

Pastor's column

Preparing your mind for Easter



Jacob Brimm

Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,

Easter is one of the big turnout times for churches. It is one of the times when even people who normally do not, attend church. Depending on which statistic you read, it is even the time when atheists and agnostics most often attend church. Sadly, this is often the

time when we, as the "church" fail the most. Painful to think about isn't it?

How do we fail? Perhaps you have heard, or even said: I thought you forgot where the church was; or maybe, we are still here, dusting off your pew. While it may not be those exact words, I am sure you can relate to the message being relayed. And while you may mean them playfully, the reception of them is far from the outside appearance. The people to whom these things are said will rarely return to the church. And for those who are attending the church for the first time, the atmosphere can be caustic and unwelcoming.

So what can we do about it? This has to be the question at the top of our mind when considering the MOST IMPORTANT celebration we have. How can we make Easter, *Easter*? Prepare your mind, starting right now! No doubt you heard someone say: my heart was in the right place; or something to the like. Many times our heart is in the right place. We are playful, we mean no harm, we want to lighten the mood; unfortunately, we did not think about what we were about to say before we said it, and looking back we realize where we went wrong.

We have to get our mind right, starting now. Make the decision to be kind and welcoming. Make the decision to serve those who walk in the door. Make the decision to humble yourself and realize that your position is to "wash the feet" of all those who attend service. When Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, He took the lowest possible position and did what would be considered the lowest possible job. Why? Because that is what humbling yourself is all about.

Beginning now, get your attitude in line with Jesus. When that person shows back up, or walks in the door for the first time, don't make a comment about being lost, or dusting off 'their pew', or any of that. Instead, shake their hand, welcome them by simply saying: "it is great to see you today". It is simple, but very welcoming and not awkward. Remember that the goal is to get them to RETURN! And when they are leaving, don't say: see you at Christmas. Bad idea. Instead: "it was great having you today, you should come again". If they have kids let them know how their children were a blessing.

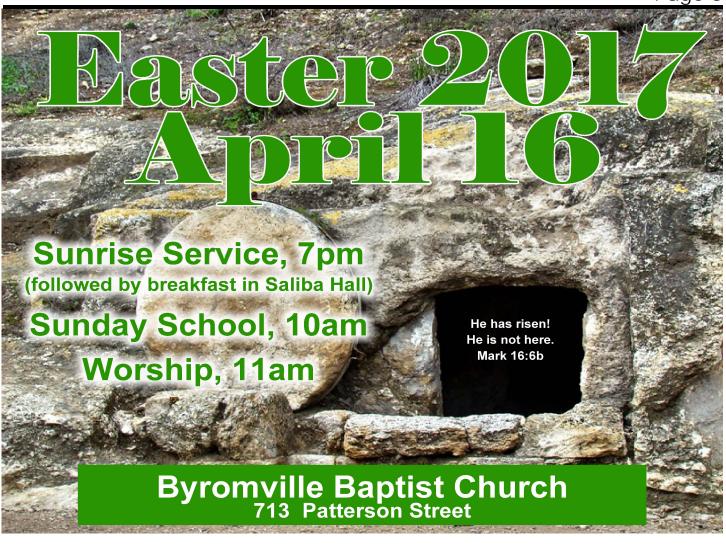
Remember this is a huge chance to be the love of Jesus. So begin preparing your mind right now.

Movie Night moving to Thursdays

Quite a few folks at BBC have expressed that our monthly movie nights might be better attended if it was on Thursdays instead of Fridays. So, we are going to try that strategy beginning in April. Since last month's movie night got cancelled, the March feature, *Faith Like Potatoes*, will be April's feature.

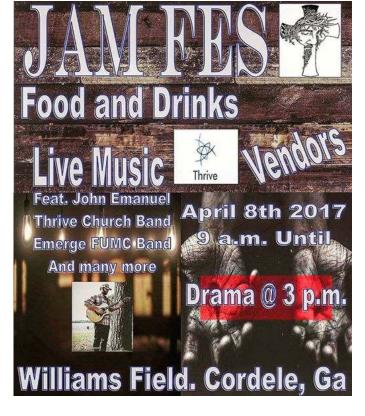


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Use these special cards, which are available at the church house, to invite people to our Easter services.











Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ashley (Langston) and Tyler Mixon who were married on March 18. They live at 710 Kitchens Street, Byromville.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Gloria (Fountain White) and Mark Chambers who were married last December 15. They live at 111 Sunnybrook Drive, Perry.

