

Strawberry Baptist Association

Spirit



David Timma- Moderator

Vernon DeLong – Interim Secretary

Vol 55 No. 3 Mar 2024



“Significance of the Stone at His Resurrection”

Most people greet you this time of year with the traditional greeting, “Happy Easter.” I prefer the European Greeting, “Happy Resurrection Day,” because it reminds me of the real reason we Celebrate Easter. We know the Gospel story - Jesus Died on the Cross to Save us from our Sins, and they Buried Him in a borrowed Grave. Jesus’ Death on the Cross Saves us from Hell, the penalty of Sin, but story doesn’t end there. Jesus Arose from the Grave to give us Eternal Life. The Disciples believed Jesus was Dead, as did the women who followed them, but on the 3rd Day after His Crucifixion, the women came to the Tomb early, looking for Jesus. They came to

anoint His Body for proper burial, but the Tomb had been Sealed by Pilate. Their biggest concern was, “*Who will Roll Away the Stone?*” They needed to get into the Tomb to see Jesus, so the Angel rolled the Stone away for them. **But What is the Significance of the Stone that the Angel Rolled Away from the Grave?**

The Stone Reminds us of the Despair of Death. The Stone blocked the way, so those on the outside could not get in, and the inside would not get out, or so the Romans and Jews thought. A lot of people believe Death is the End, this life is all there is to Life. Some People Believe we shall never see our loved ones again, they are dead and gone. But the Stone was Rolled Away to let us in, not to let Jesus out. They needed to see there is more to Life than Death. Death is not the end, it’s only the beginning. There is Life after Death. The question is, “*Where will you spend Life after Death?*” ***Jesus Arose from the Grave to Conquer Death. He’s Alive!***

The Stone Reminds us the Efforts of the Enemy. The Tomb was Sealed by the Roman Rulers to maintain the status quo, to keep things quiet and orderly. The Religious Leaders wanted to silence Jesus, because He reminded them of their Sins. Satan wanted to Kill Jesus, so he Shut Him in the Tomb, because he wanted to Destroy the Son of God. But the Grave could not Hold Him, He was not there, He was already gone. Jesus came to Die on the Cross, then Arise from the Grave, He wasn’t going to stay dead. ***He Arose from the Grave to Conquer Sin and Satan. A Stone could not Hold Him in the Grave.***

The Stone Reminds us of Anything that Separates us from the Savior. The Stone separated the women from Jesus; it kept them from Doing what they came to do, to anoint His body for a proper Jewish burial. Unbelief separates us from Jesus; they believed they were Helpless before the Stone. It would take two strong men to roll it out of the way. Sin separates us from Jesus, they were separated from their Master. Inactivity also separates us, they didn’t believe they were able to roll away the stone, so they were going to let somebody else do it. ***Jesus Arose to Prove He is God, Nothing can separate us from God. He Rolled the Stone Away!***

It was our **Sins** that nailed Jesus to the Cross, His **Enemies** tried to keep Him in the Tomb, the **Stone** Separated us from Him, so **He Rolled the Stone Away**, so we could get in, to show us He is Alive. The angel told the women, “***He is Not Here, for He is Risen, Come, See the place where the Lord lay. Then Go quickly and Tell His Disciples that He has risen from the Dead.***” **The Stone has been Rolled Away!** Do Not Despair of Death, an Empty Grave reminds us Death is not the end of Life. Do Not allow Satan to Defeat you, an Empty Grave reminds us Jesus Won the Battle by His Resurrection. Do Not allow Anything to separate us from the Savior, whether Unbelief, Sin, or Inactivity. “***Nothing can separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!***” (Rom 8:38-39) Not even a Stone.

(Sunrise Service Sermon Easter 2004)

Vernon
Vice-Moderator

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Happening in Our Churches

Bedford

- *We are in full swing with Fund-raising to send our Mission Team to Alabama in June. On March 2nd, a group of ladies will be going to Board & Brush in Forest for a fun-filled Saturday with proceeds going towards the Mission Trip. We will have our annual Plant Sale at the same location on Peaks Street on April 27th to help fund the trip.
- *The Youth will enjoy a movie trip, with lunch following Morning Worship on March 17th.
- *The Children/Preschoolers Easter Party will be Sunday, March 24th, following Morning Worship. Everyone will enjoy an Egg Hunt, Bible Story, Music, Crafts, Lunch and more.
- *We will also be collecting cards and/or goodies for those on our CARE list for Easter, we love making our homebound members feel special and missed.
- *Ladies, mark your calendars for another Inspiring Women's Day with Beth Greer on Saturday, May 11th. Registration details are on our website.

Flint Hill

- ***Easter Services: Sunrise Service at 7:04 am**, followed by **Breakfast at 8:00 am**. **Sunday School** will be **at 9:00 am** and **Worship Service at 10:00 am**.

