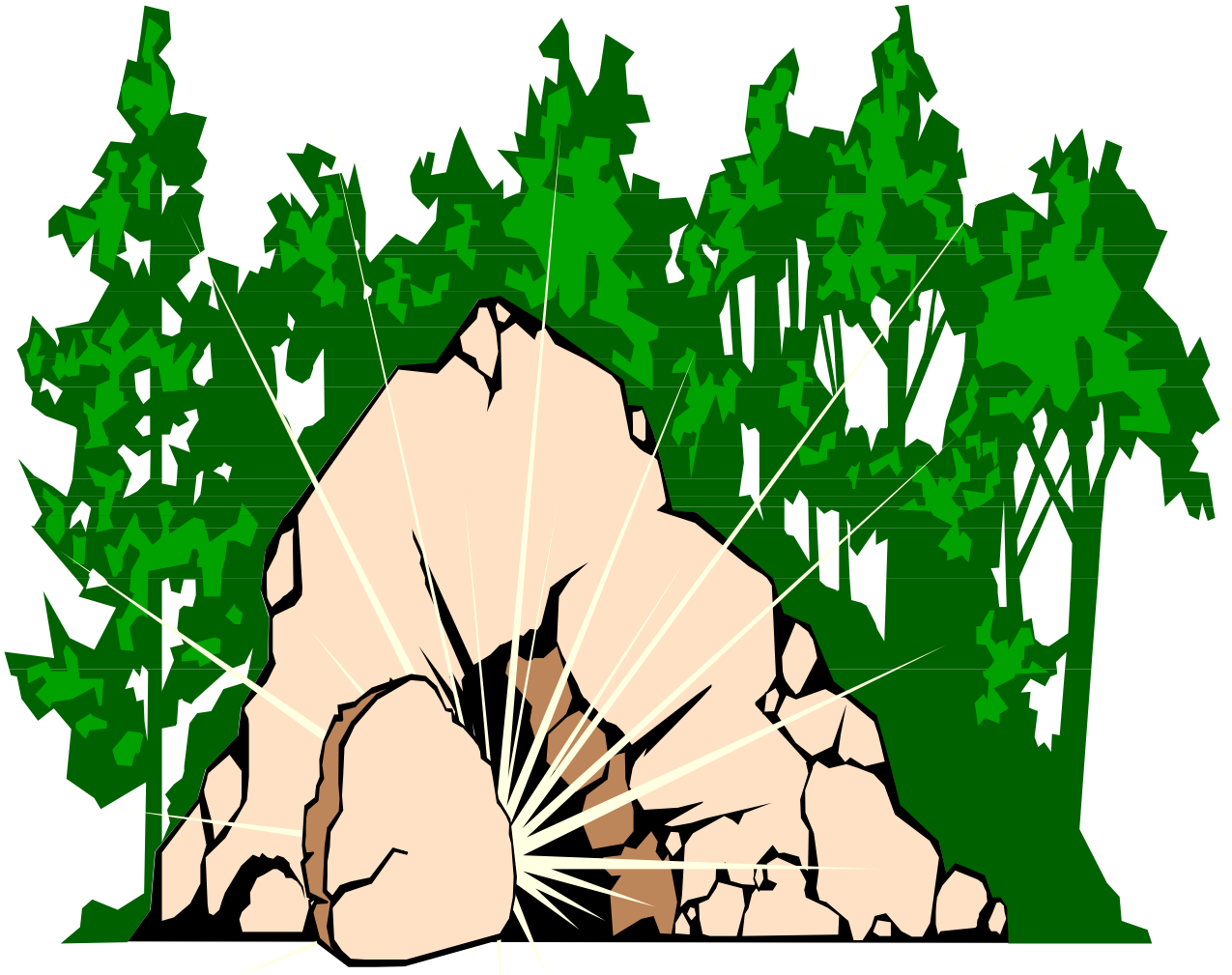
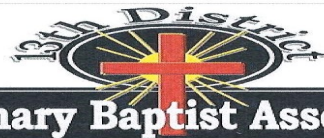


The Thirteenth District Missive



He is Risen!!!



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The Official Newsletter of the 13th District Baptist Association

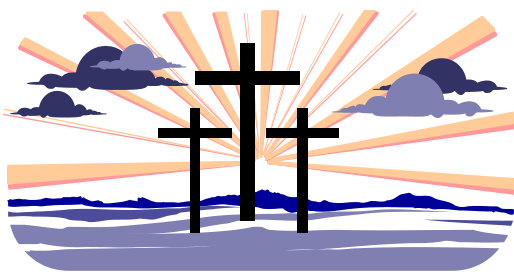
Reverend Dr. Robert Hudson, Moderator

March/April, 2013

SHOCK WAVES FROM AN EMPTY TOMB!!!

Easter represents the time of the year when the Christian church celebrates the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory, majesty and power over sin and death.

