

**Ringgold Baptist Church**

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**Return Service Requested**



**A WORD FROM PASTOR DUANE**

We celebrate Easter this month, and Spring is here. It is time to start thinking about planting the garden. As I contemplate my garden for this year, after a disastrous garden season last year, I realized how some of my planting habits are like the disciples on the Saturday before Jesus rose from the dead on Resurrection Sunday. When I plant seeds in my garden, I make sure the ground has been tilled, fertilized properly, and there is plenty of moisture in the ground. I lay off the rows, and I plant the seeds. I know it takes some time for the seeds to germinate, sprout, and come up out of the ground; however, since I cannot see what is going on in the ground, I begin to wonder what is going on with the seed in the ground. I wonder if it is too cold for the seed to germinate. I wonder if it was planted too deep or too shallow. I wonder if there is too much moisture and it drowned, or if there is not enough moisture and it will not sprout. I wonder if the crows have pulled up the seed or if it is still there. The problem is I cannot see what is going on in the ground, so I will scratch the ground sometimes to see if the seeds have sprouted or to see how close they are to shooting up out of the ground. I desire the seeds to germinate and shoot up out of the ground because that is what they are meant to do. So if it doesn't happen when I think it should, I begin to doubt the conditions are right. I wonder if I need to replant or not. Not knowing what is going on in the ground can be frustrating.

While Jesus was on Earth with His disciples, He taught them and trained them. He shared with them that in order to fulfill His purpose on Earth, He must be put to death and be buried; but on the third day He would rise again to life. Just as a seed must die before it germinates and sprouts forth with new life, Jesus must first die and rise again that we may have new life. It happened just the way Jesus said it would. Angry men beat Him and nailed Him to a cross. They humiliated Him, they mocked Him, and He died an agonizing death in order to pay the sin debt that you and I have accumulated. He paid it in full. He finished the work of redemption on Calvary's cross.

But as His followers watched all this take place, and as they laid His dead body in a borrowed tomb that was sealed shut and guarded by soldiers; they rested on the Sabbath day and waited. What was going through their minds? What would have been going through yours? The women went to the tomb on Sunday morning to prepare His body for burial because it was too late on Friday to do that. What did they expect to find? What they found was an empty tomb. Jesus did just what He said He would. But Saturday they could not see what was going on in the ground. That is the place between faith and sight. Saturday is the place we are between our problem and God's promise fulfilled. We wonder, as I am sure they did, if He will do what He said He would do. It is easy on this side of Easter Sunday to wonder how they could doubt after all they had seen. They had seen Jesus heal the sick, cause the blind to see, make the lame to walk, and allow the deaf to hear. He even raised the dead to life. We wonder how they could have doubted, but we know Thomas said he would not believe unless he saw Jesus and touched the nail scarred hands. Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed." Are you blessed? Maybe you believe Jesus died and rose again and by faith you have eternal life. But what about His other promises? Do you trust and believe He will meet your needs even when you can't see it happening? Do you believe He is with you even when you can't feel it? Do you believe He is listening even when He is silent? Will you trust Him instead of scratching in the dirt trying to see why the answer hasn't come yet? Will you rest in Him and wait even if it's Saturday?

Pastor Duane

**STAFF / SERVICE TIMES / MONTHLY SERVANTS**

**STAFF**

Pastor.....Rev. Duane Caldwell  
 Administrative Secretary.....Cheryl Hogg  
 Minister of Music.....Daniel Wolfe  
 Minister to Children.....Stephanie Barts  
 Minister to Youth.....Brandon Barts  
 Organist.....Ginger Collie  
 Pianist.....Leslie Blair  
 Groundskeeper.....Doug Motley  
 Maintenance.....Kevin Barker

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday - Friday  
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

**CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday School - 9:15 am  
 Sunday Morning - 10:30 am  
 Sunday Evening - 5:00 pm  
 Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm

**Audio**  
 Todd Fitts / Matt Riddle

**Backpack Buddies**  
 Week of April 13— Stephanie and Brandon Barts  
 Week of April 20— Bobra Robinson and Sherry Shively  
 Week of April 27— Cheryl and Brian Horne

