

Ben & Susan Wood
at the Valentine Fundraiser
on February 8, 2014.

THE INTERIM



Volume 71 Issue 4

February 16, 2014

What It Means To Follow Jesus Christ

■ **Rich Kraft** *Intentional Interim Pastor*

I once saw a TV program and, to my surprise, watched a blind person skiing. The blind skier, wearing a bright pink vest, stayed directly behind an instructor listening for directions on how and when to turn. It was an amazing thing to see! After thinking about having seen that a little later in the day I thought about how, just like that blind skier, we are all following something or someone. The real question is, "Who or what are we following?"

Jesus gave the invitation that came in the form of a command, "follow me!" In Matthew 9:9, "Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him."

What does it mean to "follow Jesus?" It is quite simple really: How did Jesus Christ handle His emotions? How did He love, process real and appropriate anger? How did he deal with things that made Him anxious? How did Jesus treat other people? His friends, His family,

even His enemies? How did Jesus react to difficulties and suffering, or handle material possessions and things? How did He relate to His Heavenly Father?

As we observe how Christ lived through our interacting with the Bible and personal friendships expressed through prayer, meditation, and thinking, we come to the place where are able to SEE how our Savior and Lord handled Himself, and how, with God's help and power, to live as Jesus did! A great Christian, Brother Lawrence, called this, "Practicing the Presence of God." That sounds like a good way to live, doesn't it? Having life with God become a growing part of our routine, a part of how we live out our lives each day. So, as we continue to talk about "following Jesus," let's be thankful for the privilege to being able to do that AND as followers of Jesus Christ be open to learning more about how to listen for, watch for and obey Jesus. What a great thought that as this happens, God will work in each of us as His "disciple/follower" to develop the same character traits of God Himself. Now that's a church!

News From The Transitional Leadership Team

The Transitional Leadership Team is about half way through its mission of leading the church through the process of following through on the recommendations made by Metanoia Ministries and voted on by the congregation in early November. We believe that the majority of our mission will be completed by June. New church officers will be voted on and approved by the congregation around that time.

With the resignation of Suzanne Hayes, our team has decided not to replace her due to our mission ending soon and how it would be difficult to bring a new member up to speed with our team for the few remaining months as we complete this phase of planning.

The team also decided that in order to expedite the planning as much as possible, individual teams will be meeting more often.

The team also is working to provide better up-to-date reporting on what our individual teams will be doing by initiating a blog on our web site soon with team minutes and also making hard copies available through the church office. You will be notified as soon as this will be available to everyone.

Your Friend,
Rich Kraft
Intentional Interim Pastor

Prayer Point

"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) Lord, when I pray I don't want to stay where I am--in my super-educated, ego-drenched, superior adult state of mind. NO! Transform me to an innocent, non-suspecting, trusting child. Take me up on Your lap, just the two of us, everything forgotten except the exstasy of basking in the presence of Perfect Love. Now--Your desires become my desires. I can pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done" without inserting my own agenda. I can pray, "Give me this day my daily bread," without a single worry that You will not provide. I can be assured of Your forgiveness because it is impossible for the child in me to hold a grudge. And I know that Satan cannot touch me when Your arms are holding me. Father, only the heart of an unselfish child can give you true honor, power, and glory. Change my heart to become like a child when I pray. May God transform FBC into a congregation of "little children."

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

Pray with Us:

Sunday Morning Prayer in SonSeekers Classroom, 7:30 a.m.
Monday Morning Prayer in Sanctuary, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study, 5:45 p.m.

