

## Info from CBC April 2020 Newsletter

### RAMBLINGS IN THE PLAGUE

I am seeing so many things posted online that seem hopeless. That, in and of itself, does not discourage me, but many of these posts are from Christian people. My relationship with Christ is not predicated on if I go through hard times. Suffering defines it. If you are not willing to endure hardship like a good soldier, I am not sure you are in the right army. One of the things I am learning about suffering is that it squeezes you. It does not define your character. It reveals it. It is like taking a dry sponge and pouring water on it. If you squeeze it, you will get water out of it. If you pour Kool-Aid in it, you will get Kool-Aid out of it. If we practice holiness, righteousness and love, when suffering squeezes us, those things come out.

Job was considered by God to be the "most righteous man in all the earth." When God allowed death and destruction to squeeze his life, the things that came out were amazing. Job's children were dead, he was struck with boils, and his wife wanted him to 'curse God and die.' His heart cry was, 'Naked I came into this world and naked I will leave, the Lord gives and takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord.' Did you see that? When put into the vice grip of suffering, Job blessed the Lord. How? I'll tell you what it was not. It was not because he "pulled himself up by the bootstraps." It was not because he was of tough Irish heritage. It was not because he had the resources. It was because before the suffering hit his life like a wrecking ball, he worshipped God. He knew God. God poured His character into Job. So when annihilation hit his life, praise came out. He did not complain, pout, or blame God. He did what his heart was full of, worship. I want to be like that. It is easy to be negative or complain in these plague-filled days.

However, we really do not have it that bad. At the worst, you may have the virus, but you can praise God for the best health care in the world. You are not living in the middle ages. At best, you are sheltered in an air conditioned home with Wi-Fi and all the food you can eat and movies you can watch. That is not true suffering. That is inconvenience. We should know the

difference. Paul was imprisoned for the crime of preaching the Gospel of Christ. He was beaten, cursed and left for dead.

Listen to his words, "Yes, I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers, and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance" (Phil. 1:18b-19). How could anyone say that? How could he have a good attitude? How could he have joy and rejoice? I'll give you a little insight. He spent 14 years before he ever went on a missionary journey, studying God's word and spending time with Christ. This prepared him for excruciating suffering. This is why when he was cast into prison after being whipped to the point of death, he could sing praise. **His joy was not found in his circumstances** but in the solid, never moving, Rock of Jesus Christ.

So, in these days of uncertainty (and all days are uncertain), we must not bicker and complain about what we do not have but must rejoice in what we do have. We have a lasting relationship with Jesus that cannot be destroyed by storms, tragedy, or plagues. However, you must beware if you build your life on any other foundation, "great will be the fall of it." Build your life on a strong foundation, Jesus.

*Just a Servant,*

*Pastor Mike*

### Traditional Easter Greeting in Greek:

Greeting:

"Χριστός ἀνέστη!"

"*Christos Anesti!*"

[/çi'stos a'nesti/]

"Christ Is Risen!"

Response:

"Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! "

"*Alithos Anesti!*"

[/ali'θos a'nesti/]

"He Has Risen Indeed!"

*Happy Easter from Clarendon Baptist Church! If we are not back to worshipping together by April 12, make time to worship with us online Easter morning.*

### Calendar of Events

All of the events listed below are subject to change depending on the progression of the Coronavirus Pandemic. We will be sure to keep everyone informed as changes are made.

