

Flowering The Cross

The occasion referred to as “flowering of the cross” is beautiful representation of the new life that emerges from death on Good Friday. The entire cross will be covered with flowers and placed outside the ROC to symbolize the new life in our risen Lord on Easter morning. Please bring flowers to decorate the cross following the early worship service, prior to Bible study this Sunday, April 4th.



April 2010



First Baptist Church of
Pensacola
Children's Ministry Newsletter

Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection

Each spring, we see reminders of new life and rebirth. Trees bud, flowers bloom, and butterflies emerge from their cocoons. For Christians, the most important celebration of new life is Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. Children may associate this holiday mainly with bunnies, baskets, and candy. So it's important to share with them the real reason we rejoice: the empty tomb. Use these creative ideas to share the Easter message with children of all ages. Let them know that Jesus, our loving Savior, died and rose again so we can go to heaven and be with him forever.

Palm Sunday – Make “praise shakers” to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Decorate the bottoms of paper plates, fill them with beads or unpopped popcorn, and then staple together the edges. Add streamers and then have a parade. Shout out praises to Jesus and make noise to celebrate that he is our King.

Good Friday – Buy a small vine wreath at a craft store and insert toothpicks to resemble the crown of thorns Jesus wore. Whenever a family member makes a sacrifice for someone else, they should remove one thorn. On the night before Easter, after your children are asleep, remove the remaining thorns and decorate the crown with white ribbons and bright flowers.

Easter Sunday – Using a stamp pad and colored pencils, make thumbprint pictures that tell the Easter story. For example, draw a tomb with a rolled-away thumbprint rock and a butterfly with thumbprint wings.



PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To bless your Easter celebrations and keep your focus on his resurrection.
2. To help your children know that Easter is for them.
3. To keep the joy of Easter in your hearts all year long.

Parenting Insights

These age-level insights from *Children's Ministry Magazine* will help you share the Easter message with kids of all ages.

Ages 2 to 5

Tell young children that people who hated Jesus nailed him to a cross and left him there until he died. Explain how sad and afraid Jesus' friends were but emphasize their joy when Jesus returned to life three days later.

Ages 6 to 9

Fairness is a big deal at this age, so explain in simple language that Christ willingly died in our place because he loves us. Kids may be fascinated by crucifixion details. Avoid euphemisms for death such as sleeping.

Ages 10 to 12

Kids who are familiar with the details of the Easter story are ready for the “why.” Explain why it was necessary for Christ to die, referring to the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament.

Easter Words

When reading the Easter story from the Bible, pay attention to any words your children do not recognize. Use a Bible dictionary or concordance for help in explaining any confusing words. More than any other religious holiday, Good Friday and Easter are full of terms your children may not understand. Words like resurrection, crucifixion, betrayal, the Last Supper, cross and burial may require some age-appropriate explanations.

OpenTheBook

"Don't be afraid!" [the angel] said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen."
Matthew 28:5-6

By dying in our place and rising from the dead, Jesus gives his followers eternal life in heaven. That's worth celebrating at Easter—and every day!

Teachable Moments

1. Jelly Bean Joy—Use the candy in children's Easter baskets to remind them of God's love. In this poem, each color represents part of the Easter story:

Orange is for sins we've done.

Red is for the blood of God's only Son.

White is for the grace he gives.

Green is for new life in him.
Yellow is for your place in heaven.

Invite Jesus into your life and be truly forgiven.



2. New Life—Go on a walk to collect lots of twigs (or use toothpicks instead). Use a low-temperature hot glue gun to attach the twigs to a clean, empty soup can. Then fill the "vase" with fresh flowers as you talk about how the twigs are like our lives before Jesus (dead and broken) and how the flowers represent our lives with Jesus (new and alive).



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD**, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." **Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

Talk to children about the real meaning of Easter—and what Jesus did for us—by asking these questions:

1. What happened on the first Easter and why is that so exciting?
2. Why do you think Jesus had to die on the cross? Why were his friends so surprised to see him again afterward?
3. What does Easter mean to you? How does it change your life?
4. Why does God want us to tell other people what happened on Easter? What are some ways you can do that?

