

MT. PLEASANT  
CHURCH  
4460  
LOBELIA  
ROAD,  
VASS, NC 28394  
910-245-7405

# MT. PLEASANT MESSENGER

April, 2024

**EARL SAYS:** Our Wednesday evening Bible Study is on the Book of Acts, a continuation of the Book of Luke that we covered in the last study. Luke was the only Gentile to write books of the Bible and his perspective is a little different than the others. As we go through the Easter season, celebrating the Risen Christ and His continuing work, Luke and Acts are two good reads for us to follow. Luke writes so that Theophilus, and other readers, “may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed” (Luke 1:4). His second book, Acts, begins by summarizing the content of the first volume and shows that this “certainty” was ‘about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up’ (Acts 1:1-2). The Gospels are decidedly Christ-centric. They are all about Jesus. Thus, modern strategies for reading that place the reader in the narrative as if he or she were the focal point and are wrong. The Gospels were primarily written as testimonies about Jesus that reveal his identity as God, Savior, and King. Thus, when reading an account in the Gospels, the primary question must be “What does this tell me about Jesus?” The Book of Acts continues this focus on Christ. Acts begins with numerous references to Jesus’s words at the end of the Gospel (Luke 24:44-49). Jesus’s fulfillment of the OT (Luke 24:44), his work of enabling sinners to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45), his sacrificial death and resurrection (Luke 24:46), the responsibility of his disciples to bear witness to these truths (Luke 24:48), the mandate to proclaim the gospel to the nations (Luke 24:47), and the necessity of the Spirit’s empowerment for effective ministry (Luke 24:49) will run throughout the Book of Acts. In fact, when Luke speaks of the content of his Gospel as “all that Jesus *began* to do and teach” (Acts 1:1), he implies that Acts records the continuation of Jesus’s deeds and words. When reading about Jesus’s life in the Gospels, readers should ask, “How does Jesus’s life serve as a model for my own?” Acts serve as a manual of discipleship, too, but the focus is more on the disciples as a group (the church) than the disciples as individuals. The churches in Acts often serve as helpful models for the church to follow today. In Acts, the early Church was strong in helping the needy as members would sell land and produce and give to the Apostles to be divided out to those in need. That is where the Apostles selected Deacons to ensure fairness to both Jew and Gentile widows receiving equal portions. Although Luke’s second volume is often called “the Acts of the Apostles” or “the Acts of the Holy Spirit, a title that better expresses Luke’s purpose, might be “the Acts of the Risen Jesus”. WRITTEN BY DEACON:EARL WILLIAMS

## OFFICERS SERVING IN 2024

### DEACONS CHOSEN IN 2023

HAL ABSHIRE- TO 2027  
910-783-9233

EARL WILLIAMS - TO 2027  
770-639-5627

RYAN KRAMER—TO 2025  
910-695-8086

MARK LOCKHART  
910-273-5626

BILL WINFREY—Chair  
910-644-2955

KIM YOUNG  
910-813-8731

### OFFICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTOR

TOMMY McKENZIE

### MEMBER AT LARGE

Rick Harrison



**Thank each one of you who agreed to  
serve in the position stated above.**

**Let God guide you as you serve!**

**MT. PLEASANT CHURCH CONTINUES:**

**BY: MARTHA BLUE—APRIL, 2024**

Thank the ones who continue to serve who are keeping our worship services going. Deacons: **Bill Winfrey, Mark Lockhart and Kim Young** kept the church going while our church worship needs continued. They have done a wonderful job. We are fortunate to have such good Christian men to lead us. Our Deacons elected beginning in 2024, are **Earl Williams, Hal Abshire, and Ryan Kramer** who are helping **Bill, Mark, and Kim** during this year.

Lord, thank you for these faithful Christian servants You have provided for Mt. Pleasant Christian Church. We appreciate their willingness to serve as our Christian Worship Leaders.



