



CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER


April 2023

Volume LXXV, No. 04




Holy Week

Palm Sunday—April 2

- 
- 10:00 am Sunday School
 - 11:00 am Children Process with Palms
Worship “Lenten Meditations and Music”
Stripping of the Sanctuary
 - 3:30 pm Children’s Easter Egg Hunt
-


Maundy Thursday—April 6

- 
- 5:30 pm Family Night Meal
(Reservations due by Friday, March 31)
 - 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service including
Communion in Sanctuary
-

Good Friday—April 7

- 
- Noon “Service of Reflection”
-

Resurrection Sunday—April 9

- 
- 10:00 am Sunday School
 - 10:45 am Flowering of the Cross
 - 11:00am Resurrection Celebration
Children ring “Alleluia Bells”



THE IMPACT OF THE RESURRECTION

Recently I have been looking at various statements people have made about the resurrection of Christ. If someone were to ask you, what proof do you have that Jesus died, was buried, and then rose from the dead, how would you respond? I suspect many who profess faith in Christ have not given that much consideration. Most of us were taught to believe that from childhood. We kind of began there.

For that reason, I think it's difficult for us to have a conversation or debate with those who do not believe this. Most likely, they are seeking a kind of proof that simply cannot be produced. We don't have what would be considered empirical evidence to back up our beliefs, empirical being observable or verifiable facts or evidence.

Our faith is based on belief, on trust in God, and the words of scripture. However scripture does claim that there were folks who did observe and verify bodily appearances of Jesus following his crucifixion and resurrection. Some discount this because those folks were followers of Jesus during his earthly ministry.

Still, there is some observable evidence that is difficult to discount. It seems that the resurrection had a significant impact on those followers of Jesus. For instance, when Jesus was arrested in the garden, one of his disciples drew his sword and attacked the servant of the high priest. Peter was so frightened after Jesus' arrest that he denied knowing him. After the resurrection the followers of Jesus sought neither confrontation nor anonymity. They boldly proclaimed their belief that Jesus was the Christ and they were willing to suffer and die because of those beliefs.

We are told, by scripture that Thomas had to see and touch the body of Jesus in order to believe. The followers of Jesus didn't try to suppress Thomas's questions and doubts. They welcomed and encouraged him and Thomas wound up convinced that he had seen and touched the risen Christ.

Mary Magdalen and, perhaps, some other women went to the tomb to prepare the body for burial then rushed back to Jesus' other followers to tell them that Jesus had arisen. Their claims could easily have been discounted because of first century attitudes toward women, yet their testimony was accepted and scripture until this day testifies that women were the first to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus.

Will any of the above convince someone that Jesus really did rise from the dead? Probably not. For me, the evidence I have is more personal. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead because I have experienced his presence in my life. I read how the lives of others were transformed by the resurrection of Jesus and it resonates with me because I have been transformed by his presence.

There are folks who like to argue and debate issues like this and I don't doubt that there is a place for that. All I can do is observe and verify what has happened in my life and allow others to observe that as well. And, in reality, that may be the best evidence any of us can offer.

As we approach Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection, may you know the joy and the peace and the strength that can only be found in the risen Christ.

Carlton



Worship in April

Worship—April 2 Palm Sunday

“Lenten Meditations and Music”
with flute, cello, violin, and drums,
including

“Out of the Deep” from Rutter’s *Requiem*;
“Arise, My Soul, Arise”; “Psalm 121”;
“Beautiful Savior”; and “Even the Heavens
Are Weeping” - Chancel Choir

Worship—April 6 Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm

Homily by Carlton Allen
Holy Communion

Anthem: “I Love Thee Medley”
Grace Street Quartet

Worship—April 7 Good Friday, Noon

“Service of Reflection”
Keith Jameson, soloist

Worship—April 9 Resurrection Sunday

Scripture: John 20:1-18
(OT: Jeremiah 31:1-6)

