

THE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

Silver Lake Baptist Church

APRIL 2009

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Psalm 37:5-6

“Teaching them to Observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Mat. 29:20



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

With spring “just around the corner,” we are “itching” to get our fingers in the warm soil and get those plants and flowers started so they can produce fruit and beautiful color. As Christians, we too are like plants. We should put down our roots, spread out our branches, and burst into blossom. We often just hang on and merely exist without moving steadily toward maturity and fruitfulness. At such times we are at a spiritual standstill and must allow Jesus the “Sun of Righteousness” (Malachi 4:2) to *warm our hearts* anew with His love. We must send our roots deep into the Word of God by “meditating on it day and night” (Psalm 1:2). Then we will be like a fruitful tree planted by rivers of living water, and our branches will extend outward in an ever-increasing influence and witness. If we’ve become dormant, let’s get *growing!* Peter said in 2 Peter 3:18...“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Thought... ”Decay starts when growth stops.”

Pastor: Lenier Furr
Youth Directors: Vickery and Jacob Jackson
Children’s Church Coordinator: Gayle Tipper
Deacons: Richard Hayes (Chairman)
Arthur Hoffman
Darrin Powers
Cliff Proctor
Jim Smith
Tim Russell
Newsletter Editor: Sue Riggs
Our Musicians:
Piano: David Pardue/Mike Rhodes
Drums: Tim Russell
Electric Piano: Diann Hayes/Mike Rhodes
Acoustic Guitar: Jeff Carter
Harmonica: Billy Slane
Base Guitar: Ernie Gore/Candy Gore

Treasurer: Sue Sigmon

Interpreter for the Deaf: Mary Sue Murray/Susan Lenier



When times are dark and dreary and no one seems to care. Our Savior is our refuge, if we go to Him in prayer. He’s always near to help us and makes our burden light. It’s like a ray of sunshine even on the darkest night.

It’s nice to be important
but more important to be
nice.

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Sunday Worship

Services for the hearing impaired are provided every Sunday morning at 11:00am

Wednesday

7:00pm Adult Bible Study/Prayer
7:00pm Children's Meeting
7:00pm Youth Meeting

A nursery is provided for the 11am Worship Service for children ages birth through three years old.



Thursday

10:00am Women's Bible Study

"Christianity is not a religion, it's a relationship with God."

**PASTOR'S GREETINGS**

Here you will find information concerning our church and its ministries. We hope you find your time spent here a blessing. Our church is a warm and loving church, and we want you to feel comfortable and at liberty to call on us for anything you need. Feel free to browse through the various areas of our website and learn about our fellowship. If you are considering relocating to our area, we would love to have you be our guest for Sunday School and worship.

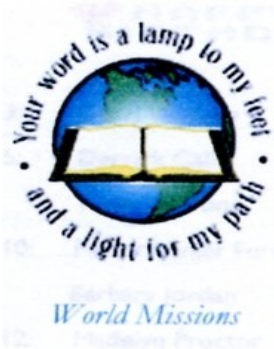
When you visit our church, you will find:

- A caring congregation that will gladly welcome you
- Preaching/teaching that is centered on the Word of God
- Ministries to meet the spiritual needs of every age

OUR WMU

The HEMMED IN PRAYER little girl's dresses was a great success. Our goal was 50 dresses and after we met that goal the Ladies made more to sell at the Fundraiser that was held on Saturday, March 21. Eight ladies from our church went to Fort Caswell on March 13th to the Assoc. Prayer Retreat. The theme was "FILL MY CUP, LORD" Part of the program was sharing what some of the churches in our association are doing for missions. We showed the Hemmed In Prayer little girl dresses and eleven WMU groups wanted patterns. On March 19th our WMU group traced 66 patterns to send to these ladies. This mission project has been a wonderful time of fellowship while a great deal of work for the ladies who traced, cut, pinned, and sewed 93 dresses and praying for each little girl that will wear them has blessed our hearts. Thank you to everyone who helped. Special thanks to Mr. Sampson who made button holes on some of the dresses!

The Annie Easter Offering is on going until Easter. All of this offering goes to the support of missionaries and missions in North America. Your prayers and giving aids more than 5,000 commissioned missionaries serving in the United States, Canada and their territories.



Thank You,
Eloise Roseman



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 5:** Palm Sunday
- April 10:** Good Friday
- April 12:** Easter
- April 1st, 15th and 29th: 6:00pm** Youth Dinner
- April 16:** 12:00pm WMU Meeting
- April 17:** 7:00pm Council Meeting
- April 19:** 6:00pm Business Meeting
- April 26:** 11:00am Civil Servant's Day
(No Sunday School)
- May 4:** 6:00pm WMU Annual Spring Meeting
- May 9:** 7:30am - 12:00pm Church Yard Sale

NURSERY SCHEDULE

- April 5:** Brenda Hunt
Natahsa Johnson
- April 12:** Sue Sigmon
Jessie Britt
- April 19:** Madelyn Proctor
Judy Proctor
- April 26:** Margaret Piner

John 11:25-26
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.