**THE SEVEN DEACONS.**

**THE CEMETERY CROSS**  
**WRITTEN & SUBMITTED BY: EARL WILLIAMS**

**Angel and Danny Marks have taken care of our Cross located in the cemetery for a number of years. Angel's grandfather, Henry Davis, built and installed the first one around 2006 and maintained it as long as he was physically able and her grandmother, Rosa Davis, maintained the flowers around the Cross and around the entire church for as long as she was able. Every week we saw her vehicle there with the trunk open and the gloves, shovel, hoe, and the watering hose, all there with Rosa working on the flower beds. What a blessing that family has been for Mt. Pleasant Christian Church!**

**When Henry passed away, Angel's dad, Bobby Hardy, and Danny Marks, Angel's husband; took over the maintenance of the Cross and the flowers and added the string lights that makes it show up so well at night. The original Cross was replaced in 2016 with the current, treated, ground sealed Cross. Pictures of the work done for Easter 2024 are included!**

Just a bit more history to add to the Henry Davis Family: Angel's grandfather, Henry Davis is buried just behind the Cross which he so willingly donated to the church. Angel's grandmother, Rosa Davis, is buried at her home back in the northwestern part of the state of North Carolina.

Danny Marks' father, Dewitt Marks, and his wife, Barbara Marks, are buried at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church; along with his grandfather, Norman C. Marks, and his grandmother, Ida Marks; his great grandfather, Charles Marks; and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Marks; along with his great grand parents all the way back to the late 1800's. The Marks Family has been a vital part of the history of Mt. Pleasant Christian Church since they moved from Chatham County, North Carolina, to Harnett County, North Carolina, in the 1870's to about 600 acres on a road that is now named for the family, Marks Road, Harnett County, North Carolina.



**THE CEMETERY CROSS PICTURES**  
**PROVIDED BY: EARL WILLIAMS**





**THANK YOU FOR TALENTED MT. PLEASANT INDIVIDUALS**  
**TO: JIM MEYERS, TALENTED WOODWORKER:**

In the past during COVID, our Church used a metal box in the front of the Church to accept our tithes and donations from our donors. It worked well, not very pretty, but it was functional. I think that Dennis Wright, when he was Head Deacon, asked Jim Meyers to wood-work a nice Donation Box for the Church. This went through several ups and downs, and on December 23, (The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party), we needed another Donation Box, so we used a small plastic box with a slot. We talked again to Jim about a nice wooden box and he worked on it through February 24, 2024. On March 24, 2024, he brought it in and it is beautiful! It is about the same size as the old metal box but it is beautiful wood: (walnut); with a slot, a lasered picture of the Cross and a Bible Verse. This will make a great addition to any donations we run, Love Offerings that we conduct and can be used at the Harvest Sale for donations and gifts. Please thank **JIM MEYERS** when you see him for his craftsmanship, his talents, and his attention to details that he has been given and that he used for our Church.       **THANK YOU, JIM MEYERS!**

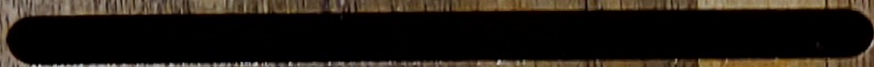






*Luke 6:38*

*Give, And It Will Be Given To You, . . .*





**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER**  
**PROVIDED BY: SANDRA WORLEY**

It is now seven hundred and eighty seven years since St. Francis of Assisi composed the following prayer for himself and for those whom he taught to love God.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, let me sow pardon.  
Where there is friction, let me sow union.  
Where there is error, let me sow truth.  
Where there is doubt, let me show faith.  
Where there is despair, let me sow hope.  
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.  
Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
Seek to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is pardoning that we are pardoned.  
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

God loved the world so much that he gave to it his Son Jesus as the beginning of Christianity. Jesus became like us in everything except sin. And this was his recommendation to us: “love one another as I have loved you.”

