

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April Calendar

- Sat, Apr. 1 Men's Breakfast, 8 am (church)
- Sun, Apr. 2 Palm Sunday
AWANA Kids Easter Dinner, 5pm
- Wed, Apr. 5 Deacons Meeting 7pm
- Fri, Apr. 7 Good Friday Services, 7pm
- Sun, Apr. 9 Easter Sunday, No AWANA
- Wed, Apr. 19 Family Meeting, 6:30pm
- Sun, Apr. 23 Church Staff Appreciation Sunday
- Sat, Apr. 29 Spring Painting Class, 2pm

Every Week:

Sunday

- Sunday School—9:45am
- Worship Service—11am
- AWANA—5pm

Wednesday

- Men's Bible Study at Chick-fil-A—8am

North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (the month of March)

Goal—\$1,000 Received—\$720



April Birthday's

- 04/08 Jenny Durham
- 04/21 Carol Wheeler

Upcoming in May

- Tue, May 2—Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- Wed, May 3—WMU Lunch/Meeting, 12pm
- Wed, May 3—Deacons Meeting, 7pm
- Thur, May 4—National Day of Prayer
- Sat, May 6—Men's Breakfast, 8am
- Sat, May 6—AWANA Party. 2-5pm
- Sun, May 14—Mother's Day Lunch (After the morning worship service)
- Sun, May 28—Migrant Health Kids due to the Church
- Mon, May 29—Memorial Day
Church Office Closed

Special Services for April



Sunday, April 2



Friday, April 7, 7pm



Easter Services April 9

Breakfast—8:45AM
 Sunday School—9:45AM
 Worship Service—11:00AM
 No AWANA



Shell Point
BAPTIST CHURCH
sharing Jesus, one person at a time!

ISSUE 4

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

APRIL 2023



The Ground is Level at the Foot of the Cross

"Put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him — a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all."

Colossians 3:10-11

I can still remember those first few months as a new believer. Here I was, a roughshod, poor, uneducated young man (27 years old to be exact) who carried an extensive criminal history and struggled with drug addiction and alcoholism. Just recently had I been blessed to hear the truth of Christ's sacrifice for me and committed my life unto Him. I felt as if I were walking on sunshine! However, the enemy was still fast at work, trying his best to make me uneasy and unfruitful around my new faith family by constantly reminding me that I just don't measure up to the people of Christ's Kingdom. I felt as if I stuck out like a sore thumb. A stinkweed among roses! A lump of coal amid a field of diamonds! It took me a little while to realize that the ground is level at the foot of the cross.

I found Christ (or rather, He found me) at a sizable church full of influential, well-off, well-spoken, and well-dressed people. And while they were all extremely nice and careful to never make me feel "less than," I could not help but feel like I did not belong. I know today that this was simply the work of "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev. 12:10). Nonetheless, the feelings were real and sometimes painful. Thankfully, the church accepted me with open arms for who I was and worked diligently to disciple me unto maturity. They were intentional about making sure that I was always a vital part of both the fellowship and the Kingdom. I am forever grateful to those dear saints of God.

My reason for telling you these things is two-fold. First, if you are a new believer who has entered the family of God with deep scars left behind by a wicked world system that chewed you up and spit you out; know that you are exactly where you are supposed to be! God has granted you with a powerful testimony that He will be faithful to use to His own glory through your obedience. Do not be ashamed, for you are the exact person Christ died for (1 Tim. 1:15). Listen to what the Apostle Paul writes to the Church at Corinth:

"For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord'" (1 Cor. 1:26-31).

You may have been despised by the world, but not by Christ nor His Church!

Secondly, those of us whom God has placed in the church to receive new believers must be careful to be welcoming and reassuring to the downtrodden and destitute. It is up to us to constantly remind our new brothers and sisters that, "If anyone is in Christ, he (or she) is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Cor. 5:17). We have a stewardship entrusted to us to edify and build one another up in Christ (Eph. 4:11-13). It is our job to show newfound followers of Christ that none of us ever deserved the mercy that He shed upon us by grace and through faith. Therefore, let us be faithful to do just that!

Your Wretched Friend,
 Pastor Darren A. Jones



WMU Newsletter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: I pray all of you are doing well. Spring has sprung! Are you celebrating this month? Are you praising God for His Son, Jesus? We should all be. Jesus was born for this, to die on the cross and to rise from the

grave so we would have eternal life. We have a lot to celebrate, that we are joint heirs with Jesus to our Heavenly Father.

