

Ken & Ellen White
at the Thanksgiving Celebration
on November 24, 2013.

THE INTERIM



Volume 71 Issue 5

March 2, 2014

God Knows the Motives of the Heart

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

I like watching mysteries on television, especially murder mysteries. It is always interesting to see how the murder is solved right along with the detective. One of the things that you notice about the people who try to solve a murder is how they try to find a motive for the killing.

There usually is a motive or reason behind such a terrible crime: someone wants the insurance money; another wants revenge, still another has been hurt deeply, and yet another might want to cover up something that they have done and the victim knows about it. Often when you determine the motive, you find the killer!

God is also concerned about motives. The biblical writer in Proverbs 21:2 writes, "All a man's ways may seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart." Our motives rise up right out of our hearts and God knows what is really in there. One of the Psalm writers put it this way. "God knows the secrets (motives) of the heart."

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 12:1, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy..." Paul is saying, "Check out what motivates you! Take a close, hard look at something that I think will really be a strong motivation in your life!" Earlier, just a few verses before Romans 12:1, Paul wrote in **Romans 11:33-36**, "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! Who

has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay Him? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen."

Are these the words of someone who had the job being an apostle, or of someone who truly loved God? Were these the words written at a time of ecstasy when Paul was feeling unusually spiritual? Had he just sung a great hymn, heard a great solo or testimony, had he just led someone to Christ, was he feeling some kind of spiritual high? Or, was this just the way that he had learned to think all of the time? Romans 12:1, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy..."

The greatest danger confronting saved people or people who really have faith in Jesus Christ, is that we do not dwell on or meditate on or remember daily, "the mercies of God." They, over time or different reasons lost their luster and become less prominent. As a result: a lack of joy or apathy, poverty when it comes to experiencing the power of God, a hesitancy to testify for Jesus Christ, poor priorities, powerful feelings of emptiness and loneliness, or a struggle with sin and sinful habits.

The love of God, the grace of God, the mercies of God are THE motivation for wanting to include "the Lord" in your life and wanting to live a Christian life with Christian priorities. Choose to seek to live with that as a growing motivation for everything you do!

Prayer Point

"Prayer is the forerunner of mercy. In sacred history, scarcely ever did a great mercy come to this world (or the Church) unheralded by supplication." (C.H. Spurgeon, great preacher of the 19th century) Are you "praying without ceasing"? (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

When you run out of words to say, pray as King Jehoshaphat did, "O our God...we do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." (2 Chronicles 20:12) God always honors His Word, and He encourages us through His Word: "in due season we shall reap if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9) Church family, don't give up. Keep praying! Remember the song we used to

sing as children: "God's Word shall never fail, NO! NO! NO!

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

Pray with Us:
Sunday Morning Prayer
SonSeekers Classroom, 7:30 a.m.

Monday Morning Prayer
Sanctuary, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study,
5:45 p.m.

DIALOG & DISCOVERY

Sunday, March 16
6:30 P.m., FL C

Please be sure to join us. This meeting will focus on the progress made by the Leadership Development and Governance Teams.

Schedule

Sunday, March 2

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
5:30 p.m.	High School V Group

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

7:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball - Gym
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Wednesday, March 5

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

Thursday, March 6

8:30 p.m.	Senior Basketball - Gym
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Friday, March 7

12:00 p.m.	Line Dancers - Gym
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Sunday, March 9

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
11:00 a.m.	Spaghetti Fundraiser - FLC
1:00 p.m.	Belize Team Meeting

Monday, March 10

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

Tuesday, March 11

7:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball - Gym
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Wednesday, March 12

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

Thursday, March 13

8:30 p.m.	Senior Basketball - Gym
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Friday, March 14

12:00 p.m.	Line Dancers - Gym
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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 16 & 23, 2014

	2/16	2/23
Church in Bible Study	131	154
Church in Worship	240	299
8:30 a.m. service	64	86
10:55 a.m. service	176	213

Financial Statistics

Weeks of February 16 & 23, 2014

	2/16	2/23
Budget - Received	\$7,466.00	\$10,838.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	1,589.00	1,356.00
Building Reserve - Received	115.00	55.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/16/14		9,170.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/23/14		12,249.00
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		399,976.96
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		513,544.83
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		55,488.29
Alms Received-Year to Date		3,299.82
Building Reserve-Year to Date		9,298.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		465,340.41

Operation Inasmuch

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Our church will be participating in Operation Inasmuch this year. Please plan to be part of this special day of service!

Church Facilities

If you would like to reserve church facilities for an event, please give the staff at least a two week notice. We need this notice to adequately prepare for your event.

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 Jack Causey

For several years the congregation planned on the purchase and installation of a magnificent stained-glass window. Its strategic location at the main entrance would make it the first sight each worshiper would see as he entered the church. Finally, the day arrived when the skilled workmen began placing each vividly colored piece of glass into the picture. The week-long process neared completion when, much to their horror, the workmen discovered that one piece of colored glass was missing. It was only about the size of a child's marble, and somehow it had been carelessly misplaced.

Apologies were made. A replacement would be sent immediately. Unaware of the mishap the congregation arrived excitedly on Sunday to see the new window. They gasped in disappointment though because the window was incomplete. The replacement piece of glass had not arrived.

