

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following couples on their anniversaries:

Pat & Jo Meehan – March 17th

Billy & Wendy Perdue – March 18th

Layton & Margie Coleman – March 22nd

ANGEL FOOD

Ordering information for the Angel Food program - The order deadline for Topsail Baptist Church is March 10th. The deadline for Manhollow Missionary Baptist Church is March 12th and the deadline for Isle of Topsail Church is March 13th. Isle of Topsail has moved and is now located at 110 North New River Drive in Surf City (behind Wings and Dairy Queen). March's menu is posted on the bulletin board located in the Sunday School hallway. Please note that you can place your order on-line & pay with a debit or credit card. Also, the Angel Food program accepts food stamps.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- ☉ March 10th – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ☉ March 4th – Children's Outing
- ☉ March 17th – Lunch for Hospice
- ☉ March 17th – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ☉ March 20th – Yard/Bake Sale & Breakfast
- ☉ March 21st – Worship Service at Woodbury
- ☉ March 24th – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ☉ March 31st – NO Mid-Week Services

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GETTING TO KNOW...



*Richard &
Melody Hudson*
by Melody Hudson

I started visiting Blake's Chapel when I was four years old. I remember it like it was yesterday! We'd walk in Church, my mom, grandma, brother, and I. My mom made me wear these huge frilly dresses that itched everywhere! My family and I are originally from Hampstead, having lived down Bay Harbor Drive all 23 years of my life.

When I was 21 I married the love of my life, Richard Hudson. We were married in Blake's Chapel on September 27, 2008. We were pronounced husband and wife by Mr. Buddy. Many people say there are things that they would have changed on their wedding day, but not me. Our wedding was perfect in every way. I wouldn't have changed a thing!

Today Richard and I have been married for 1 ½ years and we're now expecting our first child at the end of August. We're so blessed to have such an amazing family and Church family! We love Blake's Chapel because everyone there is so loving and caring. We're so thankful God brought us together the way He did and gave us such an amazing Church to attend!

(Melody is the daughter of Bob and Debbie Croom and the granddaughter of Faye and the late Bruce Anderson. She has been very active in the Youth Fellowship and now you can find her and husband in the church each Sunday morning. We are blessed to have them in our congregation!)

If you have ideas, suggestions or articles for the next newsletter, please give them to Shannon Sessions.

The next newsletter will be available April 4, 2010

ECHOES FROM BLAKE'S CHAPEL MARCH 2010

It's Almost Easter!



Some of you have heard me say that in my opinion, Easter is the greatest day of the year. And, in my opinion, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single greatest event in human history. If the tomb that Christ was buried in remained sealed and Christ did not come forth, then Christianity falls flat on its face. In the last part of the third stanza of, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*; that Isaac Watts wrote in the early 1700's, he captured the paradox when he penned:

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown



Let me list some of the words that come to mind that we receive from God because of the resurrection of Christ: Acceptance, deliverance, forgiveness, hope, joy, life (eternal), relationship, victory and much, much more.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 (NIV) ²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

That's why I say, in my opinion, Easter; the celebration of the resurrection is the greatest event in all of human history.

Pastor Steve

NEWS FROM THE WH&FM

The ladies of the WH&FM have several fundraisers going on. Dottie Lee is offering beautiful handmade 2010 calendars for \$6. They are available in the fellowship hall. She has also adorned blankets with crocheted edging. These are available for \$10. Please see Leah or Sherry if you are interested in a blanket.

Through Venture Bookstore, we are offering boxed greeting cards. There are 12 cards in a box and each box is \$6.25. Please see a member of the WH&FM to view a catalog and to place your order. The deadline for orders is April 1st.



The WH&FM also has flavorings available in the fellowship hall. They are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. The flavors available are: butter, almond, cinnamon, clear vanilla, regular vanilla, black walnut, coconut, rum, lemon and pineapple.

You may bring donations for the yard sale beginning March 14th. Please place them in an out-of-the-way place in the fellowship hall.

Wonderful Sermon

The pastor's sermon focused on how God knows which of us grows best in the sunlight and which of us needs shade.

"For example," he said, "roses must be planted in the sun, but fuchsias thrive in the shade."

After the service, a woman, her face beaming, approached him.

"Your sermon did me so much good," she said.

Before he had time to gloat too much, however, she added, "I always wondered what was wrong with my fuchsias."

PENNY CRUSADE HISTORY



Chester Randall, an elderly gentleman of Seabrook, New Hampshire, followed a whim to collect pennies. He found simple pleasure in seeing them multiply, though dormant in their containers. On Sunday mornings, when the church bell rang from the belfry of the Advent Christian Church, he was on his way to worship.

One Sunday in March 1955, the pastor introduced a guest speaker, Clarence Kirby, the Executive Secretary of the American Advent Christian Society. He expounded Mark 16:15 "Go ye into all the worlds and preach the Gospel to every creature." This was the heart-cry of Jesus to remind the church He died for all." There was no appeal for money.



That evening a mission film was to be shown. Mr. Randall attended the service carrying something in a white cotton flour sack. When he entered the church he went directly to the mission executive. He said, "Brother Kirby, I have been saving pennies for a long time. Today I decided what to do with them," and placed the bag in the outstretched hands before him. The bag was so unexpectedly heavy Mr. Kirby almost dropped it! Surprised and stirred with emotion by the joy of the giver, he was almost at a loss for words. What an unusual gift – 4,175 pennies in a white flour cloth bag! This was an historic interchange.

This gave us the inspiration for the Children's Penny Crusade for Christ which was conducted in a number of Sunday Schools during March, April and May, which eventually led to a challenge that developed into an annual educational mission drive for funds in the churches. The response to the 'heart-cry for Jesus,' "If ye love Me, keep my commandments."

THE GOSPEL CIRCUS



The kick-off for Penny Crusade is March 7th. From now until the end of May, join us each week as we enjoy life under the Big Top of the Gospel Circus! Each "performance" begins on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. This is a great time to learn about Advent Christian Missions and how your donations are making it possible to spread the gospel around the world.

If all 20,000 Advent Christians in North America would give \$30, our denomination would reach its \$600,000 goal for the year! That averages out to \$5 per person, per week of Penny Crusade!

What does \$5 equal? -

- ✓ 1 foot-long sub at Subway
- ✓ 5 Arby's regular roast beef sandwiches
- ✓ A gallon of gas and some change
- ✓ 2 TV dinners
- ✓ 500 pennies
- ✓ A four course meal from McDonald's dollar menu
- ✓ A magazine
- ✓ 5 2-liter drinks on sale
- ✓ A grande coffee at Starbucks
- ✓ A large popcorn at the movies



How will you spend your \$5?