

The Duck Creek Band performed at the Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, September 18 in the Family Life Center.



THE INTERIM



Volume 71 Issue 20

September 28, 2014

Thank You

■ Rich Kraft *Intentional Interim Pastor*

There are no better words that can be shared with people whom you appreciate and to whom you are grateful than a sincere, "Thank you!" In so many ways, by so many people, you have loved, encouraged, shown acts of kindness and supported my wife and me over this past year. Whether it was inviting me into your home, taking me out for a meal, picking me up or taking me to the airport, providing housing, sharing a kind word in the hallway, or just in being nice to me, I am very, very thankful for you.

As the Lord has raised up good leaders at First Baptist Church, please support them in the same way as you have loved and supported me. It is true that when pastoral leadership and the congregation are committed to the Lord and His Word the potential for the church to reach people and its community is significant. I know that you want to have that happen. So, I would like to share just an encouraging thought or two with you as I leave my role as your Intentional Interim Pastor here at First Baptist.

A Christian's knowledge, understanding and experience with Jesus Christ should shape how we both live and serve other people. In other words, to the degree that we are Christ focused and centered people is the degree to which we "get things right" in our lives and in our church. So, learn what it means to be and stay focused on Jesus Christ and commit to being students of God's Word. Learn what it means to have a "growing" prayer life. Take advantage of opportunities to study the Bible. In your conversation with God, listen to your heart in where He is calling you to have a verbal witness for Christ and find your passion as to where you should serve the Lord and other people. Make it a priority to attend one of our worship services every Sunday and invite someone to attend with you. Our church is a great place to worship the Lord. Lastly, practice hospitality with people that you do not know. Inviting someone into your home is the best way of feeling and sharing a sense of love for God and each other. Simple things, but life-changing things for a people who live practicing them!

Ed Stetzer and David Putnam wrote in their book, *Breaking the Missional Code*, "The church exists because God, in His infinite wisdom and infinite mercy, chose the church as His instrument to make

known His manifold wisdom in the world...If the church is thus so central to God's redemptive purpose, then we should have a passionate desire to know how to make it more effective in its mission. However, wanting to reach people and growing to transform a community is usually not an easy task.

Our culture has shifted greatly in the last 25 years. The more culture shifts, and hundreds of new cultures have emerged within the last few decades, the church must recognize who it is and what it needs to be in the world within that changed culture. Local churches must be aware and respond to this shift under the leading of the Lord.

A group of people who are committed to Christ will ask, "What will it take to transform this community by the power of the gospel?" not "What do we need to do around here to preserve how we worship, minister, and serve others in ways that are comfortable and make everybody happy?"

Churches that insist on specific forms of programming and expressions of church will be challenged in the near future. Through time, church has been understood to be a place that you go to have your needs met, instead of being a called local community of God on the mission of following Jesus Christ and growing spiritually. Much of how Christianity is practiced subtly has become more about inviting others into the subcultures of Christian music, language and church programs of what we understand church to be than about passionately inviting people into a lifestyle of godly living as followers of Jesus and being a part of His larger kingdom.

As our church leadership helps us by asking the right questions and raising the right issues before us, be a part of finding answers from the Lord and help God build His church here at First Baptist. We want to influence as many people for Christ as possible in these last days before the Lord Jesus Christ returns. Let's work together to make Him proud on that day that he comes for us!

Reception to Honor Rich Kraft
Sunday, September 28, 2014
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ~ Adams Hall

Schedule

Sunday, September 28

8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 2:00 p.m. Reception to honor Pastor Rich Kraft

Monday, September 29

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

Tuesday, September 30

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

Wednesday, October 1

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (White Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, October 2

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, October 3

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, October 5

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, October 6

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

Tuesday, October 7

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

Wednesday, October 8

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Chicken, Broccoli Casserole, Green, Beans, Salad, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, October 9

8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, October 10

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of September 14 & 21, 2014

9/14

Church in Bible Study152..... 149
 Church in Worship245..... 243
 8:30 a.m. service..... 94..... 92
 10:55 a.m. service..... 151..... 151

Financial Statistics

Weeks of September 14 & 21, 2014

9/14

Budget - Received	\$11,194.50	\$19,113.11
Alms	110.00	5.00
Designated - Received	1,642.00	2,216.00
Building Reserve - Received	130.00	55.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 9/14/14		13,076.50
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 9/21/14		21,389.11
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		724,182.35
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		188,884.44
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		148,558.81
Alms Received-Year to Date		6,411.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		13,339.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		906,822.22

Save The Date! Fall Festival

Sunday, October 26, 2014
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Point: Unity

"Unity is necessary to the outpouring of the Spirit of God. If you have 120 volts of electricity coming into your house but you have broken wiring, you may turn the switch, but nothing works. No lights come on. The stove doesn't warm. Your radio doesn't turn on. Why? Because you have broken wiring. The power is ready to do its work with all the appliances in your home, but where there is broken wiring. You have no power. Unity is necessary among the children of God if we are going to know the flow of power." (A.W. Tozer)

We experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in worship this past Sunday. Let's PRAY that the Holy Spirit continues to show up each time we come together, for our own benefit, for the benefit of our church, and for the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom. When we're all praying for the same thing—that is UNITY!

