



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

THE INTERIM

Volume 77 Issue 5

March 1, 2020

From the Pastor...

The Cross is central to our Christian faith. It was upon the cross that Jesus atoned for our sins, defeated death and overcame evil. On the cross, God took a tortuous mode of execution and created new life for all who would follow.

Jesus knew the cross was before him and willingly followed the Father's will. In fact, scripture says that Jesus "steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:52). He had no death wish, but was willing to sacrifice himself to bring us new life.

I was recently on a retreat that took place at a Franciscan Prayer Center. As I sat in a Catholic Chapel, the crucifix over the altar drew my attention. Unlike our plain crosses, a crucifix displays both our Lord and the horror of the cross. The tortured body of Jesus made me want to cry.

Of course the cross is not the final word. We are Easter people who celebrate an empty cross. Yet, all Christians need to understand the cost of our salvation. We need to know the many meanings of the cross; including – atonement for sin, example of faith, act of love, fulfillment of prophecy, establishment of peace, embrace of suffering, call to servanthood and path to eternal life.

Have you ever noticed how many hymns are about the cross? *The Old Rugged Cross*, *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*, *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*, *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed*, *Were You There, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*, *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*, and *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone* are only a few.

The plethora of hymns about the cross reflects both the centrality of the cross and the breadth of its meaning. I hope you will join us for each Sunday of Lent as we focus on the cross. Together we will sing deep hymns of the faith, learn more of Jesus' sacrifice and worship the One who died for us.

Messages of the Cross 2020 Lenten Sermon Series

March 1, 2020
The Cross Atones for Sin
Romans 3:21-26

March 8, 2020
The Cross Brings Peace
Ephesians 2:11-22

March 15, 2020
The Cross Embraces Suffering
I Peter 2:19-24

March 22, 2020
The Cross Exemplifies Love
I John 4:7-11

March 29, 2020
The Cross Demonstrates Humility
Philippians 2:5-11

April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday
The Cross Demands Faithfulness
Luke 9:23-27

April 12, 2020 – Easter Sunday
The Cross Overcomes Death
Colossians 2:8-15

Schedule

Sunday, March 1

Alms Sunday - Eddie Steele Memorial Fund

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Handbells

5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, March 2

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 3

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, March 4

9:30 a.m. Precept Study

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program

4:00 p.m. Children's Choir

5:00 p.m. Time of Fellowship

5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:15 p.m. Children's & Teen Missions; Preschool Choir

6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, March 5

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Saturday, March 7

8:00 a.m. Indoor Yard Sale

Sunday, March 8

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Handbells

5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 10

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group

6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, March 11

9:30 a.m. Precept Study

No Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program

4:00 p.m. Children's Choir

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:15 p.m. Children's & Teens Missions; Preschool Choir

6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, March 12

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, March 2

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, March 4

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, March 5

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, March 6

Gym Closed

Saturday, March 7

8:00 a.m. Indoor Yard Sale

Monday, March 9

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, March 10

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, March 11

8:30 a.m. Pickleball

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

5:30 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, March 12

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

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

Friday, March 13

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

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

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Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	65,900.00	406,820.00
Budget Receipts	90,611.00	373,949.00
Monthly Goal Met/Needed to Meet YTD	24,711.00	32,871.00
Alms	557.00	3,747.00
Designated	4,914.00	32,709.00

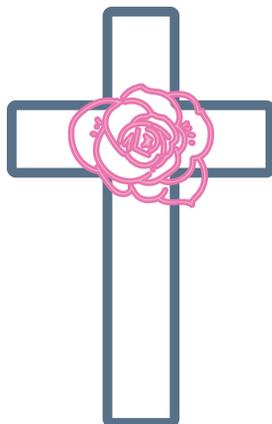
Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 16 & 23, 2020

	2/16	2/23
Church in Bible Study	101	97
Church in Worship	184	221

Ladies Thursday Spring Preview Dinner

Thursday, April 20, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.



Mark your calendar now for the Ladies Thursday Spring Preview Dinner on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Family Life Center. Dawn Smith Jordan of Irmo, South Carolina, a former Miss South Carolina, will share her story of triumph through tragedy. Dawn relates true-life stories of the various storms we each face in our lives, and intertwines a combination of music, testimony, humor, transparency and importantly, the truth found in God's word.

Complimentary childcare for babies to school age will be provided. (Registration is required at time of ticket purchase).

This will be a wonderful evening of good fellowship, good food, and inspirational thoughts. It will provide a preview of the 2020 - 2021 Ladies Thursday series which will include two dinner meetings each year and is open to ladies throughout our community.

Maintaining Lenten Perspective

By Micah Groves

Published February 14, 2018 on cbfblog.com

For as long as I can remember, this time of year has been difficult for me. The shorter days, limited sunlight and colder weather are not friends to individuals who deal with, or have dealt with, issues of depression and anxiety. On top of that, it seems like just about everything that has ever gone wrong in my life has happened during the month of February.

As a freshman in high school, my family lost our home to a house fire during this month. As a freshman in college, our family lost my grandfather during the month of February. My biggest battle with the aforementioned mental health issues culminated during, you guessed it, February.

