

The Great Vigil of Easter



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Durham, North Carolina*

Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Light

The congregation gathers at the fire pit in the Creation Garden.

Blessing of the New Fire

- A Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord: as we honor the memory of his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, we also share his victory over death and live with him forever.
- P The Lord be with you.
- C **and also with you.**
- P O God, you are like a refiner's fire and your Spirit kindles our hearts with faith. Bless this flame as we celebrate this Easter festival, so that, burning with desire for life with you, we may be found fit to take part in that festival of light which has no end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen**

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

The paschal candle is blessed and is lit from the new fire and the candles of the worshipers are also lighted.

- P Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.
- C **Amen**
- A May the light of Christ risen in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and our minds.
- C **Come let us worship Christ.**

The Light of Christ

- A The light of Christ
- C **Thanks be to God.**
- When all are in place:*
- A The light of Christ
- C **Thanks be to God.**
- Exsultet: The Easter Proclamation

Five nail heads with five grains of incense, symbolizing the five wounds of Christ, are inserted into the candle during the Exsultet.
(Please extinguish candles at the conclusion)

Office of the Readings

P Brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us hear now the record of God’s saving deeds and mighty acts on our behalf and how, with a mighty arm and outstretched hand, God called people to return to their God.

First Reading Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a
Hymn – **Crashing Waters at Creation** **455**
Prayer

Second Reading Genesis 7:1-5
Hymn – **Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word** **517**
Prayer

Third Reading Exodus 14:10 – 15:1
Hymn – **O Word of God Incarnate** **514**
Prayer

Fourth Reading Daniel 3:1-29
Hymn – **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise** **834**
Prayer

Holy Baptism

The Blessing of Baptismal Water

The water is poured into the font.

P It is truly right and just that we should at all times and in all places, give you thanks, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God; who by your unseen presence makes your sacraments effective in an amazing way. At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness. The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of Baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness.

The celebrant breathes upon the water in the sign of the Cross.
P Through the waters of the Red Sea you led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God’s holy people, set free from sin by Baptism.

The celebrant divides the water with his hand.
P Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross. After his Resurrection he told his disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The celebrant sprinkles the water in the four directions of the earth.
P Father, look now with love upon your Church, and unseal for her the fountain of Baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit give to the water of this font the grace of your Son. You created us in your own likeness: cleanse all from sin in a new birth of innocence by water and the Spirit. We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.

The Paschal Candle is lowered into the water.
P May all who are buried with Christ in the death of Baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism
P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
P We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Dressing of the Altar during the hymn

Hymn – **At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing**

ELW 362

Holy Gospel

John 20:1-18

before the reading

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

after the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

P Alleluia. Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sermon

Pastor Amanda Highben

Hymn – **Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

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Offering

Offertory Response - Let the vineyards be fruitful,...

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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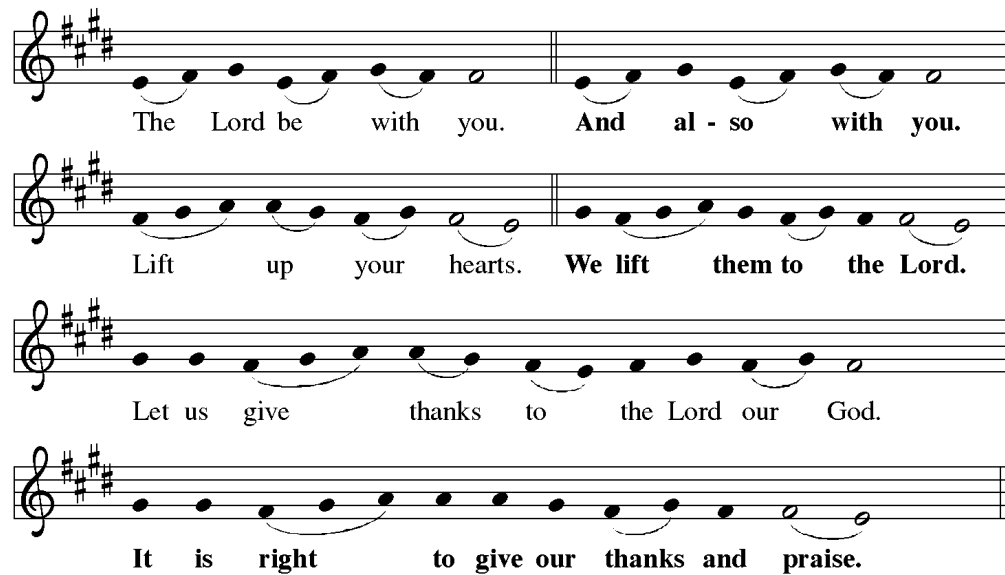
Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray. Everlasting God, the whole universe sings a new song of praise: the rivers clap their hands, the hills ring out for joy. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us voices ready to cry out for justice and proclaim resurrection joy wherever your Spirit leads us. In Jesus’ name we boldly pray.

C Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

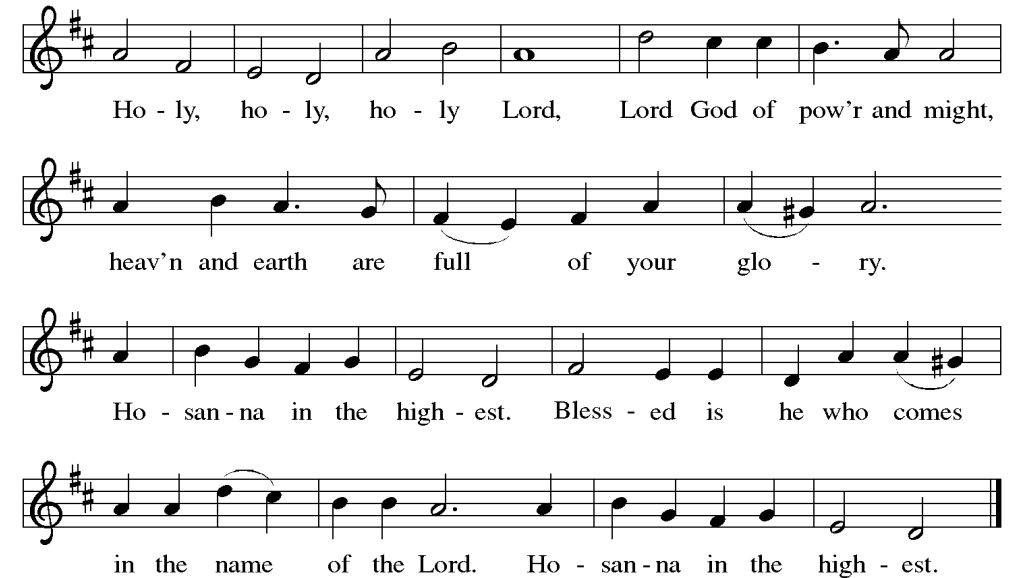
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

