

Newsletter

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF JUBILEE BAPTIST CHURCH

Easter 2019

*"Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?" - Paul,
Acts 26:8*

As I write this, we are just 20 days from celebrating Easter Sunday together. As Christians, the importance of Resurrection Sunday cannot be over-emphasized. Christ's resurrection is simply the most important moment in salvation history. Without it, there really is no Christianity, no Christian church, no salvation for believers, and honestly no hope! Christianity is the only world religion claiming that the founder has come back from the dead, defeated man's ultimate enemy, death, and will give eternal life to those putting their trust in him. During the month of April, I will be speaking each Sunday on the HOPE every believer can have in Christ.

Make sure to do two things prior to Easter Sunday, 2019:

1. Invite an unchurched person or family to sit with you on Easter Sunday. Tell them you will meet them at the door and show them around!
2. If you can, make plans to attend the 11:15 service (yes, I'm beating this drum again). But don't forget that attending the 11:15 service is just one part of the equation. The other part is to be on time or a little early for the service and take time to speak to people you don't know. This is the service that many first-time guests attend and we want to extend a warm welcome. Thanks in advance for doing this!



Paul Matthews
Senior Pastor

Renovation Timeline

Thanks so much for your interest and patience concerning the upcoming renovation plans. Here are some of the pertinent dates to remember:

April 14th - We plan to present the guaranteed maximum price on the renovation cost and will pass out a Building Fund Commitment Card for each member to prayerfully consider giving toward the renovation.

April 21st (Easter) - This is tentatively the last Sunday we will be in our usual worship room until approximately December. Renovation demolition begins on Tuesday of this week after Easter.

April 28th (Jubilee Sunday) - This is tentatively the first Sunday we will be having worship in the fellowship center (and for many of you, your official change to the 11:15 service!). Plan on bringing your Building Fund Commitment Cards to church on that day. We will also celebrate our 23rd anniversary as a church and have a big picnic that afternoon!

As you can see, April is without a doubt an incredibly important month in the life of our church! Please be in prayer for your church, your staff, and for all of us as we move into this important time of transition. I am convinced this is going to be a **blessed time** even if it's a difficult time!

Blessed to be your pastor,

Paul

P.S. We have received **\$13,650** of our Annie Armstrong goal of **\$28,500** after the first week of the offering.

55+ Ministries

Ten men and women from the Jubilee 55+ ministry participated in mission work at First Baptist of New Brockton, AL on March 1-2 and March 18-19. These home missionaries from Jubilee served one or all of those days with:

- painting
- repairing sheetrock, outside doors, and the church sign
- replacing floors in the preschool and nursery rooms
- power washing the building and sidewalks

God blessed us as much as them and we were all thankful to serve.



Mike Selby
Administrative Pastor



Book Recommendations

"Visit many good books, but live in the Bible."
- Charles Spurgeon

As your discipleship pastor, one of my primary concerns is that our church be made up of people who live in the Bible. It is my constant prayer that each one of you would be marked by Bible reading, Bible praying, and Bible speaking to one another. This concern is the driving factor for the way in which we structure our worship services: devoting ourselves to the public reading of Scripture, and to preaching the Word (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2). This concern rules my desire for Sunday School classes: that these would be groups of people devoted to examining the Scriptures. And this concern is central to the methodology of discipleship groups, which are simply built around reading through the Bible together.

So, while no book rivals the Bible in terms of spiritual power and supernatural authority, I have come across a number of good books in my Christian walk. The books that I will share with you in this edition of the newsletter and in the months ahead have been of great help to me, and have invariably pushed me back to a deeper devotion to the Scriptures. The ones that will make their way to this column in the newsletter are too good not to share. Consider reading one of them in the next month, and let me know what you think. Swing by our church library and check out a copy, or pick up a copy for yourself on Amazon.



Daniel Murphy
Discipleship Pastor

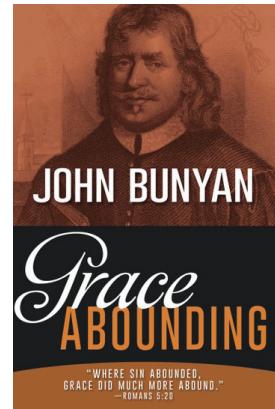
Grace Abounding | *The Spiritual Autobiography of John Bunyan*

This book is a Christian classic for a reason. The seventeenth-century Baptist pastor John Bunyan recounts his own conversion and spiritual journey in this short book, first published in 1666. This book was written during his first imprisonment for preaching in England without a license from the state Anglican Church. He would go on to write another Christian classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, during a later imprisonment.

