



## Pastor's Ponderings

On our recent mission trip to Louisiana, I was moved in spiritual reflection each time a beautiful sunset or sunrise displayed itself over the Mississippi River. The brilliant hues of red, orange, yellow, and purple against the crystal blue sky were breathtaking. I was thankful then and now for the creation of each bright new day.

Since returning home, I have often closed my eyes and imagined those remarkable events. As I typed this month's ponderings, those images once again flooded my mind. I wonder what the sunrise looked like on that first Easter morning. Did the fiery orange radiance of the sun bursting forth over the horizon cast a rainbow of colors upon that brisk Jerusalem morning?

These thoughts seem valid as I reflect upon the significance of that morning. I have always heard, "It is darkest before the dawn." I can think of no darker moment in human history than when sin had seemingly won the day and Jesus, God in flesh, lay in that stone cold tomb. Were those two nights darker than any others? I mean a world apparently absent of redeeming love and missing a savior must have been darker.

For Mary Magdalene, making her way to the tomb, that sunrise must have been a welcome sight. The shadows of darkness which consumed the night and the shadows of despair which held Mary's heart and thoughts longed for the dawn. Longingly she looked for a ray of hope and for the warmth of the sun's embrace to cast away death's icy cold fingers. I wonder what that sunrise was like.

When she arrived at the tomb, was that morning's sunrise affected by another more important Sunrise? As she viewed the stone "rolled away," did the morning sky appear more ablaze with heaven's glory? Did the warmth of Son-rise hope caress her longing heart? This Son-rise had to beat all sunrises for the sheer significance of that day. I wonder what that sunrise was like.

Maybe you, like Mary, long for a bright new day. Maybe the warmth of Son-rise hope is needed in your heart. I know I long for it daily! Easter and Sundays are opportunities to experience the Son-rise anew, to experience the beauty and brilliance of our ever-present savior, and opportunities to dispel the darkness of sin and despair. Let us embrace this Easter season with all of our hearts for the dawn is coming! The Lord Jesus is risen!

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (John 20:1)*

In Christ,

Ron



## Nicaragua Mission Trip Update


Kathy and Ed Sprowls have just returned from a 10 day mission trip to Nicaragua for the second year in a row. "We feel privileged to be able to do God's work again this year. What a blessing to see lives saved through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," Ed said with a smile.

Ed and Kathy thank you for your prayers and support. They hope to return next year and continue the Lord's work in Nicaragua. They ask that you please continue to pray for the people of Nicaragua, that they may overcome their day-to-day struggles, and grow in their new-found faith.

Ed and Kathy are currently compiling a slide show presentation of their experience to share with the church in the near future. Kathy said, "Our lives are forever changed by this awesome trip"

"GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR HELPING ED AND I FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE IN OUR LIVES. THANK YOU!! -ED AND KATHY SPROWLS"

Composed by Meghan Gilstrap




Danielle Smith is starting a book collection for Flat Rock Elementary school **in memory of her mom, Daphne Andrews**. Daphne worked at this library for a long time and loved working with the children.

The school does have some requests, but all elementary school books are welcome.

Please see the bulletin board for the requested books.

You may bring the books to the office or give them to Danielle.



## Young At Heart

On Tuesday evening, March 24, 2009, we met in the Fellowship Hall for a rousing night of dominos and fellowship. Refreshments were served by Easter Clarke and Tina Hilbert. We had four tables playing, with eighteen in attendance. Table leaders were Ester Clarke, Rawdin Lipscomb, Neal Leehy and Fran Leehy. The next meeting will be April 21<sup>st</sup>. We will be learning how to play "Polish" Poker and Farkel. All people over fifty are invited to attend.

Hope to see you there!  
Meeting time 7:00 P.M.

**Graceland Baptist Church**

**We're on the Web! Visit us at:**  
<http://www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org>

**975 Dorset Road, Powhatan, VA 23139**  
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# GRACELAND BAPTIST NEWSLETTER



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## Baptist Men's Group

► April 11, 2009 -- Saturday, 8:00 a.m. -- Men's Breakfast

The Men's Group is continuing to cut, split, and stack logs. We also cleaned out the gutters on one home.

We have repaired two play houses for the playground and replaced some boards on one of the structures.

We had our breakfast on March 14th with 27 men present. Our next breakfast will be April 11th at 8:00 a.m.

Please come and join us.

Earl Lodge



## WOM News

We invite all women of the church to come and meet with us. We meet on the second Tuesday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. Hope you can make our April meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We were pleased to have seven of our members go to the annual WMU meeting in Chester March 13, 2009. We had dinner. followed by a very inspirational meeting. We had reports from Rhonda Strouth, the Director of Family Services at "Hope Tree," who was very informative. Becky McKinney, past president of the Virginia state WMU, called and challenged us "To Love Through Mentoring."



