

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE
15

March 1, 2026



The month of March often reminds us of the changing season. For some, this is the month of preparation for gardening and farming. Whether you work in a garden or not, you know that a healthy summer harvest depends on the dirty work done now: clearing debris, pulling stubborn winter weeds, and tilling the soil until it is ready to receive seeds.

However, as we look toward the upcoming observance of **Resurrection Sunday**, we are reminded that March is also a vital season of spiritual preparation. Just as we wouldn't expect a strong harvest from unprepared ground, we cannot fully appreciate the celebration of the empty tomb without first preparing the "garden of our hearts."

In a garden, weeds are opportunistic; they thrive on

neglect. In our spiritual lives, weeds may look like **complacency, pride, or "the cares of this world"** that Jesus warned can choke out the Word. Perhaps your "weeds" are subtle—a spirit of irritability, a habit of gossip, or an obsession with digital distractions that leaves no room for quiet reflection. To prepare for Holy Week, we must be honest about what has grown up in the corners of our souls that doesn't belong there.

Once the weeds are cleared, the soil must be broken. Hardened earth rejects the seed and the rain. The best tools for tilling the soil of the soul are the common **spiritual disciplines: prayer, worship, Scripture reading, and sharing with others.** These disciplines can plow, cutting through our pride and callousness. When we practice these disciplines, the Holy Spirit

"tills" our hearts, making them soft and humble.

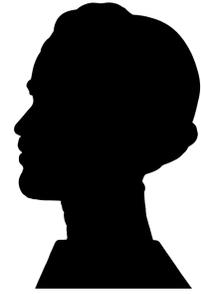
This year, March will end with the beginning of Holy Week. I encourage you to see yard work and farming as an illustration. As we pull weeds, ask the Lord to reveal a sin to confess. As you turn the soil, ask Him to break up any hardness in your heart toward His Will. Let's arrive at Holy Week not just with a tidy lawn, but with hearts that are ready to celebrate the best news of all: **He is risen indeed.**

"For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection." Romans 6:5

As you prepare your heart for resurrection throughout the month of March, be united with Christ in dying to self.

Pastor Doug

Dear Miss Verity:



**Dear Miss Verity,
I was recently talking to my friend about Noah and the flood. She cracked up and said I was a fool for believing that story. It was humiliating. Is there proof the Bible's account of the flood being true?**

Jennifer

Hello Jennifer!

There is an incredible amount of information supporting the Bible's account of the flood. I suggest you return to your friend and start with this question: "You said the Bible's account of the flood is fiction. What do you base that statement on? What proof do you have that says there was no global flood?" When talking to a Bible skeptic, always ask them to support their critic of the veracity of the Bible with their source of information. As you will see, they will struggle to do that. They have "heard" on the internet or some other unreliable source that the Bible is not true but have nothing to base that on. When your friend is unable to offer serious proof that there was never a flood you can, in love, share the following information that fully supports the Bible's account of Noah and the flood:

- Abundance of global flood stories found in a wide variety of cultures around the world.
- Physical evidence has been found on the earth's surface. For example, 75% of earth's land surface is comprised of sedimentary rock (rock that was washed away, dissolved in fluid and redeposited elsewhere.)
- Fossils are found in many of these sedimentary layers
- It is common to find massive fossil graveyards consisting of jumbled, smashed and contorted fossil remains that give the appearance of a large number of animals destroyed simultaneously by an incredible force.
- We have evidence for a flood in Noah's day by the long-distance movement of various types of rock. For example, scientists have noted quartzites discovered more than 300 miles from their source in Oregon. This is no longer happening today.
- The last evidence I will share today is the abundant fossil remains of marine life at the top of every major mountain range in the world including the Himalayas.

For further study watch the documentary "Is Genesis History?" Scan the code below for a link to the video.

Genesis 7:18-19 NKJV

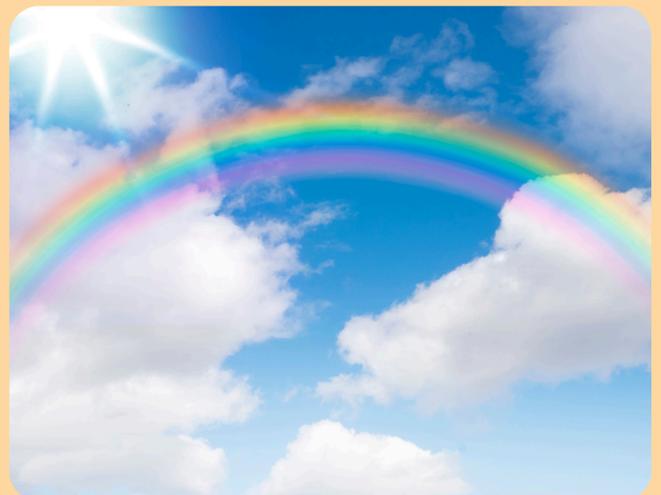
18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.



God Keeps His Promises

"I have set my rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth...the waters will never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

Genesis 9:13,15



Your Rod and Your Staff, They Comfort Me

By Joan Word



Psalm 23: 4 - "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

For a long time I didn't understand how 'His rod and staff' were supposed to comfort me. However, I knew the Good Shepherd gently guided the sheep with his staff when they wandered off the path. Also, I knew He will use the crook of the staff to rescue an injured sheep or pluck one out of a ditch. And, when the sheep wander off, the Shepherd will leave the flock and go in search of the one who is lost. When the lost sheep is found, the Shepherd doesn't punish it. Instead, He gently places the sheep around His shoulders to build a bond with it. This lets the sheep know it is safe and the Shepherd will take care of him. Isn't that what Jesus does for us...over and over again? He seeks us out....and holds us close. That is a comfort!

Now, with the "rod" the Good Shepherd fights for His sheep. Because of His love for them, He risks His own life to protect them from all predators. We are Jesus' sheep. He fought for us on earth and showed us how to live, how to love our heavenly Father...and most importantly, that our heavenly Father loves us. Christ willingly died, shed His blood...and took all the punishment of our sins and **proved to be greater than all our sins. He survived God's wrath...and then gave up His spirit.** Death is a scary thing-that's why Christ came. He died..but not for long!! He overcame it and so can we...He knows what we face and **He will walk us through it!!** He will never leave us or forsake us! Now that's comfort..He fights for us and walks with us to the end!!

Names of God

El Roi:

*The God Who
Sees Me*

There are no circumstances in our lives that escape his fatherly awareness and care. God knows us and our troubles.

Hagar called the Lord by this name beside a fountain of water in the wilderness. God knows all of our thoughts and feelings. Jesus knew the thoughts of those around him, demonstrating that he is El Roi.

Mathew 22:18; 26:21,34; Luke 5:21-24

Meet the Congregation

John & Ashley Williamson

Interviewed by Denise Willock



John & Ashley have been attending our church for about two years now. The birth of their daughter, Eleanor, two years ago, was used by the Lord to bring them back to church; Although both had been raised by and influenced for the Lord by Christian relatives, they had gotten away from their faith.

Ashley has been to Culinary School, but currently enjoys staying home to raise Eleanor! Both Ashley and Eleanor love books! John has been to Vo Tech College for Auto Body and currently works at Caliber Collision. He enjoys playing the guitar and is a Bluegrass/Blues fan.

John & Ashley are both members of the Surrey Hills Safety Team; Their personal times together include Range Times, Firearms and Medical Trainings. They are also active in Competitive Power Lifting, and have won First Place in their respective weight classes in a recent competition.

They really appreciate the fact that Surrey Hills is a true Church Family. They have experienced the genuine care and help offered and given when needed. A rough childhood taught Ashley to know and rely on God who has always been her good Heavenly Father. John appreciates the fact that the Lord doesn't require someone to be the best to serve Him, but relies on the fact that "The Lord equips those He calls."

Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:8 "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I; send me."

seven 72 two

NOAH: THE GREAT BUILDER

by Vicki J. Kuyper

ACROSS

1 Publicist, slang	31 Noah remained in the ark this long after the dove's return (Gen. 8:12)	58 Nap raiser
6 "The Pharisees began to ____ him vehemently" (Luke 11:53)	32 Ninevah to 4 Down (dir.)	61 European mountains
10 Trick	33 "That the ____ of Noah" (Isa. 54:9)	65 Shine
14 Northern Egyptian city	36 Evils	67 Sinai or Goshen, e.g.
15 Person, place, or thing	40 Passed (slang)	68 Ermine
16 California univ.	42 Precedes alias	69 "Noah was ____ hundred" when he became a dad (Gen. 5:32)
17 Noah built one (Gen. 8:20)	43 Orderly	70 "Ye are forgers of ____" (Job 13:4)
18 "As the ____ of Noah were" (Matt 24:37)	44 Rice wine	71 Bulgarian capital
19 "Sun and ____" (Ps. 148:3)	45 Pancakes in Paris	72 Mary is believed to have been one when she gave birth to Jesus
20 KJV's roe	48 By means of	73 Nebuchadnezzar was not this when he ate grass (Dan. 4:33)
21 "They shall ____ thee until thou perish" (Deut. 28:22)	49 "Noah found grace in the ____ of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8)	74 Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' ____ into Jerusalem
23 What manna would do if kept overnight (Ex. 16:20)	51 Leif Erikson, e.g.	
24 "God is ____" (2 Cor. 9:8)	53 Merchant, as in Gen. 37:28	
26 African country	56 Quote	
28 Walk quietly	57 Movie 2001's talking computer	

DOWN

1 University (abbr.)	8 Gals' partner	28 What Celestial Seasonings makes
2 The valley of Shaveh was the king of Sodom's (Gen. 14:17)	9 Christ's sacrifice ____ our forgiveness	29 South American Indian
3 One of the generous widow's (Luke 21:2)	10 Sticky stuff	30 The ark's window in Gen. 6:16 afforded Noah one
4 Ark's stopping place (Gen. 8:4)	11 Nut	31 Noah's robe: AKA
5 "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, ____ the power of God" (Matt. 22:29)	12 "A ____ of waters" (Gen. 6:17)	34 Noah does this to the ark (Gen. 6:14)
6 Soldiers came with ____ force to arrest Jesus (Luke 22:52)	13 Soft drink brand	35 Stretch to make do
7 "Let the sea ____" (1 Chron. 16:32)	21 "Just As I Am, Without One ____"	37 Jacob's son (Gen. 34:25)
	22 Baaaad critter on the ark	38 "Had ____ in the grave four days already" (John 11:17)
	25 "I do set my ____ in the cloud" (Gen. 9:13)	39 Deer
	27 Similar	

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41 "All flesh ____" (Gen. 7:21)	53 Joseph accused his brothers of this (Gen. 44:11-15)	62 Eutychus fell from the third one (Acts 20:9)
45 Grains	54 Synthetic fabric	63 There was a ____ of each animal on the ark
46 "____ from his youth" (Gen. 8:21)	55 "Noah only remained ____" (Gen. 7:23)	64 "____ upon his God" (Isa. 50:10)
47 "It is vain for you to rise up early, to ____ up late" (Ps. 127:2)	56 "Day and night shall not ____" (Gen. 8:22)	66 Number of God's commandments
50 "He stayed ____ other seven days; and sent forth the dove" (Gen. 8:12)	59 Opera solo	68 Jerusalem to Bethany (dir.)
52 Batman actor	60 "For thee have I ____ righteous before me" (Gen. 7:1)	

Meet the Congregation

Steve Graham

Interviewed by Joan Word



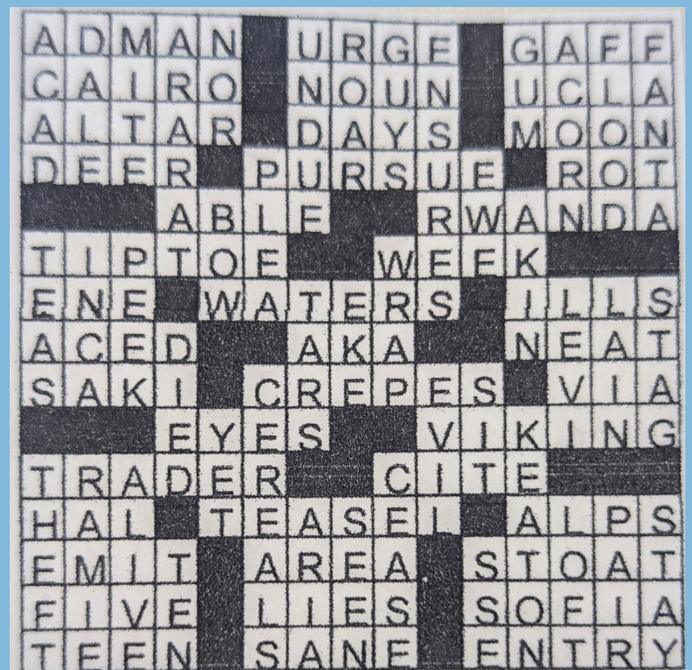
Steve Graham has been a member of SHBC for 3 years. He was born and raised in Oklahoma so he is a true OKIE! He accepted Christ as his Savior while attending Falls Creek when he was 12 years old. His favorite Scripture is:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (16) Be joyful always; (17) pray continually; (18) give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NIV

Steve is the father of 4 children: 3 grown children and his youngest son, Moses, who attends SHBC and King's Gate. Steve enjoys hunting and target shooting. He is a licensed Security Officer, licensed Private Investigator and has over 200 hours of Security/Safety Training. Steve puts all his Safety/Security training to good use by being an active and dedicated member of the SHBC Safety Team. He also uses his mechanical/plumbing skills to help with church maintenance.

Now, don't be intimidated by Steve's "007" tough guy image! He's got a great sense of humor, is a really good cook and is willing to help anyone. Get to know him and you just might get invited to his Super Bowl Party he throws every year!!

Steve enjoys SHBC because the members are friendly...and safety conscious.



PUZZLE 72

Galentines Coffee Date

A time of serving, sharing, and enjoying the Lord and His goodness during fellowship with other woman doing the same.
-Beth Allen

Wow, look at so many old friends, and some newer friends, and some brand new friends but all have a forever place in my heart as we learn more about our life with Christ.
-Nancy Kitko

It was exciting to see women from all different church circles and age groups enjoying time together and discovering how much they are alike when they all share a heart for Jesus ❤️
-Kimberly Chretin

I had such a good time connecting with and sharing about life with these wonderful ladies! The Lord truly blessed our time together and it was an amazing time of fellowship for every age!
-Zoey Kughn



Knit Together in Love

PREPARE: Surrey Hills Baptist Church is turning 50!

By Kim Chretien



1977 - 2027

Isaiah 40:3-5 says, A voice of one calling "Prepare the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert."

50 years old how exciting, Time to PREPARE! Do you remember when you were approaching your 50th? I sure do. Maybe like you, I had all these goals and personal upgrades planned all year long so that on my 50th birthday, I would be '50 and Fabulous', fully prepped and prepared to step into the next 50 years of my life.

Instead, 2020 happened. Covid, isolation, uncertainty, and bewilderment changed all my plans. By my birthday, I was just glad to survive it all, much less celebrate or step on the gas towards year 51. But guess what? If I had to do it all over again I wouldn't change it. God used it all for His own purpose, His plans, definitely not my plans. All that time on my hands, all that time alone, pointed me in the right direction towards what was really important: inward reflection and eternal change versus outward superficial upgrades that are only temporary.

Can we, as a Church Family, take the same approach to our 50th Birthday next year? We have all of 2026 to inwardly reflect with gratitude and compassion on our past, our beginnings, our victories and losses, and our hopes fulfilled or dreamed & dashed. Counting the cost and our lessons learned along the way, while acknowledging God's gracious, unseen sovereignty, His gifts and blessings over and above and beyond what we could ever have hoped or imagined.

2026 can be a year full of beautiful reflection, time to pause and be grateful for all God has already

given to us through this church and His People. Perhaps even reframing some past hardships with clearer perspective, now that we are on the other side of things, seeing how God actually used them to grow us and to fit into His bigger picture and deeper purpose. Hindsight really is 20/20. Joni Eareckson Tada says, "God permits what He hates, to accomplish what He loves," based on what Joseph told his brothers in Genesis 50:20, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God (permitted it and) meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

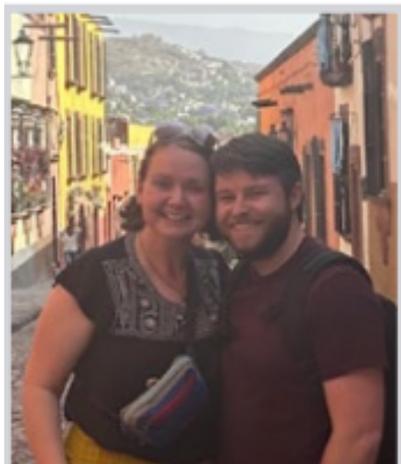
Through ups and downs, God is always on our side, always accomplishing the deeper eternal changes, always looking to shape our character more like Christ, even at 50. Especially at 50, because by now we are old enough to know better than to be bitter. Count it ALL joy!

50 years goes by fast, and so will 2026, our year to Pray, Ponder and Prepare. Pastor Doug's solid preaching and teaching is plowing up the soil of our hearts, preparing us to receive and respond to God's Word. Will you please join me in reflection, in prayerful meditation, in listening to the Lord's Spirit whispering to us all His thoughts, His plans, and His Way we are to prepare.

After much reflection comes our active response to all the reflection, followed by prayerful goal-setting to Prepare the Way for the Lord. And then finally comes the joyful time to celebrate!

Hymn: Praise to the Lord

"Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee, Who from the heavens the streams of His mercy doth send thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, Who with His love doth befriend thee."



Missionary Prayer Guide

Meet
Ana & Nicholas Buford
 Tulsa, Evergreen

Serving in Mexico
Send a prayer or word of encouragement to:
 nbuford@imb.org

Ana and Nicholas serve among the Tapatios of Guadalajara, Mexico, one of the centers of Folk-Catholicism in Mexico. Through coordinating and executing short term mission trips, Ana and Nicholas are helping create a partnership between Southern Baptist churches in the United States and the local churches of Guadalajara. These efforts help support local churches with planting and discipleship, and spur a passion among SBC churches to continue their part in fulfilling the Great Commission.

How to Pray:

Pray that God will send more people into the field to share the Good News with the millions of lost throughout the city. Pray that we will grow in partnership and connections with both local and US SBC churches. Pray that the Lord would continue to move in the city of Guadalajara.

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” James 1:2-3 (ESV)

Matching Game

How well do you know our congregation?

Barber for 15 years

Wanted to be a Storm Chaser

Doesn't like sweets!

Amazing Cook known for a DEEP crust pizza

Used a chicken bone for a teether

High School Musical Theater Awards

Rebuilt the Serial #0 Shelby R Model Mustang

Has a PhD in Agricultural Science

Mentored many Foster Children

John Shriver

Kevin Pond

Ashley Williamson

Melissa Bird

Ray Kitko

Don Willock

Steve Graham

John Williamson

Sue Cunningham