

A Note From The Elders

NEW PASTOR:

Most of you are aware that the congregation voted to call Rev. William Wallace Hostetter (you can call him Wally) to be our pastor. Wally will preach his first sermon at St. Giles on Sunday morning, January 16th, beginning with a 5-week series entitled "Just Beyond the Jordan." We plan to have a luncheon for the congregation after the service to welcome Wally and Linda.

Once our new pastor arrives, Rev. Rick Slate and Rev. Percy Burns will step down from the interim rolls as Interim Chaplain and Moderator of the Session. We thank these two fine men for their faithful service to our body during this time. St. Giles is fortunate to have so many gifted people who helped us fill in the gaps and continue to move forward between pastors.

PRESBYTERY & INSTALLATION SERVICE:

St. Giles will host the upcoming 67th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic on January 28th and 29th. At the Saturday meeting, our Presbytery will vote to officially call Wally as our next pastor. We will communicate more details in the near future and encourage any of you to attend and support him at this meeting. During our morning worship service that Sunday (January 30th), there will be a service to formally install Wally as pastor of St. Giles.

FINANCES:

Since our last newsletter, we have continued to run a budget surplus around \$52,000. This is due to reductions we made in our operating expenses and major cutbacks to our local benevolences. Another contributing factor were some large one-time gifts we received in September. We are thankful to the Lord for His provision.

At the end of this year, we plan to determine how to use any remaining surplus by possibly paying some or all of the benevolences we cut and setting aside some reserves for 2011. Please pray that the Lord will direct us and also that He might direct you in regards to any year-end giving.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

There will be a congregational meeting following the morning worship service on January 9 to elect two elders and two deacons for the Class of 2013. Names submitted by the Nominating Committee are: **Elders:** Michael King, Roby Wallin; **Deacons:** Ward Sheffield, Wright Uzzell. Nominations can also be made from the floor but you must have permission from the person in writing if they are not at the meeting. There will also be a Business Meeting for the Corporation. A special word of thanks and appreciation to the following elders and deacons who rotate off at the end of the year: Elders: Norman Kaneklides, Jeff Barhite; Deacons: David Evans, Steve Seward.

- Lifting up Word & Spirit in a life of whole-hearted worship

... Upward

A Note From Your Deacons

Dear St. Giles family, The deacons have a number of responsibilities at our beloved church.....and 2 of the most important and time consuming are oversight of the church finances, and oversight of the church property/buildings.

Church finances – we are very relieved that the finances are in good shape for the remainder of 2010, and we are currently planning the budget for 2011. Thanks to the total church body for your financial contributions, and we very much encourage everyone to give.

Church property/buildings – we continue to have challenges with many of our older buildings, but we are working with the elders and the Nehemiah Vision Committee for long-term solutions. We look forward to our new pastor coming and working with him and his vision for our body so that we can have the best facilities to support our needs, and do this in a financially responsible way. Our current building fund has about \$285,000, and we are making plans to spend that money in the near future on some campus upgrades. The deacons very much invite anyone at St. Giles to make year-end contributions into this fund for our near-term projects for campus improvements.

Merry Christmas from the deacons to all our St. Giles family members!!
We love you and it is an honor to serve you.

David Evans on behalf of the deacons.

Prayer Request From Wally & Linda Hostetter

For the last several years, Wally and Linda have worked with Pastors Tony and Hepzibah Agwaniru of Shekinah Love Assembly in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. Linda and Hepzibah worked closely together to develop a widows ministry for the surrounding area of Onitsha. The Hostetters have visited and ministered in Onitsha seven times; speaking at the church in revival, working in the jails and prisons, speaking at the local public secondary schools, colleges and in the market, along with a conference for the widows each year.

