

Mendon Church
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The Gleam

Mendon Church

April 2017

Celebrating Resurrection Day

A Note from Pastor Hwang

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Weekly worship and Christian Education Sundays @10 am

The resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion is the center of the Christian faith. There is no doubt about it. Paul asserts that if there is no resurrection of Christ, "our faith is useless (or worthless)" and "we are still in our sins." (1 Corinthians 15:14,17). Death could not hold Jesus Christ captive and he conquered the power of death through his resurrection. Many essential theological concepts like salvation, hope, and the Kingdom of God cannot exist apart from the resurrection. His resurrection truly represents God's powerful intervention in the course of human history under the power of the evil.

Churches around the globe celebrate this day as creatively and exquisitely as possible. Some traditions have the Easter service (vigil) at midnight and many churches have Easter Dawn or Sunrise Services. In some countries, Christians bring a 'blessing basket' filled with eggs, bread, sausages, and other foods to share with church members and neighbors. Some countries celebrate the day by exploding a cart or burning effigies of Judas, a disciple who betrayed Jesus. Festivities, plays, songs, and dances are everywhere to celebrate the day of resurrection of Jesus.

However, the cynic in me wonders if we celebrate Easter properly. Above all, I am not comfortable with the name 'Easter' itself. There are a number of persuasive theories about the origin of the name but most of the theories agree, at least, that the name came from the word "East." No matter how people make positive explanations about the name, I can hardly accept the idea that Easter is a better title than "The Resurrection Day" or "The Day of Risen Christ". Likewise, I do not like the name "Good Friday" precisely because (a) there is no clear historical and theological background for the name, and (b) the name seems to reflect an anthropocentric idea by focusing more on the benefits of Jesus' death for humans. In addition, both "Easter" and "Good Friday" may be used to neutralize or popularize the important days in Christianity but fail to deliver the significance of the events. *(continued on page 4)*



EASTER
SERVICES

**Good Friday
7:30pm**

**Easter Sunday
10am**

Update from Bruce & Deb Robinson in Haiti

Dear Friends,

We hope this note finds you doing well and growing in whatever and wherever life has you. We are so grateful for groups that come to us in Northwest Haiti. They bring encouragement and valuable skills each winter to help and teach us and our Haitian colleagues. Our Ham radio is up and running again and many large and small (but important) things were built, repaired or put into service at the shop, churches and our home.



The work on the LaComa spring capping and drinking water system continues to amaze all of us. The churches in the area have worked out a schedule so that there is a volunteer work group on the job every day except market day and Sunday. Saturday seems to be the day when even more people come. Bruce has gotten a couple frantic Saturday morning phone calls from the pastor at Lacoma asking where else the people can work. The trench was packed with workers and there were still more people asking how they could help. Huge boulders that once seemed impossible obstacles in the new path of the pipeline have been broken up and used in the concrete and masonry that protects the pipe. Again, Noise! Energy! and Excitement! as people witness the rebirth of their 40 year old drinking water system. Now that the rains have stopped, and the stream has dried up farther down, the 10,000 people who rely on this water system are walking miles for water.



We are looking forward to more visitors in April and through the summer. Would you pray for changed hearts and the different team activities in the months ahead. Whether it's putting together church benches, installing new technology hand pumps for clean water, or organizing basketball and English camps, pray that the Lord would be glorified in all that we and these visitors are doing.



Your prayers make it all possible and strengthen us daily.

Bruce & Deb Robinson

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Conversations with Session

Date: March 19, 2017

Present: Elders: Patric Donaghue, Marianne Chiafery, and John Thomassen
Congregation Participation: 6 Congregants

Topic: DPNC Selection

The MIF for advertising Mendon Church's call for a Designated Pastor was accepted by the Committee on Ministry (COM). That means the next step is selecting a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (DPNC). It was announced that Session would select 5 members to be on the DPNC for election by the congregation. Session was asking for input from the congregation as to what criteria to use in its selection process. Representation of the diversity of Mendon Church and individuals who could exercise reasoned and unbiased judgments were described as important. When it was asked whether members of Session should be included or excluded from the composition of the DPNC, there were no calls for exclusion and some support for Session members to be on the DPNC due to their knowledge of the inner workings of the church and congregation. It was suggested that Session tap members of the recent PNC for suggestions on how to improve the process and to minimize the impact of pressures from the congregation.

Topic: Possibility of Nursery School at Mendon Church

Session members informed the congregation that there has been more than one inquiry within the last year regarding use of our building for a Day Care or Nursery School. There is a current inquiry from the proprietor of the Nursery School that is currently housed at St. Catherine's Church. Their initial expressed need is for 4 classrooms during the weekdays. There was receptivity to exploring this inquiry and checking on town codes, legal contract issues, and insurance needs. Positives expressed were greater exposure to the community, getting more people in the door, providing a service to the community, and bringing in money to our budget. Negatives expressed were higher cost of maintenance in cleaning, painting, etc.

Topic: Sanctuary Beautification

Sherry Thomassen reported that members of the Women's Group and others had been exploring ideas for sanctuary changes and decorating. She handed a folder full of suggestions to Marianne Chiafery for discussion and direction from the Worship Committee.

Topic: Hands-on Mission Project—Open Door Mission

Susan Clark announced that she has expressed an interest in taking over the Open Door Mission clothes and supplies collection that used to be done by Jim Fraser. Her plan is to have a kiosk built that is 6 feet high by 1 foot deep by 3 feet wide with cabinet doors and a cross in the front. She would like to put it in the location currently occupied by the bookcase in the Welcome Center that is often used for Mission Projects. She plans to speak with staff at Open Door Mission about their specific needs so she can address them specifically. She also expressed a wish that fundraisers, such as the upcoming pancake breakfast, could be specifically tied to the Open Door Mission. She agreed to work with Jim Shoots, the chair of Missions/Outreach Committee, to explore this.

