

...MAYE...



## People of Faith



*May 2011*

### **“Now That Easter Is Over”**

It happened every year. Easter came and went. It was the same every year in a couple of big churches I served. Easter Sunday morning found the sanctuary packed, people squeezed into the pews, sitting shoulder to shoulder. The choir was in full voice, belting out soul-stirring anthems they had been rehearsing for months, accompanied by trumpets, drums, violins, piano, and organ. Easter lilies surrounded pulpit and chancel. Even the teenagers, acting as acolyte and crucifer, were actually dressed up for Easter. They looked sharp coming down the aisle in their freshly laundered robes, participants in that long processional, everybody singing “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.” It was wonderful.

Sometimes, though, as I sat there in the pulpit chair taking it all in, waiting for the moment when I would climb into the pulpit to try to preach an Easter sermon equal to the occasion, I would think about Ed Sullivan. Ed Sullivan? Yes, Ed and “The Ed Sullivan Show” that came on TV on Sunday evenings many years ago. Sullivan began each program saying, “Tonight, we have a really big show.”

Those Easter Sunday morning worship services often felt like we were trying to put on “a really big show,” a kind of holy extravaganza so impressive that the crowd would return the next Sunday morning. They never did. By the time I subtracted from the Easter crowd relatives visiting from out of town, and family members from other churches, and those once-a-year Christians, we were back to the normal Sunday morning crowd.

It seemed to be such a let down, as if the air had gone out of the Easter balloon. Which is why the church dubbed the Sunday after Easter as “Low Sunday.” The attendance is low, the anthem is not quite so soul stirring, the brass and strings are gone, the leftover lilies are droopy, and the offering is thin. Low Sunday. Things are back to normal. Easter has come and gone, and we’ll have to wait until next year for another “really big show.”

Low Sunday, however, gives us something to think about. Is Easter ever really over? When I read the Gospels, along with the Book of Acts, I get the sense that Easter is not the end of something; it’s the beginning of something. Easter means that death is not the end of life, but the beginning of a whole new life, not only on the other side of the grave, but on this side of the grave, too. Easter has nothing to do with a packed church on Easter Sunday morning. After all, only two or three people were present at the first Easter. The number of people in the pews does not measure the power of Easter. The power of Easter is that it never ends. Easter goes on and on and on into eternity.

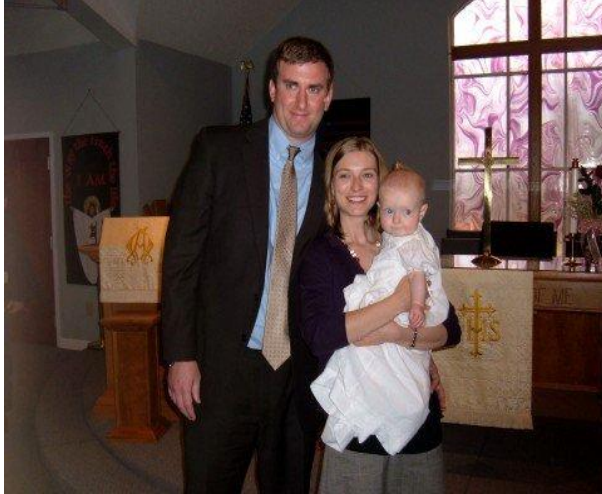
Somewhere I have read that death is not an exit but an entrance into a whole new way of life. That is the power of Easter, and it stirs my soul more than any anthem or trumpet or standing-room-only crowd. It enables me to live this side of the grave undefeated by the unlimited ills of this mortal life.

Because Easter never ends, we go about living our ordinary lives in the confidence of our faith. We go to work, we pay the bills, we get married, we take care of our children, we care for the neighbor, we go to church, and we try to love as much as Jesus asked us to love. And we look forward to the resurrection.

Such is the meaning of life because Easter never ends.

Don

# ***Church News***



## **Baptisms at Faith**

Rev. Don Britt baptized Eleanor Lynn Congdon, infant daughter of Jarrod and Allison Congdon, here at Faith on March 6, 2011.

We look forward to another baptism in May. Elena "Ellie" Allison Barnhill (born 11/5/10) will be presented for the sacrament of Holy Baptism by her parents, Laurie and Jordan Barnhill, on Sunday, 5/15/11.

## ***Upcoming Events at Faith***

- ❖ **Sunday, May 8**      Mother's Day  
Special offering for Epworth Children's Home
- ❖ **Saturday, May 14**      Church workday at Faith, 8:00 am
- ❖ **Sunday, May 15**      Baptism of Elena "Ellie" Allison Barnhill
- ❖ **Sunday, May 22**      Church-wide picnic following worship service  
Please bring side dishes to go with hamburgers and hotdogs. Wear or bring casual clothes to change into.

## **Church Workday at Faith – Saturday, 5/14/11, 8:00 AM**

Please make plans to join us for a church workday on Saturday, 5/14/11, at 8:00 AM. Select the job that suits your talents and bring the needed equipment for that job: paintbrushes, work gloves, hedge clippers, rakes, etc. Bottled water & light snacks will be provided. Please join us – even if you can only spare 1-2 hours! Some of the projects on our "To Do List" include:

- Trim shrubs; plant new shrubs around A/C units down left side; general yard work
- Clean out gutters; repair gutters that are not draining properly
- Paint large SS room (and SS room adjoining kitchen with enough help)
- General church cleaning (inside)

## Lectionary Readings – May

### **May 1, 2011 - [White or Gold] Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16 (UMH 748)  
1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31

### **May 15, 2011 - [White or Gold] Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)  
1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

### **May 29, 2011 - [White or Gold] Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8–20 (UMH 790)  
1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

### **May 8, 2011 - [White or Gold] Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 (UMH 837)  
1 Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35

### **May 22, 2011 - [White or Gold] Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 (UMH 764)  
1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14



### *Monthly Thought*

This month we honor our mothers, the United States celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of putting the *first free man*, Alan Shepard, into Space on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The first amendment of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press & assembly. But, as we all know freedom is not free.

Memorial Day is a day set aside to honor those men who are serving, have served and those who gave their last full measure of devotion for this country, so that we remain free.

In my opinion, our liberty is something, which many of us take for granted. Memorial Day is a day to thank those who protect this liberty. Memorial Day is more than an extra day off from work or for special sales at your favorite shop.

This month and especially on Memorial Day, go out of your way to thank someone who served and those in uniform, for their service to our country. To be sure, remember and offer a special prayer to those families who have a loved one serving across the world.

Memorial Day is a day to remember why the United States of America is free.

If you would like to include your monthly thoughts you may contact me at [bhazzard@sc.rr.com](mailto:bhazzard@sc.rr.com). You may also place your reflection in my mailbox, Bard Hazzard at church.

# Volunteers at Faith – May

Acolyte– Alex Funchess

<b>Altar Flowers</b> 5-01 Nancy Taylor/Schrag Wedding 5-08 Pat White 5-15 Open 5-22 Bill & Donna Hazzard 5-29 Open	<b>Lay Readers</b> 5-01 Andrea Stark 5-08 Bard Hazzard 5-15 Shelly Langston 5-22 Cliff Whisnant 5-29 Kathy Williams	<b>Offering Tellers</b> 5-01 Kathy Beatty & Cheryl Fraylick 5-08 Bob Hamilton & Robie Robertson 5-15 Don Rozier & Wayne Richardson 5-22 Joy Strange & Kathy Williams 5-29 Nancy Taylor & Diane Hamilton
<b>Teachers - Sunday School</b> 5-01 Pat White 5-08 Johnny Chandler 5-15 Sandra Hazzard 5-22 Pat White 5-29 Johnny Chandler	<b>Nursery during Worship</b> 5-01 Pat White 5-08 Abby Strange 5-15 Faye Weimer 5-22 Joy Strange 5-29 Brooke Michael	<b>Ushers</b> 5-01 Angela & Gable Funchess 5-08 Sandra & Bard Hazzard 5-15 Ray Burgess & Trevor Michael 5-22 Don Beatty & Johnny Chandler 5-29 Wanda Himelick & Gable Funchess
<b>Greeters - Worship</b> 5-01 Kathy Williams & Rudie Burgess 5-08 Bill & Donna Hazzard 5-15 Robie & Judy Robertson 5-22 EZ & Shelly Langston 5-29 John Chandler & Wanda Himelick	<b>Wednesday Night Chef</b> 5-04 Pat White 5-11 Evelyn Whisnant 5-18 Trevor Michael 5-25 Abby Strange	<b>Wednesday Bible Study Leader</b> 5-04 Don Britt 5-11 Don Britt 5-18 Don Britt 5-25 Don Britt

