

Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church April 2016



Easteritings I—"Resurrection and Alternate Reality"--John Swisher, Pastor

I still haven't figured out how to "blog" a posting where you can make comments to newsletter and other occasional writings, but since Lent is over and Easter is here, I thought I'd just change the format a little. Instead of Lentenotes (Lenten Notes), you will find in your hands, or on your computer screen, Easteritings (Easter Writings).

So, I'd like to explore something I've always wondered about and relate to something else I've always wondered about in our faith.

Last week, I heard on the news that there are several manufacturers of "Virtual Reality" machines who are releasing their products for sale now in the USA, some with computer gaming applications, others just for "fun". Virtual reality consoles have a kind of helmet and glove technology which in some ways makes the wearer experience the "view" as though in the picture, hence a "virtual reality".

Me being an old science fiction fan, I was wondering how the reality of virtual reality compared with the fantasies of lots of old stories, novels, and adventures.

Also, I wondered about the alternative history idea. I'm currently reading *The Man in the High Castle*, by Phillip K. Dick, a sci-fi (science fiction) book about how life might be lived if the US and its allies hadn't won the Second World War.

I don't know what to say about virtual and alternative realities. But I wonder about the resurrection in our faith, and what it has to say about all our realities. The following is what Marcus Borg, a noted Christian writer had contributed to this topic in a blog on his website in 2013.

"As a parable of the resurrection, what does Mark's story of the empty tomb mean? And the story of the empty tomb is found not only in Mark, but in the later gospels in the New Testament.

You won't find Jesus in the land of the dead. He is still with us.

The powers killed him – but they couldn't stop him. They crucified him and buried him in a rich man's tomb. But imperial execution and a tomb couldn't hold him.

He's still loose in the world. He's still out there, still here, still recruiting people to share his passion for the Kingdom of God – a transformed world here and now. It's not over.

Easter is about all of this. To reduce it to a spectacular miracle a long time ago and a hope for an afterlife is to diminish it and domesticate it. It is not about heaven. It is about the transformation of this world. Jesus was killed because of his passion for a different kind of world. Easter is about God's "Yes" to what we see in Jesus. Easter is not about believing in a spectacular long ago event, but about participating in what we see in Jesus. Crucifixion and the tomb didn't stop him. Easter is about saying "Yes" to the passion of Jesus. He's still here, still recruiting."

When was the last time you recruited someone to our shared reality as Christians? What will the church (our community of faith) look like in another hundred years, in the time of science fiction being written today? What will the reality of faith call us to be and do and say then and what about now? You may need to keep your helmets and your gloves on for this virtual, alternate, resurrection-touched reality.

Church chuckle: What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? A hippo is a little heavier, a Zippo is a little..., lighter! (This is a good barometer for how old you are too, nobody born since the '80's has ever heard of a Zippo)



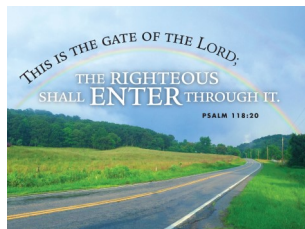
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It 's that time of year again to start planning for Church Camp. The available camps can be found online at www.heartlandcenter.org.

If you are interested in going to camp this summer, the church is willing to help pay for some of the cost to get you there. Please see the office if you have any questions about going to camp or what information about volunteering. The available camps are as follows:

- Day Camps**-Completed K-6th Grades
Monday-Friday 9-4:30 \$190.00
- Explorers** Completed 2nd-3rd Grades
Overnights Wed-Friday \$245.00
- Trailblazers**-Completed 3rd-4th Grades
Overnights Sun-Wed \$360.00
- Highlanders**-Completed 4th-6th Grades
Overnights-Weekly \$530.00
- Middle School**-Completed 6th-8th Grades
Overnights-Weekly \$530.00
- Senior High**-Completed 9th-12th Grades
Overnights-Weekly \$530.00
- Grandparents Camp** June 18th-19th
- Family Camp** July 15th-17th



It is time to start thinking about Community Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held at the Lexington United Methodist Church this year on Sunday, July 17th to Wednesday, July 20th from 6-8:30pm. The theme this year is Surf Shack. The next planning meeting will be Monday, April 11th at 7:00pm. Contact Candy Myers with any questions at 660-232-0303 or presdisciples@embarqmail.com. The nights the different churches will supply dinner is listed below.