Schedule

Sunday, February 16

7:30 a.m. Prayer Time - SonSeekers Classroom
 8:30 a.m. Early Worship in FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Budget Discussion
 5:30 p.m. High School V Group

Monday, February 17

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, February 18

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

Wednesday, February 19

5:00 p.m. Open Gym
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Santa Fe Chicken, Caesar Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw, Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 20

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - FLC
 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, February 21

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym
 6:00 p.m. Fourth & Fifth Grades Sleep Over - FLC

Sunday, February 23

Budget Vote

7:30 a.m. Prayer Time - SonSeekers Classroom
 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, February 24

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

5:00 p.m. Open Gym For Students
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Cheeseburgers, Baked Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 27

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, February 28

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Inclement Weather Policy

Our church follows the Iredell-Statesville Schools policy for closings due to inclement weather. If the schools are closed, the church office is closed and all church activities for that day are canceled. You may check the church closing status by calling the church office and checking the recording (704-873-7231), checking our website (www.statesvillefb.org), and checking the following TV stations (WBTV, Charlotte; WSOC-TV, Charlotte; WCNC-TV, Charlotte). You may also check the websites of these stations and click on the link for weather closings.

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 2 & 9, 2014

	2/2	2/9
Church in Bible Study	151	170
Church in Worship	248	258
8:30 a.m. service	77	68
10:55 a.m. service	171	190

Financial Statistics

Weeks of February 2 & 9, 2014

	2/2	2/9
Budget - Received	\$19,437.67	\$9,057.00
Alms	752.21	0.00
Designated - Received	202.00	2,591.00
Building Reserve - Received	30.00	125.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/2/14		20,421.88
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/9/14		11,773.36
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		381,672.96
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		531,393.83
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		52,543.29
Alms Received-Year to Date		3,299.82
Building Reserve-Year to Date		6,353.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		443,921.41



Church Staff Directory

Rev. Rich Kraft.....Intentional Interim Pastor
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Mr. Landon Senn.....Minister of Students
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

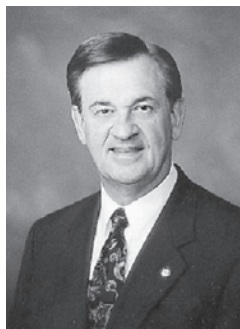
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Fri Tel: 704-873-7231

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A Message From The Desk of Frank R. Campbell



The test of a genuine fellowship is love. Nothing else quite describes the attitude that should characterize every member of the church of Jesus Christ. This love is reflected in concern for one another. Our church exists to bring all people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and then help them to grow in love for one another.

As your pastor it is my privilege to watch many grow in service, cooperation, and spirituality. We aren't interested in promoting any program unless the end result is a closer walk with God. We urge you to serve in various organizations because in serving we grow ourselves. We urge you to be present for the worship services, because the human spirit will dry up without worship.

We should pray for one another and build one another up. Your pastor prays for each of you everyday. I want you to feel free to call upon me whenever I can be of any help to you. You help me by keeping me informed of your need and the needs of others. While there is so little time to do all the many important things I am still making the effort to call upon each family. It is still going to take a long time to get around so when you have a need, please call. Nothing is more important than ministering to you. Perhaps there may come times when you wonder why the church is doing a certain thing. Misunderstanding can be easily corrected by personal conversation. Occasionally some get wrong information or feel they have been slighted. Rather than have these feelings toward anyone in the church why not try to settle them. I would be happy to help here also...We should do everything we possibly can to insure that our church will present a witness to the world of people who sincerely love God and one another. There is no doubt in my mind that is the spirit of the great majority of our members. May we pray that God will use each of us to increase the depth of love in our church family.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday.

Frank R. Campbell

- From Volume 20, Issue 33 of *The Interim* published September 17, 1967.

As we look to the future of First Baptist Church, we will revisit the lessons discussed in past issues of The Interim. This publication has been a part of First Baptist Church since 1946. Dr. Frank Campbell served as pastor to First Baptist Church 1966-1986.

Student Ministry

Middle School Retreat

Say a prayer for us at the retreat this weekend.

DNOW Weekend

March 21-23, 2014

Details and registration are now available at venturestudents.org.

My Best,
Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*

Children's Ministry

Fourth & Fifth Grade Sleep Over

Friday, February 21- Saturday, February 22, 2014

Cost is \$5.00 per kid, and all kids are welcome to invite a friend. You may drop your child off at the gym beginning at 6:00 p.m. and pick them up Saturday morning no later than 10:00 a.m. Be sure to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, modest pajamas, a Bible, and no electronics. This includes cell phones, tablets, and game systems. We want to spend time together, and electronics can be a barrier. I will have my cell phone and you can feel free to reach me there or I will call you if needed. We will have pizza for dinner and various options for breakfast the next day.

