



The Gift of Life

■ Roger Gilbert Interim Pastor

My sister Linda recently forwarded an email to me. It occurred to me that this might be an appropriate thought to share as we approach the season of Thanksgiving. The author of the piece is unknown, but the claim is that it was found in the billfold of Coach Paul Bear Bryant after he died. It is called "The Magic Bank Account."

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, the *PRIZE* has the following rules.

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "Game over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself. You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning.

ACTUALLY, THE GAME IS REAL! Shocked? Yes! Each of us is already the winner of this *PRIZE! We just can't seem to see it. The PRIZE IS *TIME*.

Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life. And, when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost. Yesterday is forever gone. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time without warning. SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds? Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars.

Life is a precious gift entrusted to us. At this Thanksgiving season when we are encouraged to express thanks for so many abundant blessings, may we not forget that one of the most precious gifts is time...every second of every day...86,400 seconds every day!

Prayer Point: Necessary Faith

Last time we talked about "NOW FAITH"--this week we will look at "NECESSARY FAITH". Did you know that if you don't pray in faith—believing that God will answer—there is really no need to pray? Before you turn me off, meditate on Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." Faith goes beyond believing that God exists—it is actually "existing with Him" moment by moment: talking with Him, listening to Him, walking step in step with Him throughout our day, and obediently following His commands (found in His Word). There is no doubt that the person who lives in this manner is earnestly seeking God. Many times we ask why God isn't answering our prayers when perhaps we should be asking, "Am I earnestly seeking Him, to discern His will, so I can pray accordingly?" Sometimes a little "house-cleaning" may be necessary before we pray. When we earnestly seek God and pray in (NECESSARY) faith, He is more than pleased to reward us by answering our prayers. Do you need to "clean up" your prayer life? I certainly do!

His servant and your friend, Ginny Stikeleather

Schedule

Sunday, November 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, November 24

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

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

No Wednesday Activities

Thursday, November 27

Happy Thanksgiving!

Church Office Closed

Friday, November 28

Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

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, December 1

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group

Wednesday, December 3

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (BBQ Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, & Dessert)

5:45 p.m. Children & Student Activities

5:45 p.m. Bible Study - FLC

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Friday, December 5

5:30 p.m. Parent's Night Out

Saturday, December 6

7:30 p.m. Denver & the Mile High Orchestra - Mac Gray Auditorium

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of November 9 & 16, 2014

	11/9	11/16
Church in Bible Study	139	153
Church in Worship	253	242
8:30 a.m. service	71	83
10:55 a.m. service	182	159

Financial Statistics

Weeks of November 9 & 16

	11/9	11/16
Budget - Received	\$9,797.50	\$21,047.30
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	2,312.15	1,939.00
Building Reserve - Received	50.00	0.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 11/9/14		12,159.65
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 11/16/14		22,986.30
Budget for 2014-2015		865,070.00
Budget Received-Year to Date		94,003.31
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		771,066.69
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		10,594.64
Alms Received-Year to Date		1,028.78
Building Reserve-Year to Date		390.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		106,017.02

Advent Celebrations

Sunday December 7, 2014

White Christmas Celebration & Gift Distribution

Thursday, December 11 & Friday, December 12

Celtic Christmas Program

7:30 p.m. New Life Christian Fellowship, Taylorsville

Tuesday, December 16

Senior Adult Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus in Wytheville, Va

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Choir Cantata - "What Sweeter Music"

6:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Cookie Fellowship - Adams Hall

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

Happy Thanksgiving



¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

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

Student Ministry

Winter Mission Retreat January 30 - February 1, 2015

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

Please bring a no-more-than \$10.00 gender neutral gift for our gift exchange. We encourage everyone to either dress nice or wear your most tacky Christmas sweater. Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed and most tacky dressed.



White Christmas ~ Sunday, December 7

Key Things To Know About White Christmas

* Mark Sunday, December 7 on your calendar, as this is our food and gift distribution day and we need loving and helping church members to be the hands and feet of Christ.

* If you are shopping for a family, please call them to introduce yourself, confirm children's clothing sizes, and invite them to lunch at 12:45 p.m. on December 7.

*We need all church members that can help after the 11:00 service on multiple fronts. Lunch for helping church members and our White Christmas guests, beginning about 12:45 p.m., will consist of soup and sandwiches. The lunch will be prepared by the Genesis and Crosswalk classes.

* We need FBC members to sit and fellowship with our White Christmas guests to make them feel welcome during lunch. During lunch, a song and a brief testimony will be shared. After that, we will need FBC members and helpers to carry and load the food and gifts they will be receiving. Soon, we will begin collecting non-perishable food for this ministry...watch for the Christmas boxes placed around the church. Many thanks to Clarence Poole and his team for organizing all of the food. **The more food that is donated, the less we have to buy.**

*Please donate to "Christmas Ministries". It takes about \$12,000 to fund this ministry. This money funds all the gift cards for the gifts, whatever food is needed for the 50 or so families we will be helping as well as 25 kids we will additionally be helping in the Court Children's party.

