

St. Giles is committed to pursuing the **Heart of God** together by moving...

...**Upward** – Lifting up Word & Spirit in a life of whole-hearted worship

...**Inward** – Discovering who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us

...**Outward** – Recognizing our spiritual gifts & using them to reach our world for Jesus



STEVE KELLER—WHY ASK WHY?

The most natural question to ask when things go wrong is “why”. God, why are there starving children in Africa? Why is he so sick at such an early age? Why has she struggled so much? Why do such bad things happen to such good people? The downside to the “why” question is that God doesn’t answer it very often or very consistently in scripture or in our life and times. On the other hand, there is a question that God does delight in answering for his children, which is the “what” question.

I heard it said recently that, “prayer in its simplest form is finding out what God wants and then asking him to do it.” This is a view that is very consistent with scripture (1Cor 2:16, Ro 8:5, 22-30, Ps 25:4-5) and one that opens the door for us to seek the mind and will of God in every situation. It allows us to boldly ask God everything from what’s on his mind for an individual to what exactly He would have us pray in every situation. As we look at the gospels, we see this is how Jesus ministered to people. He first got the mind of God and then ministered to people with perfect precision. He simply discovered what the Father had in mind and did it. Therefore I encourage us as we pray to be bold when it comes to the “what” of God.

To see His mind and will and to pray without ceasing. Ephesians 3:14-21 “For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.” Much love in Christ – Steve

FURY

In Fury, we’ve been diving into Isaiah to learn what God has to say about *true worship*. In Isaiah 29:13, God says, “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” It seems that these people had the appearance of worship, but their hearts didn’t line up with their words. Songs are the declarations of the convictions we hold in our hearts about God. From time to time, we have to ask if our hearts are lining up with our words and the best way to do that seems to be by looking at our lifestyle.

But what does a lifestyle of worship look like? Isaiah 58 talks about fasting as a form of worship. God speaks beautifully here about His heart as a Father for the oppressed and victims of injustice. In other words, God cares deeply for the broken and calls us to care deeply for the broken. According to God, when our lives reflect His heart for the marginalized and broken, we are entering into deep, true worship! The truth is, of course, we’re all broken and in need of the compassion, tenderness, and mercy that God has for us. As we embrace God’s compassion for the broken, we begin to receive a clearer revelation of His heart of compassion for us. May you be encouraged today by God’s invitation into a deep worship from the heart, reflected in our lives as we love the broken around us with the love of Jesus Christ!

Fury Upcoming Events

Retreat: Aug 1-3, Camp Joy in Hickory, NC
Fury Movie Night: Aug 13 at St. Giles

Parents Meeting and Kickoff: Sept 7th
Pool Day/Corn Maze Extravaganza: Sept 13th

SONWORLD VBS

Kids, Parents & Faithful Leaders – Thank You! Thanks to some great kids, youth and adults, our 2008 VBS was a huge success with close to 100 children participating. God is so good and so faithful to each of us to allow us to reach out to His children. You all are awesome and may He bless you in the most wonderful ways!

YOUNG AT HEART (AGES 55+)

August 8 **Movie Night at St. Giles**

October 18 Trip to the Wohlfarth’s lake house for a cruise on the lake and dinner. More information to follow (Rain date will be October 25).



CHURCH CALENDAR

Aug. 4-13 Pastor Steve Keller and family on vacation
Aug. 3-10 Pastor Ale Ruz and family on vacation
Aug. 10 Rick Slate Preaching
Aug. 17 Taylor Ince Preaching
Aug. 24 Ministry Teams Training

WOMEN OF ST. GILES

August 15-17 2008 Mid-Atlantic EPC

Women In Ministry Retreat
Blue Ridge Assembly-Black Mountain, NC

Theme: **Finding Rest in the Warmth of God’s Smile**
Speaker: Nancy Kennedy - Join us as Nancy reflects on the ways women often keep themselves from enjoying the freedom that’s already theirs.
Worship Leader: Barbara Gregory (several of our ladies will join the worship and ministry teams)

Pick up a brochure in the Narthex or go online to register:
www.epcmidatlantic.org

PRAY FOR OUR EXPECTING MOMS

Gail (Burger) Lilo, July 22	Christie Werner, October 6
Ashley Franklin, August 6	Ardyth Philyaw, October 27
Gretchen Baldwin, August 22	Melanie Boyd, December 8
Jane Burns, August 25	

Congratulations to David and April Weber on the birth of their son, Judah David Weber, born July 2.

