



THE INTERIM



Volume 72 Issue 1

January 4, 2015

The Season of Worshiping & Serving Christ

■ **Roger Gilbert**
Interim Pastor

A pastor friend calls the harried pace of the Advent season, “the rush to the manger.” Indeed, the message of Christmas is often “run over” by the cultural and economic pressures of the season. Even in the church when we are attempting to proclaim and experience the eternal truth, we may fail to genuinely worship and reflect because we are caught up in the demands of programs and expectations.

I remember a young lady in my freshman college class commented that she felt she was “so busy studying that she didn’t have time to learn.” I think she was implying that real “learning” requires reflection and assimilation, not just exposure to ideas and facts. In the same way, genuine worship requires far more than just going through a series of religious rituals and activities.

With that in mind, I encourage you to give some thoughtful reflection on some statements the Apostle Paul makes in Galatians 4:1-7. In verse 4 he tells us that “God sent forth His Son.” It was God who took the initiative. Humans did not call Christ down. God sent Jesus. A genuine Christmas experience is not the result of what we do but the celebration of what God has already done and the receptivity to allow Him to do something new in us. Phillips Brooks captures this truth when in his beloved hymn he prays,

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.*

Paul goes on to write that the purpose for sending Jesus is “to redeem those under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons.” The word redeem was a word from the slave market, referring to someone paying the price for a slave and then setting the slave free. Jesus was sent to live and die for us that we might be free of both the guilt of sin and the enslaving power of sin.

The result of being sons of God is that we also become heirs of God. We understand the meaning of the word heir. We are entitled to share the estate of our benefactor, in this case, God Himself! Once again it is important to remember that this new status and all that comes with it is not the result of anything that we have done, but is rather by the initiative of God’s grace. Our role is to receive what God has offered as a gift.

In verse 6, Paul writes that “God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.” Again, it is God who took the initiative. Not only did God, send His Son to die for us, He also sent His Spirit to live within us. Christmas is not just the celebration of an event that occurred long ago. It is the worshiping and serving of the Christ who lives within us.

As we move into the New Year, I pray for each of you, not the shallow and quickly fading merriness of the season, but the deep, genuine, and abiding joy of the eternal and present Christ.

Benevolence Funds

It is our church’s longstanding tradition to receive an Alms Offering on the first Sunday of each month. After each worship service, you may give your donation to any of the ushers stationed at the doorways. Funds donated to the Alms Offering go into a Benevolence Fund to help those in need in our community. At their December meeting, the Deacons affirmed a plan to send one-half of the funds from the Alms Offering to Iredell Christian Ministries each month, with our church staff to distribute remaining funds to meet needs that may be called to their attention. Everyone is encouraged to give generously to this special offering.

Schedule

Sunday, January 4

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, January 5

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

Tuesday, January 6

6:00 p.m. Precepts Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, January 7

11:00 a.m. Precepts Bible Study
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Chicken Monterray, Caesar Pasta Salad, Steamed Broccoli)
 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study - FLC
 5:45 p.m. Children's & Student Activities
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 8

8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, January 9

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, January 11

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

Monday, January 12

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

Tuesday, January 13

6:00 p.m. Precepts Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, January 14

11:00 a.m. Precepts Bible Study
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Chicken Burritos, Refried Beans, Rice)
 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 5:45 p.m. Activities for Students and Children

Thursday, January 15

8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, January 16

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of December 14, 21, & 28, 2014

	12/14	12/21	
Church in Bible Study	211	166	152
Church in Worship	248	245	196
8:30 a.m. service	91	74	
10:55 a.m. service	157	171	196
Christmas Eve Service 12/24/2014			272

Financial Statistics

Weeks of December 14, 21, & 28 2014

	12/14	12/21	
Budget - Received	\$12,497.41	\$14,307.00	\$50,230.00
Alms	55.00	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	2,431.56	3,101.00	3,197.00
Building Reserve - Received	0.00	0.00	0.00

