



# SANDSTON BAPTIST CHURCH

His Last Command, Our First Concern  
Matthew 28:18-20

APRIL 2025 | VOLUME 51 | ISSUE 4

## From My Heart to Yours . . .

At Jesus' *mock trial*, Pilate asked a question for the ages, a question everyone must answer . . . every day, and at His judgment seat: ***“What shall I do with Jesus, which is called Christ?”***

**Ignore Him** - most of the day, except at a meal or bedtime? - Passionately seek His Face only in times of a personal need (our personal genie)? Talk about Him only when we want to look good in front of others (hypocrisy)? Praise Him only when He says “yes” to our desires (selfishness).

**Or will we once and for all, die to our selfish desires**, discipline our minds and souls to *“love Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind”* (His greatest command), and passionately seek His face (His realized Presence) as long as He gives us breath?

**After all, He created us, it's through Him we live and breathe**, it's because of His payment on the cross we can spend eternity with Him in Heaven; and it's by His grace that we have *hope*.

**As Easter approaches, and I move closer to my 75th birthday**, I wonder more and more *“What I have done for/with Jesus, who is called the Christ.”* I wonder if I've been faithful to Him and His calling on my life. Have I been faithful to Him with my time, talent, and resources? What have I left undone what I should have done, and I wonder what I should have left alone that has occupied my time and life.

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**On Palm Sunday (April 13) we will be blessed through the talent and musical ministry of SBC, and I will share a brief meditation entitled: *Why Did the Cheering Stop?*" (Luke 19:29-42). Jesus came to Jerusalem and the crowd cheered! The timing was right!! It was almost Passover, the most Holy day. Perhaps this was the perfect time for Jesus to declare Himself . . . King!! But then, cheers turned to jeers . . . why???**

**On Easter Sunday (April 20) we join millions of Christians around the world in celebration of our risen Lord. My message is entitled: *"The Cross."* (John 19:17-30). This message will cause you to see the ugliness and glory of the cross of Calvary.**

**My prayer is that many will gather to worship and celebrate our Lord. Christmas and Easter are the two most attended Sundays of the year (why is that?) and it is the time to proclaim the hope we have in Jesus Christ as Savior. Will you join me in praying for victory on Easter Sunday?**

*Easter was just the beginning!!!*

*What will we do with Jesus?*

*The choice is ours . . .*

*the consequences are not!*

I will conclude my interim pastorate with you on April 27<sup>th</sup> with a message entitled: *"I Was Born for More Than This"* (I Chronicles 4:10). This final message comes from the bold prayer of Jabez and will be my challenge to you as you enter a new era with your new pastor!! I will hold you up in prayer and look forward to all that God has in store for the SBC family . . . it has been my honor and privilege to have served with you in this transitional period. Thank you.

*I am joyfully His . . . Yours,*

*Pastor Tom*



**It is official Rev. Kevin Freeman, our new lead Pastor, will be set to step into his new roll on May 1st!**

We are very excited to welcome him, his wife, Karen, and their beautiful family for their first Sunday together with us on May 4th. Praise be to God as we prepare to enter this new chapter for Sandston Baptist Church!



### **House Keeping Reminders:**

- Prior to leaving your classes on Sunday's please insure lights, coffee pots, fans, heaters, electronics and window units are turned off.
- Do not pour any substances other than water down the water fountains.
- Be conscious of noise volumes as the walls are thin and other groups are studying.

### **Other Bible Study Opportunities:**

- HIS Group meets on Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm in the Vines Classroom (Room 307)
- Sista'hood Small Groups

## **New and Looking to Join a Bible Study?**

### **Kids**

(Infant-5th Grade)

**Preschool**—Room E114

**Grades 1—3**—Room E208

**Grades 4-5**—Room E211

### **Youth**

(6th-12th Grade)

**Grades 6-12**—Youth House

### **Young Adults**

**Pathways**—Room 300

### **Adults**

**Agape**—Room B03

**Basement Believers**—Room E203

**Branches**—Room 306

**GIFT**—Room B07

**Earl Gerheart**—Room 303

**The Man Class**—Room 313

**Seedplanters**—Room 301

**Vines**—Room 307

**Women of Faith**—Room 311



## THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who came out for our SBC Family Trivia and Music Night! We had a great time and congrats again to "The Big Cheese" for the trivia night victory and a close 2nd and 3rd place race from "OO7" and "SBC Most Wanted". Thanks to all the parents and youth, as well as Tommy Blunt and Matt Bailey for their help in putting this event on!



