

THE *COMMUNICATOR*

Volume XXXIV No. 03/04

March/April, 2025

KEVIN'S KORNER

In early March, Christians in many parts of the church will begin observing Lent, a 40-day season that focuses on following Jesus on his journey to the cross. Though our congregation doesn't have a formal plan or structure for Lent, we still recognize the importance of reflecting deeply on Jesus' suffering and death, especially during this time of the year. True, the cross is always at the center of our lives, year-round. But when we focus even more intently on Jesus' way to crucifixion, we're drawn into greater unity with brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. That's because the church, at all times and in all places, owes its very existence to the death of our Lord.

In John's Gospel, as Jesus is on his journey toward suffering and death, he tells a brief parable. "I tell you the truth," says Jesus, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (12:24). Notice how Jesus highlights the contrast between remaining solitary ("a single seed") and producing "many seeds." "Many seeds" is one way to translate it. Actually, a better way to render it is with the phrase, "bears much fruit." So if the seed remains just that—a seed, safe and sound above ground—that's all it will ever be, a seed. Nothing will come of it. But once the seed falls into the dirt, it ends up dying.

And that dying becomes the source of incredible life, incredible fruitfulness.

Remember that the primary death Jesus is talking about is his own. He is the seed that dies, and from his death comes a harvest of life. In John's Gospel, "fruit" often refers to the works of love required of Jesus' followers. Fruit is a way of talking about the life of the community of Jesus' disciples. So Jesus' death produces this community of followers who are gathered by the power of the cross.

Perhaps you've seen and heard television shows, podcasts, movies, radio broadcasts, or other forms of media that conclude with an acknowledgement to this effect: "This program/project has been made possible by the generous support of" The message goes on to list various donors, contributors, etc. This is a way of saying that what you've just watched or listened to wouldn't have happened without certain gifts. I'm thinking that in a way, perhaps something similar should be said about the very existence of Christ's church in the world, and even more specifically about each congregation. In other words, maybe we should add a message to the bottom of our church sign that reads: "This Congregation Made Possible by the Death of Jesus." And within our congregation, we learn what it means to serve—that is, to lay down our lives, to die, for one another—so that others can receive the life that Jesus came to bring.

Any church whose purpose is simply to keep what it has, to hold on to its own, to protect itself rather than give itself away in self-emptying love, is a church that has lost sight of Christ and his cross. So here at Grace Baptist Church, we want to continue to be a fruitful congregation. To do that, Jesus says that we need to be a "dying church." That phrase is often used to describe a congregation that appears to be on its way to closing its doors. But I'm using the expression in a different sense, a positive sense. When I say "dying church," I mean a congregation that's focused more on promoting the gospel than on protecting what it has. A congregation that exists to give itself rather than just secure itself. A congregation that's following Jesus, and becoming like Jesus. And as we do so, the resurrection life of Jesus, the fruit of Jesus, will be expressed and displayed in us.

Faithfully,

Pastor Kevin

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell

The Deacon of the Month for March is Steve Norbrey.

On March 3, 1931 President Herbert Hoover officially designated the Star Spangled Banner as the United States' national anthem. It was written by Francis Scott Key after the War of 1812 while observing the flag still standing following a night long British attack.

March 8 is International Women's Day

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to change your **clocks forward one hour** before you go to bed on Saturday night.



On March 10, the anniversary of her death in 1913, we observe Harriet Tubman Day. She is known for her courage in helping hundreds of slaves to escape to freedom in the north via the "underground railroad." She also served in the Union Army as nurse, cook, scout, and spy.

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick was born in West Britain and spent his final days in Ireland preaching, teaching, and building churches. He is best known for using a three-leaf clover to explain the Trinity, (The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit) one body, three parts.



Spring begins on March 20!!!

In 1987, Congress officially made March National Women's History Month.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday Pastor Kevin. May the Lord bless you and grant you many more years of health, wisdom, and His guidance for your life. And...many more years with us.



The Deacon of the Month for April is David Stouffer.

On April 1, Pastor Kevin will Celebrate his 24th year with us here at Grace Baptist Church. We wish you a happy anniversary and thanks for your service to our Lord and Savior. Also thank you for all you do for our church and for all of us.



April 13 is Palm Sunday.

Palms lined the streets as Jesus entered into the city of Jerusalem

Holy Week....

April 17 is Maundy Thursday-



The day of the Seder Meal and the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus. The night before He was crucified.

April 18 is Good Friday-

The day that Jesus was nailed to the cross, suffered, and died for us.



Sunday, April 20 is Easter

The day Jesus rose from the dead.

- 6:30 AM Sunrise service at Mt. Aventine
- 8:00 AM Easter breakfast
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Morning Easter Service



Also observed in April:

April 15 is Tax Day

April 22 is Earth Day

April 23 is Administrative Professional Day

April 24 is the Holocaust Remembrance Day

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering®
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

STEP INTO THE
STORY

North American
Mission Board

**Week of Prayer for
North American Missions
March 2 – March 9**

Our Church Goal: \$2,000.00

THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

About Salvation Through Jesus

"Yet to all who received him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, He gave the right to become the children of God..." John 1:12 (NIV)

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (NIV)

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."
2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)

"But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away." Mark 16:4

"After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days..." Acts 1:1-3 (NIV)

"The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant." Psalm 35:27 (NIV)

MINDY'S PEACE

By Mindy Adams

March is already here. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour on March 9. St. Patrick's Day is March 17. Don't forget to wear green or you might get pinched. The first day of spring is March 20.

