



The Echo



Saint Rebecca P. B. Church
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Pastor's Pen

A Mother's Prayer For Her Child

"Lord help me to know the truth.....Plant Your Truth in my Child's Heart

Lord, cleanse me and make my heart right before You.....Make my child quick to confess wrongdoing to you

Lord, show me the truth about myself...Help my child to never allow secret sin

Lord, help me to be a forgiving person....Teach my child to forgive quickly

Lord, give me wisdom to make right decisions...Give my child great wisdom

Lord, teach me to walk in obedience to your ways...Lord give my child a heart that desires to obey

Lord, help me understand your purpose for me...Give my child a sense of purpose

Lord, strengthen me to stand against the enemy...Break down ungodly strongholds threatening my child

Lord, go before me as a shield...Be my child's protector

Lord, transform my thoughts so they glorify you....Fill my child's mind with Godly thoughts

Lord, take me deeper in your word...Teach my child to know more about you

Lord, help me put my life in right order....Teach my child to establish Godly priorities

Lord, help me to cleanse my house....Fill my child's room with your presence

Lord, prepare me to be a true worshipper....Train my child to be a grateful worshipper.

Lord, show me the gifts you have put in me....Reveal my child's gifts and talents

Lord, establish the work of my hands....may my child's life work glorify you

Lord, enable me to bear the fruit of Your Spirit...Fill my child's heart with Hope, Peace, and Joy. Amen."

90 Years Young

Sister Velma “Tot” Garner celebrated in style. This 90-year young lady was treated to a birthday party on Sunday, April 6, 2025 in the church’s fellowship hall. It wasn’t quite a surprise since it’s hard to keep a secret from someone of her years and wisdom.

She was surrounded by so much love with her siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and church members. Tot enjoyed musical selections by her nephews (The Graham Brothers) along with other members who volunteered to sing with them. They dedicated songs to her such as Lord I Know You Been So Good, Doors of Progress, and After While. Sister Eunice Townsend chimed in with the song If You Need Him and Mother Bettye Thompson with The Lord Is My Shepherd. Although it was a birthday celebration, the Spirit of the Lord visited the place.

Following a magnificent meal, Tot was showered with tributes. A special tribute came for her niece, Crystal Martin in Texas. She called in to tell Tot how much she appreciates everything she did for her as a child. Other tributes came from the audience mostly thanking her for being the world’s best babysitter. Tot has provided so much help to parents who needed a good, loving place for their children to go while they worked. They knew that Tot was a safe haven and their children would be well taken care of and well spoiled.

Thank you, Tot, for just being the child of God that you are and for walking into your calling as one who loves children. Tot thanks everyone that made her celebration special. She is grateful for the photo wall where she was able to take individual pictures with her family. One photo to be cherished was taken with

Sister Jennie V. Garner. These two young ladies are the most seasoned members of the congregation.

Tot, your church family thinks 90 looks better than good on you. May God continue to keep you in his loving care and shower you with His grace.



Let's Celebrate!

Sister Karol Hersey knows how to celebrate her birthday while having family close by. On April 5, 2025, she enjoyed her 68th birthday. Karol organized an afternoon of fun and fellowship for her maternal first cousins at Top Golf. The family showed off their golfing skills or their lack thereof. As one would expect, the men wanted to form their own team and there was some bragging and daring happening. Some of the ladies were very good and made a couple of holes in one.

The group had a private room and three bays. She provided a varied buffet of delicious snacks, beverages and desserts. Everyone didn't play golf, so they were able to see those who played



as they enjoyed a climate-controlled room. Before leaving, all the cousins took a group picture. They thoroughly enjoyed being together to laugh and have fun for such a happy occasion. Karol gave each family a picture of the five parents that started that generation of the first cousins. This is a memento that can be kept and passed down to future generations.

Karol thanks everyone who attended and helped to make her day even more special. She is grateful to her husband, Roosevelt, her daughter, Tiffani and her niece Merisha for all they did to ensure that the event went well. Happy birthday Karol and may God bless you to have many more.



Mothers Need Jesus

“Motherhood reveals our need for a Savior. No matter the season we are in—early motherhood, childhood years, adolescent years, or beyond—we need Jesus. We need Him to be our strength and wisdom. We need Him to redeem and rescue us from ourselves. We need Him to be our constant in the ups and downs of motherhood. Indeed, the season of motherhood is often a place where the gospel becomes more beautiful to us in richer ways than ever before.

When we don't know what to do in our mothering, we must turn to Christ and who He is for us. When we are overwhelmed, weak, and don't know which way to go, we must turn to Christ. When we worry and fear for our children, we must turn to Christ. We must cry out to Him. We must remember what He has done for us in the gospel. We must rely on His strength, wisdom, power, and truth—not our own. We must find our peace and solace in Him. We must remember that He rules over the details of motherhood and that we can trust Him in it.

One of the ways we can remember the gospel is in our prayers. We can appropriate the truths of the gospel as we cry out to the Lord for help and hope. Doing so helps us set our minds on what is true. It reshapes our emotions. And it draws us closer to the Lord as we respond in joy and thanksgiving for all He has done.”

Born to Serve

Brother Rodney Fuller is fulfilling his professional purpose. He is basking in the sunshine of a profession that's a love and not just a job. Rodney started with the Huntsville Police Department as a Police Officer in 1996. He proved himself capable of the position and was promoted to the Criminal Investigations Divisions in 2006. His untiring and unwavering work and dedication to this calling was rewarded with a promotion in 2020 to 3rd Shift Patrol Sergeant. In 2021, he earned Property Crimes Unit supervisor in the Criminal Investigations Division.

His work and tenacity to help others was recognized again on April 17, 2025 when he was awarded the 2024 Supervisor of the Year at Huntsville Police Department. This award was more than earned and deserved. Rodney has been an employee of the Police Department for 29 years. He takes great joy and pride in being able to advocate for his subordinates. He is even more pleased to be positioned to share the years of knowledge he has gained and wisdom that God has given him.



Rodney is a public servant, and he takes his job seriously. He gives one hundred percent every day and is constantly searching for new and innovative ways to improve his department and increase productivity, comradery, and a cohesive environment. He knows that there are times that the difference between solved and unsolved crimes may rest with his department and his supervision.

Congratulations Rodney on the excellent job that you have done and continue to do. You are a hero to Shonda and Wynter. They are proud of what you do for them and what you do for the City of Huntsville. Saint Rebecca salutes and loves you for just being willing to serve.

Inspiration for Parents

The end of the school year is a stressful time for students and parents alike. There are final projects, final exams, extracurriculars, end-of-year events, summer commitments, and many of us are also facing major life transitions looming in the fall. In the best of circumstances this is an exhausting time of year. For the parent running on fumes at the end of one of the hardest years in living memory, our last line of defense is to remember our first love—Jesus.

God gives good gifts to his children and is working all things for the good of those who love him. To the exhausted Christian parent, the good gift He gives is Himself. Our hope and our identity are secure in Him no matter what our circumstances. In our exhaustion, we can look to Christ who is our rock, our unshakable foundation, and our sure hope. How can we cling to God in our exhaustion? We can start by doing the same as anyone in a battle who has been pushed back to their last line of defense: we regroup, reorient, and hold fast to what is most important.

Easter 2025

Resurrection weekend was simply amazing. The celebration started on Good Friday evening with the **Drama Department** ministering to the drama entitled "What Your Mercy Did For Me." The worship started with a video reminding that it's Friday and Sunday is coming. It depicted the events and unrest leading to the Cross, but it was only Friday.

The drama was centered around children who didn't quite understand the real meaning of Easter. Some of their thinking was muddled by the hype about the Easter Bunny, eggs and candy. They needed some of their friends to break down what Jesus did, how much He loves us, and the sacrifice He made.

Sister Ashley Sparks and the Praise Team provided the music and every song was a testament to the reason we celebrate. The Youth/Children's Dance Team ministered with excitement and a joy for their moment of praise in dance.



Resurrection weekend **Jamboree** continued on Saturday on the church grounds with an Easter Egg Hunt starting at 1:15 for all ages. It was so heart-warming to have so many children bonding, playing and having fun together. There were children from the church as well as the surrounding communities. Fun and games began with door prizes every hour, a moon bounce, tug of war, petting zoo, pony rides, snow cones, funnel cakes, cake walk, ring toss, etc. Of course, there were plenty of grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and beverages. The children and young at heart participated in the many activities that were available. All ages enjoyed winning sodas, cakes and other sweets, and most definitely various gift cards.

Thanks are extended to all who helped to make the day possible. Special thanks to Deacon B.J. Thompson who took care of the grilling for the day, the Security Team for keeping us safe, and those who set up and helped clean up.

Resurrection weekend ended on Sunday with **Morning Worship**. This year, speeches from the children were re-introduced. From the oldest to the youngest, they recited with vigor and excitement. Pastor Nicholas

Gladys was the Guest Speaker. The message text was Ephesians 2:8-9 and the topic was "A Portrait of Grace". He was the curator of the portrait of grace. There was no cover charge. The portrait tour began with provisional grace which is what God gives us when He provides us with things money can't buy and credit cannot give. It's what you have and you realize you couldn't get it on your own. Next was sustaining grace which makes sure provisional grace never runs out. It will keep you in the midnight hour. Next was preventive grace that kept you



while doing a bad thing but having a good time doing it. Next was life changing grace which says I'm not a finished product that is still being perfected. It makes us grateful that a change has come and there is no desire to do things we used to do. Next was dying grace. Lastly, was amazing grace – what Christ did for us on the cross.

Grace kept us and mercy spared us from getting what we deserved. He encouraged all to fill out a score-card simply by saying "thank you Lord."



Notice

- ◆ Our Annual Mother's Day Speaker will be Minister Darlean Allen, Associate Minister from Union Hill P. B. Church. This year's theme is "Be The GPS For Your Children". The color for the occasion is purple.
- ◆ Silver Jewel OES is taking orders for BBQ Plates for pick up on Saturday, May 17th. Pre-orders are due by May 4th. Please see any member to place your order.
- ◆ As a reminder, the deadline for getting your Star ID is rapidly approaching. Effective May 7th, every traveler, age 18 and over, will need the STAR ID for all domestic flights or possess a passport. The STAR ID is available only at the ALEA Driver License examining offices.
- ◆ Mark your calendars and Save the Date for Vacation Bible School that will be held June 1-4, 2025. Volunteers are needed...please contact Mother Bettye Thompson for details.
- ◆ The Huntsville Bible College Vision Banquet is scheduled for Friday, June 6 at the VBC. Mother Bettye Thompson chairs the "Race to the Finish" Committee and would like to have ticket count as well as donations to report this week. Please see her for tickets and donations.
- ◆ The June newsletter will be dedicated to our students. Please start preparing to provide all student achievements to Jessie as soon as possible.
- ◆ A self-defense training is being planned for the ladies of the church ages 18 and up. If you are interested in attending, please sign the list on the table in the lobby by May 11, 2025. For additional information, please contact Jessie.

Christian Humor

A little girl went up to her mother one day while holding her stomach saying, "Mommy, my stomach hurts." Her mother replied, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!" Later that day when the Evangelist and her husband were over for dinner. The Evangelist began to feel bad. Holding her head she said, "I have such a terrible headache!" The little girl looked up at her giving her the sweetest smile that any little child could give. Then she said, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

A pregnant woman from Washington, D.C. gets in a car accident and falls into a deep coma. Asleep for nearly 6 months, when she wakes up she sees that she is no longer pregnant and frantically asks the doctor about her baby. The doctor replies, "Ma'am you had twins! a boy and a girl. Your brother from Maryland came in and named them." The woman thinks to herself, "No, not my brother... he's an idiot!" She asks the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?" "Denise." "Wow, that's not a bad name, I like it! What's the boy's name?" "Denephew."

The businessman dragged himself home and barely made it to his chair before he dropped, exhausted. His sympathetic wife was right there with a tall cool drink and a comforting word. "My, you look tired," she said. "You must have had a hard day today. What happened to make you so exhausted?" "It was terrible," her husband said, "The computer broke down and all of us had to do our own thinking."

A young man wanted to get his beautiful wife something nice for their first wedding anniversary. So he decides to buy her a cell phone. She is all excited, she loves her phone. He shows her and explains to her all the features on the phone. The next day the wifey goes shopping. Her phone rings and it's her husband, "Hi hun," he says "how do you like your new phone?" She replies "I just love it, it's so small and your voice is clear as a bell but there's one thing I don't understand though." "What's that, baby?" asks the husband. "How'd you know I was at Wal-Mart?"

Happy Birthday

Na’Kia Humphrey 1st
William Garner 1st
Mitchell Howard 1st
Jamal Renfroe 2nd
Janice Garner 4th
Randy Garner 6th
Deacon B. J. Latham 6th
Mother Dorothy Latham 6th
Danielle Humphrey 7th
Mary Andrews 10th
Nylese Green 10th
Devion Young 10th
MaKaias Carr 14th
Beverly Snoddy 14th
Anthony Townsend 14th
Kaneesha Townsend 14th
Jasmine Clay 14th
Riley Paige Thompson 17th
Jasmine Sales 17th
Jermaine Garner 19th
Eric Pickett 22nd
Mother Frances Bellamy 24th
Thomas France 25th
Elante Stewart 25th
Cienterra Goodlow 26th
Mark Garner 27th
Courtney G. Thompson 28th
Mackenzie Graham 31st



The following couples will celebrate another year of love this month. Congratulations to you as you represent what God instituted which is marriage. Congratulations from your church family.

Alex & Nakia Humphrey 4th
Arthur and Ashley Sparks 20th
Jeremy & Summer Garner 21st

Recipe Corner

Ingredients:

For the Cake:

3 cups (375g) all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking powder ♦ 1/2 tsp baking soda ♦ 1/2 tsp salt
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 ½ cups granulated sugar
4 large eggs, at room temperature ♦ 2 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup (240ml) buttermilk, at room temperature

For the Buttercream Frosting:

1 cup (225g) unsalted butter, softened
4 cups (500g) powdered sugar, sifted
2 tsp vanilla extract
2-3 tbsp heavy cream or milk (adjust for consistency)

Instructions

Prepare the Oven and Pan: Preheat your oven to 325°F .

Grease and flour two 8-inch round cake pans or line them with parchment paper. Mix Dry Ingredients:

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.

Cream Butter and Sugar: In a large mixing bowl, beat the softened butter and granulated sugar with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy (about 3-4 minutes). Beat in the eggs, one at a time, ensuring each is fully incorporated before adding the next. Mix in the vanilla extract.

Combine Dry Ingredients and Buttermilk:

Reduce the mixer speed to low. Add the dry ingredients in three additions, alternating with the buttermilk in two additions (start and end with the dry ingredients).

Mix until just combined. Do not overmix.

Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans and smooth the tops. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Let the cakes cool in the pans for 10 minutes, then turn them out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Make the Buttercream Frosting:

In a large bowl, beat the softened butter on medium speed until creamy (about 2 minutes).

Gradually add the powdered sugar, one cup at a time, mixing well after each addition.

Stir in the vanilla extract and 2 tablespoons of heavy cream. Add more cream if needed to reach the desired consistency. Beat on high speed for 2-3 minutes to make the frosting light and fluffy.

Frost the cake, smoothing it with a spatula or creating swirls for decoration. Serve and Enjoy. Slice and serve your buttermilk pound cake with rich buttercream frosting. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 2 days or in the fridge for up to a week.



PUZZLE FUN

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WORD LIST

ADMIRATION
APPRECIATIVE
BEAUTIFUL
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
CONGRATULATIONS
COURSE WORK
DEVOTED
GRADUATION

HEART WARMING
INSPIRATIONAL
MATRICULATION
MEMORIAL DAY COOKOUT
MEMORIES
MOTHERHOOD
OFFSPRING

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE
POPPIES
RESOURCEFUL
STARS AND STRIPES
SWEETHEART
UNDERSTANDING
VALEDICTORIAN
VETERAN