## WHAT'S GOING ON

As a youth group we have been practicing for the Palm Sunday service and looking forward to having our Fusion Youth Praise Team and Majesticks group help lead worship on April 13.

We have also been having our Sunday night Bible Studies through the month of March, having two of our guys study's on "How to be a Godly man" and our youth girls going through looking at the scripture and meaning from Christian songs, by putting together their own Bible study to lead each other during this time. In March, Molly Milby (one of our young adult small group leaders) and Hayden Loving each prepared and led their own Bible study to share with the group.

On Wednesday Nights we have been going through a series on Stranger Stories in the Bible and what we can learn from them. Remember there are NO YOUTH/CHILDREN activities on Wednesday April 2.

On Sunday mornings we have continued on with our series on Parables from Jesus, looking at this series since the beginning of the school year. We are about to wrap up our series after 30 weeks of studying the stories, analogies, and guidance Jesus gave us through his Parables. If you are interested in the list and/or any lessons on these, please let me know!

## WHAT'S COMING UP

May 3rd will be our Operation In As Much community outreach for our church family. Youth are encouraged to sign-up for projects on their own with their fellow youth. There are many needs throughout the day at the yard give, car wash, kids crafts, community clean-up/prayer walk, etc. Look for sign-up sheets soon, youth will need to sign up on their own!

Another big event coming up for our youth group is Youth Sunday on May 18th. This will also be our Graduate Recognition Sunday. So that means I need two things from our congregation

1) If you have a youth and/or family member that you would like recognized during our service on Sunday May 18th, please email me with their Name, School they are graduating from, future plans (college/military/work), and a picture. We will also have "senior tables" if there are any high school senior families that would like to have memorabilia over the years displayed. Please email me at [sbcyouth.info@gmail.com](mailto:sbcyouth.info@gmail.com) if you have a high school or college senior to recognize.

2) If you have a youth that would like to participate in our Majesticks, Youth Praise Team, Praying during our service, Greeting our guests, Running our stations for the Worship Production Team, etc, please look for an email from me soon for signing up to help out. If you are not part of our youth email, email me at [sbcyouth.info@gmail.com](mailto:sbcyouth.info@gmail.com) to get weekly updates!

Our mission trip scheduled for July 13-19 to Southwest, VA with ImpactVA is still open for a few more participants. If you have a youth that wants to participate, use the Google Form sign-up provided by email (you can message me at [sbcyouth.info@gmail.com](mailto:sbcyouth.info@gmail.com) if you have a youth interested as well).

Please look for emails from [sbcyouth.info@gmail.com](mailto:sbcyouth.info@gmail.com) with updates on events like our Sunday Night Bible Studies and other youth events OR join our youth Facebook group (SBC Fusion) to stay up to date with everything! Hope everyone has a great April!

*Justin Blunt*





# Children's MINISTRY NEWS



Dear Parents and Families,

Spring is here, and we are so excited about all the wonderful things happening in the Children's Ministry this month! As we celebrate the joy of Easter and the new season, we have some exciting events and lessons planned for your children. Here's what's coming up in April:

## **Upcoming Events:**

☐ *Musical Sunday Service – April 13*

*Join us for a special church service filled with SBC's musical talent, including our children's choir!*

☐ *Easter Egg Hunt – April 13*

*Join us at 3:00 p.m. for a fun Easter egg hunt and games. Bring your baskets and a friend!*

☐ *Bible Verse Challenge – Ongoing in April*

*This month, we encourage kids to memorize John 11:25 – “Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’” Prizes will be given to those who participate!*

## **What We're Learning:**

We had a great time this past month planting spring flowers and focusing on being rooted in God's word. We also are watching our pet caterpillars as they turn into beautiful butterflies. We will be releasing them soon - and are in awe of God's creation! We will continue our study on the minor prophets while taking some time this month to learn about Jesus's resurrection and the reason Easter is so special to us.

