First Christian Church
P. O. Box 90
Water Valley, MS 38965
(662) 473-2884
e-mail: 1stchristian1020@bellsouth.net
website: www.wvchristian.org

><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><>

The Water Valley Witness

"Speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15 NIV)
April, 2012

David Freeman, Minister ***Kevin Herrera, Youth Minister***

><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><><><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><> ><><><><><>

HAVE YOU TASTED JESUS?

One divinity school hosted an annual picnic. They always invited one of the greatest minds to lecture in the theological education center. One year, the guest lecturer was a professor who spoke for over two hours "proving" that the resurrection of Jesus was false. The professor quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there was no such thing as the historical resurrection, the religious tradition of the church was groundless, emotional mumbo-jumbo, because it was based on a relationship with a risen Jesus, who, in fact never rose from the dead in any literal sense. Then he asked if there were any questions.

After a few seconds, an old preacher with a head of white hair, stood up in the back of the auditorium. "Docta Professor, I got one question." He reached into his sack lunch and pulled out an apple and began eating it. CRUNCH, MUNCH, "My question is a simple question"…CRUNCH, MUNCH… "Now, I ain't never read them books you read" … CRUNCH, MUNCH …"and I can't recite the Scriptures in the original Greek." …CRUNCH, MUNCH …"And I don't know nothin' about that Niebuhr and Heidegger" … CRUNCH, MUNCH. He finished the apple finally. "All I wanna know is: This apple I just ate --- was it bitter or sweet?"

The professor paused for a moment and then answered in exemplary, scholarly fashion: "I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven't tasted your apple."

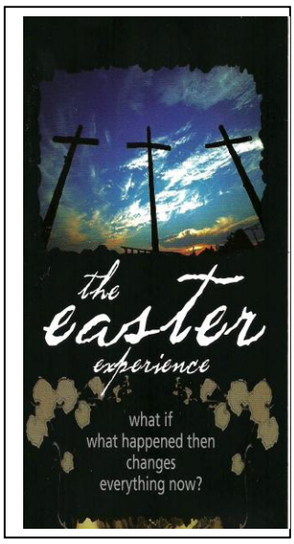
The white-haired preacher dropped the apple core into his crumpled paper bag, looked up at the professor and said calmly, "Neither have you tasted my Jesus." The 1,000 plus in attendance could not contain themselves. The auditorium erupted with applause and cheers. The professor thanked his audience and promptly left the platform.

If you have not tasted Jesus you cannot possibly know the resurrection power that raised him from the dead. You cannot possibly know that the very same power that God used to raise Jesus from death is the power that God is using in us to bring about the new man and woman God wants us to become.

HAVE YOU TASTED JESUS?

Dennis Dawes

000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

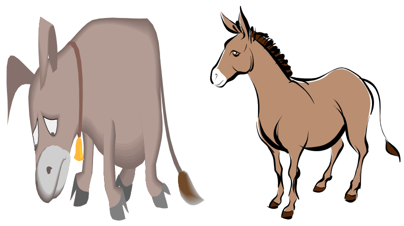


Only two more weeks remain in our special *Easter Experience* celebration. By use of cinematic messages featuring Kyle Idleman on Sunday nights, to Bible discussions on Wednesday nights, messages by Brother David on Sunday morning and daily devotionals, we have been reliving some of the events leading up to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Truly what happened then does change everything now! Sunday night, April 1 the film will be ***"I Have the Promise of Eternal Life"*** and on Sunday night, April 8 the film will be, ***"I Have a Hope that Never Dies!"*** Be inviting others to join us here at FCC for this inspirational and challenging time together. Don't forget to be here Sunday morning, April 8 at 10:00 a.m. for our very special Resurrection Celebration! Invite a friend to join you! It could make an eternal difference!

000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

A few words from The Word…

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you.
Romans 8:11 NIV



It's groovy; it's cool
And it's old school.
It's hip; it's neat
Got a rockin' beat.
It's for cats and chicks
Who want some kicks;
For Mom and Pop
Who wanna be-bop!

What is it? It's **Bible Tails!** Using some favorite tunes from the 50's and 60's, the Wednesday night dudes and dudettes will present Bible Tails on April 22 during the Morning Worship Service at 10:00. God can use anything, even animals to do His will. However you wanna get here – you can stroll it, you can twist it, but just make sure you don't miss it!

0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

Fund Raiser

The New York City Summer Trip Group will be serving a **HAMBURGER LUNCH**, Sunday, April 15 following the Morning Worship Service. Cost is $5.00 and includes Hamburger, chips, dessert, and tea. See a trip member to purchase your ticket.

0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

Sympathy

Our heart-felt sympathy is extended to Ronda Chapman and family in the recent death of her dad, Bill Wilburn. Mr. Wilburn died March 14 at Yalobusha General Hospital. He had been a resident of Yalobusha Nursing Home for several years. A grave-side service was conducted by Brother David at Pisgah Cemetery.

0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

Calling All Ladies!

The FCC Ladies' Circle Fellowship will be meeting here at the church on Monday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. All ladies are invited to join us in the Break Room!

0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

NO WAY!
Join us Sunday night, April 29 at 6:30 for our Fifth Sunday Fellowship Supper! Bring your favorite food to share!

