



The Beacon



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." John 8:12

April 2023

Celebrate Easter with Us!

Community Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Dinner
Saturday, April 1st ~ 4:00pm

Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 2nd ~ 8:45am & 11:00am

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 9th
Sunrise Service - 7:00am
followed by a Covered Dish Breakfast
Church Choir Easter Celebration - 8:45am & 11:00am

Amazing Love, How Can It Be?

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son ..." [John 3:16](#)

The figure of a cross is everywhere: in art, jewelry, songs, books, movies, and much more. The image of a cross is so familiar that the fact that Christ actually died on a cross gets pushed into the shadows.

For people like Saul, later known as the apostle Paul, death by crucifixion was deeply offensive. The Roman cross was a trunk with two branches, and "anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse" ([Deuteronomy 21:23, NIV](#); see [Galatians 3:13](#)). Nor could Saul imagine a person so cursed being raised from the dead. Later, meeting the risen Jesus personally, bowing down, addressing him as "Lord" ([Acts 9:5](#)), Saul was jolted into acceptance and faith. Christ crucified became the

centerpiece of Paul's message.

Christ's cross may not offend us. We know about it but might take it for granted. But Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus' death shakes us out of a "ho-hum" attitude about the cross. "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities ... We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

The cross was our doing. On Good Friday Jesus died because of us—and for us. He was crucified to save us when we were lost in sin. Let us stand quietly at the cross today and let this message sink in.

Father in heaven, our hope is in the cross, our help is in the cross, our glory is in the cross of Jesus. We are awestruck today, and we are humbly grateful. In Jesus' name, Amen.

<https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/amazing-love/>



**Pastor Dave's
Message
for the
Month**

Many people in our society today feel hopeless. Forbes magazine published an article in March of 2022 that stated that in 2019, 36.7% of high schoolers felt hopeless. That number went up to 44.2% in 2021. Back in 2009, 26.1% of high schoolers felt hopeless. As you see, hopelessness is spreading through out our society. What can we do to help those who feel hopeless?

We have the cure, and His name is Jesus. Frist Peter 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." It is because of God's mercy that we can have a living hope. This living hope is referring to the eternal life we can have because of Jesus Christ. The hope that this world needs comes from God. This is the hope that: helps us face uncertain times; produces joy in our lives; helps us make it through the trials of life; reminds us of what is to come in heaven; and so much more. All this is possible because of "the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

This month as we celebrate Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a great time and opportunity to share the hope of Jesus with those in our lives. So, please tells those around you about the hope you have found in Jesus Christ. And take the opportunity to invite to come with you to church as we celebrate Easter. Let's tell our world that they don't have to stay hopeless.

For His glory,

Pastor Dave



**Building
Loan Balance**
(as of 03/11/2023)
\$ 253,219



Tuesday, April 4th ~ 6:45p
(1st Tuesday of each month)

'Jesus in Me: Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion'

by Anne Graham Lotz

You may know something about God and something about Jesus, but what do you know about the Holy Spirit? In this simple yet profound teaching, Anne explores seven key aspects of the Holy Spirit that will revolutionize how you understand and relate to this vital member of the Trinity.

You can purchase **RADA Cutlery** and other kitchen products by clicking this link: radafundraising.com/ **All RADA products are proudly made in the USA!** Each purchase helps support Baptist Women mission projects.

Ladies, you are invited to a luncheon with the **Roxboro Christian Women's Club**, on Thursday, April 20th at 12pm at the Homestead Steakhouse in Timberlake. The cost is \$14. Please RSVP to Susan at 336-364-7777 by April 16th. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for upcoming events.



New Member

**Scott & Terri Day
Dakota Day**

(Letter of Transfer)

**Jim & Deb Terry
Paul Terry • Tom Terry**

(by Statement)



**We Received a
Thank You Note From:**

Luke Pearson

Graduate Sunday will be May 21st. If you have a child that is graduating from High School or College, please submit a photo and bio to Pastor Dave by April 24th.



Monday, April 17th ~ 7:00p
(3rd Monday of each month)

'33 The Series - A Man and His Story'

33 The Series is designed to inspire and equip men to pursue Authentic Manhood as modeled by Jesus Christ in the 33 years He lived on earth. Each lesson is a stand alone study. So, if you missed the month before or will miss the month after, you're not behind.

"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 27:17



*We extend our sympathy
and prayers to:*

- ✂ The Family of Flora Watts; Mother of Doris Gresham, grandmother of Weldon Gresham, Sheila Sanders, and Owen Gentry, great-grandmother of Colby Sanders, Hunter Gentry and Raley Gentry
- ✂ The Family of Vic Roberts; Husband of Delora Roberts and father of Jimmy Roberts
- ✂ Don Sharp and his family, in the death of his wife, Brenda Sharp
- ✂ The Taylor Family in the death of Peter Taylor (of England)

Thank you Church for being so generous and faithful in your giving. During our Community Revival we collected over \$3,600 for Cry Freedom, over \$6,200 for Tables of Love, and we're getting closer to reaching our goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Money given is just another way of being the hands and feet of Jesus in spreading the gospel and helping those in need.



