

GRAPEVINE

April 27, 2011

N.T. Wright is heralded as one of the top biblical scholars. He taught New Testament studies for twenty years at Cambridge, McGill and Oxford Universities and is also the Bishop of Durham for the Church of England. In his book *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*, he argues that what we believe about life after death directly affects what we believe about life before death.

He poses two questions in the book's preface which shape his thoughts:
What are we waiting for?
What are we going to do about it in the meantime?

The first question is about the ultimate hope held out in the Christian gospel: the hope of salvation ó resurrection ó eternal life ó to name a few. The second question calls us to discover hope within the present world. It's about finding practical ways in which hope can become alive for communities and individuals who for whatever reason find hope lacking in their lives. These two questions are intertwined ó how we embrace them influences our lives.

These are the questions of people everywhere. They are the questions we wrestle with ó consciously or unconsciously ó when we stand above an open grave or alongside the freshly laid ground days after laying a loved one to rest. They are the questions of Easter.

In John 20: 11-18, Jesus and Mary have a conversation outside the empty tomb. Jesus does something which changes Mary's world ó he speaks her name. The darkness of death becomes the light of life. Despair turns to joy. Hopelessness turns to hope. From that moment on the tomb doesn't matter anymore. By seeing and hearing that death has been defeated, Mary's life is transformed.

Mary's message that first Easter is our message still today, "I have seen the Lord." When we meet the risen Lord and hear him say our name we are changed ó we are given the assurance that what lies beyond this life is not something to be feared ó because in the end, death is defeated and new-life, eternal life, resurrected-life awaits us. This recognition partly influences Wright's second question ó "what are we going to do about it in the meantime?" The other part of the answer comes from something Jesus said earlier in John 10: 10, "I came that they may have abundant life."

The abundant life is the full life ó not one-half or one-quarter or one-eighth! Jesus came that we might have full life. It is called "realized eschatology." What Jesus promises in the end-time ó can be found in the now-time. The new life Jesus proclaims ó the new life God promises ó the new life the resurrection declares can be a very present reality TODAY!

Wherever and whenever Jesus meets us ó whenever and wherever Jesus calls our name ó Jesus never allows us to remain in one place. Jesus calls us to transformation AND to carry the message forward. Jesus calls us to share the gospel message with others ó the good news of new life ó full life ó resurrected life for both this life & the next.

Maybe Christ is calling someone here to offer help & hope to the frail and faltering widow who lives alone down the street OR to reach out with healing and hope to a misunderstood teenager who feels angry and isolated (whether the teenager lives down the street or just down the hall from your bedroom)? **Maybe** Christ is calling someone here to shine hope into a broken friendship or relationship which has suffered for far too long from mis-communication or no-communication? **Maybe** Christ is calling someone here to bring hope into a hopeless situation by helping to restore a worn-down home for a neighbor.

These are ways in which hope surprises ó these are ways in which hope becomes alive again ó resurrected ó for communities and individuals who for whatever reason find hope lacking in their lives. Because hope does not disappoint.

Because of what happened that first Easter morning we are reminded that the resurrection declares ó because He Lives, we can and we will live full lives ó both in this life and the next.

Because of what happened that first Easter we are called to remember that every morning can be Easter morning because we are Easter people.

Maybe it's time to live what we believe?

Inside:

- VBS Leaders Needed
- Items needed for South Dakota Trip
- Birthday Offering
- Lou's Seminary Reunion
- Cancer Support Group Expands @ GPC

Upcoming Events:

May Music Schedule

May 1	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir
May 8	8:15 a.m.	Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir
	9:30 a.m.	Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir Chapel Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir Primary Choir Chapel Choir
May 15	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir
May 22	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bell Choir Adult Choir
May 29	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

May

May 1	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Dinner
May 8	7:30 - 12:00 noon	YOUTH SUNDAY
May 22	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Year-End Picnic @ Lake Heritage
May 4 - 25	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	High School Twelve Wednesday evenings

MidSHIP Schedule

May

May 1	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Dinner
May 6-7	3:30 - 11:30 p.m.	8th graders to "Acquire the Fire"
May 8	7:30 - 12:00 noon	YOUTH SUNDAY
May 22	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Year-End Picnic @ Lake Heritage

VBS Leaders Needed!!