Easter is in April this year. April 13 is Palm Sunday, April 18 is Good Friday, and Easter Sunday is April 20.

Also, April showers bring May flowers. It also brings Earth Day on April 22, Administrative Professional Day on April 23 and Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 24.

I wrote this poem a few years ago and thought I would share it with you again.

JUST BECAUSE

Just because He loves you, He wore a purple robe.

Just because He loves you, He wore a crown of thorns.

Just because He loves you, He carried a cross upon His back.

Just because He loves you, He died to save you.

Just because He loves you, He was raised from the dead.

Just because He loves you, He will come again.

THE JELLY BEAN PRAYER

Author unknown

RED is for the blood He shed.

GREEN is for the grass He made.

YELLOW is for the sun so bright.

ORANGE is for the edge of night.

BLACK is for the sins we made.

WHITE is for the grace He gave.

PURPLE is for the hour of sorrow.

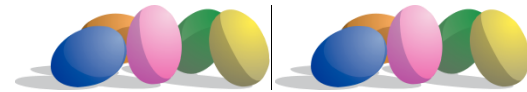
PINK is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans,

Colorful and sweet...

Is a prayer, is a promise,

Is a small child's treat.



SAY THAT AGAIN

"Make each day useful and cheerful and prove that you know the worth of time by employing it well. Then youth will be happy, old age without regret, and life a beautiful success."
Louisa May Alcott

RECIPE BOX

Brown-eyed Susans and Frosting

By Shirley Rackey

2 cups margarine
2 T. sugar
1 tsp. almond extract
2 cups flour
½ tsp. salt

Cream margarine and sugar until light and fluffy. Add almond extract. Mix together flour and salt. Combine flour mixture a little at a time with sugar mixture. Beat well. Drop by heaping teaspoons on a greased cookie sheet. Press down each cookie with the bottom of a glass lightly floured. Bake at 400° for 10-12 minutes. Cool.

Frosting:

1 cup powdered sugar
2 T. cocoa powder
2 T. hot water
Almonds

Mix sugar, cocoa and hot water. Put ½ teaspoon of frosting on each cookie and top with half an almond.

Apples Squares

By Beatrice Van Boven

2 cups flour	1 ½ cups sugar
2 tsp. soda	¾ cup Crisco oil
½ tsp. salt	4 apples, diced sm
1 T. cinnamon	½ cup nuts
3 eggs	½ cup raisins

Cream together eggs and sugar. Add oil and dry ingredients. Add apples, nuts and raisins. Spread in 11 ½ x 17 inch pan. Bake at 350° for 25 – 30 minutes.

POETRY CORNER

Easter

By Rachel A. Gold

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Easter lilies blooming
World is full of cheer
I've always felt that Easter is
The happiest time of year

When we were children we were all
Dressed in new clothes and went
To church – our hearts were singing
As it was a glad event

When we were seated in our pew
We knew what we would sing
We sang loud Alleluias
To Christ the risen King

Ah yes – with happiness and zeal
Our voices soaring high
"Up from the grave" we sang and then
The echoes made reply

"He rose a victor and He lives
Forevermore to rein"
And so we worshipped joyfully
Our risen and reigning King





March

Beth Rogerson	03/03
Theodore Tita	03/06
William Rozar	03/18
Cathy Stouffer	03/21
Donna Toma	03/27
Kevin Holder	03/28



April

Juanita "Nita" Elder	04/04
Don Bazzle	04/09
Steve Norbrey	04/09
Debbie McGuigan	04/18
Jessica Castellon	04/18
Amber Krivitsky	04/20
Madison Toma	04/25
Angela Rozar	04/25

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

- March 1 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 a.m.
- March 2 Lord's Supper
- March 2 – March 9 Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Missions Offerings
- March 5 Ash Wednesday
- March 8 Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.
- March 9 Daylight savings Time Begins

- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 Spring Begins
- March 22 Church Work Day
- March 30 Church Council Meeting at 12:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

- April 5 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 a.m.
- April 6 Lord's Supper
- April 9 Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- April 12 Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 20 EASTER
- Sunrise Service at Mt. Aventine at 6:00 a.m.*
- Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.*
- Sunday School at 9:45a.m.*
- Morning Service at 11:00 a.m.*
- April 23 Administrative Professionals Day
- April 24 Holocaust Remembrance Day

***Every Sunday (unless otherwise stated):
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Service 11:00 a.m.***

The next issue of the COMMUNICATOR will be for the months of May and June. The articles will be due by the first Sunday in April. These articles will be about Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Graduation, Flag Day, and Summer events.

The Apostle John wrote in 21:25, "If all the things Jesus did were written down, all the libraries could not contain all the books." Indeed, had Jesus not been here, why – there'd be no Comforter, no Servant, no Savior – no peacemaker, no protection giver, no truth bearer. There'd be no joy, no mercy, no grace – no hope, no forgiveness, no salvation.