning to the first grade now, knowing you have another 12 years to go before you can complete school and get a job? Jade and I have dreamed of being able to provide our students with an accelerated education program...in a quick and dignified way. We pray that by enabling our students to earn a high school diploma, they'll be better equipped to thrive in Uganda, or wherever they go. Who knows, they may even become the change-makers and leaders their home countries will need in the future."*

- Shelah Acker, CBF field personnel in Uganda



### Wednesday Evening Menus

#### Wednesday, March 8

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Slaw, Baked Beans,  
& Banana Pudding  
Kids' Menu: Same

#### Wednesday, March 15

Country Style Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls,  
& Cake  
Kids' Menu: Hamburgers & Chips

### Clothes Closet Volunteers

#### Thursday, March 9

Jeff Templeton & Mac Funderburk

#### Thursday, March 16

Phil Crowder & Jesse Jackson

### A Note of Appreciation From Mollie Smith

Dear Church Family,

My heart is so full of praise now and always for my Lord and Savior and the things He has blessed me with. Good health is one of those things. As you all may or may not know I had some surgery. I spent two nights in the hospital. Dr. Granade and Dr. Gregg came to visit and pray with me. They assured me that my church family was praying for me. They did not need to assure me of that because I felt the love and heartfelt genuineness of the prayers for healing that my church family sent up to God on my behalf.

I am a little over a week out from surgery. My post op visit went well and things are progressing as they should. Dr. Torres and countless others have been amazed at how well I am recuperating. I simply tell them that it is nothing I am doing. It is what the Lord is doing. I give the credit to the one whom the credit is due.

Thank you all for your prayers and phone calls and being an important part of my extended family. I will be back on Wednesday nights before too much longer and I can't wait to see all of your smiling and loving faces.

Sincerely,  
Mollie Smith