

Word of Hope

MUNT HOPE
United Methodist Church



Pastor McGill Writes. . .

Make a Difference

A real challenge for Mount Hope Church and for that matter any church is for the believers in that Church Family to be of one accord. If we aren't in one accord, I don't believe we will be able to make a difference for Christ as individuals or corporately as the body of Christ in the final outpouring of His Glory. I don't believe we will be included in the end-time events that God wants us to be a part of for Him!

Throughout history, whenever there has been a mighty move of God, where the believers stepped out in faith with boldness and made a difference in the spread of the Gospel that changed society for the better there was unity among the brethren. Not just occasionally. Not just sometimes, but always. I don't want to miss what I call the final outpouring when the Glory of God arrives on the scene—do you? To be ready, we'd better understand the definition of unity and the devices the devil uses to divide a church.

When you turn to the book of Acts and follow the growth of the New Testament Church, paying

close attention to those instances where there was an absolute explosion of the supernatural, you will find that every time there was a massive move of God, unity was *always* present. Acts 1:14 says, "With one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His Brethren." Note that their unity in prayer happened prior to that all-important day—the Day of Pentecost. If you continue reading, Acts 2:1 states: *When the Day of Pentecost was fully come, they were [still] all with one accord in one place.*" If you continue reading through Acts 2: 46-47 you will find that they continued with one accord and singleness of heart praising God.

Unity, singleness of heart obviously plays an important part in every single move of God—past, present and future where the believers made a difference. Unity not only creates a perfect setting for the Glory of God to show up, but it makes the believer a more effective witness in the kingdom of God. Take a moment and open your Bible to Acts Chapter 4 and

read how the Holy Spirit empowered Peter and John with boldness to give testimony of Christ with demonstration of the healing power of God.

Pay close attention to Acts 4:24-31. You see, having that "one accord mindset" made them more effective witnesses of the Gospel with a demonstration of power back then, and it will do the same for us today. Clearly, the power of unity created an atmosphere for the unhindered flow of the anointing of God in their lives. It will do the same in our lives, if we will just practice it.

Being of "one accord" means to be of "one mind." This doesn't mean we'll always have the same opinion or perspective as everyone else, because we come from different backgrounds and have varied experiences in life. We're individual beings, not little Christian clones walking around. It does mean, however, that we have chosen to put our minds on the things we have in common. It means we've chosen to focus on the things we agree about and turn our attention away from the things that would divide and separate.

(continued on page 3)

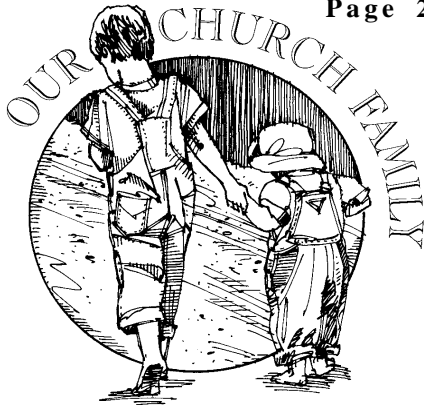
March 2008

Inside this issue:

<i>Our Church Family</i>	2
<i>Noteable Notes</i>	
<i>Lent and Easter</i>	
<i>Easter Lily Orders</i>	
<i>Spring Cantata</i>	3
<i>Seasonal Offerings</i>	
<i>Hearing God</i>	
<i>Make a Difference (concl)</i>	
<i>Where Is the Body?</i>	4
<i>Children's Center News</i>	
<i>Library Corner</i>	
<i>Youth Page</i>	Insert
<i>Nativity Silhouette</i>	5
<i>Women's Softball</i>	
<i>He's Coming Back!</i>	
<i>Kids' Page</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7
<i>Where Is the Body?</i>	8

Special points of interest:

- ◆ **2nd: 4th Sunday of Lent**
- ◆ **7th: World Day of Prayer**
- ◆ **9th: 5th Sunday of Lent**
- ◆ **12th: Lenten Devo & Soup**
- ◆ **15th: Easter Egg Hunt**
- ◆ **Holy Week: 16th: Palm Sunday, confirmation class joins; 20th: Holy Thursday, service at 7 p.m.; 21st: Good Friday worship Noon to 3:00 p.m.**
- ◆ **23rd: Easter: He Is Risen!**
- ◆ **24th Office & MHCC closed**
- ◆ **26th: Devo Desserts resumes**



BAPTISMS

Gianna Leigh Jones, daughter of Amanda and Robert Lee Jones Jr.

