



## Just Thinking . . .

The Easter season is one of my favorite times of the year. I grew up in a preacher's home. When we moved to Richmond, Indiana, we moved into a situation that provided less support than the previous church. My mother was face to face with a dilemma – how to have new clothes

for her three children? Her answer was to get a job. It was an interesting position – she went to work in a casket company!

"You will look as good as all the other kids today!" was how mother assessed her accomplishment that Easter morning.

I was not nearly as excited as she was about my new clothes. I was more interested in the activities that were to take place. We did something new for me, a "sunrise Easter service." I wasn't sure about getting dressed to go to church outside while it was still dark. But the biscuits and gravy that we would get to eat afterwards would be worth the time and effort.

Some 35 years later I was pastoring a new church plant. We were going to have a sunrise service on the new property purchased for the new building that would come some time later. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, coming out of the grave would have deeper meaning that Easter morning.

The dark night had come for our family on Memorial Day the previous spring. My father had died on that day. As I considered how the disciples must have felt having seen the suffering of Jesus as he died on that old cross, how their loss was seemingly sealed up as they rolled the stone over the borrowed tomb of Jesus. They gathered in the room where they had taken a last meal with Jesus when He had washed their feet. They talked about the cup of wine that he referred to as "his blood shed for us," and the bread he memorialized as his "body broken." So many dreams that had come to such a quick ending is what they felt.

My dad was too young to die as he did. A good man, a good father, and a great preacher who had accomplished much through his work. My mother was alone and lonely. I had lost the one who I depended on for

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advice and a pat on the back. There had been some dark days and nights over the past months.

Then came the morning of Easter! Jesus was alive! I rejoiced that morning for I knew that my Dad was with Jesus that morning. We gathered in the prayer garden and celebrated life. What a glorious morning.


Easter is about hope and life and reunions that we can celebrate! We will gather for worship Easter morning and seek to grasp all that it can and does mean for each of us.

<b>WEEK AT A GLANCE</b>	Budget Receipts Mar 9	\$ 3,150.00
	Building Fund Mar 9	275.00
	Other Designated Mar 9	462.00
	<b>TOTAL Receipts Mar 9</b>	<b>\$ 3,887.00</b>
	<i>Weekly Budget Requirement</i>	\$ 5,853.00
	Bible Study Attendance Mar 9	59
	<i>Bible Study Enrollment</i>	184
	Preschool Worker Mar 16	Sharon Bryden
	Deacon of the Week Mar 16	John Wimpey 404-762-8128

	Our Goal	\$ 2,500.00
	Given to Date	\$ 880.00

**Happy Birthday!**

Jan Hudson	03/13	Tabitha Hallman	03/17
W.F Whitaker	03/15	Drucilla Pope	03/18
John Wimpey	03/16	Deborah Greene	03/19

	<b>Frances Wall</b>
	3084 Highway 81 W Mount Carmel Personal Care Home Hampton, GA 30028-2079



## Notes from Tom

Handbell Choir members are asked to meet in the sanctuary Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. for a warm-up time. Also, remember that our rehearsal time Sunday afternoon will be 4:30 p.m.

to allow time for the VBS organization meeting.

This week, we celebrate Palm Sunday and the remainder of Holy Week with music for the Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem, for the Last Supper, and for the Crucifixion. Worship with us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper Sunday morning.

Easter Sunday will be a day of celebration. The music will lead us to celebrate the Resurrection and rejoice in what God has done for us. I hope you will join us as we celebrate the holiest day of the Christian year together next week.

Remember our Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 22, at 11:00 a.m., here at the church. Invite children you know to come and join us for a great time of fun and games together.

VBS workers will meet Sunday afternoon at 5:15 p.m. See you there!

<b>Handbell Choir Change</b> March 16 4:30—5:15 pm	<b>VBS Workers Meeting</b> March 16 5:15—5:45 p.m.
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**Music for Worship—March 9**

**Sanctuary Choir** "O Lamb of God Most Lowly"  
—Gordon Young

"When I Survey the Wondrous  
Cross" — Gilbert Martin

**Handbell Choir** "Were You There?"  
—Dale Wood/Douglas Wagner

Saturday, March 22  
11:00 a.m.  
Ages: 2 yrs—5th grade



There will be an Easter Basket in the vestibule for collecting candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to contribute candy, please put it in the basket before Wednesday, March 19.

The **Missions Committee** will meet Sunday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

The **Happy Hums** will meet on Monday, March 17 at 10:30 am. Come join the fun.

The monthly **Deacons Meeting** will be Monday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. All active deacons are urged to be present.

On Tuesday, March 18 at 10:00 am the **Monthly Bible Study** will meet in the conference room. Join us as we study God's word together.

**Women on Mission** will meet Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

**Church Conference** will be held Wednesday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m.

**Margaret Benefield**  
Kindred Hospital & Rehab

**Virginia Weigle**  
Southern Regional

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to

**The family of Sue Burdette**

in her death on March 3, 2008.

**Opportunities for Service**

**Sunday, March 16**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. \*\*Worship
- 4:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 4:30 P.M. Missions Committee
- 5:15 p.m. VBS Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Worship

**Monday, March 17**

- 10:30 a.m. HUMS
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

**Tuesday, March 18**

- 10:00 a.m. Monthly Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Women on Mission

**Wednesday, March 19**

- 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir (age 3—grade 5)
- 6:00 p.m. Church Conference
- 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

**Sunday, March 23**  
**EASTER**

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. \*\*Worship

The deadline for sweetened cereals and un-iced cakes for the **Georgia Baptist Children's Home** is March 20.

*\*\* (Childcare provided for ages birth - 3 years)*

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**First Baptist Church**

*Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday*

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