**Nursery Schedule**  
 April 05—Ashlee and Aidan Hudgins  
 April 13—Sherry Shively and Frankie Gilbert  
 April 19—Nancy Adams and Mary Mills  
 April 26—Dianne Donahoe and Gayle Barts

**Ushers:** Lawrence Gilbert, Tommy Rowland, Todd Fitts

**Bereavement Teams**  
 April - Sammy & Phyllis McCormick  
 May - Larry & Ginger Collie



**EXPERIENCING PEACE AND COMFORT THROUGH BOTH GOOD AND BAD TIMES**

By Mike Simons, Hickory Valley Baptist Church

*Focal verse: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7*

Words cannot describe the overwhelming peace and comfort one experiences when they pray from the heart. When you pray from the heart, ask for forgiveness of all your sins through Christ Jesus, and believe that Jesus died for your sins, you will be saved. There is no greater peace, comfort, and joy!

In order for us to grow spiritually, we must build a relationship with our Lord by praying and talking to him fervently and regularly. Reading the Holy Bible daily is the food that feeds the spirit and helps us grow and mature in our walk with God. Lastly attending a Bible-based church with a loving church family to worship and pray with is a must.

If we do these things, I promise that we will be filled with the fruits of the spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23), and the peace and comfort not only the Lord can give will guide us through both the good times and the bad times that we all experience in our lifetime. We must lean on the Lord and trust in Him everyday.

To God be the glory!

Submitted by Chris Bass

Thank you for the meal provided by the deacons and the WMU on February 26.

The food was great!.

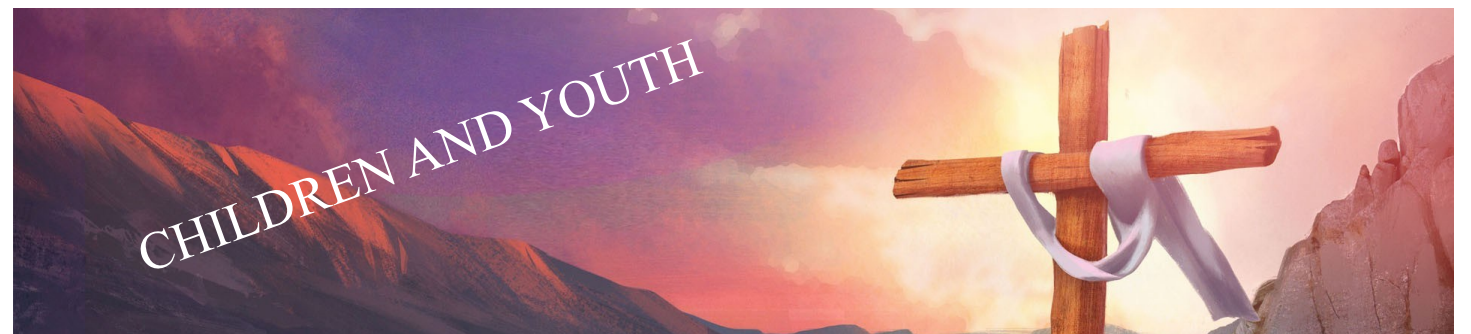
John, Diane, Matt and Ben Foster



To the Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers in the last 3 months in the loss of my sister-in-law, Sheila Terry, and the loss of my nephew, Michael Nicklow. Especially the Ruth Sunday School Class. My church family means so much to me.

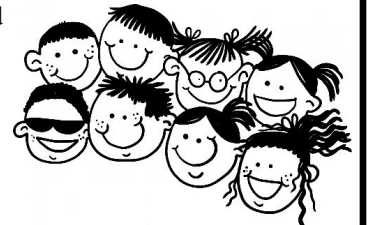
With love and thanks,  
Kitty Anderson and Family



**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTER**

The month of April comes after an important event!