Each Sunday, our lessons will include:

☐ April 7 – Obadiah - The Prophet

☐ April 14 – The Empty Tomb & Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:36-49)

☐ April 21 – Breakfast with Jesus (John 21:1-14)

☐ April 28 – The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

## **Ways to Get Involved:**

- Volunteer: We are always looking for helpers in the nursery during church service. Could you help by volunteering once a month?
- Pray: Please join us in praying for our children as they grow in their faith.
- Invite: Share our ministry with other families and invite them to join us for worship.

Thank you for being a part of our Children's Ministry family. We love partnering with all of you to help your children grow in their love for Jesus! If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to reach out.

Blessings,

Lindsay Horne

Children's Minister

[horne.lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:horne.lindsay@gmail.com)

804-239-5010




## EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:00pm VanLear	2 <b>*No Youth or Children's Activities*</b> 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm GriefShare 6:30pm Adult Choir, & HIS Group	3	4	5 11am-1pm Free Community Luncheon
6 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry	7 10:00am Note Writing 11:00am Williamson 6:30pm Men's Basketball	8	9 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Children's Choir & GriefShare 6:30pm Adult Choir, Awana, Youth, & HIS Group	10 <b>Quilt Retreat BG</b> 11:30am Friendly/ Singles Club @ PeKing Restaurant in Mechanicsville 5:30pm Brotherhood 7:00pm Deacons	11 <b>Quilt Retreat BG</b>	12 <b>Quilt Retreat BG</b>
13 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry	14 10:00am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball	15	16 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Children's Choir & GriefShare 6:30pm Adult Choir, Awana, Youth, & HIS Group	17 <b>MAUNDY Thursday</b>	18 <b>GOOD Friday</b>	19
20 <b>Resurrection SUNDAY</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry	21 <b>*Church Office Closed*</b>	22	23 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Children's Choir & GriefShare 6:30pm Adult Choir, Awana, Youth, & HIS Group	24	25	26
27 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 11:30am Pastor Tom's Reception 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry	28 10:00am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball OIAM Collection BG	29 OIAM Collection BG	30 6:00pm Children's Choir & GriefShare 6:30pm Adult Choir, Awana Awards, Youth, & HIS Group OIAM Collection BG			



# Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Mary Elliott Burrows Michele Burton Jeffrey Carter Dennis Hawes Brannon Mantlo Patti Martin Keith Morgan	2 Kristen Andrews Cowles Schaefer	3 Buddy Cavedo Syephanie Wright	4 John Carpenter John Eubank Brandon Hazelgrove Dennis Page	5 Linda Clark Scott Crowther Courtney Hardin Michael Milby Julie Staub
6 Willee Cavedo III	7 Brian Abernathy Betty Davis Yvette Jones	8 Payton Bailey Melissa Hazelgrove Calvin Jackson Aris Kirby	9 Jason Hawes Deborah Loving Bonnie Sohn Davis Wyatt Wilcox	10 Christopher Applewhite Jennifer Haden	11 Carolyn Borash Wanda Johnson Susan Rackley	12 Hugh Hughes Thomas Hunkele Morgan Mitchell Katie Norman Bill Woodward
13 Benjamin Curtis Bryant Daniel Girouard Carolyn Hankins Ronald Harper	14 Madelyn Burnett Ethan Groome Rylan Horne Ricky Johnson	15 Sara Dawes Edmund Senghas	16 Lindsey Haller Justin McClure	17 Shannon Chinault Sho Nakagawa Jake Poarch	18 Chris Arauza Joann Davis Sara Gurney Paul Jones Jonathan Jones Terri Mothershead Ty Staub	19 Mary Lou Arrowwood Craig Crider
20 Marvin Hardisty	21 Agnes Hoyt	22 Crystal Hazelwood Brenda Wheelhouse	23 Bethann Canada Cece Eubank Emily Gurney Levi Marshall Mark Poland Judy Ruby Betty Terrell	24 John Baggett David Dixon Taylor Applewhite	25 Donna Johnson Murolyn Schmidt	26 Jason Askew Teresa Baker Chris Ball Benjimen King Christine McLaughlin
27 Aubriella Columbo Samantha Gurney Nancy Sheleheda	28 Jane Carter Carolyn Milby Wendy Vendegrift	29 Savannah Donkle Makenzie Donkle	30 Shannon Diane Blunt Kelly Hare Ai Nakagawa Melissa Oliver Chuck Parsons			



# NOTES

*From Tommy*

I would like to say how great it has been these past months working along side of Tom Gaskins. He has been exactly the interim pastor we needed to move ourselves forward in this transition.

