

A P R I L 2 0 2 2

The Suburban Connection

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WHY DO WE CELEBRATE EASTER? Three reasons why the resurrection – and, consequently, Easter – is so important.

By: John Piper

1. Christ's resurrection vindicates his death and frees us from sin.

Christ's resurrection closely connects with his death. Consider two key passages. "[Christ] was delivered up [to death] for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25). That means that the resurrection was God's sovereign act to emblazon the triumph of Christ's death across the universe. The death of Christ successfully completed the foundational work of our justification. Nobody would be saved without God's declaring us just and righteous before his throne of justice. And Romans 4:25 says that the death of Christ so completely and successfully secures this justification that God put his omnipotent stamp of approval on it by raising Jesus from the dead. The bodily resurrection of Jesus vindicated the saving success of the bloody death of Jesus.

Now here's the other text: I Corinthians 15:14-18. Paul is talking about bodily resurrection in I Corinthians 15. "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins: (I Corinthians 15: 14, 17).

Jesus died to remove the guilt of our sins. And Paul is saying that if he's not raised, you're still in your sins. He goes on to say that "those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished" (I Corinthians 15:18). In other words, Paul's preaching of the cross is pointless if Christ was not raised from the dead. "Futile," he says. And we know it means bodily resurrection because the rest of I Corinthians 15 makes it clear that's the kind of resurrection he's talking about. You are still in your sins; they are not forgiven; the blood of Jesus is powerless, useless, a failure; it aborted – *if Christ was not raised from the dead*. First Corinthians 15:20: "In fact Christ has been raised from the dead." So the resurrection is important because of its connection to the death of Christ.

Continued on next page

Save the Date!

Food Pantry

April 5th & 19th

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Easter Event & Egg Hunt

April 16th

2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Church Workday

April 23rd or TBD

9:00 am

Secret Church

April 29th

7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Continued from front page

2. Christ's resurrection guarantees ours.

The resurrection is also important because of its connection between Christ's resurrection and our resurrection. First Corinthians 15:20: "Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." That means the resurrection is viewed as one great harvest, and Christ's resurrection is the firstfruits, the first stage of the resurrection that guarantees our resurrection.

Or Romans 6:5: "If we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." Our resurrection will be owing to our union with Christ, who was raised. If he wasn't, we won't be.

Or 2 Corinthians 4:14: "He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus." So, Christ's resurrection is important because ours depends on his. If he wasn't raised, we won't be either.

3. Christ's resurrection empowers his present ministry.

The resurrection of Christ is important because of the connection between Christ's resurrection and his present and future ministry. The death of Christ was the purchase of our salvation, not the application or consummation of it.

The Bible describes much more to be done for our everlasting enjoyment of the glory of God and the fellowship of Jesus. Christ's saving work goes on in his resurrection body as he intercedes for us, and when he comes again in glory to establish his kingdom. The goal of our eternal life is to enjoy and magnify the living Christ as he rules over his church and gives himself in service and fellowship to his bride. It is a salvation of living fellowship. If he weren't alive, we wouldn't have any salvation. There would be nothing to enjoy forever and ever that is supremely satisfying. So, with no resurrection, we get no fellowship, no salvation, no joy. Consider these texts:

- Romans 6:9: "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."
- Romans 8:34: "Who is to condemn [us]? Christ Jesus is the one who dies – *more than that* [that's really important!], who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."
- Ephesians 1: 20-23: "[God] raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named. . . . And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." That's his present ministry today, as all-supplying guide and head for the church.
- Acts 17:31: "[God] has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed." Judgment is coming. Jesus is going to be the man who does the judgment. "And of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
- Colossians 1:18: "He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."

So, the resurrection of Jesus is all-important because his death would be ineffective without it; and because we would have no hope of resurrection without it; and because the ministry of Jesus that he is performing right now, and will perform forever for our everlasting joy, would not exist without the resurrection. Together with the death of Jesus, his resurrection is the all-important event in the history of the world.

taken from desiringgod.org

Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

The Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study will meet in April on the 2nd and the 16th and will continue the study on the **Book of Judges**. As usual, the study will feature a chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word by word, comprehensive Bible study.

Last month's study of Chapter 4 involved discussions of Deborah and Barak and their conquest over the Canaanite army of King Jabin and his commander, Sisera. Despite being a loose coalition of tribes and clans, and without adequate weapons, they defeated Sisera's well-organized, well-trained, and well-armed forces supported by iron chariots. While the Canaanite army fled from Mount Tabor down the Jezreel Valley west toward Megiddo, Sisera escaped north on foot until he came upon the tent of Jeal, wife of a nomadic Bedouin herdsman named Heber, a Kenite.