## Congratulations & Happy Birthday to

**May 2** – Donne White

**May 4** – John Chandler

**May 7** – Anne Goldie

**May 8** – Happy Mothers Day

**May 10** – Georgia Smith

**May 14** – Diane Hamilton

**May 14** – Joy Strange

**May 14** – Desiree' Jordan

**May 18** – Bard Hazzard

**May 19** – Brain Langston

**May 20** – Austin King

**May 27** – Patrick Jordan

**May 30** – Wanda Himelrick



**Altar Flowers** - If you would like to provide fresh flowers for the Sanctuary on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board near the kitchen. If you would like to include an announcement in the bulletin, please call or email the church office with the information Wednesday before the Sunday you provide flowers.

## Special Wishes to

Bill & Donna Hazzard

They will celebrate their 63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.





Date	Weekday	Event	Time
5-01	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service: [White or Gold] Second Sunday of Easter Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Food Offering for LICs	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
5-04	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Meal – Chef: Pat White Wednesday Night Bible Study: Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
5-08	Sunday	<b>Mothers Day</b> Sunday School: [White or Gold] Third Sunday of Easter Worship Service:	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
5-11	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Meal – Chef: Evelyn Whisnant Wednesday Night Bible Study Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
5-14	Saturday	Faith Work Day	8:00 AM
5-15	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service and Baptism of Elena “Ellie” Barnhill [White or Gold] Fourth Sunday of Easter	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
5-18	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Meal – Chef: Trevor Michael Wednesday Night Bible Study: Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
5-22	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service: [White or Gold] Fifth Sunday of Easter Church Picnic following service (Please bring side dishes to go with hamburgers and hotdogs; wear or bring casual clothes)	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM
5-25	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Meal – Chef: Abby Strange Wednesday Night Bible Study Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
5-29	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service: [White or Gold] Sixth Sunday of Easter Church Picnic following worship service	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM



Faith United Methodist Church  
 5151 Sunset Boulevard  
 Lexington, SC 29072  
 (803) 356-5585  
 Rev. Don Britt, Pastor

### River Deep, Mountain High; Word Search

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mysteru answer*. This will be reveled in the June's Newsletter.

Altar, Ararat, Ark, Balaam, Carmel, Cliff  
 Coast, Dead Sea, Desert, Destruction  
 Egypt, Elim, Euphrates, Flood, Gerizim  
 Gihon, Gilboa, Hill, Jerusalem, Jordan  
 King Herod, Kishon, Masada, Moses  
 Mount Ebal, Mount Hermon, Mount Sinai  
 Naaman, Nile, Peak, Philippi, Pishon  
 Plains, Rain, Red Sea, Rivers, Sea o  
 Arabah, Seir, Spring, Storm, Temple  
 Tigris, Zerubbabel.

A	S	N	R	E	D	S	E	A	L	T	A	R	R	J
E	R	D	O	O	L	F	D	O	I	L	M	N	E	R
L	E	S	I	H	S	A	G	P	S	T	O	R	M	I
I	V	N	O	H	S	I	P	M	K	M	U	S	E	E
M	I	I	N	A	H	I	I	D	R	S	N	I	K	S
O	R	A	M	O	L	Z	K	E	A	P	T	R	I	T
S	M	L	N	I	I	K	H	L	L	A	S	C	N	E
E	U	P	H	R	A	T	E	S	R	I	I	I	G	M
S	T	P	E	E	N	M	C	A	N	L	N	T	H	P
N	S	G	P	U	Z	E	R	U	B	B	A	B	E	L
F	A	J	O	R	D	A	N	O	R	N	I	A	R	E
F	O	M	M	A	A	L	A	B	E	T	N	U	O	M
I	C	D	A	E	G	Y	P	T	R	E	S	E	D	R
L	L	I	H	A	B	A	R	A	F	O	A	E	S	A
C	S	P	R	I	N	G	A	E	S	D	A	D	E	C