



*Our ministers with our 2020 high school graduates:  
top: Pastor Nelson, Luke Wimpy, Gavin Williams, Preston McLain, James Martin  
bottom: Melissa Wilson, Hannah Falter, Taylor Osborne, and Madelyn McLain*

# THE INTERIM

Volume 77 Issue 13

June 21, 2020

## From the Pastor...

It's easy to get so busy responding logistically to the Covid-19 crisis that we overlook the stressful emotions it brings. We've made so many adjustments in the way we live and do church and these can be overwhelming. Here are a few of the emotions I've felt or had others share with me:

### Anxiety and Fear

Daily facing an invisible virus that can possibly kill you is stressful. It reminds us of our finitude and lack of control over much of life. We fear for ourselves and those we love. God understands our anxieties and invites us to cast our cares upon God in humble prayer.

*<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. I Peter 5:6-7*

*<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

### Frustration and Grief

It is very frustrating to have your plans changed and not to be able to do the things you want. Grief comes in all sizes. We grieve the 6 people who have died in Iredell County, the 1,109 who have died in North Carolina, the 118,000 in the US and the 432,000 plus world-wide. We also grieve our daily losses, such as not being able to see our friends or worship together. God feels these losses as well and offers us comfort and hope.

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18*

*<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. II Corinthians 1:3-4*

### Loneliness and Isolation

It is difficult to be away from those we love, and even when we are together, the need for social distancing keeps us apart. Loneliness was already an epidemic before the Covid-19 restrictions, and now it has touched every one of us. In the midst of feeling isolated, God reminds us that we are never alone.

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

(continued on page 3)

## Schedule

### Sunday, June 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Live Stream  
10:00 a.m. Worship

### Monday, June 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, June 24

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom

### Thursday, June 25

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Sunday, June 28

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Live Stream  
10:00 a.m. Worship

### Monday, June 29

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, July 1

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom

### Thursday, July 2

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

## Sunday School Zoom Links

You can use these links to access your Sunday School class meeting every Sunday.

### Youth

<https://zoom.us/j/498935664?pwd=dzZXSHVwTmRZW-jc2cldpbXJKam1Fdz09>  
Meeting ID: 498 935 664  
Password: FBCSYOUTH

Links on the church website and Facebook page have been deactivated for internet safety.

### Horizons

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74224580015?pwd=NFVWRz-JKc040c3daajdSbytpNnVtUT09>  
Meeting ID: 742 2458 0015  
Password: 0NDGPa

### Crosswalk

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5836118334?pwd=SHhFZzdF-ZlI4ZVRGdW95Mzh3THlCdz09>  
Meeting ID: 583 611 8334  
Password: 3760

### Adults

Adults will view the Sunday School through the live stream.

### Children

Melissa records a new lesson for the children each week. You can access the link in your weekly e-mail, on the church Facebook page, and on the church website, [www.statesvillefbc.org](http://www.statesvillefbc.org).

## Noon Bible Study On Zoom

### Acts: An Unhindered Gospel

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.

Pastor Nelson will lead the Wednesday Bible Study on Zoom on Wednesdays at noon. We will study the book of Acts: An Unhindered Gospel. To help you follow along, an outline will be e-mailed to you each week. You can join online or by phone. To join online, go to <https://zoom.us/j/259365815?pwd=RS9HUk10GsvdE5uT0NHbCtQNjhnZz09>

Meeting ID: 259 365 815 Password: 978702

To join by phone, call the following number and enter the Meeting ID and Password:

Phone: 929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 259 365 815 Password: 978702

June 24, 2020

Even to the Gentiles  
(9:1-12:25)

July 1, 2020

The Mission to Asia Minor and the Jerusalem Council  
(13:1-15:35)

## 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

	June	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	64,142.00	671,297.00
Budget Receipts	16,246.00	588,705.00
Month Goal Met / Needed to Meet YTD Goals	47,896.00	82,592.00
Alms	110.00	4,652.00
Designated	51.00	55,316.00

*From the Pastor (continued from page 1)*

*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8*

Of course we continue to plan and adapt so as to find the safest and most effective way to be the church amidst the Corona virus outbreak (See article about our new Covid-19 Task Force). We also hear the frustration this brings to us all. Thank you for your continued support and patience during these stressful times.



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## **Covid-19 Task Force**

First Baptist Church has and will continue to put your health and safety first and foremost. Our current online and in-person worship schedule was designed after reviewing recommendations from the CDC, Iredell Health Department, and several denominational guides. Restricting who can attend, being in separate rooms, and wearing masks is not what any of us want, but it is necessary for our safety.

Unfortunately the coronavirus and the need for precautions will be with us for a long time. As our state has opened up, we have experienced a spike in new Covid-19 cases. We must remain vigilant. To help our staff with information and planning, our deacons have appointed a Covid-19 Task Force made up of members with medical knowledge.