APRIL 2023

BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Notes:						1 Community Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Dinner 4p
2 Palm Sunday Worship Service 8:45a & 11a Sunday Sch. 10am Deacon's Mtg 4p <i>Cindy Ellis</i> <i>Jeff Smith</i>	3	4 Women's Bible Study 6:45p <i>Nicholas Young</i>	5 Wed. Night Service 7p <i>Cade Dunn</i> <i>Weldon Gresham</i>	6 <i>Caroline Martin</i>	7	8 <i>Amy Blalock</i>
9 Easter Church Choir Easter Celebration Worship Service 8:45a & 11:00a Sunday Sch. 10am	10 <i>Savannah Davis</i> <i>Tabitha Stone</i>	11	12 Missions Night 7p <i>Darrell Ellis</i> <i>Deb Terry</i>	13	14	15
16 Worship Service 8:45a & 11a Sunday Sch. 10am	17 <i>Camryn Dunn</i>	18	19 Business Mtg 6:45p Wed. Night Service 7p <i>Jim Terry</i>	20 RCWC Luncheon @Homestead 12p <i>Ronnie Huff</i>	21 <i>Heather Glenn</i> <i>Joey Glenn</i>	22
23 Worship Service 8:45a & 11a Sunday Sch. 10am <i>Tracy Clayton</i>	24 Men of Iron 7p	25 <i>Stephanie Turner</i>	26 Wed. Night Service 7p <i>Jesse Capel</i>	27	28	29 <i>Raley Gentry</i>
30 Worship Service 8:45a & 11a Sunday Sch. 10am <i>Grant Jordan</i>	Memory Verse "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3					



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Rev. Dave Pryor - Pastor
Rev. Cameron Lewis - Youth Pastor
<https://redmountainbaptist.com>



Address Correction Requested



The Year I Didn't Want to Buy an Easter Dress

Tracy Miles

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:2 (ESV)

Last year as Easter quickly approached, my daughter Kaitlyn asked me to take her dress shopping, which we've done every year since my daughters were little.

We spent hours looking until she finally found the perfect dress. As we were paying, she asked, “Hey Mom, aren't you going to buy an Easter dress this year?”

I responded, saying, “I have lots of dresses. I don't really need to spend money on a new one,” but my next sentence made my heart skip a beat: “Besides, I'm not that excited about Easter this year anyway.”

She shrugged with a faint smile and muttered, “Oh, okay,” with a little hug as we picked up our bags.

Driving home, tears trickled down my face. *What kind of mother tells her child she isn't excited about Easter? How could I say I wasn't enthusiastic about the celebration of the resurrection of the Son of God? What kind of Christian says that?*

I felt so ashamed for having those thoughts, much less speaking them aloud to my precious child. *Mercy.*

But I knew this Easter was going to be incredibly different and hard. It would be the first Easter Sunday in 26 years where my family wouldn't attend church together. Instead of looking forward to the celebration for all the right reasons, I was secretly dreading it, knowing it would be difficult to get through the day.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, my husband and I had abruptly separated six months earlier. Holidays look different through the lens of a broken heart and a broken family, and I thought and felt differently about them too. Rather than focusing on the meaning of the resurrection, my thoughts centered around my earthly problems. Sometimes when life is heavy, our hearts and minds can get heavy, too.

That's exactly why in today's key verse (Colossians 3:2), Paul encourages us to set our minds on the things above — not the problems of this world. Because whatever we set our minds on determines

our thoughts, drives our emotions, fuels our words and actions, and ultimately steers the direction of our faith. When our thoughts are sinking, our hearts will too.

However, if we intentionally fix our attention on “*things that are above,*” — what makes us joyful, hopeful and positive — like the resurrection of Jesus Christ, eternal life, hope found in our Savior and blessings of all kinds that make us smile, then our attitudes can stay uplifted, despite our circumstances.

God gave us free will to choose mind over matter or let the matters of life control our minds. The choice is ours, and that important choice will determine the direction of our faith and our ability to enjoy God's joy and peace, even when our hearts are heavy. Unsinkable optimism, hope and faith hinge on where we choose to focus our thoughts, not on life's circumstances.

This brief conversation with Kaitlyn was a wake-up call. I didn't realize the toll my thoughts, heartache and emotions were having on my outlook, much less my faith walk, until the second I spoke those unfortunate words. Yes, life was hard in the moment. Things certainly hadn't turned out the way I'd hoped. But hard things in life don't have to harden my heart. I prayed all the way home from our shopping trip that day, asking God to restore my joy and peace, refocus my thoughts, and change my mind from the inside out.

We all experience hardships in life, but regardless of what we face, Jesus died on the cross for our sins, rose on the third day and ascended to sit at the right hand of our Father. He assures us a beautiful future in heaven with Him, even when life gets ugly. Those divine truths are reason enough to celebrate Easter with an overflowing heart of gratitude and praise. And certainly enough reason to buy a new dress.

Dear Lord, draw my thoughts upward toward You every minute of every day, but especially this Easter. Help me resist the temptation to focus on the painful things of this earthly life and learn to control my thoughts so they don't sink my faith or joy in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2017/04/07/the-year-i-didnt-want-to-buy-an-easter-dress>