International & Global Missions Offering

Global Missions - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

\$2,425.00

International Mission - Southern Baptist Convention

\$1,907.00

TOTAL: \$4,332.00 GOAL: \$15,000

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 12/14/14 14,983.97

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 12/21/14 17,408.00

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 12/28/14 53,427.00

Budget for 2014-2015 865,070.00

Budget Received-Year to Date 238,887.58

Remaining in Budget - Unfunded 626,182.42

Designated Funds Received-Year to Date 25,978.70

Alms Received-Year to Date 2,041.96

Building Reserve-Year to Date 5,300.00

Total Giving-Year to Date 270,116.38

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Roger Gilbert.....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



*There is surely a future hope for you,
 and your hope will not be cut off.*

Proverbs 23:18

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Fri Tel: 704-873-7231

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Reading & Praying The Scriptures

This month we as a church family have begun to read the same scripture passage every day. What a grand adventure: an absolute, unending source of treasure upon treasure! (greater knowledge of God's Word, greater love for God and each other, discernment of His will for His church, the filling of the Holy Spirit—on and on) As we read the designated passage each day, let's also pray what we read back to God. With all of us praying from the same portion of God's word each day—praying in agreement, with one heart and one mind (John 17:11b)—can you imagine His response in answer to our prayers!? He will open the windows of heaven and pour out such a blessing that we won't be able to receive it!

"We know from the scriptures that God wills to glorify His name in the earth, extend His kingdom, build His church, disperse the gospel, call workers into the harvest fields, defeat the powers of darkness, and reach out in love to a lost and hurting world.

Knowing from the scriptures that God purposes to do these things should motivate us to pray passionately and persistently for their accomplishment. The better we know scripture, the better we will know God's purposes. The better we know God's purposes, the better we will pray." (Taken from "Connection", a daily devotional.)

"God of Grace, Your heart is written clearly upon and within Your word. As I read, study, memorize and absorb Your words of life, may I be a reflection of all that is contained in them! Fill me with a deep desire to listen to Your voice through Your word so that my prayer life might be scripture-focused and my life and my prayers might glorify You." (also from "Connection")

Your friend, Ginny Stikeleather

Yoga Classes Begin January 6 at FBC

Present Moment Wellness LLC was founded by Jennifer Froyd, MA, LPC, RYT as an avenue for offering safe, accessible yoga and wellness practices emphasizing care and mindfulness of the body's own wisdom. The yoga classes are gentle, focus on promoting relaxation, relieve stress through fluid movement, and enhance health and overall wellness. Modifications are offered throughout the yoga classes making the gentle practices safe, accessible, and adaptable to most individuals.

I, Jennifer, have had a long-standing interest in wellness and holistic approaches to enhancing health, restoring balance, and creating a sense of renewal for the people with whom I work. I have worked in the mental health field for over 17 years in public hospitals and in community counseling agencies. I am a licensed professional counselor in NC and a registered yoga teacher with Yoga Alliance. I have completed over 500 hours of training in yoga, with emphasis on emotional well-being and yoga therapy.

Yoga is an affordable, evidenced-based, accessible modality to enhance one's own health, connect with others in a safe non-judgmental, accepting way, and improve your overall wellness. It helps to lower blood pressure, lower perceived stress, decrease emotional reactivity, restore balance (in all aspects of your life), increase strength and flexibility, and enhance the functioning of your entire body (just to name a few of the benefits). The benefits of a regular yoga practice are cumulative leading to improved sleep, decreased restrictive muscular holding patterns in your body, and improved measurable health outcomes (i.e. blood pressure, stress hormone levels, cholesterol, etc).

Yoga is a tangible practice that facilitates health promotion and disease prevention by empowering you to make decisions about your body and your health. It invites you to become aware of your body's abilities, exploring what you can do for yourself. Enhancing awareness creates the opportunity to explore making changes in your habits which leads to better overall health and wellness and improved relationships. The practice of yoga is an integrative approach to wellness that fosters your emotional, physical, spiritual, and social growth and development.

Wellness is about enhancing ways in which you can live your life, reach your goals, build a strong sense of community and support, and connect mind, body, and spirit for greater well-being, peace of mind, and quality of life.

