

THE HARAN HERALD

MARCH/APRIL 2026



HARANBAPTIST.COM

7539 Old Bent Mountain Road,
Roanoke, VA 24018

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. —Hebrews 12:1-2

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

—Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

Like most of you, we have been watching different parts of the Olympics with great interest. Mary Etta loves the ice skating, moguls, and bobsledding; I enjoy the hockey and bobsledding. Actually, we enjoy most of the events. What really caught my eye was the women's gold medal hockey game between the United States and Canada, especially the awards ceremony. The elation and overwhelming joy of the American team was a great contrast to the obvious depression of the Canadian team. The United States won gold, the Canadians, silver. As the Swiss received the bronze medal for 3rd place, each member of the Swiss team smiled broadly, shook hands, and bent forward to have the medal hung around their neck, then continued smiling!

This was a sharp contrast to the way the Canadians received their silver medals. In fairness to those players, their game had just been completed with an overtime loss to the Americans (I fully understand as I hate to lose also). When the officials handed out the silver medal, most of the Canadian players gave a forced, quick smile leaned forward to have the medal placed around their necks, shook hands then returned to the hurt look on their faces. Honestly, it is tough to smile after such a hard-fought game only to lose in overtime! Maybe the ceremony should be delayed for a longer period to allow for the losing team to regain composure. Be that as it may, I am reminded of the words of Michelle Kwan when she was asked how she felt losing the gold medal. She responded, "I didn't lose the gold medal, I won the silver medal!" As an ex-athlete and ex-coach, I hated to lose. However, win or lose, we had to go back to work and prepare for the next contest!

Where does that leave believers? We look and see evil all around us. We study, worship, grow spiritually, and

share our testimony only to find sociological morals declining at an ever-increasing rate. Sometimes we feel like accepting what we have, shaking hands and remaining smile-less and depressed as if we have lost the race. NOT SO! Notice what Paul said: *I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race.*

Christians simply need to get back to work, and press on for God's glory! Take heart; the war is won! We just need to stay in the race and NEVER give up. As Paul wrote to the Romans, *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Just because things are not going the way we expected or even wanted, does not mean that God has been taken by surprise. Christians need to press on toward the goal which is reaching others for Christ! We must pray for the Holy Spirit to intervene in the hearts of those who would breakdown the morality and truth of God's Word. Pray for them not criticize. Jesus reminded us to *"Love our enemies, do good to those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you."*

Spring is almost here. January 1 is a time many make resolutions. Let's do something different this year. Let's make the spring of 2026 one in which we say, I resolve to love and forgive others no matter how hard it may seem. I resolve to pray for the Holy Spirit to intervene in all areas of our government and I will do my best to let the light of Christ shine through me and do all I can to see the Kingdom of God grow! When we are striving to glorify God, we will never be in second place! As spring approaches, let's work together at Haran Baptist to reach our community for Jesus Christ!

—Pastor Don

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MAR 2 | 6:30 Deacons

MAR 15 | 12:00 VBS meeting

APR 12 | 12:00 Church council

If you are a committee or department head, please plan to stay for this meeting where we report on the ministries of the church and schedule upcoming events.

APR 19 | 12:00 Business meeting

MARCH 29
PALM SUNDAY

O that with yonder sacred throng
we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all.

SERVICE AT
11:00 AM

APRIL 3
GOOD FRIDAY

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

SERVICE AT
6:30 PM

APRIL 5
EASTER SUNDAY

Crown Him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those He came to save;
His glories now we sing
who died, and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring
and lives that death may die.

SUNRISE SERVICE
BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW
7:00 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM

FROM CROWN TO CROWN

SCORNE

*He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.*

—Isaiah 53:7

The crown of thorns was made to mock Jesus. It can be easy not to think about that, to regard the crown of thorns as just a symbol of the season—like Easter lilies. But the crown of thorns was very real, part of the torment of Jesus as He was led to His slaughter.

Jesus was arrested and charged with claiming to be King of the Jews. And seeing the one who made such claims silent, bound, beaten, the soldiers mocked the so-called king now humiliated before them.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

—Matthew 27:27-30

Even as He hung on the cross, they continued their mockery.