Thinking he was safe from his pursuers, Sisera accepted Jael's offer of hospitality; milk for his thirst and bedding for his weariness. While he slept, Jael drove a tent stake through his temple. *"So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel. . .until they destroyed (him and his army)."*

Chapter 5 introduced "The Song of Deborah and Barak," a victory song which praised God for delivering the Israelites. The song, a recap in poetic form of the exploits described in the previous chapter, recognized and celebrated God's hand in the tribes' stunning victory over Canaan's mighty army. It may well have been the earliest example of Hebrew poetry.

This month's study will feature chapters 6 and 7. Chapter 6 opens with the recurring words, *"The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD . . .,"* and God *"gave them over into the hand of Midian seven years."* That leads to a study of **Gideon** of the tribe of Manasseh, the fifth judge over Israel, and his forty years of leadership. The angel of the LORD (*Malak Yehova*) called Gideon as a young lad (*"O mighty man of valor"*) who was *"beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites"* (**6:11**). After he prepared and presented an offering to the LORD, he destroyed his father's altar to the pagan god Baal and united Manasseh with Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali against their common enemies, the Midianites and the Amalekites. Then Gideon asked God for a sign involving a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. And God gave him a sign that very night.

Chapter 7 presents the intriguing account of God requiring Gideon to reduce the number of his forces from 22,000 to 300 *"lest Israel boast over me saying, 'My own hand saved me'"* (**7:2**). Then the LORD divided the 300 into three companies to encounter the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East (Arabs) who *"lay along the (Jezreel Valley) like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number"* (**7:12**). At night (*"at the beginning of the middle watch"* [about 10:00 PM]) the 300 men came to the outskirts of the enemy camp, loudly blew trumpets, held up lighted torches, and cried out, *"A sword for the LORD and for Gideon"* (**7:20**). The enemy army awoke from their sleep to the commotion in a panic, even turning on each other in the confusion, and fled. Gideon enlisted men from Naphtali, Asher and from all Manasseh to pursue after Midian. Israel's conquest over the Midianites and the Amalekites continues in **Chapter 8** which also discusses Gideon's death.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study is an outstanding opportunity for the study of God's Word, prayer, and fellowship for men of all ages; church members and non-members.

The breakfast and the Bible study are open to all men, and all are invited to enjoy a good, homemade breakfast of eggs (scramble and fried), sausage, corned beef hash, pancakes, waffles, biscuits, grits, sausage gravy, fruit, orange juice, and coffee. Come and enjoy good fellowship, and the Good News found in God's Word. It all begins at 8:00 AM and concludes around 9:30, or so.

PLEASE JOIN US



When: Friday, April 29, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00 (payable at event)

Please sign up in the foyer if you plan attending. You will be given a study guide/workbook the night of the session.

This year's theme: WHO AM I? Gender. Sexuality. Artificial Intelligence. Race. Justice. Genomics. The Metaverse. Life seems complicated these days. Fragmented even. And everyone has an opinion. But what does the Bible say about all of these issues? About YOU? About ME? About the 7 billion people that fill every street, town, campus, village, apartment, and neighborhood on earth?

The teaching of Scripture that man and woman are made in the image of God is critical to our understanding of the gospel. We are made in the image of God, but due to the fall of mankind into sin, our imaging of God is marred – not completely lost but marred. There's only one ideal human who's ever walked the face of the earth. Our human experience causes us to ache for something better, and not just something better, but Someone better.

Radical.net/secretchurch

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



MISSION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

To glorify God, by making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VISION: WHAT WILL THAT LOOK LIKE?