Several days later, quite by accident, a young boy playing in the church while waiting for his mother found the lovely, small piece of glass. The workmen were alerted and they rushed back to complete the job.

The following Sunday the congregation arrived again, this time wondering what sight would greet them. Hesitantly, each person looked at the window; but this time each was rewarded by a splendid depiction of Christ with arms outstretched. The small, seemingly insignificant piece of colored glass was now in place. The piece of glass was indeed quite prominent because it was one of the eyes of Christ!

You are like that piece of glass. No matter how small you may sometimes feel, you are significant part of the church. Without you, the picture called the church can never be complete. You are needed.

Make the picture of the church complete by fitting into your place of service.

- From Volume 44, Issue 29 of *The Interim* published July 17, 1988.

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. Jack Causey served as pastor to First Baptist Church 1986-2000.

Student Ministry

High School V Group

Sunday, March 2, 2014, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

This Sunday all high schoolers will meet at Landon and Erin's house for small group and to watch the Oscars. Please let us know if your student is joining us.

DNOW Weekend

March 21-23, 2014

Sign up ASAP & sign up all your friends! The deadline is March 10. Details are available at venturestudents.org.

Children's Ministry

Fourth & Fifth Grade Sleep Over

Friday, February 21- Saturday, February 22, 2014

We had a lot of fun at the sleepover. Special thanks to Debi Martin and Jason Allen for helping chaperon.

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.

Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser

Sunday, March 9, 2014

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., FLC

This will be another fundraiser for camp. Please bring your favorite spaghetti sauce or a dessert to share.

Melissa Wilson, *Minister of Children & Families*



SPAGHETTI LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 9, 2014

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., FLC

The children would like to invite everyone to a spaghetti lunch. This is a fundraiser for the children's trip to camp this summer. Please come to eat lunch and make a donation.



CHILI, SOUP, & SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 16, 2014

5:30 p.m., FLC

The Belize Team will host a chili, soup, and sandwich fundraiser. All funds will go towards the cost of the mission trip to Belize this summer. Please come to eat dinner and make a donation before the Dialog & Discovery begins at 6:30 p.m.





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

A Note of Appreciation From Dottie & Mollie Smith

Mollie and I would like to express our love and appreciation for all the thoughts and prayers, the cards and phone calls we received following the death of my brother Fred. This has been a terribly hard time for both Mollie and me, but knowing we had a loving church family that truly cared saw us through.

Thank You,
Dottie & Mollie Smith

A Note of Appreciation From Regina Pou Barnes & Family

Thank you to all of the ladies who provided food and service for the family and friends of Jeanne Pou, especially in such terrible weather...

Sincerely,
Regina Pou Barnes & Family

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Amber Shipley, Greg Setzer, and Danny and Cathy Wicker in the death of Amber's daughter Rebekah on February 14, 2014.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the Joe and Desiree Crosswhite in the death of Joe's father Bill Crosswhite, on February 11, 2014.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the James and Wilma McNeil in the death of James's brother, Berlon McNeil, on February 18, 2014.

Week of Prayer for North American Missions Offering

Our church will be participating in the Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 2-9. Every dollar given will support more than 5,000 missionaries in North America. Our goal for this offering is \$8,000. You will find offering envelopes at each worship service.

Applewhite Group

Monday, March 3, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Adams Hall

The Applewhite Group will meet Monday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m. in Adams Hall. We will observe the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Global Missions. Ellen White will present the program. Our community mission will be a collection for the Prison Ministry.

Preschool Registration For Church Members Begins Monday, March 3, 2014

Preschool registration for church members begins Monday, March 3. First Baptist Preschool accepts children 18 months - 5 years. Please call Renae Keesbury at 704.873.7231, ext. 209 to register your preschooler.

Worship Greeters Sunday, March 2

Chris Simon	BJ King	Linda Tinsley
Mark Wilkerson	Richard King	Jason Allen
Chuck Heckel	Henry Hayes	David Lewis
Jeff Templeton	Suzanne Hayes	

Sunday, March 9

Joey Wright	John Garland	Brian Martin
Eddy Sipe	Nancy Garland	Brenda Martin
Pat Rushton	Shannon Ashley	

Belize Team Meeting Sunday, March 9, 2014

1:00 p.m., SonSeekers Classroom

The Belize team will meeting the SonSeekers classroom after the spaghetti fundraiser. Everyone on the Belize team will receive valuable information at this meeting.

What's It Worth Program ~ Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, March 20, 2015

11:00 a.m., FLC

We will have a What's It Worth program on Thursday, March 21, in the Fellowship Hall. Dennis White, auctioneer and antique dealer from Mooresville, will be our presenter. You may bring an antique or other collectible item and Dennis will appraise it. The item you bring does not have to be valuable, but it can be interesting or have a story about it. This will be a fun time to share interesting items and to discover their monetary value. It will be our own First Baptist Antique Road Show.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Please call the church office at 704.873.7231 by March 17 to make your reservation.



The Interim

If you know anyone that does not receive the Interim and would like to receive it by mail or e-mail, please call the church office at 704.873.7231 or e-mail kayley@statesvillefbc.org. The Interim is a good source for news and events at FBC.