

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — MARCH 2015



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisional sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

This year is flying by we are already in April and almost a quarter of 2015 is in the history books. As the year proceeds and the church moves forward we can see the hard work and prayers of a lot of people paying off. Here at Cedar Grove there is a lot to be excited, our church is not just standing still, the church has just voted to proceed with the loan to update the front of the church which will improve the appearance but it will also more importantly, make it safe for those who cross the walk way upstairs. As the church moves forward with this project everyone should be encouraged by the 100% vote which I believe shows the unity of the church. Now we as individuals need to commit ourselves to the financial obligation and stretch ourselves to pay it off. I personally believe God is going to increase our faith by His provision to this project which will help us as a church to step out into the deep water where God can really use us in the days ahead.

A second item we should really be excited about is the fact this is the month that we celebrate our Savior's resurrection. Easter always brings greater visibility to our message. This event is what really secures our

salvation and it connects us to Him as well as to each one who is born again. I believe this time of year is very exciting because we can see the newness of life as the trees bud and the grass turns green and the birds and insects return. We should be reminded of the newness of life we have been given in Christ and the power to be changed. With spring we also become a lot more active and visible because of the amount of time we spend outside which should also give us more opportunities to talk to neighbors and make contact with people who perhaps do not know our savior or maybe are just off tract.

My I encourage you don't be a sad sack but look at the great things that God has done and the great things that He has offered to let us be involved in now, things that will make a permanent addition to Cedar Grove not just the church but the community. Let's leverage this bridge project and make it to be the new beginning our church needs to see growth in our faith as well as in the membership.

Pastor Marty

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EASTER

I. *Origin of the Term*

The term Easter was derived from the Anglo-Saxon “Eostre,” the name of the goddess of spring. In her honor sacrifices were offered at the time of the vernal equinox. By the 8th century the term came to be applied to the anniversary of Christ’s resurrection.

II. *Controversy about the Time of Celebration*

The date for the celebration of the Resurrection was the subject of extensive disagreement for centuries. Among early Jewish Christians the time of the observance was determined by the date of the Hebrew Passover festival (Hebrew *pesah*), which began on the 14th day of Nisan. Gentile Christians, however, tended to celebrate the Resurrection on a Sunday. The result was that Christians in the East generally observed the same day of the month, regardless of the day of the week on which it fell, whereas Christians in Rome and the West observed the same day of the week (the first), regardless of the day of the month on which it came. The issue was bitterly debated, but as time passed an increasing number of people celebrated the anniversary of the Resurrection on the first day of the week.

Steps toward settlement of the disagreement were taken at the Council of Nicea (A.D. 325). Although Syrian leaders argued for dating Easter according to the Jewish Passover, the Council unanimously decided that the Resurrection was to be celebrated in all churches on the same

Sunday. No fixed rule was established for deciding which Sunday was to be observed. Instead, it was left for church leaders of Alexandria to determine the date each year. Disagreement continued to surround the matter. Some, who were called “Quarto-decimans,” persisted in relating Easter to the 14th of Nisan.

By the 7th century the practice of the Church had become reasonably uniform. The time agreed upon was the first Sunday following the full moon that comes on or after the vernal equinox. The date of the equinox was set at Mar. 21. This allowed for a variation in Easter dates from Mar. 22 to Apr. 25. The uniformity of practice which prevailed for a number of centuries was again disturbed for a time with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1582.

III. *Current Practice*

In the 20th century there is agreement on the determination of the Easter date except in the Eastern Orthodox Church, which employs a somewhat different method of calculation. The advisability of fixing the date of Easter on a set Sunday, such as the first Sunday of April, has been discussed by some church leaders in recent years.

D. W. Burdick, “Easter,” ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 6.



ANNIVERSARIES

No one got married in April!



BIRTHDAYS

Thomas “TJ” Owens	09 April
Ryan Camp	10 April
Evelynne Azurdia	11 April
Bethany Cagle	15 April
Buddy Grainger	22 April
Trish Carter	27 April
Jack Caviness	01 May

MISSION OPPORTUNITY IN APRIL 2015

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

FOOD DRIVE

April is *Food Roundup* month for Baptist Children's Home. During this month North Carolina Baptist Churches collect non-perishable food items and supplies for

the BCH ministries in this state. The Missions Committee will soon publish a list of requested items and provide for the collection of those items.



