

April 2022

# The Lighthouse

## Blessed EASTER to You and Yours!

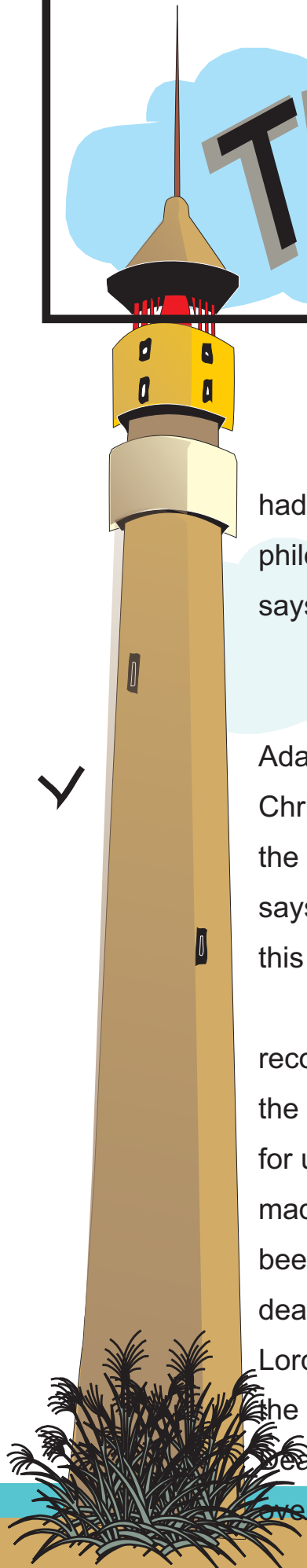
Rev. Shannon K. Philio, Assistant Pastor

Happy Easter. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The empty tomb had a message for the disciples as it has for us. It says to science and philosophy, "Explain this event." It says to history, "Repeat this event." It says to time, "Blot out this event."

Let's use the word Easter as an acrostic.

The E stands for Eternal Life. 1 Corinthians 15:22 says, "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." Sin brought death, but Christ brings life. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." In John 10:10, Jesus says, "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full." Receive this resurrection eternal life. Believe this resurrection eternal life.

The A stands for atonement. Atonement is a word which means the reconciliation of people to God through the redemptive work of Christ upon the cross. Good Friday may not have been good for Christ, but it was good for us. Christ paid the penalty due our sins upon the cross that we may be made one with God. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:54-56, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where O death is thy sting? The sting of death is sin. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." One of the great preachers of the Puritan era captured the real meaning of the resurrection in his sermon entitled, "The Death of Death in the Death of Christ." Easter is a celebration of Christ's victory over death through His atonement.



The S is for salvation. Acts 4:12 says, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Believe Christ rose from the dead. Doubting Thomas said, "I will not believe unless I see, unless I touch." And Jesus replied to him in John 20:24-29, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Keep believing the resurrection that ensures your salvation.

The T is for tomb. All that needs to be said is, "The tomb is empty." The stone was not rolled away to let Jesus out. He could walk through walls. The stone was rolled away to let us in. The linens and cloths were neatly folded in an orderly arrangement. If Christ's body were stolen, grave robbers would not have taken the time. The angel told the women in Matthew 28:5, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."

The E is for exchange, a prisoner exchange. We were all Satan's prisoners, held hostage by our sins. And Christ redeemed us. Redeemed means to purchase as in a ransom price for a hostage or prisoner of war. And that ransom price was His blood. Christ paid the ransom price. He gave His life for ours. 1 Peter 1:9 says you have been redeemed through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "You were bought with a price." John the Baptist's father, Zechariah, worshipped God, saying, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people." Christ paid the price on Calvary on Good Friday, but Resurrection Sunday sealed the deal. Christ says, "I have paid the ransom. You have been redeemed. And I am alive forevermore!"

The R is for Resurrection. Because the tomb is empty, because Christ rose from the dead, we have the sure hope that we too will rise. 1 Corinthians 15 is the Resurrection chapter. Take time to read it this Easter. In verse 23 of this chapter, we read, "Christ is the first fruit; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him will rise." What will our new bodies look or be like? To some degree, it is a mystery, but we will be changed. We will be glorified. We will be given a new body in which we cannot sin for we will not have a desire to sin. The perishable will be clothed with the imperishable, the mortal with immortality. We will be resurrected just as Christ was resurrected. In John 11:25-26, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and

whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.” Jesus is the Resurrection ensuring our resurrection.

Sing the hymn “He Lives” by Alfred Ackley with me this Easter, “I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him, He's always near. He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me, along life's narrow way. He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.” Pastor Horn and I pray a blessed Easter to you and yours and invite you to join us in celebrating the risen Savior!

