



Bill Henderson, Larry Pressley, Sandra Henderson, Meg Tillery, and Laura Spearman are ready to lend a helping hand at the White Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 7, 2014.



THE INTERIM

Volume 71 Issue 26

December 14, 2014

What's In a Name?

■ Roger Gilbert *Interim Pastor*

In our American culture we generally give a name to our child because it is a family name or because we just like the sound of the name. I suspect the same happened to some degree in the ancient biblical world, but we also know that names were often given to children because the meaning of the name reflected either some circumstance surrounding the birth or some expectation of what the child would do or become. In scripture, we have numerous examples of this practice. It is especially apparent when a person's name is changed.

In Genesis 17 we read of God's renewal of His covenant with Abram. That covenant was begun when Abram was 75 years old (Genesis 12). Abram is 99 years old, and he is not yet the father of the son God had promised 24 years earlier. He is now told his name Abram, which means "exalted father," will be changed to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude" (Genesis 17:5).

Abraham's grandson is named Jacob (Genesis 25:26) which means "supplanter" or "one who takes by the heel." That name is given because he was born holding onto the heel of his brother Esau. The implication was that Jacob was trying to take the place of his brother in order to obtain the advantages of being the first-born. Jacob lived up to the name by cheating his brother out of both his birthright and the father's blessing. He was also a trickster in that he deceived his father-in-law Laban. Years later, after an all-night wrestling match at the river Jabbok, his opponent (a man? an angel? God?) told him his name would be changed to Israel, which means "one who strives with God" (Genesis 32:28).

In Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush, he asked God what he was to say when the Israelites in Egypt asked about the name of this God who sent him. God answered, "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). God went on to say, "Tell them I AM sent me to you." Students of the scriptures have seen the obvious connection to the "I Am" statements of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John. Those seven statements are as follows: I am the bread of life (6:35, 48); I am the light of the world (8:12; 9:5); I am the gate or door (10:7, 9); I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14); I am the resurrection and the life (11:25); I am the way, the truth and the life (14:6); I am the vine (15:1, 5).

These are only a few of the many scriptures in which a name carries special meaning. It becomes apparent that when emphasis is given to a particular name in the bible, the serious student will want to seek to understand what is being communicated. In the birth narrative found in Matthew 1:18-25, Joseph is instructed to name the newborn child "Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." The name "Jesus" means "God saves." To paraphrase, Joseph was told to name the baby "God-saves" because that is what he will do. Matthew next says that all this is to fulfill prophecy that a child is to be born and he is to be named "Emmanuel" which means "God with us." The name "Jesus" tells us WHAT he will do, and the name "Emmanuel" tells us WHO he is! To reverse the order, this child born to Mary is God with us to save us from our sins.

This Sunday morning the text for the sermon will be Matthew 1:18-25. I encourage you to devote some time between now and Sunday in study and reflection on what these names mean for us and all humanity.

 *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. Luke 2:15-16

Schedule

Sunday, December 14

8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Deacon Ministry Team Meeting

Monday, December 15

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

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Senior Adult Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus in Wytheville, Va.
 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 17

5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (BBQ Chicken, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, & Dessert)
 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study - FLC
 5:45 p.m. Children's & Student Activities
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, December 18

8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, December 19

12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, December 21

8:30 p.m. Early Worship - FLC
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m. "What Sweeter Music" Sanctuary Choir Christmas Concert & Cookie Social

Monday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 23

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

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 10:55 a.m. Joint Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, December 29

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

Tuesday, December 30

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

Wednesday, December 31

No Evening Activities

Thursday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

Friday, January 2

Church Office Closed

Spiritual Statistics

Week of December 7, 2014

Church in Bible Study 153
 Church in Worship 294
 8:30 a.m. service 102
 10:55 a.m. service 192

Financial Statistics

Week of December 7, 2014

	12/7
Budget - Received	\$11,950.00
Alms	708.18
Designated - Received	1,968.00
Building Reserve - Received	50.00

International & Global Missions Offering

Global Missions - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
 \$550.00

International Mission - Southern Baptist Convention
 \$60.00

TOTAL: \$610.00

GOAL: \$15,000

TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 12/7/14	14,676.18
Budget for 2014-2015	865,070.00
Budget Received-Year to Date	161,853.17
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded	703,216.83
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date	17,249.14
Alms Received-Year to Date	1,986.96
Building Reserve-Year to Date	5300.00
Total Giving-Year to Date	184,297.41

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

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. You can sign up by visiting venturestudents.org and clicking the link on the right. It is very important we get an accurate number of who will be attending so we can have enough food and transportation. Details about what to bring and what to wear at venturestudents.org

Children's Ministry

Christmas Music Program Practice Saturday, December 20, 2014

The Children's Choir will be practicing for the Christmas Music Program on Saturday December 20th. They need to be in the Sanctuary at 11:30 on Saturday to practice with the Adult Choir.

"What Sweeter Music" Christmas Choir Concert Sunday, December 21, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Parents - If you are singing in the choir and need childcare that day please contact Melissa Wilson at 704.873.7231, ext. 308 or e-mail melissa@statesvillefbc.org. I will be there for childcare, but need to know if I need additional help.

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.



Prayer Point

What do you want for Christmas? All the gifts that really matter—only those that will satisfy for eternity—can be obtained through prayer, by merely knocking at Mercy's door.

