



During the 10:55 a.m. service Sunday, June 29, 2014, Rich Kraft commissioned the 2014 Belize Team. The team will leave for Belize Saturday, July 5.



Volume 71 Issue 14

July 6, 2014

God is Our Refuge and Strength

■ **Rich Kraft**
Intentional Interim Pastor

Deep in the Arabian desert is a small fortress that still exists to this day. It stands silently on the vast expanse of a dry and barren desert. Thomas Edward Lawrence, known as "Lawrence of Arabia," often used that fortress. It wasn't very big or impressive physically, but it saved his life many times.

The reason why it was so important to Lawrence was because of its location and security it offered. When under attack, often by superior forces, Lawrence could retreat to this fort. There the resources of the fortress became his. The food and water stored there supported him and his troops and saved their lives. Sir Lawrence felt confident and secure within its walls. He learned to trust it, and his experience proved its value and trustworthiness.

King David writes about God using words that describe Himself as a "refuge, fort." Like Lawrence's fort, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows the ones that trust in Him." Psalm 46:1 shares this, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." What an amazing promise to hold on to when life is uncertain and we are looking for help, safety, a place of refuge. Safety is not necessarily found in a place, but a person, the Lord Jesus. "I will never leave you or forsake you" is an amazing guarantee that comes from God Himself.

Maybe you need to be reminded of that today. I know that I need that reminder myself often. "I will never leave or forsake you," and "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30. How blessed we are to belong to Jesus Christ by faith in Him! He will provide, He will keep us safe!

Pray For Our Belize Team!

On Saturday, July 5, our Belize Team will be departing for the destination of Cristo Rey, Belize. We are honored and blessed to have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with these wonderful people. Below is a daily prayer schedule for our trip. We need and appreciate all of your prayers. God Bless.

1. Pray for the safety of our team as we travel, while we are there, and as we return home.
2. Pray for our families and friends that are left behind. Help us to look forward to the next time we are able to see one another.
3. Pray that we will have open doors and that when we open our mouths, the Holy Spirit will speak the words with clarity.
4. Pray that we communicate gentleness and genuineness to the people for a heart of real concern.
5. Pray that the Lord prompts us to take time to rest and relax, because our bodies need it.
6. Pray that The Lord grants us the time that we need to spend with Him and that we are given time each day to meditate upon His word.
7. Pray for the salvation of souls and the strengthening of believers.
8. Pray that as our team returns, we will be able to communicate what the trip did in our lives.



Schedule

Sunday, July 6

- 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, July 7

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

Tuesday, July 8

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

Wednesday, July 9

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

Thursday, July 10

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

Friday, July 11

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

Sunday, July 13

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 9:45 a.m. Look Up Lodge Parents Meeting - Adams Hall
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, July 14

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

Tuesday, July 15

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

Wednesday, July 16

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

Thursday, July 17

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

Friday, July 18

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

Saturday, July 19

- 9:00 a.m. VBS Craft Day

Prayer Point

"It is now very rare for anyone to come into the house of God with guard completely down, head bowed and with the silent confession: 'Dear Lord, I am ready and willing to hear what You will speak to my heart today!'"

"We have become so learned and so worldly and so sophisticated and so blasé and so bored and so religiously tired that the clouds of glory seem to have gone from us." (A.W. Tozer)

Honestly, can't we all see ourselves in this picture from time to time? When we do, that's the time to refocus and cry out to God. Let's all pray the following prayer as we enter the sanctuary of God's presence this week:

Lord, quiet my own heart before You and give me that humble spirit of listening. Whenever I come before You, may it be with my 'guard completely down, head bowed....ready and willing to hear what You will speak to my heart today.' Amen.

His servant and your friend,
 Ginny Stikeleather

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of June 22 & June 29, 2014

	6/22	6/29
Church in Bible Study	.89	.134
Church in Worship	.235	.248
8:30 a.m. service	100	.89
10:55 a.m. service	135	.159

Financial Statistics

Weeks of June 22 & June 29, 2014

	6/22	6/29
Budget - Received	\$8,350.05	\$13,279.81
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	131.65	2,504.00
Building Reserve - Received	25.00	110.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 6/22/14		8,506.70
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 6/29/14		15,893.81
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		591,822.38
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		321,244.41
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		131,706.08
Alms Received-Year to Date		5,459.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		10,487.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		747,409.33



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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Student Ministry

This past week was FBC's fourth annual trip to Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, SC. I think I speak for everyone when I say - this was the best trip yet. As usual the games, skits, worship, and food were fantastic, but the real spark came with the teaching and applications. This year we discussed, "Can I Trust God's Heart and Intentions Towards Me?" You can only answer that question if you trust God. You can only



know God if you experience God. Our students discussed, taught, and wrestled with each statement.



Thank you to all the parents and grandparents that sacrificed to get your students to LUL. I bet they would tell you it was worth it. If you see a student at FBC or out and about this summer, ask them how camp went. God is doing incredible, and I mean incredible, things in the lives of our students. We have a trip to Belize coming up soon and a whole lot of summer fun still waiting to be had. All this is in preparation for the fall when we launch V GROUPS. Stay tuned with venturestudents.org for all the info.

My Best,
Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*



Children's Ministry

Important Dates

Sunday, July 13 & Sunday, July 20: Look Up Lodge Parents Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Adams Hall (Please attend one.)

