

THE INTERIM

Volume 71 Issue 9

April 27, 2014



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

Seek to Hear and Trust God

■ Rich Kraft

Intentional Interim Pastor

During the three years of His public ministry, Jesus Christ developed a huge following. People were both curious and amazed about Him and His message. In sharing powerful stories, performing powerful miracles, and preaching amazing sermons, people either made a faith decision to believe that He had come from heaven, or doubted, rejected, or even hated Him. For everyone, His words were hard to hear! They were hard because Jesus spoke of spiritual, heavenly things, not physical, earthly things.

For Nicodemus, he needed to think about being “born again.” For the woman at the well to hear Jesus speak of “living water” – she wanted something to drink. For the thousands who ate the bread multiplied at the feeding of the 5,000 and then heard Christ speak about His having “the bread of life” – the multitudes wanted literal bread to eat. “Perform a miracle! Tell another story, Jesus!” But Jesus Christ came to speak of spiritual, eternal, forever things that we sometimes don’t see and understand. He shared a special message that penetrated to the hearts and minds of those that He had created.

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, as we will look at it over the next weeks, speaks about what a follower of Jesus looks like and what he or she commits to becoming important in their lives. As we will find out each week, the claims of Jesus are unique – that is because they represent the thinking of God – understanding that is open to all who seek it! Jesus Christ IS the light of the world, after all!

There is no room in Christ’s words for picking and choosing based on taking a little of this, and a little of that to build one’s own way of spirituality. Jesus confronts us with moral and spiritual truths that are not “optional” and that never change. He NEVER leaves us with the ability to think that every faith group is legitimate and everyone’s truth is just as valid as everyone else’s. In fact, the good news of the kingdom as Christ shares it DEMANDS a clear moral and spiritual response from people! That is because Jesus Christ came to conquer the hearts and lives of those who heard Him and trust in Him.

As a group of believers at First Baptist Church, let’s eagerly seek to hear from God, trust Him, and let Him do the good work in us that He promised to all who trust and obey!

Prayer Point

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 1, 2014



The National Day of Prayer is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2014. This will be the beginning of a six-month effort to mobilize our nation to prayer. Second Chronicles 7:14 makes it clear that God cares about and responds to the attitudes and actions of His people.

The theme for the 2014 National Day of Prayer observance is “One Voice, United in Prayer,” based on Romans 15:6. The virtue that once defined our country is deteriorating rapidly and is being invaded by evils. We must humble ourselves before Almighty God and seek His forgiveness and restoration.

Thankfully we serve a God who stands ready to work in ways that exceed all of our expectations. His Word offers his heartening reminder: “Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear” (Isaiah 59:1).

National Day of Prayer Local Events

Thursday, May 1, 2014

The Sanctuary all day for prayer.

Prayer Breakfast

Landmark Church of God, 6:45 a.m.

High Noon Prayer Observance

Caldwell Park, 12:00 p.m.

Ginny Stikeleather will pray for the government.

Prayer Concert

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Diamond Hill Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris Schofield, Director of Prayer for the North Carolina Baptist State Convention

Schedule

Sunday, April 27

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

Monday, April 28

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

Tuesday, April 29

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

Wednesday, April 30

5:00 p.m. Open Gym
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Cheeseburgers, Baked Beans, 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, May 1

National Day Of Prayer

Sanctuary Open All Day For Prayer

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, May 2

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Saturday, May 3

Operation Inasmuch

Sunday, May 4

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 9:45 a.m. Pilot Leadership Training Course
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, May 5

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

Tuesday, May 6

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

Wednesday, May 7

5:00 p.m. Open Gym For Students
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, and Salad)
 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, May 8

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, May 9

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Preschool Registration

The FBC Preschool is still accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 year. Space is available for children 18 months - 5 years. The preschool operates Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To register your child, please call Preschool Director Renae Keesbury at 704.873.7231, ext. 209 or e-mail renae@statesvillefbc.org.

Help Needed With Transportation

Our church has a need for drivers that will provide transportation to and from doctor appointments for other church members. There is a strong need for drivers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If you would like to help a fellow church member with this need, please call the church office at 704.873.7231.

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of April 13 & 20, 2014

	4/13	4/20
Church in Bible Study	132	
Church in Worship	251	296
8:30 a.m. service	61	
10:55 a.m. service	190	296

Financial Statistics

Weeks of April 13 & 20, 2014

	4/13	4/20
Budget - Received	\$8,521.00	\$9,350.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	1,820.00	25,754.93
Building Reserve - Received	100.00	75.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 4/13/14		10,441.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 4/20/14		35,179.93
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		483,464.16
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		429,602.63
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		103,883.57
Alms Received-Year to Date		4,498.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		10,012.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		599,135.62

Baptist Women May Luncheon Monday, May 5, 2014

Baptist Women will meet Monday, May 5 at 11:00 a.m. at 332 N. Center Street for their May luncheon with Caroline Bentley. Our mission for the month: bring paper products for My Sister's House.



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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Student Ministry

Raleigh Mission Trip May 16-18, 2014

The students will be taking a short-term mission trip to the Raleigh area. Triangle Community Church will host us. There we will be part of a local food ministry where we will feed the hungry, organize food banks, and much more. Please sign up at www.venturestudents.org.

Graduation Sunday Sunday, June 1, 2014

Make sure you get the whole family here to celebrate the lives of our seniors. Join us for a breakfast and a whole lot more. Stay tuned for more details.

My Best,
Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*

Children's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who stuffed eggs and came out for the egg hunt! We had a great time!

Operation Inasmuch Saturday, May 3, 2014 8:30 a.m.

The kids will be packing toiletry kits. We need travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, lotion, etc.