Not only has Tom shared great messages, but he has gone out of his way to be understanding and supportive to our staff. I wish him all good blessings in the future, you're fantastic Tom!

Like everyone else, I'm also excited for Kevin to be here. We're so fortunate to have Kevin coming, and helping Sandston Baptist Church take its next step to grow our ministry.

Jeremiah 29 verse 11:

“For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Singing for the Savior,

*Tommy Blunt*







# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

## JOY!

When we talk about **Operation Christmas Child**, you hear us say “Good News. Great Joy.” Have you ever given that saying much thought?

During March and April, 22 of our women have been participating in a Bible study titled “Experiencing Contagious Joy” by Christa Kinde. We think about joy, but do we really understand what joy is?

- Joy is a gift from God. He is our reason for rejoicing. *(We need to share this gift.)*
- Believers have the commission to spread joy (Jesus) in the world in order to combat the insidious spread of hopelessness. *(God calls us to pack shoeboxes as a way to tell others about Jesus so they will have hope.)*
- True joy spreads as we live out God’s way in our lives with such credibility that others move closer to purposely catch it. *(You spread true joy when you pack shoeboxes; children realize that there must be something special about a person who gives a stranger a gift.)*
- When God chose to send His Son to live and die for our redemption, everything changed. Without Jesus, we would never have a reason for rejoicing. *(Children everywhere need to be able to rejoice.)*

Luke 2:10 says, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of GREAT JOY which will be to ALL PEOPLE. The angel brought a message of joy. “GOOD NEWS!” News that all the world would have joy in.

We rejoice because we have God’s love and the hope of eternal life with Him. When we are saved, Joy is God’s gift to us.

After journeying through this study of Joy, it makes perfect sense why Operation Christmas Child talks about Joy and why we pack shoeboxes.

**GOOD NEWS = Jesus coming to earth and dying for you and for me**  
**GREAT JOY = our Salvation**

**LET’S BE CONTAGIOUS AND SPREAD JOY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!**

# A·P·R·I·L Dinner Menu

Dinners are every Wednesday evening (unless otherwise noted) at 5:30pm in the BG building. If you would like to attend please rsvp to the church office by noon the Monday prior to the dinner you wish to attend. There are also sign up sheets available in the front and back hallways of the Sanctuary every Sunday. If you wish to make a permanent reservation, please check next to your name on the sign up sheet and you will be added to the list each week without having to remember to sign up. The cost is \$9 per adult and \$4 per child. The family price is \$27 per family. ***Please remember if you have a permanent reservation and are unable to attend please let the church office know!***

**APRIL 2ND**

Beef Stroganoff, Broccoli Mix, Rolls,  
& Dessert

**APRIL 16TH**

Pancake Breakfast Dinner

**APRIL 9TH**

Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Carrots, & Dessert

**APRIL 23RD**

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Carrots,  
& Dessert

**APRIL 30TH**

OIAM Collection in BG.  
Dinners take a break until Fall.

**SHOW Delivery Schedule**

**APRIL 3RD**

*\*No Delivery—Spring Break\**

**APRIL 10TH**

Larry Meador

**APRIL 17TH**

Darnell Hailey

**APRIL 24TH**

Mike Edwards

**SAFETY TEAM**

**WEDNESDAY'S**

**APRIL 2ND**

Matt Hart

**APRIL 9TH**

Wayne Smith

**APRIL 16TH**

Buddy Wallace

**APRIL 23RD**

James Stevens

**APRIL 30TH**

Ken Weaver

**SUNDAY'S**

**APRIL 6TH**

Mark Gwinn, Matt Bailey, & Matt Hart

**APRIL 13TH**

Phillip Hunt, Wayne Smith, & Alan Watts

**APRIL 20TH**

Buddy Wallace, Darren Hayes, & Douglas Milby

**APRIL 27TH**

James Stevens, Craig Crider, & Jeff Carter



# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CLOSURE**

The Church Office will be closed **Monday, April 21st** in observance of Easter Monday.

