



The Connection

A Word from Pastor Dave

I suppose if you take a moment to think about it, it's obvious enough that the Christian year rotates around Christmas and Easter. So which of these is the greatest... Well just ask any kid who's looking for what Santa put under the tree and the clear answer is Christmas of course. But it is a more interesting question than just that. We can't have Easter without Christmas. True. Still, gifts under the tree wouldn't mean much if Jesus just came as that little baby boy, grew up, wept over Jerusalem, then shook his head, dusted off his feet and walked in the other direction. Without Easter, Good Friday isn't a good day, and without Good Friday and Easter, Christmas is actually pretty meaningless. On the Christian calendar, Easter day ought to be celebrated like no other. Think about what your Christmas budget was this past year. Then take a wild guess at what your Easter budget might be? Literally, January is the retail nightmare of North America because so many have overspent on Christmas, they have to stay home for the entire month of January and sometimes into February. May and June seldom suffer the same impact from the average Christian celebration of Easter. Now maybe bunny rabbits and chocolate eggs just do not get the same traction that Santa and his reindeer do. But I think we preachers have failed terribly in proclaiming the good news Easter really is. In the olden days, the fire-and-brimstone preachers could have a heyday with Easter. All was utter doom, despair and dread until on the dawn of that first Easter morning when the chains of sin and death were broken forever by God's holy acceptance of our Saviour's unimaginable sacrifice!

One can appreciate that light always shines brightest with a dark background. Truthfully, I don't really want to play down the facts of our real, repeated and reprehensible sin or what the Bible describes

April Dates

- 3 - Worship Service 10:30 am
- 4 - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 6 - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 9 - Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am
- 10 - Coffee Talk Service 10:30 am
- 12 - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 13 - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 15 - Good Friday Service 10:30 am
- 17 - Easter Worship Service 10:30 am
- 19 - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 20 - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 23 - Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
- 24 - Coffee Talk Service 10:30 am
- 25 - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 27 - Prayer at Church 10:30 am

as the purely frightful reality of an eternity separated from God. But I would like to point out that I think those fire-and-brimstone preachers had one more thing going for them that isn't quite as obvious. I believe, in that era, people had a better biblical understanding and framework, specifically in the general flow of the passages from Genesis to the end of the Gospel of Matthew. The straightforward pride and rebellion demonstrated in the willful sin of Adam and Eve against God might be all that needed to be written in order for humanity to understand their plight. Yet the slightest, most curious thing unfolds as Adam and Eve seek to redirect the blame in Genesis chapter 3. God has to deal with the serpent that deceived Eve with Eve herself and then finally Adam. At first, you might think that God's address to the serpent is near comical. This poor creature, apparently possessed by evil, actually gets directly cursed by God because in God's heart being an instigator is not innocent work. However, what God says to the serpent seems strange indeed, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:14-15, NIV) Jewish and Christian scholars however have always jumped to point out that there is actually hope and promise in these words; just a hint of God foreshadowing that while darkness has prevailed, paradise has been lost and all hope seems already in the distant past humanity may yet, somehow, someday, possibly prevail in the battle of good and evil. But Cain and Abel won't give you that hope. Nor the story of Noah. Story after story after story throughout the scriptures, the struggle continues. There are so many corrective measures and so many other failings, failures of humanity, failings of God's own Priests, Prophets and Kings. God's own people can't seem to put one generation after another that would serve God with their whole heart. And, so it is, that the last scroll of the Hebrew scriptures, the Book of Malachi, ends with four hundred years of even God's own silence.

Until... until that Christmas morning when the Heavenly Hosts smiled upon a handful of shepherds and a couple of weary newly weds. And still no one really knew. Besides a few curious rumours that only madman Herod seemed to take very seriously, life on earth continued to be about dry, blood thirsty dirt and endless sacrifices made on battlefields and temple altars alike. Then, 30 years later a surprising baptism for those who happened to be standing beside that particular section of the

Jordan River. A wild, tall tale of water turned into wine in the little village of Cana. Up North apparently, some preacher stirring things up, casting out demons, talking to Gentiles, all nonsense of course. After all, can anything good come from Nazareth? But now, Biblical time will no longer be measured in centuries, generations or even decades. In just a handful of months Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Man and self-proclaimed Son of God will stand before the religious elite of the Jewish leaders and the political glory of all that is the Empire of Rome. He will stand, like he predicted, he will even be lifted up but on the cruel rough lumber of an executioner's cross. Here, there is no mercy, no thoughtful ponderings about the meaning of life. No here, there is just the agony of a sure and punishing death. As Jesus' head drops, the sky turns black and miles away the curtain in the Temple is torn from top to bottom, a lone Centurion proclaims, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39).

