

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Kelly Coons
2nd Sunday: Eric Parker
3rd Sunday: Tony Silver
4th Sunday: Charles Gaffigan

April Wedding Anniversaries

Aaron & Amie Greene 3
Al & Sherry Burnette 9
Buddy & Toni Freeman 15
Robbie & Nova Effler 27
Mickey & Helen Gilliam 29

April Birthdays

Kelly Coons 1
Jodi Coons 1
Ethel Griffin 1
Allen Harris 2
Helen Gilliam 3
Francis Morris 4
Jean Arthur 5
Ruth Harris 6
April Brooks 7
Anna Young 9
Luke Finley 10
Madison Lytle 10
Janet Norton 12
Reiss Hobson 14
George Ellis 16
Richard Newton 16
Eric Parker 16
Fred Davis 19
Charles Gaffigan 20
Alana Stephenson 22
Karen McEntire 24
Katie Martin 25
Everett Pugh 25
Tonya Stephenson 25
A.C. Hogan 26
Rachel Newton 26
Mickey Gilliam 29
Candace Barrier 30
Tristen France 30
Hugh Guffey 30

Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Bud Faw
2nd Sunday: Tony Silver
3rd Sunday: Mary Faw
4th Sunday: Bob Smith

Church Staff

Duane Caldwell, Pastor
Joe Baker, Youth Pastor
David Workman, Pianist
Lori Patton, Minister of Music
Melissa Parry, Secretary
Cindy Harwood, Custodian

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VBS will be the 3rd week in July!

The Voice
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Old Fort, NC
April 2011
Volume 45, Issue 4

THE VOICE

**APRIL
EVENTS**

SUNDAY:

9:45 - Bible Study
11 - Worship Service
5 - Youth
6 - Evening Worship Service,
TeamKIDS

WEDNESDAY:

6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth,
RA's, GA's, Acteens, Mission
Friends
7 - Adult Choir Practice

Apr.3 - Children's Council 5pm
Apr.3-Deacon's Meeting 7pm
Apr.10 -Youth Council 7pm
Apr. 17 - Communion
Apr.17-Baptist Men's Breakfast
8:30 am
Apr.17-Quarterly Conference
6pm
Apr.20 - No Services
Apr.21 - Community Easter
Service at Old Fort Church of
God at 7pm
Apr.22 - Good Friday (Office
Closed)
Apr.23 - Easter Eggs Hunt
Apr.24 - Easter Sunday
Apr.24 - 7:30 am Sunrise Service
Apr.24 - No Evening Services

Pastor's Ponderings

Author and speaker Brennan Manning has an amazing story about how he got the name "Brennan." While growing up, his best friend was Ray. The two of them did everything together: bought a car together as teenagers, double-dated together, went to school together and so forth. They even enlisted in the Army together, went to boot camp together and fought on the frontlines together. One night while sitting in a foxhole, Brennan was reminiscing about the old days in Brooklyn while Ray listened and ate a chocolate bar. Suddenly a live grenade came into the foxhole. Ray looked at Brennan, smiled, dropped his chocolate bar and threw himself on the live grenade. It exploded, killing Ray, but Brennan's life was spared.

When Brennan became a priest he was instructed to take on the name of a saint. He thought of his friend, Ray Brennan. So he took on the name "Brennan." Years later he went to visit Ray's mother in Brooklyn. They sat up late one night having tea when Brennan asked her, "Do you think Ray loved me?" Mrs. Brennan got up off the couch, shook her finger in front of Brennan's face and shouted, "What more could he have done for you?" Brennan said that at that moment he experienced an epiphany. He imagined himself standing before the cross of Jesus wondering, Does God really love me? And Jesus' mother Mary pointing to her son, saying, "What more could he have done for you?"

The cross of Jesus is God's way of doing all He could do for us. And yet we often wonder, does God really love me? Am I important to God? Does God care about me? Easter answers all those questions for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Yes, He really loves you. Yes, you are important to God.