When we see the sun rise, it reminds us of a hopeful event that a new day is coming. We celebrated Easter in the church as a time when a different Son rose! Jesus was put to death, even though He had done nothing wrong, because He was taking the punishment for our sins. He died and was put in a tomb with a huge stone over the entrance. On Sunday, when some of His friends went to the tomb, they found out it was empty! All that was left of Jesus was the linens they used to wrap up His body.



An angel told the ladies who went to see Jesus that He had risen from the dead and was alive! Well, they were so excited they ran to tell His disciples, and they were talking so fast they could hardly be understood. Do you think we can get that excited about Jesus? Knowing that we have freedom from our sins and new life in Jesus is a lot more exciting than springtime or chicken eggs. We have hope that outlasts the weather, and new life that lasts forever. For us, this holiday is even better than Christmas. Not only was Jesus born, but He lived and died, and came back to life!

If you need to get in contact with me, please feel free to call or text 434-709-4709.

~Stephanie Barts

**UPCOMING EVENTS for Children and Youth**

April 19—Spaghetti Lunch after worship

June 1-5—VBS (Youth Assist)

June 8-12—Fuge Camp for Youth at Regent University, Virginia Beach



**A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH MINISTER**

For believers, Spring is a reminder that God is all about making things new. In fact, Jesus promised to make everything new one day (Revelation 2:15) In the meantime, He gives us glimpses of the coming attractions through spring.

Please join our youth on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM, Sunday evenings at 7 PM and Wednesday evenings at 6 PM.

~Brandon Barts  
434-251-8512



Dear Friends,

In last month's "Reflector" I asked a question... Why should you sing in the church choir? There are many reasons, but I thought I'd find out what others say about it. I did a search for testimonials of church choir members. Here are a few responses I found...

- *When the women sang at last year's retreat they sounded like angels.*
- *The choir is my way of thanking God for all His wonderful benefits and giving Him glory.*
- *When I hear the choir sing in our church, there is something that touches my heart. The harmony, the smiles, the beauty of watching and listening to this group of people singing their hearts out to the Lord. Sometimes the music may bring tears and other times it fills my heart with joy. I just know that it is truly a blessing to hear such a beautiful sound.*
- *I believe the choir affects people on many different levels. Thru their music and beautiful voices, they are sharing their God-given gifts with us as well as sharing His message.*
- *Choir, for me, is a great place to release a lot of positive spiritual energy; it's also a time when I experience the joy and discipline of singing with others. I find the sound of music to be very healing. When one is engaged in the process of making music, the healing takes on a special character. Choir is good for my soul.*
- *The friendships and fun among others who love to sing is an experience unlike any other, and raising our voices in song and hearing them 'ring around' us is one of the greatest feelings in the world. Our voice may be tiny alone, but when blended with others it's a joyful experience.*

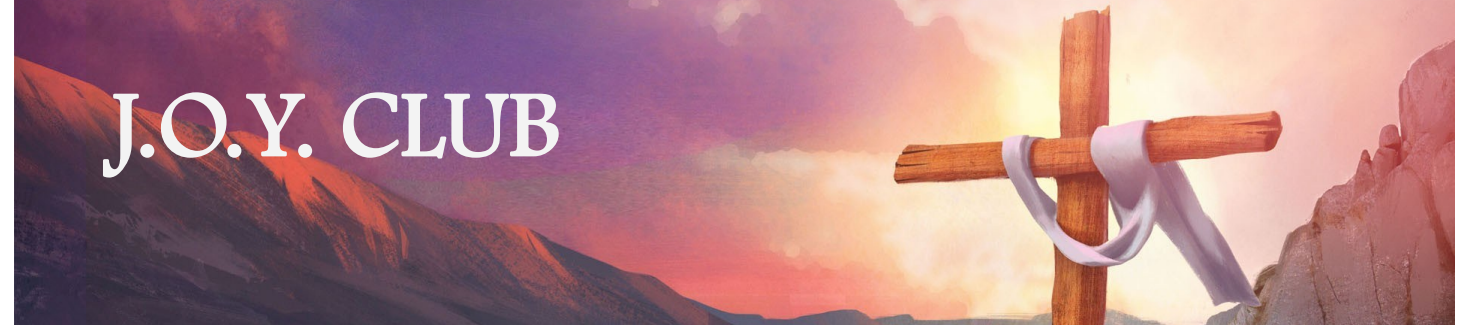
Please join us Wednesday evenings at 7:15.  
-Dan

### Church Library



The Library Committee has been busy cataloging new books and expanding the Children's Section. They have just added a set of six positive character-building books from Hans Christian Fairytales.

