

Blessings

April 2020

A publication of Byromville Baptist Church



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On the cover

John Monta Averill and Tate Scarborough.

Pastor's column

Social distancing and other such nonsense



Mike L. Parker

Did the headline for this article grab your attention? What is your perspective? Do you agree with that statement? First of all everyone has his or her own opinion regarding the requirements that have been set forth by local, state and federal governments when it comes to battling the Coronavirus. And yes some of them leave you scratching your head.

However, there is a God-given gift that He has provided for all of us and that is common sense, or shall we say Godly wisdom. Such sensible wisdom can especially be found in the word of God.

Romans 13:1-5 gives us the clearest indication of how we should conduct ourselves during this present crisis: "All of you must obey the government rulers. Everyone who rules was given the power to rule by God. And all those who rule now were given that power by God. So anyone who is against the government is really against something God has commanded. Those who are against the government bring punishment on themselves. People who do right don't have to fear the rulers but those who do wrong must fear them. Do you want to be free from fearing them? Then do only what is right and they will praise you."

Now that is about as straight forward a command as you will ever find in scripture. In short, following the governments directions during the Coronavirus crisis will ultimately benefit everyone and our actions and testimony in doing so will be praised by those in authority. What an opportunity we have to influence our nation for good.

In view of that let's not try to out think one another during this trying time but simply do what the experts

and our government are asking and in many cases even directing us to do. I hear some of you thinking really loud, "Mike, I am of the belief that as a person of faith I don't have to follow the guidelines set forth by the government like washing my hands frequently, socially distancing myself from others or limiting the number of people I hang around with. Therefore, I don't have to listen to the government."

Well, I strongly advise you to reconsider your opinion because there is a response that is the complete opposite of that found in the above scripture and so far it is not looking good for the violator. The example in question can be found at 'The River Church', which is a mega-church in Tampa, Florida. This past Sunday the church pastor refused to follow the directions of the local government to not meet in groups of more than 10. The local sheriff tried to persuade the pastor to not jeopardize the health of others in the community by meeting and potentially increasing the exposure of others to the virus. The pastor held a congregational service anyway and over 400 parishioners showed up. True to his word the sheriff had the pastor arrested and he was released on bond. Now the question everyone is waiting for the answer to is will the pastor hold services again this coming weekend? Oh, he may gain fame and attention in some circles for doing so but in the court of God's word he is guilty as a law breaker and subject to being punished.

May we not be of those who bring shame to the faith but rather ambassadors who bring praise and glory to our God. We can best do so by submitting to our rulers thereby helping them get all of us through the present crisis. In closing, it behooves all of us to submit to our rulers while expecting God to ultimately be our deliverer and ever present help in time of need. He is a loving Father and has our best interest in mind at all times. Be safe and God Bless!

Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Mike

Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection.

—Watchman Nee

Transferred to the Church Triumphant



Troy Daniel Thompson
March 21, 2020

We are the church no matter where we meet

At the time of writing of this article, BBC will not be holding services at the church house in April. Corporate worship will not be possible. Personal worship time, however, can actually increase since many cannot leave home. Most of us will have more time to spend in Bible study and prayer. Lets not miss the opportunity to do just that.

In the mean time, some things to keep in mind are:

◆Tune in to Pastor Mike's recorded Sunday messages online. Links will be on the church website and Facebook page.

◆Mail your tithe/offering to BBC, PO Box 126, Byromville GA 31007. Don't forget our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

◆Follow the church's Facebook page and website.

◆Study your Sunday School lessons for each Sunday.

◆Check on folks that might need checking on while maintaining social distancing.

◆Pick up the April's *Journey*, *Stand Firm*, *Home Life*, and *Mature Living* at the church house.

◆Pray, pray, and then pray some more. Visit the church's prayer list on the website at <http://www.byromvillebaptistchurch.com/prayer.html> And pray for all the people still working like health care providers, factory workers, those in transportation, those staffing essential businesses where they have to meet the public. Pray they do not get the virus and pray for stamina since many are working extended hours. Pray that COVID-19 will go away now. Most of all, pray that the church will really be the church by being a big part of the solution during this crisis and that God will be glorified in it all.