I would like to thank Ms. Kay Brekke for leaving us this book in the Senior Ladies’ Library. It is titled: “heart of Joy—The Transforming Power of Self giving—Mother Teresa”.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Sandy Worley



**THANKS TO MY CHURCH FAMILY!**  
**BY: RHONDA CHILTON**

**LONG POST: Happy Tuesday everyone! As many of you know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer in December, 2023. The type of cancer is Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC). Since the diagnosis, I have been through several tests, including a biopsy, and an MRI, all conclusions were the same, yes, it's cancer.**

**I underwent a breast mastectomy on Wednesday, March 20, 2024; and all went well, spending only one night in the hospital, just for observation. I'm now a "one hit wonder". My recovery has been painless, and should continue to be so.**

**I had an appointment this morning, Tuesday, March 26, 2024 to get the results from the pathology department. My lymph nodes are **NEGATIVE!** AND there is **NO** sign of spreading!**

**First and foremost, I thank God for His healing power, and the miracle of prayer. I am a living witness to the miracles that God bestows upon us daily. I thank you all, for your prayers, your love, and generosity, in showing me what family, and friendship can do when faced with big turn-of-life events. You are all precious and priceless to me. I love every one of you and thank you for your support, prayers, kindness, cards, meals, and your tremendous offers to help and your thoughts and good wishes.**

**With Love and hugs when I see you soon,**  
**Rhonda Chilton - March 26, 2024!**



# What is My Coffee?

I visited Matthew, the owner of Lucy's Flour Shop, a little while back. As I nibbled on an enormous chocolate chip cookie, I began to tell him a story.

A few years back, on a bitterly cold December evening, there was a visitation at the funeral home across the street from his bakery. The people, bundled up in coats, scarves, and blankets, were lined up around the building waiting to hug the family of the deceased. Seemingly out of nowhere, a man showed up and began giving away hot coffee to the people outside. People who entered the funeral home with coffee in their hands whispered of a mysterious man handing out free coffee, and how much they

appreciated it.

I looked at Matthew and said, "I have a suspicion that you were that man. Is that right?"

Matthew very humbly replied, "Yes. I felt so bad for them and wanted to do something, but all I could do was make coffee, so I made coffee."

I responded that he blessed so many people that night by helping them warm up and by showing there's good in the world. He added a positive note to a devastating situation.

I paused, then added, "That visitation was for my sixteen-year-old son.

Thank you for being so kind."

That conversation has stuck in my head since then. "All I could

do was make coffee, so I made coffee."

Somedays, I'm burdened with the reality that I can't do everything to help everybody. I truly do want to make a difference in people's lives and change the world. I dream big, but I can't do it all. Matthew's words came back to me recently, "All I could do was make coffee, so I made coffee." I repeatedly asked myself, "What is my 'coffee' in this situation?" I can't do everything, but I can do something, so I figured out how to do it and I did it.

None of us can do it all, but we can all do something, and if we do, we can make a difference in the world. I challenge you to ask yourself often, "What is my coffee?", and then go make your coffee.

