

Students and their parents helped load a box truck with medical supplies. The supplies were donated to Vine International, a Christian non-profit organization that provides medical relief to countries in Central America.



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September 14, 2014

Salvation Is Found In No One Else

■ Rich Kraft

Intentional Interim Pastor

We live in a world where people can't agree on a plumb line of truth when it comes to having some sort of standard by which anyone can say what is right or wrong. Too many people say that sounds liberating, progressive or enlightening. It's a good way to live. In fact, many people DEMAND that everyone has a right to express his or her own opinion. As long as those views do not hurt anyone else or compete with the prevailing philosophy that it is all right for people to "do their own thing."

But are there eternal truths and realities that are part of our existence? What happens when what has been established by the Creator, God's truth, is ignored, mocked, brushed aside, or disobeyed? Truth and values then drift with the winds of what people themselves think. There is nothing to hold on to in order to live together well – in our families, our places of worship, our societies, our nations, and our world!

Why be surprised at the HUGE amount of problems in the world when human beings don't agree on the most basic of things? Why be surprised to discover that if we believe God has not spoken, that we are left to chaos? Palestinians/Arabs versus Israelis...Pakistanis versus

Indians...North Koreans versus the world...tribe against tribe...ethnic group versus ethnic group...the list of rivals and adversaries is endless!

Humanity cannot survive in this world without help from its Creator and without the submission of the created. And there is even more at stake when we consider eternity and where each person will spend their existence once they die!

Without a submission to God, or a standard above himself, an individual begins to make choices based on self-interest – and that is where the conflict begins with others!

There was a time in the history of Israel, called the time of the Judges. The people who lived at that time ignored and went directly against God's truth. At the end of the book of Judges it says, "every man did what is right in his own eyes!" There is something within every person so that they seem to always try to live that way.

Even those of us who are children of God, saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, can begin to or gradually begin to live that way!

Christians can lose sight of God's truth and its implications in their lives too. Maybe they don't in their mind, but they can in their hearts and in how they live. People who believe in

Jesus Christ can end up living like the rest of the world and for the things in the world – they do "what is right in their own eyes!"

The Bible helps us to see where that takes them and what God thinks of that in the lives of church-goers, Ananias and Sapphira, in Acts 5! In reading through the New Testament, we find people who, as followers of Jesus Christ, believed that God was the source of truth and that He does not alter it according to the spirit of the times. We can read in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." That is why the mission of the first followers of Jesus Christ was not only to follow Jesus Christ, but also live with the priority of leading lost people to Him!

This is not an easy way to live. In fact, it is a very costly way to live. To put other people first and prayerfully seek ways of sharing faith takes time, requires rethinking almost everything and demands sacrifice. That is what we find in the example of our Savior Jesus.

How can we, as the people of God at First Baptist Church, find ways of sharing God's eternal truths found in His Son Jesus Christ, and in His Word, the Bible?

Prayer Point - The Power Of The Cross

The cross is not an idea to meditate on—it is a reality to act upon! It is where the divine meets the depraved. It is uplifting to sing about the cross; it is mind-boggling to read about it. But when I actually go there with my tension and stress, my pain and predicaments, shame and regrets, faults and failures, doubts and fears, hostility and anger, I experience help and healing, encouragement and enlightenment, freedom and forgiveness, peace and purpose, strength and courage, and unconditional love.

With the winds of the world swirling about me, I need often to retreat to the calm of the cross. How about you?

Kneel at the cross, Christ will meet you there,
Come while He waits for you.

Listen to His voice, leave with him your care,
And begin life anew.

Kneel at the cross, leave every care.

Kneel at the cross--Jesus will meet you there.