Vacation Bible School will be held on June 27-30 this year and we need help!!

If you can be a planning leader for pre-school, snack, scripture, games, drama, or Bible activities, please let me know as soon as possible. We have already begun our planning. I know that you - **yes, you** - have lots of great ideas and enthusiasm for our children's ministry here at GPC. This may be just the opportunity you've been looking for. Let me know at 334-1235, ext. 5 or gpcdce@embarqmail.com. THANKS!

— Blessings, Phyllis

"Fire, Frogs, and the Fantastic Journey"

Moses Leads God's People from Egypt toward the Promised Land



Vacation Bible School will be held on **June 27 - 30** for ages 3 - Grade 5 (completed)

Registration for VBS will be held from May 15 - June 15

(Look for the registration form in the next Grapevine)

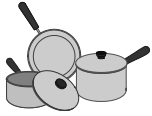


MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Preparations are underway for our South Dakota Mission Trip from July 14 - 24 and the excitement is building. Thank you to all for the contributions made so far.

We are still in need of some very important items which we give out as prizes at the Festival. If you can donate any of the following "new or nearly new" items, please bring them to the church office:

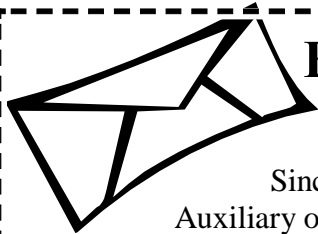


- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Sheets or Sheet Sets | Towels |
| Box Fans | Dish Sets |
| Tire Repair Kits | Sleeping Bags |
| Fabric (cotton priority) | Sewing Notions |
| Backpacks | School Supplies |
| Sewing Machines (new or nearly new & portable) | |

- | |
|-------------|
| Blankets |
| Tool Sets |
| Flashlights |
| Jar Candles |



Thanks for all your prayers and support as we return to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation this summer.
— Penny Messinger (334-1235)



Birthday Offering

Since 1922 the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church (now called Presbyterian Women) has been collecting the Birthday Offering for specific causes each year. The offerings have enabled a long succession of new and often innovative mission projects throughout the world. In 2011, hopefully, several hundred thousand dollars will be divided among 3 chosen programs. Our poster in Fellowship Hall provides details about these initiatives in New Mexico, South Carolina and Sudan.

For more information or how to apply for this grant for a specific project, contact Amy Deitch at 337-3534.

Praise God and Thank You!

Yes we made it, with a lot of help from our friends at GPC: praise God and thank you! I will be graduating from seminary on May 13, 2011 and we would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend. Commencement will be held in the Chapel from 1:30-2:30pm with a reception immediately following. All are welcome at the reception and this is where I would get to hopefully greet each of you. Seating in the Chapel is very limited, so you would be seated in the Refectory (directly across from the Chapel on Seminary Ridge) where a wide screen live feed of the service would be shown. Most of my family and friends will be in the Refectory because I only received 8 tickets for seating in the Chapel. Please do not feel obligated to come but I wanted to let you know.

In Christ we serve by God for the glory of God,
Dennis & Jodi Dillman

PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, May 16, 1:00 p.m.
Paideia House, 1st floor, front
Hostess: Lucy Breighner
Study Leader: Helen Stabler
Lesson 9: Revelation 21-22

Mary Martha Circle

Monday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.
Hostess: Sheryl Suplee
140 Red Oak Lane
Gettysburg, PA
337-3267

Lesson 7

Esther Circle

Thursday, May 19, 9:30 a.m.
Eisenhower Lounge at GPC
Study Leader: Janet Dewar
Lesson 9: Revelation 21-22



Spotlight on Missions

Spotlight on Missions - Reach Workcamp

On June 17th to 26th forty youth and adults from GPC will be joining about 405 other campers from different parts of the US in Anderson County, Tennessee, which is located in the northeastern part of the state, to work on people's homes that are in dire need of repair. These homes were constructed by the government in the late 30's

and early 40's to house the workers that were working on the Manhattan Project, the early development of the atomic bomb. They have since been sold to the general public.