- Sunday-Trinity United Church of Christ
- Monday-Christ Episcopal
- Tuesday-United Methodist Church
- Wednesday-Presbyterian Disciples Church

Upcoming Community Events

Sounds of the Heart
04-02-2016
Location: Lexington Middle School
7:00pm Performances by the Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus and Jorge and Diva with favorites from Elvis, Frank Sinatra and more. Benefit to buy defibrillators for the Second Baptist Church and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Dinner & Dance
04-02-2016
Location: Lexington Moose Lodge
Dinner 5:30 Dance 7-11pm

Breakfast at Trinity UCC Church
04-09-2016
Location: Trinity UCC Church
Proceeds to benefit Sounds of the Heart. 7-10am

VFW Breakfast
04-16-2016
Location: Lexington VFW

Stories at the Core
04-22-2016
Location: The Lex Civic Auditorium
9:00am-5:00pm All day educational and technical training event

Wine & Dine
04-23-2016
Location: Wentworth Military Academy
5:30 - 8:00pm

Elks Community Breakfast
04-23-2016
Location: Elks Lodge 749
7-10 am

Spring Ladies Night Out
04-29-2016
Location: Downtown Lexington
Warrior Dash

04-30-2016
Location: Big River Ranch

A Huge Thank You to everyone who assisted or donated to the Discovery Room Preschool Trike-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. We didn't quite reach last year's amount of \$2520.00 but we did have our 2nd best total of \$2200.00. What a wonderful accomplishment for a small classroom of 20 children. Thanks to everyone and God Bless you for helping us teach the children to help others.



Lectionary Readings for April:

- 03 — Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelations 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
- 10 — Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
- 17 — Acts 9:36-43 ; Psalm 23; Revelations 7:9-17; Luke 10:22-30
- 24 — Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelations 21:1-6; John 1:31-35



Board will meet again on Sunday, April 10th following worship.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 01 – Harold Nicholas
- 02 – Bill Cross
- 07 – Aidan & Benton Ashinhurst
- 08 – Carol Ghisalberti
- 09 – Julie Lahue
- 20 – Bob Maze
- 24 – Laveda Cross
- 25 – Janet Roncelli



We Pray for:

Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Alma Richter, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Beryl Myatt, Maria Lappert, Kathy Neil, Beth Maxwell Burk, Robert Smith, Steve & Wilma Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Katrina Fulton, Jake Means, Frayetta Street, Keith Charles, Rick Failing, Roy Marchetti, Greg Major, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Bonny Bunner, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church
 Families of Ronnie Barker, Nancy Maib, Maxine Thompson, Virginia Fetter, Carl Ramseyer, Dale Wright, Jacob Minnick

Our Servicemen:

Bobby Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Jimmy & Brittany Register

The city-sponsored cleanup is slated for the week of April 16-25.



Find Rest

I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have never read in either of them: Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden.
 —St. Augustine

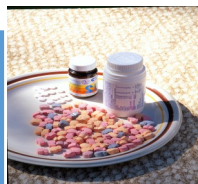


Bring a Dish and your appetite for a Fellowship Meal on Sunday, April 17th following worship service.

The Lexington United Methodist Church will be participating in March for Babies—Walk for Meredith—May 1

Your gift matters Funds raised in March for Babies support research and programs that help moms have full-term pregnancies and babies begin healthy lives. And they will be used to bring comfort and information to families with a baby in newborn intensive care.

