

Highlights and Happenings:

- **Apr 5th** : Prayer Meeting, 7pm
- **Apr 8th** : Church-wide Children's Celebration 2-4 pm
- **Apr 9th** : Patriot Heights Ministry, 2:45pm
- **Apr 11th** : Men's Bible Study, 6:30pm
- **Apr 12th** : Ladies' Bible Study, 10:30am
- **Apr 14th** : Good Friday Worship Service, 7pm
- **Apr 21-23**: Family Campout, Palmetto State Park
- **Apr 23rd** : Patriot Heights Ministry 2:45pm

"There have been men before ... who got so interested in proving the existence of God that they came to care nothing for God himself... as if the good Lord had nothing to do but to exist. There have been some who were so preoccupied with spreading Christianity that they never gave a thought to Christ."

~C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, 1945

April Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship 11a & 5:00p	3	4	5 Prayer Meeting 7pm	6	CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION 2-4PM, APRIL 6th "GOD IS WITH ME WHEREVER I GO"	
9 PALM SUNDAY Worship 11a & 5:00p	10	11 Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	12 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30am	13 Good Friday Services, 7pm	14	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 7a & 11a No evening worship	17 He is Risen	18	19	20	21	
23 Worship 11a & 5:00p Lunch: Agape Fellowship Potluck	24	25 Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	26 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30am	27 FAMILY CAMPOUT APR 21-23 PALMETTO STATE PARK	Let's Sleep Under the STARS	
30 Worship 11a & 5:00p						

ISSUE

37

April
2017

Monthly News From
Grace Orthodox
Presbyterian
Church

Full of Grace

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ~ 2 Cor 12:8-9

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The Easter Lily

History, mythology, and art are filled with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the Easter Lily. One of the most famous Biblical references is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matthew 6:28)

The Bible mentions lilies 15 times in 15 different verses. Of these 15 mentions, 8 of them occur in the Song of Solomon. Perhaps the most memorable verses are the following:

Song of Solomon 2:1
I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."

Song of Solomon 2:2
As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters."

Song of Solomon 6:2
My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies."

Hosea 14:5
I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon."

Lilies are often called the "White-Robed Apostles of Hope". Lilies were rumored to have been discovered in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ died on the cross.



Are you interested in contributing?
Send me your ideas! ~Jill Karr
horseslobber@yahoo.com



The Wondrous Cross



Dr. Keith A. Mathison's professor of systematic theology at [Reformation Bible College](#) in Sanford, Fla. He is author of many books, including [From Age to Age](#).

I sometimes wonder how many Christians stop to think about how incredibly odd it is that crucifixes are used as works of art. Crucifixes adorn church architecture, classic paintings, sculpture, and even jewelry. But consider for a moment what a crucifix was originally. It was a means of execution. In fact, it was and is one of the most ghastly means of execution ever devised by man. So horrible was it that it was reserved for the lowest of the low: slaves, pirates, and rebels. Roman citizens were exempt. Cultured Romans considered it unworthy of discussion in polite company. Yet today we wear this symbol of degrading and humiliating death around our necks. The jarring nature of this is not immediately apparent to us because over time, the symbol of the cross has lost many of its original connotations. To get some idea of the oddity, imagine seeing people wearing necklaces with images of a guillotine or an electric chair.

What happened, then, to account for the change? We know Jesus was put to death on a Roman cross, but what was it about His death that transformed this symbol of horror into a symbol of hope? In the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion we read, for the most part, about what any observer on the hill that day would have seen. We do not read as much about the interpretation of what was going on until we get to the book of Acts and the Epistles. In Paul's preaching,

for example, he explained from the Old Testament that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and that Jesus was the Messiah (Acts 17:2-3). But where would Paul have gone in the Old Testament to prove that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer? There are a number of texts to which he could have turned (for example, Ps. 16; 22), but one of the most significant was likely Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is one of Isaiah's "Servant Songs." In the first Servant Song (42:1-9), Isaiah describes the Servant's mission to establish justice and a kingdom across the earth. The second Servant Song (49:1-6) describes the Servant's mission to restore Israel. The third Servant Song (50:4-9) reveals the obedience of the Servant and the suffering he endures as a result. The fourth and final Servant Song then reveals how the Servant will redeem his people. It reveals that his suffering will be the means by which he delivers his people from sin. It reveals that he will take their sin upon himself. Isaiah writes (53:5):

*But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.*

This is what happened on the cross as Jesus was crucified. He was God's Servant. He was the one whom God revealed to Isaiah eight centuries before His death. On the cross, He took our sins upon Himself and bore God's wrath. His death was the atonement for all of our sins. We who have placed our faith in Jesus have forgiveness of sins and peace with God because of what was accomplished on the cross. Is it any wonder that Paul declares to the Corinthian church: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

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Grace
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Hymn Notes

By Mark Moody

Red Trinity Hymnal 182
Samuel Crossman, ca. 1624-1683

My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
He came from his blest throne,
Salvation to bestow;
But men cared not, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!
Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for his death
They thirst and cry.
Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet all his deeds
Their hatred feeds;
They 'gainst him rise.
They rise, and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet willing he
To suff'ring goes,
That he his foes
From thence might free.
In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was his home,
But mine the tomb
Wherein he lay.
Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.



Test Your Knowledge



Test your brain and see if you can guess the answers...

(The answers are at the bottom of this page).

Resurrection Sunday

1. Who was made to carry Jesus' cross?
2. Who did Jesus speak to on the way to be crucified?
3. Who was crucified with Jesus?
4. The soldiers cast lots for Jesus' garments fulfilling what

The Wondrous Cross (continued)

Think on this. Let it sink in. Christ suffered and died on the cross because of sin. Your sin. My sin. Since the fall, sin has been the problem in the world. We do not think much of sin in our day and age. We are beyond such things. Sin is an "old-fashioned" and outdated concept, or so we think.

If you want to know the true perspective on the seriousness of sin, however, look to the cross. Look at the extreme nature of the solution to this problem. If sin were "no big deal," would God have sent His only begotten Son to die a shameful death on a cross to deal with it? And what kind of love is this? What kind of love is displayed when God sends His only begotten Son to die for the sins we commit against Him? This is love of a kind and degree that we can hardly fathom. This is what changed the cross from a symbol of fear to a symbol of faith. This is what led Isaac Watts to write:

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Reprinted with Permission <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/wondrous-cross/> Tabletalk Magazine, December 1st, 2008.

Comment: This beautiful hymn is a love song of the highest kind. It is a working out of "We love him, because he first loved" in 1 John. The fickle praise in verse 3 is so condemning of the crowds of Jesus' day, and of those who reject him today. May we join in hearts to say "This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend."

Answers to puzzle: 1. Simon of Cyrene; 2. A group of women; 3. 2 robbers; 4. Isaiah 53

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES...

PRAYER MEETING – NEW DAY!!

Join us for prayer the first Wednesday of every month from 7 – 8 pm. Prayer is "the powerhouse of the church" as Spurgeon said. The success of the church's ministry depends on it.

Church Elders:

Mark Moody	210.379.8606	jmoodysa@aol.com
Vernon Jackson	830.931.4720	vjackson@wildblue.net
Joel Granados	210.389.1618	j.granadas1@att.net

Church Deacons:

Fernando Prendez	210.413.1823	fprendez@gmail.com
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Mike Holcomb	210.330.4434	buck_justice@yahoo.com
Greg Karr	210.204.9452	gregkarr@gmail.com

Blessings Abound!

In March, 2 of our communicant children took their vows of membership: Annaliese Rodriguez and Nate Hornfeld. We are so pleased to have you take this important step with the family of faith!