On December 16th, Wally and Linda left for a short but powerful ministry trip to Onitsha. Over 3,000 widows are expected to attend the church on the 22nd for the annual Christmas celebration for widows. Linda will be speaking, praying for the widows and ministering to them on that day. Wally will preach at the church on the 19th and to the widows on the 22nd. They were just informed that a new group of widows across the Niger River want them to speak on the 20th.

Wally and Linda will return to Detroit on the 24th. Please pray for their safety and success as they carry the gospel and Jesus' love to the dear people and the widows of Onitsha.

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Devotional

By Rick Slate, Interim Chaplain

Our Language

The summer following my senior year in college, I worked for my uncle picking up industrial waste and building rail fences. One day I found myself on a range of the Blue Ridge Mts. building a fence to border a road that led to a local doctor's "retreat house". With a post hole digger, a supply of rails and posts in hand, I began what quickly developed into a two day job.

After completing 2/3 of the job I stopped to survey from whence I had come. "Are the posts in alignment with one another? Does the fence allow enough clearance for a vehicle to pass through safely?"

"Hmm.." I thought to myself, "The section at the curve in the driveway is a bit tight. Ah, the doctor should be able to navigate that."

Well, the doctor arrived shortly after this and his diagnosis was completely different from mine. "You built the fence too close to the road! When it snows I'll surely run into the rails with my car!!"

With that he turned and walked away, visibly upset. Although this section of the Blue Ridge Mts. is called "Lovers' Leap", I can't say I was feeling a lot of "love" at the time.

The doctor's wife witnessed our exchange from a distance and walked over to practice some "damage control". She began asking me about my major and which subjects I had taken in college. I mentioned to her history, theology, Greek... "Greek?" she asked. At this point I had one of those divine ("Thank You, Lord") revelations, "The Doctor and the Mrs. are Greek!"

"Yes, I took Greek", I replied. "In fact, I had to memorize the Lord's Prayer in Greek." "Could you repeat some of it to me?" (I hadn't realized in college how important the phrase, "Deliver me from evil" would be one day) "Oh...certainly, I'll give it a try".

"Pater emon o en ouranios..." All of a sudden this lady's eyes grew wider, her mouth dropped open and she said, "Stop! Uh...Don't move!!" And off she went off running, calling for her husband.

With her husband in tow, she returned and said, "OK. Repeat what you just said to me...that prayer... the Lord's Prayer". So I repeated the first verse or two and now the doctor's eyes became wide. And I think I even detected a smile.

- Lifting up Word & Spirit in a life of whole-hearted worship

Devotional (Cont.)

By Rick Slate, Interim Chaplain

“You know Greek?” he asked with a curious tone. “Yes sir, I know a few words. I had two years in college”. “And how do you plan to use it?” His question resulted in a civil five minute conversation on career and purpose in life. He concluded, “The rail fence...ah..we won’t worry about it. I should be able to make my way through.”

What had happened? What brought about the change of attitude in this previously upset man? I had spoken “his language” I had entered his world. I identified with his culture, his heritage. And the beginning of a relationship was formed.

What does the incarnation mean? It means that Jesus spoke our language. He entered our world. He identified with us. Scripture tells us He was born of a woman just like you and me (Gal.4:4). He was under His parents’ authority like you and me (Lk.2:51). He became tired, He became hungry, He experienced pain, rejection, joy and tears, even death (Lk.4:2; Mt.27:26, 41-44; Jn.11:35; 15:11; Mt.27:50).

Hebrews summarizes it this way, “We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (4:15). In other words, Jesus spoke our language.

So as you go through this Christmas Season, remember that the little child in the manger reflects God’s commitment to meet you, and all who are lost, whatever the cost. He became one of us, incarnate, so we might become one of His... forever.

From Pastor Matt McGarity

St. Giles’ guest preacher on November 14

I want to express to you my deepest gratitude for extending the invitation to come and preach God’s Word. It was a great “homecoming” celebration for my family and me. The congregation of St. Giles is a very special group of committed Christ-followers who I will continue to hold in prayer. I am looking forward to hearing incredible things that God is doing in and through the life of your ministry as you step out on the next leg of the journey beyond the Land Between...beyond the Jordan.

