



Hebron Community Church

April 2025 Newsletter

April 2025—The Scandal of Easter

"[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'" Genesis 3:8-10 (NRSV)

This might seem like an odd scripture to quote for the April newsletter, at a time when everything seems to be springing to life again. Everything around us is becoming beautiful, as the grass has started growing again, the flowers are blooming, the trees are filling out again, and there's pastel colored flowers and beautiful green everywhere. The earth is once again showing us the beauty of God's Creation. Along with that, we're experiencing the warmer temperatures that come with the beginning of spring. It's a gorgeous time of year. This month, we also celebrate Holy Week and Easter, when we remember that Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave and offered us salvation and victory through Him.

As humans, we like to pay attention to things that are good and uplifting. We like to celebrate happy events, like birthdays and Christmas, and Palm Sunday and Easter, but how do we get to Easter? We have to go through Holy Week to get to Easter. In the churches I have been in over the years, and from what I've seen of many churches, there are a lot of people who like to skip from Palm Sunday to Easter without being present for the events of that dark week. We will be meeting together to remember Jesus' suffering, death, and burial on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. When we come together, we remember all that Jesus went through for us, and it's scandalous. Jesus suffered in ways we can't really imagine, facing mocking and humiliation, beating and whipping, and being hung on a cross to die in one of the most excruciating deaths in history.

And He did it all because if He didn't we would have no hope whatsoever. The scandal of Easter started all the way back at Creation. Adam and Eve were created and placed in a perfect paradise, but lost it all when the devil came in the form of the serpent and tempted them to eat of the one tree they had been forbidden to eat from. The temptation was to think they could be like God, knowing good and evil, but all it did was separate them from Him and set them on the road to death. I can only imagine how Adam and Eve felt, after being

able to enjoy the presence of God walking and talking with them in the beauty of the garden, to feel the shame and loneliness of being separated from Him, and hearing Him cry out 'Where are you?' because they had hidden from Him in their guilt.

When we understand the depths of our sinfulness and hopelessness, we begin to understand a little better what Easter really means. If you never experience the darkness of night, you never appreciate the light of day. If you never experience the rain, you never appreciate the sunlight. If you never understand the bad news of our sin and separation from God, you never understand the good news of Jesus' victory over sin and death. We are all sinful, and deserving of hell, BUT because of Christ we have hope and new life. I pray that we never take that for granted. God offers us grace through the blood of the cross. Because of Jesus, the shame and guilt that Adam and Eve experienced in the garden has been removed and we can come boldly before God's throne because we have Jesus as our Great, High Priest (Hebrews 5 & 11). We can be saved from our sin, be made right with God, spend eternity with Him instead of eternally separated from Him, have hope instead of despair, all because of Jesus.

This is the message of the gospel, the good news: that while we were in sin and without hope, Jesus came and died for us, and then rose from the dead, offering us victory over death, hell, and the grave. This is the good news that should shape our very lives, not be some side note in it. Everything that we do should arise out of our acceptance of Jesus as our Savior and Lord. With that in mind, I hope that you will journey with us through Holy Week, from the shouts of 'Alleluia, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord' to the shouts of 'Crucify Him' and the cry of Jesus that 'It is finished', to finally hear with joy the angel's words 'He is not here, He is risen as He said'. I promise that it will be a blessing to walk through the darkness to get to the light of Easter Sunday morning.

May God bless you this season and always, and may the joy of Easter Sunday and the Risen Lord give you hope and new life!

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dustin D. James". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Dustin D. James

SOUTHERN CIRCLE LENTEN LUNCHEES



“Where Grace and Holiness Meet”

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” - Colossians 1:19-20

**Wednesdays at 12:00 PM
at Hebron Community Church**

2325 Mebane Oaks Rd., Mebane, NC 27302

Worship Schedule

- March 5:** Dustin James, Hebron C.C.
- March 12:** Cory Oliver, Orange Chapel
- March 19:** Aaron Powers, Breakthrough C.C.
- March 26:** Denny Freeland, Salem C.C.
- April 2:** Mark Stephens, Phillips Chapel
- April 9:** Don Logner, New Beginnings C.C.
- April 16:** Tom Newman, Concord Church

April Birthdays

2nd Cindy Gregory
6th Laney Culberson Lee
7th Jamie Nelms
9th Kevin Moss
13th John Hall
Jean Mullis
14th Clifford Cates
15th Frank Burgess
16th Jonathan Sykes
17th Rachel Lankford
22nd Clayton Wilson
26th Buster Albright
27th Faye Atkins
Frank Gibson
28th Betty Boney

Up Coming Events in May

3rd 9:00 am Church Clean Up Day
10th 9:00 am Small Group Interest / Training
12th Finance Committee at 6:00 pm
13th Church Council at 3:00 pm
18th Memorial / Homecoming Sunday
20th Easter Sunrise Service
19th Friendship Circle at 7:00 pm
20th Newsletter Deadline
22nd Methodist Men at 6:00 pm.
25th Safe Sanctuary Training after Worship
Every Tuesday night at 6 pm is Prayer meeting in the Prayer Room
Every Wednesday night at 6 pm Bible Study
Pastors Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

Methodist Women Friendship Circle

We will be preparing Easter gift bags for our friends at Springview Homes in Elon, and for our friends here in Abundant Life Ministries. We enjoy putting these gifts together and shopping for just the right item to share.

