

THE INTERIM

Our 2015 Belize Team is forming. If you are interested in the mission trip to Belize this July, please attend the meeting on Sunday, January 25.



Volume 72 Issue 2

Looking Ahead

■ **Roger Gilbert**
Interim Pastor

It has been a joy to serve as your interim pastor across these recent months. I especially enjoyed the Advent Season with Sunday worship and Wednesday Bible studies. I thank you for your warmth and responsiveness. You have helped me to feel very much at home with you. Through worship services, fellowship and pastoral ministry, I have had the privilege of getting to know many of you better. I still don't remember all the names, but I am working on it.

As we continue to move into the New Year, there are many opportunities before us. We have just begun a study of the book of Acts and we will continue that emphasis. I find Acts fascinating, especially because of the dynamic nature of the early church as it grew, expanded and developed structures and plans to meet the various needs and challenges they faced. Another alternative study available on Wednesday nights is the Training in Discipleship class being offered at the same time as the Bible study. Contact Dan Mills at 704-253-5093 if you are interested.

Be alert to a church wide emphasis on prayer that will be sponsored by the Adult Ministry Team, beginning in mid-February. Also, you will

be hearing from the Mission Team regarding some attention to the various ways our church is involved in mission endeavors. This will likely take place in March.

Both prayer and missions are integral parts of the life of the church and of individual Christians. While we need to give specific attention to each of them, they are not like separate "subjects," but are rather woven throughout all that we do. In recent years I have appreciated an emphasis of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship that calls attention to the fact that everything the church does should be seen as "missional." Whether it is a mission trip to Belize, White Christmas, Prison Ministry, Sunday School or Vacation Bible School, it all should be seen as a part of Christ's mission. Likewise, our personal lives and all dimensions of our church need to be bathed in prayer.

Each Wednesday night during the prayer time, your Deacon Chairman, Jerry Campbell, prays for the Pastor Search Committee and the person who will be called as your pastor. We don't know who that person is or when your committee will bring the recommendation. I join in encouraging all of us to be in prayer for the committee and the one who will be called. I am honored to be your interim during this process and look forward to our continued ministry together.

Prayer For The New Year

Another year—gone forever! No going back, no do-overs. Forward: the only direction available. I can't slow down time, but I can slow down myself—my frenzied pace, my race against the clock. The clock will always win, but so will I! I will experience the joy of long, unhurried conversations; the sweetness of a child's embrace; the beauty of creation; the security of my husband's arms; the deep, satisfaction derived from time spent with my Heavenly Father.

Lord, my over-arching prayer for 2015 is that I will be totally surrendered to You in every area: health, finances, job, marriage, children, and church. Use everything to teach, grow, strengthen, and empower me. Help me not to be "puffed up" by my successes, or "pulled down" by my failures. Help me to accept everything as coming from Your hand—giving You honor, glory, and praise in all things, in all ways, at all times.

Let the clock race on; I will wait on the Lord Who will renew my strength. I will mount up with wings as an eagle; I will run and not get tired; I will walk and not become weary. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of time—may I treasure every moment as I offer it back to You. Amen

Your servant and friend.
Ginny Stikeleather

Schedule

Sunday, January 18 ~ Mark 11-23

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 19 ~ Mark 13-14

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

Tuesday, January 20 ~ Mark 15-16

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

Wednesday, January 21 ~ Luke 1-2

11:00 a.m. Precepts Bible Study
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Roast Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, & Dessert)
 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 22 ~ Luke 3-4

8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, January 23 ~ Luke 5-6

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, January 25 ~ Luke 7-8

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 26 ~ Luke 9-10

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

Tuesday, January 27 ~ Luke 11-12

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

Wednesday, January 28 ~ Luke 13-15

11:00 a.m. Precepts Bible Study
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Cheeseburgers, French Fries, Slaw, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 5:45 p.m. Activities for Students and Children


Thursday, January 29 ~ Luke 16-18

8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, January 30 ~ Luke 19-20

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

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).