The Bible tells us that at the great earthquake, as he laid his taking up his life again, there matter of earthquakes some-realm of the historical, mental, we still feel the aftershocks of remembered that the resurrec-to the long past. No, it is an being felt. How, you ask? Are scale? Well, not exactly.



moment that Jesus died there was a life down. And also when he arose, was a great earthquake. Experts on the times warn of aftershocks. In the and spiritual sojourn of humankind, that first Easter. However it must be tion is not an isolated event relegated event from which aftershocks are still they or can they be measured on the

But in a world that is daily seeing quakes' in areas of our mortality, keep in mind there are shock waves from this empty tomb are felt whenever we see good triumphing over evil, wrong being made right, and mercy being displayed amidst man's mess and madness.

Shock waves from an empty tomb? Yes, they are being felt all over the world and all through time, if one but looks at history: Luther nailing his ninety-five theses to the Wittenburg door was a mere shock wave from the empty tomb, underscoring that we are justified by faith. Wilberforce fighting slavery in the British Empire was another shock wave from this empty tomb. Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, confronting the American society to either put up or shut up concerning living out the meaning of the Declaration of Independence was a shock wave from an empty tomb. Martin Luther King challenged the United States of America to become a nation where men and women are judged by the content of their character rather than by the color of their skin. It was but a mere shock wave from an empty tomb.

So, amidst the earthquakes we see and feel in this ole world, there are still shock waves from an empty tomb, and wherever tyrants come tumbling down, be it a Richard Milhouse Nixon, and Adolph Hitler, a Nero, a George III, a George Wallace, a Bull Connor, or be they skin-heads with empty heads and corrupt hearts ravaged by fear and not governed by faith, Ku Klux Klanners who, instead of being runners in the Christian race, would be cross-burners rather than cross-bearers, corporate board room sinners who make themselves richer while putting the little man out of work, as well as, bed-room sinners and gangsters "illin' on the corner, not realizing they are indeed ill, such grand conclusions of wicked matters, remind us as does the empty grave, that God in Christ still is in charge of history, having died on a fateful Friday, but early Sunday morning He got up with all power in His hands.

13TH District Association Christian Education Workshop - April 27, 2013

There was a Christian Education Workshop sponsored by the 13th District Missionary Baptist Association Congress of Christian Education on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at Goodwill Baptist Church, Reverend Ronald Brown, pastor. The theme was "21st Century Teaching Methods". It was highly recommended that Sunday School Superintendents, as well as, teachers of all ages be in attendance. There were no registration fees, but all were encouraged to register early to ensure an ample supply of materials. On site registration will be began at 8:00 a.m. The workshop began at 8:30 a.m. Reverend Alvin Mays is the Congress Director and Reverend Dr. Robert Hudson, Moderator.

May Quarterly Conference of the Louisiana Baptist State Convention to Convene in Shreveport



May 6-8 2013, the May Quarterly Conference of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention will be held at the Shreveport Convention Center. The 13th District Missionary Baptist Association will be the host.

Tuesday, May 7, 2013, the State Congress of Christian Education, Dean Oliver W. Billups, Director, will convene at the Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Fannin Street. Course offerings are as follows:

Course # 1075 - The Synoptic Gospels - Reverend Jimmy R. Stevens, Instructor

Course # 1086 - The Church History in Acts - Reverend Carl R. White, Instructor

Course # 2011 - Baptist Doctrine - Reverend Olton A. Scott Instructor

Course # 2016 - Biblical Models of Christian Education - Mrs. Cynthia Watkins Rambo, Instructor

Course # 2023 - Creative Ways of Teaching - Dr. Henry Goins, Instructor

Course #2097 - Rethinking Christian Education - Reverend Melvin Rushing, Instructor

Course # 5004 - Principles of Pastoral Leadership - Reverend Melvin Zeno, Esq., Instructor

Course # 6019 - Administering the Church School - Mrs. Georgia Hulbert, Instructor, Instructor

Course # 9008 - Public Speaking - Mrs. Ruby Becker, Instructor

Course # 9024 - The Computer in the Life of the Church - Mrs. Yvette Muse, Instructor

Minister's Seminar - Church and Clergy - Reverend Joseph Garner, Instructor

Where Did That Come From?

The History of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't become a bishop.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

After six years, he escaped from slavery and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the pagans that had overrun the country. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. However, two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

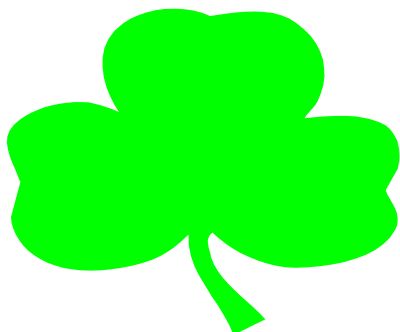
Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hill-top that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston, Massachusetts.



Easter Customs

Origins of Easter

Brief history of the spring holiday

by David Johnson (from the Internet)

Christians celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some trappings of modern Easter celebrations, however, pre-date Christianity and have ancient pagan roots.

Ancient Fertility Goddess

Easter takes its name from Ishtar, the Babylonian and Assyrian goddess of love and fertility. The Phoenicians knew her as Astarte, sister and consort of Baal, a God worshipped in much of the Middle



East and Mediterranean. Some of the ancient Hebrews also worshipped Baal. Astarte spread through Europe, becoming Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, fertility, and the rising sun. The Old English word for Easter, "Eastre" refers to Ostara.

