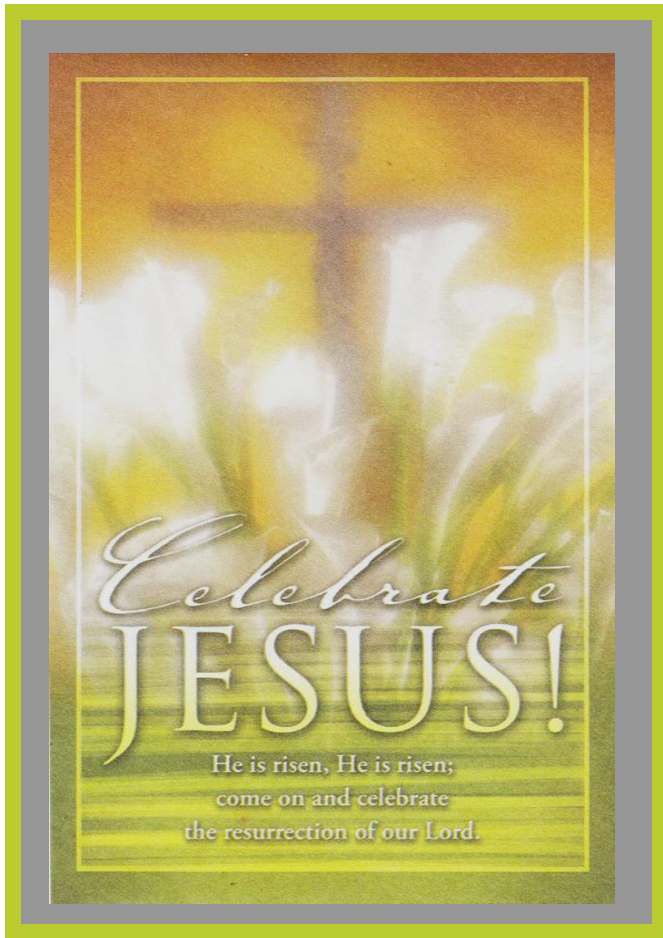


Easter Newsletter

April, 2011

First Baptist Church



Wishing you God's Riches Blessings this Holy Season.

Looking to Spring Happenings Here at First Baptist :

Youth Easter Service: Wednesday, April 20,
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service: April 22, 11:00 a.m. at
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, April 24,
7:00 a.m. location to be announced

Easter Service: Sunday, April 24, 11:00 a.m.
Baptist Women's Sunday: May 1, 11:00 a.m.

Speaker- Anne Drost

Anniversary Sunday: May 15, 11:00 a.m.

Speaker –Rev. Laurie Morris

Joint Anniversary Service: May 15, 7:00 p.m.

Missionary Sunday: June 12, 11:00 a.m.

Speaker- Colin & Karen Godwin

From our New Pastor:

Easter is such a strange time of year.

We seek to focus on Jesus, knowing it is such an important time of remembrance for our faith, yet sometimes we're not sure how to feel. It is a time when we rejoice in our Lord's resurrection, yet we remember our Saviour's death. It is a time when the death of Christ causes us grief knowing for us He died, yet it causes us joy as we know through His death He paid for our sins.

Through this season of Lent, we have been studying how Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the place for His death, burial and resurrection—His death to pay for our sins and His resurrection to conquer death to give us life—and yet even knowing what awaited Him there, He still pushed on to that city. This is because the heart of God, the heart of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is one of love. He passionately loves you and me.

So how do we prepare for this wonderful time of year? How do we prepare for Easter which points us to our Saviour's love for us?

Let me encourage you to look to Luke's account of this time. Take some time each day to read even a little bit about His final week. Starting in Luke 19:28, we begin to read of the Triumphal Entry and we can read through the Holy Week. What a privilege to prepare ourselves in this way, by reading the story of Christ's final week before the crucifixion. Let me challenge you to find the time to read through these chapters either alone or with another and let me encourage you to ask God to speak to you through His Word.

May God bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace this wonderful Easter.

With love in Christ,
Pastor Shawn, Juanita and Liam.

Music Musings.....



From our Music Director:

Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure and fullness of God.

One of my most favourite hymns is In Christ Alone co-written by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty. Although I have sung this hymn many times, there are still places that touch my soul so deeply that I must just stop singing and listen to the powerful words. Sometimes I find that just reading the words to a hymn and pausing to think of each phrase, has a larger impact on me than singing the piece.

This Easter, the FBC choir is preparing to sing an arrangement of this hymn. I have enjoyed hearing the rich harmony of the choir with the marvelous accompaniment. What is impacting me the most is the words of this hymn, especially during this 2011 Easter Season. I think of the turmoil throughout the world, the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the political unrest in Egypt and Libya and I am reminded of the first verse, "In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song." As the choir continues through each verse building to the climax of Christ rising from death, I am overwhelmed with love and thankfulness that Christ would die for me and that because of His death, I live. The final phrase "Here in the power of Christ I stand" convicts me as I ponder my walk with Christ. It is a statement that commands action from me. I am inspired to live each day walking closely with Christ? I so often put my own agenda ahead of His. I plough ahead forgetting to give my actions and decisions to Him in prayer.

This Easter season, as we worship the risen Saviour, may we rejoice that Christ has overcome death and sin. Let us remember that "He is our hope, our light, our strength, our corner stone, our solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm." May we never forget Christ's great love in dying on the cross for us. And may we fully surrender all of us to Him. In Christ Alone.

Owen & Janna, Alex & Christine Baigent



From our Youth Pastor:

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Romans 8:31-32

This passage has really struck me recently. So often, life can seem like a struggle, and to be honest, even the Christian life can feel more like a fight than a joy at times! It can seem as though everything and everyone is against us, that there is just no hope, leaving us feeling helpless and broken. What a sad perspective to have! But if we are truly honest, how common it must be!

Our Heavenly Father calls us to great heights; to new, abundant life! But so often, our humanness clouds our view, overtakes our thoughts and drives us into the ground: the place where discouragement and frustration thrive. But when we read Romans 8:31-32, we find new perspective – we find truth that, when allowed to seep into our innermost being, brings hope and the drive to persevere. Do you realize that God is on your side? Do you understand that your Heavenly Father desires for you to succeed in this life He calls you to? Do you believe that He is with you every step of the way and that He desires for you to know Him so deeply that it changes the way you think, act and live?

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Easter: an incredible opportunity for us to stop and revisit the love and passion of our God. For you, He gave up His own Son so that you might discover the freedom of forgiven sin and renewed life. He is for you. He is on your side. Be encouraged! Take heart!

From our family to yours, may this Easter season be one that fills you with the knowledge and perspective that, *He is for us, who is against us?*

Pastor Jayden, Amie & Jonas