May He continue to guide you and bless you every step of the way!
Friends, thank you for the opportunity to bring God’s Word to you who first brought it to me!

...Upward

- Lifting up Word & Spirit in a life of whole-hearted worship

... Upward

Remember in Prayer Our Expectant Mothers

Sunshine Burns, January 14
Sherry Borders, January 27
Jennifer Houston, February 14
Meredith Burns, April 6
Roz Brown, May 15
Esther Franklin, June 30

Congratulations to:

Doug & Lindsay Hodak on the birth of their daughter, Kaitlyn Frances, born on November 9th.

Matt and Sarah Hellems on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Claire, on December 12.

- Discovering who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us

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Women's Ministry

The Choice, by Missy Evans

I recently reviewed in my journal an entry that unfortunately in a rushed moment, I did not credit an author. "Choice is a gift from God! But it requires warfare to make the right choice." It seems that in these days as a church body, we have battled to make significant choices that have long term, even eternal ramifications. Clearly, the weight of these choices has produced in us a relying on Him that gives us confidence that His will prevails!

Throughout the 21 day fast we engaged in as a church this past summer, The Lord spoke to me about choices we were to make as St. Giles' Women. From Luke 10:38-42, I was reminded that Mary of Bethany had a choice to make. Unlike Martha, she chose to oppose tradition and cultural expectation in the face of rejection so she could sit with the One she loved and hear His word. Mary chose to break the chains of distraction and useless worry and warfare for the good part, "that would not be taken away".

In September, I shared with the Elders that I felt that St. Giles Women had a similar choice. In the most recent history of St. Giles' Women, it is my conviction that we have been like Martha, "distracted with much serving". Often our traditional programs and the expectation to create activity are a distraction and cover up the true condition of our heart. Busyness makes us think we are doing something when often our activity is not fruitful or life giving. The Lord wants to produce a Mary heart in us where we INTENTIONALLY "choose the better part", even in the face of misunderstanding by others. Jesus has life, purpose and vision to give us if we will faithfully allow Him to "lead us beside the still waters" (Ps 23).

Clearly, the Lord is doing something in us as a church family! I believe the ministry of St. Giles Women needs an intentional season of stillness and rest. John 12:24 states, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." The Lord is birthing something significant in us as a church family in the areas of partnership and mission. I don't want the ministry of St Giles' Women to distract or diminish what He wants do!

I have been serving the women of St. Giles in some capacity for more than 9 years! It has been a great joy to grow along side some of the most extraordinary and gifted women I have ever known. The women of this church have a contagious passion for Jesus and love for this body. They have anointed the Lord and this church with their love and service! I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve you as the head of ministry for the last 2 ½ years. But I am confident that I am not the one to lead us in to the next season. Therefore, I will not be

- Discovering who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us

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Women's Ministry (Cont.)

The Choice, by Missy Evans

functioning in this role of leadership hereafter. Please pray for what is ahead for the women of this church. That the Lord would finish the refining and purifying process so that we would be vessels made ready for His use! And that the next appointed leader would rise up and have the mind of the Lord for the next season of this church that is ahead. Because He is worthy!

BETH MOORE STUDY

Ladies! Let's start the winter off with a cozy time of fellowship around Beth Moore's new study: *Our Inheritance!* We'll meet at the home of Marlise Newman who lives in south Charlotte. If you are interested please call 704-367-1390 or email: marlise@mindspring.com. The study will begin January 19th and go for 9 weeks-each Wednesday night from 7-9pm. If you are interested in hosting a study in your home in another part of the city, let Marlise know.

