



Long time member Vernelle Herrin will move to Maryland to be closer to her family. Many attended a party in her honor on March 14.



THE INTERIM

Volume 72 Issue 7

Holy Week

■ **Roger Gilbert**
Interim Pastor

All through history, civilizations have sought ways to commemorate important movements and events. Monuments are built and holidays are declared as ways to keep alive the memory and importance of events and people in the past. Unfortunately, there is a tendency for historical monuments to become mere decorations and commemorative holidays to become just holidays. We are a wiser people if we not only remember our history but also learn lessons from the past that guide us in the future.

The above is important to remember as we move toward Palm Sunday and Holy Week. There is a rich historical background to the day we call Palm Sunday. The week of Passover was approaching and, for the Jewish people, Passover commemorated the liberation of the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. For many at that time, this holiday season was made even more significant by the fact that they were currently under the domination of the Roman Empire. How they longed for a new liberator!

There were those who believed that Jesus just might be that liberator. After all, in addition to a number of other miracles, he had recently raised Lazarus from the dead. Was that not a clear sign that he was God's anointed to lead a victorious rebellion over the Romans? And what a ripe time for Jesus to do something decisive that would declare his identity and intent. The city would be filled with enthusiastic visitors who had come to celebrate Passover. Their religious and nationalistic zeal would be at a peak. As Jesus rode into the city his actions stirred up another historical memory. About two

hundred years earlier Judas Maccabeus had led a victory parade into the city after a decisive defeat of the Syrian oppressors. The people were delighted to recall the past and identify Jesus as the next political liberator. They greeted his arrival in the same way they had greeted Judas Maccabeus two centuries earlier. They sang and waved palm branches and spread their coats on the road as a "red carpet" welcome.

What they failed to recognize was that in at least two significant ways Jesus was decisively different. First, he rode into the city on a donkey not a war stallion. When a king visited his people on a donkey it was a clear sign that he came in peace, not as a declaration of war. Second, Jesus' ministry called for a genuine turning toward God as the sovereign King of life, which would birth an inner conversion, which in turn would produce lives characterized by love for others. He had not come to lead a political insurrection but a spiritual transformation.

The crowd that cheered for Jesus that day could not imagine that in five brief days Jesus would be executed on a cruel cross. The hopes and dreams of the disciples were crushed by that tragic turn of events. But the whirlwind had just begun! On Sunday the darkest tragedy was transformed into the brightest of joys. Death was conquered by Resurrection! Despair was transformed into hope! The cross, a symbol of shame and defeat, was transformed into a symbol of glory and victory.

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are not just dates on the calendar. Palm branches are not just embellishments in a parade. Crosses are not just ornaments. They are graphic reminders that the historical events of the past have powerful meaning for the present and for eternity.

Holy Week at FBC

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 29, 2015
8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 2, 2015
6:00 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

Good Friday Community Service
Friday, April 3, 2015
12:00 p.m.
Forest Park Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 5, 2015
9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast - FLC
10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Schedule

Sunday, March 29 ~ Revelation 10-14

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, March 30 ~ Revelation 15-18

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

Tuesday, March 31 ~ Revelation 19-22

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

Wednesday, April 1 ~ Genesis 1-3

- 9:30 a.m. Precepts Bible Study - Adams Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, & dessert)
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, April 2 ~ Genesis 4-7

- 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service - Sanctuary
- 8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, April 3 ~ Genesis 8-11

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym
- 12:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Service - Forest Park Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 4 ~ Job 1-5

- 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt - Gym

Sunday, April 5 ~ Job 6-8

Happy Easter!

- 9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch - FLC
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, April 6 ~ Job 10-13

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, April 7 ~ Job 14-16

- 6:00 p.m. Yoga - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, April 8 ~ Job 17-20

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, April 9 ~ Job 21-23

- 8:00 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, April 10 ~ Job 24-28

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

Saturday, April 11 ~ Job 29-31

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of March 15 & 22, 2015

3/15

Church in Bible Study	112	114
Church in Worship	217	217
8:30 a.m. service	59	78
10:55 a.m. service	158	139

Financial Statistics

Weeks of March 15 & 22, 2015

3/15

Budget - Received	\$20,728.48	\$8,550.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	1,036.50	2,192.00
Building Reserve - Received	50.00	25.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 3/15/15		21,814.98
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 3/8/15		10,767.00