So, the lead up to and journey through Lent is always an interesting time for me. For goodness sake, we start it off with Ash Wednesday when we are reminded of our mortality and the fact that one day we will in fact return to the dust from which we were made. Happy Ash Wednesday Everyone!

Like many people, Lent has mostly been a time when I've focused on things and emotions such as sadness, guilt, suffering, pain, sacrifice, betrayal, denial, discomfort, and death leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. Like many people, I have often committed to the practice of giving something up for the duration of Lent in order to help myself focus on this holy season.

In thinking through the lead up to Lent this year though, I've begun to consider taking a bit of a different attitude and perspective.

I am still committing to giving up/sacrificing something in a meaningful way during the next six weeks, but I am also making a conscious effort to maintain a perspective that includes the promise of Christ's resurrection. I am approaching Lent this year by including in my sacrifices, an attempt to practice what life with the hope of the resurrection might look like on a day-to-day basis. I am committing to working toward God's reality in the here and now, and not only in God's promised future.

I think Lent is ultimately supposed to be a difficult time. But I also think remembering God's love, grace, and promise will help us as we walk down the difficult road leading to crucifixion, and into the ultimate gift of resurrection.

Grace and Peace.

Micah Groves is a CBF Leadership Scholar and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He received his Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication from East Central University and currently serves as a Deacon at Northwest Baptist Church in Ardmore, Oklahoma, as well as an Officer on the CBF Oklahoma Coordinating Council.

The Power of Praise

God, I begin my prayer today with praise. When I go outside and capture raindrops in my hands or feel snowflakes touch my cheeks, I praise You that You are God of the weather; I sit on the windowsill, look into the night sky, and praise You that You are God of the moon and stars, the Father of the billions of heavenly lights, from whom comes all perfect gifts. (James 1:17) I look at my fellow human beings, all so different from me, yet much the same, and I praise You that You are the creator of mankind, the intricate human body and the brain. I walk through the grass, smell the flowers, touch the bark on the trees, feel the solid earth beneath my feet, and the breeze on my skin, and I'm reminded of Your perfection. "Where in heaven or on earth is there a god like You who can do Your great works and mighty wonders?" (Deut. 3:24) Most of all, when I think of Your plan of redemption, I praise You that You are the God of forgiveness. Only You! Now, what else was I going to pray about?

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bite

Mission Bite 166: Direct Involvement

For every recording project Keith works on, we request a team of prayer volunteers. A recent recording of the entire New Testament proved particularly challenging. We had a tight deadline and a lot of issues within the local recording team. We leaned heavily on the team of 19 prayer volunteers who prayed to find the right voice for "Paul," for "Paul" when he became ill, for the mysterious clicks whenever "John" recorded, for the final proof-listening of each chapter, for our own sanity...

When we finally announced that all was completed, a volunteer emailed, "I am as happy as if I had been directly involved." We assured her she had been!

-Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen, CBF field personnel in the Netherlands

Mission Bite 167: Love in Every Age & Language

Latino culture respects and appreciates older adults, so it's not surprising that Girl Scout Troop 5020 has an ongoing partnership with a local nursing home.

Troop 5020, sponsored by LUCHA Ministries, is bilingual and bicultural, made up of girls from immigrant families. These girls have little direct contact with older relatives because their extended families live in other countries. Troop members have painted pumpkins, provided gifts, and given handmade cards to nursing home residents, who they call the abuelos (grandparents).

One resident recalled being a Girl Scout in her younger days. "I love these girls and the way they relate to us! They're so special," she said.

"Thank you, God, for helping these young Latinas maintain their cultural values through service to persons who often feel lonely and forgotten. Thank you for the blessing they all receive, young and old, through these relationships."

-Sue and Greg Smith, Ministry with Latino Immigrants, Fredericksburg, Va.



Announcements

Welcome to our Church Family

Mike & Susan Plyler joined our congregation at the Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Welcome to our church family!



**Eddie Steele Memorial Fund
Alms Sunday, March 1, 2020**

Our March Alms will go toward the Eddie Steele Memorial Fund at Fifth Street Ministries.

Audio/Visual Team Help Needed

FBC is in desperate need of help with our audio/visual team. This team is a vital part of Sunday morning worship as well Wednesday evening bible study. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact James Martin.

**Indoor Yard Sale
Saturday, March 7, 2020**

An "Indoor Yard Sale" will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 to help raise funds for the Ladies Ministry Dinner Series. All kinds of handmade crafts, household items, needlework, baskets, pictures, frames, vases, decorative dishes, or any item that you would like to donate will be welcomed. Please place donated items in the bathroom hallway Family Life Center. No TV's. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Hunt at 704-902-1715.

A Note of Appreciation from Phil & Jean Crowder

To: All our Church Family at FBC Statesville

January and February have been very stressful for us. The prayers, calls, cards, and texts have helped me through the most trying times.

The food from our Sunday School class was much appreciated. Thank you everyone for your support.

Phil & Jean Crowder

**Wednesday Night Guest Speakers
March 4, 2020**

Neil Furr; Yokefellow Ministries

March 11, 2020

Joy Morrison; Iredell Christian Ministries