*Pam Kearney is a life-long resident of Dawson County.*



**Guest Column**  
by Pam Kearney





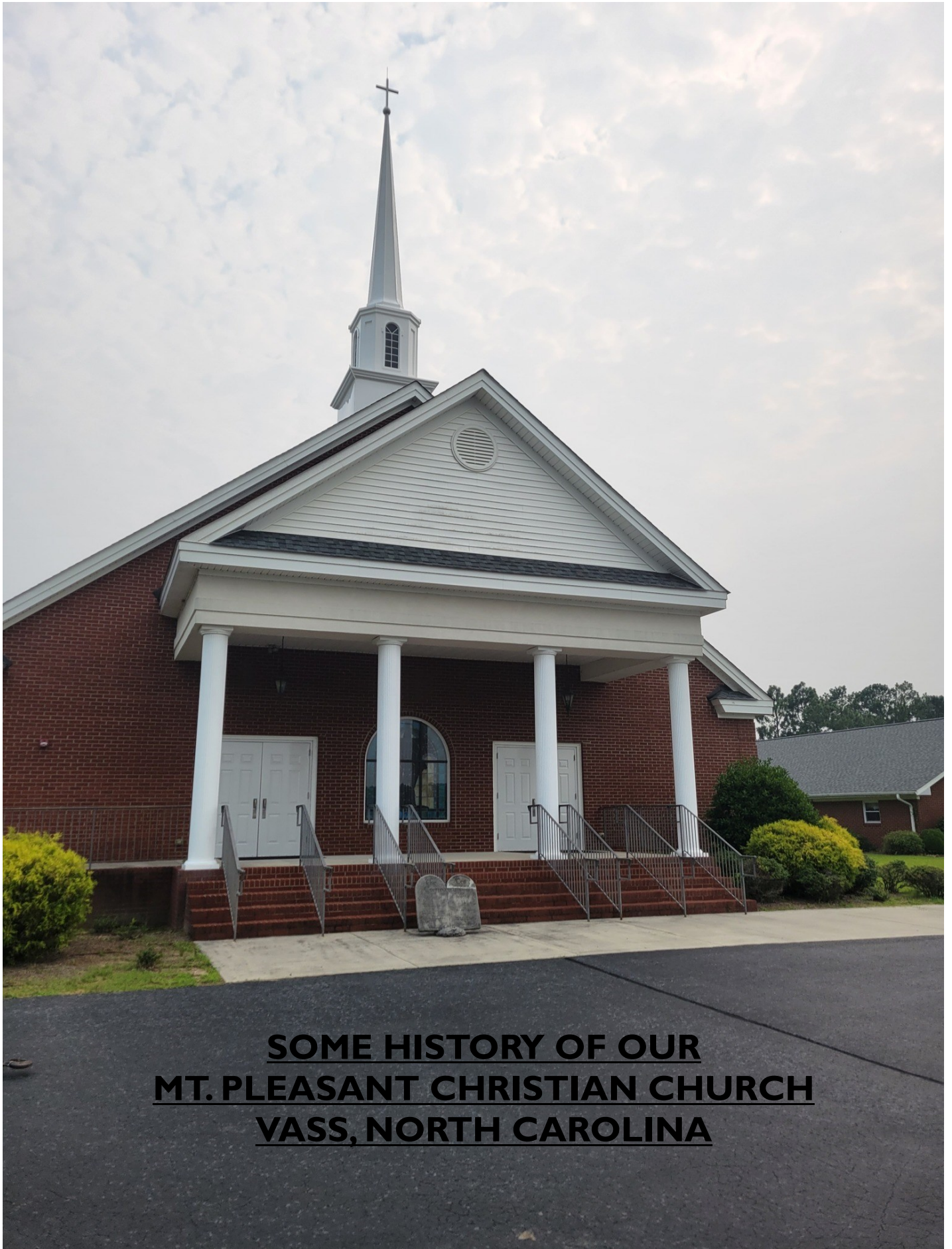


Think Spring!

Cardinal Garden

© 1999, Howard





**SOME HISTORY OF OUR**  
**MT. PLEASANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**VASS, NORTH CAROLINA**



**HISTORICAL STORY**  
**BY: JANET CHILTON—CHURCH HISTORIAL, APRIL, 2024**



Looking at the bottom picture, I am on the front row, 3rd from the right side of the picture. If you can increase the size of the photo, you can tell that I have one eye closed! I was near-sighted as a child and I kept one eye closed most of the time! My family finally realized that I wasn't winking at them ALL the time, so they took me to have classes fitted. And FINALLY I could see what was going on in the world! More original photos will be included in the history of Mt. Pleasant Christian Church!

