

# March 2024 Newsletter

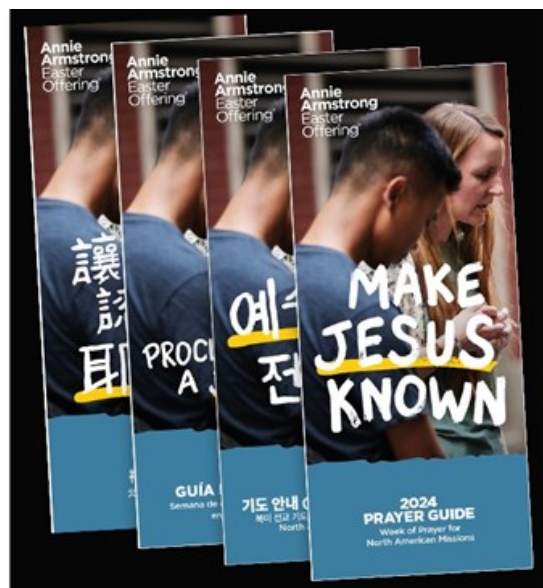
Flat Springs Baptist Church

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## The Week of Prayer for North American Missions Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

This month we celebrate Annie Armstrong and her ground-breaking efforts to draw attention to missions. The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 3-10, coinciding with the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. "Make Jesus Known" is the overarching theme for 2024, inspired by the Great Commission. There are an estimated 371 million people in North America speaking 350 languages. 281 million people are without the hope of the gospel because they haven't heard of Jesus or haven't had a messenger in their lives to proclaim the gospel. Let us come together to support and encourage the messengers, our North American Mission Board Missionaries. Visit [AnnieArmstrong.com](http://AnnieArmstrong.com) for inspiration to pray and to give. Our Flat Springs goal is to collect \$3,000 in designated offering.



## Eastertime Happenings

Saturday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Easter Celebration
Sunday, March 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service Parade of Palms
Thursday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
Sunday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 am	Sunrise Service
	7:30 am	Breakfast
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Easter Service
Monday, April 1 <sup>st</sup>		Office Closed to Observe Easter

**BUSINESS  
MEETING**

March 10<sup>th</sup>

**MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**

March 17<sup>th</sup>  
8 am

**Deacon of the Month - Bill Boisvert**

### Sunday School & Worship Attendance for February 2024

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service
2/4/24	99	131
2/11/24	92	114
2/18/24	94	127
2/25/24	95	118

## Message from Pastor Blume

### Easter: The Season to Return

Easter is Christianity's oldest and most important holiday. It is a season when Christians emphasize and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. He was crucified on Friday and defeated death, the mortal enemy of mankind, by coming out of his borrowed tomb on Sunday. He is alive!

Research shows that more people search for the word "church" online during the Easter season than any other time of the year. Christmas comes in second. We also know that more lost, non-Christians attend church around Christmas, whereas those who are looking for a church during the Easter season are "returning Christians."

In other words, these are people who previously participated in church and are likely still on a church roll somewhere. But they are looking for a chance to reconnect with a church family. They are searching for the values they saw in a local church when they were growing up, but for some reason they dropped out of church. Some

of these people have been hurt and disillusioned by churches in conflict that lost their mission and purpose. Some just got sidetracked by secular priorities and have discovered the emptiness it delivers.

Will some of these "returning Christians" walk through the doors of Flat Springs Baptist Church this month? If they do, what will they find? Will they find people whose Christian faith is real or people who are just going through the motions of religion? Will they find an acceptance that prompts them to return? Will they see believers who enjoy worshipping Jesus? These are honest questions we cannot overlook. These are people we must not ignore.

I hope you will invite unchurched people of every kind to worship with us at Easter. I hope they see Jesus and find what they need to fill the emptiness of their heart and soul.

I'm praying for you. Thank you for praying for me!

Allan Blume

## Ladies Retreat and Baptist Women's Day

Saturday, March 9 10:00 – 3:30 includes Luncheon  
Sunday, March 10 8 am Breakfast & 10 am Worship

The Hands and Feet mission group cordially invites all our ladies and girls to our annual Retreat and Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall for a spiritually uplifting time with Teresa Davis of *Fragrance Ministries*. Teresa will bring the message, Crystal Ross, our facilitator, will direct us in

crafting a souvenir, and we will learn what we have in common with the hearty dandelion, a symbol of strength and resilience. Registration is \$20 includes program materials, lunch, craft materials, and speaker honorarium. Sign-up sheet is in the Atrium.



