



THE CONNECTION

March Supplement 2010

EASTER HOLY WEEK!

Palm Sunday ~ March 28

This week we return back to our usual schedule. Worship services at 8:00am and 10:30am, with Sunday School hour at 9:30am.

A special event in the evening will be that of another Hymnal Sing, where the Lord's Supper will be emphasized in song and scripture. All are welcome to attend this tender time of fellowship and singing of uplifting hymns. The sing begins at 6pm in the Fireside room.

Full Seder Meal ~ March 31

For those of you who purchased tickets to this event,

enjoy and be blessed. We pray that this time of table fellowship, worship and Communion will enrich your understanding of Christ and his last week on earth.

Community Good Friday Service – April 2,

ACC will be uniting with other churches in the community to experience and celebrate Good Friday together as one body.

John and Mike will partner with several ministers in the services. It will be a special gathering and time to remember the crucifixion of our Lord together. Please join us for one of two

services, Friday April 2 at the First Baptist Church.

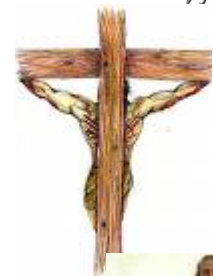
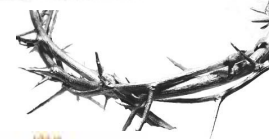
Service times are 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday ~ April 4

Join us as we celebrate this Resurrection Sunday starting with a breakfast buffet for congregation and visitors. This morning meal will be available for ALL from 8:30-9:30am.

One Celebration Service @ 10am

Please Note: There will be no Sunday School, Children's Church or Junior Church this Sunday.



MESSAGE FROM MIKE

The Often Overlooked Meaning of Easter

Easter is the most important Christian holiday of the year. I hesitate to say that, as there is some risk in elevating any Biblical event over another. They are all one story – not one without the other.

However, our society places far more emphasis on Christmas than it does Easter – not because it is more significant, but because we can make more of a profit from it. In terms of the Biblical text itself, one could actually remove the story of Christ's birth, and

while some keen insights, prophetic fulfillment and other critical points would be missed, the reader would still come away with the message that was intended by the authors of the gospels in regards to Jesus' life, teaching, death and resurrection.

You can't say the same with Easter. Without the resurrection, the whole story disappears. "But what about Good Friday? Surely the cross itself is more momentous than the resurrection!" Again, these two events cannot be divorced from one another. The climactic moment where Jesus bore the

sins of the whole world, paying the price for us to have restored relationship with the Father, is indeed at the pinnacle of the story, but is it possible that in our emphasizing that aspect of the story, we might miss part of the message that the Bible is trying to tell?

After all, without the resurrection, the crucifixion itself falls apart. Of course it really did happen, but no one in his or her right mind would attach the death of yet another "would-be messiah" to any significant salvation message.

Continued on next page...



MIKE'S MESSAGE CONTINUED....

One might say, "He died for your sins!" But another would respond, "Don't kid yourself. He just died. The Messiah won't succumb to death." As Paul says, "If Jesus is not raised, then all of our labor has been in vain, and you are still in your sins."

But surprisingly, the forgiveness of sins, while a critical part of the message, is actually *not* the primary message of Easter. The message of Easter is that God's new world has just begun. In celebrating Easter, we are celebrating the birthday of God's New Creation. The long exile is over. Jesus represents freedom and liberation from sin, death and decay. A liberation that all of creation will one day experience according to Romans 8 and 1 Corinthians 15. Paul calls Jesus the "first fruits" – the prototype if you will – of what God has in store.

We are no longer living in the old world. In that world, death had the final say; righteousness was bound to the law, making us slaves to our own sinfulness in a fallen creation. We still live in that fallen world – don't get me wrong – but the surprising message of Easter is that God's new creation has come bursting into the old, invading with power to overcome evil. In the old world, power belonged to those who could control us using fear of death as their primary weapon. But in this new world, *the*

people have seen a great light, and the darkness (even death itself) has not overcome it. Salvation belongs to our God. Death itself is no longer a barrier. Those who are in Christ will be raised from the dead with new glorious bodies that are like His risen body.

On the cross, God finished His work. As Jesus breathed the words, "It is finished," he echoed a similar event – the sixth day of Creation in the book of Genesis. God finished His work of creation, and then he rested. So again, He finished his work (at the cross), and rested – this time in a tomb. Then, the unexpected happened, and new life sprung forth from the grave. Jesus, a living example of what we might call the second Genesis, the first fruits of what it looks like for God to take His creation that has been broken on account of a fallen world, and make it new. And just as He breathed new life into Adam's nostrils, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit – new life - into His disciples.

Make no mistake. We are living in God's new world – even amidst the old. It is a world where the gates have swung open wide with the exuberant welcome of the prodigals back to their Father, a Father who gladly proclaims forgiveness for those who will turn to Him, but sadly opposes those who insist on remaining in darkness, greed, and oppression. It is a world that is

characterized by new life – the Holy Spirit – breathed into us. And finally, it is a world in which God's mission must be carried out. "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's new world is invading the old – through you! And it all started at Easter. As N.T. Wright put it, the reason the disciples were so excited was not so much that they were living in the *last days*, though that is partially true, but because they believed themselves to be living in the *first days* – the first days of God's new world.

So let us celebrate Easter with that same sense of exuberance. We are living in the first days of a world in which God, not our earthly rulers, doctors, nor scientists, has the final say. New things are possible, options are not shut down, and new creation can happen. That's what Easter is all about.

~ Mike

CELEBRATE!!

FAITH PROMISE UPDATE

Our first night totals were 27 pledge cards totaling \$36,350! This is a great start church! For your convenience, there will be extra Faith Promise commitment cards available for you at the offering boxes.

A huge thank you to all who helped make our Faith Promise week a huge success. God blessed us in so many ways. Thank you everyone!

We will continue to accept your commitment cards over the next couple of weeks. So continue to pray and con-

sider what your potential giving towards our mission efforts will be...then let us know by way of the cards.

We will carry on...

“UNTIL THE WHOLE
WORLD HEARS”



NOMINATIONS

Thank you to all who submitted names for our leadership nominations. Your continued prayers for this process are greatly appreciated. We are on task and will continue to keep you informed all along the way.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & MORE

Mark your calendars now...

We will be having an important congregational meeting on Sunday, April 11 (following second service).

Please make plans to return, or to stay a little longer that Sunday, so that you can be informed as to By-law business...and have your voice be heard by way of voting on items.

(Noted members of ACC are able to vote)

Then on Tuesday night, April 13 @ 7pm, we will have our next Ministry Council meeting.

Remember, these meetings are open to EVERYONE! Come, learn and be informed as to the workings of ACC.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT WARM BEACH - APRIL 16-18



Hi Ladies,
Our annual "Northwest Christian Women's Conference" this year is April 16-18.

The theme this year is "Rejoice." Ann McMurray will be the featured speaker. She is a co-author with Dr. Gregory Jantz, Ph.D of such books as: "Every Woman's Guide to Managing

Your Anger, Gotta Have It!, Happy for the Rest of Your Life, Moving beyond Depression," and others.

The cost for the whole weekend of two nights lodging and 6 meals before the March 23rd deadline is \$144 after that date there is a \$20 late fee.

If you don't want to attend the whole weekend and would like to just spend Saturday only the cost is: \$75 which includes three meals and of course the seminars and the main speaker.

Please contact Sandy Moffitt @ (360) 941-0190 for more information

REJOICE!!

THE GOSPEL RESURRECTION ACCOUNT

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20 (NIV)

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples; 'He has risen from the dead and is go-

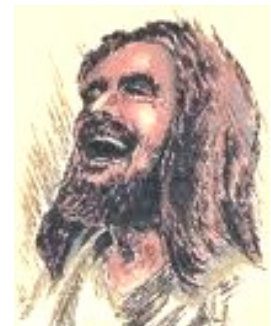
ing ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." ...

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of

the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."





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SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
 SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30AM
 JOLT WED. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP: 7:00PM

**** Return Address Correction Requested**

TO:

STAFF




John Douglas Preaching Minister
 Mike Rauwolf Associate Minister
 Teresa Goldstein Youth Minister
 Bill French Volunteer Administrator

Nancy Yount Office Manager/secretary
 Denise Cote Bookkeeper
 Sandy Moffitt Front Desk p/t
 Bud Adams Maintenance Manager

Lori Keller Preschool Teacher
 Michelle Costanza Preschool Teacher



MARCH 28 - APRIL 17 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	March			April		
28 Palm Sunday Services 8/10:30am SSchool @ 9:30am 6:30p - HS Girl's group	29 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men's study Public School Spring Break	30 7p-Mooney ladies group	31 6p - Seder Meal w/ the Bridge	1 7p-Lewis group	2 5p & 7p - Good Friday Community Services (First Baptist church)	3 
4 EASTER SUNDAY! 8:30 - Breakfast 10a - One Service 	5 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men's study	6 4p - Girl's Choir	7 10a-Ladies study 6p -HSBoys/MSGirls 7p - Prayer 7p - JOLT Youth 7p - McCunn group	8 7p - Aktion Club	9	10
11 Services 8/10:30am SSchool @ 9:30am Noon - Congregational meeting 630p - HS Girl's group	12 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men's study	13 4p - Girl's Choir 7p-Ministry Council meeting 7p-Mooney ladies group	14 10a-Ladies study 6p -HSBoys/MSGirls 6:45p-Ruddell group 7p - Prayer 7p - JOLT Youth 7p - McCunn group	15 7p- Lewis group	16 7p - Adult Game Night Warm Beach Women's Retreat	17 9:30a - Quilters
APRIL CALENDAR TO BE CONTINUED IN YOUR NEXT CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER ISSUE						