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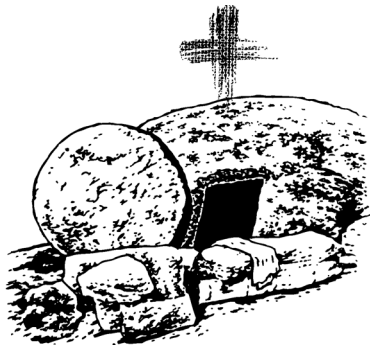
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April 2011

Holy week services and Annual Easter Breakfast planned



Easter Sunday is April 24th this year. Holy week begins one week earlier on Palm Sunday. **Please note that there will be no Kid's club or other Wednesday activities on April 20.**

Maundy Thursday we will celebrate the last supper that Christ shared with his disciples with a special communion service beginning at 7 PM. The following evening on Good Friday, April 21 the North Mac Ministerial Association will host their annual Good Friday service at the First Christian Church in Girard at 7 PM.

The NNMA will also sponsor Easter Sunrise services at 6:30 AM on Easter morning. Our own ABY will prepare and serve their annual Easter breakfast beginning immediately after the sunrise service at 7:30 AM until about 8:30 AM.

Plan to attend all of these special services. We are also looking forward in the coming weeks to a special baptism services involving several of our church youth who made professions of faith at the week long Power Team Crusade. We are extremely grateful for the participation of all the volunteers from our church at that event. And are pleased that our church took an active role in securing the Power Team to come to Virден. The fruits of their labor are evident in the decisions of these young people.

Sweep over me, Lord
 And brush out my sin!
 Replace it with faith,
 And live here within.
 Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, from
Prayers and Poems



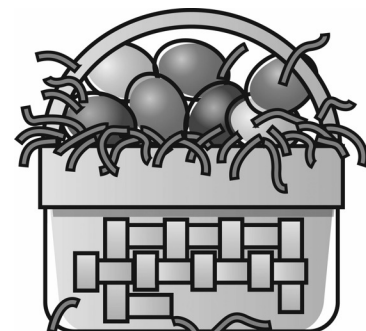
First Baptist to participate in VAAC Easter Event

The Virден Area Association of Commerce is working jointly with the North Mac Ministerial Association to present more than just a city Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 16 on the square in Virден. Children will be given the opportunity to experience the true meaning of Easter with some special events planned just for them.

While there will indeed be an Easter Egg hunt which begins at 8:30 AM, children are encouraged to sign up for other Easter related activities including a fishing pond sponsored by the Nazarene Church with prizes that represent a religious theme; story telling here at First Baptist Church; Cookie crafts provided by Trinity Lutheran; coloring and Easter Card crafts by Sacred Heart; and other activities sponsored by Grace Southern Baptist. Due to the need to keep things within walking distance of the square, these events will be limited to the first 75 children who register.

Our church as well as the other NNMA churches are asked to provide an Easter basket not to exceed \$20 as a prize for the egg hunt.

Many will be needed in the park at 7 AM to help set up before the "Easter Bunny" arrives at 8 AM. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Debbie Kershaw for more information.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Craig Paisley	2
3	4 Beverly Britenstine	5	6	7 Carter Dibler Mary Agnes Cain Debbie Kershaw	8	9
10 Jim Smith	11 Sophia Hawkins	12	13	14 Terry Clark	15	16
17	18 Tony & Angie Ker- shaw	19	20	21 Karen Browning Aaron Snodgrass	22	23 John Liles
24	25	26	27	28	29 Ayden Daniel	30 Helen Burris

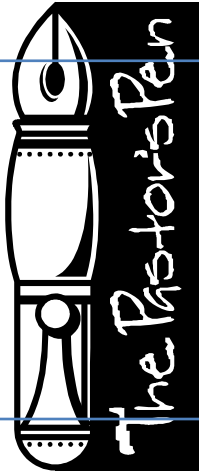
Summer Church camp forms should be turned in SOON!

If your child is interested in attending church camp this summer, then now is the time to be registering for the camp of their choice. The church will help to defray the cost of church camp if the young person attends Wednesday Night Kid's Club or Sunday School or both on a regular basis. We will also apply for camp scholarships for first time campers who may need assistance.



There are a couple new camp dates included this year, including a Music Camp! Volunteers have been working hard to make improvements to Lake Springfield Baptist Camp, and they are hopeful that the swimming pool repairs will be completed by the time the summer camp is in full swing.

