



From the Pastor

This has been a unique Lenten season. It began with Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day, and it ends with Easter on April

1st – April Fool's Day. This may give pause to ponder if God has a sense of humor; which I am sure he does.

The last time that Easter was on April 1st was the year I was born – 1956. The next time it will fall on April 1st is 2029; and then again in 2040. And if you're really into the numbers – according to the Gregorian calendar, which was put into effect in 1582 – the sequence Easter Sundays repeats itself every 5,700,000 years, with Easter falling on April 1st 192,850 times!¹

Now, God is eternal and will celebrate them all. And so will we, if we have faith in his Son Jesus Christ. That's what the resurrection is all about. Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins. (Colossians 1:19-20) Jesus rose from the dead to give us eternal life. (I John 5:11-13) You receive this forgiveness of sins and gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus Christ as God's Son; and that he died and rose again for you. (John 3:16)

But what if you don't believe this? Then, by Biblical definition, you're a "fool". The Bible says, "*The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'*" (Psalm 14:1) And then, April Fools' Day becomes your holiday.

As for the origins of April Fools' Day as we know it today – no one really knows for sure. One of the earliest cryptic (and contested) references to April 1st and foolishness is from Geoffrey Chaucer's, *The Canterbury Tales* (1392). In Chaucer's tale, the vain cock Chauntecleer is tricked by a fox on April 1st.

By the 19th century, European and Western countries were commemorating April 1st by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. The jokes and their victims are called "April fools."²

It's OK to have fun in a proper way, but not to be foolish. The Bible says, "be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise". (Ephesians 5:15)

The Bible reminds us that at one time we were all foolish in our ignorance of God and in the way we live. Because of this we were all destined for death (Ephesians 2:1-5).

And this was no joke! And God was not laughing. Instead, God was loving us. He showed us his love by sending his Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior and give us "*the hope of eternal life*". (Titus 3:3-8)

That's what Easter is all about. Easter turns a "fool" into a wise, eternal, child of God. And we celebrate with great joy knowing that it's all true, and not a joke. (I Peter 1:16)

Believe it and live – forever!

*Grace & Peace,
Jack*

¹ https://www.staff.science.uu.nl/~gent0113/easter/easter_text2b.htm

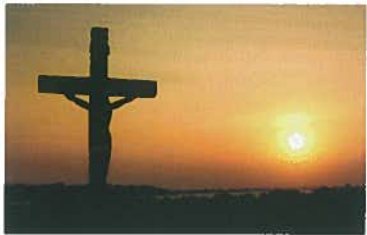
² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools%27_Day



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

April / May 2018

News you can Use...



The **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** will be held on **Sunday, April 1st**, at **Little Island Park** at the south end of Sandbridge Beach at

6:30 A.M. (The sun will rise at 6:50am) Pastor Jack Davis will be preaching this year. Please come, dress warm, and bring a friend.

Our **EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES** will be celebrated on **Sunday, April 1st** at **8:30 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** Come and celebrate our Lord's resurrection! And bring a friend.



Please remember to bring **FRESH CUT FLOWERS** for the **Easter Flower Cross**.

The annual **EASTER EGG HUNT** will be held immediately after the **11:00 a.m.** worship service. Children are asked to bring their own Easter baskets.

The **women of the church** are invited to the **Men's Breakfast on Saturday, May 7**. Come join us in honor of Mother's Day. We meet at the **Golden Corral** at Red Mill at **8:00 a.m.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **SILENT AUCTION AND LUNCH –April 29**
 - **TALENT SHOW – May 20**
- (See articles page 6)

HUGE Thank YOU!

To all who helped fill the **Rise Against Hunger Truck** with food by donating funds, time or energy, a huge thank you! Please give yourself a big hug and high five for a job well done! Mission accomplished! A standing ovation to the Youth Group for going the extra mile setting up the mission for take-off Saturday morning of the event.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is a place for families and friends of all ages to grow in their relationship with God. Children, teens, and adults have opportunities for discovery and interaction in caring groups as they study God's Word. Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are welcome.

Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45. Nursery available



Current Sunday School study themes:

Nursery ages 0-2 *Jesus is Alive*

Preschool ages 3-5 *Go and Tell*

Elementary *Jesus' Life and Ministry*

Middle School *Next-God is the Future*

High School *Right Now Media study*

SWAG Class *The Book of Galatians study*

Friendship Class *It is Finished, a Lenten study*

Fellowship Class *Christian Daily Life Study*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION! Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to renovate, rearrange, reassign, and paint the improved Sunday School spaces!

YOU CAN HELP...

Tabernacle continues to support the **PiN Ministry's** outreach to the local homeless community. You can serve a hot meal on any Sunday afternoon, donate clothing or other necessities, serve breakfast to recovering addicts or prepare bag lunches. We will be preparing bag lunches on **May 19**.

The Tabernacle Friend



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LOOKING FOR BOOKS

for a reading corner in the elementary Sunday school classroom. Please consider donating gently used stories with appropriate themes for teachers to

read aloud or for students to read on their own. Please give donations to Melissa Raehl or Mary Hall. Thank you so much!

“UNDER CONSTRUCTION”

Phil 1:6 tells us “...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”



We are all under construction by God’s Spirit working in us – but Tabernacle’s fellowship hall has recently begun experiencing some growing pains, and construction dust is certainly rising in the halls! The Tabernacle Facility Planning Committee has been meeting over the past year to determine solutions to the growing needs for our ministries. We have space “issues” and our classrooms are not large enough to accommodate many of our classes, both on Sunday mornings and for small groups on Wednesday nights with Pioneer Club and our various Bible Studies.

To address this need, this committee was formed. Members on the committee are the Trustee Chairperson, Council on Ministries Chairperson, Finance Chairperson, Pastor Davis and there are also 4 representatives from the congregation at large. After much investigation and consultation with Engineers and Planners from the City of Virginia Beach, architects, builders and others, the committee, with approval from our Trustees and Administrative Board,

embarked on “Phase One” of our growth plan. The 3 classrooms at the picnic shelter end of the Fellowship building hallway were converted, including taking the rear exit hallway, to 2 large classrooms. The cost was minimal and completely covered by our current resources. Those classrooms will be completed soon and ready for their new “residents” to start using them. This measure, although good, is not enough. We will be continuing to look for solutions for a separate and dedicated space for our Youth to hold their regular activities and for larger spaces to accommodate our growing numbers of children and families.

Thank you for your patience and support while we are growing. May God receive all the glory as we see Him moving and growing our church family! We are counting on His provision as He calls us to open our doors to His people in even more ways! Watch and see, for the Lord is always up to something new... *Isaiah 43:19 – “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”*

Jamy Cassidy, Council on Ministries Chairperson

YOUTH EVENT LOOKING FOR HELP

DNow, April 13-15, is looking for host homes and drivers to and from the host homes/mission projects/Oak Grove Baptist Church 6 times throughout the weekend. Please let Sharon Davis know if you are willing to host or drive youth during the weekend.

Even if it is just for one way, that would be helpful! Driving times are Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon to and from the mission project site, Saturday night and Sunday morning. Host Homes involve floor space for 6-9 youth/chaperones and breakfast on Saturday morning around 7:30. Youth usually bring their own snacks for the evenings.

Until all have heard, Sharon, [757-630-5030](tel:757-630-5030)/sharondavis@cox.net



SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Isn't it amazing how with each change of season, we get a fresh perspective? Summer calls everyone outside and away from home vacationing and having fun

with others. Fall kicks off a new school year and fall festivals for celebrating together. Winter warms hearts with the Christmas season and goodwill towards others. Spring blows open the doors and windows of our homes and hearts as we clean out and get ready for the burst of new life on every living landscape.

Who are you looking forward to enjoying spring activities with both inside and out? Will you be seeing people that you haven't seen for awhile? You might see neighbors in their yards, fellow baseball fans at the ball park, people out walking, biking or at the playground.

What if you asked God to put people on your heart to pray for on a daily basis. It may be different people each day or the same person for a season. A simple prayer might go something like this, "Lord, I lift up this person to your loving care today and pray that they will encounter your Holy Spirit in an undeniable way and He will draw them into an eternal relationship with you. Thank you Jesus, for answering my prayer." I often pray this prayer for strangers I see along life's daily paths...the person sitting in the car next to me waiting at the traffic light, the family living next door that I haven't gotten to know, the clerk at the store, the policeman and person who he has pulled over, etc.

