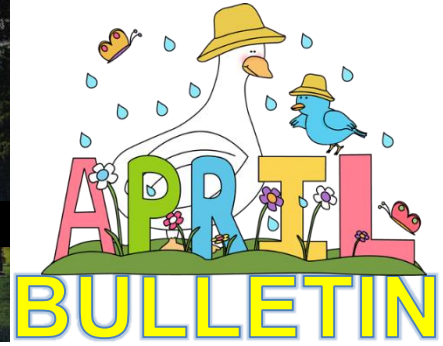


ELDER JIM BOWEN

April 16, 2017



Goshen Primitive Baptist Church

Attendance 127 + Cooks/38

It was great to see all of our church family at Sunrise Service.

The tradition of families attending Sunrise Service is welcomed and fun for all of us to see old friends. To be able to visit and reminisce of days gone by. To be able to see children grown with children of their own or grandbabies is always heart warming.

Please extend a thank you to folks who came, enjoyed and loved being in God's Goshen House once again. Come again next year.



Winter is Past -- God is so good. I thank the only true and living God that He has full control of the times and seasons on this earth. The LORD made this promise in Genesis 8:22 when He said "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." While God has surely made the winter season to serve a needed purpose in the grand scheme of things, I find the greatest thing to come out of winter is spring! It is my experience that the darker and colder the winter is, the warmer and brighter will be the spring that follows. Spring does my heart good and gets the blood to flowing as the warmth returns, and the senses are stirred again by the reemergence of life all around us.

Solomon writes the following words. "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." (Song of Solomon 2:10-13)

On the surface this passage speaks of a beckoning call to get up, rise and come along as the time of darkness and cold are past. In my life it is around Easter that I seem to come out of hibernation in a natural sense and begin to appreciate world around me again. The snows of winter become spring showers, the cold and ice are replaced by warmth and green. The birds seem to sing more than ever before. And yes somewhere out there, even an old bear like me stirs. The passage in Song of Solomon reminds me of this time of the year.

And our lives have never been more blessed and brighter than they were just three days and nights later, when our LORD Jesus left that tomb fully ALIVE! The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was real and it was witnessed by so many. Where death was seemingly in control, Jesus overcame it and life came forth out of a borrowed tomb. Isaiah said it this way "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee." (Isaiah 60:1-2)

Our Beloved Jesus has spoken into the darkness of a death that hung over His people and life has come forth. Jesus said it this way "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." (John 5:25)

Yes the LORD is alive and new life abounds among His people, but what about that last phrase we are looking at. "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." God's people, His church, His bride, His fair one have been awakened to a beautiful life. The Beloved in our passage now says "come away". There is the thought here of action for those that have already been called to get active.

I close with the words of Jesus, as He spoke to His disciples, a group of people that He loved. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) God is so good.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 04-20 – Seasoned Citizens Woody's Ashland
- 04-23 – Circle Prayer @ 9:15 a.m.
- 04-23 – Bible Lessons @ 3:00 p.m.
- 04-26 – Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m.
- 04-30 – PBYP 5th Sunday Donation Lunch

Prayers:
GOSHEN CHURCH
Jane Garrett Martin Family
 Mitchell Calvin, Bev Steelman,
 Colton's Grandpa,
 Kevin Brown, Janice Holland,
 Laura Shrum, Becky Sanders,
 Virginia Bennett, Larry Martin
 Those In The Nursing Homes
 & Health Care Facilities

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 04-19 – Junetta House
- 04-21 – Justin Wobbe
- 04-21 – Shelly Helms
- 04-22 – Teagan McCubbin
- 04-23 – Peggy Bowen

Mark Your Calendar:

Annual Church Cleaning
April 17 – 6:00 p.m.

PBYF 5th Sunday
DONATION LUNCH
April 30th



Goshen Spring Meeting
May 4-7
Elder Buck Grantham
Middleground PB Church
Statesboro, GA

SOBOCO Baccalaureate
MAY 7

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH
May 13/11:30 a.m.

PBYF Church Camp
June 4-8
Pinckneyville, IL

Central States Ministerial
Conference
July 18-20
Vincennes, IN