



Swift Creek Chronicles

FROM THE PASTOR...

What will you be doing the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the vernal equinox this year? You will probably be celebrating Easter. In 2013 Easter is March 31. How in the world did we come up with this formula for setting the date of Easter? As hard as it may be to believe, this formula came not just from a committee, but a **church committee!** And all of this happened 1,300 years before there were any Baptists around!

Professor Steven Ware gives short version of the story: In 325 A.D., Constantine, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, convened the Council of Nicea. Among the business before the council was to establish a uniform date for Easter. Out of the discussion and debate came the "Easter Rule," setting Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. As is often the case with church councils, the decision was not unanimous. The eastern bishops wanted to schedule Easter in conjunction with the Jewish Festival of Passover since, after all, Jesus went to Jerusalem, in the first place, to celebrate Passover. The Western bishops preferred a date corresponding with the beginning of spring, because that was the time already established for a lot of pagan celebrations, and they figured to capitalize on the momentum. This is why, to this day, we have such things as the Easter Bunny and colored eggs associated with Easter. Well, on this, and other issues, the church eventually split. To this day, we, who are descendants of the Western line of Christendom, use a different calendar than the eastern Orthodox churches. Sometimes our celebration of Easter falls on the same day, and sometimes it varies by as much as five weeks!

The date we choose to celebrate Easter really doesn't matter. What matters most is the resurrection. This is the greatest truth in all of history. Without this, Christianity would be an interesting piece of first century history to study, but there would be no impact on the world. But the truth of the resurrection changed the world and continues to change the world. The most important question is not when we will celebrate Easter, but does the Risen Christ live in our hearts? In order to help you and your family celebrate Easter we have several opportunities scheduled and I look forward to celebrating with you.

In God's Grace,
David Vess

Swift Creek Baptist Church
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Raleigh, NC 27606
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Church Staff:

Dr. David Vess, Pastor
Rev. David Beaver, Minister of Music
Mrs. Robin Atkins, Minister of
Children and Youth
Dr. Bill Pruett, Pianist
Mr. Bobby Mills,
Grounds Maintenance
Mrs. Sandy Jones, Custodian
Mrs. Kim Sharp, Church Secretary
Mrs. Susan Moore, Financial Secretary

Church Office Hours:

Monday -- Friday - 9 a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday Schedule:

Coffee Fellowship—9:30 a.m.
Bible Study—9:45 a.m.
Worship Service—11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Schedule:

Fellowship Meal—5:30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Study—6:30 p.m.
Children on Mission—6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsal—7:15 p.m.

Monthly Events:

1st Sunday-Men's Breakfast
1st and 3rd Sunday - Youth
2nd Friday - PNO
3rd Thursday - WOM
4th Tuesday-C.A.R.E. Ministry

ROBIN'S ROUNDTABLE

Jesus Lives! Let's celebrate our Risen Savior and his abundant love. God deeply loves each of us. God gave his son Jesus to die for each of us and resurrected him from death. If we believe in the Risen Christ we also will have eternal life with him in Heaven. Rejoice!!!

We have so much to be thankful this Easter season and each day. Will you share this Good News and Christ's Love with someone today? Invite them to join you this Sunday in Church to share God's love.

In Christian Service,
Robin

Up Coming Events:

Maundy Thursday	Thursday, March 28	6:30 p.m.
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, March 30	10 am-Noon
Easter Sunrise Service	Sunday, March 31	6:30 am at Montague Lake
Easter Service	Sunday, March 31	11:00 a.m.
Yard Sale	TBA	
Billy Graham Library	TBA	

Congratulations to Bill and Katie Hennenlotter on the birth of their new daughter, Katherine Elizabeth. She was born Saturday, February 9th at 9:59 pm. Katherine weighed 7 lbs, 13 ozs and was 20 inches long.