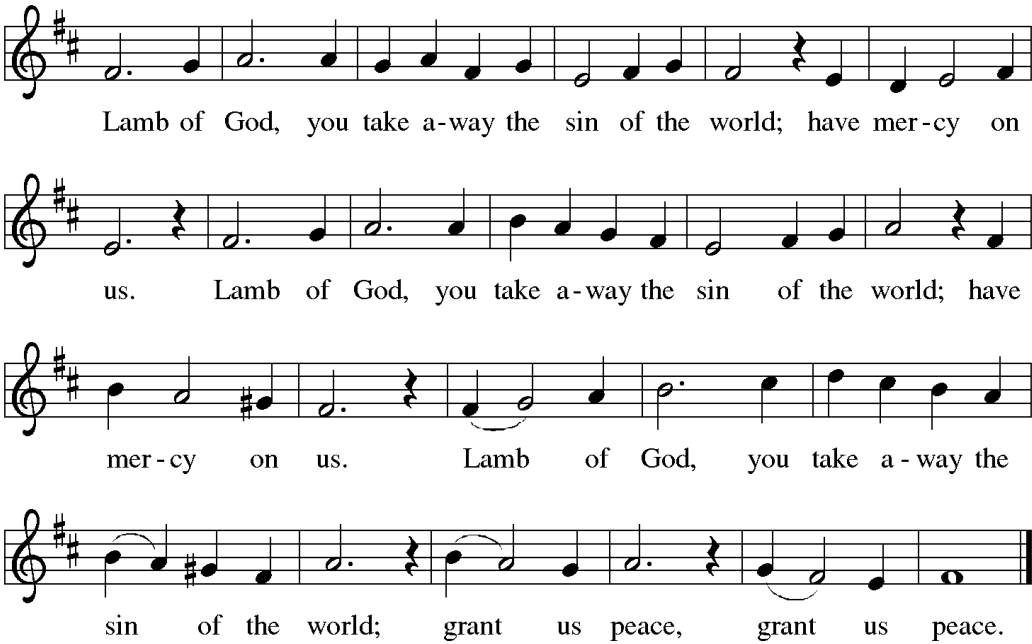
Invitation to Communion

P Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

C Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Communion

Admission to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is by invitation of our Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. Those unable to partake of bread or wine are assured that we affirm our Lord's presence in, with, and under either the bread or wine alone. If you are unable to receive Holy Communion at the altar, please notify an usher in order to receive communion at your seat. All are welcome at the table for a blessing. We use red wine at communion. We offer non-alcohol wine and gluten free wafers so inform your server at the rail if you desire either.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn during Communion – **Day of Arising**

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Post Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.

Solemn Blessing

With heads bowed, we pray...

P May the Almighty God and father of us all, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the death and resurrection of his beloved Son our Lord, pour out upon you manifold blessings

C Amen

P May the God of all mercies, who through the waters of Holy Baptism has raised us from the bondage to sin into newness of life, unite you in love with Christ and his holy Church, now and forever!

C Amen

P May the God of peace and great Shepherd of the flock, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in Christ Jesus our Lord, bring you to the eternal joys of heaven.

C Amen

P The blessing of Almighty God: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you now and forever!

C Amen

Hymn - **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

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Postlude – *Intro and Passacaglia from Sonata No. 8 by Josef Rheinberger*

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Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Phyllis Jenkins, Leslie Johnson, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Tracey Dissel, Fran Whitfield, Gus Holshouser, James and Cassandra Wagner, Sue Dahl, Barbara Shade, Mark Dewhirst

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time** - email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony’s mother], Robert Meissner [Tony’s uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte’s), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Brady Laubert (grandson of Pam and Steve Taylor), Staci Dominick (daughter-in-law of Ted and Diana Dominick), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Michelle Meadors, Gad Kainer, Peggy Stevens (by John and Linda Foreman), Nancy Randle (niece of Ann and Larry Grovenstein), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Chuck Noll (friend of the Waugh’s), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Marjorie Bower (daughter of Doug and Fran Whitfield), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Rufous Coulter (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter), Rev. Kyle Randle (nephew of Ann and Larry Grovenstein), Cathy White, (niece of Ann and Larry Grovenstein), Jimmy Holshouser (brother of Gus Holshouser), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Steve, Erin, JD, Emmett and Rowan Simmons (Preschool Family), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Marge Taylor (mother of Steve Taylor), Don Weaver (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Jim Allen (family member of Ted and Diana Dominick), Sara (sister of Marlene Coulter), Farmer family (cousins of Marlene Coulter), Eileen Kunca (Friend of the Dominicks), Betty Sue Dickerson and son Barry Dickerson (friends of the church)

“Light a Candle” -- Candles are lit for prayer intentions. To "light a candle for someone" indicates one's intention to say a prayer for another person, and the candle symbolizes that prayer. **The candle screen and votive candles are in the Narthex of the church**, along with wood tapers to light them with. You are welcome to come, light a candle, and pray. If you come after hours or when no staff is in the building, please put out the candle before you leave. Staff will check during the daytimes when they are there to make sure all are put out.

Worship Opportunities

The COVID-19 Task Force met and determined after looking at square footage and percentages of occupancy, that we can socially distance 44 people in the sanctuary and 50 people in Trinity Hall for worship. There will be no singing and masks are required as well as social distancing. Hand sanitizing dispensers are available. Holy Communion will be served during this service as well as drive through in the parking lot from approximately 11:15 am until 12:00 noon on Sundays.

In-Person Worship:

We will be open on Sunday morning at 10:00 am to worship in person using the ELW Setting Four. This service will also be Zoomed live. Zoom information:

Topic: Sunday Morning Worship

Time: at 9:30 am - worship begins at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88584944760?pwd=YTZISFp3NVg2Z09GV0JpOEhObER5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 885 8494 4760 Passcode: 435920

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88584944760#,,,,*435920# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,88584944760#,,,,*435920# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 885 8494 4760 Passcode: 435920

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88584944760?pwd=YTZISFp3NVg2Z09GV0JpOEhObER5Zz09>

Beginning with Palm Sunday, March 28, we will live stream by Zoom and record the live stream service. Because we can have people in the sanctuary and Trinity Hall, we have decided to eliminate the Wednesday recording of weekly worship. We will begin using setting 4 (the same setting we have been using for recorded worship) and will hold one service at 10 am on Sundays. This service will be live streamed on Zoom. In addition, we will record this service for later viewing and plan to send you the link as soon as it has been uploaded to our Vimeo site.

During Holy Week we will be offering a combination of live, recorded and Zoomed worship:

Maundy Thursday will be a live and Zoomed service at 7:00 pm. The Zoom link will be emailed.

Good Friday will be a Vimeo recorded worship of Stations of the Cross and the sanctuary will be open for meditation. The Vimeo link will be emailed.

The Easter Vigil will be a live and zoomed service at 7:00 pm. The Vigil Zoom link will be emailed.

Easter Sunday will be a live service at 10 am, Zoomed, and recorded for viewing on Vimeo by

Sunday afternoon. The service will contain recorded portions of live music with our voice and handbell choirs participating. Easter bags for children will be distributed at worship and during the 11:15 am - 12:00 noon drive-through Holy Communion time. The Vimeo link will be emailed early afternoon on Easter.

Pastor Scott

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. **Coffee Hour will not take place on Monday, April 5, but will return on April 12.** Here is the info:

Topic: Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRlgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

Zoom Bible Study – the Study of Amos.

We will take a break from Bible study and not have class on April 1 nor on April 8.

Bible study will resume on April 15.

Topic: Bible Study - the study of Amos – Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGhUT09>

Meeting ID: 946 532 621 – Password: 402561

Here is a listing of the Sign-Up Genius links we are presently using to accomplish our many needed tasks. Please fill in as you are able. You can bookmark these sites to make it easier to return to them.

♦ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Vicar Judy Goans is coordinator for the daily devotions. Sign up and send your devotions to Vicar Judy (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) at least 2 days in advance of the date.

♦ **Sunday Morning 10:00 AM Worship**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, video, etc.

Attention Golfers! The Camp Agape Kure Beach Ministries Golf Tournament is on for Monday, April 19th at the Lochmere Golf Club in Cary. Tee times will be starting at 8:30 am. Primary cost is \$90 per person or \$350 per foursome registered. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Warren Pusak at wrpusak@aol.com or by cell phone at 919-219-4090. Please leave a message if he doesn't answer and he will return the call ASAP. It's a great reason to get out of the house – Camperships for Youth, for those can't afford to go to Bible Camp. In past years, we have sent 50-60 kids to Camp who ordinarily could not have gone.