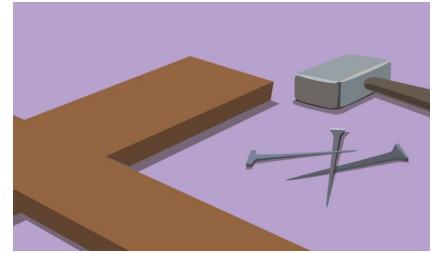




Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church April 2017



Church Chat—"Faith and Faithfulness"--John Swisher, PDC Pulpit Supply Pastor

I asked one of the prison staff who is allowed to use a camera to come down to the Chapel at my prison job a few weeks ago to take some pictures of my Amaryllis flowers. I have attached one of those pictures of them in this article. Why?

Because, they're beautiful, they're remarkable, they're like the flower that grows out of the crack in the sidewalk in a bad neighborhood, right?

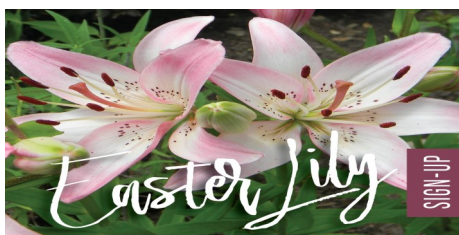
But more than that, I wanted to share the enjoyment they have brought me. I received the Amaryllis bulb from a friend, who had the Institutional Activities Corrdinator (IAC) job back at least 8 years ago as a Christmas gift exchange. I don't remember what I gave her in the gift exchange, but she definitely got the short end of the deal, because the bulb she gave me has grown and flowered each year, beautifully blessing me and everybody around me with velvety red blossoms faithfully each year and all I have to do is keep it watered a little bit.

As we get closer to Easter in the weeks of March and April (as I write this we're approximately 2 weeks from Easter), I am reminded of Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, his first teachings, about God's faithfulness and grace, and about our use of faith, instead of worry, to approach our lives.

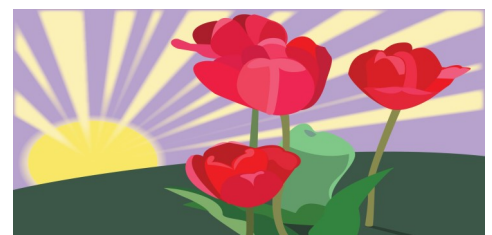


Jesus said (as translated in the NRSV at Matthew 6-28 & 29): "And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." Have a blessed spring and joyous Easter!

Church Chuckle: Fr. O'Malley answers the phone. "Hello, is this Father O'Malley?" "It is", he answers. "This is the IRS. Can you help us?" "I'll try", the priest replies. "Do you know a Ted Houlihan?" "I do." "Is he a member of your congregation?" "He is." "Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?" "He will."



John Swisher
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john.swisher@mmuonline.com



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
Explorers Completed 2nd-3rd Grades Overnights Wed-Friday
Trailblazers-Completed 3rd-4th Grades Overnights Sun-Wed
Highlanders-Completed 4th-6th Grades Overnights-Weekly
Middle School-Completed 6th-8th Grades Overnights-Weekly
Senior High-Completed 9th-12th Grades Overnights-Weekly
Grandparents Camp June 17th-18th
Family Camp July 14th-16th

Our annual Graduation Breakfast will be held Sunday, May 7th at 9:30am. Please bring a breakfast item to share and celebrate with our graduates. Please let us know of graduates we have not recognized.

Michael Summerlin-High School
 Audrey Bayne-Discovery Room Preschool
 Remington Hager-Early Childhood Center



It is time to start thinking about Community Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held at the Trinity United Church of Christ this year on Sunday, July 16th to Wednesday, July 19th from 6-8:00pm. The next planning meeting will be Monday, April 3rd at 6:00pm. Contact Candy Myers with any questions at 660-232-0303 or presdisciples@embarqmail.com.



Discovery Room Preschool will hold their Graduation, Friday, May 12th. Lexington High School graduation will be held on Sunday, May 14th



Please pray for all our youth as they attend the Wentworth Military Academy Ball on Saturday, April 22nd and the Lexington High School Prom on Saturday, April 29th.



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



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 raised a total of \$1450.00. What a wonderful accomplishment for a small classroom of 26 children. Thanks to everyone and God Bless you for helping us teach the children to help others.



Lectionary Readings for April:

02 — Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
 09 — Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 27:11-54
 16 — Acts 10:34-43 ; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18
 23 — Acts 2:14, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
 30 — Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Upcoming Community Events

Park Day 2017

04-01-2017

Location: Battle of Lexington SHS
 National movement to preserve battlefields and historic sites.