### FISH ITEM FOR APRIL:

Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles



### FINANCIAL REPORT

Offerings	3/2/25 .....	\$8,487.00
	3/9/25 .....	\$4,767.00
	3/16/25 .....	\$8,952.00
	3/23/25 .....	\$7,872.00
	3/30/25 .....	\$4,456.00
VANCO (Feb).....		\$20,281.43
Weekly Needs.....		\$14,073.48

### UNIFIED MISSIONS

Offerings	3/2/25 .....	\$145.00
	3/9/25 .....	\$180.00
	3/16/25 .....	\$260.00
	3/23/25 .....	\$285.00
	3/30/25 .....	\$225.00
Weekly Needs.....		\$673.08

### IN HONOR OF TOM

Our Church will be having a covered-dish luncheon In honor of Pastor Tom and his wife, Susan, on their last Sunday with us on April 27th at 11:30am in the Boshers-Gray. The Church will be providing the meat, please bring a side dish or dessert. Our Personnel Committee will be giving Tom a love gift from the church at that time, but you are encouraged to extend your own well wishes to him and Susan either beforehand through the church office or at the luncheon. A basket will be provided to receive tokens of your love for them.

*Thank you*

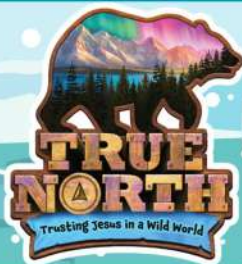
SANDSTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## EASTER Egg Hunt

Children and their families are invited to an egg-citing afternoon of hunting for eggs, hearing the Easter story, and enjoying fun activities. Bring your friends and a basket!

APRIL 13TH - 3 P.M.

### SANDSTON BAPTIST CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



July  
21st-24th  
2025

Registration Opening Soon!

SANDSTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## MUSICAL Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH

PERFORMANCES BY

CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
YOUTH & MAJESTICKS  
PRAISE TEAM  
SBC CHOIR

# Deacon Team Ministries 2025

The deacon position in our church is biblically supported in the scriptures of Acts 6 and 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3. Men showing the qualifications provided in those scriptures are selected by the church pastor and if accepted, serve in that role for life. According to the church bylaws, *“It shall be the duty of the deacons to encourage and assist the pastor in his ministry and pastoral work. This is done by ministering to the needs of active church families and by serving the Lord's Supper and assisting in Baptism.* Different teams have been established to ensure the deacons perform that duty. With Sandston Baptist going through this time of change, the deacon body wants to remind the members that the deacons are here to support them in any way possible. Please review the list below and reach out to any deacon for assistance or with questions.

## Communion Team

Typically reserved for our church family & friends that are not able to attend service on a regular basis, this team will provide an in-home communion service. When requested, two/three Deacons will go to the person's home and perform a brief communion service with them.

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1)**Doug Milby  | 4) Troy Westerman |
| 2) Jim Stewart  | 5) Kenny Cordle   |
| 3) Donald Clark | 6) Wayne Pollard  |

## Crisis & Hospital Team

Minister to church family members in crisis situations such as hospitalization, death in the family, divorce, financial strain, job loss, etc., with visits, phone calls, cards and prayer support.

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1)**Alan Watts     | 4) DJ Holmes   |
| 2) Darnell Hailey  | 5) Tom Palmore |
| 3) Charles Hankins | 6)             |

## Outreach Team

Collect visitor card information. If the phone number is available, thank the visitor for worshipping with us. Answer questions about programs and activities at Sandston Baptist Church. Offer a home visit if they would like additional information.

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1)**Mike O'Neil | 4) Darren Hayes  |
| 2) Matt Hart    | 5) Jeff Wilborn  |
| 3) Matt Bailey  | 6) Curtis Bryant |

## New Member Team

Contact new members to schedule a time/place to meet with them, review their new member packet and answer any questions they may have about our church or their new faith. Provide contact information and encourage them to contact you if they need help or have questions. Assist Pastor with baptisms including prepping & cleaning up the baptismal.

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1)**Wayne Pollard | 4) Jeff Carter |
| 2) Donald Clark   | 5) vacant      |
| 3) Mike Edwards   | 6) vacant      |

## Spiritual Support Team

Provide Spiritual Support as determined by our Pastor and church leadership on an "as needed" basis. This team will be composed of the current Deacon Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, & Secretary). Additional Deacons will be asked to serve on this team as support needs arise.

Darren Hayes, Darnell Hailey, and Mike O'Neil.