

Mintz Baptist Church

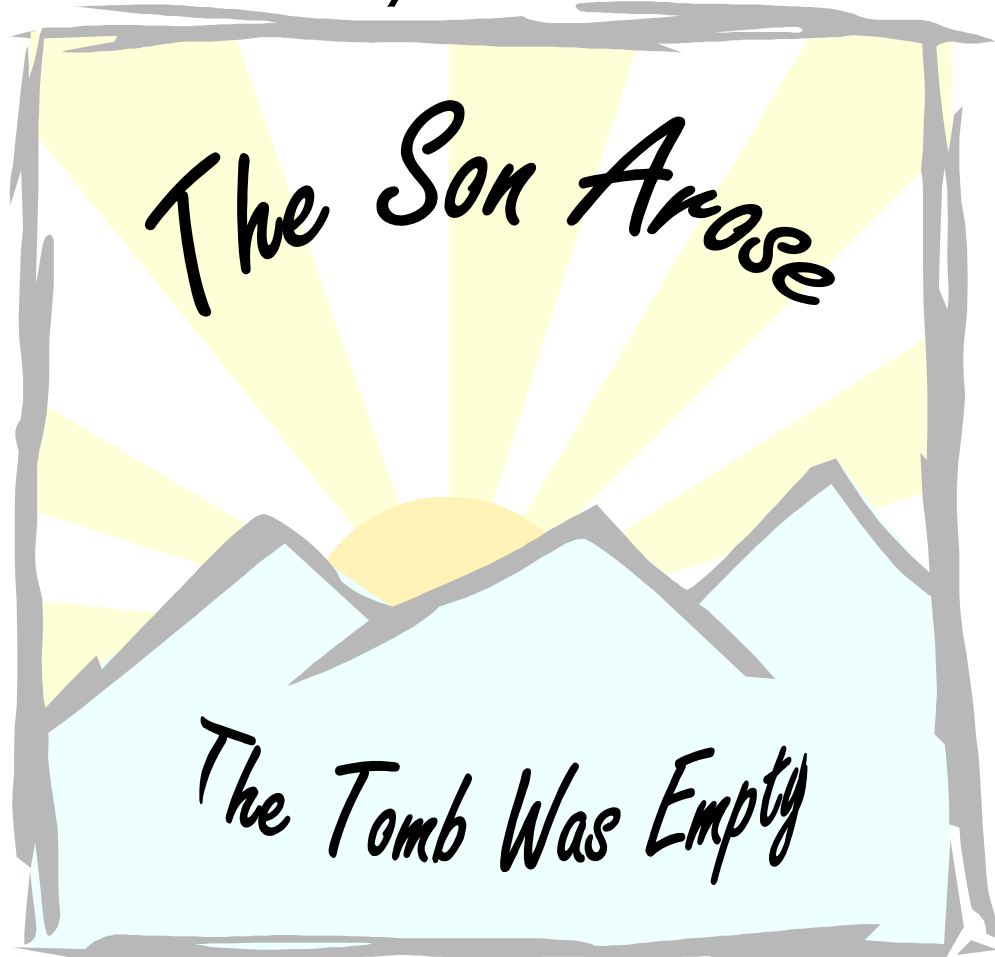


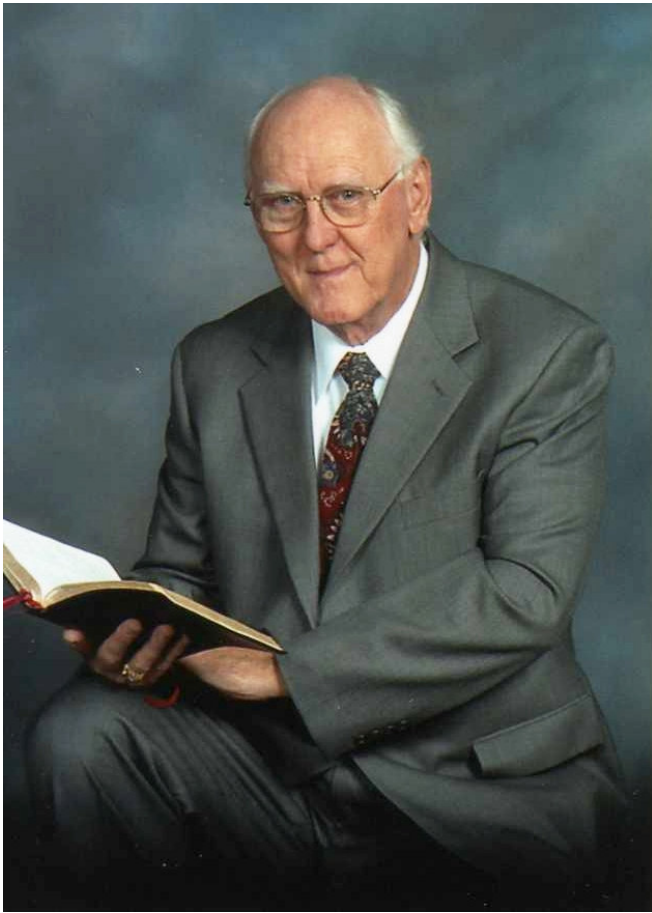
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April 2010





Dr. John McBride
Pastor

Have you lost your first love? That was the indictment Jesus made against the church of Ephesus (*Rev. 2:4*). Do you remember the feelings you had when you first came to know Jesus? You couldn't believe that He died for your sins, that He set you free to live an abundant life. You were grateful, you were thankful, you had a new relationship in your life and you loved no one as you loved Him. You were forgiven, cleansed and had the promise of a future home in glory. Things were different... things were wonderful. But how is that love for Jesus today? Has your worship become mechanical, routine, dull or drab? Is it no longer what the Lord wants but what you want that is important? Losing your joy and love for the Lord Jesus Christ is a very gradual thing. Most times you cannot look back or point to a time that you lost your love for the Lord. It usually starts when we "get busy" and we begin to think in terms of what **we do** for Jesus as being more important, than **who Jesus is** in our lives. Quickly, let me give you four symptoms (signs) of how you "leave your first love."

1. *You lose the joy and glow of the Christian life.*

Things become humdrum and routine. Have you noticed that attitude in your life? I hope not.

2. *You lose your ability to love others.* You love others because you are loved by God. When you lose the ability to love you become critical, you complain and you are missing that sweet spirit. Have you noticed that behavior in your life? I hope not.