And I propose to you that in a bygone era men as brave as those who dug the coal out of the sides of mountains with their own bare hands, who won the West after they walked there with their wives and sometimes dead children, who fought in wars before drones had been invented; these men would cry. They would cry on Good Friday real tears because with a tightness in their chest and sourness in their stomach they knew that the same failure that was in those who put Jesus on the cross was also in them. But on Easter morning at Sunrise they gather to read the story of resurrection power! The story of a final sacrifice that set all things right. The glory of grace so grand it swept through time to meet the needs of Adam and Eve, Nicodemus and the thief on the cross, all the way up to themselves, their children and their children's' children if the Lord shall tarry. This was received and understood to be worth a church breakfast with hot cross buns, pancakes, sausage, bacon, homemade sweets and enough hot coffee to wake the dead; if the rousing celebration of the Easter Choir hadn't already done that. This meant a family get-together with relatives; some of whom they didn't even care for. Decorating baskets and hiding coloured eggs with the kids, eating an obscene amount of chocolate because obviously the Bunny that says, "two pounds of pure milk chocolate", was a reasonable choice for today. Besides there will be enough tea and punch and wine flowing with the ham and scalloped potatoes and pie and pie and just another piece of pie to wash it all down because TODAY GRACE ABOUND! FOR HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Barnabas Notes



Appreciation of the Gospel

There was a time when I wondered “why am I here, what is my purpose.” I didn’t know God at that time of my life. No one had told me who he was. It wasn’t until I was 26 years old that Jesus came into my life.

I had attended church as a youngster, gone to youth group as a teenager, but only because there was someone I wanted to be with. And it was fun hanging out with all of the other teenagers.

But I didn’t know who Jesus was. I had heard of Him but He didn’t mean anything to me. Jesus wasn’t someone that anyone talked about. But my introduction to Jesus would come through reading the Bible. Sounds kind of odd that it would happen that way, but it did. I didn’t pick up the Bible and just start reading. No, I started reading bible verses that my wife, you know, then someone I wanted to be with at youth group, would write on the back of my business cards.

Yes, it’s true. She was trying to memorize bible verses. So she would write scripture on the back of my business cards and have them on the window sill over the kitchen sink. And as I would help her by drying the dishes I would secretly read them. That’s how I was introduced to Jesus. In 1979 my heart was ready for Jesus to come in.

And an elderly pastor named Herman Vagy led me to a relationship with Jesus. Then, not only did I have Jesus in my life, but now my life had meaning, and a purpose.

Thank you God, for sending your one and only Son to die for me. And for eternal life that I now have because I confess that I am a sinner and I know that my sins are forgiven. I am so looking forward to spending eternity with you.

Tom



Ministry Highlight

This month, I would like to share some opportunities we have at South Point to volunteer. As we are beginning to implement more things (ex. like GST), more opportunities are becoming available. Here are a few areas where we need help:

GST: We need help with set up in the morning before the service starts (need to be at church for 9:30). This includes making coffee, tea and setting everything up in the foyer.

We also need people who are willing to bring snacks. For each Coffee Talk service, we would need 1 person to bring a healthy snack and 1 person to bring a treat. We would need anyone that signs up to do this approximately once a month.

Greeters: Once a month come to church for 10:00 am and stand at the front doors and welcome everyone as they enter. Hold the door open; give any instructions needed as to where people should go. Let new people know where the washrooms are...

Media: We are looking for someone to help with media on Sunday mornings. This person would learn how to use our media program and would put the lyric slides and the sermon slides up during the service. This job needs someone who enjoys paying close attention to details as you move through the different slides. Training is available :)

Set Up: Each week we need someone to help set up the chairs for the service. This usually takes around 20 minutes. This can be done on Saturday or early Sunday morning before worship, practice starts at 9:30.

Kids Wing Helpers: Do you enjoy working with kids? We are looking for someone to assist our teachers. You would be on for 2 weeks and then off for 4 weeks. All volunteers would need to get a Police Clearance and complete our Protection Plan training.