His servant and your friend,
 Ginny Stikeleather

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

THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks

by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,
 Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
 First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

Student Ministry

Thank you to everyone who made this past weekend a success. The food and fellowship was fantastic and could not have happened without all of you. The camp out was a blast and we raised \$1,000 at our annual car wash!

Look Up Lodge June 21-26, 2015

A mandatory deposit of \$25 is required for anyone wanting to go to Look Up Lodge next summer. Camp dates are June 21-26, 2015. The total cost is \$250. I must receive a \$25 deposit in order to sign your student up for camp. The deposit is their placeholder. More details about Look Up Lodge at our website - venturestudents.org
***Check this out: Starting in September and going to June if you pay \$25 each month - camp is paid for!

Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*



Children's Ministry



Operation Christmas Child

The children will begin packing shoe boxes in October for Operation Christmas Child. We need items to pack in those shoe boxes such as: toys (dolls, balls, yo-yos, toy cars, stuffed animals, harmonicas), school supplies (pencils, crayons, sharpeners, notebooks, markers, coloring books), non-liquid hygiene items (toothbrushes, bars of soap, combs, washcloths), and accessories (t-shirts, hats, socks, hair clips, bracelets, flashlights with extra batteries).

Any of these items can be dropped off at the craft room in the white hampers!

Look Up Lodge August 2-5, 2015

Children must have completed the second grade. A deposit of \$40.00 is due Sunday, September 28.

Melissa Wilson, *Minister of Children*

Car Wash & Bake Sale Success!

Saturday, September 20, the Venture Students held a car wash and bake sale to raise funds for their trip to Look Up Lodge in June 2015. The students raised over \$1,000 which covers the first deposit! Thank you to all who came to have snack and get a car washed!





815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.
Message By: Rich Kraft (September 28) & Roger Gilbert (October 5)

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Announcements

Baptist Women **Monday, October 13, 2014**

The Applewhite Group will meet Monday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m. with Sylvia Jolly, hostess at 530 Oakland Avenue. Please meet in church parking lot to car pool together at 9:45 a.m.

White Christmas **Sunday, December 7, 2014**

We are starting to gear up for our White Christmas mission. The distribution date for gifts and food for the 40-50 families we will be helping will be Sunday, December 7. **SAVE THE DATE!** This year, we are encouraging our First Baptist members to adopt a family. This would entail shopping for gifts and also to meet and fellowship with them on the distribution day as we all share a fellowship meal together. Carol Hunter is organizing the families, gift cards, etc, while Clarence Poole will be heading up the food distribution. The mission team along with some Sunday School classes, and others that wish to help will provide the lunch. In roughly a month, the names and information of the families will be available as will additional information. Put December 7 on your calendar as we would love all First Baptist members to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we share His love.

Operation Christmas Child

First Baptist Church has reserved 25 spots on Friday, December 12 to work from 9:00-3:00 in the Operation Christmas Child warehouse/distribution center in Charlotte.

This is a very fulfilling day of mission opportunity! You get to "work the line" in the shoe box ministry to organize and work in a streamlined process to help the shoe boxes reach their destination. If you are interested in being part of this mission opportunity, please contact Jean Mills 704-253-5446 or Tim Burgiss 704-878-9408 to sign up. These 25 spots will be on a first come, first serve basis.

A Note of Appreciation From Our Ministers

Dear Church Family,
Ever since returning from New Hampshire, we have felt a sense of renewal and excitement about our church's future. We spent a lot of time missing and praying over our church. No doubt God has wonderful plans ahead and we should be very thankful He has chosen us to tell the story. For those of you that don't know, we had the opportunity to travel to East Washington, New Hampshire, to debrief, dialogue, and even take in some fresh air. We traveled to New Hampshire on September 9 and returned September 11. We spent our mornings and evenings debriefing with Metanoia Ministries. During the afternoon we found time to relax, read, and enjoy the beautiful landscape East Washington has to offer. We would like to say a special thanks to the Foundation for providing such a much needed trip. Thank you church family for the love and support you all show effortlessly to your ministers and staff.

Grace and Peace
Your fellow servants and staff

Worship Greeters **Sunday, September 28**

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

Sunday, October 5

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

Acolytes **Sunday, September 28**

Kendyl King, Andria Eudy

Sunday, October 5

Rachel Estes, Sarah Estes

Coffee Rotation **Sunday, September 28**

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

Sunday, October 5

Emanons Class

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: **The Parables**

Beginning Wednesday, October 1, Dr. Roger Gilbert, our new interim pastor, will begin a series based on the parables. The program will begin at 5:45 p.m. following the Family Night Meal at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Sunshine Basket Ministry

The Sunshine Basket Ministry is starting up once again. The baskets cheer up our hospitalized members, but we need help with the delivery of the baskets. If you would like to help with the delivery of these baskets or if you know of any member in the hospital or rehabilitation, please call Gail Taylor at 704-872-6378. We may later add the shut-ins to this ministry.