



# CRADOCK BAPTIST CHURCH

96 Afton Parkway, Portsmouth, VA 23702

cradockbaptist.org 757-485-3500

- April 2025 Newsletter -

## *A Note from Our Pastor:*

To the Cradock Baptist Family:

Easter is a magnificent day! It is the most significant day of the entire year. It is a day of celebration ...the finest clothes, lilies trumpeting their beautiful fragrance, Christian fellowship, joyful greetings...nothing can be too good. On Easter we celebrate new hope and the possibility of living life to its fullest. God is saying to us that His blessings and love are ours. Good and even great days are now possible for us with the best of days still to come in heaven.

What problems lurk in your life? Are you afraid of death? Are you afraid of life? Easter proclaims that you can be victorious over any problem that you might face. Victory can be yours by believing in Easter and by appropriating Easter into your daily life.

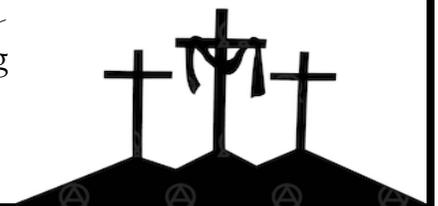
God wants to resurrect us from whatever defeat is in our lives and then give us a victorious death. He wants to resurrect us from a life of loneliness and gloom into one of meaning and joy. He wants to resurrect us from a life deadened by fear to a life enlivened by confidence. He especially wants to resurrect us from our own personal death into his very own personal paradise.

So roll back the stone of any unbelief in your hearts, behold the glory of the empty tomb, and thrill to the power that can now be yours. Place your weak and trembling hands into His and say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God." Belief in Jesus and His resurrection is the key that delivers us from fear and sorrow. Jesus is the key to personal happiness, to peace, and to life everlasting. You can know this peace, you can know this joy, you can have this power, if today you will commit yourself to Him, and then say with your whole heart, "I know that my Redeemer lives!" Illustration by John Krahn.

This Easter our schedule will be a little different due to lack of personnel to support our previous Easter schedule. No longer will we have a Sunrise Service at 6:30am or a breakfast at 7:30am. Sunday School will be at its regular time of 9:30am and Morning Worship at 11:00am! Hope you will come and celebrate Easter with us at 11:00am, but we are still are having Maundy Thursday on Thursday, 17 April at 7:00pm.

The steeple is in progress as; we are waiting the samples of the colors of the window panes so the steeple can be ordered. A lot of maintenance is being done to keep the church in good physical condition and thus we are in need of any regular and extra support you can send our way. I want to graciously thank all who have supported Cradock Baptist through the years and especially during the time of replacing the sanctuary heating and cooling system as well as we work on replacing our steeple. God Bless all of you that have had a part in keeping Cradock Baptist open!!

In His Service:  
Pastor Dave





*For where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be also.*

- Matthew 6:21

*Financial Information for January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025:*

**Church Financials:**

Income (tithes and offerings):	\$18,540.40
Expenses (utilities, salaries, et cetera):	\$27,412.46
Net Operating Total:	- \$ 8,872.06
Summary Income exceeded expenses by:	- \$ 8,872.06
Annual Expense Budget:	\$95,726.50
Year to Date Actual Expenses:	\$27,412.46

**Church Banking Account Balances:**

Checking Account:	\$24,684.54
Certificate of Deposit Value:	\$22,988.37
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$61,483.98

<b>Endowment Fund Balances:</b>	Amount for Feb 2025	\$125,833.75
	Amount for March 2025	\$122,188.72

(Restricted Funds per Cradock Baptist Church's By-laws and Constitution)



***The Legend of the Dogwood Tree...***

According to Christian tradition, especially in the South, blossoms on dogwood trees bear the scars of Jesus' crucifixion when they bloom in the spring. The petals are tipped with blood-fringed nail indentations, the four petals of the flower is cross-shaped, and the center represents the crown of thorns. This symbolism is to compensate for the dogwood being the wood of the cross on which Jesus died. Because the tree never wanted to be put to such use again, God also twisted and gnarled its trunk and branches so that no straight boards could be made from it.

# DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

## *A Note from Our Deacons:*

Dear Friends,

As always, please let any of the Deacons know how we can assist you. All of our Deacons, consider each member of our Church, to be a part of our family!  
May God always bless each of us!

Wishing all of our members  
a wonderful Easter Season  
full of blessings from our Lord!

