

Louise Hunter, Josephine Hunter,
and Gloria Hunter at the
Jubilee Luncheon
Sunday, July 27, 2014.
Josephine has been a
member of FBC
since 1939.

THE INTERIM

Volume 71 Issue 16

August 3, 2014



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

Trust The Lord Without Knowing The Specifics

■ Rich Kraft

Intentional Interim Pastor

One winter there was a terrible drought that threatened the crops of a village in Crete. The priest of the church told his flock, "There isn't anything that will save us, except a special prayer service for rain. Go to your homes, fast during the week, believe and come to church next Sunday for the prayer of rain."

The villagers heard him, fasted during the week, and went to church the next Sunday morning, but as soon as the priest saw them, he was upset. He said, "Go away, I will not do the service. You do not believe!" "But Father," they said, "we fasted and we do know that the Lord will answer." "Believe?" said the priest, "Then where are your umbrellas?"

What does it really mean to have "faith" in the true God? There are many places in life where we are able to learn exactly what that means. The Bible helps us to understand what it means to trust and believe in God, but what it means to trust other people too. **TRUST! TRUST! TRUST!** There seem to always be places where we are called to "trust"!

The story of Abram's call is very significant within the book of Genesis. It serves as an introduction to and summary of Abram's career. It looks forward to the lives of his children and beyond them to the nation of Israel and the kingship of David. The story also looks back to the creation account, the fall of man, the flood and the tower of Babel.

The reason why this story is so significant is the fall had isolated people from God and turned individuals in on themselves. Sin created a horrific self-interest that made it impossible for a healthy, real community. The stories of both the Flood and the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 were the culmination thus far of the far-reaching results of sin as it divided people throughout the world. But "God so loved the world."

SOON AFTER BABEL – GOD PROVIDED! Through the blessing that would come to this one man, Abram, there would be a calling back, a drawing back through the Spirit of God of people into the original purpose that God had for humanity – **ALL THROUGH ABRAHAM!**

It is Abraham by whom all the nations of the earth, by whom all people will be blessed by God. It would be Abraham's obedience to the call of God, his leaving his homeland at age 75, that would be the God chosen vehicle to reach people of all times and places. His story and meeting with God would be an incredible example and incentive to everyone who has ever lived.

In Genesis 12:1-9 we find the specific call of God on Abram and simple obedience to God. The first words of chapter 11 are from God, where He says, "Leave/Go!" What is most interesting is to see how the command of God falls short of giving explicit directions. The Lord simply says, "Go to the land that I will show you!" Abram is only pointed in the right direction. The exact place where he is going to end up is unclear, but he probably knew that it was in the general direction of Canaan.

This wasn't the only time Abram would have to listen to God in this way! In Genesis 22 Abram is told to take Isaac to a mountain "of which I will show you." Only after he got there did he know that "this is the place!" The one thing that is made clear to Abram is that where he is now (Haran) is not where he is to stay!

How can a person entrust himself or herself to something that one can't see yet? That requires faith, not action! How can we be asked to believe someone who hasn't told us all of the particulars? That requires faith, not action. But isn't this exactly what God is asking us to do – trust His words, trust His will, trust His designs and purposes for life in places and ways where we cannot see, or might be too big for us to grasp?

In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Isn't God asking us to trust Him and then experience His presence and then move forward with Him?

This is exactly where First Baptist Church is today. We know the direction God is pointing us in having a clear, agreed upon spiritual direction, but we don't know all the particulars. Days are coming, and coming soon, when we will know them. A new pastor will be coming to lead us. A Vision Statement for our future direction will be presented soon, providing both hope and a good course of action. We can begin to go to work as people who know that God first requires faith, then obedience. Let's look forward to hearing the specifics from the Lord. They are coming soon!

Schedule

Sunday, August 3

- 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, August 4

- 8:45 a.m. SonTreasure Island Vacation Bible School
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:30 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, August 5

- 8:45 a.m. SonTreasure Island Vacation Bible School
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, August 6

- 8:45 a.m. SonTreasure Island Vacation Bible School
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, August 7

- 8:45 a.m. SonTreasure Island Vacation Bible School
- 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, August 8

- 8:45 p.m. SonTreasure Island Vacation Bible School
- 12:30 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, August 10

Search Team & Deacon Ballot Announced

- 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, August 11

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

Tuesday, August 12

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

Wednesday, August 13

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, August 14

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

Friday, August 15

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

Prayer Point "Sanctification"

Thank you, Lord, that You prayed for my sanctification (set apart especially to be used by You). John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them by the truth: Your WORD is truth!" Oh, Lord I see! Your Word is a two-edged sword. Not only must I run to it for comfort, I must also abide in it for conviction! How can I be set apart for You if I'm not willing to embrace the transformation You want to bring about in me? "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). I realize that I can only do this by laying the cloth of my life on the pattern of Your Word, and giving You full liberty to shape me by "cutting" me according to Your design. Father, when I read Your Word today, may I look for conviction as well as comfort. Keep cutting me to fit You, Lord.

