



The Venture Students welcomed the sixth graders to the Venture Student Ministry in proper fashion on Promotion Sunday, August 24.

THE INTERIM



Volume 71 Issue 18

August 31, 2014

Speak The Truth In Love

■ Rich Kraft

Intentional Interim Pastor

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to attend The Billy Graham School of Evangelism in Columbia, South Carolina. It included a combination of worship, encouraging messages, and seminars on how to share Jesus Christ individually and as local churches. Each night we attended one of the crusade meetings at the university's football stadium. Of course there was the worship and singing, choir selections, announcements, personal testimonies and Billy Graham's evangelistic message.

Over the six nights what impressed me the most was the response that people had to the personal testimonies given each night. One evening an Army general spoke. On another, basketball player Pete Maravich gave his testimony. Franklin Graham spoke also. Through sharing their stories, each person provided an important background for the claims and truth of the Bible.

Billy Graham knew what almost everyone knows – we learn a lot from other people's stories – especially stories of how people have come to meet and walk with God – about how they came to believe in Jesus Christ and how they continue to grow in their faith by including and following Jesus Christ.

One night, Miss South Carolina (I don't even remember her name), spoke about her faith in Jesus Christ and how she had grown up in a Christian home and had godly parents. She went on to speak about how her sister had been abducted and murdered several years earlier,

and how the role of her faith in Christ and the support of her family during a horrible time helped her get through that time. While everyone cried, Miss South Carolina's testimony helped people see their need of Christ even before Billy Graham shared the gospel.

I am not sure who preached the better sermon that night, Miss South Carolina or Billy Graham. One thing, I do know. When Billy Graham got up to preach that the saving message of Jesus Christ makes a difference in one's life, people knew that it was true – Miss South Carolina proved that with her life and testimony.

Both elements of witness are necessary for effective "soul winning". Acts of compassion while telling our story of faith AND the actual proclamation of the gospel story and the need for faith in a crucified and risen Jesus Christ. In other words, love must be demonstrated in as many ways possible while telling the need to be saved, or the need to be "born again," shared too. The Lord Jesus did both and so must we as His people at First Baptist Church.

As God's people, let's think through the implications of two scriptural commands, one where Jesus in Matthew 25 exhorts us to share our lives compassionately with "the least of these." And secondly, the command to "make disciples of all nations." Jesus came not only in love, but also "to seek and to save those that are lost." Learning as God's people to "speak the truth in love" as Paul requires us in Ephesians chapter 5 will help us not only become one in our thinking about what is necessary for us to "win souls," but also "win souls" as we live out our lives through every ministry at First Baptist Church.

Congregation Elects Deacon Ministry Team and Pastor Search Team

With a vote on Sunday, August 17, the congregation elected the new Deacon Ministry Team. The vote was amazing in how each of the 16 candidates received large support. The following nine men and women were elected to serve on the Deacon Ministry Team: Three-year terms: Mike McLain, David Deal, Jerry Campbell. Two-year terms: Ginny Stikeleather, Sherry Ashley, Bill Henderson. Sixteen-month terms: Angie Roberts (by choice), Hersey Miller, Harry Tsumas (by choice). This newly elected team will assume office on September 1. The current Transitional Leadership Team will be in attendance at the first meeting and perhaps the second to provide information as needed to insure a good transition. They will not have a vote in decisions being made.

We should be thankful for the leadership of the Transitional Leadership Team that retires on August 31. Jerry Campbell (chairman), Angie Roberts, Tim Burgiss, Eddy Sipe, and Chris Simon have been good servants to all. Please thank them for their service when you see them.

The seven-member Search Team nominated to serve in helping bring God's candidate to First Baptist Church was endorsed by a 146 to 4 vote with ten abstaining. The team will give regular reports to the congregation as to their process and progress. Team members are William Barnard, Kevin Beale, Leigh Brown, Jean Crowder, Jeff Faulk, Jane Mitchell, and Danny Stikeleather. Please pray for them and encourage them when you see them at church.