Family Experience: Easter Is for Me!

Get closer to one another and to God during Easter by using these simple activities that will have a lasting impact.

- **Prayer Eggs**—During Easter week, use a basket of eggs to encourage your family to spend time together talking to God. Place slips of paper with prayer topics inside plastic eggs. Make enough eggs for each family member to open one per day during the week leading up to Easter. Include praises and gratitude, as well as prayer requests for family members, your church, and the community. Open the prayer eggs at meals or bedtime and pray together for the opened requests. Place special prayer eggs in the basket on Easter morning to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.



- **Resurrection Buns**—Make edible "empty tombs" with just a few ingredients. Wrap a packaged crescent-roll triangle around a large marshmallow. Dip the roll in melted butter, then cinnamon and sugar. Cook the rolls according to the instructions on the roll package. The marshmallows "disappear" and leave an empty, sweet surprise.

Read aloud Luke 24:1-12. Then give each family member a roll and have them take one bite. Ask: "What do you see inside your roll? How do you think the women felt when they found the tomb empty?" Say: "Remember that even as these rolls are empty, Jesus' tomb was empty, too, because he rose from the dead."



What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

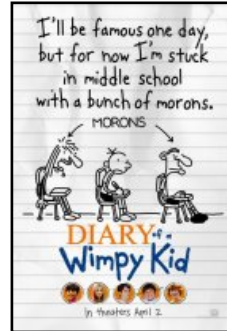
Genre: Live-action/animated comedy

Rating: PG (for some rude humor and language)

Cast: Zachary Gordon, Chloe Moretz, Devon Bostick

Synopsis: This film is based on the first book of Jeff Kinney's popular "novel-in-cartoon" fiction series. It features the adventures of Greg, an awkward kid trying to survive middle school. Greg faces teasing from bullies and embarrassment from his friends and parents. One character calls middle school an "intellectual wasteland."

Discussion Questions: For you, what are the funnest and toughest parts of school, and why? Where do you fit in as part of your school's social scene? What makes you feel either wimpy or strong? Read aloud Ephesians 6:10. How does God give you strength to face each day?



What Music Is Releasing

Artist: Pocket Full of Rocks

Album: *More Than Noise*

Artist Info: This band has been creating praise music together for 16 years. They got their start by leading worship at their Texas church and got their big break when Michael W. Smith used their song "Let It Rain" on his 2001 album.

Summary: *More Than Noise* has a more aggressive sound than the band's previous two albums. "Alive," the first single, is already climbing the Christian radio charts. In it, the band sings: "Every day I find your mercy new. And every moment that I spend with you, I am overwhelmed by grace I can't keep to myself."

Discussion Questions: How does having a relationship with God make you feel? What's the most amazing part of being a Christian? Read aloud 1 Corinthians 9:16. Why is it hard to keep God's good news to yourself? How often do you share your faith with others, and why?



What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>The Daring Game for Girls</i>	To earn gear, players face challenges ranging from freeze tag and jump rope to spy games and cave exploring.	E; Wii, Nintendo DS
<i>Touchmaster 3</i>	Twenty new games include card games, puzzles, word games, and strategy contests. Involves some poker-related strategy.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Supreme Commander 2</i>	In this real-time war-strategy game, players customize armies and machines for battle. Contains cartoon violence.	E10; Xbox 360, PC

GAME RATINGS KEY: EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+), E10+ (ages 10+), T=Teen (ages 13+)



Culture & Trends

What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- New "social mapping" apps such as Loopt, foursquare, and Gowalla track users' movements and alert them to others' whereabouts. Safety experts warn that these apps aren't for kids.
- More kid-friendly electronic devices are on toy shelves, including digital scrapbooking kits, e-reading devices, and toddler-themed remote control items.