**SMILES TO MAKE YOUR DAY BETTER!**

**Q: Why shouldn't you tell an egg a joke?**

**A: Because it might crack up!**

**Q: What's a vegetable's favorite kind of joke?**

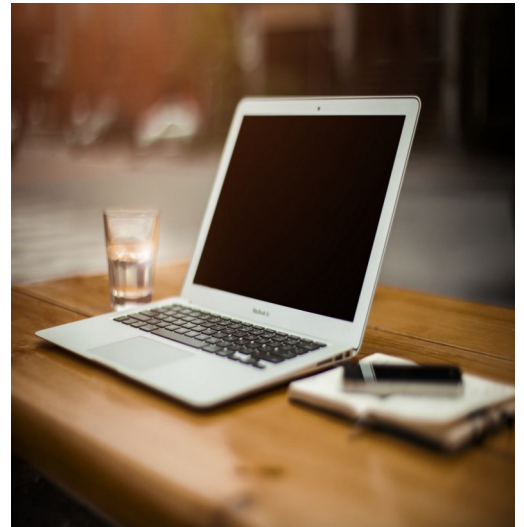
**A: A corny one.**

**Q: What did the real noodle  
call the fake noodle?**

**A: An impasta!**

**Q: What did the hungry computer eat?**

**A: Chips, one byte at a time!**





**ONE MORE SMILE TO MAKE YOUR DAY BETTER!**

**Doctor to patient: “How is your diet coming along?”**

**Patient to doctor: “Fine, I had eggs for breakfast!”**

**Doctor to patient: “That’s great! Scrambled?”**

**Patient to doctor: “ No, Cadbury’s!”**



**ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN**  
**PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER**

**CPT Trevor Barnes  
CPT Lindsay Barnes-Turner  
CPT Ryan Barnes  
CPT Mark Howard  
SGT Walter Kirk  
Emmanuel Lenau  
E3 Madison Main  
PV2 Paxton Nash  
2nd Lt Tyler Nilam  
Sabrina O’Connell  
LTC Joey Odell  
MSG Chris Cooper  
CPT Alyssa Crandall  
1st LAT Michael Crandall  
MAJ Eddie Criss  
SPC Doug Penny  
TSGT Neil Powers  
SFC John D Presley  
1SGT Shawn P Spears  
CPT Matt Turner  
1C Trevor William Whiting  
SSG Triston Hatcher  
Shawn A Haynes  
SGT Cassidy Hickman  
SGT Brendon Bartz  
MAJ Andrew Berreth  
SSGT Hunter Burns  
SGT Bailey Carroll  
E3 Jordan Cole  
AIT Timothy O’Connell  
PFC Ryan Rubio  
SGT Donald Pearce Jr  
SSGT Jonathan Pemberton  
SSGT Colleen Pemberton**

**PFC Alivia Pemberton  
SSGT Everett Davis  
Zachary T Feltmann  
MAJ Andrew Gaab  
MAJ Tanya Gaab  
SSG Mark Glenn  
Kyle Badgett Unit 183 JBPHH**

**These are our men and women who go to work daily in defense of the many freedoms we enjoy here in the United States of America. We need to pray for them daily and for their safety. Some are in places that can’t be revealed to us. Their addresses do not show where they are currently stationed. Even their loved ones do not know where they are. They may be able to contact each other by computer occasionally, however, it is seldom and doesn’t involve any personal information being shared. It is an honor for a family member to serve in our United States military and we “homefolks” really need to support our military members serving and other families whose loved ones are serving. Thank you for your support of our Military Christmas Gifts which now number over 5,000! Memories are made from some those by the thank you notes received long after the military received our gifts. Thank you so very much.**



**DEACONS Family List**

**28-Jan-24**

<u>Bill Winfrey</u>	<u>Mark Lockhart</u>	<u>Kim Young</u>	<u>Hal Abshire</u>	<u>Earl Williams</u>	<u>Ryan Kramer</u>
<u>910-644-2955</u>	<u>910-273-5626</u>	<u>910-813-8731</u>	<u>910-783-9233</u>	<u>770-639-5627</u>	<u>910-695-8086</u>
Art/Karen Hill	Lucy Smith	Cathy Fish	Linda Blue	Rick/Sherry Harrison	Herman/Droxie Henninds
Josephine /Bill Paulus	Barb Barns	Jean/Amanda Lane	Lauren/ JC Carrier	Earl/Sue Simpson	Joan/DanPeavy/Hennings
Dennise Godfrey	Jane Edmisten	Bertha Ann Marks	Kenny/Kimberly Mackey	Bobby/Darlene McCoy	Ann Smith
Weldon/Janer Chilton	Edith Floyd	Jordan Thomas	Tommy/Treva McKenzie	Eric/Sarah Wolf	
Rhonda Chilton	Jef/Sherry Floyd	Lauren Newsome	Craig/Sue Upson	Nancy Pearce	Janice Wyman
Pat Marks	Bobby McIntire	Pat Stocks	Kathy Berghorn	Bobby/Sherry Chatfield	Nathan Baxley
Beth Roy	AG/Sadie Flynn	Martha Blue	Avis/Dale Cook	Doris Marks	Wendell/Pam Gaddy
Larry/Babs Cameron	Manny/Stacey Emmanuel	Jim /Liza Greenfield	Tommy/Mary Beth Evans	Larry Price	Bill Harrison
Darrell/Rhonda Kelly	Ruby Cheek	Staacy Van Camp	Travis/Carla McKenzie	John/April Joyner	Jim/Juliana Meyers
Dennis/Janet Wright	Janell Howington	Tom Wooten	Dan McPherson	Jim/Sandy/Helen Kennedy	Anne Seagroves
Charles/Sandy Worley	Eric Benilla	Mary Winchester	Joey Odell	David Lively	Brenda Smith
Kim/Kimberly Young	Earl/Susan Williams	Bill/Johanna Winfrey	Allen/Tina Thompson	Shawn/Kendra Rains	Corenia Vazquez
			Ryan/Tiffany Kramer	John/ Bonnie Lyczkowski	Crystal Farier
				Anthony/Melissa Spielvogel	Hal/Lynn Abshire
				Mark/Chelsea Lockhart	

