



THE INTERIM

Luke Williams made a profession of faith at the 10:55 a.m. worship service March 6, 2016.



Volume 73 Issue 6

March 13, 2016

From the Pastor...



Easter is almost here and our Lenten journey is drawing to an end. Easter is the most hopeful event of all of history and greatest celebration for all Christians! As such, we are making plans at First Baptist Church for a wonderful Easter worship followed by a special Eastertide preaching series – The Power of Easter!

I'm excited about Easter, but I know there is work to do before we get there. I'm not talking about all the details that go into Easter worship, but rather the spiritual preparation that makes Easter more meaningful. In other words, we need to finish Lent well in order to go onto a joyous Easter.

Walking with Jesus through Holy Week prepares us for Easter. Palm Sunday reminds us that it is easier to shout hosanna than to live out our faith. Maundy Thursday helps us remember that we are loved and called to love. Good Friday reveals the cost of our salvation and our call to engage the suffering of life.

I hope you will join us for a wonderful Easter celebration on March 27. For it to be the most meaningful, I hope you will stay in Lent a couple of more weeks. Walk the Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary. Observe Communion with your church family Maundy Thursday. Participate in the Community Good Friday Service.

Remember, we cannot truly understand the power of the resurrection until we recognize the depth of Christ's love upon the cross.

- Dr. Nelson Granade, *Senior Pastor*

Upcoming Sermons

Sunday, March 13, 2016

Dying for Growth

John 12:20-33

Jesus noted that a single grain can bear much fruit, but only if it is buried first. Jesus then went to the grave so that we might have eternal life. This sermon will call First Baptist Church to consider how we must "die" so that we might bear fruit.

Sunday, March 20, 2016

What Are You Doing?

Mark 11:1-11

Palm Sunday had a lot of activity. People were lined up praising Jesus because they wanted someone to "do something for them." Jesus, however, was focused on doing God's work of redemption. We too get caught up in the business of life. This sermon is to remind us that Lent is a season to slow down and consider "what we are doing."

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast ~ Family Life Center

10:55 a.m. Worship ~ Sanctuary

No 8:30 a.m. Service or Sunday School



Schedule

Sunday, March 13

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Concert to Benefit ICM - First Presbyterian Church
- 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, March 14

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

Tuesday, March 15

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, March 16

- 9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal - FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study - FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, March 17

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - FLC
- 11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon - FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, March 18

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

Saturday, March 19

- 7:00 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Sunday, March 20 - Palm Sunday

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

Monday, March 21

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

Tuesday, March 22

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga - FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, March 23

- 9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal - FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study - FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, March 24

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga
- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 6:00 p.m. Maunday Thursday Service

Friday, March 25

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym
- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Community Service - First ARP Church

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 28 & March 6, 2016

	2/28	
Church in Bible Study	127	108
Church in Worship	215	227
8:30 a.m. service	63	65
10:55 a.m. service	152	162

Financial Statistics

Weeks of February 28 & March 6, 2016

	2/28	
Budget - Received	8,431.05	19,380.65
Alms	0.00	616.00
Designated - Received	475.00	665.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 2/28/16		9,506.05
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 3/6/16		20,811.65
Budget for 2015-2016		893,174.00
Weekly Budget Needed		17,176.42
Budget Needs To Date		395,057.73
Budget Given to Date		397,842.19
Budget Ahead		2,784.46
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		46,853.43
Alms Received-Year to Date		4,446.50
Total Giving-Year to Date		458,888.12
Sound System Fund		9,795.00

FBC's Got Talent Saturday, April 9, 2016

Save the date! Don't miss FBC's talent show and dinner – a fundraiser for the Belize mission trip. If you would like to perform, reserve your spot in the show by calling Lynn Barker 704-657-0840. This will be a night of fun, fellowship, and laughter. There will also be a men's cake contest. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Dr. Larry Gregg.....Interim Minister of Christian Education
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

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

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The Meaning of Holy Week

The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important events in the entire scriptural narrative. These days feature not only the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper, and crucifixion but also poignant prayers and prophetic teachings of our Lord. John's gospel devotes eight of its 21 chapters to this week alone! The week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday and ends with the "three days" (also called the Triduum, from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter Day), the period during which all Christians mark Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection.

The first Sunday of Holy Week is commonly called either "Palm Sunday" or "Passion Sunday." Those who call it "Palm Sunday" tend to focus on the entry of Christ into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9). Those who refer to the day as "Passion Sunday" tend to focus on Jesus' suffering. This is especially appropriate in contexts in which participation in midweek services on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday is difficult or minimal, and, as a result, worshipers would sing "Hosanna" on one Sunday and "Christ arose" on the next, with little attention to Jesus' suffering and death in between.

For congregations that celebrate the day as Palm Sunday, like we at First Baptist Statesville do, it's important to capture the irony of the day. This is the day on which Jesus entered the city in triumph as a part of his journey to the cross. Yet, it is also the week in which the crowd's cries of "Hosanna" would soon turn to "Crucify Him!"

On Maundy Thursday the Church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with His disciples in the upper room before His arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three key events in

Jesus' last week: His washing of His disciple's feet, His institution of the Lord's Supper, and His new commandment to love one another. The name "Maundy Thursday" comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, referring to the "new commandment" Jesus taught His disciples (John 13:34). In other words, this is "new commandment Thursday."