Many thanks to Carol Hunter for organizing the families, the gift cards, and overall organization.

*Most importantly, please PRAY for the families, our role in this ministry, and for the name of Christ to be lifted up.

Questions? Tim Burgiss 704-878-9408, Missions Team Chair

Children's Ministry

Upcoming Events

December 5 - Parent's Night Out ~ 5:30-9:00 p.m.
This is a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, or to just relax with your spouse. Online registration will go up next week, so I can prepare for the number of Children.

December 7 - White Christmas

December 21 - Christmas Music Program (Kids will be singing!)

Look Up Lodge August 2-5, 2015

If you have not signed your child up for Look Up Lodge and they want to go, I need a \$40 deposit to secure their spot. If you have questions I would be happy to answer them. Children must currently be in the 2nd grade - 5th grade.

White Christmas is Almost Here!

We have been looking forward to and working toward our White Christmas for several months, and it's almost here. December 7 is right around the corner, and there is still a lot of work to be done.

Here are some other things you can do to help:

1. Pray for this ministry and the families we will serve.
2. Please give generously. Mark your donations "White Christmas"
3. Remember the toys have to be wrapped and in the gym by Wednesday, December 3.
4. Plan to be a part of this ministry Sunday, December 7. Please plan to come and help. Volunteers are needed to eat lunch and visit with our guests and listen to their stories. Volunteers are also needed to help carry their toys and food to their cars. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. for instructions. Those helping to carry the toys and food will eat first and then go to the gym. Our guests will arrive at 12:45 p.m., and those volunteers eating with our guests will lead them into the Fellowship Hall for the meal.
5. **In order that we may plan for the meal please call the church office 704-873-7231 or call Carol Hunter 704-876-1462 to let us know you are coming.**

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.



Announcements



Heaven, Hell, & Life After Death Precept Classes Beginning in January

Ginny Stikeleather and Caroline Bentley will be leading Precept classes beginning in January. Classes will be offered Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. This is a 6 week, no homework class. Please sign up at the Welcome Center with your preferred time.



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

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

Volume 71 Issue 24

November 23, 2014

Announcements

Note of Appreciation From The Family of Clarma Boone

The family of Clarma Boone extends their sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you for your calls, visits, prayers, flowers, and other tributes during the time of Clarma's illness and celebration of her life.

We are most grateful for the church facilities and to all who had a part in her services. The caring committee did a splendid job of providing their time and resources for the family dinner and visitation.

Having such a strong support from the church family has been a wonderful blessing to us.

New Arrival!



Congratulations to Elizabeth Wood Hoops and Todd Hoops on the birth of a daughter Anna Beth Hoops on November 17, 2014. The proud grandparents are Ben and Susan Wood.

Celtic Christmas

Thursday, December 11 & Friday, December 12
7:30 p.m.

You are invited to enjoy an evening concert of Celtic Christmas Music to bring joy to the heart and celebrate the season. The concert will be held at New Life Christian Fellowship Church at 46 Warren Road in Taylorsville (828-632-9589). This is a FREE concert, but tickets are required due to limited seating. Please contact James Martin for tickets at 704-873-7231, ext. 208 or e-mail jmartin@statesvillefbc.org.



Christmas Choir Cantata & Cookie Social

Sunday, December 21, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Please join us for a special evening of music presented by the First Baptist Christmas Choir. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookie social will follow the program in Adams Hall.

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, November 23

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

Acolytes

Sunday, November 23

Sam Buckner & Luke Williams

Sunday, November 30

Kendyl King & Andria Eudy

Coffee Rotation

Sunday, November 23

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

Sunday, November 30

Melissa Wilson

Applewhite Mission Study Group

Monday, December 1, 2014
11:00 a.m.

The Applewhite Mission Study Group will meet Monday, December 1, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. with Louise Hunter at 725 Saint Andrews Road to observe the week of prayer for International and Global Missions. Lunch will be served following the program. Please meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. to carpool to the Hunters'. Please call Caroline Bentley 704-872-4660 to make a reservation if you are interested in joining us.

Holiday Schedule for The Interim

During the Holiday season, The Interim will be published on the following dates. If you would like to submit something to be published in the interim, please submit by the following submission due dates.

Publish Date	Submission Due Date
Sunday, December 7	Tuesday, December 2
Sunday, December 14	Tuesday, December 10
Sunday, January 4	Tuesday, December 30