I will be praying for you to have the eyes of your heart open to such God Moments. We all need more of Jesus. I pray that as we open our doors and windows to the fresh air of the season, we will open our hearts to the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit among us also!

Happy Spring and Shine on!

Sharon Davis

WHAT IS EMMAUS?

The "Walk to Emmaus" is an ecumenical Christian experience meant to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. It is all about sharing Christ's love in ways that refresh the local church. For over 16 years, Tabernacle UMC has sponsored dozens of people on this three-day retreat. It is open to all and is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about faith and experience Christian love and support. Please contact Pastor Jack or anyone who has walked the weekend with any questions you might have.

Upcoming Gatherings:

April 21 – Hope Haven

May 19 - TBD



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FOCUS ON THE PURPOSE

Take It With You



The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. – Billy Graham

In the Bible – there are **a lot** of instructions on how to treat people? We don't get much – if any – on how we treat things. Except reminders not to put a lot of value on them.

Remember the parable of the Man and his storehouses – It is in Luke 12: 13-21. He tells it in response to brothers who are in conflict because of their possessions.

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"

15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.

19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

God calls the man - "You fool". These are strong words - and we get a specific warning. "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Your Purpose and Life Story & My purpose and Life Story are not about our things...they are about the people we live with and encounter on our Earthly journey.

I think we all know that you can't take your material things with you to heaven.

There **is** something that you **can** take to heaven though. You can take your kids, your husband or wife, your mom and dad, your brother and sister, and even your friends.

You can't control their choices and their destiny – but you can control yours in those relationships.

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?
- 1 John 3: 17.

Be a Blessing,

Brent Loftis, Lay Leader



JOL 

Jesus Offers Love Today



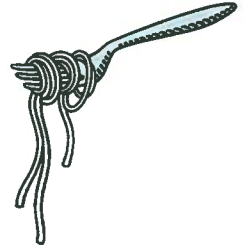
What a blessing it has been to watch the recent growth in our youth group. In the last couple of years we have doubled the number of students involved in the youth activities of the church. Wednesday night Bible study has fifteen to twenty youth attending every week. Praise God and thank you to the parents who are using Tabernacle as part of their children's Christian walk.

30-Hour Famine: Thanks to everyone who supported the recent famine event. Twenty-two students participated by going without food, learning about world hunger, supporting the Rise Against Hunger event and having a little fun. IF you would like to make a contribution to this event, please make a check out to World Vision and get it to Tommy.

DNOW 18: Disciple Now is a local weekend retreat. We join several other churches to share fellowship. College leaders and musicians foster a weekend where over 80 teenagers experience a weekend of Christ-centered activity, including local mission work. This year, Oak Grove Baptist will host the event, **April 13-15**. Vision from Liberty University will assist throughout the weekend. **We are looking for volunteers!** Host homes, drivers, small group leaders and food preparation are greatly needed. Let Sharon or Tommy know if you are interested in helping in any way.

Silent Auction and Spaghetti Luncheon:

Please join us on Sunday, **April 29th** to fellowship and maybe take home a treasure. If you have treasures you are ready to part with or know of a business/restaurant that might be willing to donate an item or gift certificate, please let Kay, Ronda, Sue Senti or Tommy know. The auction is a great opportunity to pick up some interesting gifts, and an awesome opportunity to donate some of your hidden/forgotten treasures, all to benefit the youth mission trips.



Talent Show: Tabernacle Has Talent!! Come and join us in celebrating the talent our congregation holds.

It is always a fun time to share a laugh or two and be amazed at some of the awesome things our members can do. Please let Sharon know about any talent that you might be willing to share, even something you might not have thought of as talent before. The festivities will be held on **May 20th** after church and there will be a picnic luncheon as well.



