

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XLX, No. 4

Deacon of the Month
Patsy Falls
April 2025

RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Lenten Greetings,

I hope this message finds you well and that your Lenten season is drawing you closer to God. Our Sunday night study of *"The Third Day"* by Tom Berlin focused on Resurrection. We have explored this pivotal event through the perspectives of those who were there, such as Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and Thomas, among others. As we approach the day when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I want to remind you that without the Resurrection, we have nothing.

Paul, in his first letter to the Church in Corinth, wrote:

"17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."

— 1 Corinthians 15:17-19 (NKJV)

In the early church, some denied the claim of the Resurrection and tried to persuade others to follow their lead. For the Apostle Paul, the denial of the Resurrection was a “non-negotiable” issue, and it remains so for us today.

It was incredible, even hard to believe, for many that a mere man could rise from the dead. However, we know that Jesus Christ was more than just a man; He was the Son of God, who lived a sinless, blameless life and died on a cross like any criminal.

Paul emphasized that if we remove the Resurrection from the Gospel, our faith is futile, and we remain in our sins. But thank God, we are not still in our sins because we acknowledge and accept the message of the cross and the empty tomb!

The Resurrection changes everything! We now have freedom from sin and all the condemnation that accompanies it. As believers, we can take comfort in the assurance of our Salvation and the promise of Heaven as our future. We can hold onto hope for tomorrow, and we can share this message of freedom with others around us.

Paul boldly declares in the following verses:

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by man also came the Resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

— 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (NKJV)

Jesus changes everything...let Him!

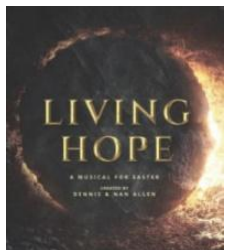
Consider who you might invite to church for this special celebration of the risen Christ and His resurrection power!

Pastor Tracey



HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

PALM SUNDAY



Join us during worship on Palm Sunday as the choir presents our Easter Cantata, "Living Hope". Through word and song, we will rediscover the source of our hope once again! According to 1 Peter 1:3, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Let us join together in worshipping Him.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Seder Meal & Service at 6:00 p.m.

A Passover meal, a worship service, and communion will be incorporated into this event. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared to celebrate the Lord's Last Supper and bring a friend—reservations are required.

GOOD FRIDAY

Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday observes the Passion of Christ, the crucifixion, and the death. Worshippers will have the opportunity to bear the weight of the cross.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



The Easter sunrise service will be held at **6:30 a.m.** on Easter morning at the church.

EASTER FELLOWSHIP & TREATS



Join us for a light breakfast before Sunday School on Easter morning from 8:15 to 8:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chris Moon and Robin Davis are hosting this event.

EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION & FLOWERING THE CROSS



On Easter morning, we will come together to proclaim He is Risen. He is Risen, indeed! Worshippers are invited to bring a **few** fresh-cut flowers to the 10:00 a.m. worship service to offer in honor of the risen Lord as we flower the cross together during worship.

CHRISTIAN PASSOVER SEDER



As Baptists, we do not typically observe Passover or the Seder Meal. However, in the Christian tradition, the Passover Seder is believed to be the occasion when Jesus instituted the Eucharist, also known as Communion or the Lord's Supper. We know the story from Luke 22; Jesus was gathered around the table with the disciples,

15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again."

Jesus then proceeded to give thanks, break bread, and serve the bread and cup. When we receive Communion, we celebrate the Last Supper and our Jewish heritage, which provides context for the meal.

We will offer a Seder meal and celebration on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Make plans to join this most sacred meal and invite a friend by reserving your place at the table. **Reservations are required** and must be made by April 13. You can contact the church office, Pastor Tracey, or use the reservation link on our Facebook page and website.

Patsy Falls

COMMITTEES

FLOWER COMMITTEE



Easter lilies, along with the flowering of the cross, add to the beauty of the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to have a lily placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone, please have your order in by **April 6**. Your order should include the recipient's name, the sender's name, and whether payment is made by cash or check, with the check made out to Sycamore Baptist Church in the amount of \$25.00 per lily. The information and money are to be given to a member of the Flower Committee or the church office.

Committee Members:
Debbie Jenkins, Erin Harcum
Dawn Mosena, Wanda Cotton

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for Riverdale Elementary School to replenish the supply closet.

This month, we are working with Franklin Baptist Church to provide lunch on April 2 for the community Lenten Worship & Lunch series. Thank you to everyone who brought crackers and rolls for the event.

Next up: Easter baskets for our homebound members and friends. Join us on Saturday, April 12, at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall during the Church Workday to help assemble and pray over the baskets. We will also need folks to deliver the baskets before Easter.