Schedule

Sunday, August 31

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, September 1

Happy Labor Day!
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

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

Wednesday, September 3

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Salad, Bread, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 4

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, September 5

12:30 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, September 7

8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. Dialog & Discovery - FLC

Monday, September 8

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

Tuesday, September 9

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

Wednesday, September 10

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Baked Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli, Bread, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities
 5:45 p.m. Vision Casting Statement Discussion - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 11

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, September 12

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Prayer Point

Guess what I just found in God's Word!? You're gonna love it! "I said NOT to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me' in vain." (Isaiah 45:19 KJV) Can we be assured that God will answer all our prayers? You bet we can! The Living Bible puts it this way: "And I didn't tell Israel (Jacob's seed) to ask me for what I didn't plan to give!". Aren't all believers the seed of Jacob? "And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's (and Jacob's) descendants, heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:29) Praise God! When we seek God in prayer--any time, every time, all the time--He promised it won't be in vain--He will answer!

Another "guess what": The Pastoral Counseling Room is now also being used as a Prayer Room. It's completely furnished--even has a kneeling bench. Please make use of this room when you need a quiet place to pray. It can be easily accessed from the Oakwood Drive entrance near Mary Jane's office. I believe God will honor all the promises in His Word when His people humble themselves and pray.

His servant and your friend,
 Ginny Stikeleather

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of August 17 & 24, 2014

	8/17	8/24
Church in Bible Study	129	154
Church in Worship	275	246
8:30 a.m. service	79	82
10:55 a.m. service	196	164

Financial Statistics

Weeks of August 17 & 24, 2014

	8/17	8/24
Budget - Received	\$8,869.50	\$8,962.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	679.00	1,328.00
Building Reserve - Received	120.00	30.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 8/17/14		9,668.50
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 8/24/14		10,320.00
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		671,425.07
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		241,641.72
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		142,310.81
Alms Received-Year to Date		6,296.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		13,029.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		846,961.94

Camp Fundraiser Car Wash & Bake Sale Saturday, September 20, 2014 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Venture Students will be holding a car wash and bake sale to raise money for their trip to Look Up Lodge in June 2015. If you would like to donate any items for the bake sale, please contact Landon Senn at 704-873-7231, ext. 211 or e-mail landon@statesvillefbc.org.



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

Dr. Roger Gilbert Accepts Invitation To Serve As Interim Pastor



The Transitional Leadership Team has been in contact with Dr. Jack Causey, who has provided advice, counsel and candidates for an interim pastor to succeed Pastor Rich Kraft, who completes his ministry at the end of September. We have selected a candidate from among Dr. Causey's recommendations and are pleased to share that Dr. Roger Gilbert has accepted our invitation to serve in this role until the Lord brings our next full-time Senior Minister. Dr. Gilbert lives in Mt. Airy and is married to Deidra Anne. They have two children and three grandchildren. Dr. Gilbert is a retired senior pastor who has served churches in Bladenboro, Greensboro, Whiteville, and Mt. Airy, North Carolina since 1974. He holds a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He has also been active in Cooperative Baptist Fellowship service in various capacities over the years. He enjoys most sports, especially fishing and fly tying. May God bless him and his family as he serves the Lord and us in the days ahead.

Dr. Gilbert will fulfill the following duties, acting as a team player with our church leadership and ministry staff:

- Meet with our Ministry staff (three ministers - six additional persons).
- Meet with our newly elected Deacon Ministry Team so that he can help them work effectively and fruitfully.
- Preach at our two Sunday morning services: 8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.
- Have some involvement with our Wednesday night ministry as a teacher.
- Have flexible, but agreed upon time at FBC Statesville.
- Perform funerals as requested and able.

Dr. Causey recommended that we pay our interim pastor according to the common practice of paying for each part of ministry that Dr. Gilbert will perform.

Dr. Gilbert will begin his ministry on September 14, so that there is a two-week overlap with Pastor Kraft prior to his leaving. This is meant to provide a smooth transition of one interim pastor to another. He will assume full duties as our interim pastor on October 1.

Dialog & Discovery ~ Sunday, September 7

A Dialog and Discovery meeting will be held on Sunday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center to review a report provided by our Vision Casting Team. Over the past several months, this team, made up of over 20 different people from a cross-section of the congregation, has been meeting to explore what vision and future God has for us as His church. We have been praying and listening to the Lord and each other.

Our intention is to provide a strong basic outline that would help the entire congregation pray, search the Scriptures so that we can discuss and debate in a healthy way the days, months, and years ahead.

