

Special Events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 10 a.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to twwhite@ncweeklies.com.

April 17-18

Spring Revival Services

MERRY HILL – Spring Revival Worship Services are continue April 17-18 at Peterson Chapel Church.

Services begin nightly at 7:30 p.m.

The church is located at 514 Avoca Farm Rd. in Merry Hill.

The Pastor, Percell Whitaker, and congregation invite the public to attend.

April 19

Carry the Cross

WINDSOR – The sixth annual interdenominational "Carry the Cross" will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, April 19 beginning at the Bertie County Courthouse.

The Rev. J.N. Baggett will bring a short message with Richard Simmons delivering special music.

Everyone is invited to carry a cross and participate in the commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus.

For more information, contact Chris Surgeon at 252-325-0049 or the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell at 252-340-3272.

April 20

Movie Night

KELFORD – The movie "Gosnell" will be shown at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at Kelford Baptist Church.

Admission is free, but the movie is rated PG-13 so no one under 13 will be admitted. The event is sponsored by the Kelford Baptist Women On Missions and the Family Resource Center in Ahoskie. The church is located at the corner of Church and Main streets in Kelford.

Easter Egg Hunt

WINDSOR – A preschool and children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 20 at Ross Baptist Church.

Outdoor and indoor games will be on the agenda, along with a hot dog lunch, and the presentation of the story of the resurrection of Jesus. The church is located at 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in the Ross community.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

April 21

Women's Day

WINDSOR – The annual Women's Day program will be observed at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at St. James Church of Christ (DOC).

Minister Allie James will deliver the message. The Smithwick Chapel Choir and congregation will accompany her.

The church is located at 326 U.S. 13/17 South in Windsor. The Pastor, Willie O. Speller, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Sunrise Service

MERRY HILL – An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at the Blackrock neighborhood common area on Gov. Edenhouse Drive.

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell will lead the service.

A sausage breakfast will be served following the service.

Sunrise Service

AULANDER – A Sunrise Service will be held at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at Conocanary Missionary Baptist church.

The music will be rendered by the Conocanary Morning Star Choir. The congregation of New Ahoskie Missionary Baptist Church and St. Marks Missionary Baptist Church will join the congregation of Conocanary.

The church is located at 1425 Hexlena Rd. in Aulander.

The Pastor, the Rev. W. Rob Lewis II, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Special Music

WINDSOR – The Adult Choir will present several selections of sacred music during the Sunday Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at Ross Baptist Church.

Worshippers will also adorn the beautiful floral cross during the Easter Celebration service. The church is located at 1020 Bull Hill Rd. in the Ross community.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Russell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Easter Sunrise Service

COLERAIN – An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the Colerain Beach and Boat Club at 6:15 a.m. Sunday, April 21.

Pastor Gary Saffell and members of Colerain Baptist Church will lead the event. At 10:45 a.m., the Easter Cantata/Children's Play will be presented at the church.

Pastor Saffell and the congregation invite the public to attend.

SonRise Service

AHOSKIE – There will be a SonRise Service planned at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Samuel Shaw III of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Lewiston Woodville. His choir and congregation will accompany him.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jerry V. Moody, and congregation invite the public to attend.

April 23-25

Youth Revival

HARRELLSVILLE – Youth Revival Services are planned April 23-25 at New Bethany Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Robert Watson, Associate Minister of Weeping Mary Baptist Church in Lewiston Woodville. The Praise Service will begin nightly at 7 p.m. followed by the Worship Service at 7:30 pm.

The New Bethany Youth Choir and other area choirs will provide music for the revival. The Pastor, The Rev. Dr. W.C. Clark, and congregation invite the public to attend.

A Borrowed tomb

A few years ago I heard one of my very favorite singing groups, who just so happen to also be very good friends, the Morrison Sisters, sing a song that was new to me. It begins like this:

"He was born in a stable, in a borrowed manger, he borrowed a lunch to feed a lot of strangers, he borrowed a colt to ride into town on, he borrowed a tomb, but he wouldn't need it long..."

That song, "The Only Thing He Bought Was Me" written by Pastor Joe Anders, has become one of my favorites. The chorus goes like this:

"And the only thing he bought was me, when he shed his blood on Calvary, I'm redeemed by his blood for eternity, O the only thing he bought was me."

When I first heard that song I was struck by the truth of it, mostly because it is something so obvious, and yet it is one of those obvious things that somehow never even occurred to me. In his lifetime, Jesus is recorded as borrowing more things than he ever owned.

He was utterly unconcerned with accumulating either wealth for his lifetime or a grand mausoleum to own in death.

When Khufu, Pharaoh of Egypt died, he was entombed in the largest, most eye-popping tomb in the world, the great pyramid of Giza. It took an estimated 20,000 workers 20 years to build it. And yet I am guessing that the vast majority of people in the world do not even know the name Khufu, and had no idea he was buried there.

The 13 tombs of the Ming Dynasty in China are so elaborate that they are still widely visited by tourists today. And yet very few of us know the names of the owners of those graves either.

Moving on to India, we find one of the most famous structures in the world today, the exquisite Taj Mahal. But here is your quiz for the day. Without looking it up on the internet, what is the name of the person buried in the Taj Mahal, the person for whom it was expressly built?