DEATHS

Sharon E. Wooton, February 4

C. Jean Lee, February 8

Lavere Hoyt, February 9

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Marcy Linewicz

Jay and Melissa Mitch

Noteable Notes - March 2008

We are getting sooooo close! Believe it or not, we are nearing completion on the installation of our new organ. A completion date has not been set, but after numerous unforeseen setbacks, glorious organ sounds will soon fill the sanctuary.

We still need to collect \$19,258.50 to reach our goal for the third manual. Your contribution to this wonderful instrument will provide a legacy for generations of Mount Hope Church worshippers to come. Envelopes are still available in the pew racks. You can "sponsor" a note with your donation of \$100 or more, \$50 or \$25, or in any amount that you want to give. Please consider your participation in this project prayerfully.

Sharon Kope

Director of Music

Lent and Easter at Mount Hope Church

There is not another season just like Lent as it takes us through the sacrifice of Jesus for our sin and climaxes in the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

Our Lenten Sunday worship during March is as follows:

March 2nd

"*True Spirituality*" will be the message. The core of the message will deal with what it means to be a Christian in today's world. You will be blessed by this message of hope.

March 9th

"*The Cross for His Followers*" The theme of the message is, what it means to take up your cross and follow Jesus. You will find strength in this message for each day in your life.

March 16th

Palm Sunday and confirmation Sunday Celebration On this Palm Sunday, our confirmands will join the Family of God and the Church Family. There will be excerpts from their essays about their faith in Christ. This always makes for an uplift in your life as you rejoice with our confirmands as they declare their acceptance of Jesus as Savior and Lord! There will be lots of fanfare as we remember the

significance of Palm Sunday. There will be palm crosses for all who attend.

Holy Week

March 20th:

Maundy Thursday Worship

At 7:00 p.m. we will gather in the Sanctuary for a special service that will highlight the significance of Passover and the Passion of our Lord. There will be the sharing of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and time to gather around the candlelit cross for praise and commitment. This is an evening that will up-lift you and renew your faith. Come and leave your burden at the cross!

March 21st: Good Friday

The service is divided into approximate 20 minute segments from Noon until 3:00 p.m. This year our Good Friday service will depict the Way of the Cross. You will be inspired and blessed as the worship periods bring to life the suffering of our Lord to pay the price for our sin. You will be left with a sense of God's love for you through His Son! Plan now to attend one or several of the worship segments on Good Friday.

March 23rd: Easter Sunday Celebration of Resurrection

Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. on The Hill

weather permitting (if inclement, in the Sanctuary).

Easter is early this year—**DRESS WARMLY! It is cold on The Hill!** Following this celebration of the Resurrection, folks are invited to a breakfast in Habbersett Hall. Pastor Ealy will be preaching at this service.: "*How Do I Look?*"

Easter Sunday Worship at 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Pastor McGill will lead in worship as we celebrate **JESUS IS ALIVE!!!**

There will be music by our choirs, a stirring Easter message, gifts for the children and more. Know you can make a difference so plan now to attend and bring a friend as we celebrate—**Jesus Is Alive!**

March 30th:

Easter Afterglow Sunday The message "*Will You Follow Jesus?*" On the Sunday after Easter and the following Sundays, we will see if the glow of Easter remains with the Easter crowd or was just a one day celebration. Jesus gave His life for you. What will you give Him? Come and see and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness who makes a difference!

Pastor McGill

Easter Lily Orders

Would you like to order an Easter lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one? Every Easter, the lily cross is the beautiful focal point of the sanctuary.

"*The white lily stands for purity. It has traditionally been used in Christian art connected to Mary, the mother*

of Jesus. She has often been pictured with the angel Gabriel coming to her with a spray of lilies in his hand to announce that she will be the mother of the Messiah. It is also a sign of the Resurrection. It, like other flowers that come from bulbs seemingly die away then return with new life each year. Because they are

white, they signify the pure new life that comes through the Resurrection of Jesus." (Mary Jane Pierce Norton, General Board of Discipleship, UMC).

Each plant is \$8.00. Use the order form in the Sunday Messenger, or contact Laura Taylor or the church office by Sunday, March 16th.