See the enclosed flyer and camp registration form. Please return it to the church office as soon as possible! Older youth should remember that the church can only assist them on one event per year, so if they attended SKWIM and took advantage of the church scholarship—then summer church camp will need to be paid for by other means. As soon as your camp form is completed, please turn it into the church office. Please call Pastor Jerry or Debbie Kershaw for more information.



SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

We as Baptists have been quite solid with the belief that salvation comes to us by grace, through faith and without dependence on our own good works. Decisions made during the recent Power Team Crusade have given us a fresh opportunity to look at how we become saved and what that means. What follows is a form of the bible study I have used with kids (and adults) for many years. It uses only one scripture but seems to me to give us a concise look at the nature and scope of salvation. I invite you to do a “refresher” on this vital subject and also to use it to help others find in Christ the salvation we all need.
Pastor

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*For by **grace** you have been **saved** through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God, not of works**, lest anyone should boast. For we are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God **prepared beforehand** that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:8-10, (New King James Version)

* * * * *

KEY WORDS & MEANINGS

Grace: *Everything God did for us through Jesus, because he loves us.*

Saved: *Being born again, accepting Christ as our Savior, becoming a Christian, being converted, receiving eternal life.*

Faith: *The ability to trust God and others; also, putting our trust in Jesus to save us; to forgive our sins, to make us able to go to heaven, and to help us live a godly life.*

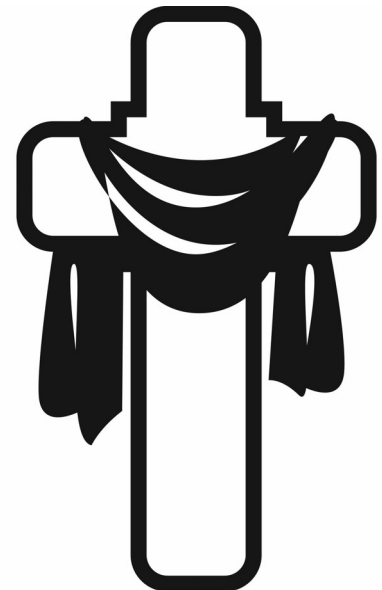
Gift of God: *Salvation is a gift free to us because God through Christ paid for it. We can't buy it or earn it. It is God's Gift. Plus, even the ability to trust God is a gift!*

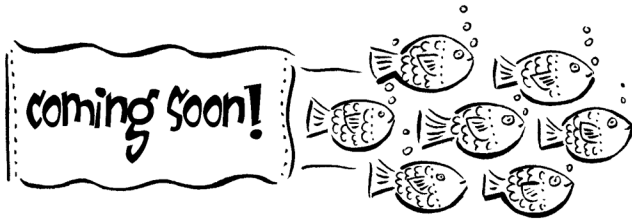
Not of works: *Going to church, living a good life, being baptized; these good works will not earn salvation. We cannot pile up enough good works to earn salvation. Therefore, we have nothing to brag about.*

His workmanship: *A Christian is like a craftsman's masterpiece, carefully created. (or a poem) Salvation is God remaking us, reshaping us from inside, out All this is done by Jesus Christ when we invite Him in.*

Good works: *Good works can't save us, but God expects good works from us **after** we become a Christian. With good works we please God and express our thanks that He saved us.*

Prepared beforehand: *God has a plan for each life, a blueprint, that He would like us to follow. It involves all kinds of good works He would like to do in us and through us. He wants us to seek His will and then live the kind of life He planned for us.*





Vacation Bible School will be here sooner than you think!! We've already had a planning meeting and chosen the date of July 24-28. We'll be using the VBS material called "Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street". Go ahead put the following dates on your calendar so you won't forget: Pool Party on Saturday, July 23, VBS begins on Sunday the 24th-28th each evening from 6:00-8:30 PM. And don't forget Worship in the Park on Sunday morning July 31 at 10 AM.

"The joyful news that [Christ] is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline and make the sacrifice."

—Henry Knox Sherrill

Register now for school supplies next fall

Our church will be participating in the North Mac Back to School event on July 30. There will soon be a box in the foyer between Pitman Hall and sanctuary. Our church will be concentrating on the supplies for First and Second graders which include: pencils, folders, markers, 24 crayons, colored pencils, scissors, a clear ruler, glue, glue sticks, big eraser, wide ruled notebook paper, and a pencil box.

For families who need assistance with school supplies, you will need to register to assure enough supplies are available. Forms will be available in the church office or at locations around town. Please call Debbie for more information.