Sincerely,  
Vernon Butler,  
Chairperson



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## *Our Deacons*

Erin Bracy (2026)  
113 Channing Avenue  
Portsmouth, VA 23702  
757-404-0695 / cradockgirl@cs.com

Warren Byrd, Jr. (2022)  
405 Rock Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
757-487-1183 / HWByrdJr@yahoo.com

Michelle "Micky" Evans (2022)  
23 Rex Avenue  
Portsmouth, VA 23702  
757-256-9037/MickyE1958@yahoo.com

Vernon Butler, Chairperson (2023)  
1857 Greenway Road  
Suffolk, VA 23438  
757-338-7166 / VBRossB.54@gmail.com

Thelma Carr (2022)  
8 Rodgers Place  
Portsmouth, VA 23702  
757-404-2593 / PickledPiggy@aol.com

Phyllis Kraatz (2022)  
5871 Harbour View Boulevard, # 314  
Suffolk, VA 23435  
757-408-1480 / GwynnPK@gmail.com

## Church Notes...



*Please pray for the Ringler Family ...*

Carl Edward Ringler

November 6, 1956 - March 25, 2025

68 years loved



Carl Edward Ringler, 68, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2025. He was reunited with his parents, Wilson and Evelyn Ringler, and his beloved grandparents. He is survived by his sister, Renee Willhoite (Don), his niece Lauren (Jonathan) and his great-nephews, Will and Evan. He was also survived by his Community Alternatives group home family, where Carl had lived for over two decades, with 4 of his best friends and many memorable and caring staff, in the house he grew up in. Carl also had several church families. Initially a member at Cottage Place UMC, Carl then became a member of Cradock Baptist's special Robin Class for over 50 years. He also frequently chose to attend Court Street Baptist with his family. Carl knew everyone in each of these wonderful, accepting congregations and it was a highlight of each week to be in church with people he loved. Carl had a superpower – love. He loved his family, his friends, his puzzles and the Dallas Cowboys. He loved unconditionally and as a result, he was deeply and widely loved in return. We are all better for having known him. We will celebrate Carl's life on April 14, 2025 at 11AM at Court Street Baptist Church. Memorial Donations may be made to Cradock Baptist Church, Court Street Baptist Church Endowment Fund or Community Alternatives, Inc. R.W. Baker & Co. Funeral Home, North Suffolk Chapel is serving the family.



### Holy Week Event Schedule

*Holy Thursday Service on April 17, 2025 at 7:00pm*

*Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2025 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm*

*Easter Sunday Service on April 30, 2025 at 11:00am*

### *Robin Class News...*

The *Eagle Eyrie Retreat for Special Needs* will be held October 17 to 19, 2025 in Lynchburg, Virginia! Last year, we had 4 students from our Robin Class, along with 2 chaperones, attend the retreat. They all had a wonderful time together learning about and deepening their relationship with God. We are making an appeal to our Church family for monetary donations to help off-set the expenses, so that there will not be a cost for the retreatants. Please make a notation in the memo section of your check for "Eagle Eyrie". Thank you and may God always bless you!



APRIL

1 Carolyn Willoughby  
4 Jon Gregory  
9 Miranda Coen  
9 Missy Kraatz  
9 Emory Vick  
9 Joyce Wright  
10 Wendell Griffin  
19 Mike Coley  
20 Shirley Hartung  
20 Cardell Claude

MAY

6 Craig Steverson  
12 Jeannette Fritts  
12 Bradford Hartung  
17 DJ Zollars  
23 Venus Brown-Mullen  
24 Thelma Carr  
26 Alexandria O'Clair  
26 Ann Shearin

*May God bestow special birthday blessings to those celebrating!*

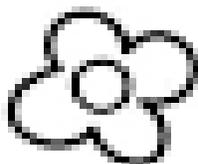
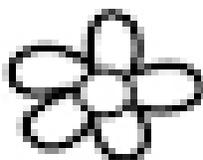
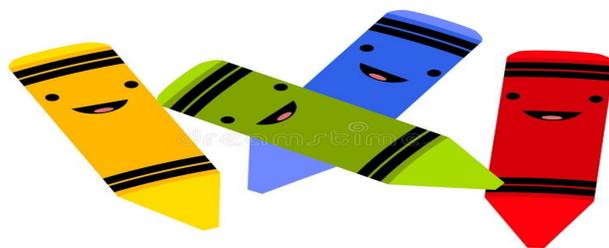


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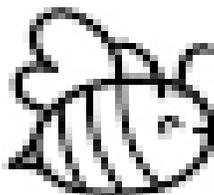
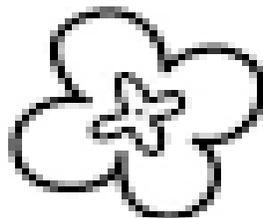
19 Mike & Erin Bracy

*May God bestow a special wedding anniversary blessing upon the couple celebrating!*

*Kid's Coloring  
Fun Page...*



**APRIL**





CRADOCK BAPTIST CHURCH  
96 AFTON PARKWAY  
PORTSMOUTH, VA 23702-2836

2 STAMPS

MAILING LABEL



*This is the day the Lord has made!*  
~ Psalm 118:24