

Venture Students participated in the  
Disciple Now Weekend March 21-23, 2014.

# THE INTERIM

Volume 71 Issue 7

March 30, 2014



## God's Providential Hand is Upon Us

■ Rich Kraft

*Intentional Interim Pastor*

This is the true story of what happened to the people of West Side Baptist Church in Beatrice, Nebraska. Normally all the church's choir members came to church on Wednesday nights to practice. They tended to arrive well before the 7:30 starting time. One night, March 1, 1950, one by one, two by two, they all had excuses for being late.

The church pianist overslept on her after-dinner nap, so she and her mother were late. One sixteen year old girl was having trouble with her homework - that delayed her, so she was late. One couple couldn't get their car started - they, and those they were to pick up, were subsequently late. All eighteen choir members, including the pastor and his wife, were late. Every one of them had very real excuses.

At 7:30 p.m., the time the choir rehearsal was to begin, not one person was in the choir loft. This had never happened before! That night, the only night in this history of the church that the choir wasn't starting its practice on time, was the night there was a gas leak in the basement of West Side Baptist Church. At precisely the time at which the choir would have been singing, the gas leak was ignited by the church furnace and whole church blew up. The furnace room was right below the choir loft!

***You can only attribute something like that to THE PROVIDENTIAL HAND OF GOD!***

The prophet Jeremiah writes (29:11), "For I know the plans I have for you, ' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Together we believe that God's providential hand is on our lives here at First Baptist Church.

In several weeks, I will be sharing a message from the book of Esther. The main lesson of the book? To learn and understand something of how we each are a part of God's activities and plans in the world! As we work to complete the necessary basics that will bring healing and health to our church, let's begin to anticipate our future - the good that God wants to bring us and the good that God wants to do through us. We can be confident about our future, because our God is with us and for us. His hand is on First Baptist Church!

### DIALOG & DISCOVERY

**Sunday, April 13, 2014, 6:30 p.m., Family Life Center**

We will have our fourth Dialog & Discovery meeting. All teams will present reports on the progress made regarding the recommendations made by Metanoia Ministries. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

## Prayer Point

"But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed."  
(Jesus, Luke 12:50)

What an insight into the emotional depth of our Savior! Can't we all enter into His feelings as we await the "baptism" of First Baptist Church? To say that Jesus was "under stress" for His whole cognitive life doesn't even begin to touch it! Yet despite His inner turmoil—which was constant—He loved, healed, forgave, and prepared the world for His departure and return. His peace came from doing the will of His Father.

The greatest gift Jesus left us is PRAYER, instant connection with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Let us exercise that gift to the fullest as we pray for each other and ourselves. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit that we may walk IN HIS STEPS. Our peace will come as we seek and do the will of God while we wait.

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.

## Schedule

### Sunday, March 30

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

### Monday, March 31

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

### Tuesday, April 1

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

### Wednesday, April 2

5:00 p.m. Open Gym  
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, & Dessert)  
 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities  
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC  
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, April 3

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

### Friday, April 4

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

### Sunday, April 6

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, April 7

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

### Tuesday, April 8

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

### Wednesday, April 9

5:00 p.m. Open Gym For Students  
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Supper (Over Roasted Herb Chicken, Twice Baked Potatoes, Lima Beans, & Dessert)  
 5:45 p.m. Student & Children's Activities  
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC  
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

### Thursday, April 10

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

### Friday, April 11

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

### Saturday April 12

7:00 a.m. Yard Sale & Silent Auction  
 7:00 p.m. Silent Auction

## Preschool Registration

The FBC Preschool is still accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 year. Space is available for children 18 months - 5 years. The preschool operates Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To register your child, please call Preschool Director Renae Keesbury at 704.873.7231, ext. 209 or e-mail [renae@statesvillefbc.org](mailto:renae@statesvillefbc.org).



## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of March 16 & 23, 2014

	3/16	3/23
Church in Bible Study	138	139
Church in Worship	218	201
8:30 a.m. service	104	54
10:55 a.m. service	114	147

## Financial Statistics

### Weeks of March 16 & 23, 2014

	3/16	3/23
Budget - Received	\$9,969.00	\$9,294.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	7,061.17	2,339.89
Building Reserve - Received	30.00	55.00
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 3/16/14</b>		17,060.17
<b>TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 3/23/14</b>		11,688.89
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		441,855.96
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		471,210.83
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		70,314.76
Alms Received-Year to Date		4,000.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		9,588.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		523,036.61

### Operation Inasmuch

#### Saturday, May 3, 2014

Our church will participate in Operation Inasmuch, Saturday, May 3. We are now looking for project recommendations and volunteers to lead these projects. If you would like recommend a project or volunteer to lead a project, please contact Clayton Cline at 704.873.7231, ext. 221 or e-mail [clayton@statesvillefbc.org](mailto:clayton@statesvillefbc.org).

## 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

## DNOW Success!

What an amazing year the Venture Students are having. In January we had our high school retreat, February we had our middle school retreat, and this past weekend we had our second annual Disciple Now weekend. The DNOW was such a special time for our students. We had guest musician Ashley Seagle and guest speaker, Brian Burgess. They did an amazing job at teaching us the risks and rewards involved with sharing our faith. Friday night we saw the world premiere of the new movie "God's Not Dead".



