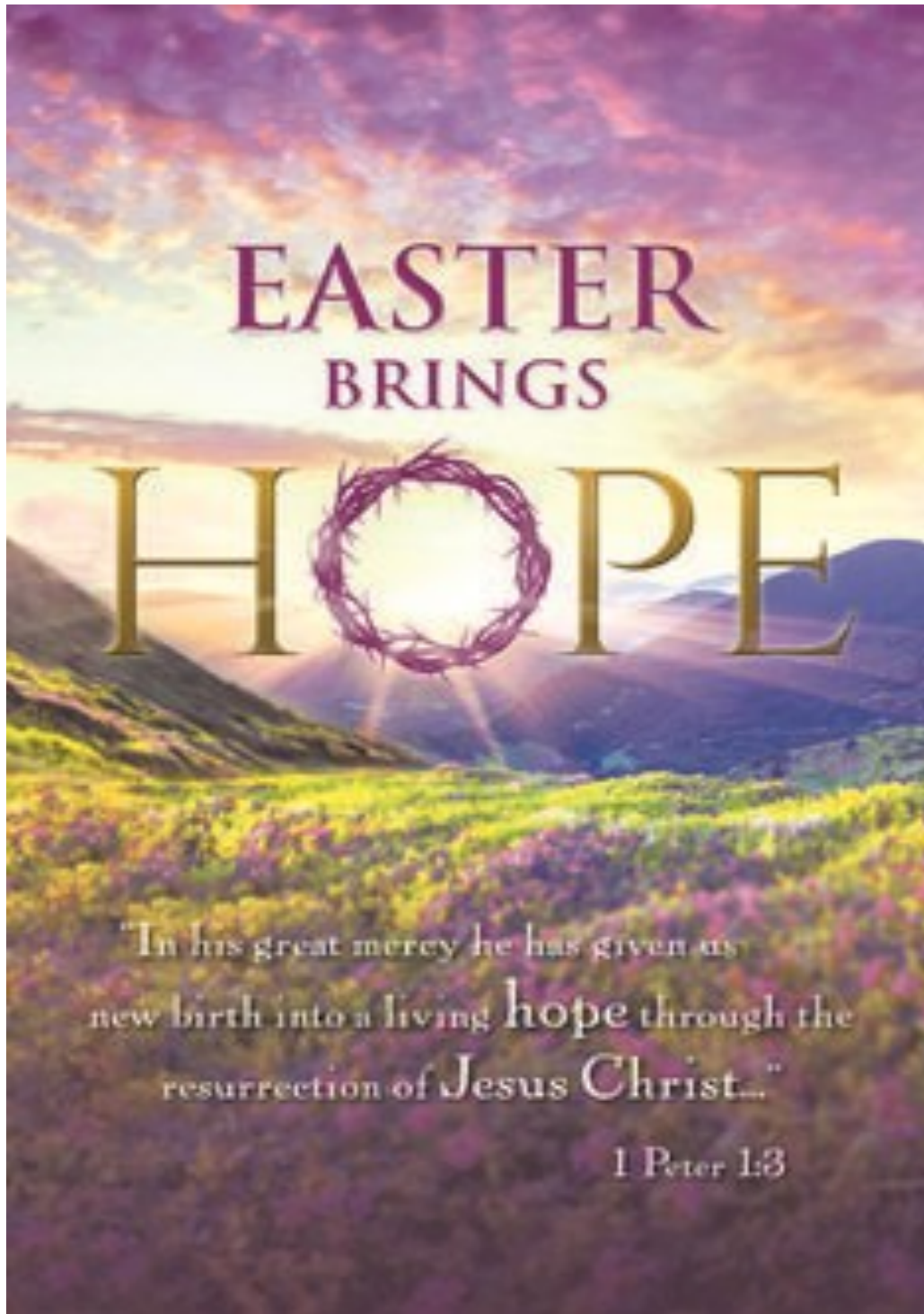




*First Baptist Church
Sun City*

What's Happening

April 2025



"In his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ..."

1 Peter 1:3

From the Pastor's Heart



Many of us recently have experienced much affliction in our lives. I got this article from *Gracegems.com*. May it encourage you to keep pushing on in this great race.