This month will draw a conclusion on our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. I enjoy ready the brochure with our different missionaries and what they need prayer for. Since we have children who live in New Orleans that particular one hit close to home, human trafficking breaks my heart. I am so glad we have missionaries who are trained to handle these types of situations. Please take the time to read your brochure and pray for our missionaries, not just today but every day.

Are you ready for some fun? On April 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. our own Corie Holly will be coming to visit us to do a Painting on a Prayer party. It will be a fun spring picture. The cost is \$20.00 to cover the cost of the canvas and supplies needed to guide us through the painting process. We ask that you bring a finger food to share. The sign up list will be in the vestibule. We women, need to take some time to fellowship and enjoy ourselves. If you think you can't paint, you will be surprised at what you can do, with proper guidance. Come on out and let's talk and laugh together.

We will begin to collect items for the Migrant Kits this month through the month of May. I understand that Will and Deborah Green actually went to the distribution of the kits and said it was amazing. Mike and I hope to get to go this year. Since we are collecting for the migrant workers, we were thinking it might be nice to put some together for their children. We could include crayons, coloring books, and some small health items for them. Let's do this mission together.

As always thank you for being so generous in your donations and support of our mission projects. Be blessed and be a blessing to others.

In Christ's Love, Jenny Durham

AWANA NEWS

Dear Family:

AWANA is winding down for the year. The Clubbers have learned a lot this year and we pray they have a closer relationship and knowledge of Christ than when they first started. Ted has offered several real challenges to the Clubbers with scripture memorization and riddles. Noel one our Sparks was able to recite the entire 23rd Chapter of the Psalms. T & T Clubbers can now recite the Lord's Prayer and have studied the 10 Commandments among other subjects.

Thanks to Andrea, the Clubbers have enjoyed several craft days making Valentines Day cards for the "You are Loved Banquet" and other crafts for different holidays. The clubbers love their craft days. Jamie and Gary have been on top of the recreation this year. The climax to the year for the Clubbers is the Derby which ran on March 26, 2023. We will let you know the winners in the May Newsletter. Last year, Thor, brought the hammer down for a win, who will it be this year?

We will be hosting the AWANA store on April 30, 2023 for the Clubbers to spend their Pastor Bucks. On Saturday, May 6, 2023, we will have our awards and fun day as we close out the year ends September, 2023. We hope that you will join in our celebration of reaching these young minds for Christ. We are so blessed to have the privilege to share Christ with these children. I want to thank all the teachers and workers for all the hard work they have done. This ministry would not be possible without you. May God bless you for loving these young children and wanting to give your time and energy to reach them for Christ.

In Christ, Mike Durham

Migrant Kits

Looking for a tangible way to meet physical needs of those in your community? Migrant Health Kits are your answer!

The standard health kit should include the following:

- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Toothpaste (6 oz.)
- 1 Bath Towel
- 1 Soap (4.5 oz. Bath Size)
- 1 Comb

Items should be placed in a 2-gallon zip lock type bag. Kits are due Sunday, May 28, so we have plenty of time to collect these items. Thanks for your support.

"Resurrected New!"

Jesus
I witness the works
of your hands,
the steps of your feet,
and hear the sound
of your voice.
When I humble myself to you,
I'm amazed at all you do
in a once dead
man resurrected
New
Hallelujah!
To the Power
of You,
Jesus

S | O | I | N
A | + | R
V | I | O

— Anthony C. Settles



Family Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 6:30pm



Sunday, April 23

Not only do we appreciate our staff; we appreciate our deacons, teachers, music team, sound booth helpers, and all who serve our church faithfully.



**RECOMMENDED
READING FROM
THE PASTOR...**

**Fount of Heaven:
Prayers of the Early Church**

Edited by Robert Elmer

The hearts of the first Christians beat with praise for Christ. The strength of their devotion is remarkable, considering the times of uncertainty and persecution in which they lived. Despite all of this, the early church flourished, sustained by the God to whom they prayed.

Christians today have a lot to learn from the devotional life of the early church. In *Fount of Heaven*, a collection of carefully selected prayers from the first six centuries of the church, we can pray with our spiritual forefathers. Prayers from luminaries such as Clement of Rome, Irenaeus, and Augustine are arranged by theme to reveal the right prayer for the moment. The prayers have been slightly updated to read more easily, but they retain their joy and mystery. As we turn to the prayers of the first Christians, we can return to the foundations of our own faith.

** New copies of the work are available on Amazon.com for \$24.99 and a copy is available to borrow in our church library.*