



The Siluria Messenger

April 2024

Siluria Baptist Church

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A Visit with the Pastor . . .

An author once labeled Christians “Easter people,” and I think it’s appropriate. We wouldn’t call ourselves “Christmas people” in the same way since Christmas came much later in history and was actually appropriated by the church from paganism. But the early Christians began to celebrate Easter immediately. The book of Acts records the church meeting for worship eight times on Sunday. The first day of the week came to be called “the Lord’s Day” and was a reminder that Jesus rose on the first day of the week.

Pastors used to point out when they stressed the importance of night church that five of these eight references are to Sunday evening. Our culture has changed somewhat. A recent survey in our area found 60 percent of our churches don’t have corporate worship on Sunday evenings now (although they may have smaller group meetings).

But the real reason for Sunday night prominence

in Acts is that Sunday was another workday. Believers had no other time than after work to gather.

To be “Easter people” means we live in hope. Granted, all of us go through periods that seem to be hopeless. What can we say to a person diagnosed with malignancy, or to parents whose child has died? At those moments we need to offer the ministry of presence more than the ministry of theology.

I’ve always believed we should refrain from rote responses in moments of terrible loss.

I remember a sad call I received on a Saturday afternoon long ago. The family summoned me to the hospital after one of our deacons apparently had a heart attack en route to a family wedding. I had only been there a few minutes when the doctor came to the waiting room.

“I’m sorry,” he said. “There was nothing we could do.”

The heart attack had been massive. The deacon’s wife wept. She looked at me and said, “Pastor, if I didn’t have Jesus, I wouldn’t make it.”

What she said was certainly true, though I hope she didn’t feel she was expected to say this because her pastor stood nearby. At that moment she could have grieved in the presence of family and friends while we said nothing other than “we love you.” Theology and reflection more appropriately come later.

But, on the other hand, I’ve heard countless people months or years after their tragedies tell of God’s faithfulness. They know the truth of Paul’s word that the “God of all comfort” comforts us in affliction and uses us to comfort others in their pain (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4).

Easter reminds us that God was faithful to his son, and he promises not to abandon his many sons in our suffering.

Devotedly,
Michael J. Brooks

Birthdays	
1	Judy Barbee
3	Dianna Moore
4	Kim Brothers
7	Cathy Garrett
8	Emily McClain
15	Nancy Bunn
16	David Burrow
19	Pam McClain
19	Gloria Brown
19	Ashlee Reach
20	Betty Gardner
21	Sandra Lewis
21	Donna Todd
24	Elaine Storey
24	Jim Meachum
24	Mark Swigart
24	Donny Snow
27	Cole Loveless
29	Gene Rowley

Join Us for our Easter Activities



Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30

All kids in 5th grade and younger are invited to join us at 10:00 a.m. Make sure to bring whatever you want to use to collect eggs. We’ll have games, candy, prizes, food, and separate egg hunts for different ages. This event is rain or shine; we’ll move inside if the weather is bad. Ends at Noon.

Easter Morning Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.

We will also have Easter Morning Bible study and Worship as usual, with Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. and Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Church Staff	Michael Brooks, Pastor	michaeljbrooks2020@gmail.com
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	Cody Seals, Youth Minister	codyseals215@gmail.com
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	Visit our website at siluriabaptist.com	

April Dates to Remember

- 7 Deacons Meeting
- 24 Administrative Professionals Day

Students of the Month

Cole Loveless

Homebound of the Month

Elaine Storey
& Sandra Lewis

“But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Romans 10: 8-10