

Children watch the Forever Friends Puppet Show at the Heroes Unmasked Fall Festival Sunday, October 26, 2014.



Volume 71 Issue 23

November 9, 2014

Stewardship

■ Roger Gilbert *Interim Pastor*

At the conclusion of the second Wednesday night discussion of the budget, I felt impressed to make a few remarks about the meaning of stewardship. I want to share some of those thoughts with you here in written form.

A beginning place is to recall that the meaning of the word steward is someone who manages the property of another. Psalm 24:1 reads, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein." Everything belongs to God. We like to think that we are the owners of money, houses, and property. The truth is that everything belongs to God. The things we claim we own are really just on loan to us. The biblical message is that God is holding us responsible as stewards of the portion of His estate that is on loan to us. That truth calls us to realize that Christian stewardship is not limited to what we give, but includes how we manage everything—money, possessions, time, talents, opportunities and life itself. Christian stewardship calls on us to manage everything in ways that harmonize with the values, priorities, and will of God. On the one hand that is a heavy responsibility. On the other hand it is a marvelous joy to realize that God has generously entrusted so much to us.

Financial giving through the church is an important part of stewardship. It is obvious that we should want to give to support what is important to us and the cause of Christ. Certainly we want to be supportive of the work of missions around the world. Missions has to do with much more than just sending missionaries to far-off places. Everything the

church does should be seen as a part of God's great mission. On the one hand that insight makes it imperative that we carefully evaluate all that we do so as to harmonize church programs with God's priorities. On the other hand it calls us to value every dimension of church life as a part of God's mission.

The understanding of stewardship expressed above leads us to see that giving through the church is not just a matter of duty. And, while our offerings help to pay the bills of the church, our giving should not be seen primarily as just a means of paying the bills. At the heart of the matter, giving is an expression of gratitude. God has given us the gift of life and all that has blessed us in life. In spite of our sinfulness, God continues to love us and has expressed that so powerfully in Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8 reads "God shows his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Giving for the cause of Christ through the church is one of the ways that God has provided for us to say thank you!

Central to an understanding of Christian stewardship is to see it as an act of worship. The English word worship comes from the Old English combination of the words worth and ship. Worship is an expression of the worth-ship of that which is worshiped. The reason for passing the offering plate is not just to get the money to pay the bills, but basically is an act of worship of God who is All-Worthy. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:1, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Paul would have us see that not only the giving of money but also how we live our lives is an act of worship. That is Christian stewardship.

Prayer Point: Now Faith

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) Do we need any other testimony, truth, or word from God to entice us to pray? The first word in this verse is key: NOW. The second word: FAITH, is also of utmost importance in prayer.

When we pray in FAITH, we unequivocally believe that the will of God and the work of God is a NOW reality. "Hoped for" and "not seen" tells us that God just hasn't revealed it yet. God is sovereign (always working everything for the good of those who love Him, Rom. 8:28) and His timing is perfect. Praying in faith is believing NOW that God will answer—and that the substance and evidence of that prayer will be revealed in God's own time.

All through the gospels we read that what impressed Jesus most—what seized His attention more than any other thing—was NOW FAITH. Have you been praying in faith? Meditate on Hebrews 11:1 this week. It will change your prayer life. It has mine!

Next time we will look closely at Hebrews 11:6, and see how God is pleased when we pray in faith. Don't forget to use our new prayer room, located between Mary Jane's office and the Pastor's study.

His servant and your friend, Ginny Stikeleather

Schedule

Sunday, November 9

8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. Chili Lunch Fundraiser - FLC

Monday, November 10

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

Tuesday, November 11

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

Wednesday, November 12

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, November 13

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, November 14

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, November 16

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, November 17

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

Tuesday, November 18

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

Wednesday, November 19

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Santa Fe Chicken, Baked Potato, Lima Beans, Roll, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, November 20

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - FLC
 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, November 21

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, November 20, 2014 11:00 a.m. ~ FLC

The Senior Adult Luncheon will be held in the Family Life Center on November 20. Our program will be by Ulysses Long, a Statesville native and a 2012 contestant on NBC's America's Got Talent. He is a singer musician and has performed in the area for more than 33 years. His encore performance promises to be very entertaining. Our devotion will be delivered by Libby Purcell. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the meal at 12:00 p.m. Cost of the meal is \$6.00 payable at the door. Call the church office at 704.873-7231, ext. 205, or sign up in your Sunday School class.

Help Wanted First Baptist Church Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet is open every Thursday from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Additional help is needed to assist applicants with registration as they arrive to shop. You would only need to serve about once each month for two hours. This is a great mission opportunity to serve those in need. If interested, contact Carolyn Dellinger at 704.872.6421.

