



## Welcome Spring

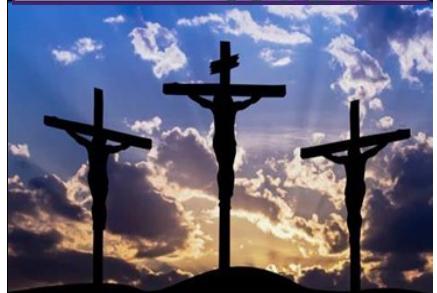
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Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Happy EASTER



God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

**Baptist Women's Day Circle**  
3rd Thursday at 10:30 am  
Bring a Snack



**Ruby J. Louthan Circle Meeting April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**

# The Voice

April 2022

*Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

## Message from our Pastor Dr. Shawn White

As Church Leadership Council met on March 14, we planned out what might be our Voice themes throughout 2022. May was an easy choice as the Southern Baptist Convention has designated a Sunday in May as Senior Adult Sunday, and it is also near time for graduation. June sees the kick-off for our summer children and youth programs, so that seems like an appropriate theme. But what about April? What can we do for April?

Someone then brought up that Easter falls in April this year, and that would make a suitable Voice theme. Indeed, it would! Easter is, after all, the reason we have the Voice, have a Church, have a faith, and have hope. As Paul wrote so eloquently to the Corinthians, “13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith” (1 Cor 15:13-14 NIV). So, inside this edition of the Voice, you will find an Easter devotion along with updates on our 22 in 2022 campaigns, our calendar of events and listings of birthdays and anniversaries.

May you have a blessed Easter as you celebrate that He is Risen! He is Risen indeed.



## Mission and Ministry Opportunities

*Message from Brenda Lafone OASIS*  
Although the literal meaning of OASIS is “a green spot in the desert”. It can also be used to describe a peaceful area in our everyday lives. We come together each month to nourish our bodies and souls. Christians coming together for fun, food, and fellowship. It is the “green spot” in our desert of everyday life.

**OASIS Members April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Stay tuned for place and time

## UPDATES

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|    | <b>22</b>                                      | <p><b>Do you have an idea for a ministry project in the community we can do?</b></p> <p>Please pass any ideas on to Pastor Shawn or to any member of CLC so we can begin to plan out our projects for the year. The common theme in the projects is that they assist those who are not already a part of FBC.</p>   |
|    | <b>220</b><br><b>220 Jan</b><br><b>220 Feb</b> | <p><b>In February, we surpassed our goal of collecting tomato soup.</b></p> <p>At the time of this writing, we have met our goal for March (peas). Picture to the left though the pyramid is incomplete.</p> <p>If you can look for sales of Mac&amp;Cheese (Apr), green beans (May) and Ramen noodles (June), we will have a jumpstart on those months.</p>  |
|  | <b>2,200</b><br><b>1845</b>                    | <p>We continue to write cards to our North American Mission Partners as a part of our weekly Prayer Meeting.</p> <p>We likely need a bigger card-writing campaign in the coming months. Who can we encourage by a card?</p>   |
|  | <b>\$22,000</b><br><b>\$21,352</b>             | <p>We have just begun our collection for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (\$454), and we received our benevolent offering from our January's Lord Supper Collection (\$194). Our Annie Armstrong goal is \$4500, and we will begin the Baby Bottle campaign for the Abel Pregnancy Center in May.</p>   |
|  | <b>220,000</b><br><b>219,999</b>               | <p>The popular proverb states that a journey of 1000 miles (220,000 pennies in this case), begins with a single step (or penny).</p> <p>The Book of Proverbs also says, "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." When you receive change from a restaurant, or the grocery store, can you ask for a few extra pennies rather than a dime? We will be there in no time!</p> |

## PASTOR DEVOTION by Pastor Dr. Shawn White

The 1980s TV show the A-Team featured Hannibal Smith frequently say the line, “I love it when a plan comes together.” I want to share about a plan coming together, but it wasn’t really my plan but a convergence of circumstances that brought me great encouragement.

It is easy to fall into the rut as a pastor or teacher that the only time one looks at the Bible is to think of a lesson, a children’s story, or a sermon. Every pastor and teacher knows that is not a healthy state of affairs, but the tyranny of the urgent seems to take over. I have seen this in my own life, and I knew I had to make a change of habit if I didn’t wish to become dry and withered.

We are amid a sermon series on “The Trees of the Bible.” This past Sunday the text was Psalm 1 about the flourishing tree. As I reflected on that passage to decide what to share, I focused on the contrast between v. 1 and v. 2 under the category of “to whom do we listen?” Do we listen to the pundits, news casters, podcasters, self-help gurus (no offense Oprah and Dr. Phil), or do we allow ourselves to soak in the wisdom of those who have walked the life of faith before us through Scripture? As John Bunyan is quoted as saying, “I did not preach that which I did not smartly feel.”