North American Missions Offering

North American Missions - Southern Baptist Convention

\$75.00

Global Missions - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

\$0.00

TOTAL: \$75.00 GOAL: \$8,000

Budget for 2014-2015	865,070.00
Budget Received-Year to Date	462,843.31
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded	396,226.69
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date	48,399.20
Alms Received-Year to Date	3,947.96
Building Reserve-Year to Date	8,672.00
Total Giving-Year to Date	521,751.53

The Living Cross

Please bring fresh flowers on Easter Sunday, April 5 for the living cross. The cross will be decorated in the Sanctuary during the breakfast hour. Please drop your flowers by before you head to breakfast.

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Roger Gilbert	Interim Pastor
Mr. James Martin	Minister of Music & Worship
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

Don't Mumble ~ Pray!

Brother Lawrence called himself the "lord of all pots and pans." He wrote, "The time of busy-ness does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon knees at the blessed sacrament."

Does your busy life sometimes cause you to react to the many demands of your day by mumbling under your breath or responding to others in an angry tone?

Talk to God, always. It makes more sense to talk to God than mumble to yourself or pour out your frustration on someone else. ("... and the peace of God which passes all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7)

A Letter From Jerry Campbell

For the past two years I have served as chairperson for the diaconate, chair of the interim team and again chair of the new deacon team. As you know a lot has happened in this time period. For me it has been a roller coaster as we descended into a congregational valley of loss, mistrust, and misunderstandings. We have worked our way through much of that with a renewed focus on God, on prayer, and a lot of hard work to bring back a focused renewal in leadership, in vision, and a focus on a loving worship and fellowship as a congregation.

I believe that we are a congregation working toward becoming God's church rather than my church or our church. We have a strong ministerial staff with Dr. Roger Gilbert, who is doing an excellent job as interim, James Martin and Melissa Wilson who are covering many more tasks than called for in their job description. Our secretarial and maintenance staff are in place and committed to their areas of work. We have deacons in place who are operating as servant leaders and seven teams who are meeting regularly to carry out their part of the vision we adopted last year.

Things are taking place. Positive changes are being made. The search team is working hard. A new team is doing an outstanding job of reaching out to shut-ins. A team is working on a plan to help new church members move into full fellowship. Several new teams are to begin work in just a few weeks. Some of you will be asked to use your gift to help out on one or more of the teams.

We still have things to do. We still need to work on our outreach. We still need to practice more focused corporate and individual prayer. We still need to focus more on getting to know each other and to learn more about loving each other.

We still need to work on our stewardship. Too many of us are still withholding our tithe until the new preacher comes. Too many of us are only giving through designated offerings. Too many of us are taking our offerings with us when we go out of town. I hope if you are one of these you will pray about it. If you are not tithing I ask that you pray about that. We are at the time of year when our offerings are lower and our expenses are up. Pray about that and how you might be able to help.

The last two years serving as chairperson have been a learning time for me. It has also been a somewhat difficult time and a lot of responsibility. Pat and I have both had health issues that are now requiring more of our time and energy. At the last deacon meeting I asked to step down as chairperson due to upcoming medical treatments for the next few months. Instead the deacon team asked me to remain as chair and asked Dr. Hersey Miller to serve as Acting Chairperson.

The focus of the deacon team will be the same, a lot of prayer, discussions of the adopted vision, how we can support the staff and teams, and more importantly how can we serve and lead God's Church in the direction He would have us go.

Jerry Campbell

Children's Ministry

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fundraiser or supported the children's Ministry by attending. It was a very successful fundraiser and will make it more affordable for the children to attend camp!

VBS Craft Day

Our Next VBS craft day is scheduled for March 28 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We will have activities for all ages and skill levels! We will be working in the craft room, please enter at the main entrance near Adams Hall.

Family Lent Kit

I hope your family has enjoyed the Family Lent Kit! If it got set aside during the busyness of life, it is not too late to pull it out and have some fun. Play a game of memory with the matching cards or surprise your neighbors by "Egging" their house.

Children's Choir Notes

The Children's Choir will help lead in worship at the 11:00 service on March 29 & April 26. Please make every effort to have your child at these services, so they can help lead the worship.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg hunt will be Saturday April 4 at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the Family Life Center for a story and a snack before we divide into age groups to hunt the eggs. Can't wait to see you there!

