

Newsletter April 2022

Pastor's page

The following is an old story with many versions, but the heart of the story is the same. As we walk through those last few days before Easter – I invite you to read the story and remember what the promise of Easter means to you.

Little Philip, born with Down's syndrome, attended a third-grade Sunday School class with several eight-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip with his differences. But because of a creative teacher, they began to care about Philip and accept him as part of the group, though not fully.

On Easter Sunday, the teacher gave each child a large plastic egg. The children were then led outside on that lovely spring day, and told to find some symbol of Easter or new life, and put it in the egg. Back in the classroom, they would share their new-life symbols, opening the eggs one by one in surprise fashion. After running about the church property in wild confusion, the students

returned to the classroom and placed the eggs on the table. Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one. After each egg was opened, whether a flower, butterfly, or leaf, the class would ooh and ahh.



Then one was opened, revealing nothing inside. The children exclaimed, that's stupid. That's not fair. Somebody didn't do their assignment." Philip spoke up, "That's mine." "Philip, you don't ever do things right!" a student declared. "There's nothing there!"



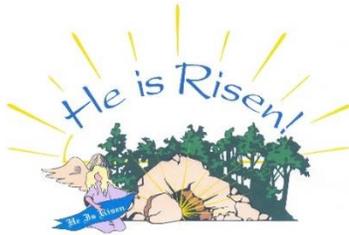
"I did so do it," Philip insisted. "I did do it. It's empty. The tomb was empty!"

Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class. He died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral, this class of eight-year-olds, along with their Sunday School teacher, marched up to the casket to lay on it an empty plastic egg. In Matthew 25 we read, *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just*

as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead'. The good news is that Jesus is risen, and through Jesus, we have the promise of our own resurrection to eternal life.

Thanks be to God!

Happy Easter,
Chad



Congratulations Chad & Cindy Neal on your new grandson! What a precious little blessing! A rose was placed in his honor.

Ezra James VanVolkenburgh,
born March 24, 7lbs. 8 oz.



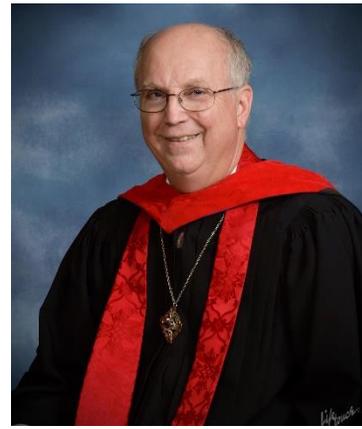
Communion

We will partake in Holy Communion on Palm Sunday, April 10. Please be in prayer and prepare your hearts.



Missions Committee

We will collect our annual special offering for *One Great Hour of Sharing* April 17.



Our Heartfelt Sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Rev. Bill Hayes. He passed away March 26. There will be a memorial service for Bill at Edgewood Saturday, April 9 at 2:00. Officiating will be Rev. Catherine Dudley, and Rev. Chad Neal. Visitation will be from 1:00 – 2:00 in Fellowship hall. The committal service will be in Rock Hill, SC.

Bill's friend, Pat Marion's address is PO Box 236, Cameron, NC 28326, if you

would like to send a card. Bill's sister's address is Tom and Alexa Spratt, 271 N Revere Cove #102, Fort Mill, SC 29708



Lenten Bible Study

The video bible study entitled, Death and Resurrection of the Messiah, by Ray Vander Laan is continuing through mid-May. We are having some interesting discussions after every video. Come and join us at 10:00 on Tuesday mornings.

To all who are Celebrating
April Birthdays!



The PW coordinating team will meet Monday, April 4, at 2:00.

The circle will meet Monday, April 11, at 11:00 for our General Gathering. Ladies, please come out and join us for the bible lesson and fellowship with one another. Jean McSwain will lead us in Lesson 7 on Mary.

April Prayer Families of the Week



- 3 Jean, Leroy & Trent McSwain
- 10 Nancy & Dave Mead
- 17 Rafael & Pat Morales
- 24 Drew & Katie Morrison



Those who came for the Ash Wednesday meditation stations in the fellowship hall, came away with a new appreciation of what Christ did for us. The physical items to touch and feel brought the living word closer to our hearts. Thank you Reverends Chad & Cindy Neal for setting up this meaningful devotional area to spend time with the Lord and reflect on Ash Wednesday and its meaning.

Resignation of Jeanne Anderson

Our Music Director, Jeanne Anderson, has resigned her position following the service on April 3.

We are thankful for the ministry of music Jeanne has offered to us.

We were blessed as she shared her talents, enriching our Sunday Services. We pray God's rich blessings would be upon her as she shares her gifts and ministry with others.



Willow McGehee – Acolyte

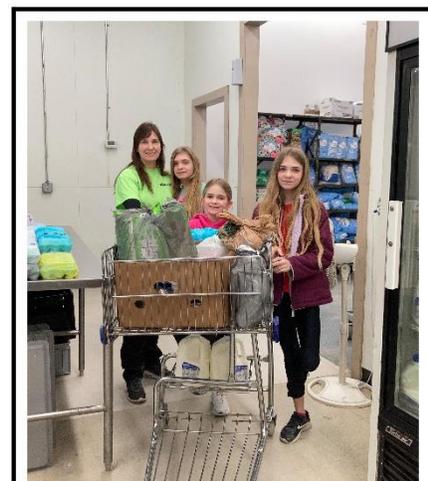
Property & Grounds Committee

We completed the *big project* of replacing the rusted out sewer line, from the fellowship hall to the road. Everything went smoothly and the contractor, David Dalrymple Plumbing, did a great job. Now our downstairs bathrooms are in working order again. The parking lot was repaired in time for church services that Sunday.

~ Johnny & Trish ~



Kaitlyn Brown – Reading Scriptures



Byrd Family
Volunteering at CUOC