Topic: Hands-on Mission Project—Card Ministry

Sherry Thomassen described a new card ministry proposed by Bev Benoit. Bev had reported that the cards she had left on the card rack in the Welcome Center for people to take free was underutilized as many people did not feel comfortable taking them for free. Bev proposed making new cards with other women from the church and placing them on the card rack to support Missions Projects. This was cleared through Missions/Outreach Committee and Session. About 250 cards were placed there today within different identified categories (i.e. Men's Birthday, Get Well, Women's Birthday) with a sign asking for a suggested donation of \$2.00. There is also a covered box to place payment for the cards. The nice hand-made quality and presentation of all the cards in plastic wrappers was commented upon.

Conversation with Session April 30th

Parents and grandparents of small children, please mark your calendars! Session would like to hear your thoughts on what you like about Mendon Church as well as what we can do better to meet your needs. Join us after service on Sunday, 4/30. Childcare will be provided.

Women's Group Nature Walk and Fellowship

Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month for a time of fellowship and a chance to enjoy the outdoors! These events are open to all ladies in the community, so don't forget to invite a friend. All walks begin at 7pm, but if you'd like to carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 6:55.

Upcoming Walks:

April 17—Daffodil Trail
@Powder Mill Park

May 1—Birdsong Trail
@Mendon Ponds Park

May 15—Burroughs-
Audubon Nature Wildlife
Sanctuary @ Powder Mill
Park

Youth Group Opportunities

We are very excited that Mendon Church Youth can connect with the local youth group, RE-WIND, that meets Monday evenings from 6:45 - 8:15 in local homes. It is coordinated by Grace Road Church and has a designated youth minister, Richard Ortmann, who has been developing the group over the past year. The group currently has about 20- 30 students, many from Ho-neoye Falls school district. Meetings start with 15 minute group mingling, then divides into Senior High (grades 9-12) and Junior High (grades 6 -8) age groups for a 20-30 minute lesson using "The Gospel Project" , and wraps up with games and social time. They also work in fun activities and events as a group during the year. If you or your parents have questions, you can talk with Richard directly at richard@graceroadchurch.org or talk with Marianne Chiafery. The site to check for upcoming events and meetings can be found at graceroadchurch.org.

Celebrating Resurrection Day

(continued from page 1)

Americans spent \$823 million in crème-filled eggs, chocolate rabbits and colored marshmallow chicks during the week before Easter in 2015 and Easter-related spending is around \$17 billion according to the USA Today. That means most of money was spent during Passion Week. Then it may not be an exaggeration to say that so many Americans celebrate 'the resurrection without death', which raises a fundamental question for all of us: Is it possible to understand the triumphant joy of the resurrection without realizing the dire power of the death in our lives?

The Bible is clear in illustrating the proper response to the resurrection of Jesus: "They were pricked in their heart" (KJV translation) or "They were cut to the heart" (NRSV & NIV translations) (Acts 2:37). This was the first response from the hearers when Peter proclaimed the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Their response was not a mere guilty feeling for engaging in the crucifixion of Jesus. Daunted by the power of the resurrection, they asked to the disciples, "Brothers, what shall we do?" According to Acts 2:41-7, there came about a complete transformation of people's lives, a reshaping of their thoughts, behaviors, and relationships. They not only believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ but also lived it out.

To encounter the mysterious power of the resurrection transforms our lives. Paul says he willingly embraces his suffering because he wants "to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." (Philippians 3:10-11) He understands the resurrection as the lens through which his life is structured, his past is reinterpreted, and his hope is envisioned. Then, only then, we may be able to embrace our faith journey wholeheartedly and to avoid what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called 'cheap grace': "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, grace with discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

All the glory and power to our risen Lord, Jesus Christ! Amen.

Birthdays

Gregg Miller	4/4
Robert Clark	4/11
David Hodownes	4/12
Kate Cheyne	4/16
Verne Horton	4/19
Chrissie Cheyne	4/20
Dianne Floeser	4/20
Ethan Kellogg	4/20
Andrew Martin	4/21
Terry Reser	4/24
Trevor Kellogg	4/25
Earl Bendschneider	4/27
Amber Avery	4/29
Judi Baronsky	4/30
Asiimwe Kamara	4/30
Alexandra Main	4/30

Anniversaries

Mike and Karin Spillane	4/11
Robert and Susan Clark	4/21
Pete and Karen Stotz	4/29



Prayer Requests

Doris Naundorf's friend Walter	Christians facing persecution
Shirley Snyder's sister-in-law	Our Nation's service men and women and their families
Tara Nickel's friend, Chris	People of Watsa, Congo, especially the orphans
Lynne Templeton's daughter-in-law Karie with cancer	Refugees, and those suffering in 3 rd World countries
Cindy Westfall's mother & sister	The President, Congress, our Nation and our World
Lynn Willard	

Those who are homebound: *Peggy Avery, Susan and Allen Beauregard, Norma Glamack, Doris Naundorf, Shirley Snyder, and Ann Wood*

Our Missionaries: *John and Beaj Reed with SIM; The Shalhoub's with the Navigators; The Robinsons in Haiti; The McKees with SIL/Wycliffe*

Our College Students: *Jonathan Alcorn, Jessica Apthorpe, Alex Baronsky, Brooke Cheyne, McKensie Galusha, Katie Kerekes, Meredith Rogers, Kyle Schultze and Julia Smith*

Those in the Military: *Killian Anstee-Sgt. US Army, currently stationed/Ft Polk, La.; Nick Hodownes, US Navy on the USS George H.W. Bush; Garrett Koek - 1st Lieutenant US Army, currently stationed/Ft Huachuca, AZ*