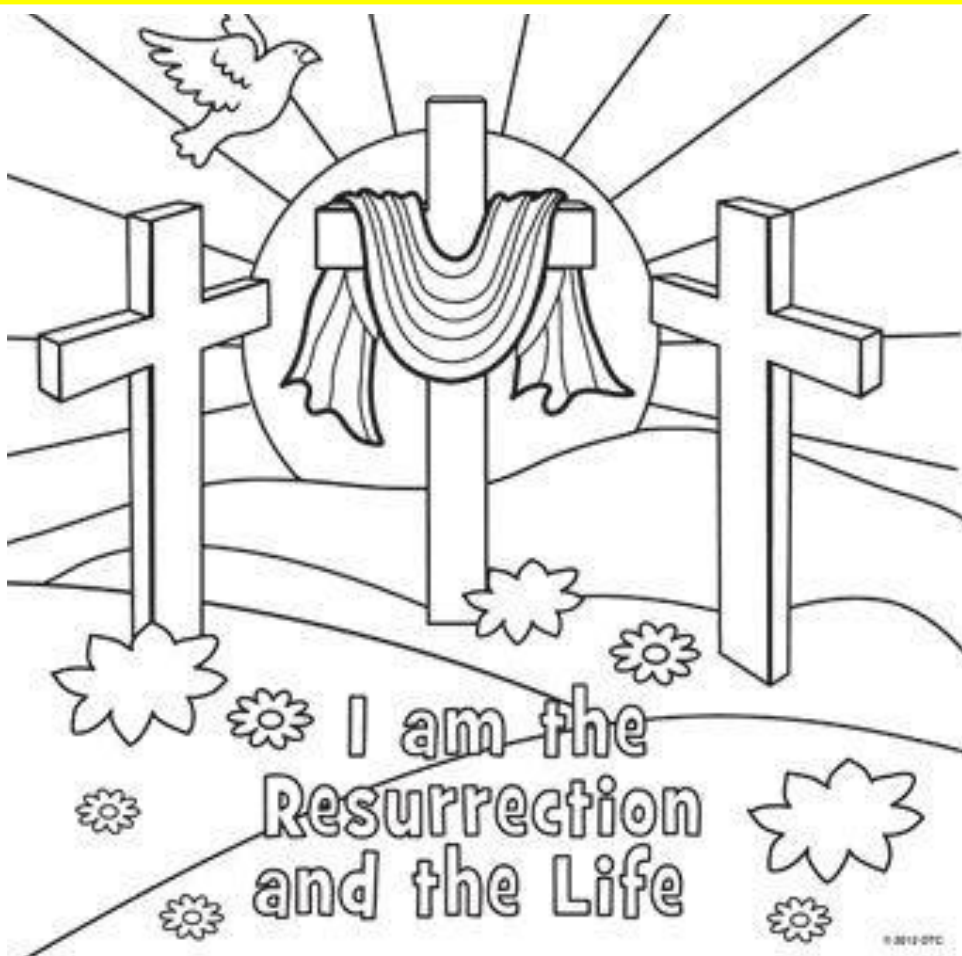
A growing faith in God
A growing love for God
A growing love for others

ACTION: HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Drawing near to God
Pursuing community
Reaching our world

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com

We want to hear from you! Contact us at newsletter@sccvb.org

**DID YOU KNOW...**

Pastor Todd used to have a car that was green. It was the first car he picked up Mrs. Wendy in to go on a date. See if you can unscramble the letters below to discover what kind of car it was and show Pastor Todd for a prize.

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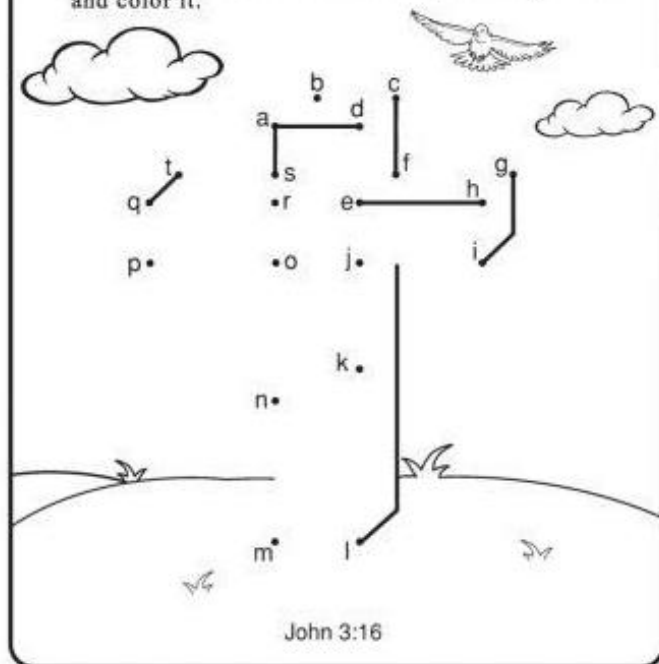
DEGDO

_ _ _ _ _

TARD

Dot • to • Dot

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." Follow the alphabet in order and draw a line from dot to dot. Complete the picture and color it.

**Jelly Bean Prayer**

Church House Collection ©



Red is for the
blood He
gave.



Black is for
the sins we
made.



Green is for
the grass He
made.



White is for
the grace
He gave.



Yellow is for
the sun so
bright.



Purple is
for the hour
of sorrow.



Orange is for
the edge of
night.



Pink is for
our new
tomorrow.

What's Happening In...