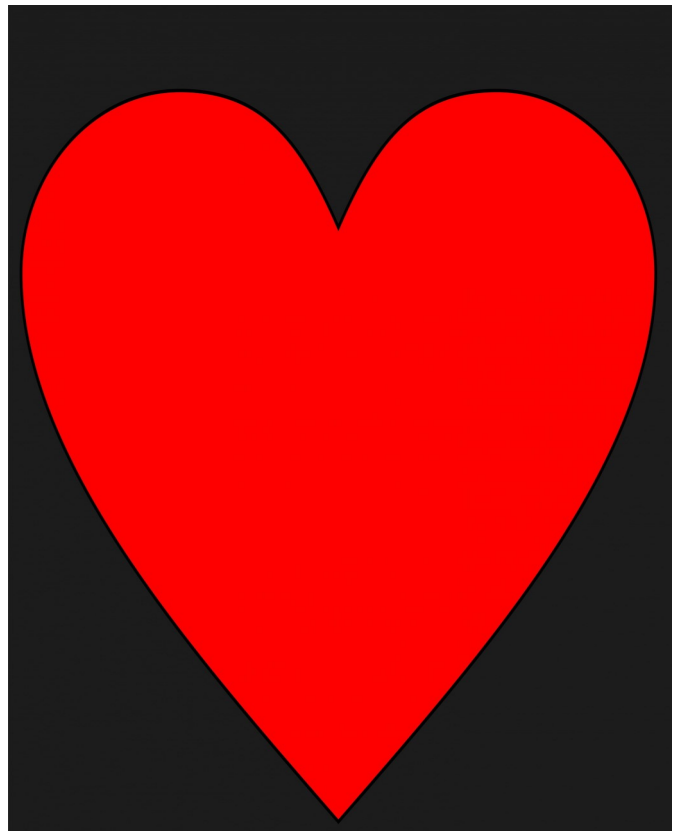
## BIRTHDAYS APRIL

- 3 Herman Hennings
- 5 Rhonda Kelly
- 7 Susan Williams
- 7 Dennis Wright
- 8 Travis McKenzie
- 11 Luke Kramer
- 11 Kim Mackey
- 12 Joanna Winfrey
- 18 Denise Godfrey
- 20 Ruby Cheek
- 24 Carrie Odell
- 26 Weldon Chilton
- 28 Jeff Godfrey



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Bill & Joanna Winfrey
- 4 Travis & Carla McKenzie
- 19 Earl & Sue Simpson





# APRIL, 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1.	2. Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	3. Choir 5:45P Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM	4.	5.	6.
7. SS 9:45 A Worship 11A	8.	9. Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	10. Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM	11.	12.	13.
14. SS 9:45A Worship 11 A	15.	16. Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	17. Choir 5:45P Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM	18.	19.	20. VBS WS CEMET ERY CU
21, SS 9:45 AM Worship 11 A	22,	23, Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	24. Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM	25.	26.	27.
28. SS 9:45 AM Worship 11 A	29.	30. Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	30. Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM			