



The Venture Students partnered with the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network to help families into homes at the Winter Mission Retreat January 30-February 1.

THE INTERIM



Volume 72 Issue 4

February 15, 2015

A Letter From Landon Senn

Dear First Baptist Church,

It brings me much sadness to inform each of you that at the end of February Erin and I will be moving back home to Greenville, South Carolina. The reason for this move is simply to be closer to our friends and families. As some of you know, Statesville can be a difficult city for young couples without children. I regretfully submit to you my resignation as Minister of Students. I hope each of you understands that the church nor any person has hurt or wronged me in anyway. The reason behind this decision is purely to be closer to our friends and family, and perhaps to start a family of our own.

I've been given the opportunity to serve once again at Look Up Lodge, this time as the creative director. In no way is Look Up Lodge "stealing" me - they simply put the decision in my hands. I want each of you to know how fortunate I am to have been able to call you my church family over the past two and a half years. The beautiful part about all this is the church never needed me, nor does any other place. God's will is advancing no matter the person on staff or member in the pew.

Over the year,s many of you have written me letters, spoken encouraging words, and have served right along side me. For that, I am forever grateful. Thank you for taking a chance on me - someone right out of college and without an advanced seminary degree. We have been through so much together and believe me a lot of good times are ahead.

I can honestly say I have no regrets. I believe I have taught these students everything I possibly could. I feel confident in their ability to partner with God daily and advance His kingdom without hesitation. And in return they have taught me more than ten seminary degrees ever could.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all the love and support you have given me. I never once felt like our trust was broken, and I never once felt I had a lack of support. Ministry can and will happen here. Continue to love and support your staff well. As we both head into new chapters of life I will be praying for you all and in return I ask you please pray for us. For the rest of my life First Baptist Church - Statesville will hold a special place in my heart. Grace and peace my fellow servants.

Respectfully submitted,
Landon W Senn

Love Offering & Reception

A love offering will be presented to Landon and Erin Senn Sunday, February 22. Contributions to this love offering will be accepted by James Martin or at the Welcome Center. A reception honoring Landon is scheduled for Sunday, February 22. Please be on the lookout for more details.

Venture Student Ministry

James and Debi Martin will oversee all aspects of the student ministry. Wednesday small groups will continue to be led by Jason Allen, Chris Simon, Kim Allen, and Debi Martin. Sunday morning Bible study will continue as normal. Primary leaders will be Debi Martin and Chris Simon. The students will attend Look Up Lodge as scheduled June 21-26.

Schedule

Sunday, February 15 ~ Acts 9-10

- 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, February 16 ~ Acts 11-12

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

Tuesday, February 17 ~ Acts 13-14

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

Wednesday, February 18 ~ Acts 15-16

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Baked Chicken, Hash brown Casserole, Lima Beans, & Dessert)
 6:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, February 19 ~ Acts 17-18

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

Friday, February 20 ~ Acts 19-20

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

Saturday, February 21 ~ Acts 21-22

Sunday, February 22 ~ Acts 23-24

- 8:30 p.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, February 23 ~ Acts 25-26

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

Tuesday, February 24 ~ Acts 27-28

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

Wednesday, February 25 ~ Romans 1-2

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (Chicken Pot Pie, Rice Pilaf, Salad, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 5:45 p.m. Activities for Students and Children

Thursday, February 26 ~ Romans 3-5

- 8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, February 27 ~ Romans 6-10

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym
 6:00 p.m. Fourth & Fifth Grades Sleepover

Saturday, February 28 ~ Romans 14-16

- 9:00 a.m. VBS Craft Day

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 1 & 8, 2015

| | 2/1 | 2/8 |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Church in Bible Study | 115 | 132 |
| Church in Worship | 244 | 216 |
| 8:30 a.m. service | 80 | 70 |
| 10:55 a.m. service | 164 | 146 |

Financial Statistics

Weeks of February 1 & 8, 2015

| | Received before or on 12/31/14 | 2/1 | 2/8 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Budget - Received | \$80,003.78 | \$12,193.00 | \$8,943.87 |
| Alms | 0.00 | 677.00 | 0.00 |
| Designated - Received | 7,000.00 | 1,609.00 | 1,264.00 |
| Building Reserve - Received | 3,052.00 | 80.00 | 50.00 |

International & Global Missions Offering

Global Missions - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

\$7,725.00

International Mission - Southern Baptist Convention

\$2,293.00

TOTAL: \$10,018.00 GOAL: \$15,000

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 12/31/14 90,056.70

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/1/15 14,559.00

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/8/15 10,257.87

Budget for 2014-2015 865,070.00

Budget Received-Year to Date 378,950.99

Remaining in Budget - Unfunded 486,119.01

Designated Funds Received-Year to Date 40,441.70

Alms Received-Year to Date 3,319.96

Building Reserve-Year to Date 8,572.00

Total Giving-Year to Date 429,193.71

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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At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.



After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:12-15

A Lifestyle of Prayer

■ Roger Gilbert *Interim Pastor*

Beginning with the season of Lent, the Adult Ministry Team will lead the congregation in a special emphasis on prayer. That is always a positive focus, for prayer is a central part of the Christian life. In our Wednesday night study of the Book of Acts we have seen that prayer was an integral part of the lifestyle of the early church. In the first chapter we are told that following Jesus' ascension, His followers went back to Jerusalem and "were constantly devoting themselves to prayer" (Acts 1:14). Similar statements are found often in Acts. The early disciples were deeply impressed by Jesus' prayer life and at one point asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). Jesus responded with what is known as The Lord's Prayer. (The version we usually quote is found in Matthew 6:9-13.)

In coordination with the Adult Ministry's emphasis we will give some attention to the study of prayer in our Wednesday night studies. Three of the sermons during Lent will also focus on prayer. They are as follows:

March 1: Luke 11:1-13 – "Teach Us To Pray"

March 8: Psalm 46; I Kings 19:1-18 – "The Sound of Silence"

March 15: I Thessalonians 3:6-13 – "A Prayer for the Interim" (Not the Interim Pastor!)

I encourage you to give some advance study and reflection for these sermons.

No matter how carefully we dissect the scriptures and study the subject of prayer we will never exhaust all there is to know about prayer. Nor will we ever "master" prayer. Prayer is not just a subject to study but a part of the disciplined lifestyle of a growing relationship with God. The following thoughts have been important for me in the matter of prayer life.

1. Prayer is always responsive language. That is, it is always God who has first spoken to us, and our prayer is in response to Him.

2. Prayer is not just talking to God but is the communication of a relationship with God. Prayer as communication is a conversation that involves both speaking and listening. And, people who have a good relationship can enjoy being together even if neither one is talking!

3. I am convinced that we need both the disciplined times set aside for prayer and the somewhat instantaneous and continuous communication with God in the midst of our busy lives. We can talk with God while we are driving, working in the garden, or picking up the kids from school. And, in the midst of our busy lives we can tune our minds and hearts to be aware of God's presence. That too is prayer!

Speaking of prayer, one specific prayer request is for Landon and Erin Senn as they will soon depart to Greenville, SC where Landon has accepted a position with Look Up Lodge. In these months that I have been your interim I have come to appreciate Landon very much. He is a very talented young man with a deep commitment to Christ. Place Landon and Erin on your prayer list as they make this transition. Also pray for the youth of our church. They dearly love Landon and have been blessed by his ministry. Pray for God to use this time of transition to lead this congregation to new and creative ministries.

Student Ministry

The Student Ministry Team is busy at work ironing out the details of this transition time. No stone will be unturned in the planning of events and activities as we head into this new season. Please know that all Wednesday and Sunday activities are in full swing!

Beginning in March, James and Debi Martin will oversee all aspects of the student ministry. Wednesday small groups will continue to be led by Jason Allen, Chris Simon, Kim Allen, and Debi Martin. Sunday morning Bible study will continue as normal. Primary leaders will be Debi Martin and Chris Simon. The students will attend Look Up Lodge as scheduled June 21-26.

Children's Ministry

Family Lent Kit

If you haven't picked up your Family Lent Kit, Melissa has one for you! These are full of fun activities for your family during the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 18th, so pick up your kit on Wednesday or Sunday!

Family Worship

This Sunday will be Family worship!!!!

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 & an individual picture of each child. This will start this Sunday!

Children's Choir Notes

The Children's Choir will help lead in worship at the 8:30 service on February 15 and the 11:00 service on March 29 & April 26. Please make every effort to have your child at these services, so they can help lead the worship.

A Reminder of Who is in Charge

Prayer reminds us of who is in charge. You don't take your requests to someone with less authority. You take them to someone who outranks you in the solutions department.

The same is true in prayer. You don't pray just to let God know what's going on. He's way ahead of you on that one. You pray to transfer "my will be done" to "God's will be done." And, since he's in charge, he knows the best solution. Prayer transfers the burden to God and He lightens your load. Prayer pushes us through life's slumps, propels us over the humps, and pulls us out of the dumps. Prayer is the oomph we need to get the answers we seek. So, pray...today!

From *Max on Life* by Max Lucado

Whether you need pushing, propelling, or pulling, try praying.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



Announcements

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Beth and Jimmy Webb in the death of Beth's mother Bobbie Long on January 29, 2015.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to the friends and family of Louise Sills in her death on February 6, 2015.

New Arrival!

Congratulations to Amanda and Mark Loring on the birth of a son, Cole Loring, on February 2. The proud grandparents are Neill Pardue and Kimberly Martin Crane. The proud great-grandmother is Kay Martin.



Welcome to Our Church Family!

Anna and John Jones and Roger and Debbie Elliott joined First Baptist Church on February 1 at the 11:00 a.m. service. We welcome them to our church family.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, February 19, 2015 11:00 a.m. ~ FLC

The February meeting will be held in the Family Life Center at 11:00 a.m. Our 90s and older members will be honored. Also, those who are 85 and over will be recognized. Entertainment will be provided by Carol Froehlick featuring the accordion and piano. Cost of the meal to be served at noon is \$6.00 payable at the door. Call the church office at 704-873-7231, ext. 205, to reserve your seat. Or, you may sign up in your Sunday School class.

Operation Inasmuch Saturday, April 25, 2015

Please save the date! Operation Inasmuch will take place Saturday, April 25. Please look for more details soon!

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).

Worship Greeters Sunday, February 15

Bill Henderson Gary Fyfe
Chris Buckner Patricia Fyfe
Matthew Waugh Butch Price

Sunday, February 22

Eddy Sipe Hilda Lee
Monica Williams Clarence Poole
Ginny Stikeleather Mike McLain

Acolytes Sunday, February 15

Rachel Estes & Sarah Estes

Sunday, February 22

Piper Lewis & Darbee Lewis

Coffee Rotation Sunday, February 15

David Potter

Sunday, February 22

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

Red Cross Blood Drive Results

On Tuesday, February 10, Iredell Memorial Hospital sponsored an American Red Cross blood drive in the Family Life Center. On this day, 25 people presented to donate, four people were first time donors, and 30 productive units were collected.

Church Facilities

Please remember that all members of First Baptist Church are welcome to use the church facilities for birthday parties, showers, family reunions, or any other type of event. Please make your reservation at least two weeks in advance. Please call the church office at 704-873-7231 to reserve the church facilities for your next event.