

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Winston Riddle  
2nd Sunday: Kelly Coons  
3rd Sunday: Josh Becker  
4th Sunday: Alex Little

April Wedding Anniversaries

Stephen & Susan Willie 6  
Al & Sherry Burnette 9  
Robbie & Nova Effler 27  
Mickey & Helen Gilliam 29



April Birthdays

Kelly Coons ..... 1  
Allen Harris ..... 2  
Jasmin Vasquez ..... 2  
Helen Gilliam ..... 3  
Jean Arthur ..... 5  
Ruth Harris ..... 6  
April Brooks ..... 7  
Jean Lonon ..... 8  
Madison Lytle ..... 10  
Leland Vasquez ..... 10  
Raylyn Raines ..... 11  
Susan Willie ..... 14  
Richard Newton ..... 16  
Lynn Lewis ..... 18  
Charles Gaffigan ..... 20  
Rachel Newton ..... 26  
Mickey Gilliam ..... 29  
Candace Barrier ..... 30

Celebrating a



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Old Fort, NC  
April 2019  
Volume 53, Issue 4

# THE VOICE

APRIL  
EVENTS

**SUNDAY:**  
9:45 - Sunday School  
11 - Worship Service  
4 - Adult Choir Practice  
6 - Children's Choir  
6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth

**WEDNESDAY:**  
6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer,  
Youth, Children in Action,  
Mission Friends  
6 - Children's Choir  
7 - Adult Choir Practice

**Apr 3** - WMU & Baptist Men 6 pm

**Apr 4, 11 & 18** - Outreach Meal  
Prep Class 2-4 pm

**Apr 6** - Youth Rally 5-10 pm

**Apr 7** - Lord's Supper 11 am;  
Deacon's Meeting 7 pm

**Apr 10** - Youth Council 7 pm

**Apr 14** - Palm Sunday; Children's  
Camp BBQ Fundraiser &  
Children's Council Meeting  
12:30 pm; Church Council 5 pm

**Apr 19** - Good Friday (Office  
Closed)

**Apr 20** - Easter Egg Hunt 1-3 pm;  
Newsletter Articles Due

**Apr 21** - Easter Sunrise Service &  
Breakfast 7 am; No Evening  
Services or Activities

**Apr 28-May 1** - Spring Revival  
Services 6 pm Nightly



## Reflections of a Shepherd

Have you ever wondered why God and Jesus chose the Passover holiday for His death? Have you ever thought about how important that holiday is to the story of salvation history? And you ever considered how meaningful it is that redemption and life were brought to this world during the Spring season? The timing of Easter and Passover is profoundly significant and points us again to the sovereignty of our God and King.

Spring is truly a wondrous time of year. It is a time when everything around us begins to awaken from its wintery slumber. Trees that are drab and brown become green and vibrant once again. Flowers bloom and share with us their pleasant aromas and vivid colors. The birds return from their migration; other animals stir from hibernation. For many people it is their favorite season because of how life seems to return to our world.

Ancient civilizations all over the world would look at this season with wonder as well. They would dread winter and all the death that seemed to accompany it. Many pagan religions would celebrate this time of year using this time to worship their deities who had "defeated" winter. If you have trouble believing in the sovereignty of God, consider this: it is in the spring that God's people, the church and Jews, memorialize their most important event of salvation.

For the Jews, The Exodus was *the* salvation event of the Old Testament. Everything in Genesis leads us to that event and everything following flows from it. Throughout the Old Testament, the Jewish people are reminded that "I am the LORD (there's that name again) who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." It was through the Exodus that Yahweh displayed His power and His jealousy for His people redeeming them from their bondage of slavery and claiming them as His own.

Similarly for Christians, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is *the* salvation event not only of the New Testament, but of time eternal. Everything in Scripture from the Creation to the Exodus to the Exile to the Return from Exile leads us to that moment and the rest of the New Testament flows from that one event. It is the event to which every New Testament book testifies and points to. It is this event where God once again displayed not only His strength, but also His love. It is through Jesus that God redeems His people from the bondage of sin once and for all. It is through Jesus that we find hope, peace, joy and love. It is through Jesus that we find live everlasting. Simply put the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the single most important episode in all of history.

Is it any wonder that God in His sovereignty chose the spring season to bring life to His people, to His creation? Is it any wonder that God uses creation to point to His wonderful truth? Is it any wonder that God brought salvation to the world, brought new life to mankind, when the world was coming to life again? Is it any wonder that creation groans to be released from the seemingly endless cycle of death and re-birth? That with each passing year we are reminded of the life we have in Christ, the life that we have eternally in Him, the life that was brought to us through the events of a Friday on a Spring afternoon some 2,000 years ago? Is it any wonder?