Why else would He provide a way for you to spend eternity with Him? You have done nothing to deserve it. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

Yes, He really cares about you. Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).

Easter is all about God's love and care for us. Easter is about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He died to pay the penalty for our sins. He was buried to take our sins to the grave where they would be remembered no more. He rose again that we might know death has no fear for the believer. He ascended to the Father in order for the Holy Spirit to come abide in our lives to guide us though this life until we arrive in heaven where we will spend eternity with God Himself. Although Easter is the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, all these other events surround Easter. And the good news is one day He is coming back to get us and take us to be with Him in heaven. All this is ours through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Happy Easter.

Pastor Duane



Thank you very much for your thoughts, prayers, & beautiful flowers. The family of Ellis Hollifield



Thank you so much for the army of angels that built such a wonderful ramp for us. This ramp will increase Ms. Holley's quality of life & allow her to travel which is such a blessing! The Harris Family

Thank you all so much for your thoughts, prayers, & cards. Melissa Parry & family

FOOD ROUNDUP

Month of April

The Merry Workers Sunday School Class and the W.M.U. in conjunction with the Blue Ridge Baptist Association is asking the Church to participate in the Food Roundup for the Baptist Children's Homes. BCH boys and girls know whenever they sit down for a meal, the delicious food that fills their plates was lovingly provided by North Carolina Baptists. BCH serves close to 725,000 meals and snacks per year. In these challenging times, this year's Food Roundup is more important than ever! Together we can make a difference! All types of food is needed, along with non-food items such as paper products, dish-washing detergent, cleanings supplies, and body wash. They can use all size cans, however, they prefer the #10 (gallon) size. Please check for expired dates on the cans.

Boxes will be located on the front left pew during the month of April to put the food in. Thursday, April 28, is the deadline to have the food in the Association Office so please bring to the church no later than Sunday, April 24.

Notes from our Music Director

Today is 3/9/11 (I started this early in the month.) & I've just felt inspired to begin recording some thoughts about life. Sometimes I wish I could go back to being a child - but only because I could be fairly certain that I would get positive reinforcement. Have you noticed that in this world of stress, war, gas prices soaring, money woe, there doesn't seem to be enough "Atta-a boy" rewards being shared?

My fulltime job is in a stressful environment and I truly enjoy my job. It's not really a scary place like some folks might think. However, it's typical to hear *only* about what you do wrong. If you do your job and do it well, that's "expected" but not often noticed.

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THIS SCENARIO!

A member of our church stopped me the other day, patted me on the back and said "you're doing a great job" which I really appreciated. It was spontaneous, unexpected and genuine and it certainly gave me a boost. During worship I had goofed a bit and I was feeling bad about it.

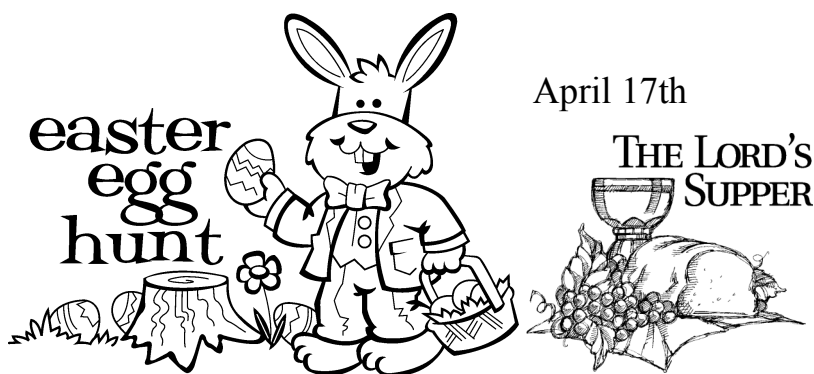
I smile while I am singing, and sometimes I look right at you in worship hoping you'll smile back. In the church setting, we certainly bring a good attitude with us. Right? Something I have noticed about Dena Caldwell - No matter how she may be feeling on Sunday morning, she has a kind word to say. That's a great example of Christian love.