Sermon: “To See, To Hear,...To Touch!”
Carlton Allen

Anthems: “Litany for Easter,” and
“Halleluia, Sing!” - Chancel Choir

The flowers in the Narthex are given by
Ken and Carol Richard to the glory of God
and in memory of Colleen DeLoach, Ken
Richard’s sister, and Soon Ja Park,
Myoung McDowell’s mother,

Worship—April 16 Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 1:6-14 (OT Psalm 9:1-8)
Sermon:
“After the Resurrection: Inspiration”
Carlton Allen

Anthem:
“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” from
Messiah, Katie Walenceus, soprano

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the
glory of God and in loving memory of Bill
Rooney by his family.

Worship—April 23 Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
(OT: Psalm 16)

Sermon:
“After the Resurrection: Confirmation”
Carlton Allen

Anthems:
“The Heavens Are Telling” from Haydn’s
The Creation; “Look at the World” -
Chancel Choir

The **Sanctuary flowers** are given to the
glory of God and in memory of Finis
Horne by Bettie Horne.

Worship—April 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 7:54-60
(OT: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16)
Sermon: “After the Resurrection:
Courage to Speak the Truth”
Carlton Allen

Anthem:
“Be Still, and Know that I am God”
Chancel Choir



5th Sunday First Baptist Church Mission and Vision

The Transition Team is hosting the
second congregational event on Sunday,
April 30, during the 10:00 am Sunday
School hour. The event will focus on the
First Baptist Mission Statement, “*Seeking
His Heart...Being His Hands – Living,
Loving, and Serving in the Name of
Christ*” as well as the vision of the church.
How is First Baptist living out its mission
statement? What is the vision of the
church in light of the mission statement?
These and other questions will be
discussed during the event. Make plans
now to be a part of this special Transition
Team event. A make-up session will be
held in the Chapel on Sunday morning,
May 7, during the 10:00 am Sunday
School hour for those who are unable to
make the meeting on April 30.



Music Notes

Music for Holy Week, Easter, and 'After the Resurrection'

The Palm Sunday service on April 2 features **Lenten Meditations and Music**, a service of readings about Jesus' final days, with music to reflect upon those moments. The service will begin with the waving of palm leaves and music that celebrates Christ's triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. The service continues with Jesus gathering the children in his arms, and a lovely piece "The Children of the World" with flute. The service shifts to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. From there the arrest, trial, crucifixion and death, all told in story and song, including "Out of the Deep" from Rutter's *Requiem*, with cello; the ever-popular "Beautiful Saviour" ("Old Crusader's Hymn") sung by the Men's Ensemble and Dan Forrest's exquisite "Arise, My Soul, Arise," sung by the Women's Ensemble and violin, and ending with the haunting "Even the Heavens Are Weeping" that concludes with a "Death March" to end this special service.

On Maundy Thursday, The Grace Street Quartet will sing a medley of songs reflecting our love of Jesus. There will be a short Good Friday service in the chapel at noon, with Keith Jameson singing, and Easter will once again feature celebratory music and hymns. After Easter, Carlton reflects on what happens 'After the Resurrection', and Katie Walenceus offers "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" from Handel's *Messiah*. Chancel Choir and soloists will sing music to reflect creation's beauty on April 23, with Haydn's glorious "The Heavens Are Telling" from *The Creation*. Join us in April for moments of outstanding music and messages of Christ's glory, and our calls to commission and service.



Opportunity for Personal Prayer and Meditation on Good Friday

A "Service of Reflection" will be held at noon on Good Friday, April 7, in the FBC chapel. The brief service will include readings, scriptural songs, and recitation of Christ's last words from the cross. Following this service, the chapel will remain open until 5:00 pm be open for prayer and meditation. A **slide show depicting the events of Jesus' passion**, lasting approximately 10 minutes, will play (on a loop) throughout the afternoon. Everyone is invited to come and reflect corporately and individually on Jesus' life and death. The outside entrance to the chapel will be open for the service. During the afternoon, please enter the church through the main door (closest to the Sanctuary) and walk around to the Chapel.