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of October 26 & November 2, 2014

	10/26	11/2
Church in Bible Study	124	174
Church in Worship	237	255
8:30 a.m. service	83	94
10:55 a.m. service	154	161

Financial Statistics

Weeks of October 26 & November 2

	10/26	11/2
Budget - Received	\$10,261.50	\$16,054.00
Alms	0.00	494.91
Designated - Received	940.00	2,624.00
Building Reserve - Received	25.00	130.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 10/26/14		11,226.79
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 11/2/14		19,302.91
Budget for 2014-2015		865,070.00
Budget Received-Year to Date		63,158.51
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		801,911.49
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		6,343.49
Alms Received-Year to Date		1,028.78
Building Reserve-Year to Date		340.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		70,871.07

Precept Classes Beginning in January

Ginny Stikeleather and Carolina Bentley will be leading Precept classes beginning in January. Classes will be offered Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Please sign up at the Welcome Center with your preferred time.

Empty Shelves at Pregnancy Resource Center

The boutique shelves at the Pregnancy Resource Center are nearly empty. Some of the needs are diapers (sizes newborn, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), wipes, baby lotion, baby powder, q-tips, and baby shampoo.

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

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

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Children's Ministry

Chili Fundraiser
Sunday, November 9, 2014
11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m. ~ FLC

We will serve lunch in the Family life center and everyone is invited to join us. We will be accepting donations to help cover the cost of going to Look Up Lodge. Sign up at <http://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=WKUG2260&welcome=1> to bring a crock pot of Chili or a dessert.

The children will also be singing in the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, November 9.

Parents' Night Out
Friday, December 5, 2014

This would be a great time to do some Christmas shopping! More details next week!

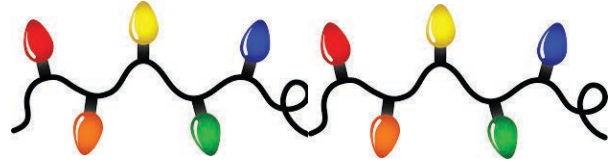
Student Ministry

Winter Mission Retreat
January 30 - February 1, 2015

Only \$45 with a \$20 deposit due no later than Sunday, November 16.

All details about the WMR can be found by clicking the following link <http://www.venturestudents.org/2014/11/winter-mission-retreat-jan-30-feb-1.html>

Progressive Dinner
Saturday, December 13



Heroes Unmasked Fall Festival

Hundreds of families filled the church for the Heroes Unmasked Fall Festival on Sunday, October 26. There were games, puppet shows, science experiments, and lots of candy.





815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

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

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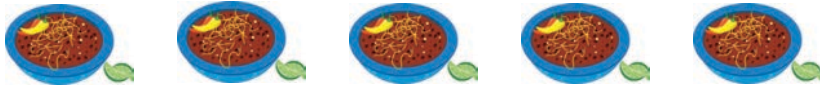
Announcements

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Vester Boone and family, Carolyn Garner and family, Chris Simon, and Jesse Jackson.

Chili Lunch Fundraiser Sunday, November 9, 2014 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Children's Ministry will be hosting a chili lunch as a fundraiser for their trip to Look Up Lodge next summer. Lunch will be served in the Family Life Center.



Christmas Ministries Sunday, December 7, 2014

Each year we share in the special program we call White Christmas by sharing with needy families in our community through gifts of toys, food, and clothing. Now is the time to begin preparing for this ministry. We need your help in the following ways:

1. Pray for this ministry and the families that we will serve.
2. Please give generously. We need money to purchase the toys and food. Mark your donations "Christmas Ministries" The toys and food are purchased from this fund.
3. We are in need of good, clean used children's and teen clothes, and winter coats of all sizes. Please bring the clothes as soon as possible.
4. Soon we will begin collecting cans of vegetables and fruit, as well as other nonperishable food. The more food that is donated, the less we will need to buy. Watch for the Christmas boxes placed around the church.
5. Please bring your "like new" used toys to supplement the new toys, and for emergencies that come up.
6. Plan now to shop for the families using the gift cards provided. If you did not sign up for a family in your Sunday School class, please call me at 704-876-1462. The families will be coming for lunch on December 7 and to pick up their gifts and food. We are hoping that if you shop for a family, you will come and eat lunch with that family.
7. We need willing hands to greet our guests and to help carry the food boxes and toys. This is such a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to share the Love of God with others.

Because of your willingness to share your time and money with those less fortunate, you are truly expressing the love of Christ and the real meaning of Christmas. Thank you for your participation.

Carol Hunter – 704-876-1462

*They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully
sing of your righteousness. - Psalm 145:7*



Worship Greeters Sunday, November 9

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

Sunday, November 16

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

Acolytes Sunday, November 9

Hannah Beale, Matthew Johnson

Sunday, November 16

Elizabeth Allen, Ryan Johnson

Coffee Rotation Sunday, November 9

Dan & Jean Mills

Sunday, November 16

David Potter

Thanksgiving Celebration

Due to lack of resources, the Thanksgiving Celebration originally scheduled for Sunday, November 23 will not be held. We will operate at a normal schedule with worship services at 8:30 and 10:55 a.m. and Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.

Baby Shower for Julie Rash Wellman Saturday, November 15, 2014 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ~ Adams Hall

You are invited to a baby shower for Julie Rash Wellman on Saturday, November 15, 2014 in Adams Hall. Arianna Wellman is due November 26, 2014, and is registered at Wal-Mart.