Saturday we visited a local nursing home for a couple of hours. We were blessed to get the opportunity to get so involved with the lives of the residents at the nursing home. The lives of the students were touched in a meaningful way as they aided the residents in getting around the nursing home, fed them, and simply listened to their stories.

Saturday night we had the opportunity of a lifetime! Right at dusk we hopped out of the vans and made our way into the woods. We embarked on a journey which represented our lives. This journey involved slippery creek beds and low hanging limbs. However, for us as believers, once we have completed our journey on earth there is a speechless reward waiting on the other side. So what does that mean? We partied! After our long journey we arrived at Edwin & Louise Hunter's barn and had a feast! Such an amazing weekend. Thank you to the men and women who made it happen. God is good.

Some things to keep your eye on!

### Raleigh Mission Trip May 16-18, 2014

This trip is for all students. We will be traveling to Raleigh and spending the night at Triangle Community Church. All weekend we will focus on different food ministries. This includes feeding the needy, organizing food banks, and serving local children's ministries. This

will be a fantastic opportunity for any student seeking to go on a short term mission trip. Sign ups will begin April 1st on [venturestudents.org](http://venturestudents.org).

### Memorial Day Picnic Sunday, May 25th, 2014

### Graduation Sunday Sunday, June 1st, 2014

### Look Up Lodge June 22-27, 2014

Please note the final deadline to sign up for Look Up Lodge is this Sunday, March 30th. A significant deposit is due this Sunday. If you would like to know your balance please contact Landon immediately.

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. This is a payment of \$65.00. This is the last week to sign up!

### Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19, 2014 10:00 a.m., Front Lawn

We need candy for the Easter Egg Hunt! There will be baskets in the Family Life Center Lobby and the Welcome Center to collect the candy.

### Vacation Bible School August 4-8, 2014

Vacation Bible School will be August 4-8. Save the date and mark your calendars now!

Melissa Wilson, *Minister of Children & Families*



## Announcements



### Easter Sunday Sunday, April 20, 2014

9:45 a.m. Sunday Brunch in the Family Life Center  
10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

### Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Church Lawn

All children are invited to the Easter Egg Hunt. To prepare for this event, we need eggs stuffed with candy. Please take a bag of eggs, stuff them with individually wrapped pieces of candy and return them to the church office. You may pick up some plastic eggs at the Welcome Center or in the Family Life Center lobby.



## Welcome Margeaux Holland! Our New Financial Secretary



Please welcome our new Financial Secretary Margeaux Holland. Margeaux is a member of Western Avenue Baptist Church and acts as the Women's Ministry Director. She is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.



815 Davie Avenue  
Statesville, NC 28677

**Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.**  
**Message By: Dr. Steven Harmon**

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## Announcements

### New Member!

Please welcome Keith Milstead to our congregation. Keith joined our congregation Sunday, March 23 on the promise of a letter. Keith is the husband of Lori Milstead.

### Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Bobbie Long and Beth & Jimmy Webb in the death of Mary Dowell, Bobbie's sister and Beth's aunt, on March 19, 2014.

### Yard Sale & Silent Auction To Benefit Belize Mission Trip Saturday, April 12, 2014

**7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

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. To arrange a pick up, please call the church office at 704.873.7231.

## Meet Our Guest Preacher Dr. Steven Harmon



Dr. Harmon is an adjunct professor at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC. He hails from Texas. He is married to Kheresa Wedding Harmon, and they are the parents of an elementary school-age son, Timothy. Dr. Harmon's hobbies include running, reading, listening to a wide variety of music "from Bach to Bono," playing the French horn and alto recorder, and traveling.

Prior to teaching in the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University, Dr. Harmon was Associate Professor of Christian Theology at Campbell University Divinity School in Buies Creek, North Carolina and Associate Professor of Divinity at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. He has served as Visiting Professor at Duke University Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Harmon has served as pastor of three churches in Texas, interim pastor of churches in North Carolina, and guest preacher and teacher in numerous congregations in Texas, North Carolina, Alabama, Maryland, and Virginia. He is a member of St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, where he is one of the teachers of an adult Sunday School class and serves as a liaison between the congregation and the North Carolina Council of Churches.

### Worship Greeters Sunday, March 16

Bill Henderson	Gary Fyfe	James McNeil
Chris Buckner	Patricia Fyfe	Wilma McNeil
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

<b>8:30 Nursery</b>	Louisa Hunter
<b>10:55 Nursery</b>	Crystal B.

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

### Sunday, March 23

<b>8:30 Nursery</b>	Laura Spearman
<b>10:55 Nursery</b>	Gretchen Eudy

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

## DIALOG & DISCOVERY Sunday, April 13, 2014 6:30 p.m., Family Life Center

We will have our fourth Dialog & Discovery meeting. All teams will present reports on the progress made regarding the recommendations made by Metanoia Ministries. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Let us acknowledge the LORD;  
let us press on to acknowledge him.  
As surely as the sun rises, he will appear;  
he will come to us like the winter rains,  
like the spring rains that water the earth."

Hosea 6:3