"Flowering" the Cross

The church family is asked to bring flowers from home to "flower" the cross on Easter. A cross with greenery will be placed in the narthex prior to service.



Salt Shakers Sunday, April 23 Covered-Dish 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

The last Salt Shakers meeting before fall will be Sunday, April 23, at 6:00 pm in fellowship hall. All groups will meet together to celebrate this year of good food and fellowship. Everyone is invited to bring a covered-dish for the groups to enjoy.



May 21

"Munchin' for Missions"



Family Night Meals Resume on Maundy Thursday

Somehow it seems appropriate to restart our Family Meal option on April 6, Maundy Thursday. Maundy Thursday is the night we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples before the crucifixion. Gather for supper, and then stay for the service of remembrance as Communion is shared by intinction.

The meal will be available 5:30 pm-6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Maundy Thursday service will begin at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The menu for Maundy Thursday is oven fried chicken, green beans, mac & cheese, and apple crisp with ice cream for dessert. A salad bar, bread, and beverage is included. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and no family pays more than \$30.00. **Reservations are needed by 5:00 pm Friday, March 31, either online or by calling the church office.**

Robby Stevenson, Jeff Rush, Dennis Moore, and Jim Firmin will prepare the Maundy Thursday meal and have agreed to prepare Wednesday night meals on a trial basis from April 12 until the end of May. The cost of the Wednesday night meal will remain the same: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and no family pays more than \$30.00. **A new permanent reservation list will be created.** To be placed on the permanent reservation list or to make a week by week reservation, call the church office (229-5557) or make a reservation online (fbcgwd.org) by 5:00 pm the Friday before the Wednesday you plan to eat. All meals will include an entrée, sides, a full salad bar, roll/bread, dessert, and beverage.

If you have a reservation for Maundy Thursday and did not specify that the reservation is for that night only, your name is on the permanent reservation list. No other action is needed unless you want your name removed from the permanent list.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of

- Charlie Mauldin
- Margie Owens, Mary Frances Thompson's aunt
- Norman Woodward, Karen Callison Woodward's husband
- Wayne Luquire, Tracie Rush's father

Home: Vivian Andrews

Greenwood Rehab: Lloyd Andrew

Payment of FIRST QUARTER MISSIONS

After a lengthy Stewardship Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 22, the committee voted to pay First Quarter Missions on time and in full. The quarterly mission payment is \$21,175.00.

While the committee voted to pay First Quarter Missions, several committee members are concerned about paying missions "in full and on time" when the financials reflect, as of the end of February, a deficit in revenue to expenses of \$40,954.75.

In agreeing to pay First Quarter Missions, committee members also agreed to send a letter to all mission partners indicating that future missions payments would be dependent on gifts to the annual First Baptist Ministry Plan.

Therefore, the Stewardship Committee is asking the church family to prayerfully consider your gifts to the 2023 Ministry Plan so the committee does not face this difficult decision at the end of June with the payment of second quarter missions.

2023 Ministry Plan

February Income	71,394.48
February Expenses	66,292.66
February Surplus	5,101.82

February 20– March 26, 2023

Monthly Need	95,077.30
Monthly Gifts	97,625.05
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	247,200.98
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	179,897.14
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under)	(67,303.84)
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	153
Worship Attendance (Avg)	217



Spring Dates

- April 2:** Palms in worship
- April 2:** Egg Hunt, 3:30 pm
- April 5:** No Wednesday Night Activities
- April 6:** Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm
- April 9:** Alleluia Bells in Worship
- May 3:** Last children's choirs practice
- May 5** Playground Night, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- May 7:** Two older children's choirs sing in worship
- May 10:** M&M Night, 6:30 (all 3 children's choirs and CIAs)
- May 17:** CIA Fun Night, 6:30 pm
- May 24:** Youth's *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*
- May 31:** Splash Pad, 6:00 pm



Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt is Sunday, April 2, 3:30 pm-5:30 pm at the Weavers' home (450 Pembroke Rd). Bring your Easter baskets. Please use Google Docs to sign up for food.



Calling All Children



On **Palm Sunday (April 2)**, all children are invited to carry palm fronds to the altar during the processional. On **Easter Sunday (April 9)**, children will receive "Alleluia Bells" to ring on the chorus of the great Easter Hymn, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." (Every time the word "Alleluia" is sung the children will ring their bells.) On both of these Sundays, someone will be in the Narthex at 10:45 am to distribute palms or bells.



No Activities on April 5

Maundy Thursday Meal and Service on April 6

On April 5, there will be no Wednesday Night activities. Instead, the church will have a Family Night Meal in the fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm and the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary on April 6. Childcare is available. The cost of the meal will be \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 per child with a family cost cap of \$30.00. Meal reservations must be made by Friday, March 31.

Young at Heart

The Young at Heart group will meet at 11:30 am on Tuesday, April 11, at the Country Club. The meeting will include a program on self defense presented by Vicky Davis.



NGO Hosts Sounds of Grace

The NGO Fellowship will host the *Sounds of Grace* on Tuesday, April 4, at 11:45 am. The program, which features songs of grace and assurance, will begin at 12:00 noon, followed by lunch. The meal will be hamburgers and all the trimmings, a side, and a dessert and will cost \$10.00. **If you are not a member, please make your meal reservation no later than Thursday, March 30, by calling the church office.** Dues are \$5.00. Please come enjoy the fellowship and show your support to both of our hard-working, dedicated senior groups, NGO and SOG.



General Assembly
cbf Friday, April 21, 2023
FBC Anderson
South Carolina

Youth News



April Sunday Night Live

With the various breaks, etc the youth have coming up, youth leaders have made one big change in the youth schedule. Sunday Night Live for April will now be April 16. *Voices of Grace* will rehearse on April 2 - and even though it is a busy time, it is so important that you come if you are able!



The time is now to sign up for Passport! Passport will be at Converse College from June 26-July 1 - and it is the best week of the year! Cost for the trip is \$150.00 for the first child and \$75.00 for your second child. Bring a friend if you want. The deadline to sign up is April 16. We will have a parent information meeting on May 31. Money is due at this parent meeting.



Calling All Graduates

The church family wants to honor any student (high school, technical school, college, or graduate school) associated with FBC who graduated in the Fall of 2022 or who will graduate in the Spring or Summer of 2023. These students will be recognized during worship on June 4. The church office needs the graduate's name, school, graduation date, degree (if applicable), future plans, and a recent photo. This information may be submitted online at www.fbcgwd.org/engage or brought to the church office. **The information and photo is needed no later than May 28.**



Youth Service Project

On Sunday, April 16, the youth will come to church early. The youth will meet at 8:10 am in the parking lot, hop on the bus, and head over to Immanuel Lutheran Church to help prepare and serve lunch at their soup kitchen. This is a great chance to do some good work in our community - and to see that there is more than one way to go to church than to be in the sanctuary on Sunday Morning. The youth will be back to the church around 1:30 pm.



Snacks and Drinks Needed Again

The youth have managed to work their way through the snacks and drinks in the snack room, so they are looking for some donations again. The youth love individually packaged bags of chips, sweets, and the occasional granola bar. The youth also like a lot of different types of sodas (though not big diet drinkers) and also really like to have water available. Thanks in advance for helping keep the youth energetic!



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat

Everyone is invited to see the youth performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evening, May 24.



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Greenwood, SC 29649
(864) 229-2561 Fax
Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

Ministers and Staff

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Helping Hands Ministry Information Line(864) 229-8051

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED
