

Word of Hope

MOUNT HOPE
United Methodist Church



Pastor McGill Writes. . .

Our Mission Has Been Restored

As Christians, too often we feel helpless to accomplish the commission given to Adam and Eve by God in the Garden of Eden. God said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28 KJV). It was God's intention that as they bore more children, who also lived under God's rule, they would be extending the boundaries of His garden (His government) through the simplicity of their devotion to Him. The greater the number of people in right-relationship to God, the greater the input of their leadership. This process could continue until the entire earth was covered with the glorious rule of God through man.

However, we do not live in a perfect world and when you get to chapter 3 of Genesis, sin entered the picture and it would seem that God's commission to Adam and Eve had ended. Mankind's authority to rule over the earth was forfeited when Adam ate the forbidden fruit. But God is not to be outdone! Jesus would come to reclaim all that was lost.

Now fast forward

with me to the Day of Pentecost when Peter is preaching and says, "... listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know." (Acts 2:22). Jesus could not heal the sick. Neither could He deliver the tormented from demons or raise the dead. To believe otherwise is to ignore what He said about Himself, and more importantly, to miss the purpose of His self-imposed restriction to live as a man.

Jesus said of Himself, "The Son can do nothing." (John 5: 19 and 30). Nothing still means *nothing!* He had NO supernatural capabilities whatsoever! While He is 100 per cent God, He chose to live with the same limitations that man would face once He was redeemed. He made that point over and over again. God would have satan defeated by a man. Jesus became the mold for all who would embrace the invitation to invade the impossible in His Name. He performed miracles, wonders and signs as a man in right relationship to God... not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us. But if he did them as a man, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, I am responsi-

ble to pursue His lifestyle. Recapturing this simple truth changes everything... and makes possible a full restoration of the ministry of Jesus in His church.

What were the distinctions of this humanity?

1. He had no sin to separate Him from the Father.

2. He was completely dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit working through Him.

What are the distinctions of His humanity?

1. We are sinners cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Through His sacrifice, He has successfully dealt with the power and effect of sin for all who believed. Nothing more separates us from the Father. There remains only one unsettled issue—

2. How dependent on the Holy Spirit are we willing to live?

Our mission has been restored. We were born to rule—rule over creation, over darkness, to plunder hell and establish the rule of Jesus wherever we go by preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. If you and I truly receive power from an encounter with the Lord of power, then we are equipped to give it away. The

(Continued on page 3)

May 2010

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ **2nd: Holy Communion**
- ◆ **6th: National Day of Prayer**
- ◆ **8th: Flower Sale**
- ◆ **9th: Mother's Day, Breakfast**
- ◆ **15th: Angel Food**
- ◆ **16th: Grad Recognition**
- ◆ **31st: Memorial Day, office closed**



BAPTISMS

Ava Frances Brown, daughter of Justin and Kelly Brown, on April 18
MacKenzie Ann Gregory, daughter of James and Kimberlie Gregory, on April 18

DEATHS

Warren Fields, March 22
A. Harold Hutton, April 6
Jessie Oppenheim, March 28
Charles Wilkin, March 24

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Mary Jane Wrzesniewski, to Christ UMC, Brookhaven

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nicole Donaberger

Welcome, Confirmands!

Colleen Baksi, Jodie Bohlander, Rebecca Conrad, Clara Greskoff, Jordan Michaels, Brittany Schloegel, Darren Sereikis, and Erin Thomas joined Mount Hope Church on March 21.

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
- Lin Heintz, Secretary
- Joan Bear, Asst. Secretary
- Leo Volmer, Building Superintendent
- Larry Miles, Asst. Bldg. Superintendent
- Bud Bostwick, Security Guard

The Declaration

The release of the Presence of God, which contains the Kingdom of God, is accomplished in several ways. One that we have used during worship is the Declaration.