Pastor:
Steve Keller
Director of Hispanic Outreach:
Alejandro Ruz
Administrator:
John Brown
Director of Vision Advancement:
Chris Houston
Youth Director:
Nate Horne
Children's Ministry Director:
Sharon Seward
Administrative Associate:
Margie Gladden
Receptionist:
Pat Andrews

Elders
Jeff Barhite Norman Kaneklides
Tim Burns Bob Poole
Steve Gladden Robert Whitlow

Deacons
Daniel Burns Paul Farish
Jim Collins Ron Hartman
David Evans Steve Seward
Ken White

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 6:00 p.m. Church Phone Number: 553-1977
St. Giles website: www.stgilesec.org Hispanic website: www.comunidaddelasnaciones.org
Newsletters, sermons and other teachings are available on the web sites.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- Marty Barkey and family on the loss of Marty's mother, Phyllis Milligan, on Thursday, July 23. Phyllis was a faithful member of St. Giles since moving to Waxhaw in 1981.
- Elisabeth King and family on the loss of her father, Norris London Fellows, on Thursday, July 17, in Mocksville, NC.

From Eddie Vann: I wish to thank the body for your prayers on my behalf with my recent infection. I am now fine. I love the body of my brothers and sisters at St. Giles.

OUTREACH

LOAVES AND FISHES BLESSINGS

Have you ever invested a lot of unpaid hours in something you love for the satisfaction of helping people? Most of us have not, but one volunteer at our food pantry has accomplished this blessing. Our volunteer coordinator Sharon Wohfarth has been at the pantry for seventeen years – that's longer than many of us have been married or involved in a spirit-filled church. Talk about being cheated out of blessings. Sharon said that sometimes she feels she is selfish to stay in charge of the ministry, as it is such a blessing. "It is great to serve, but very exciting to see how the Lord meets our ever need." She has never had to ask for extra funds from the Loaves and Fishes office to keep the program running. The pantry provides enough food for a week to about 300 people a month she reports. The pantry is able to give food to expectant mothers every week and that bonds are established with them. Did you have someone reach out to you when you were pregnant? Do you know what this means to someone that has exhausted other resources and nowhere else to turn? Isn't this what churches are for? **VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR BIGGEST NEED NOW.** Sharon said we have had three of our six volunteers from Friday retire at the same time. "We are in need of regular volunteers, substitutes, and a Spanish interpreter. We also need to have a volunteer to talk and pray with the clients on Monday and Friday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m." Please notify Sharon if the Lord leads you in any of these directions. *He who oppressed the poor shows contempt for their maker; but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. (Proverbs 14:31)*

LOVE INC

Love in the Name of Christ is a Christian non-profit organization that works with over 175 churches of 23+ different denominations in Mecklenburg County. Our mission is to help churches reach out to serve the poor. We do that by receiving requests for help from over 100 social service agencies in the county for people who have unmet needs. Love INC verifies the needs and then coordinates the efforts of church volunteers to meet the needs. All of our clients are low income and about 70% are disabled or elderly. About 12,000 local people were helped last year by Love INC church volunteers.

There are several areas right now where extra help is needed. If you want to make a real difference for people in need, please contact Love INC to help with one or more of these needs:

- Love INC works with office volunteers and because the needs are rising rapidly in our community, we need more people working in the office to call clients and do data entry. We will train you. Please consider giving a few hours every week to this worthy cause.
- Burmese refugees are being brought to Charlotte in large numbers right now. These individuals need a lot of help and mentoring. Two main needs right now are people to help get new apartments set up for them (furniture is available, but needs to be moved in) and groups or individuals to help them acclimate to this new culture. They come from a very poor area and many have been living in refugee camps for several years, so they have no idea how to survive here in the U.S.
- Love INC is receiving more requests for installation of bath safety rails. If you are a skilled carpenter and know how to provide this service, would you consider installing them as a volunteer service occasionally?

If you want to help the poor in the above ways or to donate any other skill that you have, please contact the Love INC office at (704) 536-5588.

Don't forget your time selected to have your picture made for the pictorial directory.
It is still not too late to register. Just call the church office.