Pecks

- *Awana's participated in their yearly "**Grand Prix**" **Car Race** on Saturday, March 2nd. Everybody had fun.
- *We will celebrate **Communion** with a "**Good Friday**" **Service** on Friday, March 29th, at 7:00 pm, to Commemorate **Jesus' Death** on the Cross, before Celebrating **His Resurrection** on that first Easter morning.
- ***Easter Services:** Begin with **Sunrise Service at 7:00 am**, followed by **Breakfast at 7:30 am**. **Sunday School** begins **at 8:45 am** and **Worship Service at 10:00 am**. **Regular Church Services are an hour earlier than normal. There will be NO Evening Services, or Awana's.**

Timber Ridge

- *Our ladies recently enjoyed their second annual "**Game Night**." They were treated to a Potato Bar, yummy desserts, door prizes and many fun and funny games. Side splitting laughter was had by all. The ladies also enjoyed "**Galentines Night**." They enjoyed fellowshiping with each other over dinner before seeing the movie, "**Ordinary Angels**."
- *Our people were recently treated to a spaghetti lunch with salad, garlic bread and delicious desserts in honor of **Valentine's Day**.
- *Our Youth are busy and on the move. They are being challenged through Bible studies that provide practical application, as well as encouraging them in their daily spiritual walk with the Lord. They recently attended a hockey game and ball game at Liberty University. They also enjoyed a "**Lock In**" at the church.
- *AWANA's enjoyed a "**Souper Bowl Night**." Clubbers brought in soup and other canned good items for our local help centers. They also celebrated "**President's Night**" with a giant chocolate fountain.
- *The **Bedford County Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC)** taskforce recently joined us to speak to our AWANA Clubbers, our Youth and our parents concerning safety while surfing the internet, as well as recognizing stranger danger and how to avoid unsafe, or dangerous, situations.
- *Our WMU hosted a "**Haiti Missions Workshop**." The ladies enjoyed a time of fellowship refreshments, tracing, cutting and sewing material for pads for young women in Haiti. This is a very important and vital ministry to these women and young girls.
- *Pastor Phil is continuing his in-depth study in the **Book of Revelation**. Most recently, we looked at the Mark of the Beast and gained a greater understanding of its role in Scripture and during the end times.

Trinity

- ***Easter Celebration:** Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 am - 1:00 pm for Children 12 years and under. There will be a Presentation of the Easter Story, Easter egg hunt & games. Lunch will be provided.
- ***Easter Services:** on Sunday, March 31st Sunrise Service 7:00 am, Breakfast 7:30 am, Sunday School 9:00 am, and Worship Service 10:00 am

*Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He Arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He Lives forever, with His saints to Reign.
He Arose! He Arose! Hallelujah! Christ Arose!*



246th SBA Annual Meeting
at Flint Hill Baptist Church
on Monday, April 22nd

The Association will provide a Catered Meal. The Meal starts at 5:00 pm. Following the Meal, a Worship Service & Business Meeting will begin at 6:00; we plan to be finished by 7:30 pm.

If any church members who are not messengers would like to attend, please let us know the count. Visitors may attend both the meal & the meeting but are not allowed to vote on any business.

We Need the Count of those Coming to Eat by FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH.

You may Email or Call your Messenger & Visitor Count to the SBA Office at sbava@shentel.net, [540-586-8345](tel:540-586-8345) (Office).

SBA Church Messengers for 2024

Beaverdam	<u>7</u>	Mount Olivet	<u>2</u>
Bedford	<u>3</u>	Mountain. View	<u>2</u>
Bethlehem	<u>2</u>	Pecks	<u>2</u>
Big Island	<u>2</u>	Quaker	<u>3</u>
Diamond Hill	<u>2</u>	Sedalia	<u>2</u>
Flint Hill	<u>4</u>	Shady Grove	<u>2</u>
Glade Creek	<u>2</u>	Suck Spring	<u>2</u>
Hunting Creek	<u>2</u>	Thanxton	<u>2</u>
Mentow	<u>5</u>	Timber Ridge	<u>4</u>
Morgans	<u>2</u>	Trinity	<u>4</u>
Mount Hermon	<u>3</u>	Walnut Grove	<u>2</u>

***Notice to All Church Clerks – We need a list of Deceased Members for 2023 so we can list their names in the Program of the Annual Meeting.**

Week of Prayer For North American Missions

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
March 3-10, 2024

National Offering Goal - \$75 Million
100% of your Offering goes to the Mission Field.

Theme: Make Jesus Known



Strawberry Baptist Association
P.O. Box 91
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March

3/5 **Pastor's Conference**
3/10 **Daylight Savings Time *Begins***
3/31 **EASTER**