



The girls pause to smile for the camera on the last day of their trip to Look Up Lodge.

THE INTERIM

Volume 72 Issue 17

Responsibility or Blame?

■ Roger Gilbert
Interim Pastor

A teacher confronted a class of students about some obvious misbehavior while she was briefly out of the classroom. "All right!" she said sternly. "Who did it?" The students were silent, nervously looking at one another. Then, one boy raised his hand and bravely spoke up. "I confess," he said. Pointing to a boy in the next row he said, "Johnny did it!"

That humorous story illustrates the basic human characteristic of blaming others instead of taking personal responsibility. While this flaw is so very obvious in the current political campaign season, it is more pointedly a powerful reality in our basic sinful human nature. And I readily admit that I am included! It is natural to blame others or at least become defensive and make excuses. This flaw goes back to the Genesis 3 account of The Fall. In that very familiar Old Testament scripture, when God confronted Adam with his disobedience, Adam replied, "This woman whom you gave to be with me, gave me the fruit." God turned to Eve to ask about the accusation. She replied, "The

serpent tricked me and I ate." Across the centuries we human beings have continued to pass the buck, projecting blame on others rather than taking personal responsibility.

It is not our place to attempt to control other people's lives and we cannot take responsibility for their sins and failures. On the other hand, a key ingredient of healthy living is being honest with ourselves and with God regarding our own faults and sins.

A very pointed and honest New Testament scripture is I John 1:8. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." A very precious and hopeful verse is the next one, I John 1:9. "If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The sermon title for this coming Sunday morning is "Responsibility or Blame?" In preparation for Sunday, I encourage you to study and reflect on the scriptural basis for the sermon, Genesis 3:1-13 and I John 1:5-10. See you Sunday!

Nominations for Deacon Needed by Sunday

Nominations for three members to serve on the Deacon Ministry Team are needed in the church office by this Sunday, August 16. Any member of First Baptist Church may submit a name or names.

Three members of the Deacon Ministry Team will be elected during worship services on Sunday, October 4. Those elected will serve three-year terms beginning January 1, 2016.

A list of resident church members eligible to serve is available in the church office. In addition, copies of the Church Bylaws section describing criteria for Deacon are available. Please note that the church staff and current members of the Deacon Ministry Team (Sherry Ashley, Jerry Campbell, David Deal, Bill Henderson, Mike McLain, Hersey Miller, Angie Roberts, Ginny Stikeleather, and Harry Tsumas) are not eligible for nomination-election. Deacons whose terms are ending this year are Hersey Miller, Angie Roberts and Harry Tsumas.

Nominees will attend an orientation meeting on Sunday, August 30, and thereafter must notify the church office or Chair Jerry Campbell by Sunday morning, September 13 of their willingness to serve if elected.

From those nominated, a ballot of six names will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, October 4.

Schedule

Sunday, August 16 ~ Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:00 a.m. New Member Class
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, August 17 ~ 2 Samuel 13-15

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

Tuesday, August 18 ~ Psalm 5, 38, 41-42

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

Wednesday, August 19 ~ 2 Samuel 22-23 & Psalm 57

- 5:30 p.m. Snacks - FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Leadership Training Course - Heritage Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study - FLC

Thursday, August 20 ~ Psalm 95 & 97-99

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

Friday, August 21

1 Chronicles 21-22 & 2 Samuel 24 & Psalm 30

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

Saturday, August 22 ~ Psalm 108-110

Sunday, August 23 ~ 1 Chronicles 23-25

Promotion Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:00 a.m. New Member Class
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, August 24 ~ Psalm 131, 138-139, 143-145

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

Tuesday, August 25 ~ 1 Chronicles 26-29 & Psalm 127

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

Wednesday, August 26 ~ Psalm 111-118

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal - FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Students & Children
- 5:45 p.m. Leadership Training Course - Heritage Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, August 27 ~ 1 Kings 1-2 & Psalm 3, 71, 94

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

Friday, August 28 ~ 119:1-88

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

Saturday, August 29

2 Chronicles 1 & 1 Kings 3-4 & Psalm 72

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of August 2 & 9, 2015

	8/2	
Church in Bible Study	103	63
Church in Worship	176	198
8:30 a.m. service	60	60
10:55 a.m. service	116	138

Financial Statistics

Week of August 2 & 9, 2015

	8/2
Budget - Received	\$12,992.00
Alms	624.00
Designated - Received	606.00
Building Reserve - Received	0.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 8/2/15	
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 8/9/15	
Budget for 2014-2015	
Budget Received-Year to Date	
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded	
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date	
Alms Received-Year to Date	
Building Reserve-Year to Date	
Total Giving-Year to Date	

Church Facilities

If you would like to utilize the church for any type of meeting or event, you MUST notify the church staff at least TWO weeks in advance. This will ensure that rooms are not double booked and you have everything you need for your meeting or event. Please call the church office at 704-873-7231, ext. 201 to schedule an event.