So, still smarting from the morning, I return for Men’s Bible Study Sunday afternoon. The series is on being a person of influence, but that afternoon the theme was “work in then through.” Kyle Idleman suggested this based on Mark 1:32-39. In this passage, Jesus was beginning his Kingdom work and people were being healed and demons cast out. Everyone was coming to see him. But the next morning, Jesus gets up early to pray and after that time of prayer with his Father, he tells the disciples, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” Idleman suggests that we see this often – Jesus goes in a new direction because he spends time with his Father in prayer, receives a renewed orientation, and moves in tune with his Father’s will. Idleman then challenged us to consider how we orient our days. Is it through prayer and the Word so our Heavenly Father can do a work in us so he can work through us during the day?

God didn’t post a message on Facebook or Instagram for me, but he communicated just the same. I needed a little more discipline in my time with him. So, Monday morning, I took the time to read Isaiah 3 and just reflect on it. A simple prayer accompanied it: “Lord, I would be grateful if you could do a work in me so you might work through me.” And I read.

Now Isaiah 3 is a dark chapter. It is full of judgement because the people have forgotten the LORD. It begins with these words of judgement: “For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply, all support of bread, and all support of water.” It then ends with “Instead of perfume there will be rottenness; and instead of a belt, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty.<sup>25</sup> Your men shall fall by the sword and your mighty men in battle.<sup>26</sup> And her gates shall lament and mourn; empty, she shall sit on the ground.”

Twenty-five verses in Isaiah 3 are judgement, doom, and gloom. Amid all this doom and gloom, however, there is verse 10. Isaiah is instructed to, “Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.” One verse amid all this judgement that reminds the righteous that God continues to watch over them and that they will be okay.

I went into that day mulling over that verse. And as I encountered several difficulties and challenges, I remembered that word for the people of Judah that even when the earth gives way and the mountains are tumbling into the heart of the sea, God still watches over the way of the righteous. They will bear fruit and will feast on the fruit their work produces. They will see God’s goodness even when circumstances around them seem dire.

In this month of Easter, we remember that the means of God’s blessing on us through Christ Jesus was through the cross. The way of suffering was required, but through this suffering the loss, the blessing of many opened and Jesus did eat the fruit of his deeds – we are that fruit!

My prayer for us all this Easter season is, first, that we allow God to work in us so that he might work through us. Let us not neglect the importance of spending time in his word. Second, hold onto the hope that God allows his righteous ones to see the fruit of their labors. God is faithful!

May you have a blessed Easter.

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*John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

### April Birthdays

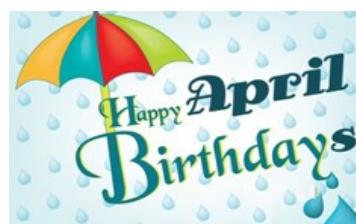
|          |                   |          |                    |
|----------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|
| April 02 | Linda Hamann      | April 23 | Lois White         |
| April 04 | Nathanael Shumate | April 24 | David Donithan     |
| April 07 | Beverly White     | April 25 | Charles Toney      |
| April 09 | Natalie Burgess   |          | David Toney        |
|          | Talon Hairston    |          | Shirley Vest       |
| April 10 | Will Parsell      | April 26 | Steven Quackenbush |
| April 11 | Martha Gordon     | April 27 | Erick Burgess      |
|          | Gene Thurmer      |          |                    |

### Dates to Remember

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| April 01 <sup>st</sup> | April Fool's Day                            |
| April 03 <sup>rd</sup> | Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm                 |
|                        | Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm                   |
| April 10 <sup>th</sup> | Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm                 |
|                        | Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm                   |
| April 11 <sup>th</sup> | CLC Meeting 6:30 pm                         |
| April 14 <sup>th</sup> | Budget & Finance Team Meeting 6:00 pm       |
|                        | Maundy Thursday                             |
| April 16 <sup>th</sup> | Children's Easter Egg Hunt 3:00 pm at FBC   |
| April 17 <sup>th</sup> | Easter                                      |
|                        | No Women's or Men's Bible Study today       |
| April 18 <sup>th</sup> | Taxes are due                               |
| April 19 <sup>th</sup> | Ruby J. Louthan Circle Meeting 6:00 pm      |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> | Baptist Women's Day Circle Meeting 10:30 am |
| April 24 <sup>th</sup> | Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm                 |
|                        | Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm                   |
| April 25 <sup>th</sup> | Deacon's Meeting 6:30 pm                    |
| April 27 <sup>th</sup> | Business Meeting 6:30 pm                    |

### April Anniversaries

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| April 03 | John & Patti Ayers        |
| April 04 | Adam & Fran De Los Santos |
| April 10 | David & Brenda Scruggs    |
| April 18 | Wally & Theresa Parsell   |



FBC'S Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
Goal \$4,500.00