"O my soul, knock hard today, and ask large things of thy generous Lord. Leave not the throne of grace till all thy wants have been spread before the Lord, and until by faith thou hast a comfortable prospect that they shall be all supplied. No bashfulness need retard when Jesus invites. No unbelief should hinder when Jesus promises. No cold-heartedness should restrain when such blessings are to be obtained."
(Charles H. Spurgeon, 1834-1892. "Morning and Evening")

Let's ask for the "good" things this Christmas—the things that will satisfy, the things that will last (love, joy, peace, forgiveness, generosity, humility, kindness). These are the things our gracious God is only too happy to give.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

News From the Adult Ministry Team

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the Adult Ministry Team, we would like to tell you a little of what we have been doing over the last four months. We chose multiple areas to concentrate on and progress has been made in each one:

1. The Caring Team that now is comprised of a Visitation ministry having regular contact with our shut-ins and ill members, as well as the Caring Committee continuing to minister to those who have lost loved ones. Both arms of this team are doing an amazing job of ministering to the lonely, ill, and hurting here at FBC.
2. The Senior Ministry continues to have excellent monthly meetings and they have renewed a commitment to outreach into the community to invite friends, neighbors and strangers living in the surrounding area to their functions. We anticipate a Senior Weekday Bible study starting in early 2015.
3. Plans to expand Wednesday Night services have been developed to include a Discipleship series aimed at equipping believers in areas that are foundational to our faith. This will be a smaller class setting allowing for more interaction and will run simultaneously to the Pastor's Bible study. Our hope and prayer is this just another way individuals may grow stronger as a disciple of Christ. Be watching for sign ups soon as the first series, based on survey results, will be about learning to study God's Word and enjoy it using "40 Days in the Word" as our curriculum.
4. Our small group ministry at FBC is now called Journey Groups as individuals involved are committed to journeying through life's ups and downs together, sharing a genuine community. The first group of six couples started meeting in October enjoying fellowship, studying God's Word and prayer together. We anticipate splitting into several groups in the future to multiply availability for those who desire to become part of a Journey community.
5. In the weeks to come please be watching for pre-recorded video & audio testimonies that will be given by members who are willing to share what God is and has been doing in their lives recently. These will be called "God Sightings" and we ask any member who is willing to share to please contact someone on our team to schedule an interview. It is so encouraging for the body to see how God is actively working among us. Our goal is to glorify God through these testimonies, so please join us in doing so.
6. Many aspects to reinvigorating Sunday School are being worked on as well, so be on the lookout for these in the near future.
7. We are planning a "Season of Prayer" around Lent and details will be forthcoming. As a team we feel strongly that if we are to be a spiritually growing church, we must be an actively praying church! We hope each of you will participate.
8. Precept Bible Study will be offered starting in January for those who desire, with both a daytime and nighttime class available.

As you can see there are numerous opportunities for each of us to be growing in our faith as disciples, as well as, being disciple-makers by reaching inside and outside these church walls, bringing others to a greater knowledge of our Savior.

In Christ's Love,
Kellie Faulk with the entire Adult Ministry Team (David Lewis, Dan Mills, Ralph Bentley, Pat McMillan, Chuck Heckel, & our deacon rep, Ginny Stikeleather)



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

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

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Announcements

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Dianne Parker in the death of her mother Kathleen "Buddie" Ledford of Clinton, SC on December 5, 2014.

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Mike Edwards in the death of his mother Shirley Edwards on December 6, 2014.

A Note of Appreciation From the Family of Frances Fincannon

The family of Frances Fincannon acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy. Thank you for remembering our mother with the beautiful floral spray.

Sincerely,
Art and Lori Fincannon

Cookie Social To Follow Christmas Choir Concert Sunday, December 21, 2014 Adams Hall

After the Christmas Choir Cantata, we will have a wonderful time of fellowship at the Cookie Social in Adams Hall. Please bring your favorite Christmas goodies to share! The concert "What Sweeter Music" will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will be followed by the Cookie Social in Adams Hall. Please join us in this wonderful time as we celebrate the Christmas season together!

Joint Worship Service Sunday, December 28, 2014

Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. followed by a joint worship service at 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Heaven, Hell, & Life After Death Bible Study Begins in January

Many people are intrigued by what lies beyond death's door, but we live in an age bombarded with many conflicting views. How can we be sure of what is true? Discover what God says about death, dying, and life after death. Join us for our six week Precept Bible Study Tuesday, January 6, 6-8 pm or Wednesday, January 7, 9:30-11:30 am. Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center by December 21.

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, December 14

Eddy Sipe	John Garland	Shannon Ashley
Pat Rushton	Nancy Garland	Jean & Dan Mills

Sunday, December 21

Bill Henderson	Gary Fyfe	James McNeil
Chris Buckner	Patricia Fyfe	Wilma McNeil
Matthew Waugh	Butch Price	Stan Williams

Sunday, December 28

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

Acolytes Sunday, December 14

Piper Lewis & Darbee Lewis

Sunday, December 21

Emily Ashley & Nicole Osborne

Sunday, December 28

William Simon & Georgiana Simon

Coffee Rotation Sunday, December 14

Dan & Jean Mills

Sunday, December 21

David Potter

Sunday, December 28

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

Holiday Schedule for The Interim

The next issue of The Interim will be published Sunday, January 4, 2015. Please have any submissions for that issue turned in to Kayley Potter by Tuesday, December 30, 2014.