Easter Lilies

In an effort to make the sanctuary especially beautiful as we celebrate our risen Savior Easter Sunday, we would like to place Easter Lilies in the front of the sanctuary. If you would like to participate in this ministry please pick up an envelope in the Narthex, fill it out and place your payment inside. You can put the envelope in the offering plate or give it directly to Amy Voeller. If you choose to have us purchase an Easter Lily you will have the opportunity to purchase it in honor or memory of someone and this will be listed in the bulletin Easter Sunday. You may take your plant home after worship on Easter Sunday to enjoy in your own home, or to give away. 6 inch plants are \$7.00 each and 10 inch plants are \$24.00 each.

None Like Him

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
APRIL 7 AND 8TH, CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS
TO REGISTER:
WWW.CHRISTPRESNB.ORG

AGAPE FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Mark your Calendars for the 4th Sunday of every month bring your favorite dish and join us for this blessed time of fellowship!



Fellowship Meal

Good Friday and Easter Sunday Schedule

Good Friday Worship Service
April 14th, 7pm

Resurrection Sunday, April 16th:

- 7:00 am: Sunrise Service
- 8:30 am: Sunrise Breakfast (served by the men of the church)
- 9:40 am: Opening exercises and Sunday School
- 11:00 am: Easter Morning Worship

No Sunday evening worship service

Annual Sunrise Breakfast –
Served by the men of the church
Resurrection Sunday,
8:30am



Happy Birthday

Cindy Axum	Apr 1 st
Albert Costa	Apr 1 st
Mary Lou Leach	Apr 3 rd
Edgar Garcia	Apr 4 th
Katelyn Gongora	Apr 6 th
Socorro Block	Apr 9 th
Caleb Mullins	Apr 10 th
William Harris	Apr 16 th
Robert Block	Apr 16 th
Gabriel Miller	Apr 16 th
Cora Tsang	Apr 21 st
Charity Rodriguez	Apr 21 st
Charles Mahler	Apr 24 th
Jim Voeller	Apr 25 th
Emily Voeller	Apr 25 th

Happy Anniversary

Emmanuel Ayaburi & Ofori Bediako	Apr 7 th
Fernando & Darlene Prendez	Apr 15 th
Greg and Jill Karr	Apr 16 th
Kenneth & Angie Meyer	Apr 24 th

Nursery Volunteers Needed



Ladies 18 and older – we URGENTLY need additional volunteers to help in the nursery during morning worship. This ministry is a great blessing to parents and to our visitors.

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the nursery and/or contact DeDe Jackson (goatopia@wildblue.net)

SAVE THE DATE

"GOD IS WITH ME WHEREVER I GO"

Church-wide Children's Celebration

April 8th

2pm – 4pm

At Grace OPC in the parking lot

FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP FOR EVERYONE!

BOUNCE HOUSE, DUNK TANK, SNACKS, CRAFTS AND GAMES!



Kids' Corner

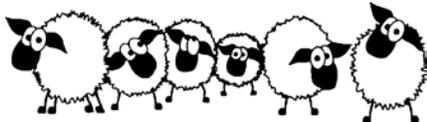


Memory Verse

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;" ~ John 11:25

How many smaller words can you make out of **RESURRECTION**?

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____
9. _____ 10. _____



Matching – Draw a line from the baby to what it will grow up to be:

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| Calf | Dog |
| Piglet | Goose |
| Duckling | Turtle |
| Infant | Cow |
| Foal | Cat |
| Lamb | Skunk |
| Hatchling | Monkey |
| Kitting | Pig |
| Puppy | Duck |
| Gosling | Horse |
| Kit | Sheep |

Find a green sheet of paper that you will use as the background. If you don't have green you can just use a white sheet of paper. Either color some green grass or cut some out some green grass. If you cut out green grass, glue it to the bottom of the paper. Pop some popcorn. (Unsalted and unbuttered popcorn works the best for this craft!) while the popcorn is popping, make a face out of white paper. Don't forget to draw his eyes and nose. After the popcorn has cooled, glue the popcorn to the paper in an oval shape. This will make the sheep's body. Then glue on the head and a few more pieces of popcorn on the top of his head. Add some details like clouds, or sun, or butterflies, or flowers. Be creative! If you don't have any popcorn - use cotton balls!