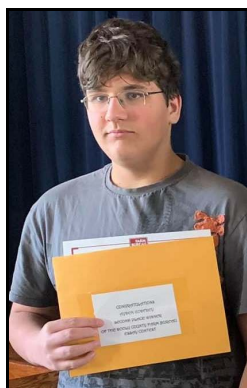
◆Call Pastor Mike (229-815-6814) if you need him or call one of our deacons.

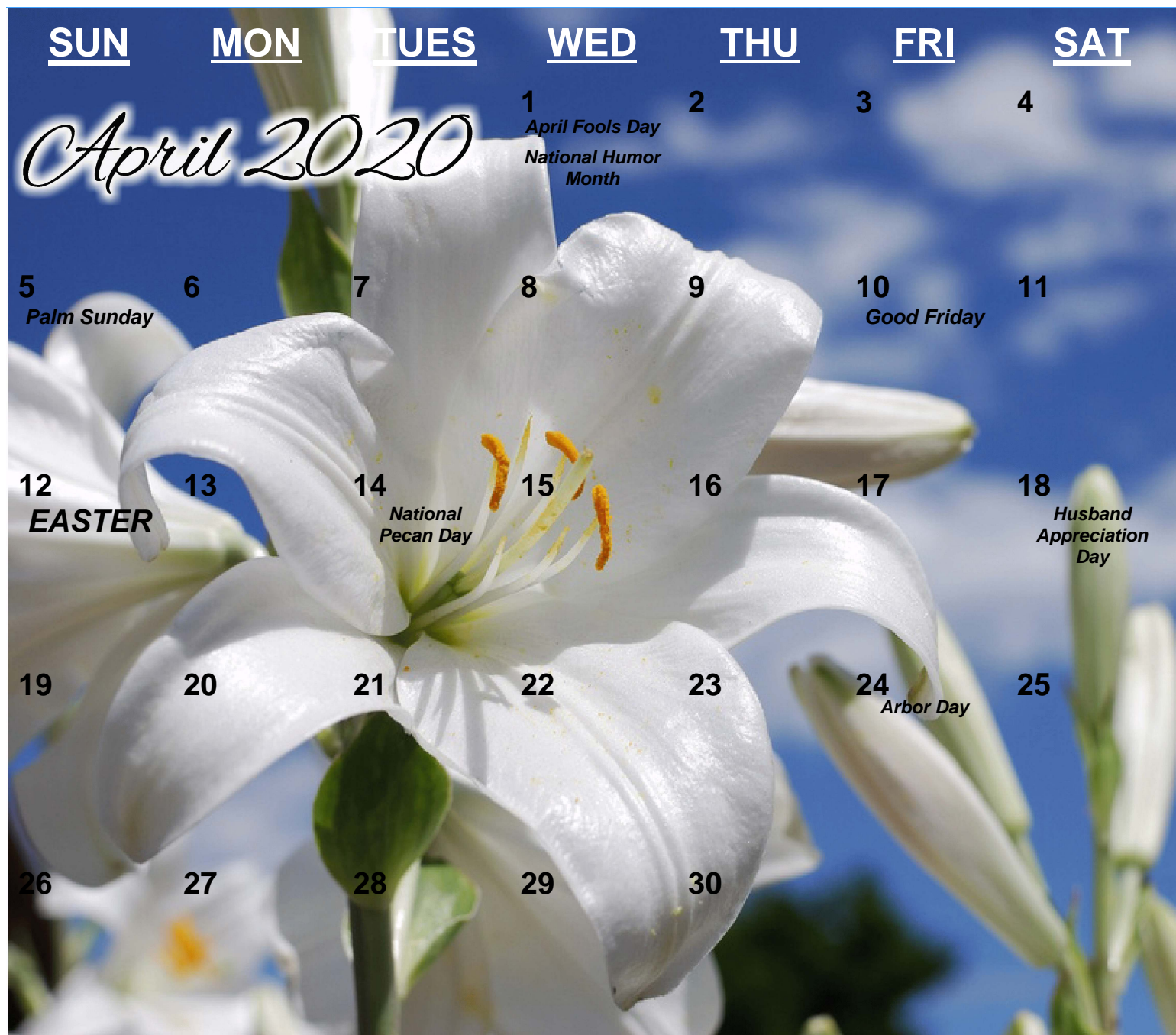
Congratulations to.....