They put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

—Matthew 27:37-43

And Jesus answered, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

He humbled Himself, Paul says in Philippians—humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross. He was not just the King of the Jews, He was King of kings and Lord of lords—and He submitted Himself to mockery, to scorn, to abuse, and to the cruelest death imaginable. The soldiers and priests, His mockers and accusers, His own disciples who earlier had abandoned Him and fled, His own mother...they all watched as He suffered, bled, cried out, thirsted, and finally, finally, bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

The Lamb was slain.

EXALTED

He was called “King of the Jews” as a mockery. His rightful title was used against Him. But *God has exalted Him to the highest place and given Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess...*

...that Jesus Christ is Lord.

His names, His titles, His crowns are all rightfully His. We read in Hebrews 2:9 that He is *crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone*. What was taken from Him—what He gave away—was restored when death was defeated. Contrast the image of the humiliated and suffering sacrificial Lamb with John’s vision in Revelation 19:

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns.

He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the

winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And He has on His robe a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. —Revelation 19:11-16



“ Christ Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

”

Come join us for our Holy Week services this year as we follow the journey from crown to crown. We’ll see Jesus hailed as Messiah by the crowd of believers on Palm Sunday, then so quickly mocked as King of the Jews on Good Friday. We’ll see His great love as He followed His Father’s will to become our sacrifice.

And on Easter Sunday, we’ll see the crown of thorns turned to a crown of glory and see Him crowned as King of kings and Lord of lords. We’ll gather as the women did on the first day of the week to find the stone rolled away and tomb empty, and to hear the words of the angel: *He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

We’ll sing the great hymn *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, inspired by John’s vision of the King in Revelation: *His glories now we sing*

who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Come join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all! —Anna Ruth

YOUTH NEWS

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." —Genesis 50:20

This past year, our young people have been studying the book of Genesis. We learned how God created the world, how sin entered the world, and how God called certain individuals and set them apart. We finished up these last three weeks talking about Joseph. The life of Joseph gives us all a model as Christians to maintain our faith, integrity, and forgiveness through adversity, trusting in God to turn evil into good. Joseph's story teaches us to remain faithful, resist temptation, serve wholeheartedly, and extend grace to those who have hurt us. No matter what we are going through in this life we need to be just like Joseph and trust in God and His ultimate plan for each of our lives.

Joseph's story shows us that when we fix our eyes on God and choose to rely on Him even the hardest situations in our lives can be made easier. We must trust God's plan, even when things don't make sense. God's love and guidance is constant, even in confusing and troubling situations. Let us try and be more like Joseph and trust that God will never leave us nor forsake us, He loves us too much to do that. Amen.

—Bobby Ferguson

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

—Matthew 28:18

These past few months we were in the book of Matthew, and we learned about the sovereignty of God and how we as believers should trust in His authority. As believers we should submit to God's will, pray with thanksgiving instead of anxiety, and we should find comfort in knowing that God is actively working all things, good or bad, for His glory and our ultimate good. Sometimes it is hard to understand with what we see going on in the world today that God is in control, but He knows exactly what is happening and why. We as believers should surrender that control to God and not try to figure out why God is doing or allowing something to happen. We should just acknowledge that God is in control of all circumstances, we should trust in His timing and plan rather than demanding explanations.

Trusting in God's sovereignty requires us to stop viewing Him as just a distant ruler to trusting Him as a loving Father who knows exactly what is needed in every situation in our lives and in the lives of others around us. We must understand as believers that the difficult, unexpected, and painful things that we see going on in the world today are part of a larger and divine purpose meant to help us grow. We may not agree with everything going on in this world, but as believers we must trust that God is God, and He knows what He is doing. Amen.

—Bobby Ferguson



Start your engines! Join us for the **FasCar rally** on Saturday, March 21. Bring your fastest Matchbox or Hot Wheels car and join the race!

FasCar is a ministry of Word of Life. Michael Kilbride, who spoke in our service on February 8, will lead the event.

We'll have races for kids, youth, and adults, followed by a gospel message. Lunch will be provided. Sign up on the bulletin board and invite your friends and neighbors!

SATURDAY
MARCH 21
10:00-1:00

THANK YOU

Dear friends at Haran Baptist Church,

We give thanks to God for you and for your faithful partnership with Friendship House Roanoke. Because of your congregation's generous financial support over the past year, Friendship House has continued to be a place of refuge, restoration, and gospel-centered care for our neighbors in need throughout our community. We echo Paul in Philippians 1 by saying, *we thank God in all our remembrance of you...because of your partnership in the gospel.*

Your church's giving has enabled us to offer both practical help and Christ-centered relationships, bearing witness to the transforming grace of God. Through your support, lives are being shaped by the truth of the gospel, and hope is being extended to those in need. We rejoice to see how the Lord is building His work through your obedience and generosity.

At Friendship House we recognize that all we have comes from the hand of God alone. We are committed to stewarding your gifts with prayerful care, integrity, and faithfulness to Christ.

Thank you for standing with us in this work of mercy and gospel proclamation. Your church's support is an encouragement to us and a blessing to those we serve. Our staff meets each week to pray together and we do not cease to give thanks for you, praying that the Lord would continue to strengthen your ministry and use you for His glory, *"for from Him and through Him and to Him are all things"* (Romans 11:36).

Thank you again for your kindness,
Aaron and Faith Dowdy
Friendship House Roanoke

Note: We support Friendship House and Keystone Community Center, formerly called the Baptist Mission Centers, as part of the missions giving included in our church budget. Check out their newsletters on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for updates on their ministries.



Gifts for the Back Creek Elementary staff from our craft night on February 10.

WOMEN ON MISSION

Valentine boxes were prepared for our college freshmen. This was to remind them that we are all here supporting them and that we are very proud of them. Please thank Mary Etta for making this possible. It was her energy and love that made this a reality.

We look forward to a spring activity to shake off this very cold, snowy winter and energize our outreach program.

Blessings to all,
Judy Moore

LIBRARY NEWS

I found the following excerpt to be very informative and genuine in regard to reasons for reading good Christian books.

Reading for Spiritual Growth

*One of the reasons I want to write books is because God has used books so much in my own life and growth. I remember when a friend of mine recommended I read **Knowing God** by J. I. Packer.*

I tore through that book and its words tore through my soul. I was never the same. I knew God was big, but that book helped me see Him in a much deeper way.

I know some of us don't like to read, but it's a habit worth cultivating. It can save your life. I've had difficult questions that I've found the answers to in good books.

I've gone through dry seasons in my spiritual life, where I felt like I was slipping away, but God used books to pull me back in. Sometimes I don't even know what I need, but God speaks to me through a great Christian book.

I understand reading books is much different from reading the Bible. Reading the Bible is hearing from God. Reading books is more like talking to friends about what God said.

Obviously hearing directly from God is more important, but that doesn't mean hearing from others is worthless. I don't know a lot of the guys who wrote my favorite books, but I still consider them "friends."

I have "friends" who are pastors, scholars, and entrepreneurs. There are some I agree with a lot, and other friends I disagree with on some points but can still benefit from. Just like my regular friends, I'll take counsel when it's wise and biblical, and I'll go in another direction otherwise.

Reading has been a huge part of my process of going deeper in God's truth. If you don't know where to start, ask someone you trust to point you in the right direction.

—Excerpt taken from **Rise** by Trip Lee.

The following books have been purchased and will be added to the Haran Library in the next two weeks.

Knowing God by J. I. Packer is a modern Christian classic. Since its original publication in 1973,

*Packer's insightful and practical approach has impacted countless Christians throughout the world as they are introduced to the wonder and joy of knowing God. In this beloved work, Packer challenges readers that while they may know about God, it is not the same thing as knowing Him. Organized into three sections, **Knowing God** explains the importance of the theological study of the Lord, what the Bible has to say about God and His character, and the benefits of knowing Him. From cover to cover, Packer teaches that each truth learned about God should ultimately lead to prayer and praise. (Taken from Amazon.)*

And I Was Delivered from the Lion's Mouth: The Lauren Worley Story by Chris Worley. At just 17 years old, Lauren Worley's life should have ended in that curve on a country road—trapped in a mangled car, struck head-on by a drunk driver, her body broken, her brain severely injured. Left with a one percent chance of survival. First responders weren't sure if she would make it to the hospital. But God had a different plan. In a moment that changed everything, a community dropped to its knees in prayer—and heaven responded. Lauren's fight for life was nothing short of miraculous. Sixty-three days in the hospital and several months of rehab. She suffered a traumatic brain injury, stroke, and long list of injuries. A long and painful road to recovery. And yet, through it all, God's hand never let go. **And I Was Delivered from the Lion's Mouth** is the unforgettable true story of survival, faith, and the undeniable power of God to save and heal. Told through the eyes of her father who refused to stop believing, this book is both a personal testimony and a declaration: miracles still happen. If you've ever stood at the edge of hope... If you've ever begged God for a miracle... This story is for you. (Taken from Amazon.)

The following book was donated by Susan Hensley.

Alaska Twilight by Colleen Coble. "You hide behind your camera instead of stepping out and engaging life with both hands. You're so afraid you'll fail at something; you won't even try." **Alaska Twilight** is the story of a young woman's emergence from the shadows of past sorrow into the light of forgiveness and grace.

We invite you to stop in and enjoy a good read whether to do some research or for quiet entertainment. Haran Library is full of good books just waiting for you to enjoy! Looking forward to seeing you there!

In Christian love,
Denise Carey

ACTIVITIES AND REC COMMITTEE **SUGGESTIONS APPRECIATED**

As the Activities Committee, we strive every year to bring new and fun activities within the church. As a group we have come up with some awesome ideas, but would love to hear back from you all as the church.

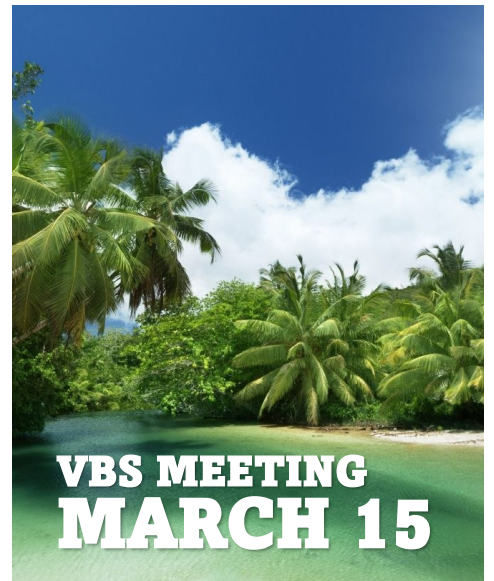
- What activities would you like see happen at the church?
- What activities would not only get our church involved but our community?
- We are open to activities outside the church, as well as trips with the church bus.

If you have any ideas at all, please reach out to me. We would love to have your input.

—Brittany Stoots

JOIN US FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT MARCH 28 @ 10 AM

Candy donations are needed! If you would be willing to donate candy, please have donations placed in the bin outside the church office by March 15.