- April 2:** Katherine Leal
- April 3:** Kayla Powers
- April 5:** Tony Ivey
- April 11:** Klayton Houck
- April 13:** Peggy Kilpatrick
Peggy Viar
- April 14:** Carrie Proctor
- April 18:** Eloise Roseman
- April 26:** Dorothy Sampson
- April 27:** Daisy Clark

Aug. 7th :
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Aug 8th:
9:00am - 4:00pm



Summer Camp at Camp Dixie

- June 14 - 19th :** Kids Camp Grades 2 - 4
- June 21- 26:** Junior Camp Grades 5 - 6
- June 28 - July 3:**
Teen Camp Intermediate Grades 7 - 8
- July 5 - 10:** Senior Camp Grades 9 - 12

Mark Your Calendars

June 13: 7:00pm - Promise Land Music Ministries and the Silver Lake Band Summer Concert with special guest Jeri and Larry Mercer and Landmark Quartet.

Youth News

June 15: Youth trip to Ft. Caswell

Softball Team



If you are a male or female interested in being on a softball team please contact Pastor Lenier Furr.

Children's Church



- April 5:** Lee Dewyea
Leandra Dewyea
- April 12:** Gayle Tipper
Larry Tipper
- April 19:** Chris Gregg
Lisa Gregg
- April 26:** Keri Proctor
Natahsa Johnson

Did You Know?

That one of our previous pastors did a sunrise service on top of this Church?

Can you guess who?



- April 6:**
Walt and Brenda Hunt
- April 7:**
Ruby and David Williams
- April 17:**
Cliff and Judy Proctor

WMU Annual Spring Meeting

Tuesday, May 4, 2009

**Wilmington First Baptist Activity Center
Independence Drive, Wilmington**

**Begins with Dinner at 6:00p.m.
(\$5.00 per person)**

**RSVP - Call WBA 799-1160
By April 29, 2009**

**Speaker: Caroline Jones, Birmingham, AL
-National WMU Consultant
-former missionary to Chile**

Special Music!

Exciting Reports!

Missions & More!

Let's celebrate missions around the world!

Woman's Missionary Union - Wilmington Baptist Association



Silver Lake Baptist Church
4715 Carolina Beach Road
Wilmington, NC 28412

(910)791-9171
www.Silverlakebaptist.com



Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.
Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.
He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.
Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.
Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.
So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

Many people are wondering what Easter actually means, as the true meaning of Easter has been lost. What I can tell you is it isn't about cute little fluffy chickens, nor does it have anything to do with Easter bunnies. It isn't even about Easter eggs. Although an egg can represent 'new life' because new life hatches from the egg, and Jesus was resurrected on the third day - giving us new life in Him. But just like Christmas, the real meaning has been forgotten. For those of us that are Christians, we understand what Easter is all about. But for those that haven't experienced this 'new life' in Jesus, I want to share with you the Easter story.

In Old Testament times, the priest would bring bulls, goats or a spotless lamb without any blemishes to be sacrificed as a sin offering for himself and for the people. The blood would purify and make atonement (forgive, make amends) for their sins. This was the old order of atonement. When Jesus came, He was a representation of the sacrificial lamb to take away the sins of the world. He was the final sacrifice. We no longer have to sacrifice animals to make atonement for our sins. Jesus has done this once and for all. It's His blood that cleanses us from all sin. He was crucified on the cross (the form of execution in those days). The sin of the world was upon Him, yet He was without sin and blameless. He bore it all. This is why Jesus is referred to as the 'Lamb of God'. He was bodily resurrected (came back to life) on the third day. He appeared to many - eating and drinking with them. He appeared to them for 40 days, then ascended (went up to) Heaven.

In Loving Memory



Sara B. Elmore
Oct. 21, 1919—Feb. 25, 2009



Ethel B. Reynolds
Feb. 17, 1914—May 26, 2008

Miss Sara and Ethel were sisters and a pillar of spiritual strength who knew Jesus as a personal friend and savior. They both were very active in church in many capacities. They had been a member of Silver Lake Baptist Church for 29 years and within these years Miss Sara had a gift of teaching Sunday School for the Shining Lights Sunday School Class. They were on the flower committee, they made floral arrangements for the sanctuary on a weekly basis and planted azalea's around the Church. They had a bond that was indescribable and they were at Church every time the doors were open. They both loved being together and ironically they both passed away at the age of 89. When Miss Sara was not at church she enjoyed playing bingo and shopping (a woman after my own heart). Generations of people will be impacted because of their faith and Godly beliefs that they both lived and actively shared in many ways. They always greeted everyone with a smile and a hug. They were loved and will be missed by all who knew them.