"Though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials" 1 Peter 1:6

What a blessed motto and superscription over the dark lintels of sorrow: "There is a necessity for this!" Every arrow from the quiver of God is feathered with it! Write it, child of affliction, over every trial that your God sees fit to send!

If He calls you down from the sunny mountain-heights to the darksome valleys--hear Him saying: "*There is a necessity for this!*"

If He has dashed the cup of earthly prosperity from your lips, curtailed your creature comforts, diminished your "basket and store"--hear Him saying: "*There is a necessity for this!*"

If He has plowed and furrowed your soul with severe bereavement, extinguished light after light in your dwelling--hear Him thus stilling the tumult of your grief, "*There is a necessity for this!*"

Yes, believe it--*there is some profound reason for your trial*, which at present may be indiscernible to you. No furnace will be hotter than He sees to be needed.

Be still and know that He is God! That "necessity," remember, is in the hands of infinite Love, infinite Wisdom, and infinite Power! Trust Him in little things, as well as in great things; in trifles as well as in disasters. Seek to have an unquestioning faith. Though other paths, doubtless, would have been selected by you had the choice been in your hands--be it yours to listen to His voice at every turn of the road, saying, "*This is the way, walk in it!*"

We may not be able to understand it now, but one day we shall find that affliction is one of God's most blessed ministers, sent forth to "minister to those who are heirs of salvation."

Sorrowful one! There is a reason for your chastisement. "For the Lord disciplines those whom He loves and chastens every child whom He accepts." Hebrews 12:6

What! God loves me, when He is discharging His quiver upon me, emptying me from vessel to vessel, causing the sun of my earthly joys to set in clouds? Yes, afflicted, tempest-tossed one! *He chastens you, because He loves you!* This trial comes from His own tender, loving hand--from His own tender, unchanging heart!

From the Pastor's Heart (continued)

Are you laid on a sick bed, are sorrowful months and wearisome nights appointed unto you? Let this be the pillow on which your aching head reclines: It is because God loves me!

Is it bereavement which has swept your heart and desolated your dwelling? God appointed that chamber of death; He opened that tomb--because He loves you!

Believer! Rejoice in the thought that the chastening rod is in the hands of the living, loving Savior who died for you! Tribulation is the King's Highway, and yet that highway is paved with love. As some flowers require to be *pressed* before shedding their fragrance--so does your God see fit to *bruise* you, to bring out your graces.

If your heavenly Father's smile has for the moment been exchanged for the chastening rod, be assured there is some deep necessity for the discipline. There is nothing capricious in His dealings. Love is the reason of all that He does. There is no drop of wrath in that bitter cup you are called upon to drink!

Erring human wisdom has no place in God's allotments. An earthly father may err--yes, he is ever erring. But "as for God, His way is perfect!" This is the explanation of His every dealing: "Your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things!"

In our seasons of trial, when under some inscrutable painful dispensation, how apt is the *murmuring thought* to rise in our hearts: "All these things are against me! Might not this overwhelming blow have been spared? Might not this dark cloud, which has shadowed my heart and my home with sadness, have been averted? Might not my trial have been less severe? Surely the Lord has forgotten to be gracious!"

No! These afflictions are errands of mercy in disguise! "He does not afflict willingly." There is nothing capricious or arbitrary about your God's dealings. Unutterable tenderness is the character of all His allotments! He appoints no needless pang. *He has precious lessons that could not otherwise have been taught!*

Afflicted one! Be assured that there is some deep necessity in all that He does. In our calendars of sorrow we may put this luminous mark against every trying hour: "*It was needed!*" Some excess branch in the tree required pruning, to increase its fruitfulness.

Mourning one! He might have dealt far otherwise with you! He might have cut you down as a fruitless, worthless cumberer! He might have abandoned you to drift--disowned and unpiloted on the rocks of destruction, joined to your idols! He might have "left you alone" to settle on your lees and forfeit your eternal bliss! But He loved you better. It was kindness--infinite kindness, which blighted your fairest blossoms, and hedged up your way with thorns!

Trust His heart, when you cannot trace His hand!

