I wish I could help every person who asks of me, but it’s just not possible. We receive several requests for help in the church office each week, and while we do our best to help people in need, we are not able to satisfy every request. One of the interesting challenges of our assistance work is discerning the legitimate requests from those who may not be completely honest. It’s hard to believe that a person would misrepresent a need to a pastor or church, but it happens all the time.

I received a call earlier this week that struck me as extraordinary. A lady who’d been traveling through town became ill and was stranded and would continue to be here for several days. She had no food and no means. She said “I don’t have a thing. I need help, so I called the church.” She wasn’t asking for much, just a few groceries to get her through the next few days. I told her I would help and later in the day I bought a few staple items and delivered them. The lady was most appreciative and assured me that when she got back on her feet, she would make a contribution to our church. I do not have an absolute conviction that the lady was being honest with me, and such assurance is rare when helping people. I have learned that when I am confronted by a person who I believe to be in earnest need, it is my responsibility to give. It is the responsibility of the person I am helping to accept and use the gift for the purpose they have presented.

Still, I have been thinking about what she said. She said she’d grown up going to church, and perhaps that is how she knew that the church is the place to go when you have nothing and need help. As I have thought about her, I have wondered how many people are out there who are in a similar place in life. How many of our neighbors have nothing and need help? There is no way to know, but I like the idea that on Saturday we are going to people before they come to a place of having absolutely nothing. I hope you’ll join us for Inasmuch United, and I hope the day will inspire all of us to embrace a missional faith.

Grace and Peace,
David
In the world of ministry and theology, we lost two great thinkers and leaders this week. Both Dr. Diana Garland and Phyllis Tickle passed away after separate battles with cancer. You may not recognize their names, and I don’t claim to be a personal friend or even an expert on their lives, but their impact on modern philosophies of ministry was great.

Garland was an advocate for bringing together social work and theological education, insisting that the two could coexist and learn a lot from each other. Though this belief cost her job from Southern Seminary in 1995, she was hired at Truett Seminary at Baylor, where she expanded their social work program to the point that they created a separate School of Social Work in 2005, named after her. Her advocacy for bringing together theology and practice remains an inspiration both to the field of social work and to churches.

Tickle was an author and lecturer who focused on spirituality, religion, and the Emergent church movement. While she was best known for starting the religion section of Publishers Weekly, her writings and lectures made her a leading voice in the world of spirituality, as she observed and analyzed the changing religious landscape. All of her work was supported by her firm belief that Christianity cannot and will not die.

The determination, intellect, imagination, and creativity of these women were an inspiration to many ministers, academics, lay leaders, social workers, and students over the years. Even in an era when female leaders and voices were not as prevalent in the religious world, they pushed forward, following their calls to teach and lead and inspire others. And for that, I am grateful.

Erin

“A well-known American writer said once that, while everybody talked about the weather, nobody seemed to do anything about it.” -Charles Dudley Warner

Planning only takes us so far. We can plan for just about anything, but we cannot control everything, especially the weather. This is especially frustrating when the time comes for a big event that we have invested much time and energy into.

Please be in prayer for Inasmuch on Saturday. While rain won’t cause delays in our indoor missions, we may have to postpone activities such as gathering firewood and building ramps. The danger in putting things off is in losing volunteers, which not only deprives workers of the joy of helping someone else, but also potentially deprives a senior citizen of firewood to heat their house with this winter.

Worrying about the weather, however, gets us nowhere. So let’s take the time to thank God for the blessings of weather. Variety is the spice of life, and at long last we are experiencing something other than oppressive heat. Bring on the cooler, shorter days, and bring on the rain!

Doug

Preparing for Sunday...

“Jesus’ In Crowd”
Mark 9:38-50

Jesus’ disciples are upset in this Sunday’s text and they tell Jesus all about it. They noticed a man casting out demons in Jesus name who was not “following us.” The disciples thought they are the only ones sanctioned to cast out demons, but Jesus tells them to let the man be because whoever is not against us is for us. The disciples learn that Jesus’ In Crowd is much larger than they knew. Grace and power is not limited to just the people we know or those who do things exactly the way we do it.