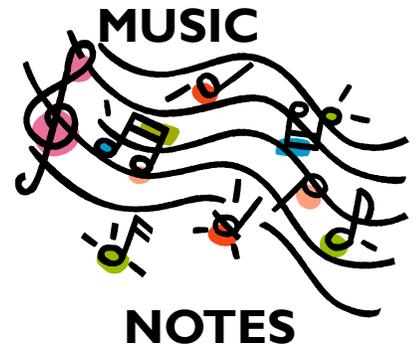


Deacon Update

On February 5, 2013, the Deacons held their regular monthly meeting. In addition to our Family Ministry concerns, the following items were noted:

- *The Lobby/Covered Drive-Through Study Committee shared that the committee has continued to meet and will bring a proposal to the deacons prior to Feb. 20 Church Conference.
- *Tile in fellowship hall has been stripped and waxed.
- *An anonymous donation has been made for the Video/Homebound/Music program.
- *Veteran memorial monument has been donated and will be installed this spring.
- *Grounds committee asked to consider repair or replacement of wooden crossties.

“The Potter’s Hand” is an anthem crafted by Darlene Zschech, composer of many praise and worship songs including “Shout to the Lord” (one of my favorites). Her text references scripture passages found in Jeremiah, chapter 18 and Romans, chapter 9 where God’s mighty power is at work through those who have yielded their lives to His crafting. The choir will sing “The Potter’s Hand” for an upcoming worship service.



Take me, mold me, use me, fill me, I give my life to the Potter’s hand.

The music ministry is preparing music for Palm Sunday (Mar. 24), Maundy Thursday (Mar. 28) and Easter Sunday (Mar.31). Support these services by your prayers and presence!

David

Swift Creek Baptist Church Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, March 30
10:00 am

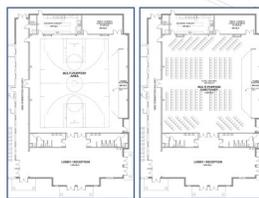
Activities will include:
an egg hunt for children 10
years and under,
morning snack,
and Easter activities!

The Easter Bunny
will make a special
appearance!

Parents are encouraged
to stay and participate!

Don’t forget to bring
a basket to hunt eggs with!

Candy donations for filling the Easter
eggs are being accepted now until March
24th. Please keep in mind the candy
needs to fit inside of the eggs. Thanks!



Victory \$400,000
Hallelujah \$600,000

Our Mission Statement
“A People of Faith committed
to Spiritual Growth and
Sharing God’s Love”

COMMITMENTS		1-31-2013
Gifts & Contributions		\$202,506.00
Pledges		\$256,770.00
Total Committed		\$459,276.00
RECEIPTS		
Gifts & Contributions Received		\$202,506.00
Pledges Received		\$162,558.00
Total Receipts		\$365,064.00

Swift Creek Baptist Church
 9300 Penny Road
 Raleigh, NC 27606



March 13



**Average Attendance and Giving
 Jan. 20, 2013—February 10, 2013**

Bible Study Attendance	50
Worship Service	85
Tithes and offerings	\$3,563
Needed weekly to meet budget	\$4,434

Thank you for your gifts!

NURSERY WORKERS FOR MARCH

11:00 Service

- 3- LaRue Holmes, Barbi Brown**
- 10- Jennie Jones, Tiffany Arnett**
- 17- Dorothy Smith, Joyce Powell**
- 24- Janet Yunker, Dianne Davis**
- 31- Christian Leggett, JoAnne King**



The C.A.R.E. Ministry

Care Ministry will meet on Tuesday, March 26th at 10 a.m. Many have been blessed with our calls, visits, cards and prayers.

Thank you for your dedication to this important part of Swift Creek's outreach program.

Online Giving

Available at www.swiftcreekchurch.com
 You can now make secure donations on our website using a credit card, debit card, or Paypal account. This feature allows you to make contributions from anywhere internet access is available.

Swift Creek Baptist Church Clothes Closet and Food Pantry

AS OF FEBRUARY 15 WE HAVE FED AND CLOTHED 90 PEOPLE IN NEED THIS YEAR!

Don't forget the food pantry on your next shopping trip. Anything you donate that is store bought is greatly appreciated.