Starr asked if we might be interested in beginning a group to knit/learn to knit prayer shawls to share and donate. Several ladies were interested in the possibility and ideas were discussed as to when and where and how often to meet. We will continue the planning and discussion at our April meeting.

We wish you all a blessed Easter as we remember the sacrifice made for each of us that first Easter morning. †

HEBRON COMMUNITY CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Sunday, March 9, 2025

Present:

Dustin James	Jay Wilson	Sandy Dixon	Pat Snipes
Ben Boney	Betty Boney	Bob Swanson	Sammy Lankford
Buster Albright	Robin Sykes	Sue Creekmuir	Martha Graham

Pastor Dustin opened the meeting with prayer and a devotion from “Sparkling Gems from the Greek” with a section based on 2nd Timothy 3:1. There will be perilous difficulties in the last days, and we need to be ready and move with the power of God.

The minutes of our February meeting, having been previously distributed, were approved on a motion by Bob.

FINANCE

Our finances are holding and are where had been projected for the first quarter of the year.

TRUSTEES

Steve is gathering bids for replacing windows in the education building and estimates on insulation for the education building.

New automatic light switches are being placed in all the bathrooms. This will prevent the lights from being forgotten and left on.

There is concern regarding the amount of asphalt that is being lost off the roof.

SPRC

The committee has prepared a mission statement for their work.

The pastoral review form was reviewed and will be revised to work for our church. The committee doesn't think the pastoral survey is appropriate in asking for specific concerns regarding the pastor but should be directed to the service in general.

The Matthew 18 policy, which has been previously discussed, needs more feedback and individual transparency from the committee members.

The sales and tax ID number is needed. Buster will work with Cathy on obtaining this number.

There is one member of the congregation who has expressed an interest in meeting with Dustin. Sandy and Betty Boney will arrange a time suitable for all four to meet.

Job descriptions for all areas of the church have been finalized.

NOMINATIONS

Sandy asked if those serving on the committees are limited to a 3-year term and the response was that members are not limited to 3 years.

She also indicated that members chosen to serve on committees should not all be inexperienced, but that some should be included who have previously served.

WORSHIP

Robin shared that the worship committee made a few changes in the worship service to streamline the service without taking away from the worship experience. Some changes were in place for the morning service. She asked that during the Passing of the Peace, when council members hear the musical Call to Worship, we sit and begin singing. This will give the congregation examples to follow as we all become accustomed to the new order.

Robin also clarified that proceeds from the quarter auction on March 16 will pay for the Fall Festival expenses. Proceeds from the quarter auction at the Fall Festival will pay for the congregational Christmas dinner.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

The committee is planning a pancake supper on Saturday, April 5, to benefit Samaritan Purse's Clean Water Well mission. There are two meetings planned prior to the event on March 16 and March 30 to finalize the amount of food, cooks and setup needed to make it a success. Our goal is to provide as many bio-sand filter systems for households in impoverished and refugee countries as possible. The cost is \$100 for each filter system. Pat is in the process of working with Dustin and Lois to get information posted on our private Facebook account as well as printing flyers to have available in the vestibule and at the quarter auction and Ladies' Spring Luncheon. She is also working with Dustin to present a 2-3 minute video to present to the congregation on Sunday, March 23, explaining the process.

The next mission opportunity will be a hotdog lunch, directly following the church service, on Sunday, June 8. The committee will have discussions prior to the lunch, to decide where these donations will be directed, whether to more water filters or preparing for our partnership with S.A.F.E.

Meetings will be scheduled as soon as possible, with the S.A.F.E. directors, to discuss the feasibility of a pantry partnership or having ongoing food collections throughout the year.

Pat has discussed with Cathy "parking" the donations in the savings account until they are distributed.

Helping Hands had nothing to report.

The Sunshine Baskets continue to be distributed and are very well received as is the visitor who delivers the basket.

The Ride Mission had nothing new to report. It was mentioned that the Dixon's might welcome help in accompanying Carol to appointments.

METHODIST MEN

Regarding the pancake supper, Bob has contacted Nicki Crews and she and her husband will contribute 15 lbs. of sausage. They have previously donated food for various meals. Bob will also indicate to her that the church will reimburse them if they choose.

At their latest meeting, the men agreed to match the \$1,080 in funds for the MHFC which was raised at the recent spaghetti lunch!

Bob has learned the recycling facility will no longer accept paper plates and cups. The recyclable plates and to-go containers do not work to carry hot or wet foods. He brought clear plastic plates and will check their cost efficiency as well as plastic "clam shells".