**10** Good Friday Church Office Closed

**12** **EASTER**

**14** Deacons Meeting 7 pm

#### Looking Forward to May

(10) Mother's Day/Baby Dedication

(12) Deacons Meeting

(17) Graduate Sunday

(24) Memorial Day Service

(31) 5th Sunday Dinner

Evening Service at the Gardner's  
w/baptism and cookout

### Workers for April

#### **Audiovisual:**

**4.5** NA

**4.12** Robert Etheridge, Aimee McWhite

**4.19** Mack & Glenna Mutchler

**4.26** Jaimie Batchelor, Will Thomas

#### **Nursery:**

**4.5** NA

**4.12** Adriene Jones

**4.19** DeeDee Horton

**4.26** Erica Hodge

#### **Toddlers' Church (ages 2 thru 4):**

**4.5** NA

**4.12** NO TC

**4.19** Adriene Jones

**4.26** Adriene Jones

#### **Children's Church (K5 - 8-yrs. old):**

**4.5** NA

**4.12** NO CC

**4.19** Pastor Jon Jones

**4.26** Pastor Jon Jones

#### **Flowers**

**4.5** NA

**4.12** Cross of Flowers/Adriane Gaff

**4.19** Open

**4.26** Open

**Building Attendant:** Ray Richburg

**Ushers:** Tom Chappell, J.D. Duke, Jay Gardner, Lenn Gardner, Chuck Goff, Jamie Hodge, John Horton, Kyle Horton

### April Birthdays

**5** Yvonne Hodge  
Analisa Smith  
**7** Brenda Harrelson  
**10** Rosemary Herring  
**11** Carl Floyd  
**12** Lauren Richburg  
**13** Bryce Acord  
David Woodbury  
**15** Allyson Goff  
**18** Cody Morris  
**20** Brett Belt  
**21** Barbara Hussey  
**22** Aidan Briley  
Wayne Burke  
**23** Shawn Geddings  
**26** Teresa Dunlap  
Eva Eaddy  
**28** Lenn Gardner  
Tommy Lee  
Halle Thompson  
**29** Nancy McInnis  
Hunter Taylor

*If we have missed your birthday,  
please call the church office so that we can  
add your name to our birthday list.*

### Prayer Ministry

Johnny Baker, \*Welborn Brewer, Jimmy Bryant,  
Wayne Burke, Esau Dennis, J.D. Duke,  
John Taylor Duke, Jennie DuRant, Ed Hinson,  
David McCabe, Frankie McCabe, Jessie McCabe,  
Ray Richburg, Shaun Richburg, Calvin Stone,  
Wayne & Deborah Ward, David Young

### March Monthly Records

*(Avg. from 3/1 - 3/15)*

Avg. Sunday School Attendance: 75

Avg. Worship Attendance: 102

Monthly Offering Total: \$12,087.92

Building Fund: \$360,999.07

### Vacation Bible School

Dear CBC family,

It's that time of year again when we begin to plan for Vacation Bible School. This year, due to budget constraints, VBS will be two nights of fun instead of our normal five. A great time learning

about Jesus will still be had! Pastor Jon and I have set the dates and time for VBS as June 24 & 25 from 6 pm to 8 pm. We really need for folks to volunteer to help this year as we are missing several of our workers that have helped in the past. When we begin worshiping together again, there will be a signup sheet in the sanctuary. If you know now that you would be able to help, you can call or text me at (803) 473-0944.

Thank you in advance for your help!!

Nikki Woodard

### **The Courier**

Clarendon Baptist Church no longer has a subscription for "The Courier" (*formerly "The Baptist Courier"*). However, the staff at "The Courier" has individual subscriptions available and would be very happy to be of assistance in getting you set up with one, if you so desire. If you would like to continue to receive "The Courier," contact Chris Holliday (*Business Manager*) 864.232.8736.

### **Encouragement Opportunities**

#### **Faith Promise Missionaries:**

Elan & Rani Rajamani  
International Friendship Ministries  
Bloomington Branch  
PO Box 1364  
Bloomington, IN  
47402-1364

#### **Shut-in of the Month:**

Jessie McCabe  
2031 Tearcoat Road  
Alcolu, SC 29001  
803.473.2426

#### **Students of the Month:**

Elizabeth Hussey  
423 Lindsay Rd.  
Unit 407  
Clemson, SC 29631

Brent Jordan  
4820 Raccoon Rd.  
Manning, SC 29102

### **Harvest Seeds**

Collecting Sunday school literature, devotionals, and other religious material.

*Point person: Karen DeCosta*

*Drop donations off in the Confident Heart Sunday school classroom (first room to the left, CBC FLC)*

### **Change to Online Access of Worship Service**

Clarendon Baptist Church no longer streams our worship service using Sunday Streams. In order to view our services, go to our church website ([www.clarendonbaptist.org](http://www.clarendonbaptist.org)).

On the home page, click at the bottom of the page where it reads *Can't Make It to Sunday Service?* If you have any problems, call Mack Mutchler at 803.883.1790.