Looking ahead, we will be partnering with Early Childhood Western Tidewater and SoCo Gatherings for a kids' Derby Day-themed event, to be held on Friday, May 2, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sycamore will be a partner organization. We will have a booth and an activity at the event. Help is needed, so save the date and plan to be a community connection.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

It's time to start preparing next year's budget. Church budgeting includes creating a budget that aligns with the church's mission, ensuring that spending does not exceed income, and allocating funds to key areas such as staffing, ministries, and facilities. We need to consider how we utilize the church's financial resources to fulfill its mission.



The Finance Committee will begin the budget preparation process, and we need your input. Please review the budget's line items for which you have financial responsibility and make recommendations to increase or decrease the budgeted amount. You may want to delete the item if it is no longer needed.

Some key takeaways from this process are as follows:

1. **Healthy Finances Require Discipline:** Managing church finances without a budget can be difficult and seem chaotic, akin to herding cats. Establishing a budget provides the necessary discipline.
2. **Budgets Prevent Financial Headaches:** Crafting a budget helps prevent financial headaches by providing a clear financial plan and direction for the church community.
3. **Budgets Bring Clarity:** Having a budget provides clarity, ensuring that church finances are managed efficiently and avoiding confusion and potential financial disasters.
4. **Budgets Streamline Finances:** Creating a budget transforms chaotic financial management into a streamlined process, leading to better financial health and reduced stress for church leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy Vann, Finance Committee Chairman
Nell Daughtrey
Charlie Daughtrey, Deacon
Joey Francis, Deacon
Debbie Oliver, Deacon

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

B&G is planning a church workday on Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Plan to come and be a part of helping to take care of that which God has blessed us.

Some of the tasks we hope to accomplish include picking up debris on the grounds, cleaning up leaves and the rock beds, assembling Easter baskets for our homebound residents, and other similar tasks. Save the date and plan to enjoy some fellowship while accomplishing work around the church just in time for Easter.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I thoroughly enjoy my morning coffee and appreciate being out in the community. Join me at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation.



- April 01 - Daily Dose, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
 - April 08 - Storehouse, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
 - April 15 - Daily Dose, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
 - April 22 – No Coffee & Conversation
 - April 29 - Storehouse, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Pastor Tracey

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

Below is this month's supper schedule. If the assigned dates are not suitable for your class or group, please arrange an alternative with another group and notify Dianne Umphlett of the change.

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| April 2 | Brotherhood |
| April 9 | Choir |
| April 16 | FH SS Class |
| April 23 | No Family Night |
| April 30 | Staff |



APRIL CONFERENCE



The date for the April conference is April 27, 2025, immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Church Council met on March 16. During that meeting, the following topics were discussed.

- The average Sunday School attendance for February was 35.
- George Giles is working with the Food Services Committee on the Seder meal.
- Charlie Harcum is working on the church's financial reporting software.
- Community Connections has plans for Easter baskets for the homebound and Derby Day at SoCo Gatherings in May.
- The Audit is complete, and finance is now working on the budget for the upcoming church year.
- The Bronco Club has been reserved for the church picnic on October 5.

JESSE F. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
TEMPERANCE V. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Jesse F. Vaughan Memorial Scholarship and the Temperance V. Vaughan Memorial Scholarship are available from the church office. Graduating high school seniors who are active church members are encouraged to apply. Contact Tricia Davis to get an application form. The deadline for applying for the two scholarships is April 28, 2025.

DEACON REPORT

The deacons met on Monday, March 3, in the Fellowship Hall. During the meeting, the following items were discussed.

- A devotion was followed by the sharing of prayer concerns and a time of prayer.
- Team reports were received.
- Camera monitoring will be presented at the next church conference.
- The Nominating Committee will have a report for the conference on filling vacancies.
- Deacons will have a pancake supper for Ash Wednesday.
- The Sedar Meal will be on Thursday, April 17.

APRIL 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	2 Family Night Schedule	3	4	5
6 AM Schedule  Communion Bldg. & Grounds Meeting 11:15 a.m.	7 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.	9 Family Night Schedule	10	11	12 Church Work Day 9:00 a.m.
13  Palm Sunday AM Schedule Cantata Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	14	15 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. WOM 6:15 p.m.	16 Family Night Schedule	17 Seder Meal 6:00 p.m. 	18 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. 	19
20 Easter Sunrise Svc 6:30 a.m. Easter Treats 8:15-8:50 a.m. AM Schedule 	21	22	23 No Family Night	24	25	26
27 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m. AM Schedule Conference 11:15 a.m.	28	29 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.	30 Family Night Schedule			

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on calendar)
 Sunday School 9:00 am.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on calendar)
 Meal: 5:45
 Adult Study II: 6:15
 Men's Bible Study: 6:45
 Youth: 6:45
 Mission Friends and Children in Action: 6:45
 Adult Choir: 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church website: sycamorebaptist.org
 Secretary's email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org

Rev. Tracey Pugh, Pastor
 Email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org
 Church phone: 1 (757) 562-6749
 Cell phone: 1 (434) 953-7930
 Office Hours: 8:30 – 4:30 Tues – Fri, and as needed



Articles for the May Newsletter are due to Patsy Falls no later than April 23.