Look Up Lodge Parent Meetings Sunday, July 13 & Sunday, July 20, 2014 9:30 a.m. ~ Adams Hall

Please plan to attend one of the meetings. Also please be sure to get your deposits in!

Vacation Bible School August 4-8, 2014

Vacation Bible School will be August 4-8. Save the date and mark your calendars now! If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Melissa at 704.873.7231, ext. 308 or email melissa@statesvillefbc.org

Melissa Wilson, *Minister of Children & Families*



Above: Micah Spearman shows off the eggs he found at the Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 19.



Right: Micah Spearman and Logan xx color Easter Eggs.

From The Desk of Frank Campbell



In spite of recent opinion polls (the validity of which we strongly question) those even mildly involved in the life of the church know that something is wrong. For years our Baptist Churches grew by leaps and bounds. Now only the churches located in the suburbs of the large cities experience anything like sustained growth. Most Baptist Churches spend their time converting their own children and swapping members. In former days we made contact with the outsider and brought him to church. The Sunday School classes provided friendship and instruction. Out of this there came the desire to respond to Christ. Today we do not reach outsiders. We teach, but it is primarily to those already like us. As one of our perceptive pastors recently put it: We are not winners anymore. We have lost the evangelistic touch. Much is wrong with our evangelism today, but evangelism is not wrong. We must do something, but what?

The emphasis on evangelism in our convention the next three years could be a tonic to us. It won't be anything but another program if we don't get involved. We need to discern the Holy Spirit and follow His guidance. We aren't reaching the outsider, because we aren't committed to God completely ourselves. There is no urgency about service and stewardship. Many Christians can miss every service on a given Lord's Day and it never seems to bother them. Some actually have a debate every week end as to whether they will even go or not. When the choice between attending the services of worship and going somewhere comes up, there really is no choice for them. We wonder why our churches have grown so weak. Of course in the long run it is those individuals who are going to suffer most. A time will come when they need what only God can do and they are going to be out of contact with Him. In the area of stewardship the picture is even more discouraging. The truth is that we usually buy what we want. The manner of living of most Christians and their honesty of stewardship with God are at variance. How shocking to even think of all the claimed gifts to God on income tax forms that never found their way to God's House. Still in the long run the individual is the loser here also. God is not mocked, whatever we sow, we will reap.

The answer? I don't know it all, but part of it lies in our recovering the disciplines of loving one another, studying the Bible, and praying. That really sounds old fashioned, doesn't it? But then people make it work. They are the ones who reach the outsiders. They are the ones who do the work of evangelism. They are the pillars on whom the church in its local expression leans. They are the people who know what's going on. With about one hundred people like that we could get something started.

It will be a joy to greet you this Lord's Day. Plan to attend all the services morning and night. Bring that outsider in to our fellowship.

I Look Forward to Seeing You Sunday,
Frank R. Campbell

From Volume 21, Issue 1 of The Interim, published February 4, 1968

As we look to the future of First Baptist Church, we will revisit the lessons discussed in past issues of The Interim. Frank Campbell served as pastor to our church 1956-1986.



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.
Message By: Landon Senn

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Announcements

A Note of Appreciation From Phil Mills & Family

To all the wonderful caring angels of our church, Words cannot fully express my gratitude and love for the prayers, food, cards, and attention that I received while in the hospital. Your prayers surely were heard, and God must have had more for me to do. I truly hope I have enough sense to hear Him. My family and I thank each of you from the deepest part of our hearts. We love all of you and always will. Thank you and bless each of you.

Phil Mills & Family

Pilot Leadership Training Class

First Baptist Church is initiating two 8-10 week Pilot Leadership Training Classes starting Sunday, May 4. These classes form a Deacon level orientation, provide a biblical foundation for church leadership, and acclimate those who will serve as Deacons at First Baptist Church with our teachings, standards, and expectations for key leadership. While the church as a whole is moving toward increased training for all areas of ministry, these classes are not intended for Sunday School teachers or ministry workers. That type of training will be provided in the future.

These pilot classes will be team taught by Pastor Kraft and William Barnard. One class will be offered during the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School hour, the other on either Tuesday or Thursday nights in the home of one of our class attendees. Because we are teaching in a seminar setting, attendance is limited to twelve people in each class. Those interested in getting information, or signing up for either class (Sunday or weeknight), should call Mary Jane Rash at 704.873.7231, ext. 203 or put your name on the registration sheet located at the Welcome Center.

We look forward to having this pilot program help our church strengthen its people and ministry. Please pray that the Lord will use our time to prepare us to do our very best for Him!

Operation Inasmuch Saturday, May 3, 2014 8:00 a.m. ~ Adams Hall

Please join us for this special day of service. We have several service opportunities including projects with Power Cross, shut-in visitation, Habitat For Humanity, small home repair, organizing My Sister's House, bean soup mix assembly, and toiletry bag assembly. We need ingredients for the bean soup (dried beans, canned tomatoes, and Lipton Onion Soup mix) and travel or hotel/motel size toiletries with unused cosmetic bags. To make all these projects a success we need at least 100 volunteers. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in Adams Hall for biscuits and coffee. Sign-ups will be available periodically for the next few weeks.



Worship Greeters Sunday, April 27

Eddy Sipe	Hilda Lee	Jim Van Zee
Monica Williams	Clarence Poole	Nedra Van Zee
Ginny Stikeleather	Mike McLain	

Sunday, May 4

Chris Simon	Kathy Steadman	Jeff Templeton
Mark Wilkerson	Bruce Steadman	Jason Allen
Chuck Heckel	Henry Hayes	David Lewis
Linda Tinsley	Suzanne Hayes	

Acolytes Sunday, April 27

Katie Allen, Elizabeth Allen, Hannah Beale

Sunday, May 4

Walt Tillery, Meg Tillery, Sam Buckner

