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*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*

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**APRIL 2026**



Join us April 5th @ 7:30am in the fellowship hall for our Easter Church Wide Breakfast.

## Pastor's Pen

One of my favorite movie endings is the final Avengers movie, where a letter from Tony Stark is read to his friends and family. He wrote it knowing that he would likely not survive the mission, and he did not. But in his farewell, he said "part of the journey is the end". Hearing that quote makes me happy and sad at the exact same time. It makes me happy because it forces me to look back and see what has been happening and what a blessing the days gone by have been. It makes me sad because the reality that things are about to change sets in. And nobody like change.

By now you certainly know that God has called me to a different assignment and I cannot help but be obedient to what He is asking of me. If I stayed knowing I should have gone, I would not be an effective minister anyway. So the reality is that God put an end to my ministry here at RRBC, and I had a choice of it either being the easy way or the hard way. I chose the easy way and am diving into what He has planned for me. But that also means it will be the easy way for you as well.....although it will still be hard.

I am incredibly sad. I cannot tell you how many hours of prayer have been involved in this, how many tears have been shed over this, and how difficult it will be to say goodbye to people who have loved me so well and I have loved so much for such a long time. But I have been reminded on this journey of how good the times were at my previous churches and how hard it was to say goodbye to them as well.....but if I hadn't I would have missed out on the last 21 years of life here at RRBC and I wouldn't trade a single day of it for the whole world. So I leave with a heavy heart, but great excitement over the unknown blessings that I know are ahead of me.

As I leave there are a couple of things that I want to make sure you know. **First**, I am not leaving because I am unhappy. I could not be happier. In fact, leaving makes me very unhappy. **Second**, I want you to know that you are going to be

just fine without me. I think one of the ways you will discover that this was God's plan is by how well things will go in my absence. I have made no bones about the fact that I believe Jason East should be your next pastor. He is more than ready for this change and his ministry will not only be an extension of mine, but what God will do through you under Jason's leadership will far surpass anything I could have ever accomplished here. **Third**, I covet your prayers in the days ahead. I have a very specific task in going into a church that needs some of what we have at RRBC. The joy, the unity, the trust, the passion for the Lord that you all have here is something that I hope to take with me. I have no delusions that what I am about to do is going to be easy. I know it will be hard, and I need my friends praying for me.....and that includes each one of you.

I love Robinhood Road Baptist Church. Serving you has been one of the great privileges of my lifetime. Thank you for taking a chance on a 34 year old guy who had never pastored before and being patient with me as I figured out what in the world I was supposed to do. I believe that as I go, I'm leaving you in better shape than I found you, thanks to God's Hand and your service. Keep it up Robinhood Road, the only thing better than yesterday will be tomorrow as long as you do!

-Pastor John



## Youth Ministry News

"Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7)

As a church family, we are entering a significant moment of transition in our journey together. In the verse above from God's word, we have wisdom and a clear and steady reminder for moments like this. We are called to remember. We should remember the faithful years that John preached God's Word to us. We should remember all the prayers that were lifted for us. We should remember a season of life well lived in service to Christ and the church at RRBC. I thank God for a great shepherd who has faithfully led, taught, and loved this church. His impact is not measured only in years served, but in lives changed for eternity. But this verse does not stop with us just remembering John's service to the church. No, it calls us to imitate their faith. As we remain thankful for John's faithful leadership, we are also challenged to follow the example of great leaders in our lives. Let's remain grounded in God's word as John taught us. Let's stay committed to missions and the discipling of others. Let's continue to love one another as we have done for so many years. Also, in the same way that John has trusted God, let us all imitate that same trust in God in the days ahead. The same God who has been faithful in the past will be faithful in the future. God is not surprised by this transitional moment, and I promise you that He is not absent but is actually already at work in preparing the next steps for our church family. So, let's move

forward together, grateful for John and what God has done, and let's stay fully committed to what God is doing and remain confident in what He will do. I love you, Church!

### 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 April 22, 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. Finally, for those attending Caswell Camp, the second deposit of \$110 is due April 19, 2026.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Minister of Family Life.

Rev. Jason East



# What's the SCOOP?

Easter is such a special day but it's also a busy day. We would like to make that day a little easier for you. You're invited to breakfast that day in the fellowship hall at 7:30am. We are serving eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, grits, gravy and biscuits. We will even have some coffee ready. Make plans to join us.