Serving On Sunday
April, 2012

Greeter: Lorraine Stark

Communion Preparation: Cheryl Pass

Accompanists:
1 **–** Rachel Bell [O] & Lou Ann Holt [P]
8 **–** Rachel Bell [O] & Lou Ann Holt [P]
15 **–** Lou Ann Holt [O] & Mary Freeman [P]
22 **–** Lou Ann Holt [O] & Mary Freeman [P]
29 **–** Rachel Bell [O] & Lou Ann Holt [P]

P.M. Piano: Rachel Bell

Sound and Video Projectionist: Lexi Fowler

Worship Team:
Deniece Fowler & Mary Freeman

Sunday Night Songleader: Jerry Holt

Nursery Workers:
Sunday Morning Worship:
1 – Carol Brown & Virginia Scanlon
8 – Pat Sansom & Rosa Ruth Hill
15 – Cheryl Pass & Betty Potts
22 – Tonia Bailey & Genna Berry
29 – Gail Herrera & Shirley House

Sunday Night: Cheryl Pass
Wednesday Night: Viola Moore

Communion Meditation:
8 – Neal Eubanks
22 – Bill Bo Samuels

At the Table:
1 – Lee Eubanks, Bill Bo Samuels, Bobby Cox, Pete Eubanks, Donny Guest, Lee Jones, Steve Hardy, Neal Eubanks, Al Reed, **Richard Walker**
8 – Larry Bell, Donny Guest, Pete Eubanks, Jerry Hill, George Lambert, Jerry Holt, Richard Walker, Lee Eubanks, JW Tutor, **Ronnie Stark**
15 – Billy Wilbourn, Bobby Cox, JW Tutor, Bill Bo Samuels, Donny Guest, Steve Hardy, **Al Reed**, Lee Eubanks, Pete Eubanks, Jerry Hill
22 – Jerry Holt, Eddie House, Al Reed, Donny Guest, **Lee Jones**, Jerry Hill, George Lambert, JW Tutor, Ronnie Stark, Richard Walker
29 – Larry Bell, Billy Wilbourn, Bobby Cox, **Neal Eubanks**, Lee Eubanks, Pete Eubanks, Steve Hardy, Jerry Holt, Donny Guest, Eddie House
*[Name in **bold** will have the Offertory Prayer.]*
Round Up Man: Jerry Holt

!!

Hey Kids!

Plan now to kick off your summer at our Vacation Bible School –

May 27-31

6:30-8:30 p.m.

All youth age 3 through High School are invited!

0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

Each year the Magnolia State Church Planners plan a time of fellowship and inspiration known as ***"The Mississippi Christian Convention!"*** This year's gathering will be April 27-28 at the Itawamba Christian Church in Fulton, Mississippi. The speaker will be Keith Lewis and music will be lead by the Verona Praise Team. Even though the convention conflicts with our Water Valley Relay for Life, you can still support the convention by registering. Registration is $5.00 for an individual and $10.00 for a family. Our support will mean a great deal to those who work so hard to plan this program.

0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000

Grave Riser

Well they thought they were rid of Jesus
When they laid Him in the ground;
Didn't believe His mighty power
That even death couldn't hold Him down,
But He was the Grave Riser.

All alone my Savior died,
Hanging on a rugged tree;
Satan thought he'd defeated Jesus
But Jesus won the victory;
'Cause He was the Grave Riser.

Well who would've ever thought it –
That the Savior of all men
Would one day be crucified –
In three days, live again!

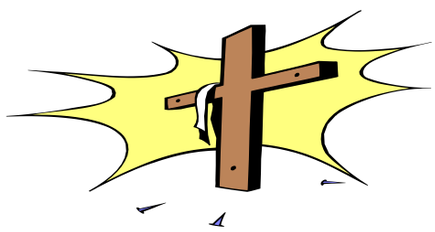
Oh Christian, let's be faithful
'Til we're laid down in the ground.
Then one day we'll live with Jesus
And at His throne we'll gather round,
And praise the Grave Riser!

Mary Freeman

David's Dab…

Did you hear about the teacher who asked her class, "Why do we celebrate Easter?" One student said it was because the Easter Bunny comes and leaves brightly colored eggs around the house. Another said it was because the Easter Bunny brings baskets full of candy and toys. The teacher was growing very discouraged until a third student spoke up and said, "We celebrate Easter because on that day Jesus comes out of the grave… and if He sees His shadow we have six more weeks of winter!" As one church sign reminds us: "Jesus is the Reason for the Season!" I appreciate the interest that has been shown in "The Easter Experience." If you have missed the Sunday night videos and the Wednesday night discussions you have missed some enlightening sessions. If Jesus did not rise from the dead then you and I are sunk! Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15 that if Christ has not risen then our faith is futile; we are unforgiven. We have no hope. We are to be pitied for believing in such a man. But the fact of the matter is, Christ Jesus has risen! The evidence is there for all who will take the time to examine it. And, as Kyle Idleman reminds us, what happened then changes everything now. Because Jesus Christ died for our sins and arose from the dead we can have the forgiveness of our sins and new life if we will die to sin, believing in Jesus as God's Son, confessing Him and being baptized into His death. God in His grace will also give us Hope. Don't just believe in Jesus' resurrection in your head; live your life like you believe it! Because I care I will be looking for you in Bible School and Worship this Sunday.

0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000



A God of Surprises!
Matthew 28:1-10

Why did the angel move the stone?
Why do you think the angel sat on it?
For whom did he roll away the rock?
For Jesus so He could come out?
I don't think so.
Did God need help?
Was the Death Conqueror so weak that he couldn't push away the stone?
"Hey, could somebody out there move this rock so I can get out?"
I don't think so.
If the angel didn't move the stone for Jesus then for who was it moved?
Matthew 28:6
THE STONE WAS MOVED – NOT FOR JESUS –BUT FOR THE WOMEN;
NOT SO JESUS COULD COME OUT, BUT SO THE WOMEN COULD SEE / GO IN!
Unfortunately Mary Magdalene jumped to a wrong conclusion when she saw the stone moved away from the grave (John 20:1).
The other women stuck around.
Matthew 28:8
They don't have to be told twice.
One surprise still awaits them.
Matthew 28:9-10
The God of surprises strikes again!

Max Lucado