



THE BECKONER

*"TO NURTURE MEMBERS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SERVICE,
AND TO WIN THE LOST TO CHRIST"*

A Monthly newsletter brought to you by First Baptist Church of Raeford

Vol. 54 No. 4

April 2026

"He was silent before them!"

Today, as I write, I find myself reflecting on the events of "Holy Week". I'm simply spellbound at the account of the events of that week that Luke recorded for us. Luke writes, in the 22nd chapter of his gospel, that Jesus prayed at the Mount of Olives as was his custom and directed the disciples to pray that they may not enter into temptation. Upon the conclusion of His prayer time, Jesus found the disciples sleeping. I can't help but imagine the isolation and abandonment that Jesus must have felt. Following this time of prayer, Judas comes to greet Jesus with a kiss and in that manner, betraying Jesus and giving Him up to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders. Jesus looked at them and stated that they had all the time that He was with them in the temple and they did not lay hands on Him, but they come now as if He were a criminal with swords and clubs.

Peter then, after Jesus' arrest, follows at a distance and watches from that "safe" distance. The events of Peter's denial, one of the closest disciples, takes place, not once, not twice, but three times. A young girl identifies Peter as one who had been with Jesus, and Peter denies that it was him. Then, a little while later, someone else sees Peter and says "You also are one of them." to which Peter denied it as well. Then lastly, about an hour later, someone else says that Peter must have been with Jesus, "for he too is a Galilean." Guess what Peter's response was, to being a Galilean who had been with Jesus? Peter denied it as well.

Then, when Pilate examined Jesus on the charges of misleading people, he found Jesus to be guilty of nothing that would have warranted his death. So Pilate was going to punish Jesus for what he might have found, but the crowd cried out for Barabbas to be released to them. Pilate asked after the crowd calling for Jesus to be crucified, "Why? What evil has he done?" After they cried even more for the crucifixion of Jesus, they were so loud and overbearing with their cries, Pilate finally gave in to their request and decided that their cry should be granted.

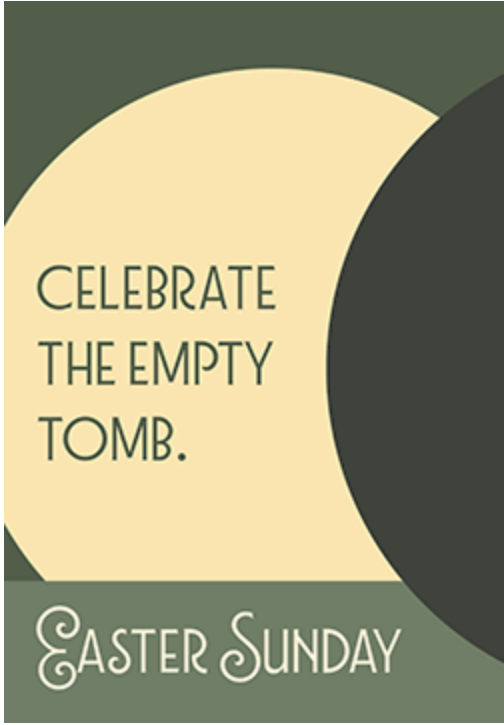
One thing that keeps coming to mind is the fact that in the face of all the opposition and outright lies, Jesus didn't argue, He didn't debate. I am not saying that Jesus gave up, but I think He trusted in the fact that God had a plan. How do we react when things seem to be going against us? How adamantly do we seek to defend our point of view or position? How would things work out if we too trusted in God's plan and purpose and seek to do God's will instead of our own desires?

May we too, trust God's plan,

Pastor Marvin

FOR ALL UPCOMING EVENTS PLEASE SEE THE SIGN-UP SHEETS

Every Sunday	6:00 PM	Power Hour (Every Sunday Evening)
04/02	6:00 PM	Nominating Committee Meeting
04/03		Good Friday
04/04	1:00 PM	Resurrection Celebration
04/05		Resurrection (Easter) Sunday/The Lord's Supper
04/07	6:00 PM	Church Council
04/09	9:00 AM	Stitching for Missions
04/12	5:00 PM	Deacon's Meeting
04/14	11:00 AM	Bible Study I
	2:00 PM	Bible Study III
	6:00 PM	Robeson Baptist Association Spring Meeting. Sandhill Baptist Church 2726 Pope's Crossing Rd, Lumberton.
	6:30 PM	World Issues
04/17	7:00 PM— 9PM	Friday Night Chill @ Millstone in Hope Mills, NC We will leave the church at 6:30 pm & return by 9:30 pm. \$30 for unlimited admission.
04/21	5:00 PM	Outreach Committee Meeting
04/24-04/26		Youth Spring Caswell Trip
04/30		Brotherhood Meeting & Luncheon



Online Calendar
<https://74067045.view-events.com>

Children and Youth on Mission

Scripture Sharing Schedule
 April 5th: Ava Chambers
 April 12th: Jacob Seals
 April 19th: Allie Bounds
 April 26th: Andy Chambers



Children and Youth Usher Schedule
 April 5th: Connor Beason, Declan Beason, Cayden Luce
 April 12th: Abigail Hawkes, Addison Price, Ava Chambers
 April 19th: Cayden Luce, Jacob Seals, Andy Chambers
 April 26th: Connor Beason, Declan Beason, Jack Bounds



