

The Red Oak Christian

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Minister's Moment

First, let me say how excited my family and I are to be at Red Oak Christian Church. You have welcomed us and made us feel like this is where we belong. I have enjoyed getting to know a lot of new people and am looking forward to meeting more. I am also excited about the desire I sense on the part of the congregation to grow spiritually; there is a hunger to hear God's word preached and a commitment to putting what you hear into practice. And I can think of no better time to begin my ministry than during the seasons of Lent and Easter.

As we move through the season of Easter, we are constantly reminded of the way in which the resurrected Christ made a difference in the lives of his followers. Like us, these early disciples needed time and grace in order to get to the place where they were able to commit themselves to the mission and ministry of the post-resurrection Jesus. They also needed the presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst, something we mainline Christians sometimes get nervous about. We often associate any work of the Holy Spirit with the Pentecostal Movement and that scares us a little bit. The reality is, though, that the work of the spirit is the main ingredient for those of us who are attempting to follow Jesus in our 21st century world.

Over the next few weeks we will have an opportunity to reflect on how the Holy Spirit works in our midst and on how we can best appropriate the Spirit into our everyday lives. After Easter Sunday, the next big day on the church calendar is Ascension Sunday, the day when the church thinks about what Jesus called his disciples to do, under the inspiration of the Spirit, after he was physically absent. The next week

is Pentecost Sunday, a day when we reflect on the coming of the Holy Spirit into our midst.

April
2018

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One thing is for sure, with the power of the Holy Spirit available to them, these early Christians were able to grow from a little band of Jesus followers into a worldwide movement that now numbers more than two billion and that has affected Western civilization like nothing else.

It is important for us, then, to understand this Spirit. Jesus promised that when he left, he would send the one that would help us and show us the way to go. My encouragement to all of us is to listen to what God has to say to us over these weeks as we read stories about Jesus' Ascension and about the coming of the Holy Spirit. There are a lot of things we want to do; there are people who are searching that we want to reach, suffering people whose needs we want to meet, and many others who are simply looking for a community of faith that they can call home. As we strive to reach our goals and minister to people we must never forget the role that God's spirit plays. Under our own strength and insight, we can only do so much. Sometimes we do just enough to get us in trouble. But with God's help we can do great things.

Grace and peace
Reece

CHOIR NEWS 

Choir practice starts at 6 pm every Wednesday.

Messages from the Mission Team

The next Missions meeting will be held May 7, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

We have collected \$215.00 during the month of March for our Bookbag Buddies drive to help school children with necessary supplies. Thank you for your contributions.

Also, thanks to everyone for the expressions of love given for the "Pounding" we did for Jerry and Carla Smith.

Spring Walks for Pamlico Emmaus Are Now Scheduled

Women's Walk – PE77 – April 12 – 15

Men's Walk – PE78 – May 3 – 6

From the Mission Team

Taken from 1 Peter 4:10- “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.”

God has bestowed us with individual differences and preferences. It is okay that we don't all like the same hobbies, eat the same foods, or worship in the same church. We are each uniquely and wonderfully made (Psalms 139:14). Peter tells us to use whatever gifts we have to serve others. Jesus molded and shaped the first disciples for his service. God may call us out of our comfort zones, but he does so to develop our unique gifts and personalities to serve His purposes. We honor Him when we permit Him to use us just as we are.

Reflect on these words:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ is to look out on a hurting world.

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless now.

-Attributed to Saint Teresa of Avila

Our mission emphasis for the month of April will be to collect bottled water, Gatorade and non-perishable snacks (nabs, energy bars, etc.) for our local Volunteer Fire Departments and EMS. If you are not able to provide any of the above, please sign a card with a short note letting the volunteers know how much their time, commitment and dedication mean to our church/community. These will be delivered to the departments along with items collected. Let's be God's Hands and Feet and make a difference in their lives, the way they make a difference in ours when their assistance is needed.

Sandy

Mission Team Leader

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP



Community Garden: Every third Saturday starting at 8 am, the 3rd Street Community Center is open for volunteers to come and help in the Community Garden, to interact with the 3rd street community, and to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. You don't need special skills you just need to care.

Share your caring this month, April 21, 2018, at the 3rd Street Community Center.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS: April 25, 2018

Please contact Sandy Smith if you are able to help.

Youth News

The Youth Group will meet Sunday, April 8 and April 22, 2018 at Hooker Memorial.

Helping Hands Circle

Helping Hands meets on Monday, April 9th at 11 am.

Christian Men's Fellowship

CMF will meet on April 14, 2018 at 8:00 am at Denny's restaurant.

Church Board News

The next Board will be meeting on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm. All members of the Eldership, the Diaconate, Team leaders, and ANY one interested in what the church is doing is invited to come.

Eldership News

The Elders will meet Sunday morning, April 8th at 8:30 am.

Prayer Concerns (Please hold our brothers and sisters in prayer)

PRAYER CONCERNS: Wayne Mills, Mickey Anderson, Alton Hedgepeth, Kim Woolard (Joyce Worthington’s daughter), Harold Ross (Ann Johnson’s father), Ed Cavanaugh, Mike Rasberry, Pattie Mercer (Lou Joyner’s daughter), Shemar Jordan, Lou Joyner, Grace Pate, Ruth Haddock

Year-To-Date Stewardship Report



**Don't Forget
Your Tithe**

Let these words from the scriptures guide you as you consider your financial gifts to the church in support of our programs and ministries:

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21. The following figures are given for your information from **January 1 through March 25, 2018.** Remember, faithful Christian stewardship is **not** based on the Church’s need to receive, but upon our need to give as Christ commands.

Total funds needed for 2017	\$ 125,058.00
Received for General Fund	\$ 27,786.43

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (II Corinthians 8:9)

Serving in April

Elders

Carla Smith, Capt.
Wayne Mills

Diaconate

Marshal Blazer – Serves communion on April 1 and April 29
Melissa Blazer – Serves communion on April 8
Hannah Smith – Serves communion on April 15
Sharon O’Konek – Serves communion on April 22

Feed the Homeless – Lynwood Stocks

Contact Sandy Smith if you are able to help



April 2018						
◀ Mrz 2018						Mai 2018 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER SUNDAY EASTER OFFERING Sunrise Service 6:00 am	2 Office Closed MARSHALL BLAZER	3	4 BLANCHE ANTI	5 6:00 pm – Prison Ministry Meeting	6	7
8 8:30 am Elders' Meeting 4:00 pm Youth Meeting	9 Helping Hands 11:00 am MARY DURHAM	10 BARBARA DAIL	11 Choir Practice 6 pm KATIE NOLAN SARAH MANNING BARBARA/JOSEPH DAIL	12	13 FRAN LUCKETT NANCY HARDISON	14 FH Rented CMF Meeting 8:00 am MORRIS LUCKETT WORTH WILLIAMS
15 Gideons will speak JANNA SINGLETON	16	17 DORIUM BLUM	18 Choir Practice 6 pm TOD/DONNA WILLIAMS TOM/ELLIE BOYD	19	20 -----REGIONAL	21 ASSEMBLY----- Third Street Community work day 8:00 am
22 EARTH DAY 4:00 Youth Meeting MADELYN MAIN	23	24	25 Feed the Homeless Choir Practice 6 pm	26	27	28 WAYLAND/ELAINE DENTON
29 DONNA WILLIAMS	30					