

The Presbyterian Home Band performs at the Senior Adult Luncheon April 16, 2015
These musicians use all homemade instruments.



THE INTERIM

Volume 72 Issue 9

“I Am Who I Am”

■ **Roger Gilbert**
Interim Pastor

The sermon for this past Sunday (April 19) was entitled, “My Name Is ‘I Am.’” It was an introduction to a series of sermons on the “I Am” sayings of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John. This introductory sermon focused on Exodus 3, in which Moses encounters God at the burning bush, and is told that God had seen the suffering of the Hebrew people in Egypt, had heard their cries, and had come down to help them. When God told Moses that He was going to send him as His agent of liberation, Moses offered several excuses as to why he was the wrong choice. When Moses said he did not even know God’s name, God replied, “My name is I Am who I Am. Go tell the people that I Am sent you.”

What kind of name is “I Am”? One of our observations was that this name implies a great deal of mystery. We will never fully define or comprehend God. We certainly will never control God. He is eternally Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, the lord of all creation. “I Am who I am” is a powerful statement of God’s total sovereignty.

In the sermon we also looked at the way that a name is often identified with a reputation. We speak of someone having a “good name.” God identified himself to Moses as “the God of Abraham...Isaac...and Jacob.” In addition to identifying himself as the God that those forefathers worshiped, it was also a way of connecting with the reputation of God in being faithful to his promises. In scripture there are many references to God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. As Christians we

ultimately know God through the revelation of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God. In the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, we have the beautiful expression of the character of God. As John 3:16 says it so powerfully, “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son....”

In John’s gospel there is the recording of seven different “I am” statements. It is a very intentional identification of himself with God. As we are told in John 1:14, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” In Jesus, God meets humanity in a human form. Over the next several weeks we will be looking at these “I am” sayings.

This coming Sunday, April 26, we will focus on John 6:35-51, in which Jesus says repeatedly, “I am the bread of life.” It is important to be familiar with the larger context of these sayings, so I encourage you to read and reflect on the entire sixth chapter of John in preparation for Sunday. We know that physical food is important to us, but what is Jesus saying when he says, “I am the bread of life”?

On May 3, the sermon will focus on Jesus’ statement, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:1-11). Jesus is again identifying himself with God by the use of the “I am” saying. What are the different ways that light is useful to us in everyday life? How does this give us insight into what Jesus means when he speaks of being “the light of the world”?

I encourage you to give some study and thought in preparation for the coming Sundays. As you do so, I would welcome to hear the fresh insights that come to you.

Operation Inasmuch is this Saturday!

April 25, 2015 ~ 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Come participate in this wonderful day of service. We have many opportunities in which to serve (small home repair, window cleaning, yard work, bicycle repair, medical equipment cleaning and organization, bean soup assembly, and other opportunities). We will meet in the Family Life Center at 7:30 a.m. for prayer and breakfast. At 8:00 a.m. we will begin work at our designated projects.

Schedule

Sunday, April 26 ~ Genesis 41-42

- 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, April 27 ~ Genesis 43-45

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

Tuesday, April 28 ~ Genesis 46-47

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

Wednesday, April 29 ~ Genesis 48-50

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal (baked ham, red potatoes, carrots, & dessert)
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, April 30 ~ Exodus 1-3

Friday, May 1 ~ Exodus 4-6

Saturday, May 2 ~ Exodus 7-9

- 6:30 a.m. Church Yard Sale
- 7:00 p.m. Auction - FLC

Sunday, May 3 ~ Exodus 10-12

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

Monday, May 4 ~ Exodus 13-15

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

Tuesday, May 5 ~ Exodus 16-18

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

Wednesday, May 6 ~ Exodus 19-21

- 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 5:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 5:45 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, May 7 ~ Exodus 22-24

National Day of Prayer

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

Friday, May 8 ~ Exodus 25-27

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

Saturday, May 9 ~ Exodus 28-28



Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.
1 Kings 8:28

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of April 12 & 19, 2015

4/12

Church in Bible Study	106	123
Church in Worship	221	214
8:30 a.m. service	67	67
10:55 a.m. service	154	147

Financial Statistics

Weeks of April 12 & 19, 2015

4/12

Budget - Received	\$11,657.05	\$13,370.00
Alms	0.00	0.00
Designated - Received	2,328.10	2,664.00
Building Reserve - Received	0.00	25.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 4/12/15		14,035.15
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 4/19/15		16,059.00

North American Missions Offering

North American Missions - Southern Baptist Convention

\$1,440.00

Global Missions - Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
\$350.00

TOTAL: \$1,790.00 GOAL: \$8,000

Budget for 2014-2015	865,070.00
Budget Received-Year to Date	509,701.36
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded	355,368.64
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date	55,228.14
Alms Received-Year to Date	4,474.96
Building Reserve-Year to Date	8,697.00
Total Giving-Year to Date	578,101.46



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

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"Lord, Hear Our Cry"

Just a reminder that the 64th annual National Day of Prayer will be observed all across our nation on Thursday, May 7. Please make plans to join our Christian brothers and sisters in Statesville at Landmark Church of God, 2200 East Broad Street, for a Prayer Breakfast on that morning, (time to be announced later), and for a simultaneous prayer time with all of America at 12:00 p.m. at Lakewood Park, West shelter, on the hill. Note: the noon observance will be at Lakewood Park this year, NOT at Caldwell Park as in years past.