Schedule

Sunday, September 14

- 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 15

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

Tuesday, September 16

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

Wednesday, September 17

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Cheeseburgers, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, & Dessert)
- 5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities
- 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 18

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

Friday, September 19

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym
- 6:30 p.m. Family Weenie Roast & Student Campout

Saturday, September 20

- 9:00 a.m. Car Wash & Bake Sale

Sunday, September 21

- 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 22

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

Tuesday, September 23

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

Wednesday, September 24

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Shepherd's Pie, Collard Greens, 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 25

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

Friday, September 26

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

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of August 31 & September 7, 2014

8/31

Church in Bible Study	135.....	136
Church in Worship	198.....	255
8:30 a.m. service.....	63.....	73
10:55 a.m. service.....	135.....	182

Financial Statistics

Weeks of August 31 & September 7, 2014

8/31

Budget - Received	\$12,158.67	\$10,291.00
Alms	0.00	430.00
Designated - Received	588.00	1,802.00
Building Reserve - Received	75.00	50.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 8/31/14		12,821.67
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 9/7/14		12,573.00

Budget for 2013-2014

Budget Received-Year to Date

Remaining in Budget - Unfunded

Designated Funds Received-Year to Date

Alms Received-Year to Date

Building Reserve-Year to Date

Total Giving-Year to Date

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.



News From The Deacon Ministry Team

The church's new Deacon Ministry Team held its first meeting Monday night, September 8, and elected Jerry Campbell as chair, and Hersey Miller as vice-chair.

The team voted to hold this year's Church Conference in October, with information on the proposed 2014-2015 church budget to be presented at that time. The exact date of the Church Conference will be announced soon.

The next regular meeting of the Deacon Ministry Team is scheduled on Monday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. Starting in October, the team plans to meet monthly on Sunday nights, with dates to be decided.

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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Medical Equipment Sent To Guatemala

The surplus of medical equipment and supplies donated by the local community was sent to Vine International in Louisville, TN. Vine International sends the supplies to Guatemala. Members of First Baptist Church carried boxes of medical supplies and equipment down the stairs and loaded a box truck. We had asked the student group to help. We had an overwhelming response. The students, their parents and their siblings were working hard for the Lord. It was a joy to witness this act of kindness. We did not have to move another box. There were people, our brothers and sisters in Christ, to help.

A wise man told me "We are on the same team." We are thankful to be on the team with you.

Steve, Juliana and Brad Kathman

Spiritual Renewal And Learning Conference

This week our four member ministry staff (Clayton, James, Landon and Melissa) were able to make a trip to the home of Jim and Sharon Van Yperen of Metanoia Ministries for a time of spiritual renewal and learning.

As ministry staff members, they had to process the conflict that took place within the church in a different way than those in the congregation. I am thankful that as good servants and good people that they turned to the Lord for help and comfort and now, like the congregation, are ready to have a big part in what will be a new chapter in the life of First Baptist Church. It is now, in a healthier and more stable ministry environment that we can expect to see great things in their areas of ministry. They are eager to lead in a way that brings the Lord glory and benefits the people of the church and also our community.

When Jim and Sharon VanYperen visited First Baptist Church in early June of this year, they had an opportunity to meet with the staff and share some ministry ideas and tools that benefited the staff greatly. It enhanced their understanding of themselves and how they can best

lead based on their personalities and giftedness. They still talk about that visit today.

Jim and Sharon talked about the possibility of the staff having a second opportunity to think through their ministry skills and vision by having a short three-day visit to the Van Yperen's home in New Hampshire prior to Metanoia Ministries completing their time in Statesville at the end of September. I made a formal request in July to the Transitional Leadership Team, the one that is now ending its tenure, to see if they would approve such a visit. Approval was given if funding could be secured from financial resources outside of First Baptist Church funding. The Foundation approved request for transportation costs only. Metanoia Ministries is picking them up at the airport and providing all of their meals and housing expenses. Therefore, there is no cost to the church's budget for any part of this trip and the reward and benefit will be significant in the spiritual, mental, and emotional refreshment enjoyed by our four very worthy staff members.