AWANA

AWANA needs your help!! We are going into our last full month of club (minus Easter Sunday) and need to get prepped for our final AWANA store night. This time the clubbers will be able to buy themselves gifts and they are SUPER excited! We need newly purchased toys to stock our store. Some ideas would be paint sets, drawing notebooks, funky pens/pencils, youth purses or wallets, play dough kits, suncatcher kits, board games and youth aged books. If you have any questions about what to purchase, please don't hesitate to contact me! Thank you in advance for all your support.
Carol Brooks

April AWANA Themes

**April 3rd -
April Showers Night**

**April 10th -
Palm Sunday Night**

**April 17th -
No Club**

**April 24th -
Dot the Leader Night**

Sunday School

As we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death and His promise of eternal life, we want our kids to be firmly rooted in His Word.

Why does it matter that they know and believe the words of the Scriptures? It is important in a world that has become increasingly hostile to Biblical truth that we teach our kids to value reading the Bible and learning to apply it to their daily lives.

What is essential for us to remember and kids to know about the Bible?

1. The Bible is how God speaks to us.
2. The Bible is about GOD and for us. It reveals who God is and what He is like.
3. The Bible tells us God's great plan to save sinners and that Jesus is the only savior.
4. The Bible is how we can know how to love God and live for Him.

Take a moment to thank God for the Bible and the beauty of Christ revealed in it. Commit to meeting God daily in His word and encouraging the young ones to do the same!

(Adapted from The Gospel Project Spring 2022)



Operation Christmas Child Corner

We have been working on the donations that have already begun coming into the church. Bill and Sue Shepherdson are starting to collect empty shoeboxes for us to wrap to add to those we have left over from last year. We have been having empties arrive regularly since Christmas, too. If you have been watching sales, feel free to bring in your donations any time you are at church. We will begin our monthly collections in May. We are looking forward to reaching more than 906 children this year with our Shoebox gifts. Thanks for helping. Lynn

2021 Operation Christmas Child Update

In 2021, Samaritan's Purse continued to declare God's glory in more than 100 countries and territories through Operation Christmas Child—including among many unreached people groups at the very ends of the earth. We praise God that more than 9.1 million shoebox gifts were distributed to children in need at over 81,000 outreach events!

"Every shoebox represents an opportunity to reach one more child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."
—Franklin Graham

National Collection Week:

**November
14 – 21, 2022**

Music Notes



Spring is here! Easter is fast approaching. Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We will present our cantata, "It is Finished" on Palm Sunday, April 10, at the 10:15 morning worship service. We look forward to seeing everyone then.

Congregational singing is an essential part of worship in our church. Our singing reveals much about who we have been and who we are now, as well as who we are becoming as Christians. The actions of the Holy Spirit through music nurtures our faith and enhances our worship of our Lord. Our singing has been shaped by hymns created throughout the centuries of Christianity and expanded by hymns and songs set in contemporary styles. The presence of a variety of backgrounds and styles of music deepens our sense of unity in Christ. We share a rich legacy of hymns with many Christians, past and present. Don't let the fact that you may not recognize a particular hymn, keep you from worshiping God through the lyrics and the wonderful sound of the music. So, keep a song in your heart until I see you again.

If you play an instrument or feel led to participate in our music ministry, please feel free to contact me. Lynn

Ambassador Youth Ministry – Will the real YOU please stand up?

Are there different versions of You? Maybe there's **School You**: you're polite and obedient to teachers, then complain about them in the playground. Perhaps the **Friend You** is different again - maybe you feel like you need to prove that you're not boring or "too good" to the other people in your class so you swear and talk like them. Then there's the **Family You** at home - do you retreat to your room so you don't get the inquisition from your family, or do you politely talk about nothing with your parents so they don't ask too many questions about the **Friend You**? But when it's **Church You**, do you know exactly what your youth leaders want to hear, so you give them all the right answers? Let's cut to the chase: God knows all about the different versions of You that you put out there. He knows if you're being honest or not. Before you totally freak out, it's actually a good thing that God knows you. Why? Here are a few things to know:

1. You don't have to pretend in front of God

God knows more about you than you do. So you don't have to pretend to be someone you're not. You can relax. Are you exhausted by all the different versions of You? Chill out with God. Tell him your struggle. He knows.