Sounds of the Heart Concert

04-08-2017

Location: Lexington Middle School
 20th Annual Concert 7:00pm

Afternoon Tea

04-08-2017

Location: Anderson House
 2:00 - 4:00pm Elegant tea and music.
 Free and open to the public.

Historical Assn Annual Meeting

04-08-2017

Location: Elks Building
 6:30PM Dinner & Speaker

Elks Annual Good Friday Fish Fry

04-14-2017

Location: Elks Building
 Fried catfish and all the fixings 5:00-7:00pm \$8.00 Carry-out available.

Festival of Lights KC

04-15-2017

Location: Fahrmeier Farms
 Gates open at 2:30. Entry includes laser light show, music, kids activities and lantern.

LHS Hall of Fame Meet & Greet

04-18-2017

Location: Lexington Middle School
 6:00 - 7:00 pm RSVP to 259-4369

River City Players

04-21-2017 to 04-22-2017

04-28-2017 to 04-29-2017

Location: Lexington VFW
 RCP presents "The Savannah Sipping Society" Dinner 6:30 Curtain Time 7:45pm

Tourism Annual Dinner

04-27-2017

Location: The Lex
 River City Players

Warrior Dash

04-29-2017

Location: Big River Ranch

Independent Bookstore Day

04-29-2017

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



*Hosanna!
Hosanna!
Hosanna!
Hosanna!
Hosanna!
Hosanna!*

We Pray for:

Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Maria Lappert, Kathy & Larry Neil, Robert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Jake Means, Frayetta Street, Roy Marchetti, Greg Major, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Bonny Bunner, Lois Coulter, Kendra Redden, Janice Mayfield, Matthew Neil, Tim Crosson, Lisa Vance, Phillip Ralston, David Starke, James Huffman, Dorothy Lynn, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church
Families of Pebble Eaton Vanderfeltz, Able Haun, Rene Hilden, Eugene Schlapper, Richard Nevels

Our Servicemen:

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



Congratulations to Brittany and Jimmy Register who welcomed a baby boy March 29, 2017. He weighed 7lbs 12oz and measured 20 inches long.

Congratulations to Cheyanne & Dakota Darnell who welcomed a son, Dakota Allen Darnell Jr on March 25th. Cheyanne used to take care of our nursery before heading off to college in the city.

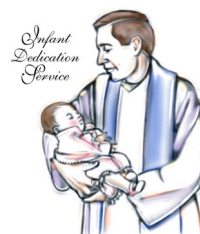
Community Holy Week Services will be held at 6:30am at Second Baptist Church in the Basement. Beginning April 10th-14th. Each morning a different Preacher will conduct the reading. Everyone is invited to attend.

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to bowl with the Youth at the Higginsville Bowling Alley on Sunday, March 26th. Pictured above are the children that came bowling: Madison Markley, Audrey Bayne, Zade Myers, Aiden Bayne, Remington Hager, Miranda Braden, Zenden Myers, Chloe Huffman, Gabriel Moore, Brody Neece, Blake Wilson, Camden Goodloe, and Taylor Wilson. Not pictured are Gabriel Hager and Blake Dickmeyer.



We will have our annual Maundy Thursday Ham and Bean Dinner on Maundy Thursday, April 13th. Dinner will begin at 6:30pm with service following. Please bring Ham and Beans or Cornbread to share with your church family.

Congratulations to Nichole and Phillip Ralston who had their infant daughter, Brielle Ralston baptized on Sunday, March 19th. Nicole is the daughter of newest board member Beth McCrary and husband Jim. May God Bless you always!!



Congratulations to Mark Huffman, Corie Wilson, & children Blake & Taylor Wilson for being baptized on Sunday, March 5th and for Chloe Huffman for being Blessed. May God always be with you!!



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.



"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved."
Mark 16:16, NIV



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

Easter's Dawn

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.

—G.K. Chesterton



When We Can't Find Easter

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's wrong with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. You're okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.

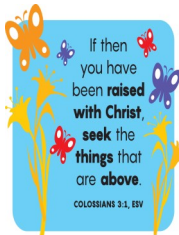
—Heidi Mann



Expanding Our View of Service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other "least of these" members of society — serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, "For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it" — or "My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it." Then the King will say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).



+Christian Symbol+

Agnus Dei

This image is known as the Agnus Dei, Latin for "Lamb of God." When pictured standing and with a banner, it represents the risen Christ, victorious over death. John the Baptist, seeing Jesus approach, famously declared, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV). In Revelation, too, Jesus is portrayed as a lamb who was slain but now reigns triumphant.



Lacquered with Love

Japanese artisans practice a 500-year-old Japanese art called kintsugi, or "golden joinery," to reassemble broken pieces of pottery using a lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum. The premise is that brokenness doesn't render something useless or ugly. Indeed, another Japanese term, wabi-sabi, means "to find beauty in broken or old things."