Remember, our theme verse for this year is 1 Kings 8:28. Let's meditate on that verse daily as we pray for our nation.

The following is the National prayer for this year by Dr. Jack Graham, 2015 Chairman of the National Day of Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

We come to You in the Name that is above every name—Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our hearts cry out to You.

Knowing that You are a prayer-answering, faithful God—the One we trust in times like these—we ask that You renew our spirits, revive our churches, and heal our land.

We repent of our sins and ask for Your grace and power to save us. Hear our cry, oh God, and pour out Your Spirit upon us that we may walk in obedience to Your Word.

We are desperate for Your tender mercies. We are broken and humbled before You.

Forgive us, and in the power of Your great love, lift us up to live in Your righteousness.

We pray for our beloved nation. May we repent and return to You and be a light to the nations. And we pray for our leaders and ask that You give them wisdom and faith to follow You.

Preserve and protect us, for You are our refuge and only hope.

Deliver us from all fears except to fear You, and may we courageously stand in the Truth that sets us free.

We pray with expectant faith and grateful hearts.

In Jesus' name, our Savior.

Amen.

— 2015 National Prayer by Dr. Jack Graham

Children & Student Ministries

Operation Inasmuch Saturday, April 25, 2015

Don't forget Operation Inasmuch will be April 25 at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, 8:00 a.m. for projects. We have activities for everyone. Nursery will be provided for babies & toddlers.

Belize Yard Sale Saturday, May 2, 2015

If you have items to donate, bring them by the church. If you have things for the auction like a gift certificate or a stay at a vacation home, please contact Jan Hunter.

Children's Choir Notes

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

Look Up Lodge for Children

The second deposit (\$65.00) for Look Up Lodge is due no later than Sunday, May 10. I still have spots available for Look Up Lodge. I will lose any vacant spots on Tuesday, April 28.

Look Up Lodge for Students

Reminder that payments were due by April 5th, if you missed this deadline please get those payments in right away! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at melissa@statesvillefbc.org or on my cell 828-499-0676.



VBS - save the date July 27-31



Above: The children had a traditional Passover meal on April 1, 2015. This meal taught them about the Jewish tradition and its connection to Easter.



Left: Micah Spearman empties all the goodies from the eggs he found at the annual egg hunt on April 4, 2015.



Announcements

Christian Sympathy

...is extended to Bill and Jeanie Murdock in the death of Bill's brother, Henry Murdock, on April 12.

A Note of Appreciation From Iredell Christian Ministries

Greetings:

On behalf of Iredell Christian Ministries, Inc., I gratefully acknowledge your congregation's donation of 229.2 pounds of food during the first quarter of 2015. The energy drinks were especially appreciated. We greatly appreciate your concern for the people in your community who in these difficult time rely on our pantry to provide food for their families.

Your contribution along with other food donation is distributed wisely to the folks who come to our doors for help. We remain encouraged in our service by churches like yours who so generously partner with us in this good work.

Sincerely,
Joy M. Morrison, Director

A Note of Appreciation From Fleeta Speaks

Thank you so much for the cheer basket. It really did cheer me up. I appreciate the prayers and visits while I was in the hospital.

Sincerely,
Fleeta Speaks

Bible Study Fellowship

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), and international, interdenominational Bible study (www.bsfindernational.org), is planning a satellite discussion group for adult women the Statesville area for the 2015-2016 study of Revelation, beginning September 2015. To learn more about this study and to register for fall enrollment, please attend the Welcome on Thursday, April 30 at The Historic Sharpe House, 402 South Center Street, at 9:30 a.m. Parking available at the Civic Center. Registration in person only. Please contact Deidra Foster (teamfostermom@gmail.com or 907-401-3456) for additional information.

Worship Greeters Sunday, April 26

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

Sunday, May 3

Chris Simon	Jeff Templeton	David Lewis
Chuck Heckel	Jason Allen	

Coffee Rotation Sunday, April 26

Gary & Pat Fyfe
Sunday, May 3
Emanons Class

Acolytes Sunday, April 26

Piper Lewis & Darbee Lewis
Sunday, May 3
Emily Ashley & Mallory Reid

May Schedule for The Interim

The Interim will be published Sunday, May 10 and Sunday, May 31. The Interim will resume normal schedule in June with issues published on Sunday, June 7 and Sunday, June 21.

Applewhite Group Monday, May 11, 2015 11:00 a.m. ~ Adams Hall

The Applewhite Group will meet Monday, May 11 in Adams Hall. Virgie Brown will share with us some of the mission experiences in India. Come at 11:00 a.m. to hear her and stay for a salad lunch.



Church Yard Sale & Auction Saturday, May 2, 2015 6:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



The Belize Team will host two events to raise funds with the mission trip to Belize this summer. This team will do wonderful things in Cristo Rey, Belize. They will organize and lead a Vacation Bible School, a construction ministry, and a dental ministry. Please come find a treasure while supporting this wonderful team. The yard sale begins at 6:30 a.m. on the church lawn. The auction will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. If you would like donate any items for the yard sale, please bring them to church Thursday, April 30 or Friday, May 1. If you would like to donate items for the auction, please contact Jan Hunter.