Tuesday, July 22: Water Day, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Front Lawn

July 27 - 30: Kids at Look Up Lodge

August 4-8: SonTreasure Island VBS

The day has arrived! VBS Registration is OPEN! Go ahead and register your kids. Please share about VBS with your friends and neighbors! Invite your child's best friend, soccer team, or friends from the neighborhood!

Don't forget to visit our new website www.kidsatfirst.com. If you did not pick up your new Children's Ministry Calendar, they are available at the Welcome Center!

I am still accepting Look Up Lodge Deposits! Please make plans to attend one of the parent meetings for Look Up Lodge. It will be a time to fill out those lovely forms and get a few packing tips for camp!

I am also starting to work on my lists of volunteers and teachers for VBS. You need to be on the list, PLEASE let me know how you would like to help out during this important week!

Vacation Bible School Preparation

■ Melissa Wilson *Minister of Children*

In preparation for writing this article, I looked over the "pre-VBS article" from last year and am amazed at what a difference a year makes! Last year the theme was all about Moses. It seemed fitting since the church felt a little like it was wandering in the wilderness. We learned at VBS that God provided for Moses, and He is providing for FBC as well! We are in a different place this year, so the theme of God's Love is very fitting. This year VBS will teach us that we see God's love in Jesus and we can trust that love because it will never fail us! What a powerful message we can share with the children of our community!

We have a lot of work ahead for us as we prepare for VBS. There are decorations to make, registration forms to process, crafts and games to prepare, teachers to recruit and so much more. The most important task is to pray! Pray that children who need to hear that God

loves them will register and come to VBS. Pray that volunteers will come forward to lead groups and help during the week of August 4-8. Pray for those that have already committed to help. Most of all, pray that children who need to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior will meet him that week!

If you are willing to help lead a group, or volunteer in another capacity, please contact Melissa at melissa@statesvillefbc.org.

Important Dates: We will have a craft day where we make various decorations on **Saturday, July 19** from 9:00 am - 12:00 p.m. We will actually decorate the Church on **Friday, August 1**, and **Saturday, August 2**. If you are a volunteer (teen or adult) please join me for a brief meeting on either **Sunday, July 13th** from 12:00-12:30 p.m., or **Wednesday, July 16** 6:00-6:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall. You will receive schedules and other important information about VBS. If you have not signed up yet and would like to, please come to one of the meetings.



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

Guest Preacher This Sunday, July 6: Dave Groleau

Dave Groleau currently serves as the staff chaplain for Samaritan's Purse in Boone, NC. He travels the United States and the world to encourage the many staff and volunteers of this ministry. We enjoyed one of his sermons on Sunday, February 2. We are blessed to have him with us again.

Guest Preacher This Sunday, July 13: Lea Slaton

Dr. Lea Slaton is a former member of First Baptist's youth group and youth choir. In fact, she first preached in First Baptist's pulpit in 1986 as part of the annual Youth Sunday celebration. She has served as pastor of Wilson's Mills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Clayton, NC. During her pastorate, she has emphasized leadership development, spiritual formation, and community building. Dr. Slaton strives to carry a message of full inclusion that challenges individuals to go into the world and make a difference in the lives of others. She has worked to deepen her congregation's discipleship through small groups with an emphasis in recognizing the work and movement of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Charles & Nina Guy in the death of Charles' aunt, Eloise Wood of Ohio, on June 24, 2014.

Please Save Your Empty Water Bottles

Please begin saving your empty water bottles (with caps). We will need them for a special activity during Vacation Bible School.

Library News!

Summer is a great time to visit your church library. We have a huge selection of books as well as videos for children of all ages. Parents will also find fiction and nonfiction books to enjoy during these warm summer days. Come in often and make use of all the resources available to you.

An assistant will be in the library on Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. during the summer months and on Sunday morning 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. At other times you may use the directions on the circulation desk to check out your own books.

Pray For Our Belize Team This Week!

Our Belize Team leaves for Cristo Rey, Belize this Saturday, July 5. Please keep each of these individuals in your prayers this week as they lead several ministries including a dental ministry, construction ministry, teen ministry, and a VBS. Please pray the Lord will use every single person to glorify His name!

Belize Team 2014

Rosie Alexander	Tim Burgiss	Jan Hunter	Dan Mills
Lynn Barker	Debbie Burgiss	Patrick Hunter	Jean Mills
Renee Barker	Hannah Faulk	Edward Hunter	Quinn Payne
Mackenzie Barker	Sarah Faulk	Louisa Hunter	David Potter
Cassidy Barker	Jared Faulk	Kelley Kirk	Landon Senn
William Barnard	Emilia Gildemeister	Kristin Kirk	Erin Senn
Rachel Brubaker	James Hunter	Emily Magnus	Jackie Warren

Worship Greeters Sunday, July 6

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

Sunday, July 13

Eddy Sipe	John Garland	Shannon Ashley
Pat Rushton	Nancy Garland	

Acolytes Sunday, July 6

Katie Allen, Elizabeth Allen, Hannah Beale

Sunday, July 13

Walt Tillery, Meg Tillery, Sam Buckner

Coffee Rotation Sunday, July 6

Emanons Class

Sunday, July 13

Dan & Jean Mills

Jubilee Sunday July 27, 2014

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:55 a.m. Joint Worship in Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Luncheon in the FLC

Please join us for this very special Sunday. We will honor our members that have been part of our church for 50 or more years and those that are at least 90 years of age. Please join us for this very special celebration!