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of January 4 & 11, 2015

	1/4	
Church in Bible Study	133	152
Church in Worship	225	231
8:30 a.m. service	87	77
10:55 a.m. service	138	154
Precepts Bible Study (Tuesdays & Wednesdays)		33

Financial Statistics

Weeks of January 4 & 11, 2015

	1/4	
Budget - Received	\$14,049.00	\$8,719.00
Alms	596.00	5.00
Designated - Received	877.00	350.00
Building Reserve - Received	50.00	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 1/4/15 15,572.00

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 1/11/15 9,074.00

Budget for 2014-2015 865,070.00

Budget Received-Year to Date 261,655.58

Remaining in Budget - Unfunded 603,414.42

Designated Funds Received-Year to Date 27,205.70

Alms Received-Year to Date 2,642.96

Building Reserve-Year to Date 5,350.00

Total Giving-Year to Date 294,762.38

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

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

The Importance of Family Worship

■ Melissa Wilson *Minister of Children*

During my time here at First Baptist, the children have stayed in the congregation for a full service only a handful of times. I believe strongly that children learn best in an environment where they can explore and ask questions. For this reason I take the children out of the service to go to Kids at Worship.

During Kids at Worship, we go a little deeper into what they learned in Sunday school, and I am able to make sure that they have a good understanding of the scriptures we are studying. Our other activities vary. We may sing songs, or pray through coloring a picture, or even consider how God sees us as his children. I firmly believe that this time of worship and learning is important for our children, but I also want our children to have a well-rounded experience of worship.

There are a number of articles and blogs out there that discuss the church's relationship with children. You can find churches where the children stay in the service the whole time, or spend the whole time in children's church and never worship with the adults. And there are decided benefits and compromises for every possible point along that spectrum.

For the most part, I think we have a healthy balance where the children are present and participate in congregational worship for a portion of the service, and then can go learn in an environment tailored more toward them. I do, however, believe that we need to make one small change. One Sunday a month, the children will start staying in worship for the whole service with their families. I know this may seem contrary to what I have been saying about children learning best where they can explore and ask questions, but there is more that the children need to learn at church than the Bible. They need to learn how to participate fully in a complete worship service. They need to learn how to be a part

of the larger congregation. They need to develop a love of worship. They need to learn what it looks like when someone joins the church. They need to see what happens in the service after the offering is collected. They need to see their parents open the scriptures and learn from the sermon.

It is a reality of our time that young people are leaving the church at an alarming rate. Some believe that part of the cause for this exodus is the decline in worshipping together as a family. I believe it is important not only to teach children in an environment where they learn best, but also to challenge them to learn in other environments as well. This teaches them that church is not about catering to the individual's whims or preferences, but about coming together to worship a Holy God.

I know it will be a big adjustment for everyone, myself included. Kids at Worship is my favorite part of the week! I also know that this small change is important in the development of our children. This will be an adjustment for the whole church. The children will be learning how to participate in a full worship service. Parents will be adjusting to focusing on the sermon while helping their children to experience worship. It may mean that on those Sundays, there are a few more distractions, or a little bit more noise. You may see a parent need to take a child out of the service to settle them down or correct their behavior. Just remember as you are looking at that child that you are helping to teach them what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. If you see a parent who has had to focus on their child more than the sermon, give them an encouraging word.

This is an opportunity to show the children of the church how much we love them by welcoming them into the entirety of our worship. So beginning in February, one Sunday a month the children will stay in worship for the full service. A worship bulletin will be supplied for our younger children and a notes page for our older children. Nursery care will still be provided for our youngest children.

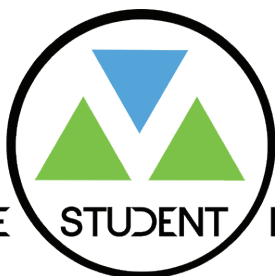
Student Ministry

Winter Mission Retreat

The Winter Mission Retreat is coming up January 30-February 1. The remaining \$25 fee is due no later than Sunday, January 25.

