

Robinhood Road Baptist Church

The Encourager

"Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

MARCH 2026



Pastor's Pen

HE IS RISEN! Those are words that will be the focus of just about everything that happens over the course of the next month as we move through the season of Lent and get ready to not only remember, but to experience as best as we can the sorrows and the pains of the cross before we ultimately celebrate the resurrection. But are you prepared to answer the question that is ultimately on the heart of every single non-believer at this time each year?

Our faith is built upon our belief that the resurrection did occur, but the world's disbelief or doubts also rest squarely on the reality of that one single event that changed everything. The world has questions. The world asks those questions. But are we prepared to give them the correct answers?

I'd like to take the next few moments to give you my answer and hopefully spur you on to being ready to articulate your answer clearly as the opportunity to do so presents itself throughout the Easter season. But before I do, let me remind you that there are two different forms your answer can take, and the most thorough responses to this question must include both.

First, any follower of Jesus should be able to explain the unexplainable. And that's not a riddle, but a truth. As the great hymn of our faith proclaims, "you ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart". Knowing and expressing that there is something (more accurately someone) inside you that is both real and powerful enough to change the course of your life is the most important aspect of our explanation to the world regarding what we are so sure about. Being ready to simply say "here is how the risen Savior has changed me" is where the greatest power in your answer lies.

- 1) However, someone who has not experienced that presence or power might not be willing to just "take your word for it" as we hope they would. Therefore, we must turn to evidence not in us, but out in the world. And as we do, here is what we should include.
- 2) Accounts of an empty tomb are from both friends and foes

Youth Ministry News

"But God...." Ephesians 2:4

As the youth and I continue our verse-by-verse journey through Ephesians, we came to two of the most hope-filled words in Scripture: "But God..." In Ephesians 2, Paul reminds us of who we were apart from Christ — spiritually dead and separated from Him. It is a sobering picture of our condition without grace. Then everything changes with two words: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love... made us alive together with Christ."

Our salvation did not begin with our effort. It began with God's mercy. When we could not move toward Him, He moved toward us. When we were dead in sin, He made us alive in Christ. This is the heart of the gospel — not what we have done for God, but what God has done for us.

Church family, our story is a "but God" story. The same God who saved us by grace continues to sustain us by grace. May we rest in His great love and walk forward with confidence in the One who brings life where there was once death

of Jesus. There was no denying guards were there and yet Jesus was not.

- 3) Eyewitness accounts of Jesus being very much alive after His death. Literally hundreds of people, many of whom were not believers before seeing this dead man alive SAW WHAT THEY SAW and as a result believed.
- 4) Transformation of disciples and conversion of skeptics. Many were broken hearted over the death of Jesus, but all were changed because of the resurrection. Disciples became willing to die, skeptics swallowed their pride and confessed their sin, pledging allegiance to The Lamb and remained loyal to Him the rest of their lives. And they all stuck to their stories even when their lives hung in the balance. Who would die for a lie?

These are just a few (although certainly the strongest) of the many evidences that Jesus conquered death and came out of the tomb. It's our story, but it's not just a story to celebrate at Easter, it's a story to tell at Easter as well. I pray the Lord will lead you to someone who has questions this Easter season, and I pray that when the moment occurs, you'll be ready to tell the story of our risen Savior, **FOR HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

-Pastor John



Youth Ministry Announcements

- Youth Sunday School meets each Sunday from 9:45–10:45 a.m. as we grow together in God's Word. We encourage all students to be faithful and engaged.
 - Wednesday Night Youth Worship takes place from 6:00–7:30 p.m. Join us for worship, Bible study, and Christ-centered fellowship each week.
 - On March 18, we will leave at 6:00 p.m. for a special dinner and short devotion together. We plan to return before 8:00 p.m. Please bring \$5 for the meal.
 - On March 29 at 5:00 p.m., our youth are invited to serve during the children's Easter Egg Hunt and devotion as a special service opportunity.
- Finally, for those attending Caswell Camp, the second deposit of \$110 is due April 19, 2026.

What's the SCOOP?