-Rich Kraft, *Intentional Interim Pastor*

Student Ministry

Family Cookout
Friday, September 19, 2014
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

We are having a cookout for all parents, students, and children from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at David & Nancy Deal's house. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket, and please register to bring one item of food to ensure this cookout is great. You can register to bring food items at <http://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=AQPT3825>

This evening is especially for "the family" so please make every effort to get the whole gang there. Games and activities will be provided.

Look Up Lodge
June 21-26, 2015

A mandatory deposit of \$25 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 \$25 deposit in order to sign your student up for camp. The deposit is their placeholder. More details about Look Up Lodge at our website - venturestudents.org

***Check this out: Starting in September and going to June if you pay \$25 each month - camp is paid for!

Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*

Children's 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

We are off to a good start both on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Evenings!

Wednesday Evenings

The children will be packing shoe boxes this year for Operation Christmas Child. We will make our plans concerning what items we will be collecting, so stay tuned for more information!

Family Cookout
Friday, September 19, 2014
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Please make plans to attend the cookout on Sept 19th! This will be a great time for fellowship and s'mores!!!! Click on the link to sign up to bring something:

<http://www.PerfectPotluck.com/meals.php?t=AQPT3825>.

Look Up Lodge
August 2-5, 2015

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

Melissa Wilson, *Minister of Children*





815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.
Message By: Rich Kraft (September 14) & Roger Gilbert (September 21)

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Announcements

Christian Sympathy...

...is extended to Bob Dellinger in the death of his niece, Rhonda Osborne, on August 30, 2014.

Dialog & Discovery Sunday, September 14, 2014 6:30 p.m. ~ Family Life Center

We will hold our final Dialog & Discovery meeting Sunday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will continue our discussion of the report from the Vision Casting Team. A final draft of the vision statement will be presented Sunday, September 21 and voted on by the congregation Sunday, September 28 at both worship services.

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.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, September 18, 2014 11:00 a.m. ~ Family Life Center

The Senior Adult Luncheon will be held in the Family Life Center on September 18. This will be the first meeting of the new program year. We will have an "Encore Performance" by the DUCK CREEK BAND featuring traditional gospel, classical country, and a splash of blue grass. Members of the band are Ed McLelland, Stan Childers, David Saleeby, James Johnson, and James Caroll. A devotion will be delivered by Gloria Hunter. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the lunch at 12:00 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$6.00 payable at the door. Reserve your seat by calling the church office at 704.873.7231 or by signing up in your Sunday School class. Please bring a friend. They do not have to be a member of First Baptist.

Also, a Bible Study Course for Senior Adults is being planned. It will be held at the church during the daytime, probably in the morning, for one hour each week for six weeks. We would like to find out how many would attend so as to finalize plans. If you would be interested, please call the church office or let Loy Devine or Gale Hall know. If there is enough interest, plans will be finalized and announced later.

Worship Greeters Sunday, September 14

Eddy Sipe John Garland Shannon Ashley
Pat Rushton Nancy Garland

Sunday, September 21

Bill Henderson Gary Fyfe James McNiel
Chris Buckner Patricia Fyfe Wilma McNiel
Matthew Waugh Butch Price Stan Williams

Acolytes Sunday, September 14

Elizabeth Allen, Ryan Johnson

Sunday, September 21

Sam Buckner, Luke Williams

Coffee Rotation Sunday, September 14

Dan & Jean Mills

Sunday, September 21

David Potter

Christmas Choir Begins Wednesday, September 17

First Baptist Church's Christmas Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. The choir is open to anyone wishing to participate in this year's Christmas program. We will be rehearsing every Wednesday starting at 7:00 p.m.

This year's Christmas presentation is entitled "What Sweeter Music: A Festival of Carols." This work is a concert of worship for the Christmas season that features fifteen English, German and French carols plus several new songs from composer Mark Hayes.

Please contact James Martin, Minister of Music and Worship, if you are interested in participating in this year's Christmas Choir. You can reach James by email (jmartin@statesvillefbc.org) or by calling the church (704-873-7231, ext. 208).