2. God loves you, even if he knows you're not being honest

We can relax because God loves us, despite our game-playing and "fakery." You might stress about your friends, "If they really knew who I was, they wouldn't like me" - but that's not a question you need to ask about God. God loves you *even though* he already knows all the worst stuff about you. It doesn't mean it's suddenly okay to play the game, but it does mean that God's love isn't dependent on being **Church You** all the time. **"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us"** ([1 John 3:16](#))

3. Because God loves you, he doesn't want you to be trapped in "the game"

God knows about the worst versions of You, but he loves you too much to let you be trapped. Being a different You all the time is a trap, isn't it? It's exhausting. It's confusing. You know it's dishonest and it can make you feel guilty, ashamed, or stressed out that someone's going to find out the truth. God knows. God loves. But he also saves. **"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."** ([Ephesians 2:4-5](#))

Dishonesty and game-playing are part of our rebellion against God. But God doesn't want us to stay trapped in the game. He knows, and He loves, and He saves. He wants us to follow Jesus, and through him live new lives, no longer trapped, but free.

4. You are free to be the Real, Redeemed You

Jesus died to save us from all our sin and wrong - not just the trap of pretending to be different versions of You. Through Jesus, you can be the **Redeemed You** that God made you to be. **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"** ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))

Through Jesus you are freed from the pretending, fake Yous that try so hard to fit in or be liked or have the right kind of reputation. You are free to be the saved, redeemed, new creation you are in Christ. **"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."** ([Galatians 5:13](#))

The **Redeemed You** is able to love others properly because you don't have to perform. You don't have to be trapped by what other people think of you.

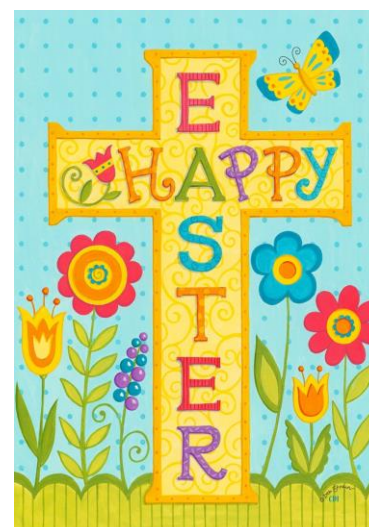
You can just love people even when they're not perfect, because that's what God has done for you.

You can serve people because you don't have to compete to have the best reputation.

You can be yourself because even if other people don't accept you, through Jesus you are loved and accepted by the **One** who really matters.

April Nursery Schedule

| Date | Sunday School 9:00 – 10:00 am | Worship Service 10:15 am | Helper |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 4/3/22 | Melissa Tucker Betty Owens | Stacie Raymer Samantha Haynes | Sophia Deuell |
| 4/10/22 | Melissa Tucker Betty Owens | Jeff Herring Susan Haynes | Samara Saucedo |
| 4/17/22 | Melissa Tucker Stacey Super | Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski | Elena Tyler |
| 4/24/22 | Melissa Tucker Rebecca Beckner-Driver | Laura Tyler TBA | William Schnurr |



Saturday, April 23rd, 9:00 am

We have several projects, organizing, and spring cleaning that need taken care of at the church. There are tasks that can be completed by ALL ages. If you would like to enjoy some great fellowship and fun, join us on **Saturday, April 23rd, at 9:00 am.** The goal is to work until lunchtime to complete as many tasks as possible. Hotdogs, chips, and drinks will be provided for all those who participate!

Please sign up in the foyer if you plan to attend!

Mark your calendars:



Partner with Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater in providing support for families in our community facing unplanned pregnancies.

Simply go to:

<http://walkforlife.cpcfriends.org/suburbanchristianchurch>
to sign up or donate to help CPC save more lives, spare more tears, and spread the Gospel here in South Hampton Roads. The walk date is June 4, 2022, at the Norfolk Scope Arena in Norfolk, Virginia.

Seniors Ministry

At the March meeting Chris Tyler explained intercessory prayer. It was a most interesting presentation that held everyone's attention ... the room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. After the meeting we all enjoyed a delicious lunch featuring "Evonne's Chicken Tenders" and various side dishes.

Jim Fry will present a travelogue at the next meeting, April 21 at 11:00. Mark your calendars to save this date. Come hear about, see his travels, and enjoy a time of food and fellowship afterwards. The entrée will be provided; please bring a side dish to share.

The Seniors Ministry sponsors all our programs, but they are open to adults of all ages. Dana Mosteller



Walk with Jesus Easter Event & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16th, @ 10:00 am

Looking for a place to serve? Our Easter event is one of those places that needs **YOU**! This event is simple, easy, and a lot of fun for our Suburban kids and community. If you like to decorate, hide eggs, be a volunteer in one of our "stations," or help with clean up, please see Carol Brooks if you wish to volunteer. Grab a friend and serve the Lord together!

We will also be needing a lot of small, individually wrapped candy (no chocolate) for the Easter egg hunt. Candy may be placed in the church office by April 9th.