The *Food Roundup* impacts the lives of Baptist Children's Home residents every year. The annual food drive is particularly meaningful to Trevor and Tabitha who live at Broyhill Home in Clyde.

Before coming to BCH, the siblings were never sure when, or if, they would be able to eat. Often they went hungry.

"We really didn't get to eat three meals a day or eat every day for that matter," Tabitha recalls. "We ate whatever we could.

The brother and sister depended on soup kitchens, school lunches or food donations to get by and not starve.

"One time, we went a week or so sharing a jar of peanut butter and that was it," Tabitha says. "That was normal for us to go without for a certain amount of time."

Circumstances changed greatly when they came to BCH. According to Tabitha, food was no longer a concern. "We actually go to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner every

day and sit with each other at the dining room table and it was great."

North Carolina Baptists and other organizations make it possible for children and residents at BCH's statewide locations to enjoy freshly prepared nutritious meals every day through the *Food Roundup*. This year, BCH is asking participants to collect \$350,000 in non-perishable food items, supplies and gift cards throughout the month of April. As many as 700,000 meals and snacks are prepared throughout the year at BCH locations.

The food that is collected will be delivered to BCH locations beginning on April 27.

"I like to help the people who come to unload food," Trevor says. "They get to meet up and see the smiles on our faces—and we get to thank them. It just means a lot."

BECAUSE HE LIVES

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me; because I live, ye shall live also.

John 14:19

The music of Gloria and Bill Gaither has greatly enriched evangelical hymnody. Such songs as “He Touched Me,” “Something Beautiful,” “Let’s Just Praise the Lord,” “The King Is Coming,” “There’s Something About That Name,” and “I Am Loved” are just a few of the nearly four hundred songs that have flowed from the hearts and pens of this talented and godly couple.

But the one number that has especially highlighted the Gaither’s ministry is a song that reflects their own philosophy of life—“the resurrection principle in the daily routines of life”—“Because He Lives.” Bill Gaither recalls the circumstances that prompted the writing of this song, which was voted by the Gospel Music Association and by ASCAP as the “Gospel Song of the Year for 1974:”

We wrote “Because He Lives” after a period of time when we had had a kind of dry spell and hadn’t written any songs for a while.... Also at the end of the 1960’s, when our country was going through some great turmoil with the height of the drug culture and the whole “God Is Dead” theory which was running wild in our country and also at the peak of the Vietnam War, our little son was born,—Benjy—at least Gloria was expecting him. And I can remember at the time we thought, “Brother, this is really a poor time to bring a child into the world.” At times we were even quite discouraged by the whole thing. And then Benjy did come. We had two little girls whom we love very much, but this was our first son, and so that lyric

came to us, “How sweet to hold our new-born baby and feel the pride and joy he gives, but better still the calm assurance that this child can face uncertain days because Christ lives.” And it gave us the courage to say “Because Christ lives we can face tomorrow” and keep our heads high, and hopefully that could be of meaning to other people.

It’s rather interesting now that, although we don’t consider ourselves as “old” writers, we’ve had many people tell us they have used that song at a funeral of a loved one; and it has been very encouraging to them, at a time when they were very discouraged. So evidently a lot of people have shared the same kind of experience of being discouraged.

Bill Gaither began his career teaching English, literature and journalism, in 1959, in his home town of Alexandria, Indiana. There he met Gloria Sickal, who taught French and English in the same high school. They began singing “Gaither music” in churches in the area and, in 1962, were united in marriage. Together they have raised three children—Suzanne, born in 1964; Amy, born in 1969; and Benjy, 1970. Gloria and Bill both left the teaching profession, in 1967, to pursue a full-time ministry of writing, recording albums, of which there are now more than thirty, and performing approximately fifty concerts each year.

¹ Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 More Hymn Stories* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1985), 46–47.