

Mac & Evelyn Funderburk  
at the Valentine Fundraiser  
on February 8, 2014.

# THE INTERIM

Volume 71 Issue 6

March 16, 2014



FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
STATESVILLE

## His Words Will Not Pass Away

### ■ Rich Kraft

*Intentional Interim Pastor*

In 1958, a U.S. soldier wandered the streets of Berlin to see the sights. He noticed that there were still reminders of the destruction of World War II. Walking through a residential area one evening, he saw an open space edged with flowers. In the center stood the stone front of what had been a church. The building was no longer there, but the rubble had been cleared away in an attempt to fill the empty space with a little park. The main door of the former church was shaped in a Gothic arch, and over it was carved into the stone in German: "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away."

As he stepped through the arch where the doors had once been, of course he wasn't inside anything. That one a place of worship had been reduced to a patch of stone pavement and open sky.

Not so with the One who said those words, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away!" Those words are eternal, and they cannot be changed. They can only be experienced as we live our lives with Jesus Christ. The God who spoke those words is eager to meet with us. How blessed we are to be a part of a church that is committed to worshiping, trusting, obeying, and following the Lord Jesus.

This Sunday a third Dialog and Discovery Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. As always, we will focus our thoughts on Jesus Christ as He gives us a growing sense of purpose and direction. Five reports will be given sharing the good progress our leadership teams have been making relative to our church healing and restoration process. Please continue to pray that God will continue to strengthen and build His church here at First Baptist!

## Prayer Point

God invites us to invest in His kingdom through prayer. When we have our money invested in a certain commodity, we are not likely to ignore what's happening with it.

If we invest in a business, we will make sure we monitor the profits and losses. We won't forget about it and just hope everything turns out okay.

Whatever we invest in, we will do all within our power to ensure its success - if it's Chic-fil-A I guarantee we will "eat more chicken."

Oh, beloved church family! First Baptist Church is our most important investment right now! Don't ignore it! Don't just hope it will be successful again! Pray! Pray! Pray!

The more prayer we invest in our church, the more return we will enjoy - the less prayer, the less return. "You do not have because you do not ask." (James 4:2)

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather

### **Pray with Us:**

Sunday Morning Prayer  
SonSeekers Classroom, 7:30 a.m.

Monday Morning Prayer  
Sanctuary, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study  
Family Life Center, 5:45 p.m.

## DIALOG & DISCOVERY

Sunday, March 16  
6:30 p.m., FLC

Please be sure to join us. This meeting will focus on the progress made by the Leadership Development and Governance Teams. Please also join us for a chili, soup, and sandwich dinner at 5:30 p.m. This is a fundraiser for our summer mission trip to Belize.

*The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.  
Ecclesiastes 7:8*

## Schedule

### Sunday, March 16

- 7:30 a.m. Prayer Time - SonSeekers Classroom
- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship in FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Chili, Soup, & Sandwich Fundraiser-FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Dialog & Discovery - FLC

### Monday, March 17

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

### Tuesday, March 18

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

### Wednesday, March 19

- 5:00 p.m. Open Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert)
- 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities
- 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, March 20

- 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon & What It's Worth Program
- 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

### Friday, March 21

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

### Sunday, March 23

- 7:30 a.m. Prayer Time - SonSeekers Classroom
- 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, March 24

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

### Tuesday, March 25

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

### Wednesday, March 26

- 5:00 p.m. Open Gym For Students
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Vegetable Beef Soup, Salad, Baked Potato, Dessert)
- 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities
- 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, March 27

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

### Friday, March 28

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

## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of March 2 & 9, 2014

	3/2	3/9
Church in Bible Study .....	150	110
Church in Worship .....	252	185
8:30 a.m. service.....	70	42
10:55 a.m. service.....	181	143

## Financial Statistics

### Weeks of March 2 & 9, 2014

	3/2	3/9
Budget - Received	\$14,709.00	\$7,907.00
Alms	700.73	0.00
Designated - Received	2,422.41	3,003.00
Building Reserve - Received	205.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 3/2/14</b>		18,037.14
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 3/9/14</b>		10,910.00
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		422,592.96
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		490,473.83
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		60,913.70
Alms Received-Year to Date		4,000.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		9,503.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		494,287.55



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in  
heavenly places in Christ."  
Ephesians 1:3

## 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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## CHILI, SOUP, & SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

**Sunday, March 16, 2014, 5:30 p.m., FLC**



The Belize Team will host a chili, soup, and sandwich fundraiser. All funds will go towards the cost of the mission trip to Belize this summer. Please come to eat dinner and make a donation before the Dialog & Discovery begins at 6:30 p.m.

# On Following Through

It is my firm belief that we are close to the day when the building of our new church will be begun. It seems to me that we cannot afford to pause or linger long where we are. It is absolutely necessary for us to follow through. There is a saying: "Being on the right track is fine; if you stop there you're bound to get run over." We have begun our venture. It may be true that well begun is half done; but the half way mark is a long way from the destination. And if we stop here, we might get run over by disillusionment and despair.

Phillips Brooks, one of America's greatest voices, gave a good word for us to remember as we approach the portals of our opportunity. "It is good for a man to come to a future which he does not know. It is good for you if God brings you to the borders of some promised land. Do not hesitate at any experience because of its novelty. Do not draw back from any way because you have passed there before. The truth, the task, the joy, the suffering on whose border you are standing, oh, my friend, today, you enter it without any fear; only go into it with God - the God who has always been with you."

We are like the group in the Old Testament scene. We have not passed this way before. But we do not walk alone—we greet the unseen with a cheer.

Let's underscore this on our mental tablets: "WE CAN'T BUILD A CHURCH WITHOUT HARD, EARNEST, AND SACRIFICIAL EFFORT." Let's get together and do something for which our children and unborn generations will rise up and call us blessed. Let's keep on forging on! Ready?

"Don't grumble, don't bluster, don't dream and don't shirk,  
Don't think of your worries, but think of your work.  
The worries will vanish, the work will be done,  
No man sees his shadows, who faces the sun."

James Potter

- From Volume VIII, Issue 10 of *The Interim* published September 1952.

As we look to the future of First Baptist Church, we will revisit the lessons discussed in past issues of *The Interim*. This publication has been a part of First Baptist Church since 1946. James Potter served as pastor to our church 1946-1956.

## Student Ministry

### DNOW Weekend

Friday, March 21 - Sunday, March 23

The DNOW is less than two weeks away. If you would like to serve in any way that weekend, let me know immediately. We need transporters badly.

### Look Up Lodge

Deposit is due Sunday, March 30. Please contact me for your balance.

My Best,  
Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*



## Children's Ministry

### Look Up Lodge

The next payment for Look Up Lodge is due Sunday, April 6. There are a few spots available if your child is not yet signed up.

Melissa Wilson, *Minister of Children & Families*



## Save The Date

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 2014

10:00 a.m.



## The Season of Lent

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel. Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. In other words, the season of Lent is not thought of primarily as a meditation on the suffering and cross of Jesus; this is saved for Holy Week. Rather, it is a season of penitence and prayer, reflection and renewal, all designed to prepare the worshiping community for the remembrance of Christ's death and celebration of His resurrection during Holy Week.

The practice of a forty-day preparation period began in the Christian church during the third and fourth centuries. The number forty carries biblical significance based on the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness and Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Holy Week, not counting Sundays (which are reserved for celebratory worship). In practice, many churches choose to focus Sunday worship on the themes of repentance and renewal.

As a period of preparation, Lent has historically included the instruction of persons for baptism and profession of faith on Easter Sunday and for efforts by all Christians to deepen their piety, devotion, and readiness to mark the death and resurrection of their Savior. As such, the primary focus of the season is to explore and deepen a "baptismal spirituality" that centers on our union with Christ rather than to function only as an extended meditation of Christ's suffering and death.

The traditional color for the season is purple. Some congregations choose to highlight the contrast between Lent and Eastertide (the period from Easter to Ascension Day or Pentecost or Trinity Sunday) by omitting the singing of "Alleluia" during the Lenten season, and yet other congregations stress that all Sundays of Lent are "little Easters" and thus may appropriately feature Easter-like praise.

## Easter is Sunday, April 20

Easter Schedule

9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch in FLC

10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary



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

### A Note of Appreciation From Amber Shipley

Dear FBC,  
Thank you for all the support you have given to my family and me during this difficult time. You are amazing! Please continue to let God's light, which shone so brightly through Rebekah, shine brightly though you so that others might see His glory!

Love in Christ,  
Amber Shipley

### A Note of Appreciation From James McNiell

A sincere thank you for all the beautiful cards, phone calls, and prayers during the loss of my brother Vernon. - James McNiell

### Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the family and friends of Bill O'Connell in his death on February 19. Bill served as a custodian to First Baptist Church for a number of years.

### Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Loralee Kanzigg and the family and friends of Ken Kanzigg in his death on February 27, 2014.

### Yard Sale To Benefit Belize Mission Trip

We will host a yard sale in May to benefit the Belize Mission Trip. We are taking donations of any and everything. Please label your donations with "Belize Yard Sale" and bring them by the church office Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. If you have any big items, we will arrange to have them picked up from your home.

### What's It Worth Program ~ Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:00 a.m., FLC

We will have a What's It Worth program on Thursday, March 21, in the Fellowship Hall. Dennis White, auctioneer and antique dealer from Mooresville, will be our presenter. You may bring an antique or other collectible item and Dennis will appraise it. The item you bring does not have to be valuable, but it can be interesting or have a story about it. This will be a fun time to share interesting items and to discover their monetary value. It will be our own First Baptist Antique Road Show. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Please call the church office at 704.873.7231 by March 17 to make your reservation.



### An Afternoon of Celtic Music With Kathy Estes & Friends Sunday, March 16, 2014, 3:00 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. There is a \$10.00 admission and \$5.00 admission for students. For more information please visit [www.trinityartistseries.org](http://www.trinityartistseries.org) or call 704.380.0443.

### Worship Greeters Sunday, March 16

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

### Sunday, March 23

Eddy Sipe	Hilda Lee	Jim Van Zee
Monica Williams	Clarence Poole	Nedra Van Zee
Ginny Stikeleather	Mike McLain	

### Children's Ministry Volunteers Sunday, March 16

8:30 Nursery	Louisa Hunter
10:55 Nursery	Crystal B.

**Acolytes:** Allie Eudy, Andria Eudy, Audrey Allison

### Sunday, March 23

8:30 Nursery	Laura Spearman
10:55 Nursery	Gretchen Eudy

**Acolytes:** Hannah Van Buren, Georgiana Simon, Kendyl King

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