Meredith's Minions Why I walk—Hayley Shroyer and Joey Butler's daughter Meredith was born 2-16-16. Her due date was April 23. She was born 10 weeks early. Before Meredith was born I was on ante partum for 7 weeks to prevent her from being born any earlier than she was. I began to develop an infection, which caused the labor and was rushed into an emergency c section. When I was at 19 weeks gestation my water broke, and they assumed my baby was not going to make it. She is currently in the NICU and doing better every day. She does not have anything serious to over come, just a lot of getting bigger, eating on her own, and maintaining her own body temperature while also having no "spells". She is expected to be there until at least mid to late April. I believe she is doing as well as she is thanks to things like steroids which helped develop her lungs, and other medication that was given to me to help her neurologically. <https://www.marchforbabies.org/meredithbutler>



Turn in your unused or expired medications safely at Lafayette Regional Health Center main lobby Saturday, April 30th from 10:00am-2:00pm in the main lobby. Only pills and patches accepted. For additional information go to www.dea.gov or call 1-800-882-9399



Discovery Room Preschool will have an extended day to 1:00pm for their Field Trip to Burr Oak Woods on Thursday, April 21st. The Preschool pays for a bus for the children to ride to Blue Springs. This is the first bus ride for some of the children and is a very exciting time for them. The Pre-K Class will participate in their Field Trip on Wednesday, April 27th.



Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 27th. Remember to thank all of the men and women who help keep things going.

To keep connected with the Northwest Area Disciples of Christ, please contact Rev. Bill Rose-Heim at br_h@nwareacc.org or (816) 632-2237.



To keep up to date on current events and to see what visitors are seeing when they check out our town on the internet, go to the following websites:
www.lexingtonmo.com
www.historiclexington.com
www.visitlexingtonmo.com
www.lafayettecountymo.com

Heavenly Showers

All God's blessings go together, like links in a golden chain. If he gives converting grace, he will also give comforting grace. He will send "showers of blessing." Look up today, O parched plant, and open thy leaves and flowers for a heavenly watering.
—Charles H. Spurgeon



Evangelism Tip

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.
—Madeleine L'Engle



Fools For Christ

April Fools' Day isn't a religious holiday, though it may date to Pope Gregory XIII and his new calendar. In 1582, he shifted New Year's Day from April to January, and people who didn't believe the change were called April fools.

April Fools' Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, St. Paul writes that the gospel seems foolish to people who don't know Christ, that God uses the "foolishness of our proclamation" to offer salvation to all and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus "foolishly" inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1 — and every day — we live as "fools for Christ," we're precisely what he calls us to be!



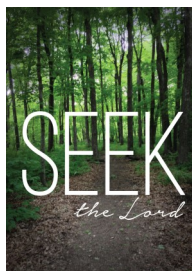
His Glory

God sends rainbows after showers arching 'cross the freshened skies. Every rainbow shows God's glory. Every wonder tells his story.

God sends Jesus down from heaven offering mercy, hope and life. On the cross he showed God's glory. Every blessing tells his story.

God sends me forth into this world sharing love that offers life. And I hope to show God's glory In the way I tell his story.

—MaryAnn Sundby



Healing and Community

In [the] healing texts, Jesus does not just cure people's diseases and cast out their demons and then say, "Mission accomplished." He's always after something more than that because the healing is never fully accomplished until there is a restoration to community.

People are healed of disease, and then he tells the folks just standing around watching to go get them something to eat. The widow's son is raised from the dead and then [Jesus] gives him back to his mother. And ... the man healed of demons is then told to stay with his people and speak of what God has done. In the Jesus business, community is always a part of healing. Even though community is never perfect.

—Nadia Bolz-Weber, Accidental Saints



Avoiding Temptation

Our 10-year-old loves playing on his father's tablet but may use only the touchscreen because he's misused the keyboard and stylus. One day, after receiving permission to play, he detached and handed over the forbidden objects. His dad said, "Just leave them there," but our son replied, "No, I might be tempted to use them."

We routinely pray, "Lead us not into temptation," hoping God will almost magically keep us out of trouble even as we stray close to enticements: We buy high-calorie treats while intending to "eat healthy." We visit big-box stores and spend money we don't have. We gather with gossipy friends, fully aware that such talk is sinful and harmful.

