



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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REJECTING EASTER

Before you seek to stone me... read on. Easter has always been my favorite service as a pastor/preacher. In the early days of my ministry, we had Sunrise service's every year... sometimes in the graveyard. Believe it or not, Easter was not celebrated as a church holiday for many years in the early church. The early Southern Baptist church leaders rejected Easter as a Holy day, or even a special day. No Sunrise services, no Easter dresses or egg hunts. The same view was held for Christmas. In fact, neither Christmas or Easter was recognized as a special day of worship in any of the historic Baptist confessions; references to them were rare in Baptist history volumes before the 20th century; and both holidays possessed an association with worldliness, and even paganism, in the minds of many Baptist ministers. Even as late as 1903, a writer for the North Carolina state Baptist paper, the Biblical Recorder, wrote an anti-Easter article that stated that **"Baptists do not keep this day"** (March 18, 1903).

By the late 1800s, some Southern Baptist churches began celebrating Easter in their services. Articles and advertisements in state Baptist papers acknowledged that some Baptist churches celebrated the holiday; others decorated their churches with Easter lilies; and sheet music for Easter was advertised for sale. Nonetheless, most articles in the state Baptist papers of this era were against celebrating Easter. One writer for the Kentucky state Baptist paper, the Western Recorder, in 1890 called the new custom of celebrating Easter in Baptist churches an *"innovation,"* and he disapproved of that development. Contributing authors in the Baptist state papers in Alabama and North Carolina also acknowledged their opposition to celebrating Easter, addressing their concerns to fellow Baptists who were beginning to recognize the holiday. After 1900 the more vehement opposition to Easter slowly faded in the state Baptist papers.

In America, the congregation of Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina has been having Easter Sunrise Services since 1772 and has done so every year since. Homer Rodeheaver became the music leader for the famed evangelist Billy Sunday in 1910. Rodeheaver joined the Billy Sunday Crusades and boosted the preacher's services with joyful music that endeared him to the various audiences. During the peak of Sunday's popularity his music director led the nation's largest choruses which at one time had hundreds of singers.

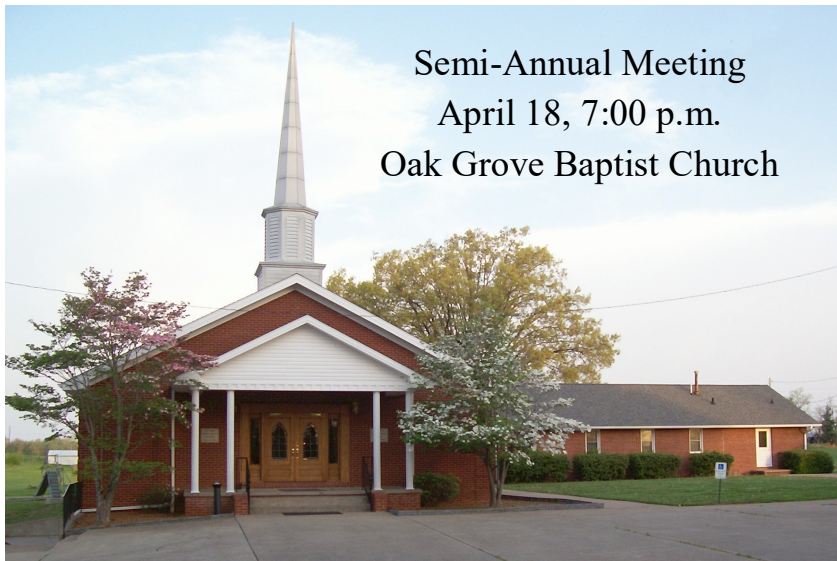
As I said earlier, Easter is my favorite of all special days in the church. I am often reminded of a sermon I heard Dr. Adrian Rogers preach many years ago. The title was *"What if there had been no Easter?"* He used **1 Corinthians 15** but with an emphasis on **verse 17**, *"And if Christ be not raised your faith is vain and ye are yet in your sins."*

Allow me to close with a story Dr. Rogers shared in the message... The young wife of pastor had passed away rather suddenly. The couple had a little preschool boy and the father brought him to the funeral home to see the body of his mother. The lady had been embalmed and looked as beautifully as she had in life. The little boy looked at his mother and the dad tried to explain to him this inexplicable thing called death and to tell the little boy that they would not see mommy again until they saw mommy in heaven. The little boy couldn't understand death; he wasn't familiar with death. He said, "No daddy, you're wrong. Mommy is just asleep. I've seen her like that plenty of times. She's asleep. She can wake up." And then he began to say, "Wake up mommy, wake up mommy, mommy, wake up, wake up mommy." And with tears that pastor put his hand on the shoulder of that little preschool boy and said, "Son, you can't wake her up, but when Jesus comes, he'll wake her up."

Listen Folks, because of Easter, one day the Lord Jesus Christ will do just that. *"The dead in Christ shall rise first and we which remain and are alive shall be caught up dear friend to meet the Lord in the air."*

In Chris Service,
Bro. Bobby





Semi-Annual Meeting
April 18, 7:00 p.m.
Oak Grove Baptist Church



Vacation Bible School Clinic
April 28, 6:30 p.m.
East Cadiz Baptist Church

Led by: Matt Flanigan, KBC Children & Student
Ministry Consultant



April Calendar of Events

- 4-8-Spring Break
- 10-Associational Bible Drills, 2:00 p.m. (Liberty Point)
- 10-13-Revival Services (Blue Spring BC)
- 15-Good Friday (Office Closed)
- 17-Easter Sunday
- 17- Sunrise Service, (Canton BC), 7:00 a.m.
- 18- Semi-Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Oak Grove BC)
- 28-VBS Clinic, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (East Cadiz BC)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	204.61	
Blue Spring	1,597.06	
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	947.36	
Canton	738.80	250.00
Cerulean	417.00	
Crossroads	0	
Delmont	258.42	
Donaldson Creek	698.32	
East Cadiz	698.40	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	1,139.61	
Locust Grove	871.00	
Maple Grove	400.00	
New Hope	169.00	
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	134.94	
Ponderosa	1,221.28	
Rock Front	0	
Rocky Ridge	253.00	
South Union	163.95	
Wallonia	0	
Misc. Income	1,100.00	500.00
Total	11,459.75	750.00
		12,209.75

Interest NOW Acc.	3.69	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mev Fredenburg Assoc. Missions Fund		500.00
Building Maintenance Fund		

Subtotals	11,463.44	750.00
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Total income		\$12,213.44
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Monthly expense		\$19,982.93
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Regular Fund

Beginning Balance	39,987.68
Interest Received	3.69
Gifts	11,481.58
Trans- Contingency Fund	(100.00)
Trans- OMC	
Trans- Building Maintenance Fund	(100.00)
Trans- Mev Fredenburg Fund	
Expense Checks Written	(8,484.85)
Ending Balance	\$42,788.10

Treasurer: Louise Fuller 3/25/22



Mary Ann Johnson- 4/6
Nicholas Clark- 4/30