Is God asking us to lay our lives and the ministry of First Baptist Church on His divine cutting board?

His servant and your friend,
ginny stikeleather

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of July 20 & 27, 2014

	7/20	7/27
Church in Bible Study	128	117
Church in Worship	207	216
8:30 a.m. service	75	
10:55 a.m. service	132	216

Financial Statistics

Weeks of July 20 & 27, 2014

	7/20	7/27
Budget - Received	\$13,418.64	\$13,737.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	1,748.20	1,002.00
Building Reserve - Received	30.00	55.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 7/20/14		15,196.84
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 7/27/14		14,794.00
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		637,275.57
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		275,791.22
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		137,013.58
Alms Received-Year to Date		5,746.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		10,867.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		798,837.21



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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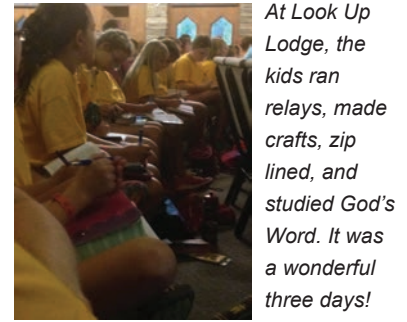
Children's Ministry

The kids had a wonderful time at Look Up Lodge this week. We played games, ran relays, made crafts, made lots of new friends, and most importantly, learned about Jesus Christ.

Please remember that Sunday, August 24 is Promotion Sunday. Everyone will move to their new Sunday School class. First graders will receive a new Bible and the sixth graders will join the students on the Venture Hall.

We still need a few volunteers for VBS. If you are able to help, please contact Melissa at 704-873-7231, ext. 308 or melissa@statesvillefbcc.org if you can help out.

Please check out the new Children's Ministry blog, www.kidsatfirst.com!



At Look Up Lodge, the kids ran relays, made crafts, zip lined, and studied God's Word. It was a wonderful three days!



Student Ministry

Awesome God Festival & VBS Prep Day Saturday, August 2



We will spend all morning preparing for VBS, then we will take off to the Second Annual Awesome God Festival. The cost is only \$6.00. Details found at their website, <http://www.awesomegodfestival.com>.

VGroups begin Wednesday, August 27.

Look Up Lodge June 21 - 26, 2015

Go ahead and save the date for summer camp 2015. The cost will be \$250 and I hope everyone takes advantage of our payment plan. Check this out: Starting in September and going to June if you pay \$25 each month - camp is paid for! There is a slight change in signing your child up this year. A \$25 deposit is required before any student can reserve a spot for the trip.

Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*

Jubilee Sunday ~ July 27, 2014





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

Christian Sympathy...

...is extended to the family and friends of Frankie Martin in her death on July 16, 2014.

Christian Sympathy...

...is extended to the family and friends of Helen Cook in her death on July 23, 2014.

Christian Sympathy...

...is extended to Josephine Hunter in the death of her sister, Alana K. Lefler of Mt. Ulla on July 19, 2014, and the death of her brother, John Kerr of Dayton, Maryland, on July 25, 2014.

Preschool Registrations

The FBC Preschool has a few spots available for one and two year old children. If you would like to register your preschooler, please contact Renae Keesbury at 704-873-7231, ext. 209 or email renae@fbcstatesville.org.

Promotion Sunday Sunday, August 24, 2014

On this day, the children and students will go to their new Sunday School classes. The first graders will receive a Bible, and the sixth graders will join the students on the Venture Hall. We are all looking forward to an exciting new year!

Back to School



Worship Greeters Sunday, August 3

Chris Simon Linda Tinsley Jason Allen
Mark Wilkinson Jeff Templeton David Lewis
Chuck Heckel

Sunday, August 10

John Garland Pat Rushton Shannon Ashley
Nancy Garland Eddy Sipe

Acolytes Sunday, August 3

Ella Williams, Banks Williams, Areal Howard

Sunday, August 10

Hannah Van Buren, Georgiana Simon, Kendyl King

Coffee Rotation Sunday, August 3

Emanons Class

Sunday, August 10

Dan & Jean Mills

Team Minutes

Our Vision Casting Team is making progress on forming the Vision Statement for our church. Please remember the minutes from these meetings are posted on the church website, www.statesvillefbc.org. You may also come by the church for a printed copy of these minutes.

Search Team and Deacon Ballot

The Search Team and Deacon Ballot will be announced at both worship services on Sunday, August 10. We will vote on Sunday, August 17. Please do not miss these important Sundays.

Family Night Meals To Resume August 27

The Family Night meals will resume Wednesday, August 27. The meals will begin at 5:00 p.m. and Bible study and children and student activities will begin at 5:45 p.m. Choir practice will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars!