

Saint Rebecca P. B. Church

The Echo

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*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 Celebrate Easter?

Easter is a celebration joyfully anticipated throughout the year. It is often a time when those who don't know Jesus Christ become curious about who He is. Easter is a time when it might feel easier to share the good news of the salvation He brings. It is also a corporate celebration of the reality of Jesus' resurrection and the life we have in Him. Though we celebrate that reality all year long, Easter is a special time of remembering.

While the word Easter may have pagan origins and certain Easter traditions have absolutely nothing to do with the Bible, the real reason to celebrate Easter is to remember the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and to celebrate the reality of His resurrection.

Celebrating Easter is about rejoicing in the risen Christ. In the days leading up to Easter, we recount His horrific death on the cross. It is a death Jesus died willingly (Mark 10:45; John 10:18). He came to earth as a baby in order to live a perfect human life and one day die as the sacrifice for sin. At Easter time, generally on Good Friday, we remember His sacrifice and thank Him for it.

But it is not only Jesus' death on the cross that is important. Jesus' resurrection proclaims His victory over sin and death. Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. Then He rose back to life, proving He is who He says He is and that He accomplished what He came to earth to accomplish. Jesus Christ is fully God, fully human, and our only Savior. It is because He is risen that we can trust in His sacrifice for our sins and receive new life in Him. His resurrection also demonstrates that His promise to resurrect us one day will come true.

Easter is the time to celebrate Jesus' victory and to celebrate the new life He gives. All can have their sins forgiven and experience new life in Him if they will receive Him in faith. It is fitting that Easter occurs in the springtime. Much like spring is the time when new life grows after the death brought about by winter, so Jesus brings new life to those who were formerly dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1-10). The life Jesus brings is eternal. We celebrate the reality of His death and resurrection every day, and especially at Easter. We can trust Him and worship Him all year through because He is risen!

He Did It!

Ronny Garner has done it. What did he do? He retired! Ronny Garner's retirement marks the conclusion of an extraordinary 36-year career with the Madison County Sanitation Department. Beginning his journey as a Sanitation Helper, Ronny demonstrated a strong work ethic, reliability, and dedication from day one. Through years of consistent service and a commitment to excellence, he earned the respect of his colleagues and the community he served. His steady presence and willingness to take on challenges helped ensure that the daily operations of the department ran smoothly and efficiently.

Through hard work and leadership, Ronny successfully advanced to the role of Route Supervisor, where he became a trusted leader and mentor to many. In this position, he set a high standard for professionalism, teamwork, and accountability, leaving a lasting impact on the department. Ronny's contributions have helped shape the success of Madison County Sanitation, and his legacy will be felt long after his retirement. We extend our deepest gratitude for his decades of service and wish him continued success, happiness, and fulfillment in this well-earned next chapter.



Love Mary, MaKayla, Derek, MaKaias, and Morgan

She Did It!

Minister Janice Parker does everything with the joy, gratitude and praise. Her goal is always to please the Lord, walk in purpose and the promises of God. She walks by Philippians 4:3, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." In the power of His might and strength, she absolutely did it.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." She studied, persevered, and stuck to her resolve to never stop learning and living a Christ filled life.



With gratitude and praise to God, we, her family, are proud to announce that Minister Janice has successfully completed her course of study and has received her Diploma in Biblical Studies from the Huntsville Theological Institute.

Minister Janice gives all honor and glory to God for guiding her throughout this journey. She also extends heartfelt thanks to her family for their encouragement, patience, and unwavering support during her studies.

From her family: This accomplishment represents dedication, faith, and commitment to the Word of God. We celebrate this milestone and look forward to the continued impact of her ministry.

From her church: Congratulations Minister Parker. Your church family supports and loves you. We wait with anticipation to see what God has in store for you. May He continue to bless and keep you and your family.

Mallard Creek Pink Tea

The Mallard Creek Pink Tea was held on March 25, 2026 at Saint James P.B. Church. Elder Phil Ford, New Greater St. John PB Church, was the Guest Speaker, and The Singing Disciples provided the song service. The message was taken from Isaiah 60:1-6 with a text topic of “Rise and Shine.”

The Pink Tea, first and foremost is a worship service hosted by the Mallard Creek Primitive Baptist Association Women’s Congress. Secondly, the culmination of the Tea is to celebrate those churches that have worked diligently to raise funds for scholarships to be awarded to deserving students who want to further their higher education and have worked hard to achieve academic heights.



This year, our own, Sister Kay Miller, won 1st Place, Sister Marie Williams from Saint James won 2nd Place and Sister Deborah Patterson from Fletcher’s Chapel #1 won 3rd Place.



Sister Miller says she is thankful for my church (Saint Rebecca) family, who supported the Mallard Creek Primitive Baptist Association Women’s Congress Pink Tea Scholarship Fundraiser. Your donations and support are greatly appreciated . All funds raised are a blessing for students to continue their educational pursuits. You are the BEST! She also extends thanks to everyone who attended the worship service. Your presence is deeply appreciated.

If you did not have an opportunity to donate this year, please plan to support this effort next year. This is such a worthwhile journey and our youth and young people are the future. Any help that can be given to help ensure their success in life is appreciated.

Monthly Thought—How to Live Your Best Life

Define Your Values & Purpose: Identify what matters most to you. Understanding your core values helps you make decisions that align with your truth and brings fulfillment.

Cultivate a Growth Mindset: Embrace challenges, learn from failures, and keep a curious, positive attitude toward personal growth.

Set Healthy Boundaries & Protect Energy: Surround yourself with positive people who energize you, and limit time with those who drain you. It is essential to set boundaries to conserve your energy,

Take Action Over Perfection: Start taking small, consistent steps toward your goals rather than waiting for the "perfect" time.

Practice Gratitude & Mindfulness: Spend time journaling, meditating, or focusing on what you appreciate to reduce stress.

Prioritize Physical & Mental Health: Regular exercise, nutritious eating, and sufficient rest (or sleep) are essential for maintaining the energy needed to pursue your goal.

Annual Church History

Saint Rebecca celebrated 124 years of existence on the first Sunday in March. Bishop Carl Pruitt was the guest speaker. The message came from 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 and the text topic was “In Everything Give Thanks.” He lifted that we are standing on the shoulders of some people who were guided by the Spirit of God, and it had to be some giving thanks in the process. Those same people provided heat, food and clothing for us. In the midst of your circumstances and situation, there is still something to be thankful for. Thankfulness for a Christian is a way of life.



In every situation there is a lesson to be learned. If we don't learn the lesson, we're likely to repeat the grade. Time is provided by God, and we are living on borrowed time. One can't think about being thankful without acknowledging how good God has been to you.

Sometimes we don't know how important God is until God is all we have. As children of God, we can't live on the payback plan. Being evil is talking about others behind their back. We should rejoice and give God praise. Praise takes you to another level. Worship together and forget about the fashion show – focus on God. Don't treat others differently because of their condition. Anyone can get caught in a condition. Don't talk about them, pray for them.

Bishop Pruitt so graciously donated pictures to the church that belonged to his mother. The pictures were of several patriots that were pillars of Saint Rebecca.

The worship also included worship in dance by the children's/youth ministry. They were amazing. Thanks to the History Committee that orchestrated the History Worship Service. The Spirit of God was definitely present.

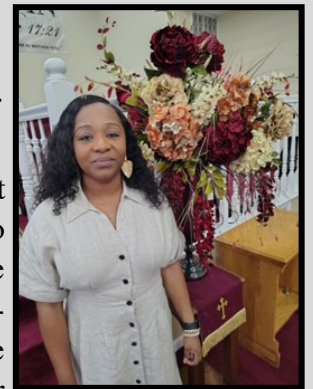
Fifth Sunday Community Worship

Fifth Sunday worship was amazing. The guest speaker was Minister Tiffany Sledge. Mae Jemison Choir provided the song ministry.

Minister Sledge brought a message from God from 1 Samuel 16:1-13 with the text topic of “I Need the Anointing.” Everyone has an opinion/thought on what God is to you. Some describe Him as a Healer, Savior, Provider, Ever Present. We all have different experiences with God that shape how we speak of Him. Another description is that God is Intentional. He is too wise to be indecisive. Everything that He does is for a purpose. All of us have a testimony that He has been intentional in our lives simply because He woke us up this morning, His grace and mercy kept us in our right mind, we could or even should have been cut off, and when He sends His Angel Army to encamp around us, that was intentional.

Every move God makes, He makes it with the expected end in mind. He knows the end from the beginning, Sometimes He allows things to happen and other times He blocks things from happening, because God has the expected end in mind. Sometimes, we are so stuck in the past that we can't see what God has before us. He is trying to pull us along, but we are still mesmerized by our past. There are times when He is trying to do a new thing so be careful not to be consumed about things of the past.

Minister Sledge is always at home when she's at Saint Rebecca. The church thanks her for always being willing to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thanks are given to Mae Jemison's choir for their awesome song service. Your voices are truly anointed by God.



It's Hard Raising Parents

There's a definitive moment for most of us when we abruptly realize the parent-child dynamic has irrevocably changed. There's no formal plan for managing the new role of caring for aged parents. Aging parents, in general, don't want advice or direction from their adult kids. It's a delicate balance, between allowing them independence while wondering if their cat is eating them.

Children: Try not to lecture or blame. Avoid accusatory statements, such as wear your hearing aids instead of blasting the TV. Or, your driving scares me.

Parents: Listen. Sometimes your children are right.

Children: Don't count on them changing. Ultimately, there may be nothing you can do to change your parent's mind no matter how much you want to help them.

Parents: Listen. There is no dishonor in asking for and receiving help from those who genuinely love you and want to make your life as easy and comfortable as possible.

Children: Understand that none of us want to feel like we're a pest or bother to others because everyone is busy working and living their own lives.

Parents: Listen. If you have someone who is willing and assures you that you are no bother—let them help you. They can't help if they don't know you need help.

Bottom Line: Aging is a difficult process for everyone.; but, accepting help will ensure that you can stay in your own home longer as well as maintain your independence longer. Accept help that's offered. It's hard raising parents.



Notice

- ◆ Looking ahead to April, your security contacts are Deacons Cleadus Thompson, Ronny Garner and B..J. Thompson. Please contact them for your planned activities.
- ◆ Applications are now being accepted for Kid's Kingdon Summer Camp for ages 5-12, scheduled for June 1-July 18, 2026. Saint Rebecca will provide a safe, fun environment filled with education, fun activities, and mentorship. Please see Sister Kay Miller for applications, along with additional details.
- ◆ The Men's & Father's Day committee is working on plans for their upcoming celebration and need your assistance. For this project, members are asked to provide pictures of any deceased male members of Saint Rebecca. Please give pictures to Deacon B. J. Thompson. All pictures will be returned.
- ◆ Looking for Day Care Services—Giggles and Grins Learning Center is just the place for you. Give your child a home away from home in a licensed learning environment Monday thru Friday from 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Contact Sister Janice Garner for details.
- ◆ "From the Tee to the Blueprint" Golf Tournament will kick off the weekend of April 10. The golf tournament serves as a fellowship driven entry point, bringing men together through relationships, competition, and shared purpose before transitioning into impactful conference sessions. See Deacons Brent Thompson or Richard Thompson for additional information.
- ◆ As we prepare for our Spring Community Outreach—Come and Get it Day, we would like to thank members for their donations already received. We DO NOT need any more clothes. We only need kitchen/household items, bikes and kids toys. Your support is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ Announcements are due by Tuesday of each week to ensure they are included for the upcoming Sunday.

Recipe Corner

Carrot Cake Cinnamon Rolls

Dough:

- ½ cup warm water, about 105°F
- 2 ¼ teaspoon dry active yeast
- ¼ cup + 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- ½ cup whole milk, room temp
- 1 large egg, room temp
- 1 large egg yolk
- 3 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 ½ cups (180 g) shredded carrots
- 5 Tablespoon unsalted butter, softened

Filling:

- ¼ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 3 Tablespoon light brown sugar, packed
- 1 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- pinch kosher salt

Frosting:

- 4 oz cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 Tablespoon light brown sugar
- toasted walnuts, chopped

Dough: In the bowl of a stand mixer, sprinkle yeast over warm water. Add teaspoon of sugar and stir to combine. Let sit for 5-7 minutes to allow mixture to bubble and activate. Whisk in remaining sugar, milk, egg, and egg yolk. Attach dough hook to stand mixer.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, salt, and cinnamon. Add 2 cups of flour mixture to stand mixing bowl.



Mix on low speed until dough starts to come together.

Add another 1 cup of flour mixture followed with shredded carrots. Mix on low speed until carrots are distributed. With the mixing running on low speed, add softened butter one tablespoon at a time. Add remaining ½ cup of flour and knead until the dough is smooth and cleans the sides of the bowl.*

Transfer dough to a lightly greased bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and let dough rest at room temperature for about an hour, until it has doubled in volume.

Punch down risen dough. Transfer to a lightly floured work surface. Roll dough into a 20 x 14 inch rectangle.

Filling: Spread softened butter over rolled out dough. In a small bowl, whisk together sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Distribute cinnamon sugar filling over buttered dough.

Assembly: Starting at the longer end, roll dough into a log. Slice log into 12 equal parts (or 24 equal parts). Place rolls in a greased 9×12-inch baking pan or 9-inch round cast iron skillet. Cover with plastic wrap and let rolls rest for 30-45 minutes at room temperature to allow rolls to rise.

Preheat oven to 350° F. Remove plastic wrap. Bake rolls for 30-35 minutes until golden brown on top and the internal temperature of rolls registers at least 185 degrees F. Allow rolls to rest for 5 minutes to cool slightly.

Frosting: Beat together cream cheese and butter. Add vanilla, powdered sugar, brown sugar, and salt. Beat until smooth. Spread over warm carrot cake cinnamon rolls. Top with toasted walnuts, as desired. Serve cinnamon rolls warm.

Notes: This recipe can be used to make 12 large cinnamon rolls or 24 smaller cinnamon rolls. 12 cinnamon rolls can be baked in a 9×12-inch baking pan, 9-inch round cast iron skillet (or cake pan), or in an 9-inch square baking pan. Use two pans for 24 rolls.

Reduce baking time to 20-25 minutes when baking the smaller cinnamon rolls.

*If dough is too sticky during mixing, add additional flour one tablespoon at a time, up to 4 tablespoons.

Birthday/Anniversary

Birthdays are special. Happy birthday and anniversary wishes are extended from your church family. Spend your birthday with someone you love.

Minister April Sanderfer 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

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

A newspaper reporter was writing a feature story about prison life and was interviewing one of the prisoners. "Do you watch much television here?" "Only the daytime shows," the inmate said. "At night we're locked in our cells and don't see any television." "That's too bad," the reporter said, "But I do think it is nice that the warden lets you watch it in the daytime." "What do you mean, nice?" the inmate said. "That's part of the punishment."

A college senior took his new girlfriend to a football game. The young couple found seats in the crowded stadium and were watching the action. A substitute was put into the game. As he was running onto the field to take his position, the boy said to his girlfriend, "Take a good look at that guy. I expect him to be our best man next year." His girlfriend snuggled closer, replying, "That's a unique proposal - but I accept!"

An incompetent counterfeiter spent all day making his funny money. At the end of the day he realizes he spent all his time making \$15 bills. He figures that the only way he's going to get anything from this batch of money, is to find a place where the people aren't too bright and change his phony money for real cash. He travels to a small town in West Virginia and walks into a small Mom and Pop grocery store. He goes to the old man behind the counter and asks him, "Do you have change for a \$15 bill?" The old man replies, "I sure do...How would you like that? An 8 and a 7 or two 6s and a three?"

An elderly couple are both lying in bed one morning, having just awakened from a good nights sleep. He takes her hand and she responds, "Don't touch me". "Why not," he asks. She answers back, "Because I'm dead." The husband says to her, "What are you talking about? We're both lying here in bed together and talking to one another." The wife says, "No, I'm definitely dead." Her husband insists, "You're not dead. What in the world makes you think you're dead?" His wife answers, "I know I'm dead, because I woke up this morning and nothing hurts."

After being away on business, Tim thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift. "How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk. She showed him a bottle costing \$50.00. "That's a bit much," said Tim, so she returned with a smaller bottle for \$30.00. "That's still quite a bit," Tim complained. Growing annoyed, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15.00 bottle. "What I mean," said Tim, "is I'd like to see something really cheap." The clerk handed him a mirror.

PUZZLE FUN

This month's puzzle includes words associated with Spring and Easter. Enjoy your search.

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

Search List

APRICOT JAM
APRIL SHOWERS
CANARY
CHOCOLATE BUNNY
CHRIST THE SAVIOR
CRUCIFIXION
DIAMONDS
EARTH DAY

EASTER SUNDAY
EVERLASTING LIFE
FASTING
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY WEEK
JELLYBEANS
KING OF THE JEWS
LAMB OF GOD

METAMORPHOSIS
PALM SUNDAY
PRINCE OF PEACE
REDEEMER
SALVATION
SWEET PEA
THE GOOD SHEPHERD
TOMB