With all of these great structures the vast majority of people know the graves, but not the owners.

But with Jesus, the world knows the person who was in the grave, but is only vaguely familiar with the actual grave itself.

I say all of this meaning no disrespect at all to Khufu, the emperors of the Ming Dynasty, or to Mumtaz Mahal, the wife of emperor Shah Jahan, the woman entombed in the Taj Mahal.

But I do point all of this out to show that there is something radically different about Jesus, something that has made him the most famous individual in human history, something that sets him apart from everyone else to ever walk the earth, in fact.

He never prepared or purchased a place to be buried. He borrowed one. Because he knew he would not be there long.

Romans 1:4 says that Jesus is "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

With Khufu or the emperors of the Ming Dynasty or Mumtaz Mahal, were it not for their grave, we would probably know little or nothing about them all

these many years later.

But with Jesus, we do not know about him because of his grave; we know about his grave because of him. The entire world knows about Jesus because he only borrowed a tomb for three days, then he rose from the dead and left it behind.

He was not a pharaoh. He was not an emperor. He was not a military leader. He was not rich. In fact during his lifetime he was not even the builder of a large and successful religious movement; his faithful followers numbered about 120.

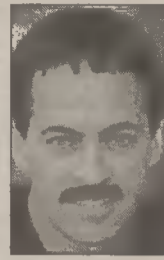
His followers did not pick up swords after his death and conquer lands and people in his name. In fact, those who did continue to follow him gave up everything to do so.

They traded in respectability for ignominy, they gave up homes and steady incomes and were scattered on the winds of persecution due to their faith. In this life they had, quite literally, nothing to gain and everything to lose by following Jesus, and yet they did so anyway.

And every single one of them did so for the exact same reason. Jesus died, was buried in a borrowed tomb, and then hung a "vacant" sign for all the world to see in the form of a rolled away stone just three days later.

Thank God for a borrowed, empty tomb!

Bo Wagner is Pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Mooresboro, a widely traveled evangelist, and the author of several books. His books are available on Amazon and at www.wordofhismouth.com. Pastor Wagner can be contacted by email at 2knowhim@cbc-web.org



REV. BO WAGNER
The Word of His Mouth



REV. CHERYL DENTON
Be Still

Blood transfusion

There's a true story* about a little girl who needed a blood transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease she was battling. Her brother was an ideal donor. He had the same rare blood type, and had recovered from the disease two years earlier.

"Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked.

Johnny's lower lip began to tremble. He hesitated. Then slowly, a smile emerged. "Sure, for my sister."

Later, the two children were wheeled into a hospital room. Mary was pale and thin. Johnny a picture of health. The siblings didn't speak, but when their eyes met, Johnny smiled.

When the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny watched his blood flow through the tube. His smile was gone. When the transfusion was almost over, Johnny broke the silence, his voice soft and shaky. "Doctor, when do I die?"

The doc realized why Johnny had hesitated, why his lips trembled when he agreed to donate his blood. He thought giving his blood to his sister would mean giving up his life. In that brief moment, he was willing.

This story brings tears to my eyes. The story of Jesus dying on a cross, also brings tears.

He too, was willing to give His blood. For me. When the whip tore flesh from His back – His blood flowed. For me. When spikes were pounded, bang-bang-bang, into His hands – His blood flowed. For me. When they pounded spikes into His feet – His blood flowed. For me.

When a crown of thorns was jammed into his head – His blood flowed. For me. Down into His eyes, over His cheeks. He couldn't even brush it away. When His side was pierced with a spear – His blood flowed. For me. But not only for me, for you. And for everyone who will accept His offer of a spiritual blood transfusion.

When Johnny gave his blood for his sister, it wouldn't have done any good if Mary hadn't received it. So it is with accepting Jesus's blood, symbolically, by faith.

We were born in sin. Sin is like a spiritual-deadly disease. No sin can enter heaven. Only Jesus' pure-sinless-life's blood meets God's requirement for forgiveness and cleansing from

sin. Jesus was willing to give it – we have the choice to accept it or reject it.

I don't understand how transfusions work, but they do. I don't fully comprehend how the shedding of Jesus blood forgives sins when we ask, but it does. I've experienced it. I've felt the release of guilt. The sweet peace of forgiveness. The privilege of friendship with my Creator. The hope of resurrection! Because, Jesus' work didn't end at the cross. Jesus rose from the grave and conquered death!

And, because He lives we will live also! What wonderful hope we have! So – during this Easter season, and all through the year, my heart cries, "Oh Jesus, thank You. I'm sorry You had to suffer. I'm sorry You had to die. But, thank You! Thank You, for giving Your life blood so we could have eternal life!"

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:13, 14

* "For My Sister" by David C. Needham

The Rev. Cheryl Denton is in ministry at Askewville Assembly of God church. She can be reached at cheryladenton@gmail.com.

Holy Eucharist to be observed

ROXBEL – Holy Eucharist will be observed at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at St. Mark's Episco-

pal Church. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

The church is located at 206 West Church St. in Roxobel. The Senior Warden,

Johnna Browne-Lewis, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Bible Trivia

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Gethsemane in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only

book of the Bible (KJV) that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. From Matthew

28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb, and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
ANSWERS: 1) Neither;

2) Matthew (27:65-66); 3) An angel

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