We were encouraged to use cloth towels from the kitchen rather than paper towels to wipe up messes. We have a sizable number of the towels and Bob does wash them after they are used.

METHODIST WOMEN

The Ladies' Luncheon is scheduled for March 22. This will be a special luncheon and all are invited, not just ladies. A video presentation on the latest donation to Guatemala will be presented and will be more special because Evelyn's parents will be visiting with Evelyn, Dustin, and the children. Her parents were helpful in the distribution of both gifts to women and children in Guatemala. The lunch begins at 11:30.

PASTOR

Remember the Lenten Lunches each Wednesday, at noon, until Easter.

Our 5th Sunday evening service with our sister churches will be Sunday, March 16 instead of March 30. The service will be based on John 3:16. We will meet at the Breakthrough Church.

On May 10, Dustin is scheduling a meeting for anyone interested in forming a small group. It will begin at 9:00 a.m. and a light breakfast will be served.

There will be no Bible Study this Wednesday evening as Evelyn's parents arrive late that afternoon.

There was discussion regarding changing the date of the Fall Festival. The date conflicts with the spiritual trip to Greece which Dustin has been telling us about. He has gotten leave from SPRC to take this time as vacation. This trip will be open to anyone in the congregation who would like to make this special trip. The trip will take participants to places Paul visited on his journeys there. A motion was made by Bob and seconded by Martha to change the date to the second weekend of October. The motion passed.

With VBS scheduled for June, Betty has scheduled Safe Sanctuary classes for April 6 and May 25, following worship. Anyone working with children in church activities will need to take the training.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 14, at 3:00.

There being no further business, we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Graham

Missions and Outreach Committee – April 2025 Newsletter

Our next mission project for Hebron Community Church is the Clean Water Project. In partnership with Samaritan Purse, the goal is to provide as many bio-sand water filters as possible for people in dry and impoverished countries who do not have access to clean water. Many people, especially children, die every year from the lack of clean water. Every \$100 contributed will purchase a filter for a family. It would be amazing to provide at least 10 families with clean water.

To accomplish this goal, a Pancake Supper is planned for Saturday, April 5th, 2025. Committee members have worked hard to plan the supper for our church and community. We are praying for a successful event with plenty of good food and fellowship.

The Helping Hands Ministry of Hebron continues to provide love and assistance to families in need of meals and Christian support. Committee members met on March 23rd.

The Ride Ministry is always ready to provide transportation to church members in need of rides to doctor and dental appointments, grocery runs and even rides to the airport.

Please remember the Missions and Outreach committee in prayer as we follow God's direction to serve our communities and the world.

Hebron love,

Pat



Please join us for a Pancake Supper on
Saturday, April 5th, 2025
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Good food and good fellowship. Donations by cash or
check made payable to Hebron Community Church for
“The Clean Water Project”

All to benefit Samaritan Purse’s Project to provide
clean water to refugee families in South Sudan and
impoverished peoples, and to bring the gospel directly
to the people.

Every \$100 donation will provide a household with a
bio-sand water filter that will last up to 10 years.



April 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg. 6 Prayer Mtg.	2 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service w/Lunch 6 Bible Study	3 9-4 ALM	4	5 Pancake Supper 4:30
6 Sunday School Worship / Communion Safe Sanctuary Training	7 9-4 ALM 6 SPRC	8 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	9 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service w/Lunch 6 Bible Study	10 9-4 ALM	11	12 10 am Easter Egg Hunt/Family Fun Day
13 Sunday School Worship 3 Church Council	14 9-4 ALM	15 9-4 ALM 1 Pastors' Mtg 6 Prayer Mtg.	16 9-4 ALM 12 Lenten Service w/Lunch 6 Bible Study	17 9-4 ALM 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 7 pm Good Friday Service	19
20 6:45 Sunrise Service / Breakfast Sunday School Worship	21 7 Friendship Circle	22 6 Prayer Mtg.. Newsletter Deadline	23 6 Bible Study	24 6 pm Methodist Men	25 12-10 Crafting	26 9-3 Crafting Dogwood Festival Hut Reserved 3- 7
27 Sunday School Worship VBS Mtg.	28 9-4 ALM	29 9-4 ALM 6 Prayer Mtg.	30 9-4 ALM 6 Bible Study	1 9-4 ALM	2	3 9 am Church Clean up

Nursery Schedule

April 6th	Marti Graham & Jay Wilson
April 13th	Joannie Wilson & Robin Sykes
April 20 th	Pat Snipes & Betty Albright
April 27th	Robin Sykes & Joannie Wilson

Greeters

Brenda, Aaron & Maddie Moss
Michael & Renee McPherson
Jr. & Robin Sykes
Martha Graham

Acolytes

Marleigh Lankford
Carlos Montejo
Peyton McBride
Annabelle Allred