Deacon's Corner



Soldier Thanks

A soldier fell, he died today,
Another friend has passed away.
His mission finished, he's gone to rest,
A leader of men, one of the best.
A young recruit will take his place,
To join the ranks in freedom race.
We guard the principles, we feel are right,
To brighten the path with freedoms light.
We must stand for all to see,
That we believe in liberty.
There are many faiths thru out our land,
The same is true with this command.
While placing faith in God above,
We share a bond, a special love.
Never mentioned, a silent creed,
To defend our country in time of need.
For the fallen soldier, there is no end,
He lives in the memory of his countrymen.
He's gone with God to join his ranks,
"For a job well done, "Soldier thanks!"



Submitted by Arthur Hofmann

Getting To Know The Editor And My Testimony



Imagine strolling along, minding your own business and BAM! you're knocked off your feet. Well, that's exactly what happened to me twenty five years ago. I had graduated from high school and was going to college with no serious medical problems and seemingly the next, my primary care physician was telling me that I had connective tissue disease. Not so! I told myself, and true to my conviction, a visit to a rheumatologist and additional testing revealed that I didn't have connective tissue disease, but something considered to be worst, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Lupus is a chronic inflammatory disease that can affect various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood, and kidneys.

I had absolutely no idea that my diagnosis would be the most profound, life-changing experience of my life. I spent nearly every holiday in a hospital bed, (Mom and Dad was always there with me) but my changes were not only about pain and suffering, but also

about grace, mercy, and a renewed spiritual awakening

I won't lie to you, going through this was hard, but thankfully God is good. I trust the Great Physician more than any other doctor. After my diagnosis, my condition quickly began to deteriorate. At one point, my joints were so swollen and sore that I couldn't dress myself. My constant prayer was that God would guide the doctors and give them wisdom.

I was weary, worn, and sad. But I thank God for the faith of a few when my faith began to wane. The Bible says that "two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up."

One day, after so many hospitalizations that I'd lost count, I woke up frail, frightened, and feelings as though I couldn't go on. I couldn't take another day in a body that was dwindling away. My face was emaciated and my hair had fallen out so many times, I lost count! I was so weak and fragile that I walked as slowly as a turtle. I couldn't even bring myself to look at myself in the mirror anymore because when I did, all that I saw was death. In 1986, I was flown by helicopter from New Hanover Regional Medical Center to Duke because there was a blockage at the base of my brain and my doctor only gave me a 50/50 chance of surviving the trip. When I arrived the blockage was gone and the doctor just couldn't explain that but my spinal cord had been damaged and they thought I was going to be a paraplegic. I was the first patient where Lupus had damaged a person's spinal cord. I always wanted to be the first to do something, but this wasn't what I had planned on!

In a moment that I can only justify as a split second of insanity, I silently asked God, "Why? Why won't you just let me die?" I thank God for my parents, who seemed to be in tune with my feelings through it all. They sat down beside me and said, "I need you to promise me something." "What?" I managed to say. By this time, I had mouth sores and a constant sore throat. They went on to say, "Promise me that you will fight. No matter what happens, I need you to fight."

Like Tina Turner, I didn't wanna fight anymore. I felt like the enemy had worn my behind out! But as discombobulated as I was, I'd made the promise so I refused to throw in the towel. Instead I flip-flopped between eager anticipation of healing and gloom over impending doom. I avoided contact with my church family and friends. I was living in a pitiful state. Population 1. See, the enemy likes to keep us isolated. Quiet time with God, makes you stronger spiritually, but total isolation is dangerous!

Though the Bible clearly tells us that even when things get rough we shouldn't lose heart, I was sick and tired of being so sick and so very tired. . I was excited that God loved me enough to have my friends and parents there to pray for my strength. From that point I knew that if I could just hold to Jesus, my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, I could get back on my feet and continue to fight. After all, God had it. If He was for me, who could be against me? I took hold of one of the most important weapons of warfare – the Word of God. Through the Word, I realized just how blessed I actually was to go on trial. Romans 8:28 became the very legs I stood on. "And we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose."

For me, this meant that God is a God of purpose and even adversities are meant to strengthen His children. It was a light bulb moment. This trial wasn't about me, it was about Jesus. His plan and purpose. It let me know that God has purpose behind, presence during, and preservation after every storm that threatens to overtake His own.

To this very day, I have been in remission for over 10 years. The Great Physician has done it again!

You may not know or understand why you are going through something, but trust me when I say that if you are a child of God, He will turn your mourning into joy...if you allow Him to use you for His glory in spite of your circumstance and never take any thing for granted!

God Bless and I Love You All,

Sue Riggs