Bailey Grace Averill, a student at Fullington Academy, was the First Grade Spelling Bee Champion on March 4.

Ayden Godfrey, also a student at Fullington Academy, placed second in the recent Dooly County Farm Bureau Essay Contest.





Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 4-2 Jeanna Everidge | 4-13 Derek Humphries |
| Penny Langston | Jase Roberts |
| 4-3 Kris Braddock | 4-15 Joshua Gathier |
| 4-5 Myra Kirksey | 4-17 Shawn Raper |
| Bob Peavy | 4-22 Taylor Willingham |
| Gloria Chambers | 4-25 Cal Scarborough |
| 4-7 Martha Peavy | 4-26 Judson Humphries |
| Marsha Taylor | 4-28 Dennis Phillips |
| 4-8 Kade Vaughan | Arthur Roney |
| 4-9 Monta Averill | 4-30 Ashley Lamberth |
| 4-11 Jimmy Dorsett | 5-1 Jimmy Gauthier |
| Pam Evans | Glynn Grantham |
| 4-12 Beth Roney | Thad Kitchens |

- | |
|-------------------|
| 5-1 Ross Stout |
| 5-4 Tommy Bodrey |
| 5-5 Sophie Roney |
| 5-6 Lily Diehl |
| 5-7 Jamie Roberts |



Please pray for these folks on their birthday.

Weekly Schedule

No services this month due to COVID-19. Check church website and Facebook page for messages from Pastor Mike and other important information.

January Financial Summary

January receipts

General offerings.....	\$ 7,812.00
Other	155.66
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	110.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS.....	8,077.66

January disbursements

General expenses	7,406.09
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.....	2,670.00
Local missions/benevolence	173.09
Houston Baptist Association.....	550.97
Cooperative Program	1,574.21
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	12,374.36

Year To Date Summary

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Receipts	7,752.00	9,604.00	-1,852.00
Disbursements	9,644.36	9,604.00	+40.36

February Financial Summary

February receipts

General offerings.....	\$8,504.66
Other	52.99
Special-Bus fund	75.00
Special-Gideons	265.00
Special.....	1,000.00

February disbursements

General expenses	4,530.90
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.....	110.00
Gideons International	265.00
Houston Baptist Association.....	264.32
Cooperative Program	755.20
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	5,925.42

Year To Date Summary

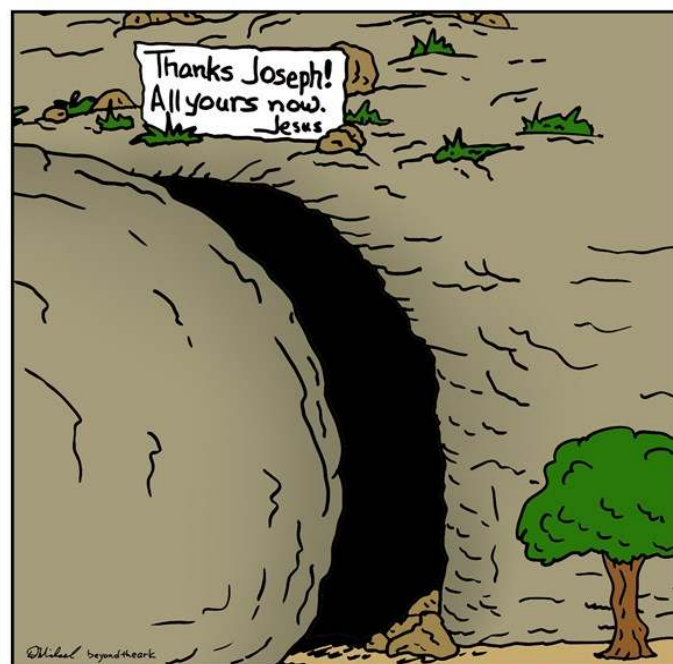
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Receipts	16,256.66	19,208.00	-2,951.34
Disbursements	15,194.78	19,208.00	-4,013.22

How to respond to a pandemic

When Martin Luther was dealing with The Black Death plague (one of the deadliest pandemics in human history), he wrote these wise words that can help inform the way we approach things happening in our world right now...