With Easter being on the first Sunday in April, April 5th, I wanted to make you aware of the breakfast we will be serving Easter morning at 7:30am. Whether you plan on attending the 8:30am service or the 11:00am service, you are invited to come eat breakfast. We will be serving: eggs, bacon, sausage, gravy, biscuits and drinks.

-Kay Moore

New Sunday School Classes March 1st

You are invited to join us on Sunday, March 1st at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall for a special Sunday School introduction gathering. Whether you are not currently attending a class or are simply looking for something new, this will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what is being offered for the upcoming quarter.

We will enjoy coffee, juice, and donuts together, followed by in-depth introductions to three new classes that will run from March through May:

- **Chasing Red Letters** with Tim Dancy
- **The Way of Wisdom** with Karla Hackworth
- **Peter, Paul, and the Holy Spirit** with Dave Larson

Additional information about each class is available on the church website, or you can join us for this time of fellowship and devotion as you prayerfully consider your plans for the coming months.

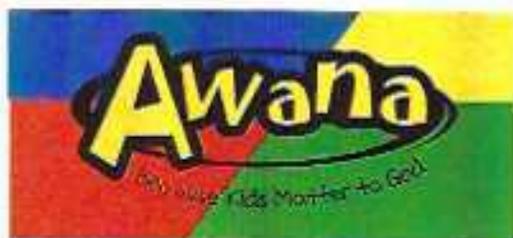
-Mike Brazier

Children's Activities

Kids' Worship during Sunday morning worship for ages 3 years

- 5th Grade. Children receive a snack, sing songs, and hear a Bible message, as they learn to participate in worship.

1. We invite all children to join us on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM for Children's Handbells. Mrs. Jean and Mrs. Nakiea lead this special time of musical instruction, a brief devotion, and sweet fellowship together. We encourage you to make plans for your children to participate as they grow both musically and spiritually.
2. On Sunday, March 29, at 5:00 PM, we will host a Children's Easter Egg Hunt followed by a meaningful Easter devotion. All children are warmly invited to join us for this joyful evening of worship, fellowship, and celebration as we reflect on the hope of Easter together.



AWANA will be on Wednesday nights through May 20th.

Weekly from 6:00-7:30pm.

Awana is a program that teaches our children to memorize scripture, learn to be team players through game play and to open their Bibles to see answers. We have music, exciting games, handbook time, and story/lesson time. Dinner is also provided.

Scan the QR code to get more information and register!!

UpBeat

Easter is on the way and comes a bit early this year. I always look forward to reflecting on those things that our Savior experienced as the time approached when He would lay down His life freely to purchase our redemption. It's a reflection that brings mixed emotions because Jesus went through such horrible torture through the night prior to that day that they crucified Him on the cross; It was the price that had to be paid for my sin and that causes me much shame...but I rejoice because our Lord loved us enough to willingly give His life so we would not have to perish if we only trust Him. I also rejoice because at the end of the passion week we celebrate the defeat of death, the empty tomb...the Risen Savior!



Through the week prior to Easter we will be having services which we hope will increase our focus as we worship together at this most important time in Christianity from the celebration of Palm Sunday to the mid-week commemoration of the Lord's Supper, to the Service of Shadows on Good Friday, to the celebration of the Risen Lord. We hope you will be able to attend and worship with us at RRBC!

He is Risen...Indeed!

-Jerry



Mission Matters

Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

- **NC Baptist Mission Conference** is coming up April 10th & 11th in Charlotte. Guest speakers at this year's conference include Lee Strobel, Jennifer Rothschild, Tom Richey and Tim Tebow. Worship will be led by Laura Story. Please see Janet Larson if you are interested in attending.
- Dates have been set for a team to serve at **Truett Camp**. We will be volunteering as food service workers for the girl's camp week of June 7th-12th. Please see Luelle Crumpler if you are interested. Deadline to sign up for this opportunity is March 15th.
- **Winston Salem Street School:** if you are interested in providing lunch for the school kids please see Karen Mathis. This is a great opportunity to serve locally.
- **Feed the Hunger Packathon** is scheduled April 18th from 10-noon. Plan to be here to help us pack our goal of 17,280 meals!