If you would like to help in any of these areas or in another ministry or if you have any questions, please let me know.



Prayer Corner

Father, we are living in a day unlike anything we have ever seen before. Chaos, confusion, and turmoil has been stirring in the hearts of so many people.

We trust that justice belongs in Your hand, but we also trust that You have a great plan for us to see hearts transformed and lives changed.

Jesus, thank you for Your mercy that was displayed upon the cross that has given those who call upon Your name and trust in you for forgiveness a new life. We want to be a part of Your great redemptive plan on the earth.

Help us fix our eyes on Christ when we are tempted to only look at the problems around us. We are asking that You would give us the boldness to proclaim the only solution to what our world is experiencing, and that is Your glorious Gospel! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

—Emily Massey

J'Aime's Reflections

Have you ever looked forward to having a root canal done? They're not a terribly fun procedure to have but, if you've ever had a bad tooth... it's better to suffer through the procedure than it is to continue suffering with mouth pain.

I had a root canal this week and my mouth is still sore even as I write. Before the procedure I found myself actually being excited for the dentist trip because I knew that relief from the pain in my mouth was coming. I know that my face will be sore for a while and that I can't play clarinet or sax for a couple of weeks but I also know that I'll heal up and feel better and get on with my life.

This month for the newsletter I am writing about Gospel Appreciation. What do I know about God that helps me to appreciate his word? What do I know about what He's done that makes the gospel more impactful? Well, I know that there is a time and a place for everything in God's plan. A time for root canals and a time to heal from root canals.

I struggle a lot with God's plan because, to be honest, it means I'm not always in control. I don't like that feeling one single bit. I want to know exactly what's coming and when it's going to happen so I can plan the trip to get there. Letting go is an issue I have always struggled with. But I know I have to let go.

Sometimes it hurts. A lot. Nowhere in the Bible does anyone say that being a Christian is a painless experience free from suffering, loss or anguish. What the Bible does tell us is that there is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) and that, even in the sufferings on earth, there is hope and reward (Matthew 5:3-12).

Deep inside our roots pain, sorrow and despair can fester. The enemy can wiggle in and whisper lies to us, intensifying that pain. In our own human weakness, it can be tempting to listen to those words and feel lost and alone. We hang on to God's word and know that we don't suffer in vain. The Holy Spirit fills us with hope – we know that we may be sore for a while but we will heal up and move forward with our lives.

Does this mean that we're supposed to look forward to our suffering? No, it does not. It means that we are to look forward to the relief that comes. There is a time for everything and there are blessings hidden within God's plan that we don't often understand.

I appreciate the fact that the gospels spell out Jesus' teachings in a plain, simple way that helps me to understand and relate to the words on a human level. I also appreciate the fact that the Bible doesn't just tell me what I want to hear – it tells me what I need to know.



Brown Sugar Pineapple Ham

~ From Ruby ~

1 Fully cooked bone in ham (7-9 lbs)

1 20 oz can of crushed pineapple,
undrained

1 up brown sugar or to your taste

1 tbs of dijon mustard

1/4 tsp ground cloves or cinnamon

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

1. Place ham on rack in shallow
roasting pan.

Use a sharp knife to score the surface
of the ham with 1/2 inch deep cuts in
a diamond pattern.

Cover and bake for 1.5 hours

2. In a small bowl. Mix all of the
ingredients. Spread over ham, pressing
into the cuts. Bake uncovered for 30-
60 minutes longer or until a
thermometer reads 140 degrees.



2 nd	Tom	15 th	Brennan
4 th	Mary Louise	16 th	Dorothy
11 th	Dylan	20 th	Leon
11 th	Isaiah	30 th	Dalton
11 th	Tracy		

Easter Word Search

B M A L M H B B K I N G R N R
N O I T C E R R U S E R E O O
A P O S T L E S E Y S C D I O
S E C I F I R C A S H J E T S
N S N A M O R O O R R E M A T
R C D S G T T R I I K S P V E
O Y R A M B C S S V Z U T L R
H L O V E L T E M M A S I A Y
T C R O W N N Y L O H S O S Z
X C R U C I F I X I O N N K Q

APOSTLES
CHRIST
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
HOLY
JESUS
KING
LAMB
LOVE



MARY
REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION
RISEN
ROMANS
ROOSTER
SACRIFICE
SALVATION
SAVIOR
THORNS