Comunidad de las Naciones (Hispanic Ministry)

By Nick Bowen

We have had several special events in Comunidad. In September we were blessed with prophetic ministry by students from Morningstar. They ministered primarily to the children, and all were touched by the Lord. Of course, the parents enjoyed the ministry as they saw their children receiving from God. Everyone wants the students to come back; we will have them again in December to lead worship, preach and minister prophetically.



In November we had our first outreach event at Ramblewood Park. We passed out bottles of water with our church information card attached, made balloon animals and did face painting. It was a wonderful, friendly time and many came to see what was going on. We had a bubble machine that added to the attraction! It was a non-confrontational outreach where we sought to **be** good news to those around us and where everyone could participate.

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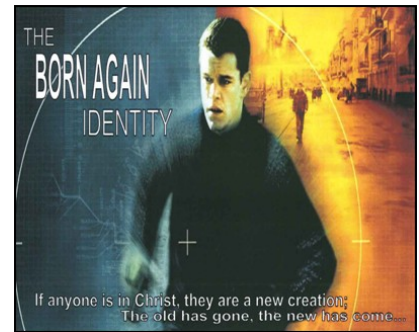
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ΤΕΛΕΙΟΣ Update

by Nate Horne, Youth Director

“The Born-Again Identity”

Two months ago we started a new adventure at Teleios. The adventure was called “*The Born-Again Identity*,” a series about knowing our identity in Christ. The movie, *The Bourne Identity* is about a man with terrible amnesia who struggles to rediscover his identity. At the beginning of the trilogy, Jason Bourne looks into the mirror and asks himself “*Who are you??? If you know, tell me!!*” This was our quest as a youth group... to be able to answer that question by knowing *who we are in Christ*.



Our quest included 5 “episodes”: *Who Am I?*, *A New Creation*, *Made Righteous*, *Adopted*, and *Secure*. We learned a lot about who we are in Christ. Here are just a few of the discoveries we made together... As Christ-followers, the old “us” is gone and God has made us brand new! Through faith in Jesus, God is “perfectly pleased” with us and our sins are completely forgiven! God has adopted us as His own children, given us an inheritance and wants us to call Him “Daddy”! And finally, God has given us the Holy Spirit as a brand or “tattoo” on our hearts and an engagement ring on our finger to promise us that He’ll never abandon us! With each episode we had a week’s worth of devotions to help us dive deeper into these foundational truths.

It’s been inspiring to see the fruit of the Holy Spirit produced in all of our lives over these past few months. A big thanks to all of you who have been praying for Teleios and our series on Identity!

Joining Forces for Shoe Boxes

On December 8th, *Teleios Youth Group* and the *Young at Heart* group



joined forces to pack up shoe boxes at Operation Christmas Child! We had a group of 30 that descended upon the OCC warehouse in



early December for an awesome night of packing, scanning, loading, and knowing that tons of kids around the world were going to be receiving the good news about Jesus through these shoe boxes! Come out and join us next year!

- Discovering who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us

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Young Adults Class

By Rick Slate

The Young Adults will have their Christmas Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, December 18, 5:00-9:00 pm at Peter and Roz Brown's home, 2005 Sandbox Circle, Indian Trail, NC 28079. Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, fun, a personal testimony, worship and ministry.

We also invite all 20 and 30 Somethings to join us every Sunday at 9:30 am in the youth building for a time of teaching and discussion on the book of 2 Samuel. For more info contact Rick and Karin Slate at rslate@carolina.rr.com.

Upcoming Events

- December 24, 27, 31st: The church office will be closed.
- December 24: St. Giles' Christmas Eve Service on Friday at 5:00 pm.
- December 26: Elder Bud Carrier Preaching & Baby Dedication
- January 6: Outreach to Homeless Community at St. Andrews
- January 8: Perspective at St. Giles Begins
Does passion for God fuel your purpose? Do you want to be a blessing as much as to be blessed? Is your prayer "Your kingdom come, Your will be done"? Join us for Perspectives on the World Christian Movement and see what God is up to in your life and in the world. Early registration discount until January 8. Find details at www.perspectives.org or contact Steve Seward.
- January 9: Congregational Meeting
- January 16: Wally's First Sunday and Covered Dish Lunch.
Wally's first Sunday preaching at St. Giles will be Sunday, January 16th. Everyone is invited to a covered dish lunch in the gym right after the service. The theme is "Southern Hospitality"! St. Giles will provide the meat and we are asking that YOU bring your best southern side dish, salad or dessert!
- January 19: Beth Moore Study begins
- January 28-29: Presbytery & Installation Service