Church Staff Directory

Dr. Roger Gilbert.....Interim Pastor
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur Tel: 704-873-7231

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Prayer Point

"Our Father Who Art in Heaven"

Perhaps the most worshipful time in the 11:00 service is when the entire church family prays together the model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray. It's even better when we sing it ("He who sings prays twice"). For the next few weeks in Prayer Point we will consider each segment of this prayer separately.

"Our Father, Who art in heaven". This beginning acknowledges God's majesty, His sovereignty, His overarching greatness and power, etc., etc...What words of ours could ever be adequate to address Him? In view of that thought, wouldn't it be a good idea to stop right there and spend some time just "drinking in" the greatness of our God, our Father? "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him." (Habakkuk 2:20) "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Don't worry, God knows we want to talk to Him--and He longs to hear what we have to say--but first let's give Him the honor and respect that He is due. "Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few." (Ecclesiastes 5:2 NASB)

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

Fun at Look Up Lodge ~ August 2-5, 2015





Message by: **Dr. Roger Gilbert**

Worship with us Sundays 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.

Volume 72 Issue 17

August 16, 2015

Announcements

Precepts Bible Study

Begins Tuesday, August 18 & Wednesday, August 19

How do you live with integrity in a nation without morals? Can the church effectively engage and change the destructive condition in our society? How does your life reflect your faith? You can change the culture into which God has called you. We will be doing a pilot study of the book of Titus beginning August 18 and 19 (Tuesday night and Wednesday morning - same class): "*Titus: Developing Character And Integrity In The Midst Of A Society Which Has Lost Respect for God*". This study contains three lessons that will take only three weeks, ending on September 1 and 2.

Be sure to sign up in the Welcome Center as soon as possible so we can get the workbooks ordered. We look forward to a great time of studying God's Word together!

Family Night Meals Resume August 26

Our Family Night meals will resume Wednesday, August 26. The meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Cost of the meal is \$5.00/adult, \$4.00/child, \$4.00/senior, or \$20.00/family. Adult Bible study will begin at 5:45 p.m. Activities for children and students will also begin at 5:45 p.m. Please be sure to join us for these wonderful evenings!

Love Offering for Elder Center

A one-time love offering for the ElderCenter of Statesville is being received by First Baptist Church during the month of August.

This offering, which was approved by the Deacon Ministry Team, will assist the ElderCenter with unexpected expenses during a time of transition from its old Davie Avenue facility to a new location at 502 Brevard Street. The purpose of the offering is to help pay the ElderCenter staff during August.

The ElderCenter had to move out and close its doors this month, after its Davie Avenue home sold quickly, and its new location is still under renovation. Pastor Tom Corbell, chair of the ElderCenter Board of Directors, contacted local churches with a request for a special offering, since state guidelines do not allow the agency to pay its staff while the facility is officially closed. "Our staff is going to take care of clients in their homes or possibly other churches, but they will have no source of income coming from ElderCenter," said Corbell.

The ElderCenter is a non-profit adult day care agency, serving the elderly who might otherwise be left unattended or homebound.

Checks may be made out to First Baptist Church, with a note of "ElderCenter Salaries" on the memo line.

Acolytes

Sunday, August 16

Kendyl King & Andria Eudy

Sunday, August 23

Rachel Estes & Sarah Estes

Coffee Rotation Sunday, August 16

David Potter

Sunday, August 23

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Charlie Boggs in the death of his son, Chet Boggs, on July 31, 2015.

School Supplies Needed

The Missions Team is collecting school supplies for the Mission of the Month. Items needed include pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, colored pencils, and many other items. Please bring your donations to the tables outside the sanctuary or place donations in the bin in the Family Life Center.

Baptists on Mission

First Baptist Church is reforming and reorganizing the NC Baptist Men to Baptists on Mission. We welcome men, women, and students to serve in one of the multiple ministries. To prepare for disaster relief we would like to assemble a roster of servant leaders who are willing to be called upon to assemble a traveling team at the time of emergency. If you wish to be included on the roster, we would like your name, telephone number, and e-mail address so we can contact you to see if your circumstances at the time will permit you to travel to the site and serve. Sign-up sheets will be distributed to each Sunday School class and in the Welcome Center. When a local service mission arises, the date, contact information and the description of the project will be in the weekly announcements.