Look Up Lodge

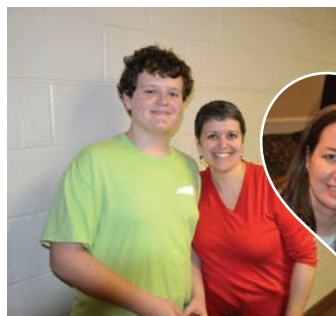
The next Look Up Lodge payment is due April 6. This payment will be \$65.00. I will send out individual e-mails in the next two weeks. Spots are still available in your child is not yet signed up.

M&M's

Please join us for Music & Missions on Wednesday nights. We have started a new adventure, but your children may not tell you about it. Where we are going is a secret because missionaries often cannot reveal their location either.

Melissa Wilson, *Minister of Children & Families*

Valentine Fundraiser Saturday, February 8, 2014



The Venture Students raised \$1700 with this fundraising. Thank you to all who cooked, decorated, entertained, donated cakes, and attended!



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.
Message By: Rich Kraft

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Announcements



New Arrival

Congratulations to Rich Kraft on the birth of a granddaughter, Tayeh Janee Kraft, on February 1, 2014.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Clayton and Karen Cline on the birth of a grandson, Oliver Gladly Cline, on January 26, 2014.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Dottie and Mollie Smith in the death of Freddie Robinette Dottie's brother.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the family and friends of Jeanne Pou in her death on February 8, 2014.

Senior Adult Luncheon

Thursday, February 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m., FLC

The Senior Adult Luncheon will be in the Family Life Center on Thursday, February 20, at 11:00 a.m. The annual Birthday Party honoring our 90's and older members and also recognizing those 85 and over will be held. Entertainment will be provided by Carol Froehlick featuring the piano and accordion. Cost of the meal is \$5.00 payable at the door. Call the church office at 704-873-7231 to reserve your seat.

Mark Your Calendars Operation Inasmuch

Our will be participating in Operation Inasmuch this year. This special day of service will be planned for late April or early May. Please mark your calendars and look for more details coming soon!

HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed to work at the church receptionist desk for four-hour shifts. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Various shifts are available. Volunteers are also needed to work on an as needed basis to fill in when others are unable to work.

The duties include: answering the phone and door, transferring calls to the proper extension, taking messages, folding and stuffing printed material, calling team members to remind them of meetings and other projects as requested by the ministerial and support staff. Previous office experience is helpful but not necessary. Computer skills are NOT required.

Contact Hilda Lee at 704-876-0590 if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Children's Ministry Volunteers Sunday, February 16

8:30 Nursery Laura Spearman

10:55 Nursery Kim Elliot

Acolytes: Walt Tillery, Meg Tillery, Sam Buckner

Sunday, February 23

8:30 Nursery Jeannie Murdock

10:55 Nursery Crystal B.

Acolytes: Alexis Williams, Luke Williams, Jacob Palmer

Worship Greeters Sunday, February 16

Bill Henderson Gary Fyfe James McNiel

Chris Buckner Patricia Fyfe Wilma McNiel

Matthew Waugh Butch Price Stan Williams

Sunday, February 23

Eddy Sipe Hilda Lee Jim Van Zee

Monica Williams Clarence Poole Nedra Van Zee

Ginny Stikeleather Mike McLain

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet is in need of clothes for all ages and sizes. We are extremely low on clothes for men, women, boys and girls. Please look in your closets and consider donating some of the good used clothes that you are no longer wearing. We need clothes that are in style and in good repair. You may drop them by the church anytime and receive a donation receipt for tax purposes.

If anyone is interested in volunteering we would love to talk to you. We are open every Thursday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., but our volunteers come when their schedule permits. This is a rewarding and wonderful ministry to our community, but it takes a lot of manpower to keep it going.

For more information on volunteering, please e-mail jbhstiles@gmail.com or call Brenda Falter at 704.872.0304.