Prayer:

- Stop by the mission center and pick up a prayer card. Each of our partners has specific requests hanging on our windows. Take one or two and pray for them every day.
- Your mission committee needs your prayers as they carefully listen to God's word and the Spirit's guidance to plan and provide opportunities for the congregation to advance the Great Commission.

Praises:

- Thank you to everyone who has donated and/or prayed for the Good Shepherd Center's need for a new well. We collected a total of \$7,495.00 and the church voted to add to the total making the gift we sent to our partners in Guatemala exactly \$10,000.00. Well done church!
- We are grateful that a mission team has returned from Guatemala. They will be sharing about their experiences on Sunday evening, March 1, at 5:00PM.



RRBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
Seeking Jesus ~ Serving Others



The goal of RRBC Women's Ministries is to unite our women through opportunities of fellowship, discipleship, and service, thereby finding a place to grow and thrive at RRBC.

Ladies Bible/Book Study Group

Thursdays, 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

From this point forward, our group has decided to meet every Thursday. Whether we are actively engrossed in a study or prayerfully supporting and encouraging each other in our faith, you are sure to be blessed by being a part of this group. The past few weeks we have asked for your input, as together we have examined our past studies, your present desires, and where God is directing us as we move forward. We have been very pleased by your open hearts, your honesty and helpful suggestions.

Thank you,

Judy McDowell and Linda Lunsford

Upcoming Study

"I Give Up: The Secret Joy of a Surrendered Life"

Beginning in March (pending receipt of study guides) we will be led by Laura Story as she demonstrates the ironic joy found when we surrender to God and simply give up. Surrendering is a willful, daily decision worth every single ounce of effort. Though surrender flies in the face of our instincts, it's never without benefit.

A surrendered life includes the surprise of a full and satisfying existence where trust is reasonable, reconciliation is possible, and relationships can heal.



Ladies' Fellowship @ Coronet Seafood Restaurant

Tuesday, March 17, 6:00 pm

431 Bethania-Rural Hall Rd, Rural Hall, NC 27045

If you have never joined our Ladies' Fellowship, we invite you to come! It's a great opportunity to get to know our RRBC ladies and their friends as we continue connecting with each other. There is always an abundance of good food, great girl-talk, and loads of laughter. Each person picks up her own tab.

So, come join us and bring a friend!

MissionCrafters Workday

Saturday, March 21

9:30 am - 11:30 am in the Kid's Worship Room

We are so grateful for the various sewing and crafting talents God has blessed us with, as well as the opportunities He provides for us to share them.

Should you know of a need or would like to make a donation to this ministry, please contact Linda Lunsford (336) 529-7732; lin82352@gmail.com.



- CALLING ALL WOMEN -
Let's Renew Our Commitment
to the Great Commission given by Jesus
in Matthew 28:19-20

Women on Mission (WOM)

Next Meeting: *Tuesday, March 10*

* 4:00 pm * in the Fellowship Hall

Reminder: Mark your calendars for the second Tuesday each month so you don't miss out on God's blessing in learning about, praying for, and giving to missions.

March Emphasis

**JOY IN SHARING OUR LIVES:
SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Blessing others with our spiritual gifts and everyday gifts, talents and interests.

Bible Study: For the Common Good

1 Corinthians 12

Missionary Spotlight:

From Basketball Player to Pastor
God Uses One Man's Passion to Bring
People to Himself

Prayer Study:

Pray to Share the Gifts You Have Been Given

1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.

Questions? Call Luelle Crumpler - (336) 575-5696.

Meal Ministry

Next Meal: Tuesday, April 7

Should you know of someone in need of a hot meal and an encouraging word or visit, please contact Linda Patterson (336) 247-2984; lap@almondtree.com.

2026 Women's Retreat Planning

Mark your calendars for

Wednesday, September 16 - Saturday, September 19

The Leadership Team has begun planning our annual Women's retreat and don't want you to miss out.

More details coming But in preparation ...
get your sandals and beach hats ready.