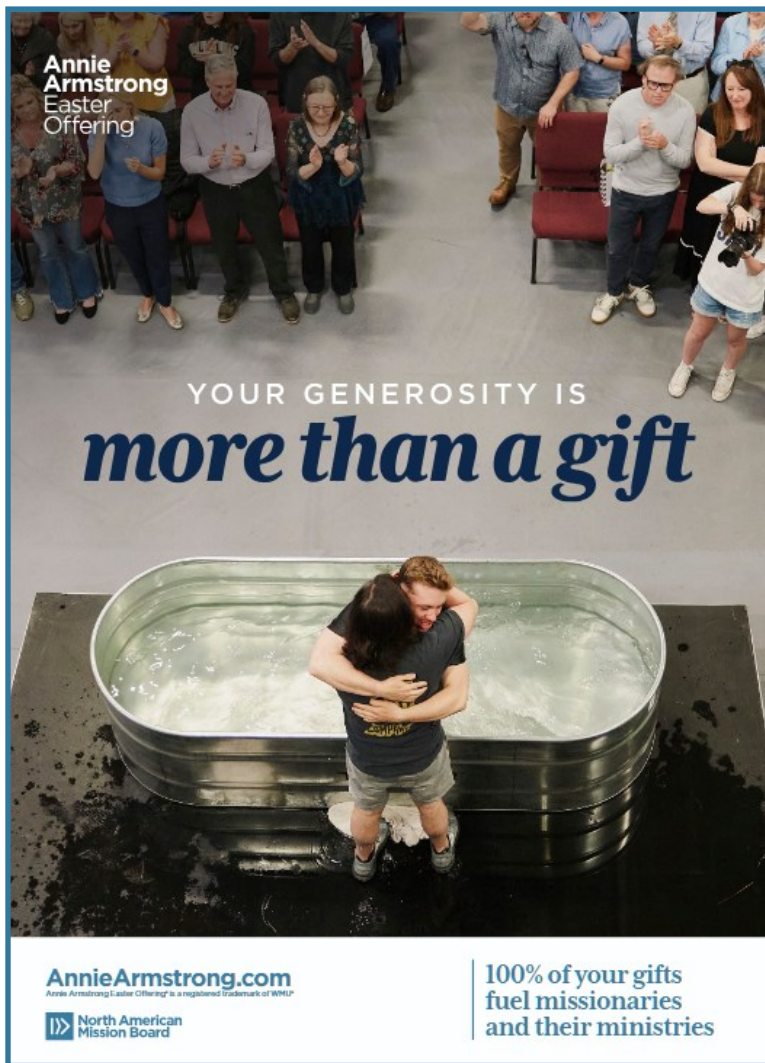


Our world is filled with exciting things to explore and enjoy. But there are also challenges and hardships we face along the way. Our loving and powerful God desires to help us. He seeks us out and leads us to faith. We can trust in Him!

Help us show our VBS kids how Jesus seeks them and all people. He is the Son of Man, who came to seek and to save the lost!

We need teachers, helpers, and activity leaders. If you're interested in helping with VBS, please stay for the meeting after church on Sunday, March 15.





A MISSION FIELD IN NEED OF HOPE

The North American Mission Board and its missionaries serve a diverse and complex region.

- ◆ United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa
- ◆ 386 million people, 378 languages, 14+ religions, 161 unreached people groups
- ◆ 291 million estimated lost

HOW THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERING FUNDS MISSIONS

Church Planting: financial funding and benefits for planting missionaries, training, recruitment, ministry assistance for equipment and outreach, missionary housing, missionary care.

Evangelism and Compassion Ministries: evangelism resource materials and events, financial funding and benefits for missionaries involved in compassion ministry.

Sending and Leadership: mobilization events, leadership resources and events, funding for short-term student missionaries.

Missions Education: resources and training focused on mission field education for recruitment and mobilization of church planting missionaries.

WHO WAS ANNIE ARMSTRONG?

Annie Armstrong (1850-1938) was born in Baltimore at a time when women were not expected to lead. She served, challenged churches to action, and rallied support for missionaries. Ultimately, she was recognized as a national Southern Baptist trailblazer renowned for visionary missions leadership.

An missions offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong. Today, more than \$2 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals to support thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Because of this sacrificial giving, millions of lives have been and continue to be transformed by the power of the gospel.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Offering support over 3,000 missionaries across North America. Because of this, Southern Baptist churches have planted more than 11,000 churches in North America since 2010.

HOW YOUR GIFTS EQUIP MISSIONARIES

- \$200** Print materials for a new church launch
- \$300** Bibles and books for an exploring Christianity study
- \$400** Portable baptistry and heater
- \$800** Backyard Bible Club
- \$2,000** Monthly worship facility rent
- \$10,000** Worship and office equipment for a new church plant
- \$50,000** One year of support and benefits for a first-year church planter
- \$100,000** Fully sponsor a new church plant

All gifts—100%—support missionaries who are planting new churches in unreached communities and reaching out to meet needs through compassion ministries. The needs are great, but the living hope of Christ is greater. Every day, lives are being impacted and transformed.

Envelopes for this offering are in the pew racks.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

3 Linda Johnson	20 David Paul	25 Mary Etta Summerville
4 Megan Eller	21 Judy Martin	30 Bobby Ferguson
10 Roger Ayers	24 Rick Stone	31 Olivia Flanagan

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

6 Anita Smith	16 Nancy Agee	27 Duane Martin
7 James Eller	19 Pam Cooper	
14 Phyllis Martin	25 Sharon Avery	

ANNIVERSARIES

4 Darrell & Tina Robinson

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

1 Cilvia Hartman	11 Susan Hensley	23 Rachel Hartman
2 Walker Champney	17 Ron Francis	24 Grace Edmonds
4 Noah Ferguson	19 David Morris	29 Tiffany Edmonds
6 Kermit Crowe	20 Charlotte Crouch	
6 Shane Martin	21 Mandy Champney	

ANNIVERSARIES

6 Craig & Mandy Champney
18 Chris & Sharon Avery

Are we missing a birthday or anniversary? Email the church office at haranbaptist@gmail.com and let us know.