## CARE TEAM NEWS

The Care Team placed emphasis this month on our shut-ins and nursing home residents. Each Care Team member was asked to send Valentines to these members. We have received positive feedback and comments about how much the shut-ins appreciated being remembered in this way. For the month of February, the Care Team sent 54 cards, made 23 calls, 12 visits, and delivered 9 meals plus 3 dessert plates. This did not count the many Valentines that were sent.

Many of the Care Team members have shared lately about how THEY are blessed by helping others. They have thoroughly enjoyed visiting members they might not have known well before, taking meals to members who appreciate it so much, sending cards to let others know their thoughts are with them. It is truly "more blessed to give than to receive." The Bible also tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver." We are blessed to have so many Care Team members who cheerfully and willingly give of themselves and serve others.

Thank you, Nelda and Pat, Co-Chairmen



## GROW

Spring is here and there are many signs of life all around us. You can see also see evidences of life and new growth at Graceland, as many new members and visitors are now worshiping with us. The past few months have been incredible, as many have given their life to Christ and many have rededicated themselves to serve Him! AMEN!

Please continue to INVITE your friends, neighbors, family members and others that you may know to come and worship with us. This time of year, many will be receptive towards visiting, as Easter approaches (April 12<sup>th</sup>).

We have plenty of opportunities coming up to INVITE them.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 9th -- 7:00 p.m.**

Easter Egg Hunt: April 11<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service April 12<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 a.m. outdoors -- weather permitting

Easter Service: April 12<sup>th</sup>: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

It would be a pleasure to have some of you come on Sunday afternoon (2:30 p.m.), to meet and INVITE new homeowners. You will be blessed, as you let others know how much our church cares for them!

They will see our Savior's hands and feet.

All for Him, Greg

## EVENTS ON THE HORIZION

**April 1:** 6:00 p.m. - Family Night Supper

**April 1:** 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting

**April 11:** 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

**April 14:** 7:00 p.m. WOM Meeting

### Our church photography: sessions:

**April 2, 3, 4**

**Thursday and Friday: 2:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**April 9: 7:00 p.m.:** "DaVinci's Last Supper"

You will not want to miss this presentation. The cast and those behind the scenes have worked diligently to perform this inspiring play. Pray that hearts will be reached.

Plan to be here early.

**April 11: Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Children of all abilities, toddlers to sixth graders are invited. Please bring a basket to gather your eggs.

**April 12: EASTER – 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service outdoors -- weather permitting**

**8:30 a.m. -- Early Service**

**9:45 a.m. -- Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. -- Regular Service**

**April 19:** 9:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall -- Pastor's Class for new members, visitors, or anyone interested, will be welcome.

### **Friends of the Library Book, DVD, Videos and CD's Sale**

**April 24:** (Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**April 25:** (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

[Support your Library](#)



## Youth News:

Our Youth Annual Fashion Show was a blessing to all this year. The theme was "God's Blessings." The study was presented by Matt Winters. Everyone shared stories of blessings they had received and also ones they have given. It is great to know that no matter what age you are, God is good! Thank you, Matt.

Shelley Meissner was the announcer for our show. "Ms. Vana," (Jill McMillin), was a surprise guest, who helped with the door prizes. Thanks, Shelley and Jill.

Our kitchen team presented a beautiful and delicious tea party with appetizers. Thank you, Jennifer Aldridge, Phoebe Wright, Dawn Bradbury, and Stacey Samuel.

The girls enjoyed their evening out with the ladies in charge of the clothing. Thanks to Angela Nard, and Diane Beasley

The tables were dressed with beautiful flowers and bible verses. Thank you to our Girls in Action.

All the girls enjoyed having their nails look pretty. Thank you, Peggy Lawhorne, Jill McMillin, Lawn McMillin, and Pamela Dorton.

What girl doesn't like a little makeup? Thank you, Patsy Perry and Sherry Elwell in making their beauty glow.

To finish it off, it wouldn't be complete without a hair style. Thanks to Corrine Miller, Debra Cobb, and Christine Dorton.

We would like also to thank all of you who contributed to this event. Without your help it would not be possible to share a day as wonderful as this one. We look forward to next year.

Christine Dorton

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Please remember, if you have photographs of any church activity that took place within the past two years, we would appreciate it if you would submit them to us. These photographs will be used in the photo collage planned for the new Membership Directory. Please submit your photographs via e-mail to [gracelandbc@earthlink.com](mailto:gracelandbc@earthlink.com) or submit them to the church office.

Thanks for all you do!

Rebekah Hepler