On another side of that coin, church is also the one place that I expect to hear honesty: "Gosh, the choir sounded terrible this morning....what happened?" or "you look like you slept in those clothes." Now, you know I am exaggerating but I love the fact that I can express my true feelings, perhaps tactfully, and you will love me and support me, good or bad.

We love each other despite our shortcoming and mishaps, joy and sorrow and everything we say to each other should be expressed in love, positive and constructive????? I think about the awesome, totally unselfish, perfect love that was shown for me one day on a hill called Calvary. Can any of us truly say we understand that level of love? I don't, but as I move along in life, I try to be better at showing it every step, every day.

The Older GA's are taking donations for Missionary Alice White of the Savannah Baptist Center for the following: paper plates (divided sections), napkins, plastic eating utensils and plastic drinking cups. Boxes will be in the up-stairs (main floor) hallway and in the foyer of the sanctuary. Donations will be taken through April 10th.

Easter Egg Hunt at Old Fort amphitheater April 23rd from 2pm to 3pm.



April 17th

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The 2011 Community Easter service will be held Thursday, April 21st at the Old Fort Church of God at 7pm. The singing group "Purpose" will perform and Rev. Jeff Parker will be the speaker.

Sunrise Service April 24th at Old Fort amphitheater at 7am



HERE WE GROW...MARCH

Avg. Worship Attendance... Avg. 86 General Fund...\$2,854
Avg. SS Attendance... Avg. 66 Maint/Bldg Fund.....\$458



Homebound: Gloria Holley, Marjorie McEntire, Hugh Guffey, Angie Knupp, Mary McEntire, Exam Haney, George Early, Grady & Mildred McCauley
Nursing Home: Carolyn Miller, Francis Morris, Bob Bishop, Bernice McAfee, Marvin McEntire



It brings me great joy to announce that it is now officially spring. This past winter has been a tough one with several snow storms and blisteringly cold days. All winter long, throughout the cold and snow I took joy in the fact that spring was coming. Before too long, the trees and flowers would begin to bud and bloom, the grass would slowly start to show its green. In other words, everything was coming back to life. Of course when I thought of this I thought about what our Savior did for us many years ago. When he died it was like winter. Everything must have seemed to have no color. Life was much tougher, but, three days later he rose from the dead to bring us new life through him. As everything begins to come back to life remember, Jesus died and came back to life to save us from all of our sins and now we can live forever with him. Take joy. Our spiritual spring is here and will remain forever!

The youth group and youth council has just finished up finalizing our summer camp plans. We will be going June 20-25th to Centrifuge Youth Camp at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Last year was such a blessing. Camp brought us closer together as a group and most importantly brought us closer to Christ. We will however need your help this year. We desperately need your prayers and support as we go back. We could feel your prayers around us and ask that once again you pray for us. We will also need your help financially. I would ask that you would search your hearts and ask God if he would want you to help us financially. We thank you for all that you do.

Chaperones are needed all the time in our youth group. Weather in class or on one of our local trips. If you feel that you would like to help us by joining in with us on one of these trips you can let me know or anyone on the youth council. You will find that we have a great time and always grow closer to each other and to God. I think that you will be greatly blessed by jumping in with the youth group.

We thank you for your support and prayers,
Joe Baker and the OFFBC Youth.

A mission trip to Reading, Pennsylvania is being planned for the last week in July. The purpose is to help Berks Baptist Church reach a community of about 3000 people with the gospel through clowning, sports clinics, backyard Bible clubs, and possibly light construction. If you are interested in going, please contact the pastor. This trip is for all ages. If you cannot go but can give financial support, please feel free to give by putting Pennsylvania Mission Trip on your envelope. Something everyone can do is pray.



Look for more information on the back of the calendar!