-Kay

**Easter  
Morning  
Breakfast  
at the Church  
at 7:30AM!**



## Updated Church Member's Information

- Lillie Douglas new number 336-407-2572

## 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.



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

As we look forward to Easter and the reflection on Jesus' sacrifice for us, I'm reminded of the vast number of songs written about the cross. In our hymnal there are 35 songs relating to the blood, the sacrifice, the cross, and then a few more choruses honoring the Lamb that was slain. Two of these songs come to my mind, the first being Blessed

Redeemer. In the chorus, the lyrics state "Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer! Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree..." I'm challenged by these lyrics to daily reflect on the image of Christ on the cross paying the price for my sin. The second song is the familiar "Were You There" which always reminds me that I was present, all of us were present that day in the heart of God's Son as He bore the weight of our sin "in His own body on the tree". (1 Peter 2:24)

As briefly mentioned in the previous newsletter, we will worship together with a Service of Shadows on Good Friday. We will gather at 7:30pm to, by way of familiar music and selected scriptures, focus on what Jesus experienced as the time approached, that He would be crucified and die for the sins of the world. I hope everyone will be able to attend.

Remember! Sunday's on the way!

-Jerry



## Mission Matters

### Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

- **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 for April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. Plan to be here to help us pack our goal of 17,280 meals! Please arrive by 9:50 so we can get everyone registered and be ready to pack by 10am. If you would like to contribute to their Bible fund, please bring \$5 for every Bible you would like to sponsor.
- **Mission trip to Eastern Europe-** please see Mike Brazier if you are interested in the fall mission trip to                     . Participants will be working with children in the community providing a VBS type camp and also working at the recovery center that we are partners with. The dates for the trip are tentatively September 4-13. Plane tickets will be purchased soon so do not wait to express your interest.
- **Annie Armstrong Offering** – the week of prayer and offering for this mission offering begins April 5th. This offering supports North American missionaries.

### 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

We have 7 people planning to attend the NC Mission Conference in Charlotte April 10-11.  
Grateful that there are 8 people going to serve at Truett Conference and Camp Center this June!



**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*

**Continuing Study**

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

As we continue to work our way through this 5-week video session and focus on the events leading up to Resurrection Sunday, we are reminded at every turn of just how much the entire life (and death) of Christ exemplified "total surrender" to His Father's will. We, as Christ followers, are learning that 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. When we surrender and place our utmost trust in God and His sovereignty and grace, we can be assured that ALL things will work together for our good and His glory. Keep believing ... keep surrendering ... keep trusting!



**Women on Mission (WOM)**

Calling All Women – Let's Renew Our Commitment  
To The Great Commission – *Matthew 28:19-20*

**YOU are invited to come join us...**

As we celebrate ... learn about ...  
pray for ... and do missions!

**Next Meeting:**

*Tuesday, April 14*  
4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

**JOY IN SHARING OUR LIVES:  
SHARING OUR RESOURCES**

Blessing others with what we have to show God's love

**Bible Study: Our Generous God**  
Luke 12:22-34; Matthew 6:1-4

**Missionary Spotlight:**  
**Faithfully Planted in the Philippines**  
Wade and Sharon Sigrest  
Serving in the land of 7,600 Islands

**Prayer Study: Praying to Give**  
Pray for Wisdom in Worshipping God through Giving

For questions or to learn more about missions,  
contact Luella Crumpler (336) 575-5696.



**MissionCrafters Workday**

*Saturday, April 25\*\**  
9:30 am - 11:30 am in the Kid's Worship Room

\*\*In order to not conflict with our Feed the Hunger Puckathon, please note that our workday is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday this month. We hope you can join us as we continue stitching and crafting for those in need.

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.



**All to Jesus I Surrender**

**Ladies' Fellowship @ RIO Japanese Restaurant**  
*Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 pm*

6804 River Ctr. Dr., Clemmons 27012

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.

To make sure we have enough seats reserved, please text Judy McDowell (336-529-1151) if you plan to join us.

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**Meal Ministry**

Next Meal: *Tuesday, April 7*

Driver pickup time: 4:00 pm

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

