

Sonja & Darbee Lewis
at the Valentine Banquet
February 9, 2013



Volume 71 Issue 3

February 2, 2014

Slow & Steady Wins The Race

■ **Rich Kraft**

Intentional Interim Pastor

Slow and steady wins the race. The old proverb rings true still today. Sometimes progress just takes a long time, even if you want what is good today. No one knew this better than the Apostle Paul. He enjoyed a rich life of serving the Lord and was able to be used of God to do some very, very good things. So many people were influenced for Jesus Christ as he followed his Savior. The people of First Baptist Church can be grateful for its life of service to the Lord too. Many have been influenced for Jesus through your lives. That is a good thing to hold on to as we live out our lives for Christ today as His church.

In speaking from Philippians 3 this past Sunday, I remember Paul's testimony and perspective about his life. He says in verse 12, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Let's choose as an entire church body to have that very same outlook as we live out our life of faith. Let's look at this time of transition as a time when the Lord is refining us, preparing us,

leading us for some great things in our future.

Paul continues in verses 13 and 14 to say, "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." What a way to live life with a view of eternity and our time with Christ in heaven. The love and purposes of God motivate Paul to "strain toward what is ahead." To reach out with our minds, hearts and hands to enjoy a life of walking with Jesus Christ as our Master and Friend.

We are slowly working through this winter and spring of transition knowing that the fruit of our labor is coming. You are invited to a special night of Dialog & Discovery on Sunday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center as we continue to pray, think and build Christ's church here in Statesville. I hope that this will be a night where you are both encouraged and challenged to seek and commit to a common goal of living as growing believers and followers of Jesus Christ. With a wonderful heritage, let's believe that the best is yet to come for First Baptist Church as we seek, trust and obey the Lord together!

DIALOG & DISCOVERY

**Sunday, February 9
6:30 p.m., FLC**

Please be sure to join us. This meeting will focus on the theological issues concerning our church. There will also be initial reports from the Leadership Development, Discipleship, Governance, and Worship Teams.

Prayer Point

Dear Church Family,

A.W. Tozer admonishes: "Get alone with God and wait in quietness and silence until you are charged with God's Spirit," and I would add: then the words will flow from your innermost being as you truly pour out your heart to God. If we pray individually before we come together to pray corporately, the desire to pray will be greater and the words of prayer will come easier. The Holy Spirit will bring us together in mind and spirit (agreement). That is when we will begin to pray as a body in the will of God-and that is when God will answer! "If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19) Let's try it! Pick one of the prayer times offered, join your fellow believers in corporate prayer, and let's see what God will do!

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 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, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

- 5:00 p.m. Open Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Roasted Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Greens Beans)
- 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities
- 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 6

- 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, February 7

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Saturday, February 8

- 5:30 p.m. Valentine Fundraiser - FLC

Sunday, February 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
- 5:30 p.m. Belize Mission Trip Fundraiser - FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Dialog & Discovery - FLC

Monday, February 10

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

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

- 5:00 p.m. Open Gym For Students
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Red Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli)
- 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities
- 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 13

- 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, February 14

- 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).

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 19 & 26, 2014

1/19

Church in Bible Study	163	159
Church in Worship	253	237
8:30 a.m. service	69	68
10:55 a.m. service	184	159

Financial Statistics

Weeks of January 19 & 26, 2014

1/19

Budget - Received	\$9,427.00	\$10,277.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	920.30	621.00
Building Reserve - Received	55.00	30.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 1/19/14		10,402.30
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 1/26/14		10,928.00
Budget Received-Year to Date		\$353,178.29
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		49,750.29
Alms Received-Year to Date		2,547.61
Building Reserve-Year to Date		6,198.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		411,726.17



Week of Prayer for

International & Global Missions

Global Missions of CBF	\$5,320.00
International Missions of SBC	\$1,787.00



"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." - Psalms 37:4

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

THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks
by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,
Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

A Lift Or A Load

I heard an outstanding speaker say one time that, despite the danger of hasty classifications, he divided people into two groups--those who have a song and those who have no song, those who have an awareness of wings and those who struggle on without such awareness. The sermon set me to thinking--as all good sermons should.

I am persuaded that one of the most bracing sights in the round of church activities is the person who does a job with soul-song. It must be admitted that some people wade out just a little way and participate in the program with grim reluctance, reminding one of Shakespeare's "Whining schoolboy, with his satchel and shining morning face, creeping like a snail, unwillingly to school." To put the matter bluntly, their religion is a load!