Friday Night Chill
@ Putt Putt Fun Center @Millstone in Hope Mills
April 17th 7-9 pm
 We will leave the church at 6:30 pm & return by 9:30 pm. Bring \$30 for unlimited admission (they do accept cash). Youth Fund will be providing the pizza & drinks. Activities Include: : Laser Tag, Arcade Games, Miniature Golf, Go Carts, & Bumper Boats

April 4th, 2026, 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
Resurrection Celebration in Gatlin Hall for 2 years through 5th Grade. Middle & High school students are encouraged to come and help if available. There will be Resurrection Story of Jesus, Crafts, Scavenger Hunt, and Snacks.



Youth Spring Conference
Camp Caswell
 April 24-26th
 Prayer cards are being prepared for our 11 participants & chaperones so that you may adopt one or more to pray for during this event.

Robeson Baptist Association Spring Meeting
 April 14th
 Refreshments/Fellowship @ 6 pm
 Meeting @ 7:00 pm
 Sandhill Baptist Church
 2726 Pope's Crossing Rd, Lumberton
 Guest Speaker: J. Allen Murray, President
 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

May 31st is Graduate Sunday

If you know of anyone who has graduated from High School, College, or Technical College in the past year, who would be interested in participating in Graduate Sunday, please let Cathy Bundy know so that she can communicate with them about the details for this service.



Save the Date:
May 9th, 2026 1-3 pm
in Gatlin Hall
All ages of the female gender
are welcome to attend.

Church Report

March 1 - March 31, 2026

Average Sunday School Attendance: 55

Service Attendance: 87

Designated Funds	
Heck Jones Offering	\$ 375.00
Caswell Trip	\$ 778.00
Vacation Bible School	\$100.00
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	\$1025.00
Youth Fund	\$550.00
Deacon's Offering	\$221.00
Round-A-Bouts	\$500.00
VBS	\$100.00
Resurrection Celebration	\$380.00
Brotherhood	\$200.00

Memorial Gifts

This month we received memorial gifts in memory of:

Willie Carl Odom
 Sonny Wood



Kyle	Goodman	2
Judy	Williams	2
Allen	Douglas	3
Austin	Douglas	3
Isidoro	Basurto	4
Jennifer	Basurto	9
Jay	Dover	14
Peggy	Inman	14
Lawrence	Pervier	15
Cathy	Bundy	19
Sue	Huffman	20
Charles	Walters	23
Ronnie	Branch	25
Gary	Culp	26
Will	Seals	26
Derril	Salter	28
Marvin	Seals	28
Nevin	Frederick	29
Johnny	Boyles	30



Melba Gibson	Autumn Care
Matthew Keaton	Autumn Care
Paul Ellisor	Home
Dot Bounds	Home
Sue Huffman	Terra Bella Indian Trail
Mike & Pat McNeill	Spring Arbor
Glen Langdon	Ridge Asst Living
Anna Seals	Spring Arbor
Felicia Monroe	Home



Family of Jim Wade
 Family of Frances Byrd Wood
 Family of Buddy Nelson
 Family of Janet Desist
 Family of Robert Harrell

Usher Ministry



Jere McLendon and Gerald Lupo

5th

Connor Beason, Declan Beason, and Cayden Luce

12th

Abigail Hawkes, Addison Price, and Ava Chambers

19th

Cayden Luce, Jacob Seals, and Abigail Hawkes

26th

Connor Beason, Declan Beason, and Jack Bounds



Roundabouts To The Movies

"A Great Awakening"

Monday, April 6th, 2026

AMC Market Fair 15, Fayetteville NC

We will leave FBC at 2:15 pm.

Movie begins at 3:20



Dinner (likely) to follow

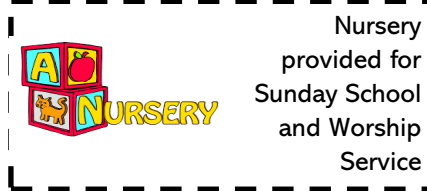
Please sign up outside Gatlin Hall



Jeff & Teresa	McNeil	3
Jim & Gaby	Luce	8
Allen & Debra	Douglas	9
Linwood & Helen	Huffman	11
Gary & Katie	Culp	14
Mac & Kim	Hollingsworth	20
Rick & Kathy	Sandy	21

Sunday Services

9:30 AM	Answers in Genesis
9:45 AM	Nursery to Senior Adult Classes
11:00 AM	Worship Service
6:00 PM	Power Hour / Discipleship Hour (Gatlin Hall)



New Church Days and Hours

Tuesday –Wednesday –Thursday

9AM - 12 PM and 1 - 3 PM

Monday and Friday: Closed



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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Seals	Pastor
Cathy Bundy	Director of Youth/Children
Donna Scriber	Secretary
Betty Odum	Music Director
Debby Ezell	Pianist
Bernard Scriber	Custodian
Jackie Hargrove	Nursery

7th: Rafael and/or Lisa Eubanks
 14th: Irma Laird
 21st: Allan Douglas
 28th: Margaret Hathaway