Teresa Davis

Speaker on Saturday Retreat Day  
and Baptist Women's Day

New Direction Bluegrass  
Musical Guests  
on March 10<sup>th</sup>



## Easter Celebration Alert!

Hey everyone! Get ready to hop into the joy of Easter with our Family Easter Event on Saturday, **March 16th at 10 am!** We've got a morning packed with fun, faith, and fellowship planned just for you and your family. Here's what's in store:



**Feast on Breakfast:**  
Kickstart your morning with a scrumptious breakfast spread. A perfect beginning to a day full of celebrations!



**Crafts Galore:**  
Dive into creativity with Easter-themed crafts. Create something special to remember the day.



**Games and Laughs:**  
Ready for some friendly competition? Join in on the games. It is guaranteed to bring smiles and laughter to all.



**Easter Story Time:**  
Gather around for a heartwarming storytelling session, reflecting on the hope and joy of Easter.



**Easter Egg Hunt:**  
The highlight for many - an exciting Easter egg hunt!



This event is an amazing opportunity for our church family to connect and celebrate the season of renewal together. Can't wait to see you there!

## Who was Annie Walker Armstrong?

Annie was born 1850 in Baltimore at a time when there was little opportunity for women. Yet, her devotion to Christ led her to a life of service and leadership. She organized women to pray, to give and to meet the needs around them. She challenged pastors and churches to action and rallied vital support for missionaries until her passing in 1938. Ultimately, Annie was recognized as a national Southern Baptist trailblazer for her visionary leadership that still inspires millions today.

“What a glorious thing it is to be a co-worker with God in winning the world for Christ.”

Annie Armstrong



### Armstrong's Contributions

- ♥ Started *Bay View Mission* for Baltimore's poor and addicted
- ♥ Served as the first executive of *Woman's Missionary Union*
- ♥ Led the formation of missions' organizations for children
- ♥ Raised support for missionaries to Italian and Jewish immigrants
- ♥ Refused a salary because she would never give to the Lord "that which costs me nothing," inspired by 2 Samuel 24:24
- ♥ Initiated fund-raising "brick cards" to build churches in Cuba
- ♥ Gained support for the first black, female missionaries
- ♥ Secured funds to relieve China missionary, Lottie Moon, who had served for 11 years without a furlough
- ♥ Advocated for Native Americans and impoverished mountain people
- ♥ Honored in 1934 when *The Home Missions Offering* was re-named for her to encourage more to follow her sacrificial example. We know this as *The Annie Armstrong Missions Offering*.

HAPPY Easter

March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> Church Council Meeting <b>Birthdays:</b> Mark Love <b>10</b> Baptist Women's Day 8:00 Ladies Breakfast 11:00 Business Meeting <b>Birthdays:</b> Larry Kelly <b>17</b> Baptist Men's Breakfast	<b>4</b> <b>Birthdays:</b> Linda Kelly <b>11</b> <b>18</b> Dorcas Sew Day <b>Birthdays:</b> Fran Thomas, Luke Shaver, Kendal Gaines <b>25</b> Easter Monday	<b>5</b> Building & Grounds Meeting <b>Birthdays:</b> Jennifer Parries <b>12</b> <b>19</b> Welcome SPRING <b>Birthdays:</b> Shana Thomas <b>26</b>	Deacon of the Month: Bill Boivert <b>6</b> 5:30 Family Night Supper <b>Birthdays:</b> Norman Keith, Tom Luck <b>20</b> <b>27</b> <b>Birthdays:</b> Martha Cagle, Trevor Harris, Tracy Schoolcraft, Ruth West	<b>7</b> <b>Birthdays:</b> Renee Nance, Michael Guerra <b>14</b> <b>21</b> Diaconate Meeting <b>28</b> 11:15 Birthday Buddies 7:00 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY	<b>Birthdays:</b> Baker Earwood, Darrell Ragan, Kevin Schoolcraft <b>8</b> Setup for Ladies Retreat <b>Birthdays:</b> Jordan Tillett <b>15</b> <b>Birthdays:</b> Stephanie Pace <b>22</b> <b>Birthdays:</b> John Mullins <b>29</b> GOOD FRIDAY	<b>9</b> Ladies Retreat at Flat Springs 10:00 - 3:30 SPRING FORWARD! Daylight Saving <b>16</b> Family Easter Celebration THE EASTER STORY <b>23</b> 3:00 - Youth Ice Skating 5:00 <b>30</b>
<b>31</b> EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 Sunrise Service 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service	Easter Monday CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED	<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Youth Meeting	<b>Wednesday Night Schedule</b> 6:00 Acteens 6:30 FSBC Knights Club 6:30 Mid-week Service 7:00 RA's 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>Students of the Month</b> Eliza Boisvert Western Carolina Univ. Suite 9381 245 Memorial Drive Cullowhee, NC 28723 Cailla Phillips 4651 Deep River Road Sanford, NC 27330 Attending NC State University		