Spring Cantata

“*Because He Lives*” by Russell Mauldin is the title of this year’s Spring Cantata.

This passionate celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ features some of the best-loved songs of all time, as well as several brand new favorites. You will follow Jesus on His journey into Jerusalem and down the Way of Suffering to His death on the rugged

cross. Moreover, all hearts and souls will find eternal hope as they celebrate the victorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

All who share in this worship experience should realize that life is indeed, “worth the living... just BECAUSE HE LIVES!”

Mark your calendars and plan to be there on April 13. The cantata will be presented at

the 8:15 and 11 a.m. services.

We need extra voices in the choir. Please consider helping us retell the final days of Jesus’ life here on earth and his glorious resurrection. Rehearsal is on Thursday, beginning February 28, from 7-7:45 pm in the choir room. See Sharon Kope if you have any questions.

Lenten and Easter Offerings

Your Lenten Offering will support the Transportation Ministry of Mount Hope Church, helping to maintain our school bus and vans, and to build a reserve to purchase new vehicles as needed. Annually our vehicles transport mission teams to their

destinations, Youth Fellowship to retreats and summer outings, and other church groups to various functions. On some overflow Sunday mornings, our drivers even shuttle parishioners across busy Concord Road from the elementary school parking lot.

The Easter Offering will be distributed among Mount Hope Youth Missions, EPaUMC Youth Missions, Hearts in Service Ministry, Youth Fellowship retreat scholarships, and the ongoing ministry of Mount Hope Church.

Hearing God

I listen to my local radio station while I’m driving in my car. When I drive away from the radio tower, the signal gets weaker and weaker. But if I turn the car around and drive back into

town, the signal becomes stronger and I can hear it again.

In the same way, we stop hearing God when we drift away from Him. But if we will turn around and

come back to Him, we’ll hear His voice again. The closer we are to God, the clearer we can hear Him.

“*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*” (James 4:8)

Make a Difference *(continued from the first page)*

No wonder Paul urged us in 1 Corinthians 1:10 to “*speak the same things, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment.*” Paul knew the importance of and power of “one accord” status.

Do you want the anointing of God to fall on Mount Hope Church? Do you want the power of God to operate in your life to enable you to make a

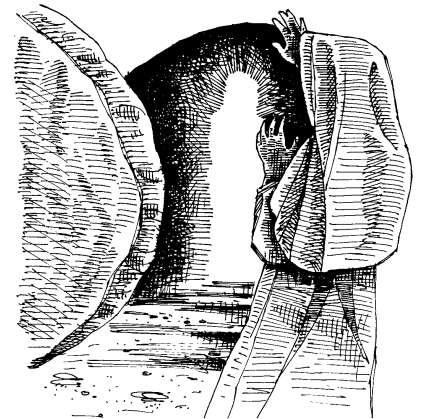
difference for Him? Do you want to be part of the move of God in these last days? Then let us be smart enough to discern the devil’s operation when it comes to divide and cause disharmony in the Church Family. Say no to strife and wrangling and yes to unity and the love of God. Let’s give each other the benefit of the doubt. Let’s love one another. First Corinthians 13 tells us that love doesn’t keep a record of wrongs. Instead, it chooses to believe the best. Let’s believe the best about

one another—no matter our economic status, our race, our past or our current situation.

Let’s do whatever it takes to make sure we consistently walk in harmony with our brothers and sister in Christ Jesus. Let’s meet at the foot of the cross on Easter Sunday being of one mind so that we, the Church Family of Mount Hope Church can make a difference of being participants in this final outpouring of the Glory of God! Praise be to God!

Pastor McGill

*Lenten Devotions
with Soup Supper
on Wednesday,
March 12 at 6:00
p.m. in Habbersett
Hall. Call Pastor
Phil to reserve your
place.*



“He has risen,
See he is not here.
the place where they laid him.”

Mark 16:6

Word of Hope

Where Is the Body? (continued from the back page)

for them to accept him, reject him or be indifferent to him.

“Jesus is here with us, this afternoon, right now in this room,” I told the 30 or so residents who had come to the service.

“Can you see Him?” I asked.

“Jesus is here today! He is here with us, right now!

“Can you see him?”

“He is in you. He is in me. He is in all of us who believe and love him. Turn, and you will find him in the person next to you!”

