



## THE FORGIVING CROSS

*<sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly. 1 John 10:10*

At Easter, Christians remember that our Savior Jesus was crucified. We believe that He is the Lamb of the world that died so that our sins would be forgiven and that through faith in Jesus, we will receive by grace, eternal life with God in heaven.

Jesus was crucified on a Friday, now called Good Friday and He rose from death three days later.

Easter falls at the same time as the Jewish Passover...and this is significant too. The name Passover comes from when the Angel of Death passed over the homes of the Jews in Egypt in the time of Moses. Since they had been forewarned, the Hebrews had put lambs' blood on the doors of their homes, so that death would spare their first born child.

Just as the angel of death passed over the homes of the Jews in Egypt that were marked with the blood of the sacrificial lamb, so too we are delivered by the blood that Jesus shed for our sins on the cross.

The idea of The Forgiving Cross was spawned from a sermon given by our pastor, Dr. Thomas Bowman. Dr. Bowman spoke about Catholic confession and how cleansing that must be. Since Christians do not typically practice confessional, we are inviting you to bring your sins and cares to the cross in a very special way. We believe and claim your victory over sin.

Starting March 1, 2010 in celebration of the great miracle of Easter, a large wooden cross will be placed in front of our church at Francis Burns United Methodist Church, 5616 Farrow Road. Next to the cross will be a box of pieces of paper that you can use to confess whatever you want to God or jot down any concerns to God. You do not have to leave your name, but leave your cares with God. You can visit the cross as many times as you would like. We invite our neighbors, fellow churches and friends to be a part of this great form of "confession". Each Sunday, our Sunday school classes will nail the papers to the cross as a symbol of how Jesus died on the cross that we might live again. The cross will remain in

front to the church through April 2, 2010. On Easter Sunday at our 10:00am worship service, the cross will be displayed with the many confessions and cares nailed on them. We will pray and believe that God is forgiving and working for you. We invite you to attend our service and watch God work!

**The Evangelism Ministry**