Perhaps we should be more proactive about removing temptations. Perhaps "Lead me not into temptation" means "God, help me keep myself away from that which tempts me toward poor choices." Amen!

—Heidi Mann

A Love Explosion

"Mommy, if Jesus comes to live inside my heart, will I explode?" One of missionary Katie Davis' adopted daughters surprised her with that question as they headed to the Nile River for some baptisms.

Although Davis immediately replied, "No!" she later realized: "That is exactly what we should do if Jesus comes to live inside our hearts. We will explode with love, with compassion, with hurt for those who are hurting, and with joy for those who rejoice. We will explode with a desire to be more, to be better, to be close to the One who made us."

—adapted from Kisses From Katie



+Christian Symbol+ *Tau Rho*

The symbol of salvation is composed of the Greek letters tau (T) and rho (P). It was first used in ancient New Testament manuscripts as an abbreviation for the Greek word for "cross." The symbol also seems to visually represent Jesus on the cross.

Treasures

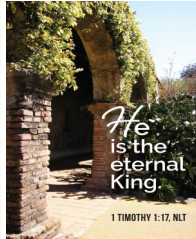
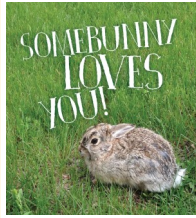
One by one he took them from me,
all the things I valued most,
until I was empty-handed;
every glittering toy was lost.

And I walked earth's highways, grieving
in my rags and poverty
till I heard his voice inviting,
“Lift your empty hands to me!”

So I held my hands toward heaven,
and he filled them with a store
of his own transcendent riches,
till they could contain no more.

And at last I comprehended
with my stupid mind and dull,
that God could not pour his riches
into hands already full!

—Martha Snell Nicholson



*Be merciful,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
is merciful.*
LUKE 6:36



*So neither the one
who plants nor the
one who waters is
anything, but only
God, who makes
things grow.*

1 Corinthians 3:7, NIV

In His Hands

John G. Paton (1824-1907) was a pioneer missionary to the South Pacific islands now known as Vanuatu. Previous evangelists to the area had been consumed by cannibals, but Paton was undeterred — even after his wife and newborn son soon died of tropical fever.

Paton clung closely to Jesus amid deprivation, animosity and many attempts on his life. “I knew not, for one brief hour, when or how attack might be made,” he wrote. “And yet, with my trembling hand clasped in the hand once nailed on Calvary, and now swaying the scepter of the universe, calmness and peace and resignation abode in my soul.”

Today about 85 percent of Vanuatu's population is Christian.

Staying Sharp

The English word character comes from Greek for a sharp-pointed instrument. Much of this original meaning is implied in the word as we use it, for isn't character the means by which we make an impression on the world? To be sure, the instrument itself is not a finished product [but] a mere tool; but, like many a fine instrument, character improves with use. Our actions and reactions temper the blade and make the edge powerful or impotent. We each must forge our own character, be responsible for keeping it in condition and be responsible for its results.

—Author unknown

Fit to be Fruitful

I am in Christ: created anew, made a branch of the Vine, fitted for fruit-bearing. Would ... that believers would cease looking at their old nature and complaining of their weakness, as if God called them for what they were unfitted for!

Would that they would believingly and joyfully accept the wondrous revelation of how God, in uniting them to Christ, has made himself chargeable for their spiritual growth and fruitfulness! How all sickly hesitancy and sloth would disappear, and under the influence of this motive — the faith in the faithfulness of him whom they are in Christ — their whole nature would rise to accept and fulfill their glorious destiny!

—Andrew Murray, Abide in Christ

Look to Christ

The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ, the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him.

—A.W. Tozer

A Shephard's Role

While traveling in Iran, writer Eric Bishop asked a villager about an earthen enclosure topped with dry thorns. The man said sheep stayed in the round space at night for safety. “What are the thorns for?” Bishop asked. “If a wolf tries to break in and attack the sheep,” the man replied, “he'll knock against the thorns, and they'll make a noise, and the shepherd will wake up and drive off the wolf.”

