



*Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church  
Cumming, Georgia  
Established 1881*

**April, 2010 Pastor Randy Richards**  
*Sunday School 9:45 ~ Worship Service 11:00*

### **A note from our Pastor**

Happy Easter and a glorious Easter sunrise to everyone! What is the essence of Easter? What is the meaning of Easter and what does Easter point to? While certainly Easter has great meaning for all who believe and points to many different principles that are foundational to our Christian belief, I want to emphasize the fact that first and foremost **Easter points to LOVE! Easter defines love**—“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16) Also, we must remember John 3:16—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...” These verses teach us what love is. **Easter also demonstrates God’s love**—“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”(Romans 5:8) “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” (1 John 4:9) **Easter is the essence of love**—“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”(John 15:13). **Easter gives us the ability to love**—“We love him, because he first loved us...and this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.” (1John 19, 21) Therefore, Easter teaches us many things but as far as love is concerned it teaches us that love sacrifices for others, love gives to others, love wants what is best for others, love does not wait for someone else to take the first step, and that love reaches out unconditionally even to those who seem to be unlovable. The death sentence of an innocent man changed, not only the course of history, it changed the course of eternity! The arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus were all a great “setup”. The good news is that, out of that setup, came salvation; out of that injustice came justice; out of his death and resurrection came the hope of eternal life. When we consider that the cross and the empty tomb express the boundless love of God, and the possibility of a second chance for us, it is troubling that we have somehow let a certain furry 4 legged hopper and pusher of candy turn this time of the year into a "basket" case. With this thought in mind, I came across the following list of the top ten reasons why Jesus is way better than the Easter Bunny! Hope you enjoy:

- The Easter Bunny has big feet and a furry tail. Jesus did a big feat with wood and nails!
- The Easter Bunny proves you can have too much of a good thing (chocolate). Jesus proves you can't have too much of a God thing!
- No one ever got sick off an over consumption of grace, mercy and forgiveness.
- What would you rather have--dirty hands, or a clean heart?
- The phrase, "He who has floppy ears, let him hear..." just doesn't cut it!
- Rabbits eat their fill from our gardens. Jesus said, "Not my will..." in the garden
- What would you rather do?--Gain weight, or gain salvation?
- Kinder eggs have a toy inside. The empty tomb means joy inside!
- The Easter Bunny hides stuff, but Jesus brings all things to light and the number one reason that Jesus is WAY BETTER than the Easter Bunny is:
- Rabbits twitch their nose; but Jesus arose!

Finally, with great love, I pray that each of you have a very happy and blessed Easter!  
“ HE LIVES! I know he lives, for he lives within my heart”

In Christ’s Love,

*Randy*