Grace Abounding struck me because of Bunyan's **honesty** in his spiritual journey. He wrestled mightily with the concept of assurance of salvation: how can I know that I know that I have placed my faith in Christ? So also he wrestled with his own sinfulness before and after his conversion: how could God ever love such a sinful person as me? Afterwards, Bunyan's calling to ministry and to preaching read like an account from the book of Acts. He asks deep, honest questions of God as his wife suffers a deathly illness, all while demonstrating a Spirit-empowered trust in the Lord.

My prayer for those who read this book is that you would be led along by Bunyan's honesty to honestly examine your own standing before Christ, and to wrestle mightily with your own thoughts, emotions, sins, and shortcomings before the God who knows your every circumstance, and provides you with His Holy Spirit's power to endure.

The edition in the library is a modern language edition, which is more readable than the King James English Bunyan wrote in. My copy is a 1959 edition that originally belonged to Clifford Matthews, Paul Matthews' father. It is full of markings and is falling apart. If you purchase a copy for yourself, I hope that yours will eventually look like mine.

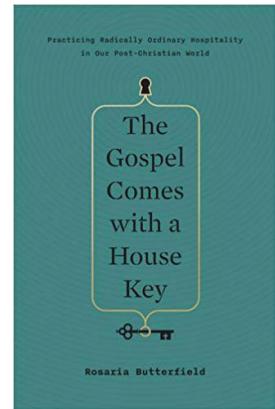


The Gospel Comes With a House Key | Rosaria Butterfield

My second recommendation is a new book (2018) by Rosaria Butterfield. She is well-known for her other writings, which explore her unlikely conversion. Butterfield was a lesbian and professor of women's studies at Syracuse. God used the radically ordinary hospitality of a pastor and his wife in Rosaria's conversion, and Rosaria's repentance and faith has become a testimony to the power of the gospel.

This book will challenge you. It reminds me of when I read the book *Radical* by David Platt. Rosaria's examples of hospitality are indeed "radical", as the subheading of the book suggests. However, there is no denying the power of this radical hospitality in Rosaria's life and in the lives of her neighbors. We are living in a post-Christian world that increasingly promotes isolation and division. Perhaps radically ordinary hospitality is just the thing we need to learn to reach our neighbors in our subdivisions and apartment complexes.

You will disagree with Rosaria as you read. You will likely take issue with some of her stances on issues like immigration, prefer she had phrased some things differently, and question the wisdom and practicality of some of her decisions. You will be challenged and saddened by the stories from her youth, and her time in homosexuality before her conversion. She shares hard stories about her difficult relationship with her family, her experiences with foster children, and a heartbreaking situation with a meth addict across the street. The stories in this book are raw. Still, it is written in a vivid and creative voice. This book is a joy to read, but I should warn you that it is emotionally heavy and mentally challenging.



I don't recommend this book because I agree with everything written in it. I recommend it because I appreciate the **consistency** of Rosaria's life with her **conviction** about what the Bible teaches on hospitality. I think we can all learn from this and use our homes to minister to those around us so that, as Rosaria writes, we begin to see strangers become neighbors and neighbors become family of God through the gospel. If you have ever felt burdened to reach out to your neighbors and to build gospel community in your home, then please pick up a copy of this book.

P. S. I listened to this book on Audible instead of reading it on paper. Rosaria does the narration for her own book. If you listen to the audiobook, towards the end of the book you will be treated by Rosaria's lovely singing voice as she sings the psalms and hymns she sang to her ailing mother.

REPORTS MARCH 2019

	3-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	31-Mar
Worship Attendance	513	592	620	559	601
Sunday School Attendance	404	410	424	415	416
Building Fund	\$3,434.40	\$4,180.00	\$936.29	\$8,125.40	\$1,769.55
Budget Offering	\$36,801.92	\$33,061.82	\$22,673.55	\$41,251.47	\$28,241.73

YEAR TO DATE (AS OF FEBRUARY 2019)

Budget Needs	\$264,493.16
Budget Receipts	\$236,461.75
Budget Expenses	\$221,363.91
Building Fund	\$7,912.95

WEDNESDAY MENU

April 3rd

Poppyseed Chicken
Rice
Green Beans
Salad Bar
Dessert

April 10th

Taco Bar
Rice
Beans
Salad Bar
Dessert

No Meal on April 17th

April 24th

Lasagna
Mixed Vegetables
Garlic Bread
Salad Bar
Dessert

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

- 9:00 & 11:15am
› Morning Worship
10:15am
› Sunday School

Wednesdays

- 5:00pm
› Wednesday Night Meal
6:00pm
› Adult Bible Study
› KIDZ Praise Choir
Wee Praise Preschool Choir
- 6:15pm
› Youth Worship
7:00pm
› Choir & Band Practice

Hours & Info.

Office Hours:

Mon.-Fri., 8am-4pm
(251) 621-7095

KIDZ Center:

(251) 621-3977

Prayer Requests:

jbc.pray4me@gmail.com

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Gene Stovall; Gaines Allen | Building Maintenance