### **Members of the Task Force include:**

Jean Crowder, Retired Nurse & Practice Manager

Theresa Faires, Nurse Practitioner

Hersey Miller, Retired Physician

Wanda Rushton, Nurse Practitioner

Josh Snow, CEO of Davis Regional Medical Center

This team will review our current health and safety plans and make recommendations of changes as we move forward. We appreciate their service and expertise. Feel free to contact team members if you have suggestions or questions.

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## **The Trumpet of Prayer**

In the Old Testament the nations of Israel would blow a trumpet to gather all the people together when something important was about to happen. This was especially true during the time of war. "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with trumpets, and you will be remembered before the Lord your God, and you will be saved from your enemies." (Numbers 10:8-9)

Prayer is our trumpet! When we find ourselves in a "war", we blow the trumpet of prayer before God and He saves us from our enemies! I believe God's ears are pealed to hear our trumpets. Let's blow them in repentance of our own sins and deliverance from the corruption in our nation. Our God is a God of truth, righteousness, and justice. When we are willing to walk in His ways, He is more than willing to bestow upon us His favor. (Exodus 33:13)

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather

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**🎺 This is the day the Lord has made:  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
🎺 Psalm 118:24**





**CBF Mission Bites**

**Mission Bite 185: Bearing Witness...Via Mobile Phone**

*Spain has been on total lockdown, but we continue to stay in contact with the internationals we minister to via mobile phone and WhatsApp.*

*Most have lost the small source of income they had. That means that they don't have money to buy food for their family during this time of quarantine. Some applied for assistance from the Red Cross, but they ran out of minutes on their phone and are unable to call or receive calls.*

*We have been able to assist families with this and other needs because of people like you - people who make it possible for us to be here and people who give so that we can demonstrate God's love in times of need.*

*-Eddie Aldape, Ministry with Immigrants and Students, Albacete, Spain*

**Mission Bite 186: Christmas Anytime**

*On January 13, I was flagged down in my old neighborhood.*

*Mrs. Akowa asked me, "My children want to know if Christmas has already passed." As I was trying to understand what she was saying she continued, "We did not see the Togo House Truck and Papa Noël pass by so we were thinking that Christmas had not come yet."*

*It struck me then that last year the kids from Togo House wanted to share Christmas balloons through out the neighborhood, so one dressed as Santa and off we went. This year living in a different area we did not pass by Mrs. Akowa's place.*

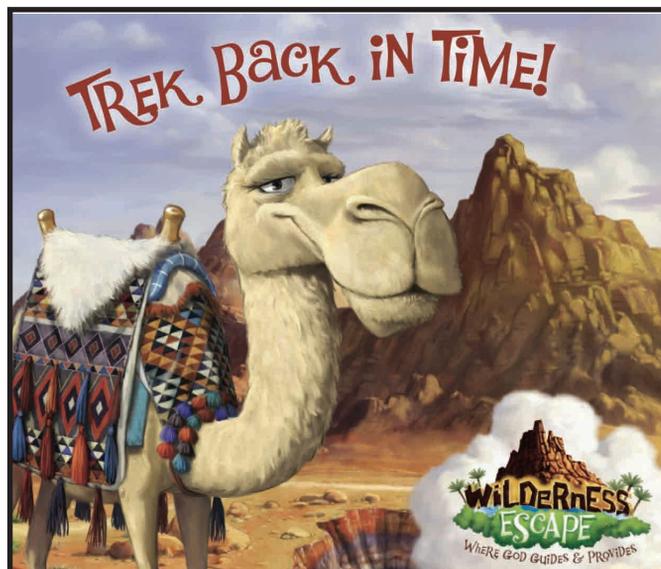
*It had been the only Christmas she and her children had ever known. As I shared this with our kids at Togo House they insisted that we gather gifts, decorate the truck, find a Papa Noel and go straight back. We did!*

*Horns blowing, drums beating, candy flying...Christmas was back. The four kids came running out the field where they were working...all shouting together, "Its Christmas! Its Christmas."*

*The love of Christ being born can be applied any time of the year we choose, not just December 25.*

*-Michael Hutchinson, CBF field personnel serving in Togo, West Africa*

**Announcements**



**Choose Your Day!**

**Tuesday, July 14**

**Thursday, July 16**

**Monday, July 20**

**Wednesday, July 22**

Join us at Wilderness Escape VBS, where we'll explore what life was like for the ancient Israelites. They've escaped slavery in Egypt...but now what? You'll craft cool projects in the Israelite Camp, race through the wilderness as you play games, and visit with Moses. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

Vacation Bible School is open to children ages 3 - Grade 5. Each day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 1:00 p.m. Please visit [www.statesvillefbc.org](http://www.statesvillefbc.org) to register.