Visit the Library and enjoy these stories with your children.



## J.O.Y. CLUB

The J.O.Y. Club is open to all - there are **NO** age restrictions and you don't have to be a member of RBC. Please join us for fun and fellowship! If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Porterfield.

Our Friend to Remember for April is

**Margaret Sneed**  
2557 Ringgold Church Road  
Ringgold VA 24586

You may leave cards for Margaret in the mailbox through April 30th.



Our April meeting will be **Tuesday, April 28 at Noon** for Spaghetti and Salad. Bring a dessert to share!

Remember to bring canned food items for **God's Storehouse.**

### Our deepest Christian sympathy to:

- The family & friends of Tim Francisco in his passing.*
- The family & friends of Michael Nicklow in his passing.*
- The family and friends of Lynn Adkins in his passing.*
- The family and friends of Michael Taylor in his passing.*
- The family & friends of Ray Hammack in his passing.*
- The family and friends of Susan Meadows in her passing.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & REMINDERS




**LUNCH BUNCH**

THURSDAY, APRIL 9  
11:00 AM



**spaghetti lunch**  
Fundraiser for Youth Missions

APRIL 19  
AFTER WORSHIP

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

**DAN RIVER FOOD DISTRIBUTION**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21 at 4:30 PM  
KENTUCK MINISTRY CENTER



**Easter Morning Breakfast**

COFFEE & DONUTS  
FOLLOWING  
SUNRISE SERVICE



**APRIL CHURCH-WIDE MISSION PROJECT**

DONATION ENVELOPES  
AVAILABLE AT  
ENTRANCES



**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AND COMMUNION**  
APRIL 2 at 6:30 PM



**CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**

BI-MONTHLY  
BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 8  
6:30 PM

**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS**



**TREE PLANTING CEREMONY**  
FRONT LAWN, APRIL 19

**GRADUATION SUNDAY**  
MAY 17

*IF YOU HAVE A GRADUATE—  
HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR 2  
YEAR IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD,  
PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW BY  
APRIL 15 SO WE CAN PLAN  
ACCORDINGLY*



# WMU HIGHLIGHTS



**THANK YOU:**

- ◆ **For helping RBC reach the \$2500 goal for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.**
- ◆ To all who prepared food and served for “Lunch Bunch” on Thursday, March 19.
- ◆ To all who prepared meals and delivered them to homes on March 17 for the “Friends@Home” Ministry.  
Thirty (30) meals were delivered to sixteen (16) homes.
- ◆ To all who are packing “Backpack Meals” each week.

**LUNCH BUNCH:**

- ◆ Thursday –April 9 at 11:00 AM.
- ◆ Please call the church office by Monday, April 6 to say yes or no as to whether you will attend.

**FRIENDS @ HOME MINISTRY:**

- ◆ Monday, April 13

**CHURCHWIDE MISSION OUTREACH FOR APRIL:**

- ◆ Donations to support GOD’S PIT CREW
- ◆ WMU sponsored “SPAGHETTI LUNCH” for the Youth Mission trip on April 19

**COMING IN May-June:**

- ◆ Donations for Baby Bottle Boomerang to support the work of Transition Pregnancy Center.

**MISSION GROUP OPPORTUNITIES at RBC:**

- ◆ First Tuesday at 7:00 PM at RBC
- ◆ Second Tuesday at 10:00 AM at RBC

As always, THANK YOU for your continuous support of mission projects and mission offerings at RBC. YOUR Support is so APPRECIATED!

*Suzanne Emerson*  
WMU Director