Around the second century A.D., Christian missionaries seeking to convert the tribes of northern Europe realized that the time of the crucifixion of Jesus roughly coincided with the Teutonic springtime celebrations, which emphasized the triumph of life over death. Christian Easter gradually absorbed the traditional symbols.

The egg and the rabbit, two of Easter's most common symbols, also have ancient associations with spring. Eggs symbolize birth and fertility in many cultures. Ancient Egyptians and the Persians colored eggs to give as gifts during their spring festival. The legends of ancient Egypt connect the hare, which comes out at night to feed, with the moon. Rabbits have remained fertility symbols in other, later cultures. According to Anglo-Saxon myth Ostara, wanting to delight some children one day, turned her pet bird into a rabbit. The rabbit

proceeded to lay brightly colored eggs, which Ostara gave to the children.

Easter Egg Hunts

In ancient Europe, eggs of different colors were taken from the nests of various birds and used to make talismans. The eggs were often ritually eaten. The search through the woods for eggs gradually evolved into the Easter egg hunt, while painted eggs eventually replaced wild birds' eggs. Easter baskets were probably originally intended to resemble birds' nests.

Forbidden Eggs

In Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent. Therefore they were a prized Easter gift for children and servants. Eggs were painted bright colors to resemble the sun and springtime. Often, the colors and patterns had romantic symbolism, and lovers exchanged eggs as they sent Valentine's Day cards today.

Different Traditions

Orthodox Christians in the Middle East and in Greece, painted eggs bright red to resemble the blood of Christ. Hollow eggs (created by piercing the shell with a needle and blowing out the contents) were decorated with pictures of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and other religious figures in Armenia. Germans gave green eggs as gifts on Holy Thursday. They also hung hollow eggs on trees. Austrians placed tiny plants around the egg and then boiled them. When the plants were removed, white patterns were created.

Artistic Creations

The most elaborate Easter egg traditions appear to have emerged in Eastern Europe. In Poland and Ukraine, eggs were often painted silver and gold. Pysanky (to design or write) eggs were created by carefully applying wax in patterns to an egg. The egg was then dyed, wax would be reapplied in spots to preserve that color, and the egg was boiled again in other shades. The result was a multi-color stripped or patterned egg.

Cards and Chocolate

Easter cards arrived in Victorian England, when a stationer added a greeting to a drawing of a rabbit. The cards proved popular. The Germans probably began making chocolate bunnies and eggs. Immigrants took the custom to Pennsylvania. As Easter celebrations became more common after the Civil War, the custom of chocolate eggs took place.

Easter Parades

After their baptisms, early Christians wore white robes all through Easter week to indicate their new lives. Those who had been baptized, wore new clothes instead, to symbolize their sharing a new life with Christ. In Medieval Europe, churchgoers would take a walk after Easter Mass, led by a person holding a crucifix in the shape of the Easter candle. Today, these walks endure as Easter Parades. People show off their spring finery.

2013 Schedule for 13th District Ministers Division

Thursday, June 6

Mount Chapel Baptist Church

4034 Flora Avenue

Shreveport, Louisiana

Reverend Clarence Rice, Pastor

Thursday, September 12

Mount Moriah Baptist Church

1010 Caddo Street

Shreveport, Louisiana

Reverend Edward Davis, Pastor

Thursday, December 5

Mount Olive Baptist Church

9860 Greenwood Springridge Road

Shreveport, Louisiana

Reverend Marcus Ellison, Pastor

All sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Reverend Robert Walton, Chairman

Pastor and Church of the Month



Pastor Robert Walton



Saint Rest Baptist Church

The St. Rest Baptist Church, 1664 Garden Street, Shreveport, Louisiana, was established more than 127 years ago. St. Rest is among the oldest churches of Shreveport. Reverend Robert L. Walton is the fourth pastor of this church. In addition to a tremendous music program, the church is constantly seeking ways to make sure that the congregation is growing spiritually and educationally. Through its teaching ministry, many facets reach out to religiously educate all members. The church's motto is: "The Church With An Open Door". This means that everyone is welcomed physically and spiritually. The addition of a new fellowship hall allows the church to reach more into the community and serve. Special help is given to high school and college students through scholarships. St. Rest prides itself in being a service to all at all times.

Congratulations to Pastor Walton and the St. Rest Baptist Church for being chosen as Pastor and Church of the month!

Newsletter/Website Committee

Asriel McLain, Editor of the Newsletter

Dr. Mary Louise Wilson, Advisor to the Newsletter

Lemer Jackson * Helen Hunt, Webmaster * Mattie Livingston-Progue

*Welcome to the
 May Quarterly Conference 2013
 Dr. C. S. Gordon, Jr., President
 Reverend Edward Alexander, Jr.,
 General Secretary, Staff and Officers*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Shreveport Convention Center
 400 Fanin Street
 Shreveport, LA*

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*May your stay in Shreveport be as
 much a blessing to you as it is
 for the 13th District Missionary
 Baptist Association*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Reverend Dr. Robert C. Hudson
 13th District Moderator*