Flu Shot Clinic
September 27th—8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Open to anyone 14 years of age or older.
A variety of insurance plans will be accepted.
For the Record
Budgeted 2015 ...................... $775,000.00
Needed per week............... $14,903.85
Received 8/23/15 ................. $6,413.00
Yearly need to date .......... $566,346.15
Received to date ............... $499,464.14
Over (Under) Budget ......... ($66,882.01)

Inasmuch Project Giving
Operation Christmas Child ... $2,269.21
Kids Against Hunger ......... $3,457.00
Sunday School Attendance — 232

CBF Missionaries, Kim & Marc Wyatt, will be sharing about their ministry in the Research Triangle at our
Missions Banquet, October 7th
6:00 p.m. in Cherry Fellowship Hall.

Beloved, 
Be Love
CBF NC Children’s Mission Day

Join us for a one-day mission event for 1st-3rd grade children!
November 14, 2015
Zebulon Baptist Church, Zebulon, NC

Cost is $15 per child.
Sign up with Erin Collier by October 14th!

After School Bible Study
(4th-6th grade)

During the month of October, there will be a Bible study offered on
Tuesday afternoons from 4-5 for children in 4th-6th grade. We will
use the Becoming Like Christ curriculum, which includes
opportunities to talk about faith commitments and baptism.

If you have a child in that age group who would like to participate,
please e-mail Erin Collier at erincollier@fblumbertonnc.org, to sign
up.

Deacon Election Sunday
is October 4th!

Absentee Deacon Ballots will be available in the church office during
regular business hours—
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 28– Friday, Oct. 2.

Robeson Co. Church & Community Center presents

A TASTE OF ROBESON
September 28 & 29, 2015
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
At Hyde Park Baptist Church

Tickets: Adults $10, Children 12 & Under $5,
Children under 3 Free
Call 738-5204 for more information.
Memorial Gifts—August 23-September 6

Endowment Trust
In memory of Erwin Williams given by:
Sam Britt

In memory of Tommy, Joyce & Jamie Wellington given by:
The J. N. Britt Family
Mary Britt
Rodney & Carol Musselwhite
Sam Britt
Ruth Britt
William & Virginia Webb
Bobbie Britt
Janis Biggs

In memory of Tommy & Joyce Wellington given by:
Frances Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chrestman
Joey & Susan Dunlow
The Ladies Fellowship Sunday School Class

In memory of Tommy Wellington given by:
H. J. & Sylvia Edwards
Gertie Ballou

General Fund Memorial
In memory of Dr. John Richard Bailey given by:
Bobbie Britt

In memory of Charles Owings given by:
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Powers

In memory of Erwin Williams given by:
Billie Driscoll

In memory of Esther Jackson given by:
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Powers

In memory of Tommy Wellington given by:
H. J. & Sylvia Edwards
Mary Louise Blake
H.J. & Sylvia Edwards

In memory of Frances Britt given by:
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Powers

In memory of Tommy Wellington given by:
H. J. & Sylvia Edwards

In memory of Sally Horne given by:
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Powers

In memory of Sue Stanton given by:
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Powers

Echoes of Robeson’s Bicentennial Audio Tracks Available.

Al Kahn’s Robeson Remembers Audio and Print Series is offering selected audio tracks featuring the history of Robeson County. A list of the guest speakers and topics along with ordering information is available in the church office.

Family Night Supper Menus—October 2015

October 7—Missions Banquet—Red Ticket:—Barbecued Chicken, Baked Potatoes, String Beans, Rolls, Sugar-Free Apple Pie
Blue Ticket: Chicken Nuggets, Chips, Fruit

October 14—Spaghetti, String Beans, Texas Toast, Salad, Strawberry Shortcake, Sugar-free Lemon Pie

October 21—Red Ticket: Ribs, Scalloped Potatoes, Field Peas, Biscuits, Salad, Mini Chocolate Lava Cake, Sugar-free Peach Pie
Blue Ticket: Pizza Chips Fruit

October 28—Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries, Chocolate Chip Cookies