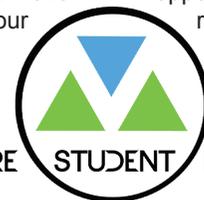
FBC Preschool News

We are pleased to announce that our weekday preschool program will begin its 50th year in September. This fall we are expanding our academic program by adding the preschool level of LETTERLAND, which is the phonics program used by Iredell-Statesville Schools. We are also looking into using a more structured music program. We are currently accepting registrations for children who will be 18 months to age 5 in September. If you have, or know of, a child this age, please contact Renae Keesbury, Preschool Director, for information and forms. The number is 704-873-7231, ext. 209 or you can contact her by e-mail at renae@statesvillefbc.org.

Student Ministry

Reminder that Look Up Lodge payments are due by April 5. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at melissa@statesvillefbc.org or on my cell 828-499-0676.

Good things are happening on Wednesday Nights & Sunday mornings! Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow in Christ and go deeper in your relationship with Him!



VENTURE STUDENT MINISTRY



Announcements

Christian Sympathy...

...is extended to Allen & Jaye Lippard on the death of their daughter Fonda Lindley on March 14, 2015.

Christian Sympathy...

...is extended to Dewey & Louise Taylor on the death of their son, Dewey Taylor Jr. on March 25, 2015.

A Note of Appreciation From Allen & Jaye Lippard

Dear Church Family,
We thank you for the cards, calls, visits, and support in this time of our loss. Thank you also for the care basket.

With our gratitude,
Allen & Jaye Lippard

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4, 2015 10:00 a.m. ~ Gym

Our annual Easter egg hunt is quickly approaching. Please invite all your friends! We will begin with a story and snack. We will then divide into groups for the hunt!

FBC's Homebound Ministry

DO YOU KNOW?

We have approximately 35 members of our church that are homebound, either in nursing facilities or at home with caregivers.

DO YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE BEING MINISTERED TO?

We have 15 very dedicated volunteers who visit them monthly and deliver a magazine "Mature Living". Upon request they also receive quarterly Sunday School literature and either "Open Windows" or "Reflections". These are a daily devotional guides. All of these is provided by our fabulous church.

HOW CAN I KNOW WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE?

Each Wednesday night (Fellowship Hall) and each Sunday morning (Welcome Center) we will feature five of these people with a short paragraph and picture. This will be on a rotating basis, so check it each week.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Pretty note cards will be available so you can write an encouraging note. Leave it on the counter by their picture and they will be mailed out weekly. Can you imagine how that will lift their spirits? Just hearing from their church family will make their day.

RECEIVE A BLESSING!!!

Now if you really want to make their day, take the time to give them a call or a visit. I can guarantee you will receive a blessing and add a smile to their face. They will welcome more than one visit a month.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in making this program a success for these homebound members that have meant so much to our church.

Worship Greeters Sunday, April 5

Chris Simon Jeff Templeton David Lewis
Chuck Heckel Jason Allen

Acolytes Sunday, March 29

Elizabeth Allen & Ryan Johnson

Sunday, April 5

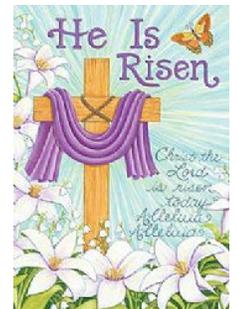
Sam Buckner & Luke Williams

Coffee Rotation Sunday, March 29

Melissa Wilson

Easter Flags

Easter is a glorious time of celebration for the church! Let's express the joy, hope and good news of the Resurrection with our neighbors and community in a unique way. This Sunday (after both services) at the Welcome Center we will be selling a beautiful two-sided garden size Easter flag with stand showing the cross and the words: He Is Risen. We will put these flags in our yards on Easter Sunday morning and leave them up for at least two weeks. As a church family we can share the real reason we celebrate Easter. Save your flags and stands for next year as we want to make this an annual display to encourage our community. The requested donation for the flag with stand (only sold together) is \$20.00. There is a limited quantity available this Sunday. Hurry and get your flag to display on Easter Sunday morning, April 5.



FBC Services Broadcast on Cable Channel 20

Our Sunday morning services are broadcast on cable channel 20 Sundays at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Please be sure to tune in if you are unable to attend on Sunday mornings.