You will remember our declaration prior to receiving the morning offering:

As we receive today's offering we are believing the Lord for:
Jobs and better jobs,
Raises and bonuses
Benefits Sales and commissions
Favorable settlements
Estates and inheritances
Interests and income
Rebates and returns
Checks in the mail
Gifts and surprises
Finding money
Debts paid off
Expenses decrease
Blessing and increase
Thank You, Lord, for meet-

ing all of my financial needs that I may have more than enough to give into the Kingdom of God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!!!!!!

Why is making a declaration so important to our receiving from God?

Nothing happens in the Kingdom of God without a declaration. When we say what the Father is saying, all of Heaven is brought into the equation. When that declaration is a testimony, we capture the momentum of the history of God's dealings with mankind. Then a creative prophetic power is released into the atmosphere to establish the revelation of God on the earth.

It is imperative that we do not do this unintentionally or sporadically; rather, it must become the intentional strategy for victory in

these last days. We are to burn with the conviction that we carry the revelation of God's nature and Presence for all to see. We possess such extraordinary revelation of His Nature within our testimonies.

We need to be so bold that through our declaration prior to receiving the offering that every need is met, every person has a job, all bills are paid and we have more than enough to give into the work of ministry through Mount Hope Church and beyond.

We need to be so established in our declaration of God's ability to supply all of our needs that it is the ordinary in our daily living and not the exception. The world is hungry to hear this kind of testimony of God's faithfulness to His people!!

Pastor McGill

Mother's Day, May 9th

We'll celebrate Mother's Day with our usual great worship services, preceded by breakfast in Habbersett Hall. The Mount Hope Youth mission team will serve, and accept donations that will fund their summer mission trip.

For \$1.00 each, the Men's Fellowship will be taking the names of mothers you would like to honor or remember. The names will appear in *The Messenger* on Mother's Day: Sunday, May 9th. Proceeds will offset the cost of the Fall men's retreat

at Keswick, NJ.

Saturday, May 8th, come to the Church parking lot from 8:00 am to 1:00 p.m. for the annual Mother's Day flower sale. You'll find a nice assortment of flats and baskets for your summer gardens.

Thank You!

So many of you in the church Family worked along with the staff and officers to make our Lenten and Easter worship a praise to our gracious Lord. One seldom realizes what is involved in putting together worship services and the displays that go

with them to make them special.

"Thank you" hardly seems adequate, but those simple words express our appreciation to our choir, those who shared special music, served refreshments and sunrise breakfast, pre-

pared communion, helped erect the lily cross, hung banners, made displays, hid Easter eggs, prepared mailings ... and the list continues!

Thank you!

Pastor McGill



Vacation Bible School

High Seas Expedition – Exploring the Mighty Love of God!

When: June 21 – June 25th

Time: 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Helper registration- Sunday,

May 2 & May 9
Student registration – Sunday, May 30 & June 6

Registration tables will be set up outside of Habbersett Hall in between the 8:15 and

9:30 service and the 9:30 and 11:00 services on the above dates. Any questions, please contact Carolyn Lobb at 610-494-1267 or e-mail at astonbarb@comcast.net.

Summer Sunday School

Goodbye snow! Hello summer heat and sunshine! We are preparing for that time when we give our regular teachers a break and give you the opportunity to

serve the church in a special way. During the months of July and August we need you to volunteer for one or more Sundays to teach in the combined Kindergarten – 5th

grade class. Curriculum is provided. To volunteer or get additional information, please contact Carolyn Lobb at 610-494-1267 or astonbarb@comcast.net.

Father's Day Special

What an honor and privilege it is to be a father! In our society we often neglect our responsibility to give the respect necessary that is due to fathers.

On June 20th Mount Hope Church will be having a special program to celebrate Father's Day. A team

called Covenant Players will be presenting several dramas focusing on the responsibility and privileges of fatherhood. This is a national team of highly skilled individuals who minister all throughout the United States as well as several foreign countries.

Also that morning, the Mount Hope Youth will be having a special Father's Day breakfast. So wives, sons and daughters, why not tell Dad that you would like to treat him on his special day to breakfast and a program that honors him as a father?

See you on Father's Day!

Life is a Precious Gift (continued from the back page)

or pastor; you must listen to them. Then at the point where a trust relationship has been established you can offer to go with them to meet with a pastor or counselor.

Some helpful things when listening to an individual are first to assure the individual that they are not alone in their struggle. An individual needs to know that you and the Holy Spirit are there for them. Often times knowing that someone

else is out there on their side will deter a suicidal individual. In your friendship though never promise to keep a secret or do something that will be harmful to the person. The main thing to do is to listen and pray. Do not say that you will solve their problems for them, but be realistic in telling them that with the Lord's help there is help and hope. Above all see this as an opportunity that the Lord has given you to minister to a per-

son who desperately needs the hope Christ brings. You now have the opportunity to be Jesus for someone who is reaching out.

Remember that Christ brought hope to a lost and dying world. Suicide does not have to be the answer. If you would like to discuss any thoughts regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to call any member of our pastoral staff at any time.

Pastor Phil

Our Mission Has Been Restored

invasion of God into impossible situations comes through as people who have received power from on high

and learn to release it into the circumstances of life.

Credit is given to Bill Johnson in his book, "When

Heaven Invades Earth." Bill pastors Bethel Church in Redding CA.

Pastor McGill



National Day of Prayer

Delaware County Program

May 6, 2010

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Rose Tree Park

A Patriotic/Prayer Gathering of Churches and Citizens of Delaware County to Pray for Our Nation and Leaders

For your comfort, please bring a chair to the Mall Area under the big flag, adjacent to the parking lot. Rose Tree Park is located at Rt. #252 & Rt.# 1, Media Contact Robert and Evelyn Wright at 610 543-1572 for more information.



Children's Center News

May's Bible Verse:
"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Psalm 100: 1

We continue to make "joyful noises" up here at the Children's Center. The children are very happy and excited that spring is finally here. Last Monday and Tuesday the children participated in a Hop-a-Thon, raising money for Muscular Dystrophy. We also joined the rest of Pennsylvania in the "One Book Every Young Child" pro-

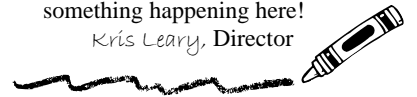
gram, reading "What a Treasure" by Jane and Will Hillenbrand.

May is always our busiest month of the year. We will be hosting our Mother's Day teas, going to Neumann to see a play, enjoying our end of the year picnics the last week of school, and our final shows with graduation for our 88 pre-kindergartners. Our last chapel for the year will be on May 24th and 25th. Mrs. Caris' class will be teaching us

about our ninth "Fruit of the Spirit", self-control.

Our last day of school is the 28th of May, although we are already getting ready for our fifth year of summer fun, beginning July 5th through the 20th of August. Vacation Bible School is June 21st through the 25th. If you would like any more information, please call 610.558.0442, or stop up to see us; there is always something happening here!

Kris Leary, Director



The Heart That Burns by Bill Johnson

I'm sure that many of you have heard the story. It's circulated for decades actually. Way back when the communists took over a particular nation, they had a town square meeting where they announced to everybody that there was a shift in the focus of the nation and that God was dead. The man talked forever on this whole new deal that they were doing - exalting the order of man. At the end of it an elderly lady stood up. She said, "He is risen!" and everyone responded, "He is risen indeed!"

In other words, the last hour of talking was just canceled by, "He is risen!"; "He is risen indeed!"

There's a lot of bad news that you've heard this past week; all you have to do is live on planet Earth to hear it. And it is all canceled by, "He is risen indeed!" There is not one thing that you've experienced this past week or this past year, there's not one problem, there's not one concern, not one burden that God does not only share with you, He's more concerned about it than you or I could ever be. He's more devoted to the answer - so devoted to the answer - that He was willing to suffer and to die to provide an answer.

When we pray for healing we are not asking Him to do something. We are asking to tap into something He has already done. He has already made the

purchase. Everything you need, not just in life, but that you will need throughout eternity has been paid for. That's amazing! We pray for the sick because we want Him to get what He paid for. He made the purchase price. We want people to get set free from torment, because that's what He paid for. He got that crown of thorns right over the skull, right over the head, because He was making a statement: "I'm making a payment for all the torment that goes on in the mind. I'm breaking that thing loose!"

One of my most favorite parts of the Resurrection story is the road to Emmaus. Beginning at Luke 24 v. 13, *Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.*¹⁴ *And they talked together of all these things which had happened.*¹⁵ *So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.*¹⁶ *But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.*

¹⁷ *And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"*

¹⁸ *Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"*

¹⁹ *And He said to them, "What*

things?" [Let Me hear it from your perspective.]

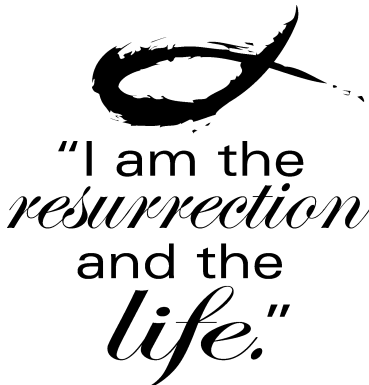
So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, Who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,"

It's interesting, in Matthew 16, the people who followed Jesus, of whom these two are in that number, recognized and acknowledged several times throughout the Gospel that Jesus is the Son of God. But after the disappointing loss of His death on the cross, He is now reduced to a prophet.

*... and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.*²¹ *But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.*²² *Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.*²³ *When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. [It's interesting, the women didn't have a vision of angels; they saw angels. When you are disappointed you tend to reduce things. Remember, they are sad.]*

²⁴ *And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.*

²⁵ *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets*



JOHN 11:25



The Heart That Burns (continued from page 4)

have spoken!²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Is there anybody else who wants that CD?! That had to be amazing. "Expounded in ALL the Scriptures the things concerning Him." Oh my goodness, to hear it from His perspective! Oh yes, Jesus, please! And they still didn't know it was Him.

Verse 28: "Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther."

That's such a big deal. Do you remember in the Gospel of Mark when the disciples were in a boat in another life-threatening storm, and it says, Jesus came walking to them on the water and would have passed by. It's really a big deal that we capture this thought. He would have passed by. He's not playing a psychological game with them. He's not teasing nor toying with them. He just knows that some things can't be handled. We don't have the depth of character, the depth of heart, to contain and steward what God wants to give us if we don't have the desperation to reach out and pursue. Certain things have to be pursued. Some things can only be obtained through inheritance; we receive them simply as a gift. But some things can only be obtained through the violent act of faith; it's apprehending. And this is one of those moments where they are close, they know something is going on and they are in a divine moment, but they are clueless as to Who they are talking to. . .

...He indicated that He would have gone further. . .²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it,

and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight."

This is awesome! This is a great story. He vanished from their sight! You can just see them sitting there saying, "Come back, come back, I've got questions! Do-overs! Now that we know Who you are, we could appreciate the moment better!"

I love their conversation:
³² And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, ..."

Have you ever had an amazing experience that you didn't know how amazing it was until it was over? Because that's what's happening here. They're walking along the road, everything is cool, they are hearing some nice stuff, they get into the house, Jesus wants to go on. They say, 'No, it's too late, stay here with us.' They persuade Him to stay. He breaks the bread, He disappears, they gasp...oh my! Do you realize what just happened?! Sometimes we are *that* close to the most significant moment in our lives but we are completely ignorant of the moment we are in.

I think of the time in the Scripture when Jacob is laying on a rock and gets up and sees the angels ascending and descending, and he comes to this conclusion: "God's here and I didn't even know it. I just laid down on a rock. I didn't know this was God's house." (There was no building, by the way, it was called Planet Earth.) "I didn't even know - God's here!"

I can't tell you how many times I've seen the Spirit of God move so powerfully in a room and some people are getting so touched, but the person sitting right next to them is glancing at his watch and wondering, when is this service going to get over? They don't know that they are this close to the most significant breakthrough of their entire lives.

Sometimes Jesus in His mercy and His wisdom comes to us veiled and we can't recognize

the moment that we are in.

Why? Because some things you can only discover through passionate pursuit and desperation. If you could see this, they apprehended in a moment, they didn't even know what it was, they just knew that there was life in it. Jesus breaks the bread, they go "OOOHHHHH!!!" and then He's gone. And then they sit there talking and say, "Didn't our hearts burn within us?!"

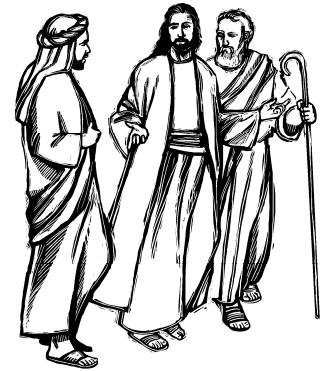
A normal response to an encounter with the Resurrected One is that your heart burns. Any heart that does not burn: get closer to the Flame because the Burning One is known for igniting hearts.

v.33 "Did not our hearts burn while He talked with us on the road, while He opened the Scriptures to us. So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, [even though they had told Jesus, 'it's too late to travel'] and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,³⁴ saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"³⁵ And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread."

Jesus wants to be known in the breaking of the bread. It is a time of encounter. Every time we come together, wherever there is yieldness, wherever there is brokenness, it's the most amazing thing; He collects broken things. The only way you get into the Family is to realize your own brokenness. It is just what He does.

In this great story of Resurrection, He makes a pronouncement. No matter the condition, no matter the gravity of the sin, the devastation of the disease, the craziness of the conflict, the absolute misery of the torment - no matter what the situation, Jesus is on hand and IS present to be known, and to break that cycle of conflict, disease, torment, misery, irreconcilable differences.

Bill Johnson, Senior Pastor
Bethel Church, Redding CA



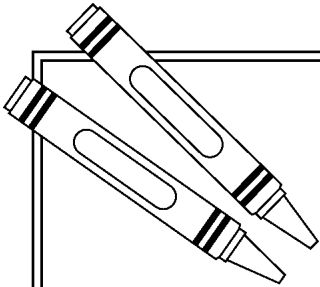
On the Road to Emmaus

Angel Food Ministries



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

See the calendar on page 7 for the order



Just for KIDS

“I am with you always.”

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he encouraged his disciples in the work they had to do. We, too, are Jesus’ disciples and should follow his same instructions.



Follow the words in the clouds to find Mark 16:15-16a, NIV.

Go into all the
 away Bible the world
 good the preach and
 news word it
 to all creation
 the
 people friends animals Whoever
 in baptized is and believes
 power will be saved.

Answer: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:15-16a, NIV)

GOOD NEWS T-SHIRT

Jesus told his disciples — and us — to go into all the world and preach the good news. Wherever you go, this cool T-shirt will help spark conversations about your faith.

What you need:

- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Plain white, cotton T-shirt
- Permanent markers
- Goggles (optional)
- Eye dropper
- Rubbing alcohol
- Clothes hanger

What you do:

1. Cover a table with newspaper. (Work outside or in a well-ventilated area.)
2. Place a piece of cardboard inside your T-shirt. (This keeps pen marks from going through to the other side.)
3. With permanent markers, draw a design of large circles, spirals, hearts, etc.
4. Wear goggles while dropping rubbing alcohol onto your designs with an eye dropper. As the alcohol permeates the permanent marker, the color will break up and spread in interesting ways.
5. Hang the shirt to dry.
6. When the shirt is dry, place cardboard inside it again. On the front, write “I have some good news to share with you.” You can also write a Bible verse.



This Update Printed: Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Thursday, May 6</p> <p>NATIONAL Day of PRAYER</p> <p><i>Every Sunday:</i> Worship at 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages</p>						1
2 Communion 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) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6) 6:30 PM KFC (FH)	3 10:00 AM Angel Food Orders (HH) 5:30 PM Angel Food orders (HH) 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study	4 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM Baptism Sem (L)	5 Cinco de Mayo 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 1:00 PM Angel Food order (HH) 1:30 PM Education (L) 5:30 PM Angel Food orders (HH) 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Trustees (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	6 National Day of Prayer 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	7	8 8:00 AM Flower Sale 3:45 PM Mother's Day Breakfast (HH) 4:00 PM WOH Deadline (Ote)
9 Mother's Day Baptism 9:00 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 9:00 AM Mother's Day Breakfast (HH) 9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open 10:30 AM Angel Food orders (HH)	10 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)	11 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Study (6)	12 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	13 Ascension Day 11:00 AM Busy Beavers (Kit) (216)	14 2:00 PM Kelly Everett Wedding (S)	15 Armed Forces Day 9:00 AM Angel Food pick-up (HH) 11:30 AM Kelly Everett Wedding (S)
16 Grad Recognition 9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6) 6:30 PM KFC (FH)	17 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study	18 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM SPR (L)	19 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	20 8:30 AM WOH Mailing (HH) 6:00 PM Mellen/Schukraft Wedding (S) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	21	22 12:00 PM Brown Reaffirmation (S) 2:30 PM Mellen/Schukraft Wedding (S)
23 Heritage Sunday 9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6) 6:30 PM KFC (FH)	24 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)	25 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Worship Com (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Study (6)	26 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Finance (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)	27 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday <i>Peace with Justice Sunday</i> 9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open	31 Memorial Day (Observed) Office Closed <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">MHCC Closed</div>	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)		



Life Is a Precious Gift

Occasionally the reality of someone taking their own life happens very close to us. Perhaps a friend, classmate, co-worker or relative takes their own life. As a counselor for the State on many occasions I have helped individuals who felt that ending their life was their only option.

Sometimes as Christians we are often left with feelings of helplessness and wonder what the Bible has to say about something so tragic. We often feel inadequate when we hear that such an event occurred and wonder if there is anything we can say or do to help those who are grieving. The Bible does have answers and hope.

The Bible records several individuals who chose to take their own lives, but condones none of them. Suicide is a sin,

but not one that could keep an individual from heaven. Samson took his life, but is recorded as a man of faith. God has a great plan for our lives which does not include suicide. God's plan is for life, not death. The Bible teaches that both physical and spiritual death are a result of our sin and disobedience to God, but eternal life is a gift to those who receive it. Jesus taught that death and destruction are the work of "the thief" who comes to steal and destroy. But he came to give us life and to have it to the full (John 10:10). Life belongs to God. It is never our place to take our own life or someone else's life.

The solution to despair and hopelessness is not suicide but faith in God. Christ promises that He will give us rest from our problems.

The answer to someone who has ever contemplated the idea of suicide is to first tell someone of your feelings. Accept Christ's free gift of eternal life and salvation. When we accept Christ, God gives us a brand-new life and sees us as completely righteous. Because of God's salvation we can have assurance of eternal life.

The answer for those who hear of someone contemplating suicide is first to take it with all seriousness. For some reason this person has trusted you enough to share an intimate detail of their life with you. Never dismiss the feelings or verbalizations of someone stating something so destructive. The first thing to do is not to refer them to a counselor

(continued on page 3)



Life Is Sacred