3. *You lose a "healthy perspective" of yourself.* You become more and more important in your own eyes. No longer is it what pleases Him, but what pleases you. Has that happened to you? I pray not.
4. *Finally you become sensitive and touchy.* When the focus is on yourself, you no longer reach out to the lost. When the focus is on your own comfort and pleasure, self-centeredness rules and reigns.

Revelation 2:4 should inspire us to examine our motives for service and worship. If we are to continue to move forward with God, then we must remain steadfast in our love relationship with Him. I hope and pray that we are more in love with Jesus today than when we first met Him and gave our lives to Him. The point Jesus made to the Ephesian church was that under those circumstances it is not long until the light of the church dims and eventually goes out. Failure to *serve, worship and remember our love for Him* is grounds for God to remove His hand from a church and place it on those who still love Jesus with all their hearts (*Rev. 2:5*).

MCA News



Ms. Joy McDowell
Principal

No Rock Concert at MCA

Each Monday MCA students meet for Chapel. I wish you could join us and see the faces of these young people as they sing praises, pledge their allegiance and pray. There is such a pure devotion expressed. The young children are not pretentious. They have open hearts ready to be molded by their Creator. They have minds eager to learn and obey.

Last week we learned that if God's children do not cry out His praises, the rocks will. I am confident God's praise will come from the lips of the MCA students. There is no need for a rock concert when our students sing His praises.