There are others, however, whose duties are in accord with their desires. The show by winsome deed that responsibility is not a bitter dose of necessary medicine that one must swallow to save his face. Responsibility, sanctified by the word and example of Christ, is the meat and drink of the abundant life. Referring to some work that needed to be done in our church, a fine Christian said to me not long ago: "I never dreamed that it could be such a joy!" That is the testimony of everyone who religion is a lift instead of a load.

The chief threat to Christian progress is not the crass unbelief of those outside of the pale of the church. The danger lies in the insipid halfheartedness of the ones who Christianity is not wings but weights. The dynamic difference that any church makes in the lives of men depends on the measure of DELIGHT in the work of the Lord. Our hope hangs on the growing, glowing enthusiasm of those who profess GLAD allegiance to the One who said: "My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me."

James Potter

- From Volume 10, Issue 11 of *The Interim* published July 29, 1955.

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. James Potter served as minister to First Baptist Church 1946-1956.

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.

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*

Student Ministry

Valentine Fundraiser

Saturday, February 8, 2014, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., FLC

Mark your calendars. This will be a pancake-eatin', entertainment watchin', money raisin' kind of event. We will be raffling off some cakes. If you would like to bake a cake, please call Landon at 704-873-7231 or e-mail landon@statesvillefbc.org. Is anyone willing to volunteer in the kitchen for this event?

Middle School Retreat

This is the LAST week to sign up. Please do so by going to venturestudents.org. The deadline is Monday, February 3.

DNOW Weekend

March 21-23, 2014

Details and registration are now available at venturestudents.org.

My Best,
Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*



Shocked In Heaven

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
who made me sputter and gasp--
the thieves, the liars, the sinners,
the alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
was rotting away in hell,
was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

"And why's everyone so quiet,
so somber - give me a clue."
"Hush , child," He said, "they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you."



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.
Message By: Dave Groleau (February 2) and Rich Kraft (February 9)

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Announcements

Dave Groleau

Our Guest Speaker This Sunday, February 2

Dave Groleau has served as a pastor in three local churches for over thirty years. He currently serves as the staff chaplain for Samaritan's Purse in Boone, NC. Dave travels the United States and the world in encouraging the many staff and volunteers of this important ministry. We at First Baptist are familiar and have participated in the Operation Christmas Child program that has touched millions of children and families around the world. Be sure to take time after the service to welcome Dave and his wife Brenda and get some material about Samaritan's Purse.



Valentine Fundraiser Saturday, February 8, 2014 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., FLC



The Venture Students invite you to a night of a pancake dinner and entertainment. Tickets are available now. Please contact Landon Senn at 704-873-7231, ext. 211 or email landon@statesvillefbc.org to reserve your seat. This is a donations only event.

Calling all cake bakers! We are raffling off numerous cakes. We need more cakes! If you would be interested in making a cake for the Valentine Fundraiser, please let Landon know as soon as possible. Thank you all for your kindness and support you show to these students! They matter!

Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser Sunday, February 9, 2014, 5:30 p.m., FLC

Please come eat dinner before the Dialog & Discovery. This is a fundraiser for the Belize Mission Trip.

Wednesday Night Bible Studies

Each Wednesday night we will continue to provide a good meal at 5:00 p.m. (\$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children and seniors). After the meal, the adult Bible study will feature a review of Pastor Rich Kraft's sermon and passage of the Bible from the previous Sunday. His messages every Sunday will be related to the larger issues that we are talking and thinking about as a church. Reviewing them together on Wednesday nights will be a way to have yet another opportunity to develop a growing unity among the people within the congregation. You will be warmly welcomed if you can join us this week!

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to prepare the coffee for the 8:30 a.m. service. If you are willing to help please contact Melissa Wilson at melissa@statesvillefbc.org or call 704-873-7231, ext. 308.

Children's Ministry Volunteers Sunday, February 2

8:30 Nursery Jeanie Murdock
10:55 Nursery Maggie Blankenship

Acolytes: Margo Deal, Grey Deal, Emily Ashley

Sunday, February 9

8:30 Nursery Karen Cline
10:55 Nursery Monica Edwards

Acolytes: Katie Allen, Elizabeth Allen, Hannah Beale

Worship Greeters Sunday, February 2

Chris Simon	BJ King	Linda Tensley
Mark Wilkerson	Richard King	Jeff Templeton
Chuck Heckel	Henry Hayes	Jason Allen
Kathy Steadman	Suzanne Hayes	David Lewis
Bruce Steadman		

Sunday, February 9

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

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