- Recognizing our spiritual gifts & using them to reach our world for Jesus

Forward
...Outward

Montclair Elementary School Outreach

By Julie Kovasckitz

Thank you all for your interest in Montclair Elementary School. For the last few months, folks from the Young Adults Sunday School class have served the students in various ways such as hosting two soccer clinics and tutoring.

If you are interested in serving a Montclair Elementary student, please see the chart below indicating current needs and specific times for tutoring. To volunteer in the school system you must first register at <http://volunteer.cms.k12.nc.us>. Please note that you do not need to commit to every day - you could just go once a week. Please look over the list and pray about what your part could be. Contact Julie Kovasckitz at juliekovo@gmail.com or 704-522-7506 if you have any questions. Thank you!

	A	B	C	D
1	Grade	Time Slots	Assignment	Teacher
2	Kindergarten			
3		7:40 am – 8:30am	Help reading, decoding letters	Miller / Wilson
4		9:30 am – 10:30am	Help reading, decoding letters	Miller / Wilson
5		12:15pm – 1:00pm	Help reading, decoding letters	Miller / Wilson
6		Thursdays	Help creating classroom activities	Gibbs
7	1st Grade			
8		11:15am-1pm	Reading to small groups/ individual tutoring	Diebling
9	2nd Grade			
10		8:30am – 9:30am	In class volunteer	Klinghagen
11		1:00pm – 1:30pm	In class assistant	Klinghagen
12		Anytime	Counting BoxTops	Verhosek
13	3rd Grade			
14		7:30am – 9:30am	Individual Tutoring	Tolbert
15		8:30am-9:50am	Individual Tutoring	Sarkozi
16		8:45am – 9:30am	Guided Reading Groups	Robinson
17		7:40am – 10:00am	Individual Tutoring	Comer
18		10:50 – 11:50am	Small group (math help)	Comer
19		11:00am-12:00pm	In Class Assistant	Comer
20	4th Grade			
21		7:45am – 9:15am	Small Groups or Individual Tutoring	Monteleon
22		8:00am-9:15am	In class assistant / tutoring	McAuliffe
23		9:20 – 11:00am	In class assistant	Monteleon
24		12:15pm	Lunch Buddies	McAuliffe
25				
26	5th Grade			
27		11:45am - 12:30pm *	Individual Tutoring	Holloway
28		2:00 – 3:00pm **	Individual or Paired tutoring	Holmes
29				

* Spelling, Reading and Summarizing

** Math and Science

- Recognizing our spiritual gifts & using them to reach our world for Jesus

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Local Outreach Committee News

By Robert Stasko

St. Giles has the wonderful opportunity to partner with St. Andrews United Methodist Church (our neighbor, right down the street!) and Room in the Inn in their outreach to homeless men. For many years, St. Andrews has opened up their doors to provide meals and a place to sleep each Thursday night throughout the winter. St. Giles will be hosting 14 men at St. Andrews the first Thursday night of the first three months of the new year:

Thursday, January 6th

Thursday, February 3rd

Thursday, March 3rd

Be on the lookout for more information about this exciting opportunity including details on how you can participate — and please be in prayer for the men we will serve!