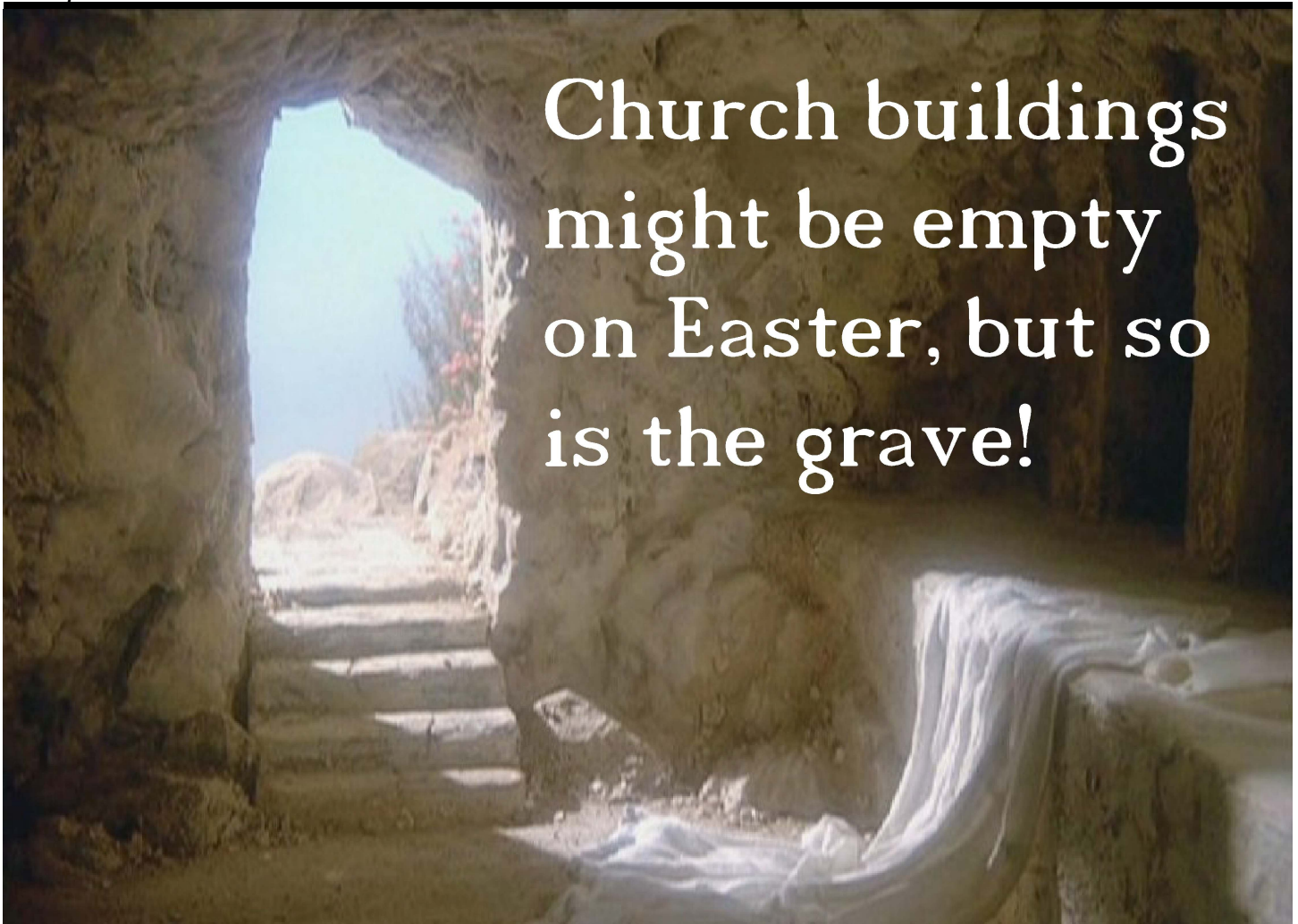
"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

—Luther's Works Volume 43 pg 132 the letter "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague" written to Rev. Dr. John Hess



Easter thank you note

Please keep praying for our pastor search committee as they keep searching for our next pastor!



Blessings is published monthly by Byromville Baptist Church. Send news items and/or comments to Editor Brenda Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

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