Pointing out the enclosure's doorless entrance, Bishop asked why a wolf wouldn't just enter there. Because, replied the villager, “that's where the shepherd sleeps; the shepherd is the door.”

Suddenly Bishop understood why in John 10 Jesus calls himself first the door, or gate, for the sheep and then the Good Shepherd. Because Jesus is the shepherd, he's also the door that keeps us, his sheep, safe within his care.

The Best Medicine

Although the Bible never refers to Jesus laughing, he clearly had a sense of humor — and needed one to deal with his critics and even his disciples. James Martin, S.J., author of *Between Heaven and Mirth* (HarperOne), writes, “If we accept the idea of [Jesus] as a human being, we must accept all human attributes for him — laughing as well as suffering.”

The ancient church marked the Sunday after Easter with humor and laughter to celebrate Jesus' triumph over death. Today some congregations designate their post-Easter worship as Hilarity Sunday or Bright Sunday. Faith is serious business, but that doesn't mean Christians must always be serious!

PUZZLE

A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



The _____ is _____, and
 _____, the
 _____, and
 _____ 24:1, NIV

Answer: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it, Psalm 24:1, NIV

SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



What you need:

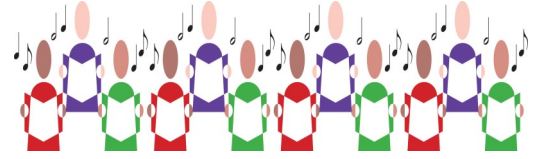
- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.



"Let's give 'em a good start with some holy water!"



Bible Quiz

What was the name of Esther's cousin who raised her after her parents died?

- A. Hegai
- B. Haman
- C. Mordecai
- D. Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes)

Answer: See Esther 2:7



April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9-11am Food Pantry	2 10am Al-Anon LUMC 7pm Sounds of the Heart Concert
3 10:45am Worship 11am Children's Church	4	5 Election Day--VOTE 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool	6 9-1 Discovery Room Preschool	7 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool 5-7pm LBS PTO Spaghetti Dinner- & Raffle--LMS--\$5.00	8 9-11am Food Pantry	9 Presbytery Mtg-Richmond 10am Al-Anon LUMC
10 10:45am Worship 11am Children's Church 12pm Board Mtg	11	12 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool	13 9-1 Discovery Room Preschool 7pm Choir Practice	14 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool 6pm Cancer Support Group-LUMC	15 8-2:30 Early Childhood Screenings 1-3pm Food Pantry	16 10am Al-Anon LUMC
17 10:45am Worship 11am Children's Church 12pm Fellowship Meal	18	19 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool	20 8:30-11:30am 60+ Commodities 9-1 Discovery Room Preschool 7pm Choir Practice	21 9-1 Discovery Room Preschool Field Trip	22 Earth Day 8-2:30 Kindergarten Screening 9-11am Food Pantry 5-7pm Healthy & Active Family Fun Fair- LMS 10:30 Baby Grace--MC	23 10am Al-Anon LUMC 7:30pm RCP Play-VFW
24 10am Choir Practice 10:45am Worship 11am Children's Church	25	26 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool	27 9-1 Discovery Room Preschool Field Trip	28 8:30-11:30am Commodities 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool	29 9-11am Food Pantry 7:30pm RCP Play-VFW	30 10-2 LRHC Medication Turn In 7:30pm RCP Play-VFW



Presbyterian Disciples Church
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660-259-2102
presdisciples@embargmail.com
Rev. John Swisher

Worship Service 10:45am - 12:00pm
Childrens Church 11:00am-12:00pm
All Are Welcome



Minister- Rev. John Swisher
Organist- Matthew Neil
Secretary- Candy Myers/Matthew Neil
Interim Treasurer-Candy Myers
Custodian- MJ Myers
Children's Church-Candy Myers