



## Go and Take Word

Don't you just love this time of year? The fresh green grass, the new buds forming on the trees, the blooming of the daffodils, the melodious sound of the singing birds, the warmth of the sun – all these things remind us that it is springtime once again. In our neighborhood spring is a “catch-up” time with many neighbors. The cold winds of winter often force us all inside. With the warm weather of spring, we usually see everyone as we all go for walks. As we mingle it is quite common to learn the joyful news that God is blessing their family with a young child. The joy that is expressed from the mothers-to-be is always an exuberant sight. The reality of new life brings a hope unlike any other.

Perhaps that is the same type of joy that Mary Magdalene experienced as she realized the reality that Jesus Christ had risen again. Few of us can imagine how quickly her mood must have changed. At one moment she, without question, was overwhelmed with the grief that Jesus had been crucified and his body had been laid in a grave. This sad reality, however, didn't hinder her and others from faithfully ministering to the body of our Lord. So, on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of Jesus), Joanna, and “the other women” took spices to the tomb so that they might anoint His body. When she and the others arrived to the tomb her demeanor was changed from grief to fear. According to Luke 24, when the women approached the tomb they realized that Jesus wasn't there and all of a sudden two men in dazzling clothing appeared before them. The sight frightened the ladies and they bowed their faces to the ground completely terrified. Of course, one of the angels explained that Jesus had risen again and that He was going ahead of them to Galilee. As the ladies left, they fled from the tomb because they were trembling in astonishment. It should be clearly stated that this is always the case when we are distant from Christ. Grief and fear were overwhelming these ladies. But, thankfully, this wasn't the end of the story. After such feelings of anxiety, Mary soon experienced joy. What could make such a grieving person have joy? What could bring peace and joy to one who is terrified? The presence of Jesus always brings peace and joy. When Jesus appeared to Mary He simply called her by name. As soon as He did, Mary called out to Him and embraced Him. She was so overcome with joy that she began to cling to the Lord. What an amazing transformation that the presence of Christ brings to a life!

It is important for every believer to realize, though, that this joy wasn't meant only for the ones who were already convinced of His resurrection. Mary knew with certainty that Jesus had risen. He spoke to her. She spoke to Him. She clung to Him. She knew that He was alive, but Jesus wasn't content for the reality of the resurrection to be experienced by her alone. So, Jesus addressed her very clearly. He told her to “**Go and take word** to my brethren.” Isn't this amazing? Jesus wasn't content for Mary alone to experience this great blessing. He wanted her to take the message to the disciples who, at the moment, doubted the Lord's resurrection. It is hard for us to imagine how they had let their hearts be filled with such unbelief. Jesus had told them that He would die and that three days later He'd rise again. It's hard for me to fathom how the Pharisees and chief priests believed Jesus' words so much that they were sure to place guards around the Lord's tomb. But the disciples who knew Jesus best didn't even believe Jesus' words. From their absence at the tomb that morning it is obvious that they hadn't heeded the words of the Lord. Furthermore, even when Mary and the others took word to the disciples they still refused to believe the truth. It wasn't until Jesus actually appeared in their presence and showed Himself to them personally that they experienced the joy of the resurrection.

Isn't this really what Easter is all about? The joy that is brought from our resurrected Lord is inexplicable. But this joy isn't just for our own benefit and pleasure. There is a world around us that doesn't understand why Jesus died and how He rose again. The world around us doubts this truth. How will they ever know the peace that only Jesus can give if we refuse to go and tell them? Church, I encourage you to heed the words of Jesus, “Go and take word.” The New River Valley is in desperate need for the life that is only available through Jesus Christ. This Easter let's not be content just to have our own personal experience with Him. Let's strive to take His Word to all so that they too may experience Jesus Christ – our Redeemer and Lord.

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew

## RECENTLY BAPTIZED

AXEL GROSSMAN  
KEVIN HAMM  
TYLER LYONS  
BRYCE LONG  
ELIJAH RILEY  
ANN deGASTYNE  
ALLY SMITH  
ABIGAIL LAFON  
EMMA STEPP  
HEATHER HERREN  
HAYLEY HERREN

Baptized  
IN THE NAME  
OF THE Father,  
THE Son AND THE  
Holy Spirit

## SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP....

**DATES OF YOUTH NY MISSION HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY CHANGED** to June 14-20. This is due to snow days, end of year school schedules, etc. Be reminded that Youth and leaders will be participating in Christian service by construction projects, food and clothing help, and "street church" in the inner city - NEW YORK. We covet your prayers and participation as we work toward this important mission.