There is a picture in our promotional video that illustrates the sincere, humble heart of our students. In this picture we see two boys whose hearts are surrendered and whose will is submitted to the one true God – their Savior and King.

We rejoice with the angels as another of our students has made a profession of faith this week. Thank you Jesus! What an excellent way to celebrate Easter.

Our enrollment for next year continues to grow. Keep praying and talking about the school.

Matthew 18:3

It is my prayer that all of us approach Easter with a humble and sincere heart.

Happy Easter,
Joy McDowell



BAPTISMAL SERVICE

On Easter Sunday morning, we will celebrate the ordinance of baptism. What a great time to celebrate this beautiful service. Presently we have seven candidates who have made a profession of faith and are waiting to participate in this service.

Easter is a time to remember and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Those who enter the baptismal waters are symbolically acting out the resurrection! The new believer is being buried in a watery grave and then raised into a new walk and life with Jesus Christ.

The current candidates are: Alexis Sessoms, Madyson Sessoms, Madison Knapheide, Cynthia Templin, Justin Jones, Nycole Czicholzki and

F a i t h
McLamb. It is our prayer that God will add others to this list before Easter Sunday morning.



FASTING BEFORE THE LORD

The week leading up to Easter (March 29- April 4) is a great time for us to make a personal sacrifice for God's Kingdom here on earth. After all, it was this very week that Jesus faced the most terrible week of His life - His betrayal, arrest, denial, trial and ultimately His crucifixion.

What love Jesus showed for us! What a personal time of sacrifice that was for God's Son. Jesus' spirit was summed up in the Garden when he prayed to His Father, "Not my will but yours be done."

As a church body let's fast before the Lord this week (Monday through Sunday) on behalf of the lost of North Carolina. Let's give up something that will really be a personal sacrifice; something that will really hurt! Let's make this week of fasting meaningful to ourselves and God and thus bring honor and glory to Him. There is a wise saying, "No pain, no gain!" Are you willing to make a sacrifice for your Lord who once gave up everything for you?

By fasting this week let us show compassion and concern for the lost in our great state of North Carolina. In keeping with the spirit of fasting, there will be no desserts at the Wednesday supper this week.

DINNER THEATER GETTING READY

The Country Cousins are coming back to the McDaniel community for a big old country picnic.

Casting is complete and rehearsals are underway. The cast has several months of hard work before their first performance, but as usual, they are committed and dedicated to the task.

The unpredictable



happens in the midst of the fun of getting the city and country cousins back together. Just before the food is to be served the sheriff comes to arrest Festus. Surely there must be some mistake, or is there?



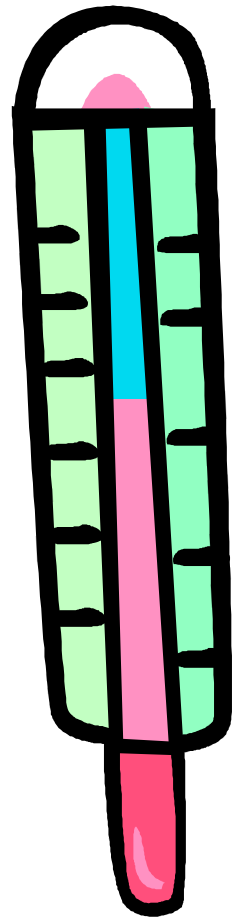
Buy a ticket to find out! Performance dates are: July 23 & 24; July 30 & 31; August 6 & 7 and August 13 & 14. You can make your reservations now by calling the church office (564-6500).

