

APRIL 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are many memories that I have of Easter- or more appropriately Resurrection Sunday. Easter baskets and candy- What's Easter without a chocolate bunny or chocolate covered Peanut Butter Egg? Time with family over a meal- a special church service. A new outfit with shoes and maybe a hat. For the ladies it was a new Easter dress, shoes and maybe even a bonnet and flower corsage. The traditions of this time of year have many aromas and feelings associated with them. Many of the memories are filled with joy, but with them are memories of loved ones now gone that at one time had been central to the observance. Grandparents, parents- maybe a sibling or friend. We are all faced with the reality that the older we get; joyful celebrations can be mixed with melancholy. This is normal.

For the biblically minded Christian however, the melancholy feelings cannot dispel the joy that is associated with the Easter season, for at the heart of this time of year is the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is the heart of our faith- the facts of which, should they not be true our hope is gone.

“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”
1 Cor. 15:1-4,12-14.

Because Christ has risen from the dead, all who believe in the gospel gain eternal life. In a world that is overshadowed by death- the Christian is filled with life and hope. Life that overcomes death. This should produce a joy that surpasses all understanding within us.

This hope of eternal life allows us to look forward to a reunion in heaven with all those who have believed and have gone on before. What a glorious day! It also should help us to prioritize our lives with a view of eternity.

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Cor. 5:14-15

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this year, let us be mindful that as He did save us from our sins, Jesus calls us to live for Him and to serve and love our neighbor. We are to live as he did, who came not to be served, but to serve.

Happy Spring. Happy Easter. Happy Resurrection Day!

Pastor Paul

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MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Galatians 6:9: *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

FOOD PANTRY

Collecting food for our local Food Pantry is a mission opportunity. We have lots of volunteers from First Baptist who give of their time each week working at the local food pantry located on highway 32 beside the old DMV office. We have a food pantry box in the hallway beside the church office where you can place food items.

BLESSING BOX

This box is located in the church parking lot. Food, paper goods and hygiene items can be placed directly in the box.

MILE OF PENNIES

Loose change is collected each Sunday until we reach a mile (\$844.22). It is then sent to the Baptist Children's Homes.

BENEVOLENCE

This fund is used to help in the local community and in our own church family with whatever needs may arise. Giving to the benevolence fund helps us to continue to meet these needs.

Food Roundup for Baptist Children's Homes

We will collect non-perishable food items, paper goods, and cleaning products for the Baptist Children's Homes through the month of April. Gift cards are also greatly appreciated. Drop off containers are in the hallway beside the church office.

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## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**CHURCH FAMILY:** Harry Ward, Robert Dickerson, Beth Thompson, Tracie Wildman, Louie Askew, John Smith, Marguerite Sexton Hart, Kristie Nicholson, Claudia Beacham, Faye McCombs, Oliver and Frances Lucas, Sandy McMurtrie, Clifford Frymier, Barbara Peyton.

**OTHER CONCERNS:** Ricky Smith (Father of Kierstyn Smith), Keith Sawyer, Sherry Foster, Mike Ward, Jonni Kephart, Neal Brown, Don May, Sue Owens, Greg Spruill, William Sexton, Alfonzo Boyd, Rodney Rogerson.

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS:** Three Rivers- Christine McMurtrie #208; River Trace Nursing & Rehab Center, Washington- Pauline Humphreys #418; Roanoke Landing- Alice Dotson #209, Tim Elks #315; Rich Square Health Care Center -Annie Griffith #108-B; Chowan River Nursing Home- Rae Owens.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is back! We plan to begin meeting together for Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4. For the first month, all adults will meet together in the Fellowship Hall with one teacher. This will give us time to evaluate class size and determine if new locations need to be found for any classes. Youth will meet in the COPE room. All children will meet in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom, downstairs near the nursery. Preschoolers will meet in their usual classroom. Literature will be available at the church on that first Sunday. Let's all come together and make the re-launch of our Sunday School great!

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Our Maundy Thursday service will be April 1 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.**

**Food Pantry truck is scheduled for Monday, April 5 at 9:30 am.**

### DEACON'S MEETING

The Deacons will meet Monday, April 19 at 7:00 pm in the Craft Room with Jimmy Brown hosting.

Quarterly Conference Wednesday, April 28 - 6:30 pm.

### Thank You Note

To My Church Family,  
There are no words I can use to express my thanks to all of you for your kindness shown to me and Faye during her illness and death. The food, prayers, visits, and cards meant so much to us. May God Bless each of you as you continue to bless those in need through your acts of kindness.  
In Christian Love,  
James Lyle

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Scott Bradshaw 4/1  
Karen Pruette 4/2  
George Galtress 4/2  
Rusty Collins 4/9  
Bill Sexton 4/9  
Anna Grace Noell 4/10  
Barbara Jo Payne 4/15  
Micki Dail 4/12  
Sandy McMurtrie 4/12  
Ann Bland 4/13  
Brinson Edmondson 4/15  
Gwen Mitchell 4/15  
Beth Foster 4/17  
Phyllis Dickerson 4/18  
Peyton Pollard 4/26  
Dylan Holcomb 4/27  
Mike Gurganus 4/27  
George Boyd 4/28*

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Bonner & Susan Peele 4/15  
Wiley & Barbara Jo Payne  
Scott & Caroline Chandler 4/26*

### ATTENTION YOUTH

It is time to sign up for Caswell! We are registered for Youth Week 5, July 12-17. Total cost will be \$225. Please sign up outside the church office and pay a deposit of \$75 by May 1. Chaperones and cooks are also needed.

**Senior Banquet is Sunday, May 2 at 6:00 pm.  
If you would like to attend, please sign up on  
sheet outside church office.**