Yoga classes are coming to First Baptist Church beginning January 6, 2015. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the room across the hall from the gym in the Family Life Center. The introductory class on January 6 will be a FREE class for all participants for you to come and check out the practice of yoga for yourself. Yoga classes will be offered for a fee of \$10.00 per class or \$45.00 (package deal) for six classes. A portion of the net monthly gross will be donated to a local charity or to a designated church fund or function.

No experience is necessary for participating in yoga classes, as modifications will be offered throughout the class. The classes are gentle with an emphasis on listening to the messages of your own body. Some yoga mats and other props will be available; if you have your own mat bring it with you to class. When you come to class, wear comfortable clothes that invite freedom of movement. Also it's best to not eat a heavy meal two hours before practice.

In the new year, gift yourself with the opportunity to nurture yourself through relaxation, renewal, restoration, and improved overall well-being. Allow your stress to melt away and your sense of ease and peace to come in. I look forward to seeing you on January 6 at 6:00 p.m. to introduce yoga and allow you to experience the benefits for yourself.

Please feel free to contact me either by e-mail or telephone with any questions. Also, please check out my web page, www.enhancedbalance.com for additional information.

Kind regards,
Jennifer Froyd, MA, LPC, RYT
Founder, Present Moment Wellness LLC
presentmomentwellnessllc@gmail.com
704-380-0185 (business line)



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.
Message By: Dr. Roger Gilbert

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Announcements

Welcome To Our Church Family

Walter Rankin joined First Baptist Church by statement of faith on December 7, 2014. We welcome him to our church family.

A Big White Christmas Thank You

Thank you to all of you who donated money, food, and used toys; worked repairing bikes; made new dresses for used dolls; helped with the necessary paper work and announcements; moved tables and set up the gym; purchased food and packed the food boxes; shopped for clothes and toys; worked countless hours in the clothes closet; checked and packed the toy bags; made delicious pots of soup and sandwiches; greeted our quests with hugs and fellowship around the tables; carried out the heavy boxes of food and bags of toys; cleaned up the gym; and prayed for our White Christmas Ministry. Your willingness to give of your time and resources and pitch in wherever needed was appreciated so much.

It takes the entire church to do White Christmas. Whatever part you played, please know it was appreciated. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Carol Hunter

Training In Discipleship Class How to Study The Scriptures And Enjoy It Begins Wednesday, January 7, 2015 6:00 p.m.

This is a six-week Bible study that will be held in the old SonSeekers classroom in the Family Life Center on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Literature for the course is \$10.00. This course is designed to help you love and understand the scriptures. For more information, contact Dan Mills at 704-253-5093 or pastor-danmills@yahoo.com. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, January 15, 2015 11:00 a.m. ~ Family Life Center

The January Luncheon meeting will be held in the Family Life Center on January 15 at 11:00 a.m. The program will be by Clay Lunsford. Cost of the lunch to be served at 12:00 p.m. is \$6.00 payable at the door. Call the church office at 704-873-7231 for reservations, or sign up in your Sunday School Class.

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.statesvillefbc.org), and checking the following TV stations (WBTV, Charlotte; WSOC-TV, Charlotte; WCNC-TV, Charlotte).



Worship Greeters Sunday, January 4

Chris Simon Jeff Templeton David Lewis
Chuck Heckel Jason Allen

Sunday, January 11

Eddy Sipe John Garland Dan Mills
Pat Rushton Nancy Garland Jean Mills
Shannon Ashley

Acolytes Sunday, January 4

Audrey Allison & Sean Martin

Sunday, January 11

Hannah Beale & Matthew Johnson

Coffee Rotation Sunday, January 4

Emanons Class

Sunday, January 11

Dan & Jean Mills

A Note of Appreciation From The Catawba Discipleship Class

The Catawba Discipleship Class was formed by the men who lead the Prison Ministry.

This is a note to say thank you and thanks the church. You have shared unconditional love with us and for that we're ever so grateful. When I was sick and hungry in prison you visited me. You gave me spiritual food, help to restore my insane mind to be recreated in Christ. You made sacrifices to be with me in person. You have shown me what it is to be a saint and to live for the Lord. I pray that I will continue in the faith and be an example to others. Thank you & I love you! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!

Catawba Discipleship Class