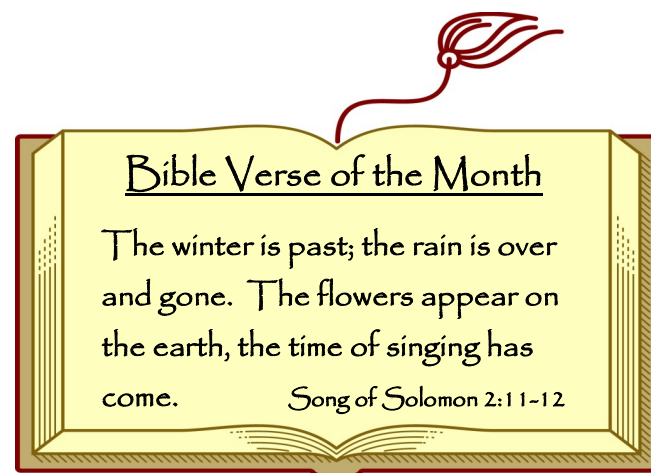
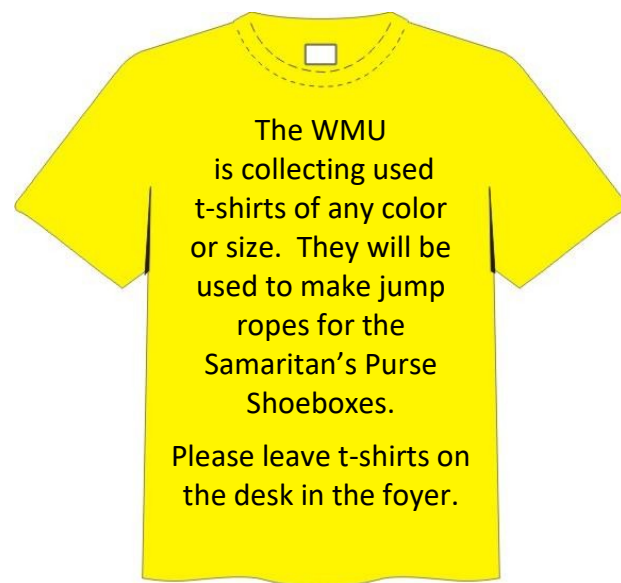
*Pastor Drew*

Church Staff

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We will observe the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, April 7 at 11:00 am



On Palm Sunday Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before His death and resurrection. For many Christian churches, Palm Sunday, often referred to as "Passion Sunday", marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.



#### Church Council:

Pastor  
Church Clerk  
Treasurer  
Building/Grounds Chairman  
Senior Adult Director  
Hospitality/Bereaved Rep.  
Children's Council Rep.  
Youth Council Rep.

Sunday, April 14  
at 5:00 pm  
South Classroom

Church Staff  
Deacon Chairman  
SS Director  
Prayer Ministry  
Security Chairman  
WMU Director  
Baptist Men's Director  
Young Adult Rep.

## Cleff Notes

<<<Before reading this article, please read Ephesians Chapter 6>>>

Ephesians 6:11-12 says, "11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles** of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Wile /wīl/ noun / plural noun: *wiles*

devious or cunning stratagems employed in manipulating or persuading someone to do what one wants.

*synonyms* **tricks, ruses, ploys, schemes, dodges, maneuvers, gambits, subterfuges, cunning stratagems, artifices, devices, contrivances; guile, artfulness, art, cunning, craftiness**

What an ugly word. It strikes at the heart of one's pride and self-esteem. Nobody likes to be manipulated, and worse, no one likes discovering they have been manipulated. It's a horrible discovery and sets off all kinds of negative feelings in motion. We may become angry, and want to get even. We may want to confront that wicked person and give them a piece of our mind. We may alienate them and have nothing to do with them, a silent protest of sorts. Maybe we have to work with them and we chose to do less work or none at all causing them to have to work harder and/or longer. Maybe they chose to fight back, also causing us to retaliate even more and before we realize what has happened our friendship or relationship is GONE.

In Ephesians we learn that the person is not the culprit. It is the devil using them to hurt others. And in order to protect ourselves we must put on the Armor of God every day if we are to survive each day. The shield in battle protects the soldier from the weapons of the enemy and allows the soldier to deflect incoming blows or projectiles. The Shield of Faith protects us from the wiles of the devil deflecting his attacks whether they be with insults, people, or any one of the synonyms above. Study the definition above and become very familiar with it. Know how the enemy works and deploy your Shield of Faith appropriately.

**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES April 20**

## Children's Council:

The Children's Council would like to give out a huge Thank You to everyone who helped with the Chili Fundraiser. From everyone who cooked and brought food, to everyone that came and ate. We, as a Council and the Children Dept., really appreciate your generosity. Our next Fundraiser will be Sunday April 14th. We will be having BBQ Sandwich Plate with Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert and Drink. This will also be by donation only. If you would like to help out with this please see Pastor Drew or April Brooks.

It's Springtime and you know what that means, EASTER is coming!! We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat. April 20th from 1-3 pm. This event is for ages Babies to 5th Grade. Before the Easter Egg Hunt we are going to have games, crafts, and Bible Story. We also are planning on having the Easter Bunny too. We will be collecting Candy Filled Plastic Eggs until April 14th. There will be a tote in the foyer to collect these eggs. Last year we had a good turn out, so we will need lots of eggs. We are always in need of extra adults and youth on hand to help with the games and other things going on. If you are willing to help please let Pastor Drew or April Brooks know.

Also the next Children's Council Meeting will be Sun. April 14th after the fundraiser to finish up plans for the Easter Egg Hunt.



Rev. Robbie Gibson  
East Sanford Baptist Church