That, my friend, is also the message of Easter. Christ is risen and become the Lord who, in crossing the boundary

of death, has crossed the boundaries of time and space and become the Presence we can know within ourselves and find in one another.

Where is the body?

We are the body!

We are the body of Christ!

George Rigby



Children's Center News

Our Bible verse for March: "God keeps His promise."

Genesis 9:13

March is always a busy month, but adding Easter fills the month. The Fruit of the Sprit this month is "faithfulness", positively relevant as our belief in Jesus' resurrection is the basis of our faith. With Easter so early this year, we won't see much spring by then, but are looking forward to celebrat-

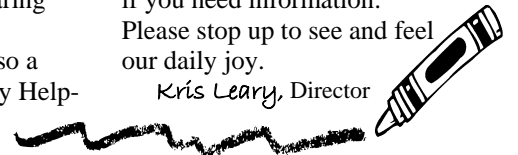
ing the Resurrection with the children. Our chapel will be on March 27th and 28th at 11:30 AM.

This month we will also be observing Dr. Seuss' Birthday, by reading many of his books and eating "green eggs and ham". March also finds us celebrating St. Patrick's Day by the wearing and the eating of the "greens". March is also a month of "Community Help-

ers", where the parents and people from the community come to school and explain their jobs to the children.

Registration is "robust" as usual. We are 90% filled for our 2008-2009 school year! If you're interested, these spots will fill quickly, so please call (610-558-0442) if you need information. Please stop up to see and feel our daily joy.

Kris Leary, Director



What's New In the Library

We have added two family-friendly DVDs to our collection. *The Nativity Story* is a retelling of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus and highly recommended by Pastor George. *Amazing Grace* is based on the true story of William Wilberforce's tireless struggle to end the slave trade in 19th century England -- how a man and a song changed the world.

Two books by the husband and wife team of Bill and Pam Farrel emphasize that every marriage is a work in progress.

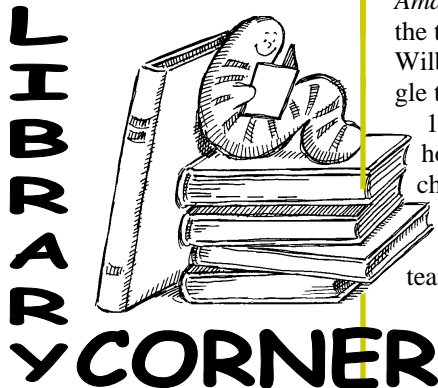
Whether yours needs an extreme makeover or you

simply want to add a few finishing touches, you'll find the right tools for the job in *Every Marriage Is a Fixer Upper*. *Men Are Like Waffles*, *Women Are Like Spaghetti* is an innovative and fun approach to the differences between men and women. Men process life like waffles: they enter a box, size up the single problem and formulate a solution. Women process life like a plate of spaghetti: each issue is like an individual noodle that touches every other noodle on the plate. They find it natural to multi-task.

In *Monday Night Jihad*, by Jason Elam and Steve Yohn, linebacker Riley

Covington is back from a tour of duty in Afghanistan, and living his dream as a professional football player. When he discovers a terrorist plot, he knows he can't sit on the sidelines. Will he be able to block the terrorists in time, or will the clock run out? On a lighter note are the first two volumes in the Bargain Hunters Mysteries, *Death of a Garage Sale Newbie* and *Death of a Six-Foot Teddy Bear*. The Bargain Hunters Network is searching for buys -- and finding bodies!

Lynn Ward
Librarian





Nativity—Silhouette Style

Some of you have asked about the nativity figures that were used in the crèche after the Living Nativity re-enactment. Pastor Phil located the pattern for the wooden figures on line. He, Paul Titter and John Grimes tackled the job of using the pattern to make the silhouette figures. Constructed of 3/4 inch plywood, they are 3

–4 feet tall.

The day after the conclusion of the Living Nativity, the three gentlemen worked fervently for 6 hours, sawing, cutting and gluing. Jack Goodman was kind enough to transport the lumber. Pastor Phil took the complete figures of Mary and Joseph home where he and Linda applied MANY coats of white paint. At 6:30

a.m. on Sunday, the figures were placed where the living Nativity had taken place on that Friday evening before.

Talk about “HOT” off the blades!

Baby Jesus and the manger will (hopefully) be added next year. Thanks to all involved for their talents and efforts. A great job well done!!! ~ Jan Duryea

Mount Hope Women’s Softball 2008

It’s that time of year again! The Women’s Softball Team will start the season in early April. We welcome anyone

who enjoys having a great time and being active! If you are interested in playing this year, please contact Andrea

Griffith at (610) 859-9735 or send an email to andrea.griffith@comcast.net.

He’s Coming Back

You are in your car driving home. Thoughts wander to the game you want to see or the next meal you want to eat, when suddenly a sound unlike any you’ve ever heard fills the air. The sound is high above you.

A trumpet?

A choir?

A choir of trumpets?

You don’t know, but you want to know.

So you pull over, get out of your car and look up. As you do, you see you aren’t the only curious one. The roadside has become a parking lot. Car doors are open, and people are staring at the sky. Shoppers are racing out of the grocery store. The Little League baseball game across the street has come to a halt. Players and parents are searching the clouds. And what they see, and what you see, has never before been seen.

As if the sky were a curtain, the drapes of the atmosphere part. A brilliant

light spills onto the earth. There are no shadows; NONE. From whence came the light begins to tumble a river of color spiking crystals of every hue ever seen and a million more never seen. Riding on the flow is an endless fleet of angels. They pass through the curtains one myriad at a time, until they occupy every square inch of the sky...North...South...East... West.

Thousands of silvery wings rise and fall in unison, and over the sound of the trumpets, you can hear the cherubim and seraphim chanting, Holy, holy, holy. The final flank of angels is followed by twenty-four silver-bearded elders and a multitude of souls who join the angels in worship. Presently the movement stops and the trumpets are silent, leaving only the triumphant triplet: Holy, holy, holy. Between each word is a pause. With each word, a profound reverence. You hear your voice

join in the chorus. You don’t know why you say the words, but you know you must. Suddenly, the heavens are quiet. All is quiet. The angels turn, you turn, and the entire world turns and there He is.

JESUS

Through wave of light you see the silhouetted figure of Christ the King. He is atop a great stallion, and the stallion is atop a billowing cloud. He opens His mouth, and you are surrounded by his declaration:

I am the Alpha and Omega.

The angels blow their horns.

The elders remove their crowns.

And before you is a Figure so consuming that you know, instantly you know: Nothing else matters. Forget stock markets, school reports, sales meetings and football games. Nothing is newsworthy...

All that mattered matters no more...for Christ has come. ~ Max Lucado

**“On Easter Day
the veil between
time and eternity
thins to
gossamer.”**

~ Douglas Horton



**Saturday, March 15th
9:00 a.m.**

Habbersett Hall





GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

This craft is a reminder of God's love for the world and of Jesus' sacrifice for everyone.


What you need:

- Two pieces of 8 1/2" x 11" white or light-blue construction paper
- Circle shape that fits paper (plastic lid or paper plate)
- Black marker or crayon
- Masking tape
- Shallow box, box lid or old cookie tray
- Blue and green paint
- Two paper plates
- Two marbles
- Two plastic spoons
- Scissors



What you do:

1. On one piece of paper, trace the circle shape.
2. Using two pieces of masking tape, make a cross in the center of your circle.
3. Place your paper inside the box, box lid or cookie tray.
4. Pour blue paint onto one paper plate and green onto the other. Place one marble in each color of paint.
5. Using a spoon, take out one marble at a time and place on your paper.
6. Roll each marble back and forth, around and around, alternating between colors.
7. After your circle looks like the planet Earth with lots of blue and green, cut out the circle.
8. Glue the circle onto another piece of paper.
9. Around the circle, write the words to John 3:16, NIV: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
10. Take off the masking tape and see the cross that's left. Keep your artwork as a reminder of how much God loves you!



For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

perish but have eternal life." N "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not

John 3:16, NIV

S



This Update Printed: Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Every Sunday: Worship at 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages</p> <p>Community Events: Sundays - 6:00 p.m. Cub Den 1 (101) Alt. Mondays— 6:00 pm Cub Den 2 (FH) Tuesdays – 7:00 p.m. Daisy Troop (101) 8:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) First Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Barix Support (FH)</p> <p>Thursdays – 6:00 pm AA (FH) 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den 3 (103) Alt Thurs.— 6:45 pm Brownie Trp 53312 (101) 3rd Friday – 6:30 pm Pack 77 meetings (FH)</p>						<p>1 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)</p>
<p>2 Lent 4th Sunday Blood Pressure Screening (HH) One Great Hour of Sharing 9:15 AM- 10:15 am. Library open 5:30 PM Genesis Bells (104) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF (S, 2, 6, HH)</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Library Open 1:00 PM Bibl Stdy (Longhurst) 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley)</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Prayer (L) 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (home)</p>	<p>5 9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mng (L) 7:00 PM Trustees (Cem) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>6 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Cantata Reh (216) 7:45 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>7 World Day of Prayer 9:00 AM Library open</p>	<p>8 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L) 4:00 PM WOHD and Fine (Ofc)</p>
<p>9 Lent 5th Sunday Daylight Savings--set ahead 1 hour 9:15 AM- 10:15 am. Library open 5:30 PM Genesis Bells (104) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF (S, 2, 6, HH)</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L)</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Prayer (L) 7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)</p>	<p>12 9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mng (L) 6:00 PM Lenten Devo, Soup Supper (HH) 6:30 PM Education (L) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104) 7:15 PM J.O.Y. Singers Reh (103)</p>	<p>13 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Busy Beaver (Kit) 6:00 PM Levens Wed Reh (S) 7:00 PM Cantata Reh (216) 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Girls Bb1 Stdy (6) 7:30 PM Muddy Boots Young Men's BS (L) 7:45 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM Library open 6:00 PM Levens Wed (S)</p>	<p>15 9:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt (HH) 10:00 AM Confirmation Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>16 Palm Sunday 9:15 AM- 10:15 am. Library open 11:00 AM Confirmation Class Joins 12:00 PM Confirm Class Reception (HH) 5:30 PM Genesis Bells (104) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF (S, 2, 6, HH)</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's 9:00 AM Library Open 1:00 PM Bibl Stdy (Longhurst) 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley)</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Prayer (L) 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (home) 7:00 PM SPR (L)</p>	<p>19 9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mng (L) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>20 Communion Holy Thursday 8:30 AM WOHD Mng (HH) 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Communion Service (S, HH) 7:00 PM Cantata Reh (216) 7:45 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>21 Good Friday Library Closed 12:00 PM - 5 PM Office closed 12:00 PM Worship (S)</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>MHCC Closed</p>						
<p>23 Easter No YF 6:30 AM Serv of Res (Hil) 7:15 AM Sunrise Brkfst (HH) 9:15 AM- 10:15 am. Library open</p>	<p>24 Office Closed MHCC Closed 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L)</p>	<p>25 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Prayer (L) 7:00 PM Worship Com (L)</p>	<p>26 9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mng (L) 6:30 PM Devo Dessert (HH) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Finance (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>27 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Cantata Reh (216) 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Girls Bb1 Stdy (6) 7:30 PM Muddy Boots Young Men's BS (L) 7:45 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>28 9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>29 Turnbull (HH)</p>
<p>30 Baptism 9:15 AM- 10:15 am. Library open 5:30 PM Genesis Bells (104) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF (S, 2, 6, HH)</p>	<p>31</p>					



Where Is the Body?

“*Where is the body?*” That’s the title to a sermon I preached some years ago. It is a question that was asked many times a long time ago in Jerusalem on the day we now call Easter.

It was asked by the religious authorities when they learned (probably from the soldiers who guarded the tomb and fled in terror when the stone slab rolled back!) that Jesus was gone.

The friends, followers and family of Jesus asked it when they learned the tomb was empty from the women who had gone to embalm the body.

Where is the body?

That question we believe was answered on Easter day when the Easter Jesus disclosed himself to those who loved him. His body was different; it had been changed. By the power of God it had become a body no longer restrained by time and space. In the mystery of the resurrection Jesus had become timeless, his presence—his body—available to everyone, everywhere who believed and loved him.

Where is the body?

That question, it would seem, was answered once for all twenty centuries ago, yet it is a question that must be asked in every generation and by

everyone who takes Jesus seriously: *Where IS the body? Where IS the Lord?*

The answer is, He is here!

The timeless, Easter Jesus is present with us now, within our minds and hearts. And he is with us as we meet him in those around us.

The Sunday before I preached that Easter sermon I had led a nursing home service in which I held up the theme of Palm Sunday, that Jesus comes to us today much as he did when he entered the holy City on that first Palm Sunday. Jesus still comes, I said, to present himself to people,

(continued on page 4)