## FUNDRAISERS FOR NY MISSION TRIP



Youth are currently selling Mary Kay "SATIN HANDS" Gift Sets, arranged neatly with garden gloves or oven mitt as gifts for Mother's Day. They receive 25% of the \$30 purchase price toward NY Mission. If you would like to purchase a set for mother/grandmother/friend, please send a request to [youth@gsbcfamily.org](mailto:youth@gsbcfamily.org) or approach a "youth" directly. Cookbooks, greeting cards and more will be sold in coming days, again, to raise funds for this valuable project. Some dates in spring-time will be set for outings, where GSBC Youth and leaders will provide childcare, and a craft show is in the works. Other suggestions welcomed. Contact Dee at 320-5210.

## MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST



There will be a Men's Breakfast, **April 18, at 7:30am.** We will have a guest speaker to bring a brief word of encouragement. If you would like to volunteer to setup or to help cook please contact the church office at 382-0719

## FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Join us every Wednesday at 5:30pm for a wonderful time of food and fellowship. There is a suggested donation of \$4 per adult, \$2 per child and/or \$10 per family.



## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The nursery needs several more people willing to be an emergency back up for Sunday mornings. Every so often a volunteer is unable to serve on a Sunday morning because of family needs, sickness, snow, etc... We need some folks willing and prepared to step in at the last minute to help take care of the little ones downstairs. Please contact Marianne Rolfs at (540) 250-6405 if you are willing to help serve.



## PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone wishing to be added to the internet prayer chain can sign up via the website...[prayer@gsbcfamily.org](mailto:prayer@gsbcfamily.org) or by calling Penny Kouns at 382-4647. You can use these two means of communication to have a prayer request posted.

## PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER BABY SHOWER

The Women's Ministry of GSBC is sponsoring a shower for The Pregnancy Resource Center of the New River Valley (formerly the Caring Pregnancy Center) the whole month of April. The center is in need of baby items and our church women's group volunteered to collect diapers and wipes. We want to give everyone the opportunity to help in this activity. If you would like participate there will be a box located in the foyer for you to place the items in. Any size and brand of the items will be appreciated. Also, the Women's Ministry will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, April 13 at 7:00 pm. Ladies, please bring diapers and wipes for the Pregnancy Resource Center of the NRV to this meeting.

## FAMILY PASTORS CORNER

Jam 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Are you in a Bible Fellowship, study, or some other group of sincere believers where you are practicing these things? Are you "all in?" Confession, prayer and healing should be a NORMAL part of every believer's life. I encourage you to seek out other like-minded individuals with whom you can share. We share so much; "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all..." Eph 4:5-6. Shouldn't we share our hearts and allow God to heal them in the process?



## THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

*A special thank you is expressed to all who volunteered and helped with the church-wide workday.* They were: Sylvia Barnes, Rob Cook, Dennis Nagel, Penny Kouns, Clayton Endraske, Jack Reed, Peggy Martin, Stan Endraske, Don Roschelli, Gina Reed, Richard Foster, David Smith, Marianne Rolfs, Howard Heffron, Ross Spoon, Lisa Smith, Heath Kouns, Monty Berryman, Louis Long, Jr.

## Easter Weekend Services:

April 10, Good Friday:

7:00pm Communion Service

Easter Sunday, April 12:

Sunrise Service: 6:47am

Worship Services: 8:30am and

10:45am

There will be no Bible Fellowship classes

*\*Children please go directly to your classes  
on Easter Sunday\**

## FIRST QUARTER 2009 RECORD OF GIVING

Needed each week:	\$ 6,079	Needed First Quarter	\$ 79,022
Actual giving (13 weeks):	5,763	Actual Income First Quarter	74,919
Weekly Shortfall:	316	Quarter Shortfall:	4,103

## NURSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Pregnancy Resource Center of the New River Valley (formerly the Crisis Pregnancy Center) is in need of nurse volunteers, either active or retired, to provide prenatal education and administer pregnancy test and sonograms as a service to our clients. Training will be provided.



## QUESTION OF THE MONTH... What is the “Swoon Theory” and how do I refute it?

The Swoon Theory is the belief that Jesus didn't really die at His crucifixion. Those that prescribe to this theory believe that Jesus passed out and was, thus, unconscious when He was laid in the tomb where He was later resuscitated. While this view seems ridiculous to us, it is held by many throughout our world today. But, there are several reasons why this theory is invalid and can be easily proven as false. For starters, Mary, the Lord's own mother, grieved because she had witnessed her Son being crucified. She and others witnessed His literal death. Furthermore, Joseph of Arimathea, was so convinced of Jesus' death that he took the body, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb. But, the greatest evidence that Jesus literally died is found in the actions and attitudes of His enemies which consisted of and the Roman guards, Pilate, and the Sanhedrin. They were all witnesses of the fact that Jesus indeed died.