BUILDING FUND **GROWTH**

It is exciting to see our Building Fund Thermometer move upward. For some it may appear to be ever so slow in inching upward, but it is *moving!*

We are now very close to our first hurdle of \$100,000. Once this hurdle is reached, we can concentrate on the next hurdle of \$200,000. Let's not get ahead of ourselves but keep our focus on the first hurdle. Presently we are only short about \$8,000 of our first goal. Is there a way to reach this amount by the end of May? I think so! How? The last Sunday in May is a fifth Sunday and the total offering that Sunday goes into the Building Fund, if we meet our budget demands for the month of May. We have nine Sundays between now and the last Sunday of May.

What if we all gave something over and beyond our tithe to the Building Fund? It does not have to be a great amount because a little can add up to a lot very quickly. ***Let's challenge one another to designate something to the Building Fund each week for the next nine weeks.*** You may only give an extra \$5, but just think if 100 people gave that amount we would have \$500.



To make our new building a reality will demand an occasional sacrifice from us all. Pray about this matter before sealing your offering envelope this coming Sunday. Put the amount you are giving to the Building Fund on the line that says Building Fund (above your regular tithe).

Wow, it would be great to see the thermometer hit \$100,000 on May 30. Together we can do it!

CONSTRUCTION **DRAWINGS UPDATE**

The two committees overseeing our future construction have turned over the contract for construction drawings to the firm of Massengill and Edwards. The pastor has met with Mr. Edwards several times in the last week to clarify certain specs related to our building. Things are

moving in a positive manner and so far these professionals have been very helpful and cooperative.

What are the construction drawings going to cost? The going rate for each of these firms is \$3.00 per square foot, for a total cost of \$6.00. The good news is that the pastor worked on the plans and provided drawings and the rate was reduced to \$1.50 per square foot or \$3.00. This ended up being a 50% savings. The square footage of our new building is $22,825 \times \$3.00 = \$6,847.50$.

We have saved money already! Remember to keep this building project and our committees in your prayers.

ADDITIONS TO THE NEW BUILDING

The committees, after listening to the excellent questions raised by the church body, had the pastor look at the possibility of making a few changes in the plans.

One concern from the Church was not having restrooms located at the front of the building. The pastor analyzed the plans and added a set of restrooms in the lobby. The designer

reviewed the changes and approved the revisions. No square footage was lost and the church's desire for these additional restrooms has been met.



A few other changes are being explored, such as a ramp accessing the stage and storage space needs. Hopefully in the near future we will have a set of floor plans to share with the Church.

INTERVIEWING CONTRACTORS

Following the suggestion of our designers, the two committees will soon start interviewing prospective builders. Items the committees will discuss with the contractors will include: *their building history, their experience in building churches/schools, liability issues including bonding, their financial solidarity and success rates in completing projects in a timely manner.* The committees will visit prior projects the contractors have completed.

We will allow each contractor to study our building. We will then request input and suggestions from them on cost savings and/or suggested improvements. We will seek a firm with Christian integrity. As a Christian body of believers, we desire to work in partnership with other Christians. We want to construct a building which pleases God and brings Him glory.

After the interview process is completed, the committees will select the contractor they feel will best serve our Mintz family. The name of the company/contractor will be brought before the church for approval. The selected contractor will work hand-in-hand with our two designers.

EASTER SCHEDULE

7:00 - 8:15am ***Sunrise Service/Sanctuary Worship Hour***

*Praise and Worship

*The Lord's Supper---All Believers

Special: "He Grew The Tree"- Sarah McBride

*Scene 1: In The Garden---Adult Choir

"The Day He Wore My Crown---solo---Holly Edwards

*Scene 2: Resurrection---Adult Choir

"Gone"

*Youth Dance Team---"*The Rock*"

*Scene 3: The Second Coming---Adult Choir

"Midnight Cry"---solo---Danny Ducker

*Children's Dance Team---"*Talk About It*"

8:15 - 9:15am ***Breakfast***

9:15 - 10:15am ***Sunday School***

10:30am ***Worship Celebration***

- Baptismal Service

- Presentation of Bibles

- Sermon - *The Shame of the Cross*

- Specials - "*Champion of Love*"

"Jesus Is Alive and Well"