Quick Stats

- 30% of preteens say they often worry about their family's financial difficulties. (*USA Today*)



- Parents who are devoted to volunteerism and attend weekly worship with their children are correlated with having teens who are 40% less likely to be sexually active compared to the national average. (Institute of Marriage & Family Canada)

AWANA Change Bank Project Results and Pictures

Congratulations to the AWANA boys for their outstanding achievement of \$106.84 donated to our AWANA missionary, Bruce Patrick! A special thanks also goes Scott Grissett, Brian Ezell, Greg Threadgill and Chad Friday who were the winners of the pie in the face and silly string fun. We are so proud of all the AWANA children for donating \$173.03 to Mr. Patrick so he can continue working in the mission field of this area. Enjoy the pictures below!



Save The Date Back To School Bash!



Mark your calendars now for an amazing Back to School Bash! On Wednesday, August 25th we will be hosting Yancy for our choir and

AWANA fall sign-up. Please plan to join us for the family dinner at 5pm and the show at 6pm. To read more about her, please go to www.yancynotnancy.com. More information will be posted soon!

Easter Outreach

For some non-believers, Christmas and Easter are the only times of the year they step foot in a church. As a family, think about neighbors and family members who don't know Christ and might be open to going to church this year. Pray together as a family for who you might invite. Ask God for boldness. Challenge your children to invite friends from school or sports teams to your Easter church service or to AWANA. Teach your children about evangelism and why it's important to tell others about Christ. Go as a family to a nursing home or hospital. Hand out flowers, Easter bookmarks or other simple gifts to residents along with an Easter related Bible verse on a note card, picture or card made by your kids.

D2BD Report

D2BD was an awesome night- full of games, music, food and fun! The children were also given the opportunity to help make Wordless Books to send with missionaries. These books are a way of presenting the Gospel by showing children colors. We are so proud of them for bringing friends and for their continued prayers for their friends and family. Please encourage your children to pray for their friends and that God will open a door for them to share God's love with them and invite them to church.

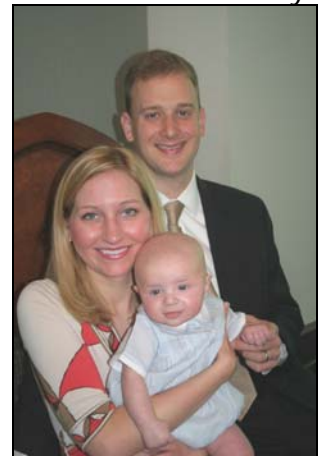


Parent- Child Dedication March 7, 2010

Luke Andrae and
Mollie Suzanne Andrae
Children of Chad and Mollie



William Daniel Zoesch
Son of Jack and Amy



April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Good Friday- Church Closed International Children's Book Day! 	 National Find a Rainbow Day
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter Sunday and Baptism  Worship- 8:15/ 10:45am Sunday School- 9:20am Bible Studies 5:00pm	Angel Food Orders 4-7:00pm 	Open Gym- 6- 9pm	Dinner 4:30pm Choir 5:15pm AWANA- 6:05pm National No Housework Day 		National Library Day 	 National Sibling Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship- 8:15/ 10:45am Sunday School- 9:20am Bible Studies 5:00pm		National Garden Day  Open Gym- 6- 9pm	 National Stress Awareness Day Dinner 4:30pm Choir 5:15pm AWANA- 6:05pm		 National Eggs Benedict Day Eighty's Ladies Luncheon and Dinner	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship- 8:15/ 10:45am Sunday School- 9:20am  VBS Team Meeting 12pm - ROC Bible Studies 5:00pm	National Humorous Day 	 National Pine- apple Upside Down Day Open Gym- 6- 9pm	Dinner 4:30pm Choir 5:15pm AWANA- 6:05pm  Administrative Assistants Day and Earth Day		 National Home Run Day	Arbor Day  Women's Ministry Project Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Worship- 8:15/ 10:45am Sunday School- 9:20am Bible Studies 5:00pm	 National Hug a Friend Day	Open Gym- 6- 9pm	Dinner 4:30pm Choir 5:15pm AWANA- 6:05pm	 National Zipper Day	 National Honesty Day	