Pastor Billy



LIVING WITH INTENTION

WOMEN'S "BRUNCH" LUNCHEON

Monday, April 7th

11:30 am

Join us for our monthly women's luncheon in April, where our host, Cheryl Alldis, will lead us on the subject of Living with Intention and Purpose.

Bring your favorite *BRUNCH* food to share.

Please sign up at the Member Services table in the Foyer and let us know what you will be bringing.



BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

The first Sunday of each month when we have the Lord's Supper, we also take a Benevolence offering. The ushers will be standing at the exit doors with an offering plate to take your Benevolence offering as you leave. Please write Benevolence on your check or envelope.



Our snowbirds will be leaving soon before the summer heat arrives. If you are going back to your summer home, please make sure that we have your mailing address while you're gone, and your phone number if it is different. You can call the church office or send an email to office@firstbaptistsuncity.com and let us know the dates you will be leaving and returning.

For those of you who stay here year-round, we appreciate you!!

Carol's Music Notes



It seems we just sang our Choir Christmas Cantata, and now the Easter Celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection is around the corner on Sunday April 20th! In actuality, we celebrate our Lord's birth and death and resurrection EVERY SINGLE DAY of the year - the *Greatest Love Story* ever told. The Sanctuary choir has enthusiastically and faithfully put their hearts and souls into the music we will be singing that Easter Sunday. "He Was Despised and Rejected" is straight out of the Bible in Isaiah; the Spiritual, "Were You There?" along with the beautiful song, "Behold the Lamb" will move you into worship of our Savior. There will be some congregational singing also as we anticipate the pastor's message. Just prior to the sermon, the dedicated men and women of our choir will bless the Lord and bless you with an arrangement of "Jesus Paid it All", preparing our hearts and minds to listen to and to heed God's Word.

If you know a family member or neighbor or friend who needs the comfort and hope of our Risen Lord, invite them, go pick them up, perhaps tell them you will buy their lunch afterwards! The time to make a decision for Christ is NOW; He will be waiting patiently for their response; then, when they respond with a decision to accept Him as their Lord and Savior, the angels in Heaven will break out in song, rejoicing and singing praises - this one was lost and is now found, was blind but now sees.....Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

JESUS IS RISEN.....HE IS RISEN INDEED! Come and worship and be blessed and encouraged!



Carol Truelove
Music Director



First Baptist Church, Sun City

At First Baptist Church, Sun City our mission is to transform our neighborhoods with the Gospel by displaying the love of Christ through Christ-centered worship, Spirit-led evangelism, meaningful relationships, and biblical instruction. Our chief aim is to Glorify God, Grow together, and Give back.

Here, we focus on the “three G’s”

Glorify God
Grow Together
Give Back

This four-week membership course is designed as an orientation to the life of First Baptist Church, Sun City: Who we are, What we believe, What we expect, and What we provide. It is our hope that in the coming weeks your love for God and His people will grow, and that you will be encouraged to step out as the minister that He has called you to be. We believe that this church can do great things for Christ, and that you will be a big part of it.

Our class will begin on April 6th in the Library Room at 9 am. We would love to have you come and join us!

The Pastors and Staff of First Baptist Church, Sun City.

Sign-up sheet in the foyer

A graphic with the text 'In Loving Memory' in a cursive font, set against a background of pink roses.

| | |
|--|--|
| A portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. | A portrait of an elderly woman with short, wavy blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top. |
| Dan Oxford DOD: 3/10/25 | Eva Owen DOD: 3/12/25 |

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Jill Short
- 7 Tim Walter
- 9 Jim Henderson
- 9 Steven Horst
- 10 Flora Coffman
- 13 Terri Johnson
- 14 Rose Suggs
- 16 Clara Jean Thomas
- 20 Dean Luehrs
- 23 Joan Crowley
- 25 Cathy Perkinson
- 29 Joyce Cagle
- 29 Ray Rainwater



KEEP ADOPTED BOTTLES FROM
GOING TO WASTE



RETURN THEM

TO KEEP THE CYCLE GOING
AND TO KEEP CHANGING LIVES

Just a reminder, if you took a baby bottle to collect money for the NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER, please return your baby bottle to the church by Sunday, April 13th. Just place them in the pink fabric bag on the Member Services table in the foyer.