Disciple Now Weeknd March 20-22

Spring will be here before you know it! Keep an eye open for all the great opportunities Venture Student Ministry has to offer this spring! For example our annual Disciple Now weekend is scheduled for March 20-22. Save the date!!



VENTURE STUDENT MINISTRY

Children's Ministry

Family Worship

Starting in February, one Sunday a month the children will stay in the Sanctuary for the full service to worship with their family. We haven't really done this over the past couple of years, but I believe it is important for our children's spiritual development. Nursery will still be provided.

Say Cheese!

The Children's Ministry Team is creating a Children's Ministry Directory. This directory will be a tool to help us be more effective in ministering to the children & families of the church. We will be taking pictures on Sundays, when you are dropping off and picking up your children from Kids at Worship and Sunday school. To be most effective we will take a family picture and an individual picture of each child. This will start this Sunday!

Wednesday Night Missions & Music

The New Year is a great time to get involved in Missions and Music on Wednesday Evenings! The children are currently learning about Lottie Moon and the impact she has had on Global Missions.



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

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

Volume 72 Issue 2

January 18, 2015

Announcements

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Ellie McMillan and the family and friends of Bill McMillan in his death on January 3, 2015.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Lillie Laws in the death of her sister Mary Frances Reep of Wilkesboro on January 5, 2015.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Karen Marlowe in the death of her brother Dewey Mitchell on January 6, 2015.

News From The Adult Ministry Team

Please be on the lookout for details regarding our "Season of Prayer" during Lent. Billy Graham once said, "Prayer is the rope that pulls God and man together. But, it doesn't pull God down to us: It pulls us up to Him."

We look forward to seeing God's hand pull us closer as we, His people, humble ourselves in prayer.

News From The Deacon Ministry Team

Meetings of the Deacons of First Baptist have been more about prayer and discussion of how we can encourage the teams responsible for implementing the ongoing vision we adopted for our church than about simply doing business as usual. We feel our role is to guide the church as servant leaders rather than doing the business ourselves. When an issue or need is brought to our attention, we are involving church members who have an interest or knowledge in the problem to provide input.

This week two new teams will begin working and will report directly to the Deacons who if needed will bring reports to the congregation. The first will be a standing team who will deal with personnel matters and is comprised of Dr. Ken Wilson, Chairperson, Buzz Holshouser, Jeff Templeton and Nedra Van Zee.

A second temporary team will study how we receive new members. This team is composed of Chris Simon, Chair, Caroline Bentley, Phil Crowder and Libby Purcell. During our church wide studies it was found that many of our members do not know what we believe, do not understand that we operate under a set of bylaws, and many are involved only marginally in interacting with the other members of the congregation. This team is going to make recommendations for helping new prospects understand who we are, what we are about, and the various opportunities we have to help them become full-fledged members of the fellowship.

At our January meeting we also heard from representatives of the Pastor Search Team. While we did not get into specifics on candidates, we learned about their processes, focus and direction of the search. I personally was very encouraged and support their work fully.

I ask that you pray often for divine guidance for both the search team and the Deacons as we continue our work.

Jerry Campbell, *Chair of Deacons*

Worship Greeters Sunday, January 18

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

Sunday, January 25

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

Acolytes Sunday, January 18

Elizabeth Allen & Ryan Johnson

Sunday, January 25

Sam Buckner & Luke Williams

Coffee Rotation Sunday, January 18

David Potter

Sunday, January 25

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Roger West in the death of his aunt Edith Cloer on January 10, 2015.

Applewhite Group

Monday, February 2, 2015 ~ 10:00 am ~ Adams Hall

The Applewhite group will meet Monday, February 2, 2015 in Adams Hall at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Search Committee

Please be in prayer for our Pastor Search Committee, as they continue to meet and prayerfully seek the person who will become our new Senior Minister. Pray for God's guidance and for clear vision as they carry out this important task. Members of the committee are William Barnard and Kevin Beale, co-chairs; Leigh Brown, Jean Crowder, Jeff Faulk, Jane Mitchell, and Danny Stikeleather.