Stay Tuned for an update  
from our former pastor  
and current missionary

**Darin Stone**

Minister to State in  
North Carolina

# MINISTRY TO STATE NORTH CAROLINA

*Ministering to Those Serving in Government*

**Darin Stone - State Capitol Minister**

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## What's happening with MTS - North Carolina?

I am so grateful for your prayers, support, and encouragement in my work at the North Carolina State Capitol. As we enter the spring, here's is a brief snapshot of what's been happening over the past couple months and some ways you can pray going forward:



The [General Assembly](#) (legislature) finally adjourned from their long session last month. Ordinarily, long sessions begin in January of odd numbered years and extend for six to nine months. This session lasted 14 months, making it the [longest long session in North Carolina history](#). Although frustrating for legislators, it's been good for me, providing me with ample opportunity to connect with elected officials and their staff. ***Pray for***

***the deepening of relationships and the development of new ones as***

*the short session begins on April 4.*

- I've started visiting legislators in their home districts. Meeting these officials on their own turf, away from the legislative building, provides them with a way to be more vulnerable, share more extensively, and hear the gospel more deeply. *Pray for more opportunities to connect with these elected officials on their home turf for the sake of Christ's work in their lives.*
- I made my first entrance into judicial branch ministry a few weeks ago. This is by far the toughest ministry nut to crack, but a providential lunch meeting with the [Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court](#) and an office meeting with another high-ranking court official (who happens to attend a local PCA church) have provided a relational connection there. *Pray that God would open doors for ministry in the judicial branch.*
- I have been asked by the [Lieutenant Governor's office](#) to lead in prayer for a special public ceremony commemorating the [Halifax Resolves](#). This ceremony will take place on April 12 and will be a chance to speak of Jesus and get to the Lieutenant Governor's staff and others working in state government who I have yet to meet. *Pray that God would use this public opportunity to make much of our Savior and to develop relationships with those who need to know him.*
- I have been preaching at several churches throughout North Carolina over the past several months. My preaching schedule is almost completely full from May through August. I will also be leading a four-week study on Christianity and Government at [Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church in Charlotte](#) from August from May 1-29. *Pray that God would give me wisdom, clarity of thought and speech, a desire for the good of his people, the salvation of the lost, and his glory in my preaching and teaching ministry.*
- I completed my first Doctor of Ministry class at [Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte](#) in January on John Calvin's Pastoral Theology. What a thrill it was to sit under one of the world's great Calvin



scholars, learn with a gathering of other ministers, and read and write on Calvin's view of civil government. At the [PCA's General Assembly](#) this June in Birmingham, Alabama, I'll be presenting a seminar on "Calvin's Political Theology for the Church in our Time." *Pray that God would use that seminar to equip pastors, sessions, and congregations to teach, think, and live in ways that reflect the truth and beauty of Christ, especially as their faith intersects with government.*

## Upcoming schedule

**April 4:** Beginning of NC General Assembly short session

**April 12:** Halifax Resolves ceremony prayer leadership

**May 1, 8, 15, and 22:** Christ and Government Class at Sovereign Grace PCA in Charlotte

**May 21:** Piedmont Triad Presbytery (PCA) meeting in Winston-Salem

**May 24:** Catawba Valley Presbytery (PCA) meeting in Lincolnton

**May 29:** Preaching at First ARP in Burlington

**June 5:** Preaching at Christ our Hope (PCA) in Wake Forest/Raleigh

**June 12:** Preaching at Covenant Presbyterian Church (ARP) in Jacksonville

**June 19:** Preaching at Valley Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Madison/Huntsville, Alabama

**June 20-24:** Preaching at Valley Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Madison/Huntsville, Alabama

**June 26:** Preaching at Christ our Hope (PCA) in Wake Forest/Raleigh

**July 3:** Preaching evening service at Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church in Charlotte



# Words to Consider



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## Keep up with MTS - North Carolina

To learn more about MTS North Carolina, check out our website at [mts-nc.org](https://mts-nc.org) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/mtsnc](https://facebook.com/mtsnc).



# BIRTHDAYS for APRIL

Elizabeth Moseley 3rd

Carol Roch 4th

Norman Bagby 9th

Virginia Horn 12th

Kay Pringle 15th

Janet Selig 16th

Rosemary Bailey 17th

Joan Gauthier 17th

Marilyn Kooienga 17th

Ken Pennell 29th

## Dates to Remember for April

- April 2 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall
- April 3 Communion at the morning service
- April 6 Ladies Circle will be at 9:30am in the Parlor
- April 9 Hymn Sing at 6:00pm in the church with an Ice Cream Social afterwards
- April 10 Palm Sunday
- April 10 Monthly Luncheon after the morning worship service, please bring a dish to share
- April 14 Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00pm
- April 15 Good Friday, the church office will be closed
- April 17 Evening Easter Communion Service

You are invited to attend the Installation Service for Rev. Mark Horn (church plant in Ocean Springs), Sunday evening April 3rd at 6pm at First Pres Gulfport.