You can either collect your lose change, include dollar bills or write a check made out to NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER. Do NOT make your checks out to the church.



SATURDAY

APRIL 26TH

8:00 AM

Pastor Doug will be having another Men's Breakfast and continuing on in the series by Tony Dungey called "God's Uncommon Man".

Pastor Doug had the privilege of being the Colt's chaplain for several years while coach Dungey was there. This man is truly a man of God and we can all learn from him.

See you this Saturday at 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall.



MOVE IT & LOSE IT
SEATED EXERCISE
Every Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am



Fun, Food and Fellowship

POTLUCK

APRIL 30TH AT 10 AM

Bring your favorite dish to share and hear Pastor Doug's presentation on his missionary trips to Nagaland.



Nagaland is a state of **India** located in the far north-eastern part of the country. It borders the states of Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh to the north, and Manipur to the south. It also contains India's border with **Myanmar** to the east. The state capital of Nagaland is Kohima, while the largest city is Dimapur. The state has a population of nearly two million people, and a total land area of 16,579 **km**, making it one of the smallest states in India. Nagaland, along with the

other states in India's northeast, has a culture that is quite distinct from the rest of mainland India, leading all of the northeast's states to have the nickname, "The Seven Sister States" due to their cultural separation from the rest of India.

A land engulfed in mystery, inhabited by vibrant people zealously guarding their culture – dancers, warriors, head-hunters; mountains, valleys, forests – all these form the portrait of Nagaland the moment the word is uttered.



From the Desk of Associate Pastor Doug



Ruth and I look forward to celebrating Easter with you, reflecting on the most important event in history - the death, burial and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our prayer is that you will experience the hope found in our risen Savior. He is risen! *He is risen indeed!*

Every believer in Christ is entrusted with a calling, endowed with a purpose, and bestowed with a message. We first read this charge in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus states:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. —Matthew 28:19-20

In this passage, known as the Great Commission, believers are instructed to fulfill three specific commands: first, to make disciples of all nations; second, to baptize them; third, to teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded. The word translated "Go" is often viewed as the primary command of this passage. However, some Bible scholars suggest that a more accurate translation of Jesus' command to "*Go therefore and make disciples...*" is "...as you go, make disciples of all nations." This rendering captures the intent of Jesus' words - wherever you go, whenever you go, with whomever you go, and whatever you do as you go, make disciples! This is our purpose!

Similarly, the apostle Paul states in Colossians 1:28, "*Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ Jesus.*" "Do you see it? Our purpose is to make Christ known, make disciples, and introduce as many people to Christ as possible.

In addition to our purpose, we are entrusted with the message. Paul speaks to this message in his second letter to the church in Corinth:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. —2 Corinthians 5:17-21

There is so much in this passage for us to know and practice. But for our reading today, let's focus on several key truths:

- If you are a believer, the Scripture says the old person - the person that existed before you believed in Christ - has passed, disappeared, is gone.
- That former person is replaced by the new - you are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

From the Desk of Associate Pastor Doug (continued)

- As believers, we have a new purpose - we are ministers of reconciliation. In other words, we are responsible for sharing the message entrusted to us.
- The message entrusted to us is one of reconciliation. While sin separates humanity from God, the message of the reconciliation brings the promise that when an individual confesses Christ as his or her Savior and Lord, he or she is justified by faith, and that through Christ, we have peace with God (Romans 5:1). Salvation includes many spiritual benefits, one of which certainly includes reconciliation with God, restoration of relationship, and fellowship with God Almighty through Christ.

God uses us, as believers, to make His appeal to the world. As ambassadors entrusted with the message, we are commanded to take the message into the world. As we go, let's implore the world to be saved, to believe in Jesus, to be reconciled to God!

In closing, Paul provides one of the most succinct Gospel statements in Scripture. *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). Friends, if you know Him, make Him known, for we've been entrusted with the message to share that message. If you do not know Him, let me implore you, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, receive Him now, confess your sin, and be made new - for God sent Jesus to pay for your sin, that you might be reconciled to God.

