



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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The Lord Is My Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible—Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm.

Little Rick was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!

Mount Hope Church Staff

Dr. Thomas C. McGill, Senior Pastor
Rev. George S. Rigby, Jr., Pastor of Visitation
Pastor Philip G. Ealy, Family Life Ministry
Cynthia Babiak, Youth Director
Kristine Leary, Director, Children's Center
Sharon Kope, Director of Music
Donna Kelly, 9:30 Worship Coordinator
Eileen McIntyre, Handbell Director
Patrick Brzezicki, Cemetery Superintendent
Lin Heintz, Secretary
Joan Bear, Asst. Secretary
Leo Volmer, Building Superintendent
Larry Miles, Asst. Bldg. Superintendent

Names of God Bible Study

Have you ever wondered Who God really is and what He is really like? People tell us who they believe He is and what He is like, but are they correct? So often we hear: "It's an act of God;" "God just took him;" "It was just God's will;" etc. But was it? How can we ever really know the truth?

God reveals who He is and what He is really like through His written word and the Living Word. Consider this an engraved invitation to get to know God through the study of His names. God blesses those who study His name. Psalm 119: 13 says: "*Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your Name.*" And Psalm 9:10 says: "*Those who know Your Name will put their trust in You.*"

"Knowledge of God is more essential for the Christian than knowledge of anything else! It is for a lack of knowledge of God that the prophet Hosea informs us that we are destroyed. And it is from the lack of knowledge of God that many are without spiritual power or life. There is little real knowledge in these days of

the one, true God. Jesus prayed in John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they should know Thee, the only true God, and Him Whom Thou didst send, even Jesus Christ." (Nathan Stone, *The Names of God*).

Through His names God reveals His character, His most intimate substance, and His works. The medium of this revelation is the written Word and the Living Word—the revelation of Himself in the flesh.

All of His glorious names meet varying needs in our own lives. They reveal diverse dimensions of His power, love, grace, glory and goodness that touch our lives. They disclose the many layers of His relationship with us. His names help us fix our thoughts on Him in new ways. They show us Who He is and what He is really like and what He is doing for us. They reassure us of His love in so many different ways and keep us from being deceived.

So come and get to know: Elohim, Jehovah, El Shaddai, Adonai, Jehovah-jireh, Jehovah-rophe, Jehovah-nissi, Jehovah-M'Kaddesh, Jehovah-

shalom, Jehovah-tsidkenu, Jehovah-rohi; Jehovah-Shammah. Our Lord's names are so rich they must be pondered, savored, mulled over and thoughtfully applied to the heart. In other words, meditated on. His love is spread across our souls, His promises are under our feet; His Presence is around our lives, and His Name is above every name. Come and get to know your heavenly Father as He has revealed Himself through the written and Living Word.

We will study the Names of God during the five Sunday evenings in Lent. **We will meet in the Sanctuary from 6:30—8:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings: February 21, 28, March 7, 14 and 21. I will be using the book, *Names of God* by Nathan Stone.** You might like to purchase one for your own reading and study. The cost is \$6.99. You can purchase it at The Word book store in Aston or any religious book store near you.

Come and enjoy this casual and informal study time.

Pastor McGill

Family Praise Tree

This year on Palm Sunday we at Mount Hope will be literally lifting our praises to God. As a family please set some time aside and read the "Triumphal Entry" story in Luke 19:28-40. Imagine you and or your family gathered on the street,

waiting for Jesus to ride by. When you shout, "Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King," reflect on what you will be praising God for. We would like you to write these praises down on a paper "palm" that will be displayed on Palm Sunday. Please pick

up your paper palm to write your family's praise available on Sunday March 7th. We look forward to seeing you and your family on Sunday, March 28th for our Palm Sunday services where we celebrate Walking in Triumph in 2010.



Lenten and Easter Worship

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.

February 28th

The Second Sunday of Lent

"God Bless You" is the title of Pastor McGill's message. The scripture, Numbers 6:22-27, is known as the Priestly Blessing:

The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

' "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.' "

"So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

March 7th

The Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday's message by Pastor McGill is "A Great Cloud of Witnesses." The text is Hebrews 12: 1-3:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

March 14th

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

The message on the 14th is, "What's in a Name?" Pastor McGill will preach from Matthew 16: 13-16, Peter's confession of Christ:

"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' "

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ,^[a] the Son of the living God."