We come to Jesus broken, but he doesn't discard us. He heals us, though our scars do often remain visible — just as the spear and nail prints remained in his own body when God raised him from death. The Holy Spirit coats our wounds and fractures with the lacquer of divine love, and we become uniquely beautiful, appealing to others so they can find support for their own healing. Our scars tell them they aren't alone, while the brokenness that's part of another's faith journey assures us that we, too, have companionship along the way.

The Role of the Cross

If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. ...

To be "saved" requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death — death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*

Forsaken for Us

Church reformer Martin Luther considered Jesus' cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) as "the greatest words in all of Scripture," writes Timothy Keller. In *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* (Penguin Books), Keller notes, "Luther knew personally about what he called *Anfechtungen*, a word that means the 'assaults' that the world, the flesh and the devil make on human beings through the evils and suffering of life."

Jesus suffered *Anfechtungen* "in infinite degrees, beyond anything any other human being will ever experience," Keller writes. And he did it all for us. As Luther said, "In Christ, the God-forsaken sinner has a Savior who has taken on himself the full depths of human estrangement from God — and overcome it."

Easter Lifts the Fog

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg

On this spring day, we thank you, God, for showing us Easter life in ordinary things: new flowers, budding leaves, sunshine, gentle rain, baby animals and birds.

What if I had been along that parade route as you entered Jerusalem, Jesus? Would I have grasped the profound events playing out? Even now, do I fully grasp who you are?

Christ Risen and Realized

Author George Thompson tells of a Jewish rabbi's appeal to Christians during the tumultuous 1930s. On Easter Eve, the rabbi wrote in a newspaper: "I challenge the Christian world to measure itself by the standards of Christ. As long as any group is judged by its creed or color or country in place of its character, Christianity is a sacrilege rather than sanctity. To this end, I summon Christians everywhere to make this Easter to signify Christ realized and not merely Christ risen."

"In the cross of Christ I glory." Jesus, truly we have no words. We can only bow at your feet.

Amid candy, egg hunts and bunnies, may we know — and help our children know — the true joy of Easter: Jesus' resurrection!

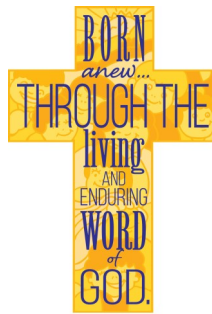
Curing Vs. Healing

In *We Know How This Ends* (Univ. of Minnesota Press), Bruce Kramer writes about "living while dying" from Lou Gehrig's disease. While not denying his impending death, Kramer focuses on getting as much out of life as possible. Part of that involves the following distinction:

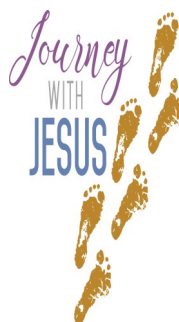
"Know the difference between curing and healing," he writes. "Curing implies that things will be brought back to the way they were. ... Expecting a cure will only result in frustration and disappointment. But healing can take place."

In Scripture, curing and healing are generally used interchangeably, yet one can happen without the other. We know people with disease or disability whose spirits are vibrant and faithful. Though they haven't been cured, their lives are marked by God's healing touch. Even in the Gospels, Jesus' curing of ailments was often a sign of his greater healing: sins forgiven, community restored, faith embraced.

For what have you prayed for a cure? Might healing be the greater need?



