

*Pfafftown Baptist Church is on mission to serve God by sharing joyful life and displaying love with our greater community.*

# Pfafftown

## Baptist Church



April 2016

## PBCConnections

### The Puzzles We Are



It's early Easter Monday morning and I'm sitting at my computer reflecting on the whole Easter experience. It seems like a tsunami of emotions. I have a recurring image in my mind I cannot escape, so maybe God is telling me to share it with you. I'll listen.

The first image is a puzzle, literally. Some of you may know I like puzzles, specifically old Springbok puzzles from the 60's. It was a golden age for puzzles that has never been matched, so I occasionally purchase one from Ebay.

A number of years ago I purchased a very collectable one. It's red. That's all, red, and round. The rows are concentric circles, and devilishly hard. Kim and I began this puzzle about

four years ago. It took a while to get the border, which should give you an indication of the severity of the puzzle. From there things have gone downhill. We worked with vigor for a while, if looking and failing can be called working.

The puzzle is so hard I made a puzzle keeper out of a carpet center roll and a ton of felt. We put the puzzle on the keeper and now we roll it out when we feel defeatist. Four years on now we have completed the second circle row and have about the third one halfway finished. Lest you think we are slackers I will let **ANYone** come **ANYtime** and take a go at it. You too will see the abundant joy in *getting one or two pieces done in an hour*. Truly.

Where do you find yourself in the Easter story? We have many characters from which to choose; *they look like the expanse of humanity*. There are the disciples, all twelve of them: hardheaded, dense, selfish, confused, lazy, etc. There is the crowd: fickle and easily swayed. There are the opponents of Jesus: determined, committed, yet slightly skewed. There are the power brokers, and there are the lovers, primarily the Mary's.

If only life were so simply discernable (round pegs in round holes, square pegs in square holes) we might have perfected community and faith in geometry class. The minute we try to put ourselves in a round hole we turn square, or

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Puzzle...* (continued from page 1)

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triangle, or octagonal. *Our efforts are worse when we try to peg other persons.* Any effort to select a character in the Easter story to play our part is a failing effort. **We play our own part.**

Which brings me back to the puzzle, my red one. I make it through the Easter season every year and the joy of acceptance and forgiveness and connection fade in a few days. Pretty quickly I'm back to being a mess, an ever changing piece, a dastardly difficult puzzle for even God. How about you?

*My puzzle reminds me that God never puts us in a corner.* God never forgets about us. God never leaves us untouched for a week, month or year because of our challenge. God is constantly at work on us, never consigning us to the land of forgotten, neglected, abused, or lost. I may lose patience with my puzzle, but God never loses patience with me, or you.

That's the image of Easter that sticks with me these years. *God reached into a world beset by neglect, forgetfulness, abuse and loss and began a new work in Jesus.* Though we may never be completed that is because of our own challenges. Our redemptive Savior sees the beautiful end product in us and works in mysterious ways to see us through to completion. It is not our challenge that matters; God's commitment is the story.

I have in mind a puzzle; God has in mind a picture. Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed. That's not just the story; that's the picture. Those are my Easter "take-aways". I hope you had a great experience of the resurrection, too.

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*Like the voice that shouts into the canyon seeking an echo, is there one to be heard here? Connect with me and let me know what you think. It matters to me!*

[pbcpastor@windstream.net](mailto:pbcpastor@windstream.net)

## UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

Apr 1 .....Caswell Deposits Due  
Apr 2 ..... Men's Breakfast  
Apr 9 .....Yard Sale Pick-up Day  
Apr 11 .....WMU Night Group  
Apr 12 ..... WMU Day Group  
Apr 17 .....Newsletter Deadline  
Apr 17.....Deacons' Meeting  
Apr 21 ..... Single Seniors Lunch  
Apr 24.....Children's Sunday  
Apr 24 ..... Business Meeting  
Apr 24 ....Youth Lunch Fundraiser



The Baptist Women will be hosting  
**a Blood Drive on Sunday,  
June 12 from 1:30-6 pm**

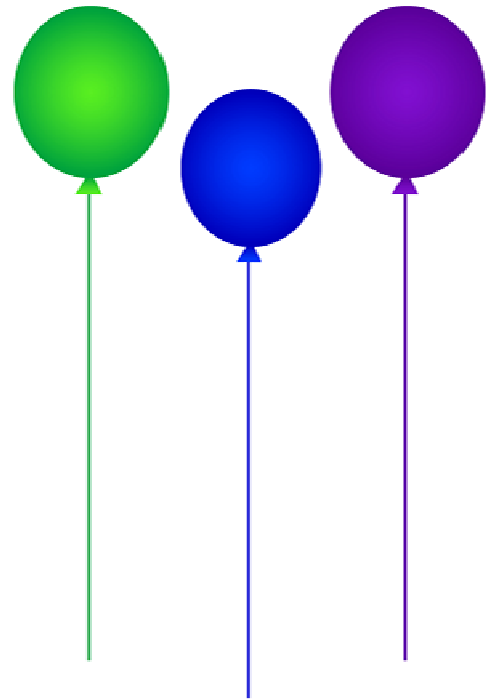
as one of our monthly Mission projects. We ask that anyone wanting to volunteer to work or give blood, please sign up in your Sunday School class or in the foyer. Donations of canned drinks, individual packages of cookies, and individual packages of snack crackers will be accepted in the Fellowship Hall for the next four weeks. Thank you for your support and your prayers!

# Children & Youth



Thank you for supporting the Youth's Pine Needle Fundraiser. On Saturday, March 19th, nearly 20 youth and adults delivered close to 500 bales of pine needles around the community! This goes a long way to help support our summer camp experiences.

**Thank you for all you do to support our Youth.**



## Youth Yard and Bake Sale Fundraiser

Saturday, May 14  
7:00am - Noon

We need your help! We have a great location and many helping hands, so all we need is great stuff to sell. So let's get those garages, attics, and closets cleaned out in time for spring. We need clothes, books, toys, furniture, knick knacks, etc. You name it, we want it! All donations will be stored in the lower level of the C building until the sale. **Below are the following times that the church will be specifically open for you to drop off donations:**

**Tues - 9 AM- 11 AM, Wed - 5:30 PM-8 PM**

**Sun - 9 AM - 12 PM and 3 PM- 4 PM**

Additionally, our youth will have a "pick-up" day on April 9th at 10 AM to pick up any large items that you would not be able to bring by yourself. Please contact Alyssa Botte ([pbcbstudents@windstream.net](mailto:pbcbstudents@windstream.net)) with your address and what item we will be picking up if you would like your name on that list. Thank you for partnering with us in this endeavor!

## Youth Lunch Fundraiser

**Sunday, April 24th**

Following Worship and preceding the quarterly Church Conference

Make Plans to Attend!



Mark Your Calendars!

**Sunday, April 24**

**Children's Sunday**

Come and share in worship led by our children as they share what they've learned this year!



# Displaying Love with Our Greater Community

On Saturday, March 12, 7 youth, 1 college student and 4 adults spent their Saturday morning doing work at Second Harvest Food Bank. They were joined by members of Walnut Cove Christian Church in their efforts to live out their faith in a real way. Thank you to all who participated.



## Easter SonRose at Pfafftown





**N**othing thrills me more than a big program coming together. I'm so thankful to our singers, ringers and other instrumentalists who helped with this special Easter program!

A March Easter is always odd for the rest of the Spring. Instead of prepping for a big presentation with the choir and handbells in April, we're now looking at a more relaxed but still motivated schedule. There's only one problem. We need more singers on a regular basis to continue to sing the anthems we have in the past.

*While we'd love to fill the loft, we don't need a lot of additions to maintain status quo. We definitely need at least 1 or 2 women (or young women, TEENS). We could also use at least another man or 2. How can you help?*

**First of all**, if you can sing yourself, why not come and experience it yourself?! We're still meeting on Wednesdays at 7:15, and singing on most Sundays.

**The second way you can help** is to think of who you know that sings and is either not in a church, or in a church without a choir and needing an outlet. *Youth and adults, please invite people to sing with us.* If we don't fill this need, we're still going to have a good choir and can sing regularly, but the types of anthems we sing will not resemble what we did at Easter. Help us dream big, and sing big!

**UPCOMING:** Children's Sunday featuring the children's choirs and handchimes, **April 24.**

Thanks in advance to Carolyn, the children and all their hard work!

In Christ,  
David

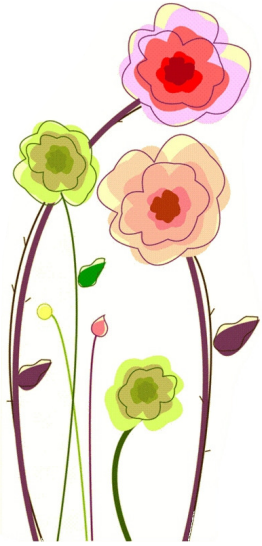


Missionaries to Guinea, West Africa, **Gregg and Amy Freese**, spoke to the Night and Day WMU groups in March. They shared their story and about their mission work in Guinea. They have been on stateside assignment for about 9 months and will be returning to Guinea in April.

#### **How can you pray for them?**

- ⇒ They are returning to Africa for the first time without their 3 children. Two are in college at Liberty University and the third has started a new teaching job in Virginia.
- ⇒ They are transitioning to new jobs on the mission field.
- ⇒ They are probably moving to a new home when they return.

Gregg and Amy are the son and daughter-in-law of Mary Freese.



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Anne DeHart ..... Apr 5  
 Vermell Salmons ..... Apr 5  
 Becky Pegram.....Apr 7  
 Shorty Morgan..... Apr 8  
 John Holbrook..... Apr 13  
 Gracie Sizemore ..... Apr 14  
 Dalton Caffey ..... Apr 16  
 Marissa Johnson ..... Apr 16

Ed Fowler ..... Apr 17  
 Lindsay Carpenter ..... Apr 18  
 Owen Bounds..... Apr 19  
 Tom Bos ..... Apr 29  
 Alyssa Botte..... Apr 30

## April Missions Meetings

Baptist Men's Breakfast - April 2 @ 8:00am

Night WMU Group - April 11 @ 6:30pm  
~Bring items for Family Services Mission Project!

Day WMU Group - April 12 @ 9:30am

**All groups meet in the Fellowship Hall.**

## April's Item

Wash Cloths



## College Student of the Month

Sarah Rierson – UNC at Chapel Hill  
 2 Cobb Terrace  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
 e-mail: srierson@live.unc.edu

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