Have a blessed Easter,

Pastor Doug and Ruth



EASTER WORD SEARCH

Words can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may be read either forward or backward.



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APOSTLE

CRUCIFIXION

JUDAS

REBORN

ASCENSION

DISCIPLES

LAST SUPPER

RESURRECTION

BARABBAS

DISMAS

MAGDALENE

SEPULCHRE

BETRAYAL

EASTER

MARY

SIMON

CALVARY

GOSPEL

PALM SUNDAY

SINS

CENTURION

HE IS RISEN

PASSOVER

SON OF GOD

CROSS

JAMES

PETER

SUNRISE

CROWN OF

JERUSALEM

PILATE

TEMPLE

EASTER AND THE EMPTY EGG

He was nine - in a Sunday School class of eight-year-olds. Eight-year-olds can be cruel. The third-graders did not welcome Philip to their group. Not just because he was older. He was "different." He suffered from Down's syndrome and its obvious manifestations: facial characteristics, slow responses, symptoms of retardation.

One Sunday after Easter the Sunday school teacher gathered some of those plastic eggs - the kind in which some ladies pantyhose are packaged. Plastic eggs which pull apart in the middle. The Sunday school teacher gave one of these plastic eggs to each child.

On that beautiful spring day each child was to go outdoors and discover for himself some symbol of "new life" and place that symbolic seed or leaf or whatever inside his egg. They would then open their eggs one by one, and each youngster would explain how his find was a symbol of "new life."

So... The youngsters gathered around on the appointed day and put their eggs on a table, and the teacher began to open them.

One child found a flower. All the children "oohed" and "aahed" at the lovely symbol of new life. In another was a butterfly. "Beautiful," the girls said. And it's not easy for an eight-year-old to say "beautiful." ...

The teacher opened the last one, and there was nothing inside. "That's not fair!" someone said. "That's stupid!" said another. Teacher felt a tug on his shirt. It was Philip. Looking up he said, "It's mine. I did it. **It's empty. I have new life because the tomb is empty.**" The class fell silent....

From that day on Philip became part of the group. They welcomed him. Whatever had made him different was never mentioned again.

Philip's family had known he would not have a long life; just too many things wrong with the tiny body. That summer, overcome with infection, Philip died.

On the day of his funeral nine eight-year-old boys and girls confronted the reality of death and marched up to the altar - not with flowers. Nine children with their Sunday school teacher placed on the casket of their friend their gift of love - AN EMPTY EGG.

Philip was right. Jesus' tomb was found EMPTY! That's part of the most wonderful news - the Gospel - that this world will ever know: "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

Because Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again, we can have the FORGIVENESS of our sins that condemn us and NEW LIFE when we were destined for destruction (Romans 6:23).

We can receive the benefits of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection when: we place our faith and trust in Him (Acts 16:30-31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), and confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10).

Because Jesus' tomb was found empty, WE can have new life! Won't YOU accept His offer on His terms?
Paul Harvey



APRIL



| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----|--|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | | 1 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 2 9:00 am Missions Cmte 10:00 am Corporate Prayer 11:00 am Choir | 3 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 4 OFFICE CLOSED | 5 |
| 6 | Lord's Supper 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Service | 7 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Ladies Lunch | 8 9:00 am Prayer Warriors 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 pm Choir | 9 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 10 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 11 OFFICE CLOSED |
| 13 | BABY BOTTLES DUE BACK 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Service | 14 9:30 am Staff Meeting | 15 9:00 am Finance Cmte 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Choir | 16 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 17 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 18 OFFICE CLOSED |
| 20 | EASTER 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Service | 21 9:30 am Staff Meeting | 22 9:00 am Nominating Cmte 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Choir | 23 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 24 9:00 am Seated Exercise | 25 OFFICE CLOSED |
| 27 | 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Service | 28 9:30 am Staff Meeting | 29 10:00 am Fun, Food & Fellowship 11:00 am Choir | 30 | | 26 8:00 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast 9:00 am Deacon Mfg |





SUNDAY

9:00 am Bible Study for All Ages
10:30 am Worship Service

WEDNESDAY

10:00 am Bible Study



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