Our team began by reflecting on what we believe is truly important to this congregation. As a team we prayerfully identified seven core values that have historically united our people. We next attempted to write a short and simple mission statement that could capture and describe our greater purpose of trusting and following Jesus Christ. A final step was to share some important vision statement that describe our future ministry (three years from now in 2017). While no one can provide details of what the church will look like three years from now, we know that there are things that God wants us to do as the people of God of First Baptist Church.

This effort will not only be a means of uniting us as God's people, but also help the church leadership as it works to lead us. An important benefit will also come in being able to share a strong statement with prospective candidates as we seek our next Senior Minister.

The full report from the Vision Casting Team can be read by going to www.statesvillefbc.org; by getting a hard copy at the Welcome Center this week; or as they are distributed at the end of both worship services over the next two Sundays (August 31 and September 7).

Two sessions for discussion will be held on Wednesdays, September 10 and 17 at 6:00 p.m. in order to share ideas and make changes before the final draft is voted on by the congregation. A final draft will be presented on Sunday, September 21 with a congregational vote taken on Sunday, September 28 after both services.

Student Ministry

Sept 19-20

Parent, students, Children only	Students only	Church wide
6:30pm-8:30pm	all night	9:00am-12:00pm (9.20)
A family experience	A student experience	A community experience

Car Wash & Bake Sale ~ Saturday, September 20

We are having our annual car wash fundraiser and bake sale on Saturday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. There is a slight twist. On Friday, September 19, the students will be hanging out, cooking out, and camping out! We do want to invite all parents, students, and children to the camp out for a cookout 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.! This event will be at David and Nancy Deal's home on Friday, September 19. This will be a huge family event with activities based around families.

Look Up Lodge Deposit Due ~ Sunday, September 28

A mandatory deposit of \$25.00 is required for anyone wanting to go to Look Up Lodge next summer. Camp dates are June 21-26, 2015. The total cost is \$250. I must receive a deposit in order to sign your student up for camp. The deposit is their placeholder. More details about Look Up Lodge at our website, www.venturestudents.org.

***Check this out: Starting in September and going to June if you pay \$25.00 each month - camp is paid for!

Children's Ministry

Look Up Lodge
August 2-5, 2015

Children must have completed the second grade. A deposit of \$40.00 is due Sunday, September 28.





FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

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 friends and family of Barbara White, mother in law of Wanda White, in her death on August 5, 2014.

A Note of Appreciation From Ken & Laura Marsh

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for all the prayers, love, and support you have shown us during Ken's healing process. There are other issues to address. I pray God will move mightily as He has done for us recently. Keep Ken in your prayers and we will be praying for you too.

With Love, Ken & Laura Marsh

A Note of Appreciation From Bruce Steadman

Thank you for the thoughts, prayers, calls, and cards during my two recent surgeries.

In His Service, Bruce Steadman

Hospital & Homebound Visitation

We need more hospital and homebound visitors. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Don and Kaye Daniel at 704.872.7267.

Hip Hip Hooray Melissa Graduated!



Friday, August 15, our Minister of Children & Families Melissa Wilson graduated from the George W. Truett Divinity School at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Melissa received her Master of Divinity in Missions & World Christianity. She traveled with her parents to Texas where she visited with her friends, classmates, and professors. We are extremely proud to have her as part of our church family!

Worship Greeters Sunday, August 31

Mary Jane Rash Debbie Burgiss Judy Horney

Sunday, September 7

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

Acolytes Sunday, August 31

Piper Lewis, Darbee Lewis, Nicole Osborne

Sunday, September 7

Margo Deal, Grey Deal, Emily Ashley

Coffee Rotation Sunday, August 31

Melissa Wilson

Sunday, September 7

Emanons Class

Leadership Training Class Begins Wednesday, September 17

First Baptist Church will be conducting its second Leadership Training Class for key leadership starting Wednesday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Adams Hall. This class forms a Deacon level orientation, provides a biblical foundation for church leadership and acclimates 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, this class is not intended for Sunday School teachers or ministry workers. That type of training will be provided in the future. The class will be team taught by William Barnard and another teacher who will be named soon. Because we are teaching in a seminar setting, attendance is limited to 12 people. Those interested in getting information or signing up for the class 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 training program help our church strengthen its people and ministry.