Good Friday marks the death of Jesus Christ. It's called "good" because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption of the world. Worship on this day may focus on three aims: (1) to narrate and remember the events of Jesus' death, (2) to open up the meaning of these events for our understanding of God and the redemption accomplished by the cross, and (3) to invite worshipers to renewed prayer and dedication.

On Easter all the hopes and expectations of Christians are realized in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, making Easter the most celebrative day of the church year.

The Easter morning service is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal. Even churches that do not customarily follow the church year celebrate this day as the culmination of all that the gospel is about.

Because the good news of Easter can hardly be contained in a single day's celebration, Easter is only the first of 50 days of Eastertide, the "Great Fifty Days" that lead up to Pentecost. This season is designed for extended celebration, for exploring the ramifications of Easter for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living.

James Martin, *Minister of Music & Worship*

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and the prayers Christians say when contemplating those images. The Stations of the Cross are also called the *Via Dolorosa* or Way of Suffering. In Jerusalem the *Via Dolorosa* is believed by many to be the actual path that Jesus walked, and the stations there, the actual places the events occurred.

Often a series of 14 images will be arranged in numbered order around a church sanctuary or along a path, and the faithful travel from image to image, in order, stopping at each "station" to say the selected prayers and reflections. This may be done individually or in groups.

The tradition of moving around the Stations to commemorate the Passion of Christ began with St. Francis of Assisi and extended through the medieval period to the present. It is most commonly done during Lent, especially on Good Friday, but also on other days as well. - Adopted from Wikipedia.

Please stop by the church during regular office hours the week of Holy Week. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be set up in the Sanctuary.

- Larry Gregg, *Interim Minister of Christian Education*

Holy Week at FBC

The Stations of the Cross will be in the Sanctuary with guides for individual worship.

Sunday, March 20, 2016
Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 24, 2016
Maundy Thursday Service
6:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

Friday, March 25, 2016
Community Good Friday Service
First ARP Church
Dr. Nelson Granada will deliver the sermon

Sunday, March 27, 2016
Easter Sunday
Brunch
9:30 a.m. ~ Family Life Center
Worship
10:55 a.m. ~ Sanctuary



Message by: **Dr. Nelson Granade**

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

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Announcements

Weekday Preschool Registration Now Underway

Our Weekday Preschool began fall registration on Tuesday, March 1. Current families and church members are guaranteed placement if forms are submitted before open registration begins on March 14. If you have, or know of, a child who will be around 18 months to 5 years old by August 31, please contact Renae Keesbury, Director, for further information. She can be reached weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and noon at 704-873-7231, ext. 209 or at renae@statesvillefnc.org.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:00 a.m. ~ FLC

This month's meeting will be on St. Patrick's Day, and the program will feature the talents of some of our own senior adults as well as others. There will be soloists, trumpets, dulcimers, spoons, and even a harmonica so be prepared to enjoy some great music, good food, and lots of fellowship. To reserve your seat, call the church at 704-873-7231. Cost of the meal to be served at noon is \$6.00 at the door. Remember to wear green.



Habitat For Humanity Work Day Saturday, March 19, 2016 7:00 a.m.

FBC will have a service day for Habitat For Humanity. We will be siding and sheathing a home on Progress Lane. Please call the church office at 704-873-7231 or David Potter at 704-657-7227 to sign up.

Precept Bible Study

It's time to begin signing up for Precept Bible Study, the Gospel of John, part 2. JOHN, PART 1 IS NOT A PREREQUISITE FOR JOHN, PART 2! You can begin at any point. We will begin on April 5 (Tuesday, 6 pm-8 pm), and April 6 (Wednesday, 9:30 am-11:30 am). Both classes are the same, so if you miss one you can attend the other. The target dates for finishing are May 31 and June 1. If you haven't yet participated in Precept, we invite you to discover the joy of digging out the truths of scripture for yourself. Please sign up in the Welcome Center today!

Coffee Rotation Sunday, March 13

Melissa Wilson

Sunday, March 20

David Potter

Clothes Closet Rotation Thursday, March 17

Phil Crowder & Jesse Jackson

Thursday, March 24

Mac Funderburk & Jeff Templeton

Welcome to Our Church Family!

Ginny Devine joined our congregation by a statement of faith at the 10:55 a.m. worship service Sunday, March 6.

Luke Williams made a profession of faith at the 10:55 a.m. worship service Sunday, March 6 and is a candidate for baptism.

Sign Up For Your Church Directory Photo!

We are in the process of putting together a new church directory. Portraits will be taken Mondays, April 11 & 18 and Wednesday, April 13. To sign up, please see Kaye Daniel Sundays, March 13, 20, & 27, 9:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center or 10:30 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. at the Welcome Center. You may also sign up Wednesdays evenings before or after bible study or through our website, www.statesvillefbc.org.

Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Begins Sunday, March 13

Be sure to set your clocks one hour ahead! Don't be late for church this Sunday!

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 26, 2016 10:00 a.m. ~ Family Life Center

Please join us for a morning full of fun and fellowship! We will begin in the Family Life Center for a story and cookies. We will then move to the church lawn to hunt for eggs! In the event of rain, we will hunt the eggs in the gym. Please invite all your friends! We need help filling the eggs with goodies. Please pick some eggs to fill with candy at the Welcome Center!