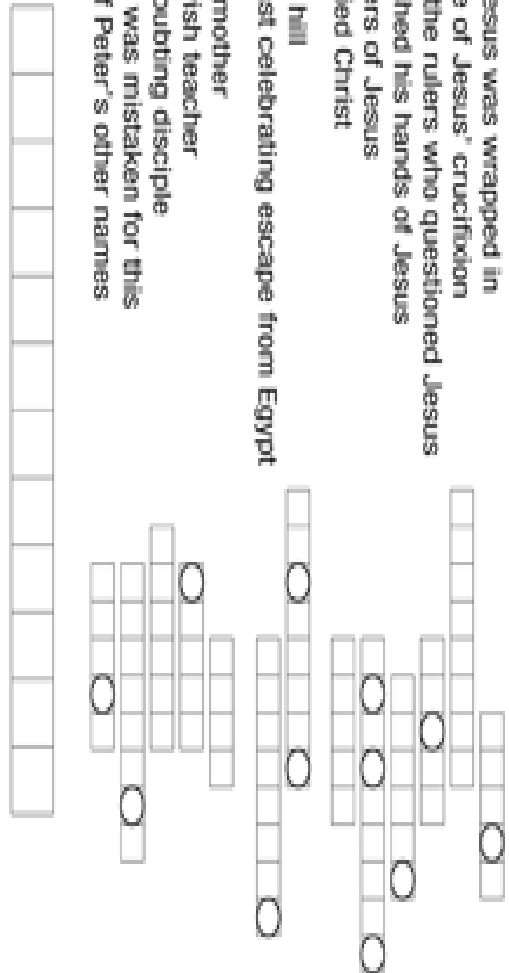
1 PETER 1:23, NRSV



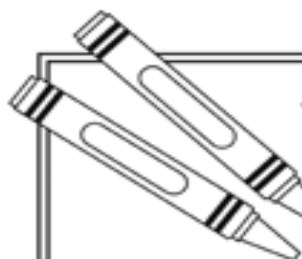
Puzzle!

After completing this Easter crossword, unscramble the circled letters to discover a special word:

1. What Jesus was wrapped in
2. The site of Jesus' crucifixion
3. One of the rulers who questioned Jesus
4. He washed his hands of Jesus
5. Followers of Jesus
6. He denied Christ
7. A large hill
8. The feast celebrating escape from Egypt
9. Jesus' mother
10. A Jewish teacher
11. The doubting disciple
12. Jesus was mistaken for this
13. One of Peter's other names



Answers: 1. cloth, 2. Golgotha, 3. Herod, 4. Pilate, 5. disciples, 6. Peter, 7. mountain, 8. Passover, 9. Mary, 10. rabbi, 11. Thomas, 12. garden, 13. Simon; resurrection






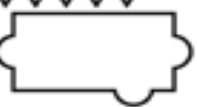


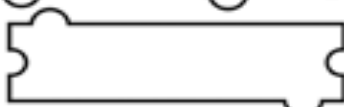


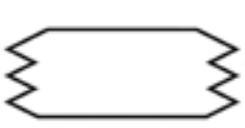

PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

peep hope resurrection given of
birth living Christ mercy great Jesus

In his   he has
 us new  into a
  through the
  
 from the .

1 PETER 1:3, NIV

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.

What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



What you do:

1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.



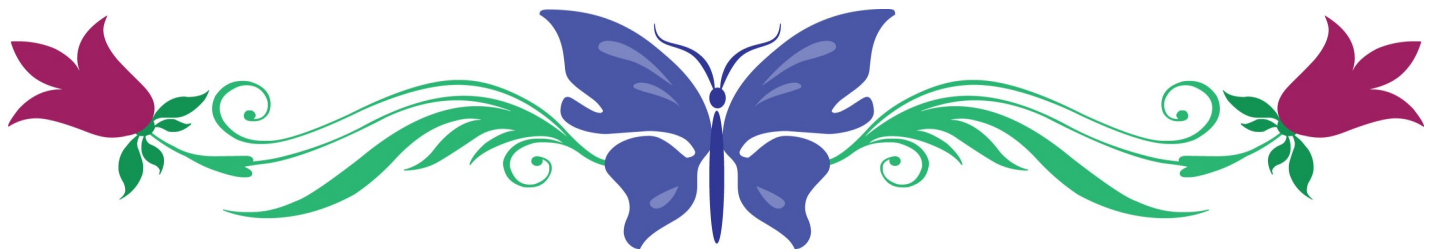
HE LOVED THEM TO THE END.
JOHN 13:1

Bible Quiz

By what other name(s) does the Bible identify the disciple we call "Doubting Thomas"?

- A. Didymus
- B. The Skeptic
- C. The Twin
- D. A and B
- E. A and C

Answer: See John 20:24



APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Senior Center Lunch	3	4	5	6	7 9-11 Food Pantry	8 Sounds of the Heart Concert
9 12pm Board Mtg	10 6:30am Holy Week Services-2nd Baptist	11 6:30am Holy Week Services-2nd Baptist	12 6:30am Holy Week Services-2nd Baptist NO SCHOOL	13 6:30am Holy Week Services-2nd Baptist Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service NO SCHOOL	14 6:30am Holy Week Services-2nd Baptist Good Friday NO SCHOOL 9-11 Food Pantry	15
16 Easter Sunday	17 NO SCHOOL	18	19 8:30-11:30 60+ Commodities	20	21 1-3 Food Pantry	22 WMA Military Ball
23	24	25	26	27 8:30-11:30 Commodities	28 9-11 Food Pantry	29 LHS Prom
30						



Presbyterian Disciples Church
914 Franklin Ave., PO Box 28
Lexington, MO 64067
660-259-2102
presdisciples@embarqmail.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
Treasurer-John Morgan
Custodian- MJ Myers
Children's Church-Brittney Bayne