

The Deer Parker

April 4, 2018



From the Pastor

Easter morning joy! From the moment I walked into Fellowship Hall on Easter Day, I felt the warmth of friends enthused about the very meaning of this singular day in the Christian year.

A delicious breakfast prepared for all who came early in the day. Meaningful conversations around the tables. Choir rehearsing two times. Bible study groups engaged in discussion around the resurrection.

Then we went to the sanctuary. What a beautiful room prepared for our hearts to express praise and adoration to the Risen Lord! It took a while to place all the flowers on the cross, but once done, what a sight of joyous beauty to behold! The singing of the great hymns on Jesus' "victory o'er the grave." The choir. The instrumentalists. Hearing God's Word read as if for the first time.

We worshipped with sacred conviction, with glad hearts, with eager minds -- all to God's glory. And so we pray and sing:

"Risen Christ

All creation sings with wild, exuberant hope.

In Easter joy and celebration

We echo the resurrection chorus:

'Christ is risen indeed!'

Alleluia!"

This Sunday, April 8, we continue to focus on the scenes in the life of the first disciples. Thomas, not so much a doubter, as one who shows faithful trust and love for his Lord. Come and worship -- once more - the Risen Christ!

David Platt

Baptist World Alliance Prayer Updates

"Baptists Praying Together" is the weekly prayer letter from the Baptist World Alliance. Each Monday a new list of countries where Baptist congregations worship and minister will be posted on our bulletin boards. You can access the list each week by going to "Baptist World Alliance" online and clicking on "Resources."

Each May our congregation receives our annual offering for the work of the BWA. Look for information in our upcoming church newsletters.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am excited to announce to you an exciting ministry opportunity that the Lord has bestowed upon Deer Park Baptist Church. We will embark upon a ministry of equipping believers while simultaneously engaging in community outreach to the lost. The DEER PARK APOLOGETICS CLUB exists to serve the church by helping to train its members in learning how to defend their faith.

The Apostle Peter tells us in 3:15 of his first epistle "...But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." This wonderful verse in the Bible is used as the foundational reason for the practice of Christian apologetics. What is Christian apologetics, you might ask? Simply put, we are giving the **REASON** for the **FAITH** that we have been given in the hope that others may likewise **BELIEVE** and be **SAVED**.

The DEER PARK APOLOGETICS CLUB will not require a great deal of time or energy investment compared to the benefits that we hope it can deliver. A single monthly meeting is the ideal stage for us to be able to discuss the literature, topics, and ideas that we will be encountering in our studies. Perhaps the greatest single opportunity for this ministry is our ability to reach the Deer Park neighborhood and the Highlands community at large. For this reason, the Safai coffeeshop, just down the road, appears to be the ideal place in which to **GATHER, STUDY, and ENGAGE**.

This ministry, like all endeavors of the church, must be built upon a foundation of prayer. I humbly ask each brother and sister of Deer Park to pray for God's favor upon this ministry, His guidance, His power, His fruitfulness, the faithful proclamation of His Word, and for the love of God in Christ to be put on display for all to see. If you can't participate in this ministry, that's okay. We do, however, ask for your faithfulness in prayer and your work as ambassadors for Christ in spreading the word about this ministry.

Lastly, a sign-up sheet is in the atrium. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please give us your name and phone number so that we can be in contact. Thank you for your prayers, love, and fellowship. The date of the first meeting is set for Thursday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Safai coffeeshop.

In Christ, Jonathan O'Keefe

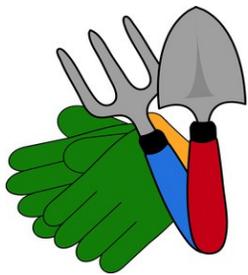
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am - Bible Study
10:15 am - Choir Warm-up
10:45 am - Worship

Wednesday

5:30 pm - Supper
6:15 pm - Midweek Prayer Svc.
7:00 pm - Choir Practice



Gardening Needs

Over the winter months a lot of debris has accumulated in the church's flower beds. The beds and our grounds are in need of a good weeding and cleaning out. We are looking for anyone interested in helping clean out our flower beds and plant new flowers. If you would like to volunteer please call the church office.



Friendship International

Walnut Street Baptist Church sponsors a gathering every Wednesday during the school year for internationals. We at Deer Park have been asked to provide food for them on Wednesday, April 11.

Please bring your contribution to our church before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10. Some suggestions are: hard-boiled eggs, bagels, salty snacks, nuts, sweet breads, bananas, oranges, grapes, or raw veggies. Put everything in a disposable container since they will not be returned. Please let Becky Houston know what you would like to contribute. She will pick up the food from you, if needed, and make the delivery. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Deer Park Stats 4/1/2018

Worship	109
Sunday School	38
Budget Received	\$5,670.00 (127%)
Weekly Budget Needed	\$4,448.00
Budget Needs Y-T-D	\$164,576.00
Budget Gifts Y-T-D	\$173,802.00



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
April 15 - Katie Whitworth
April 18 - Steve Keiber
April 21 - Rebekah Keiber

Blossoming
of the
Cross
on
Easter
Sunday



News, Notes and Events

- 2018 VBS will be held from Wednesday, June 20-Sunday, June 24. Times to be announced.
- The next meeting of the A Christian's Guide to Islam book club will be on Monday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Deacon on Call

Adrian Cooksey serves as the Deacon on Call from this coming Sunday through Saturday, April 21. He is available to minister in Christ's name to Deer Park families and individuals.