Tabernacle Friend



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

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2017 Summer Youth

Mission Trip: The 2018 Mission trip is set. We are heading to the Swanquarter, NC. Here are the details:

Dates: **Saturday, June 23 to Friday, June 29.** The

commute this year is under three hours, so it is possible for those who cannot work the entire week to come and join us for a day or two. Pastor Jack will be joining us on Sunday evening and would certainly bring anyone willing to join him. We are working in support of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church Disaster Response. Exactly where we will be staying and what projects we will be doing are still being determined. Both home repair work and ministry projects like food kitchens and child ministries will be options.

This is going to be an "**independent**" mission trip. That means we will supply our own meals, fellowship, worship and fun. The youth have been fundraising since last fall and each will make a personal contribution to support the mission. If you are interested in supporting the mission trip financially, please write a check to Tabernacle and write "Youth mission trip" on the memo line. We will take up to 20 youth on the trip and we need plenty of chaperones. The youth love interacting with the adults of our church, so please consider joining us for an uplifting week.

Middle School Mission: We are beginning to plan for our August middle school mission trip for rising 6th graders through rising 9th graders. It is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to see what mission work can be. We will be returning to Kinston, NC to again work with the Sonset Christian Camp (Refuge) and other ministries. Please put **August 17-20** on your calendar.

Youth Bible Study: continues on Wednesdays. There are fun activities, food and Biblically-centered study each week. We meet in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. There is always good fellowship and lots of fun.



S.P.L.A.S.H. (Sharing the Pool, Laughs and Studying His word), our summer Bible study is coming back this summer. New nights, new locations, new studies, but the same old good fun.

If you are interested in hosting an event (no pool necessary) please let Tommy know.



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



April

Karsen, Evan	4/1
Hardwick, Patrick	4/1
Campbell, Fred	4/3
Fraley, John James	4/3
Kraft, Hallie	4/4
Sanders, Kevin	4/5
Woodward, Kerri	4/7
Williams, Ginger	4/8
Lanning, Deana	4/8
Chalk, Katelyn	4/9
Sorrells, Jack	4/9
Reese, Jamee	4/9
Early, Janet	4/10
Raehl, Matthew	4/11
Dankmyer, Debbie	4/11
Brickhouse, Marlane	4/12
Habit, April	4/14
Sostak, Glenn	4/15
Brooks, Claudia	4/15
Raehl, Becca	4/16
Chalk, Kimberlyn	4/21
Willett, Eliza	4/22
Lannom, Sara	4/22
Jennings, Cameron	4/23
Thomas, Laura	4/24
Pearson, Wilma	4/25
Sharp, Jeff	4/25
Devine, Shaun	4/27
Riggs, Richard Sr.	4/27
Kwiatkowski, Brian	4/29
Smith, Jane	4/29

May

Hester, Sarah	5/2
Turner, Cheryl	5/5
Hughes, Josh	5/9
Eldredge, Matt	5/10
Eldredge, Colton	5/11
Almberg, Shannon	5/15
Cassidy, Doug	5/15
Zimmerman, Janet	5/15
Foy, Michael	5/16
Brunelle, Tanner	5/16
Miller, Dave	5/17
Dorsey, Sloane	5/17
Ackiss, Eddie	5/19
Raehl, Bryan	5/19
Windsor, Jeffrey	5/21
Raehl, Melissa	5/21
Lanning, Mike	5/22
Zeltmann, Ellen	5/22
Hopkins, Kristine	5/22
Land, Lynn	5/24
Davis, Jack	5/25
Burns, Drake	5/25
Jennings, Kathy	5/26
Inderlied, Matt	5/28
Saunders, Austin	5/30
Kirby, Jaxin	5/30



Volunteers

Ushers

April

- 1 Tommy Moore, Roy Rechkemmer
 8 Jack Sorrells, Shelby Nelson
 15 Jim Shuffler, Zach Lovelace
 22 Brent Loftis, Wes Senti
 29 Vince Heivilin, Bob Hall

May

- 6 Mark Cayo, Rick Norton
 13 Scott Willett, Kyle Russell
 20 Craig Zeigler, Brandon Woodward
 27 Mike Garcia, Scott Hardwick

Acolytes

April

- 1 Martha Hester
 8 Rebecca Hester
 15 Logen Hallford
 22 Nick Windsor
 29 Elisha Hester

May

- 6 Austin Zeigler
 13 Charlotte Shuffler
 20 Martha Hester
 27 Rebecca Hester

Children's Church Helpers

(Leader: Jill Norton)

Families worship together first Sundays

April

- 8 Desiree Zeigler
 15 Jeffrey Windsor
 22 Ryder Sanders
 29 Charlotte Shuffler

Children's Church Helpers...