There were two separate groups of Roman soldiers given the task of ensuring the death of Jesus: the executioners and the tomb guards. The soldiers in charge of execution were specialists in capital punishment, and crucifixion was one of the most brutal forms of execution in history. Jesus was nailed to a cross after enduring horrible beatings at the hands of these professional death merchants, and every person put to death by way of crucifixion was dealt with by these soldiers. Their job was to ensure the task was completed. Jesus could not have survived crucifixion, and these soldiers made certain that Jesus was dead before His body was allowed to be taken from the cross. They were completely satisfied that Jesus was truly dead. The second group of soldiers was given the task of guarding the tomb of Jesus because of the request made to Pilate by the Sanhedrin. Matthew 27:62-63 says “Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, and said, ‘Sir, we remember, that when He was still alive that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise.” Their words clearly show that He was, at that moment, dead.

Pilate was also convinced of Jesus' death. He is the one who gave the order for Jesus to be crucified and entrusted this task to be carried out by a Roman centurion, a trusted and proven commander of 100 Roman soldiers. After the crucifixion, a request for the body of Jesus was made by Joseph of Arimathea, in order that His body could be placed in a tomb. Only after confirmation was given to him by his centurion did Pilate release the body into the care of Joseph. Mark 15:42-45 says, “When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time; and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.” It seems obvious that once Pilate spoke to the centurion he, too, was convinced that Jesus was truly dead.

Lastly, the Sanhedrin was the ruling council of the Jewish people, and they requested that the bodies of those crucified, including Jesus, be taken down from the cross after their death because of the ensuing Sabbath day. John 19:33 tells us that when they went to Jesus to break his legs, thus causing imminent death that “when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.” This is significant because these very Jews who demanded that Jesus be crucified, and even went so far as to suggest an insurrection had He not been crucified, would never have allowed Jesus' body to be removed from the cross were He not already dead. These men were completely convinced and satisfied that Jesus was truly dead.

While this theory is easily disproved it is important to understand the motive and purpose behind this theory. The purpose for the Swoon Theory is not to dispute His death, but rather, it seeks to disprove His resurrection. If Jesus didn't resurrect, then He's not God. If Jesus truly died and rose from the dead, His power over death proves that He is the Son of God. The evidence demands the verdict: Jesus truly died on the cross, and Jesus truly rose from the dead.



**GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

155 Dunlap Drive  
Christiansburg, VA 24073  
540-382-0719

PO Box 398  
Christiansburg, VA 24068

**Check us out online  
[www.gsbcfamily.org](http://www.gsbcfamily.org)**

Pastor Matthew Kirkland:  
[pastor@gsbcfamily.org](mailto:pastor@gsbcfamily.org)

Dee Dannewitz-Wallace:  
[youth@gsbcfamily.org](mailto:youth@gsbcfamily.org)

Ruthie Bellman:  
[children@gsbcfamily.org](mailto:children@gsbcfamily.org)

Barbara Foster:  
[office@gsbcfamily.org](mailto:office@gsbcfamily.org)

## April 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 8-8:45p Youth Council Meeting	2) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	3)	4) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary
5) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 3-7p Family Easter Event Cookout, Egg Hunt, and Movie 7p Youth Leaders Mtg.	6)	7) 6:30a Prayer time In sanctuary 7p Deacon's Meeting 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice	8) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir	9) 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	10) 7p Church-wide Communion Service	11) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary
12) <b>EASTER</b> 6:47a Sunrise Service 8:30a and > Easter Services 10:45a No Bible Fellowship Classes NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	13) 7 pm Women's Ministry	14) 6:30a Prayer time In sanctuary 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice	15) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 8-8:45p Youth Council Meeting	16) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	17) 7p Women's Ministry Movie Night	18) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary 7:30a Men's Breakfast
19) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p AWANA and Youth Worship	20)	21) 6:30a Prayer time In sanctuary 7p Deacon's Meeting 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice	22) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir	23) 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice	24)	25) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary
26) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p AWANA ( <i>Luau Night</i> ) and Youth Worship	27)	28) 6:30a Prayer time In sanctuary 6:30p Youth Praise Band Practice	29) 6:30 p – Financial Peace Class 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir	30) 6:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Praise Team Practice		