March 21st

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Our Confirmation Class will be brought into full membership today. The message will be taken from the confirmands' 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!

March 28th, Palm Sunday

The ladies of our church will make palm crosses for all who attend. Pastor Ealy's message, "Triumph Through Humility," will explore the scripture account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, recorded in Matthew 21:1-11:

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you,

tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Holy Week

April 1st: Maundy Thursday

At 12:30 and 7:00 p.m. we will gather in the Sanctuary for a special tenebrae services that highlights the significance of the Passion of our Lord. We will share the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

April 2nd: Good Friday

The service is divided into approximate 20 minute segments from Noon until 3:00 p.m. It will focus on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. You will be inspired and blessed as the worship brings 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!

April 4th: Easter Sunday Celebration of Resurrection

Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. on The Hill weather permitting (if inclement, in the Sanctuary). Pastor Ealy will speak: "You Are Not Alone!" Those who attend this early service are invited to a breakfast in Habbersett Hall.

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 "**The Resurrected Christ.**"

There will be music by our choirs, a stirring Easter message, and gifts for the children and more.

The Easter Sunday text is from Matthew 28:1-7: The Resurrection: *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 going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

Word of Hope

Easter Blessings! (continued from page 1)

resurrection. That fact was sealed in their hearts and minds forever the very last time they set eyes on Jesus when, right before His ascension: *“He led them out as far as Bethany and He lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted*

from them and carried up into heaven.” (Luke 24: 50-51).

God sent Jesus to bless us so that we could have life and have it abundantly. That’s the Good News! That’s the Gospel! It is the same Gospel that God gave to Abraham when He said, *“In thee shall all nations be blessed”*

(Galatians 3:8). It’s the Gospel Jesus has commissioned us as disciples, to go into all the earth and preach to every generation.

May “The Blessing” be renewed in your life this Easter!

Pastor McGill

Children’s Center News

March’s Bible Verse:
“God keeps His promises.”
Genesis 9:13

March is always a busy month. The children are learning about the food pyramid and healthy eating. The older children will enjoy a trip to the supermarket early this month. Dr. Seuss’ birthday, also early this month, will find us eating “green eggs and ham.”

Community helpers come to school and explain their jobs to the children. Spring begins and we learn about Noah and the ark. The end of the month begins our Easter celebrations, and will resume when we return in April. The Fruit of the Spirit this month is “faithfulness,” chapel will be on Wednesday, March 24th and Thursday, March 25th at 9:30 a.m. Next month we’ll

begin registrations for our summer camp.

For everyone’s information, VBS this year will be June 21st through 25th. Please stop up to see and feel our daily joy!

Kris Leary

Director

6 10.558.0442



Digesting Jesus by Kris Vallotton

“This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying,

“How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

He who eats My flesh and

drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:50-54 (NAS)

When Jesus said we must eat His flesh and drink His blood, He wasn’t talking about cannibalism, but He was referring to ingestion that leads to incarnation. Christ was the Word that became flesh. It is important that we ingest the Word of God in a way that causes us to digest His life until Christ is literally formed in us. Ingestion without digestion will lead to feeling full but not being transformed. Digestion is more than just a taste test, it is the

full meal of His presence that conforms us to His image. There is an old saying that is true in this case, “You are what you eat!”

Many people ingest the Bible but they don’t digest the living, active Word of God. Religion fills their souls but never satisfies their longing for real life. Digestion requires assimilation, not just consumption. Truth was never meant to just be recounted, it was intended to be experienced. When we exchange the communion meal for a dinner commentary or a cookbook, we deprive ourselves of the privilege of abundant life, and

(continued on page 5)



Digesting Jesus (continued from page 5)

relegate ourselves to a meager existence in the Kingdom. Jesus never intended for us to be full of religion, but He desired us to be filled with His Spirit. Christ is the ultimate happy meal, and as we digest Him, we become one flesh with Him. That is why Jesus prayed that,

"We may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they

also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me... The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

Christ is not talking about His disciples getting along with each other here. He was describing the unity between the [Bride-the Church] and the Bridegroom [Jesus]... When we come to the communion table and eat the flesh of our King, we become an inseparable unity that causes the world to experience His presence every time they encounter us. In other words, when they see us, they have seen the Father.

We are Christ to the world. I don't mean that we just preach Christ to the

world. I mean people should experience Christ when they meet us because it is Jesus Who is being formed in us. As a matter of fact, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

When people experience us preaching the Word without us becoming the Word, the gospel gets reduced to a mere philosophy—principles to be argued and words that can be wrangled over. But when the Word becomes flesh and dwells among them, they find themselves pierced to the heart and convicted in the depths of their very souls. It is incumbent upon us as the people of God to preach Christ wherever we go and, only if necessary, use words!

Kris Vallotton is an associate pastor and the author of "The Supernatural Ways of Royalty"



Beholding the Presence

with me" is not good enough. That truth must launch us into an experience, or we're violating the truth. Truth is given as an invitation for divine encounter so that we would know by experience that God is upon us and God is with us.

David's entire life as a warrior and a priest was focused on this one thing: to daily take time before Him until we can see Him. Since we can't imagine a place where He isn't, we might as well imagine Him with us. The imagination is a tool that God uses to express Himself in and through us. The imagi-

nation is to be harnessed and yielded to the Lord so that in the process of yielding it becomes sanctified, and the sanctified imagination is positioned to perceive Him. The Bible goes so far as to say, "Having our senses trained to discern good and evil." Through this process of training our senses, we become able to recognize the presence of the Lord. David gives us this key, the absolute heartbeat of his life, as if he is telling us, "This is how I made it. Every day I beheld Him with me."

I feel that David's ex-

perience is a summons to the same privilege and responsibility to turn our awareness towards His presence, and in doing so, we invite the increase of that manifestation. As a result, when we behold the Lord, we have far greater success and far greater joy by ministering not out of principles but out of His presence.

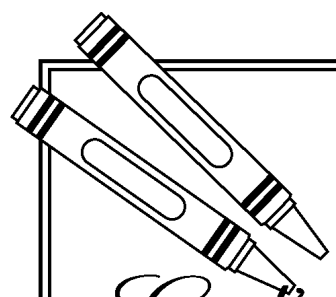
Bill Johnson is the senior pastor of Bethel Church in Redding CA and is the author of several books. Bethel Church has been in revival for many years.

Angel Food Ministries



Don't forget to order your Angel Food! Log onto their web site or stop by the church for March's menu and to order your meals.

See the calendar on page 7 for the order dates.



Just for KIDS

God's teaching is like....

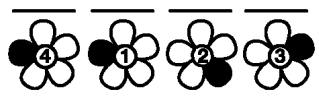
In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.

CODE

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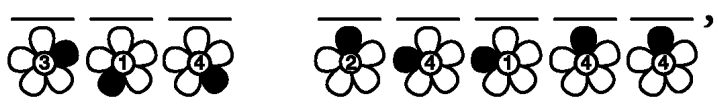
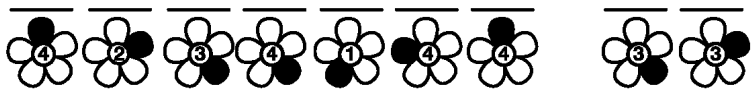
“Let my teaching fall like



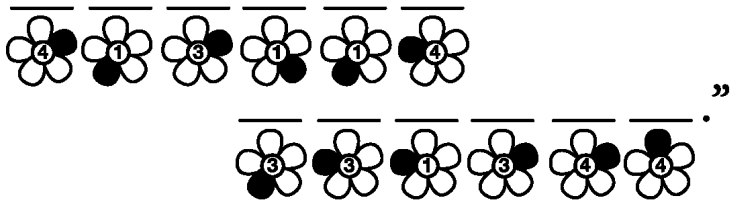
and my words descend like



like



like abundant



Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants

DIRT CUPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

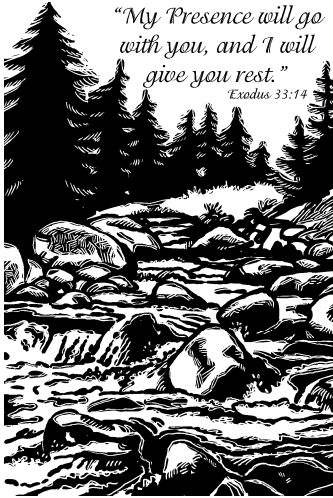
What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups ³/₄ full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



This Update Printed: Friday, February 19, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study	2 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM Baptism Sem (L)	3 9:30 AM StaffMtg (L) 1:30 PM Education (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Trustees (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	4 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	5 World Day of Prayer	6 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)
<p>Every Sunday: 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. - Traditional worship 9:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages</p>					6:00 PM YF JrHi Retreat (Innabah)	
7 <i>Communion</i> <i>Lent 3rd Sunday</i> Blood Pressure Screening (HH) 9:00 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 9:15 AM -10:45 am. Library open 10:30 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 6:30 PM "Names of God" Bbl Sdy (S)	8 10:00 AM Angel Food Order (HH) 4:00 PM WOH Dine (Ofe) 5:30 PM Angel Food orders (HH) 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)	9 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Sdy (6)	10 9:30 AM StaffMtg (L) 1:00 PM Angel Food order (HH) 5:30 PM Angel Food orders (HH) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	11 11:00 AM Busy Beavers (Kit) 12:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	12	13 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)
6:00 PM YF JrHi ...						
14 <i>Lent 4th Sunday</i> <i>Baptism</i> Daylight Savings--set ahead 1 hour One Great Hour of Sharing 9:00 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 9:15 AM -10:45 am. Library open 10:30 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6) 6:30 PM "Names of God" Bbl Sdy (S)	15 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study	16 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM SPR (L)	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 9:30 AM StaffMtg (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Mission Com Mtg 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	18 8:30 AM WOH Mailing (HH) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	19	20 9:00 AM Angel Food pick-up (HH) 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)
21 <i>Lent 5th Sunday</i> 9:15 AM -10:45 am. Library open 11:00 AM Confirmation Class Joins 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6) 6:30 PM "Names of God" Bbl Sdy (S)	22 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)	23 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Worship Com (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Sdy (6)	24 9:30 AM StaffMtg (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Finance (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	25 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:15 AM -10:45 am. Library open 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)	29	30 9:00 AM Library Open	31 9:30 AM StaffMtg (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	1 <i>Holy Thursday</i> 12:30 and 7:00 p.m. Communion services	2 <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00 p.m. Worship Office closes at Noon	Community Events: Sundays 5:30 p.m. Cub Den 5 (103) 6:00 p.m. Cub Den 1 (101) Mondays —7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Trp 292 (FH) Tuesdays —8:00 pm AA (FH) Thursdays —6:00 pm AA (FH) Friday —2nd and 4th, 7 pm: Wolf Den (FH) 3rd: 6:30 pm: Pack 77 (FH)
						
<p>Holy Week; Children's Center closed</p>						



Beholding the Presence by Bill Johnson

"I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel. My heart also instructs me in night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. You will show me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy. At your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Psalm 16:7-8, 11

"For David says concerning Him, 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face.'"

Acts 2:25

David is saying, "I set the Lord before me." How did David do this? He set the Lord before

him by recognizing His presence. We can do the same as we learn to adjust our hearts until we realize, "He's here." The ongoing realization of the presence of the Lord—the awareness of God being in us, upon us, and with us—is one of the most vital elements to the Christian life.

David became the great leader over Israel by leading them into prosperity, blessing and their greatest military victories. They finally received all the land that was promised to them, all those years from Joshua onward. David came and brought them into their inheritance. David was a great leader because he was the

greatest of worshippers and the greatest of warriors. David wasn't even a Levite, but he was the ultimate priest. I believe he was so effective because of this principle. I have sought to pursue this principle every day in my own life. I set God before me by becoming aware of the presence of the Lord who is with me.

Our confidence levels skyrocket when the presence of the Lord becomes manifested to us. The clearer the manifestation of His presence, the greater the dimension of faith. To live by the *theory* of His presence is wrong. To say, "Well, I know He's always

(continued on page 5)