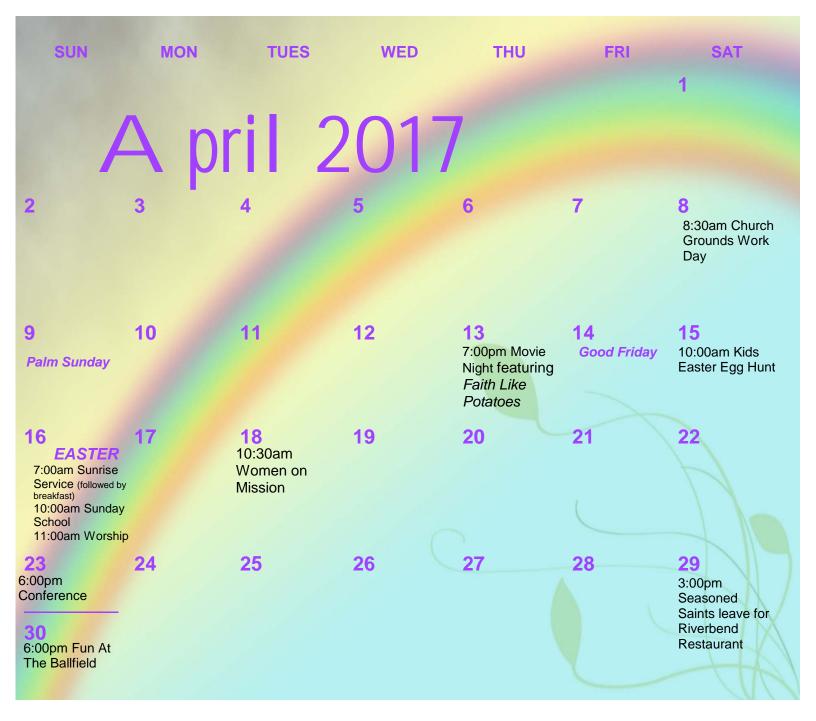


Seasoned Saints going to Riverbend in Thomaston

An out-of-the-way restaurant well known for its fried catfish and slaw, Riverbend was founded in 1972. It is named after the bend in the Flint which is viewable from the deck. Although made famous for their fried catfish, they also serve good hamburgers, broiled fish, and more. Riverbend has been a favorite of Thomaston residents for over 40 years.

The church van will leave at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 29. Call Elaine at 433-2035 if you plan.





Birthdays

4-2	Jeanna Everidge	4-13	Derek Humphries	5-1	Ross Stout
	Penny Langston	4-15	Joshua Gathier	5-4	Tommy Bodrey
4-3	Kris Braddock	4-17	Shawn Raper	5-5	Sophie Roney
4-5	Myra Kirksey	4-22	Taylor Willingham	5-6	Lily Diehl
	Bob Peavy	4-26	Judson Humphries	5-7	Jamie Roberts
	Gloria Chambers	4-28	Dennis Phillips	5-8	Cooper Blankenship
4-7	Martha Peavy		Arthur Roney		Nikki Gaultney
	Marsha Taylor	4-30	Ashley Lamberth		•
4-9	Monta Averill	5-1	Jimmy Gauthier		
4-11	Jimmy Dorsett		Glynn Grantham		
	Pam Évans		Thad Kitchens	Pleas	se pray for these folks

Mary Lizzie Lamberth

on their birthday.

4-12 Beth Roney

Weekly Schedule

Schedule of Volunteers for April					
Please remember it is up to you to arrange coverage if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day.					
Date	Nursery AM	Children's Church	Deacon of the Week	Offering Bearers	
Apr. 2	Beth/Arthur Roney	Vicki Lamberth Robin Peavy	Floyd Tucker	Denny Rogers Buck Thompson	
Apr. 9	Paula/Mandy Smith	Alison/Taylor Willingham	Joe Kent	Jimmy Lockerman Matt Youngblood	
Apr. 16	Brenda Lockerman Tricia Kent	Jenn/John John Averill	Jimmy Lockerman	Carson Godfrey Tracy Gregory	
Apr. 23	Tori/Vicki Lamberth	Jeanie Brimm Kaye Green	Arthur Roney	Jared Averill John John Averill	
Apr. 30	Robin/Mark Peavy	Laura/Keith Lamberth	Floyd Tucker	Monta Averill Ronnie Hatcher	

March Sunday School Stats

Senior Adults	5
FBIC	16
CIA	5
Young Adults	5
Early Adults	1
Youth	0
Older Children	2
Younger Children	2
Older Preschoolers	5
Younger Preschoolers	6
Nursery	5
General Officers/Musicians	5
TOTAL	57
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Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your faithful, prayerful support of The Mailbox Club! Through your sacrificial giving last year, we were able to meet our budget requirements for the year. Praise the Lord!

As a ministry partner, you are a vitl part of the rescue efforts to countless boys and girls who might otherwise perish without Christ. We thank the Lord for what He's doing here and for friends like you.

Please be in prayer for us as we have been given some great opportunities in 2017 to reach children for the Lord—even in the heart of the Muslin world!

Again, thank you so much for giving so others may know Jesus Christ!

For the children, John Mark Eager The Mailbox Club

Financial \$ummary

February receipts	
General offerings	7,948.00
Interest on CD	4.25
Special–Gideons	100.00
Special–State missions	100.00
Special-Crisp Area Pregnancy Care Center	25.00
Special-Building/Floor Fund	25.00
Special–Mail Box Club	<u>51.83</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	8,254.08
February disbursements	
General expenses	8,006.89
Gideons	100.00
Local missions	90.00
Houston Baptist Association	571.60
Cooperative Program	1,486.16
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	$1\overline{0,254.65}$

2017 YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	19,808.34	19,380.00	-428.34
Expenses	19,808.34	19,097.90	-710.44

Note: 2017 actual YTD general receipts exceed YTD general expenses by \$282..10.





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