

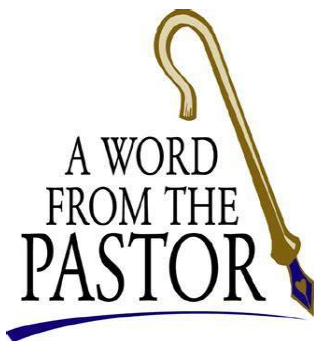


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Grace and Peace to you in the Blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

The church is winding down its Lenten journey with Jesus to Jerusalem. The events in Jerusalem are the turning point not only in the life of Jesus but also for everyone who believes in him as Lord and Savior.

In this one event, Jesus completes God's work of salvation and the healing of the broken world. Let's go back a few days to Thursday of Holy Week. Jesus is at table fellowship with his disciples as they celebrate the Hebrew Passover. Passover is the event that celebrates the release of the Hebrew people from captivity in Egypt and are set free with Moses. Jesus ties together the celebration of Passover with his new celebration of what Christians call "The Last Supper".

In Exodus, the people marked their doorposts with the blood of a spotless lamb. This was the covenant sign that the Lord would pass over their homes, sparing them from death and leading them into freedom. The lamb's blood wasn't merely a ritual; it was a sign of belonging, protection, and deliverance.

In the New Testament, Jesus steps directly into this story. At the Passover meal, He identifies Himself as the true Paschal Lamb whose blood establishes a new covenant. His sacrifice becomes the sign of grace that marks our lives—not on doorposts, but on our hearts. Through His blood, we pass over from sin and death into the freedom and promise of eternal life.

The first Passover delivered Israel from bondage. The final Passover—Christ's sacrifice—delivers us into the fullness of God's redeeming love, grace and mercy. It is one story, one Savior, one great act of grace unfolding across generations.

As we gather with loved ones and celebrate the empty tomb, may we remember the depth of God's love poured out for us. May His grace guide our steps, His Spirit strengthen our faith, and His resurrection fill our hearts with joy.

Blessings to you this Easter, In the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

From the Choir Loft . . .

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A BENEFIT GOSPEL SING - May 9, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Shady Grove Church will hold a benefit gospel sing for one of our church members who has health issues and is unable to work.

Ronnie Williams and the Carter Family Sound will perform along with a comedy act by **Little Country**.

The ***Shady Grove Choir*** will also do a few songs. The date is the Saturday night before Mothers Day. This is a good way to bring your mother for music and some laughs. Please join us for this meaningful event.

Online Giving Through VANCO

Shady Grove is introducing a new, secure way to support our ministries through online giving, made possible by our partnership with **VANCO**, an approved and trusted financial services provider for churches and nonprofits. **VANCO** has been approved by the Virginia Annual Conference and several churches benefit from using their resources.

How You Can Give Online

VANCO offers several convenient ways to make a contribution:

- **Church Website:** Visit the Shady Grove webpage [www.sgumcva.org] and click the Donation link to make a one-time or recurring gift.
- **VANCO Mobile App:** Download the **VANCO** app from the Apple App Store or Google Play to give directly from your phone or tablet.
- **QR Code:** Scan the QR code provided in our bulletin or posted around the church to go straight to our giving page.

Why This Matters

Online giving allows members and friends to support Shady Grove's ministries anytime, from anywhere. It also helps ensure consistent support for our outreach, worship, and community programs.

Scotch's Page



Scotch, the late Alberta Pritchett's beloved cat has now become inseparable buddies with Coco, the dog. As pictured above Coco sleeps with her paw over Scotch sharing the love. It took about 6 months for them to get on the same page. Where one is, the other is, or in close proximity. Always, even at rest, traveling together!