Loaves & Fishes

By Ron James, volunteer

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry Impact

We just received an excellent “thank you note” from Mrs. Garnett, the Communities in School Coordinator at our neighboring Montclair Elementary School. She wrote: “I went by St. Giles today to take a mom to get her food order from Loaves and Fishes, and I left almost in tears. Your volunteers are AWESOME. They are loving, fun, and helpful and the mom I took would not stop talking, on the way home, about the amount of food she got. This service is truly amazing.”

We fed 45% more people this year compared to the number served in 2009. The numbers are important, complemented by the impact we are making on our clients. Thank you for making our church one of action and impact.

- Recognizing our spiritual gifts & using them to reach our world for Jesus

Outward

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a great place for encouragement, fellowship and support in your role as a mom! If you are pregnant or have a child 5 years old or younger, MOPS is the place for you! The St. Giles MOPS group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 10:00 am until noon and nursery is provided.

Last month the MOPS moms purchased items and assembled 42 Operation Christmas Child boxes! This month we will have our annual cookie exchange and volunteer at the Operation Christmas Child Warehouse. For more information or to visit a meeting contact Jane Burns at burns1001@windstream.net.

We have more members than ever this year ~30 and counting ~ which means our MOPS nursery is a great place to minister to the moms and children who come. We are now looking for volunteers to help in the nursery anytime between January and May. If you'd like to be a blessing to the MOPS moms by volunteering in the nursery, contact Jane Burns.

Missionaries We Support

Alongside Ministries

Doni & Gail Lilo (Albania)

EPC

Paul & Elizabeth Branch (Argentina)

Jonathan & Fozia Young (India)

Exciting Word Ministries

Steve & Cornelia Robinson (India)

His Heart Missions

Jim Hill

International Friendship Ministries

Raj & Cathy Aluri (South Carolina)

Mission to Unreached Peoples

Corey & Angelika Booher (Poland)

The Watkins

Rooted, Inc.

Michael & Esther Franklin

(Scotland)

Poland

Wieslaw & Wanda Ziembra

Wycliffe

Ron & Marty Barkey

Bill & Sally Dyck

Rister & Esther Jenkins

Mark & Kirstin Jenkins

Mary Walker

YWAM, Tyler TX

Glenn & Carol Price

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Interim Chaplain

Rick Slate

Pastor of Hispanic Outreach

Nick Bowen

Director of Ministries

Meg Bowden

Administrative Assistant

Margie Gladden

Youth Director

Nate Horne

Children's Ministry Director

Sharon Seward

Receptionist

Pat Andrews

Elders

Jeff Barhite

Gerry Edwards

Bud Carrier

Norman Kaneklides

Eric Newman

Tim Burns

Deacons

Chris Boyd

Peter Brown

Daniel Burns

Sharon Bynum

David Evans

Steve Seward

Michael Tregidga

Year End Contributions and 2011 Envelopes

If you are dropping off your year end contribution by the church office, we will need it by Thursday, Dec. 30th.

Otherwise, if you mail your contribution, it must be post dated by Dec. 31st. 2011 Contribution Envelopes for members will be available in the foyer of the sanctuary on Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd. If you are not a member and would like contribution envelopes, contact the church office.

A Note from Zheng Shi

Zheng's Trip To China



Zheng recently returned from a two week trip to visit his extended family in China. He was very excited about his trip because it had been over 10 years since his last visit. Prior to leaving, St. Giles joined in prayer that Zheng would have safe travels, that the Lord would use him in a special way, and that he'd have the opportunity to share the Gospel with his family.

Zheng was excited to spend time with his grandmothers on both sides as well as cousins on his mother's side. Aunts and Uncles on both sides were able to visit during his grandmother's 90th birthday! Following are Zheng's words: on leaving China: "I was heartbroken when I left China because I really miss my aunts, uncles, cousins, my grandmother and my grandfather. I was crying the second week after I came back from China because I know I'll not see them again for another 10 years!"

On sharing the Gospel: "I reinforced the Good News about God to my grandmother. I was walking down an arched tall bridge in Suzo with my aunt when I delivered the Good News about God to her!