

Saint Rebecca P. B. Church

The Echo

April 2025

Vol. 33 No. 4

330 Grimwood Road
Hazel Green, AL 35750

256.828.5304

strebeccaoffice@gmail.com

Inside this Issue

Recognition	2
Love the Children	3
Pink Tea Held	3
Praise Team Serves	4
5th Sunday Worship	4
Brotherhood Event	5
Notice	5
Recipe Corner	6
Did You Know	6
Happy Birthday	7
Christian Humor	7
Puzzle Fun	8

*Lord, you are my God; I will exalt
you and praise your name, for in
perfect faithfulness you have done
wonderful things, things
planned long ago.
Isaiah 25:1*

Pastor's Pen

Why is Easter Important?

“With less than 2 weeks until Easter, many Christians are thinking of how to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet despite this, there are many more Christians who view Easter as just another day of the year, just another government holiday where they don’t have to work, where they get the day off of school, or as a day where they get to eat extra candy from the Easter bunny. Why does this happen? Why do some people no longer view Easter as important to them? Why do some people view Easter as just another day of the year?”

There are times when it is difficult to be a Christian in the modern world. There are times when we all struggle with our faith. I’m going to put the idea of Easter into context, to try to explain why it is important for us as Christians to celebrate Easter as one of, if not, the, most important holy days in Christianity. Potentially even more important than Christmas.

The single reason why Easter was and is so important to Christianity is because it is the center of our faith and religion, and the basis of our identity as Christians. Sure, Jesus’ birth is important, as is His ascension. But none of them saved us from our sins. Jesus’ birth is only in two of the Gospels, the ascension in another two and Acts. Yet, you know what is mentioned in every single gospel, and is the focus of each gospel? Not Jesus’ birth, not even Jesus’ teachings (though these are quite important), but Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is so important that it was seen as the cornerstone for Christianity, the rock upon which the early Church was built.

Every single Christian should view Easter as the most important event of the year. And we should not be afraid of viewing Easter this way. As Paul says in Romans 1:16, I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes-the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News is that Christ died on the cross for all of humanity, not just the Jews, but also the Gentiles that their sins may be redeemed if they believe in Him, that they will have everlasting life. If Paul is not ashamed of the Good News of Christ, then why are we? Why should we not be out celebrating Easter as if it is the most important holiday of the year? Because it is. Easter is the most important holiday of the year for us as Christians”.

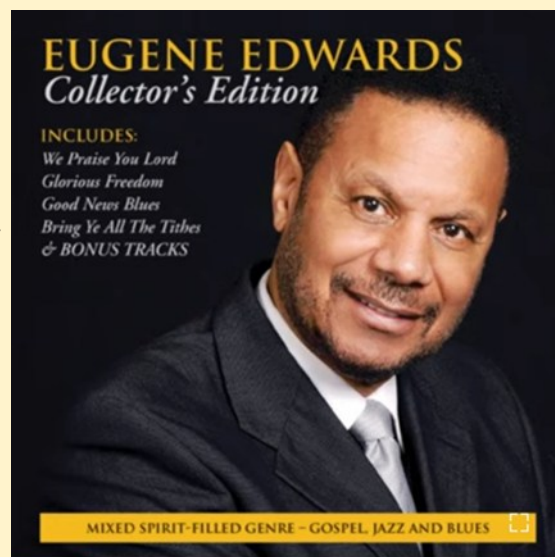
A Deserved Honor and Recognition

The national equivalent of an Oscar type award for the mixed category of contributions to Rocket Science, Music, Humanitarianism, and Next Generation Development was given to Rev. Dr. Eugene Edwards, Founder, Pastoral Leader, and/Chief Executive Officer, of Save The Youth Incorporated (STYInc). The STYInc organization is an IRS certified non-profit ministry that provides oversight for education, youth programs, and parental counseling.

Dr. Edwards was recognized for his many patents/inventions, numerous journal papers, co-author of two books on Nanotechnology; in addition to his national “Collector’s Edition” musical album (<https://www.amazon.com/Eugene-Edwards-Collectors/dp/B082WZTNQZ>), or <https://open.spotify.com/album/5jKFFY5CY6LT6LM3hniGSm> or Apple Music, or Pandora, etc . . .); along with his humanitarian dedication/innovation that contribute to the vitality of communities and the success of public sector volunteer initiatives.

Dr. Edwards is available, FREE OF CHARGE, to appear at your event and/or for your organization (including school, church, Pan-Hellenic group, and/or community entity).

For bookings, simply send a short E-Mail to STYBessemer@gmail.com or call Ms. Earnestine Williams (STYInc Executive Director) at (205)434-0873.



Tax-deductible donations can be made at <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1927173>. Dr. Edwards is the Founder, Pastoral Leader, and/Chief Executive Officer for Save The Youth Incorporated, a non-profit ministry where he provides oversight for education, youth programs, and parental counseling.

Dr. Edwards has many patents/inventions; numerous journal papers; and was co-author of two books on Nanotechnology.

Dr. Edwards is a Gospel Recording Artist that was formerly with both Showtime Records and Four Winds Records.

He received his B.S. Degree from Alabama A&M University and later completed his graduate work at Howard University (same school as Richard Smallwood) with studies in both Electrical Engineering & Vocal Music.

Dr. Edwards has made appearances with Walter Hawkins, the Mississippi Mass Choir, Dottie Peoples, Luther Barnes, the Mighty Clouds of Joy, Edwin Hawkins, The Platters, Michael Bolton, Southern Gospel Artist Aaron Wilburn, and many others.

Congratulations are extended to Dr. Edwards from your Saint Rebecca Family. Your work in the community and surrounding cities is commendable. You are especially commended for the dedication and love you have for the youth.

She Loves the Little Ones

Minister Janice Parker does everything with the mindset of pleasing the Lord. Colossians 3:23-24 says “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

In November 2024, Minister Parker (known by her little ones as Ms. Janice) was blessed to see 25 years at NASA's Child Development Center. God has led and directed her path. Since starting her rewarding career at NASA, she has been an infant teacher. The biggest blessing is some of her babies are now teachers at her center. God will truly give you fruits of your labor.



Management honored Ms. Janice at a staff meeting. All of her peers honored her with a standing ovation. Management presented Ms. Janice with a Crystal Plaque engraved and a Twenty-five-year Certificate, along with a monetary gift. Ms. Janice's quote is “If you love your job you will do a great job!”

When she started working there, her intention was to work three years and leave, but God's plan was different and now she has more than twenty years vested in something that she loves to do. Minister Parker thanks and praises God, for allowing her allowing her to have good health and for providing the opportunity to work. Most of all she acknowledges that Jesus is the light that shines in her.

Congratulations and much love are extended from your family and church family. Those little ones need someone with a genuine love to care for them, and that's you. May God continue to bless you to represent Him.



Mallard Creek Pink Tea

The Mallard Creek Pink Tea was held on March 16, 2025 at St. Rebecca - hosted by New Zion Baptist Church. Pastor Joshua Crutcher gave the message from Joshua 6: 8-11. The text was Shouting Your Way Through. The House of Hope and Restoration provided the song service.

Sister Lameka Crutcher of New Zion Baptist Church, was the first place winner, Sister Kay Miller of St. Rebecca placed second and Sister Deborah Patterson of Fletcher's Chapel placed third. We had seven churches to participate, raising over six thousand dollars for the Pink Tea Scholarship fund.

A delicious lunch was provided by New Zion Baptist Church and they expressed their appreciation to St. Rebecca for opening our doors to them to allow them to host the Tea.

Sister Kay Miller thanks all the members who participated and gave a donation toward the Pink Tea for St. Rebecca. She appreciates each of you and your dedication to the cause. The Association is grateful to everyone who continues to keep this fund raising tradition viable. Scholarships are provided to deserving students who have educational goals that will lead to their success. Congratulations on a job very well done.

Praise Him Out Loud

Don't praise Him silently, praise Him openly and verbally. There is something powerful about hearing our own voice praise and worship the Lord. When fear and worry raise their ugly heads use them as reminders to praise the Lord.

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving". God's grace gives us the ability to praise and thank Him in the middle of our most severe afflictions. Our praise perspective sees and receives the Lord's love above our adversity.

Praise Team Serves

The Praise Team worshiped with Saint John AME Church on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. as they celebrated their Lenten Revival. God smiled on their music ministry and allowed them to usher in the Holy Spirit.

The Guest Evangelist was Rev. Dr. Terrence Gray, Pastor, St. Mark AME Church in Orlanda Florida. He brought an amazing message from Acts 12:5, 2. The sermon topic was "Let's Go Crazy". He stated that we all must focus on things that will strengthen our personal growth with God. We must learn how to talk to God on our good days so we won't have to worry on the bad days. Let's see what happens when we pray. While we are praying, God goes to work. Sometimes the church is praying but we are acting like we



don't believe our prayers will be answered. Don't try to measure God's ability by our capability.

Pastor Gray urged everyone to get up from what has you bound. When you are down you become attached to what holds you down. When Peter was told to get up by the Angel, his chains immediately fell off. God will shake that stuff off you.

Don't come to church naked...naked without a helmet of salvation, our sword and feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel. When we enter with the right clothes on, we can pull them off at the door and put on our garments of praise. Let us focus on our prayer life so we can keep in step with God, for we do not walk by sight but by faith. Start believing that what we are praying for will come to pass. The church commends the Praise Team on your willingness to serve and minister. Continue obeying the call of God.

Fifth Sunday Worship

The fifth Sunday worship, as usual, made room for the youth to exercise their spiritual gifts. The Youth Choir provided the song ministry, and from beginning to end, God allowed His Spirit to flow. They sang with excitement and love for God. Each selection was geared toward how good God is and how important He is in their lives. It is wonderful to see the youngest to the oldest do solo parts in the songs. To those who are working with them, keep doing what you're doing.

Minister Sandra Richardson, from Pine Grove, was the guest speaker for the morning. The message was taken from Psalm 27:1-4 and the topic was "Help in Time of Trouble." She lifted up that we are all in desperate need to inhale and exhale. In this society, people are confused and don't know what to do.

No matter how dark it looks, no matter what it looks like, no matter how dark it seems to be, nothing and nobody can stop God from doing what He wants to do. Tell CNN, Fox News, or NBC that God cannot be stopped. We must strive everyday to keep hope alive. This is not the time to get discouraged and throw in the towel. Everyone is dealing with something. Despite it all, keep looking higher and moving together as one. If we're going to struggle, we might as well struggle together. Remind each other that at the end of the day, everything will turn around. No one is exempt from tough times. The only way to make it is to keep a foundational relationship with God.



Mallard Creek Brotherhood

The Mallard Creek Brotherhood Breakfast was held on March 22, 2025 at Taylor's Chapel on Stringfield Road at 8:00 a.m. The fellowship was an enjoyable event and a time for the brothers from various churches to bond. The guest speaker was Minister Jeremiah Provost, Fellowship of Faith, who is also a freshman from Alabama A&M University.. He spoke boldly from 1 Peter 3:8-12 about Have Unity in Mind for Brotherly Love. He lifted up that one should not repay evil for evil. In order to do the business of God, you have to be called. He encourage the attendees to know that there is security in Christ for any situation faced. Believers can obtain peace by seeking peace in Him. We are righteous because Jesus died for us. Therefore, we should confess Christ, choose Christ, and trust in God with every fiber of our being.



The brothers of Taylor's Chapel prepared and served a tasty breakfast with all of the fixings. The Mallard Creek Brotherhood is grateful for the outpouring of love and the welcoming spirit in which everyone was extended. The event was filled with the Spirit of God. He smiled on every facet of the fellowship. Saint Rebecca was fortunate to have 8 brothers and Pastor Clark in attendance. The brothers look forward to the next fellowship

Notice

- ◆ Looking ahead to April, Deacons J. L. Graham, Joe Bellamy and Brent Thompson are your security contacts for the month. Please reach out to them for your scheduled activities.
- ◆ Join us for our Easter Weekend Jamboree Celebration, starting on Good Friday with a drama presentation, "What Your Mercy Did For Me". On Saturday afternoon we will have our Easter Egg Hunt with food, fun and games to include a petting zoo, moon bounce and much more. We will climax with Morning Worship on Resurrection Sunday, with Rev. Nicholas Gladys from St. Bartley P. B. Church as our guest preacher. Fliers are available in the lobby with additional details. Members are also asked to donate candy filled eggs, Easter Baskets and gift cards for the Saturday event.
- ◆ Drama rehearsals are being held immediately following Morning Worship on Sundays and on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Members are asked to hold on to the nice usable items that you have. Those things will be needed for the Fall Come and Get it Day. Sister Eunice Townsend and the Food Pantry Ministry thank you for being so generous in giving for the upcoming Spring event. Your willingness to help others is appreciated.
- ◆ Silver Jewel 508 is conducting a girl's workshop on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. for girls ages 5-17 to be held at the Board of Realtors located at 535 Monroe Street. Guest speakers will address issues that affect our girls such as: self-defense, good health, money management and many more. Lunch and snacks will be provided. See any member for additional information.
- ◆ Reminder...Summer Camp applications for Kid's Kingdom will be available starting April 6th. See Sister Kay Miller for additional details.

Recipe Corner

Stuffed Bell Peppers

If you're looking for a way to add some color and variety to a simple meal, this is it. This dish contains vegetable, meat and a starch—all in one. To enhance the flavor, add a dash of onion/garlic powder to the meat. Try this recipe and simply enjoy.

Ingredients:

6 bell peppers, any color
4 tablespoons olive oil, plus more for drizzling
8 ounces lean ground beef or ground turkey
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 onion, finely diced
2 cloves garlic, chopped

1 medium zucchini, finely diced
4 Roma tomatoes, seeded and finely diced
Red pepper flakes, as needed
1 cup cooked long-grain and wild rice
1 1/2 cups grated pepper jack cheese

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Cut the tops off the peppers, Remove and discard the stems, then finely chop the tops; set aside. Scoop out the seeds and as much of the membrane as you can. Place the peppers cut-side up in a baking dish just large enough to hold them upright.

Heat 2 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the beef/turkey, season with salt and pepper and cook, breaking up the lumps, until the meat is cooked through and just beginning to brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove to a paper towel-lined plate to get rid of the fat.

Wipe out the skillet and add the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil. Add the onions and clopped peppers and cook until beginning to soften, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and zucchini and cook for another minute. Add the tomatoes and season with salt and a pinch or 2 of red pepper flakes. Cook until everything is heated through, then stir in the beef/turkey and rice. Taste and adjust the seasoning as needed. Stir in 1 cup of the cheese.

Fill the peppers with the rice mixture and top each with a sprinkle of the remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Pour a small amount of water into the bottom of the baking dish and drizzle the peppers with a little olive oil. Cover with foil and bake for 40 minutes. Uncover and bake until the peppers are soft and the cheese is melted and lightly browned, about 15-20 minutes.



Did You Know?

In order to comply with the Federal REAL ID Act, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency developed the STAR ID program. STAR ID is a step beyond an ordinary Alabama driver's license or non-driver identification card, and it meets all the requirements of federal law.

Effective May 7, 2025, every air traveler will need a REAL ID compliant license/ID (STAR ID) or another form of identification for domestic air travel. (See TSA's website for a full list of acceptable identification for domestic air travel.)

In order to add the STAR to an Alabama license or ID, applicants must present four documents to verify identity/date of birth, Social Security number, and address of principal residence. All documents must bear the same name. Check with the local DMV to set up an appointment to get your STAR ID.



Birthdays/Anniversary

Birthdays are special. Happy birthday and anniversary wishes are extended from your church family.

Minister April Sanderfer 1st
Sherika Thompson 1st
Rosie Hampton 2nd
Elizabeth Garner Anthony 2nd
Bertha Cook 4th
Veronica Garner 5th
Karol Hersey 5th
Jessie Humphrey 5th
Audice Patton 5th
Yachte McGrady 6th
DeMaurez Jamal Garner 6th
Yvonne Garner Frazier 8th
Velma Garner 8th
Erykah Parker 9th
Valeria Pruitt 10th
Wanda Garner 13th
Wendy Johnson 14th
Hazel Hereford 15th
Kay Miller 17th
Courtney M. Thompson 17th
Delilah Mack 18th
Jermaine Garner 19th
Deacon Ronny Garner 21st
Deacon Tommy Graham 21st
Mother Doris Peavy 21st
Jalen Green 23rd
Taylynn Stewart 23rd
Jerrell Bone 26th
Deacon J. L. Graham 26th
Gabriel Logan Garner 28th
Jo Ann Haggart 30th
Minister Remarcus Collins 30th

Happy Anniversary

An anniversary represents another year of togetherness and love for a couple. The church wishes each of you celebrating this month a blessed day.

Dea. Tommy & Mo. Mary Graham 25th
Spence & Jessica Townsend 26th

Christian Humor

Realizing that their home just wasn't big enough with the new baby in the house, Little Johnny's parents discussed moving to a bigger one. Little Johnny sat patiently listening to his parents, then piped in, "It's no use. He'll just follow us anyway."

A mother was telling her little girl what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

My friend, Carolyn, was frustrated by how often her four-year-old son, Brian, was getting dirty playing outside. At wit's end, she finally said, "Brian, can't you play someplace where it's cleaner?" "If God didn't want us to play in the dirt," Brian logically said, "why did he make so much of it?"

Another three-year old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Son, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. I KNOW they're my feet."

On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

A woman customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer. Tech support: Are you running it under windows?

Customer: "No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine."

A police car pulls up in front of grandma Bessie's house, and grandpa Morris gets out. The polite policeman explained that this elderly gentleman said that he was lost in the park and couldn't find his way home. "Oh Morris", said grandma, "You've been going to that park for over 30 years! How could you get lost?" Leaning close to grandma, so that the policeman couldn't hear, Morris whispered, "I wasn't lost. I was just too tired to walk home."

PUZZLE FUN

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

Search List

APRIL FOOLS DAY
APRIL SHOWERS
BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES
CHERRY BLOSSOMS
CHOCOLATE BUNNY
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION

EARTH DAY
EASTER PARADE
GETHSEMANE
GOOD FRIDAY
HIGH SCHOOL PROMS
JELLYBEANS
LAMB OF GOD

PALM SUNDAY
PASSOVER
PLANTING TIME
REDEEMER
SACRAMENT
SPRING CLEANING
WORLD BOOK DAY