May

- 13 Megan Reese
 20 Rachael Strong
 27 Carmen Everett

Helping Hands (Nursery)

April

- 1 Eliza Willett
 8 Sydney Lussier
 15 Nathan Strong
 22 *****
 29 Emery Moore

May

- 6 Eliza Willett
 13 Sydney Lussier
 20 Nathan Strong
 27 *****

Counters

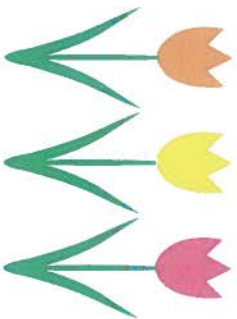
April

- 1 Ronda Loftis, Craig Zeigler
 8 Sue Senti, Roy Rechkemmer
 15 Ann Henley, Brandon Woodward
 22 Paul Russell, Jordan Dorsey
 29 Marlane Brickhouse, Ann Lovelace

May

- 6 Ronda Loftis, Roy Rechkemmer
 13 Brandon Woodward, Sue Senti
 20 Ann Henley, Jordan Dorsey
 27 Paul Russell, Craig Zeigler

Please notify Jamy Cassidy two weeks in advance if you cannot help on your scheduled date.



Tabernacle United Methodist Church

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER 6:30 sunrise at Sand- bridge beach 11:00 Church 12:15 Egg Hunt	2	3 6:30 Choir	4 5:00 morning prayer	5	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Golden Corral
8 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	9	10 6:30 Choir	11 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	12	13	14 DNow Youth Retreat weekend
15 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	16	17 6:30 Choir 7:00 Trustees	18 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	19	20	21
22 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	23	24 6:30 Choir	25 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	26	27	28
29 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45 Spaghetti Lunch/ Auction	30					



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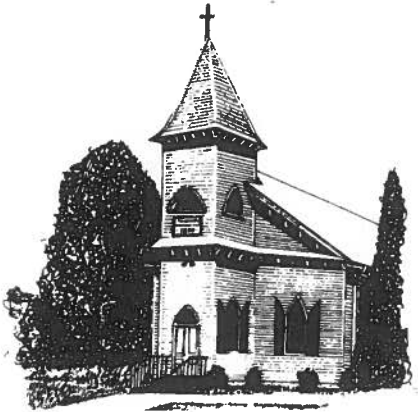
May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Choir 7:00 Council on Ministries	2 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	3	4	5 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Golden Corral—Women too!
6 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	7	8 6:00 Finance 6:30 Choir 7:00 Admin. Board	9 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	10	11	12
13 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	14	15 6:30 Choir	16 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	17	18	19
20 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45 Talent Show 12:15	21	22 6:30 Choir	23 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	24	25	26
27 Worship 8:30/11:00 Sun. School 9:45	28	29 6:30 Choir	30 5:00 morning prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study; Pioneer Club	31		

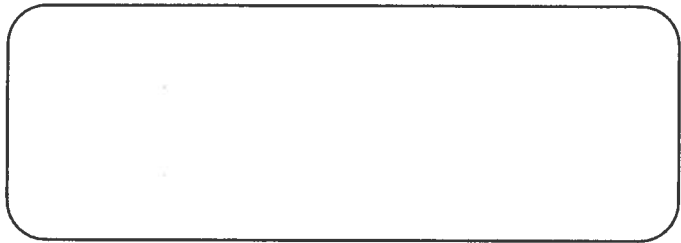
The
Tabernacle Friend

Tabernacle United Methodist Church
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This Newsletter Prepared Especially For



***Tabernacle
United Methodist Church***

*Where faith can be found
and
friends become family!*

Worship Hours
8:30am Contemporary Service
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Service



Phone 757 . 426 . 2396

www.tabernaclevb.org