The workcamp participants will be doing a lot of painting, inside and outside, building handicap ramps and possibly doing some roofing. Our church has sent a youth group each summer since 1984 to many similar workcamps, mostly in the eastern part the USA from New York to Georgia. The church gives \$5,000 to this mission project to support our youth.

Here are a couple of quotes about this mission:

öMore than fixed my house, they fixed my heart.ö (from a resident whose home was repaired)

öWe work on people's homes and God works on us.ö (from a workcamper)

Also, there will be a Reach Workcamp in New Oxford from June 26- to July 2nd. As the time gets closer our congregation will have the opportunity to help out with this camp.



NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you.

We are only a phone call away. The transportation Deacon for May is Dick Wisor at 359-8896.

Young at Heart

- Our May 12th get-together will be an outing to tour the Gettysburg Times newspaper. There is no cost for this tour. Following our tour we will go to the Pike Restaurant for lunch. The cost for lunch will be \$10.00 and will include a soup, salad, and sandwich bar with drinks, dessert, tax, and gratuity all included.

We will be taking the church van. Those who would like to carpool from the church should be in the parking lot at 10:00, leaving the church by 10:15 and arriving at the Times by 10:30 to begin the tour. We should have completed the tour and be arriving at the restaurant around 12:00 Noon. If you are unable to do the tour but would like to join us for lunch, please feel free to do so.

All are welcome. If you are not on a regular call list but would like to attend, please contact Pam or Dick Wisor **on or before Monday, May 9th** at 359-8896 or email us at pwisor@hotmail.com.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED of Gettysburg and Adams County welcomes all church women to the next monthly meeting at noon on **Wednesday, May 4, 2011** in the **Gettysburg Foursquare Gospel Church** at 328 W. Middle Street. The gathering begins at noon with a light lunch (\$2) coordinated this month by the ladies from Gettysburg Church of the Brethren. Following lunch the annual **May Friendship Day** celebration titled öLiving our Friendship, Passing on the Keyö will be held and the Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings will be dedicated. Newcomers are always welcome ó no reservations needed. Make some new friends with other church ladies in ecumenical fellowship. Parking is available behind the church. For more info, contact Rachel at 334-3415.

LOU'S SEMINARY REUNION

Session has received a letter from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS), noting that Lou Nyiri's fifteenth reunion class (1996) will be among those honored at the Seminary's upcoming Alumnae/i Days and inviting our congregation to make a gift in recognition of this celebration. Funds collected will be designated to PTS's Annual Fund Campaign in support of financial aid for current students. The letter notes that this is a wonderful way to honor and say thank you to current pastors and to provide theological education for future generations.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send a check to the GPC office by May 15. Checks should be made payable to Gettysburg Presbyterian Church and specify "Lou Nyiri PTS" on the memo line.

Cancer Support Group Expands at GPC

The Cancer Support Group of GPC will celebrate its seventh anniversary in May! This group was originally established through the Family Ministry committee at the recommendation of our Session. The goals of this ministry are to reach out to others who are dealing with cancer diagnoses and help them realize that they are not alone. We also strive to minister to family members as cancer can very much be a family illness. Common topics are faith, family, treatment, and other issues which are important to the members.

The group was initially begun to help members of our congregation, but with the opening of the Cancer Center in Gettysburg, folks from other churches and the community have learned about the group and have been attending as well. One member recently commented, "This has been a wonderful opportunity to share with members of our own church as well as to meet others who do not attend GPC. It's a place where we can be ourselves and laugh and cry and learn from others."

In fact Mary Flinner, the facilitator of the group and a social worker at Hanover Hospital, has noted that several of the members who do not have a church affiliation, have been attending GPC. "It has been a great opportunity to provide a ministry to others in need and to expand our church membership at the same time," says Mary.

The group meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the church library. For more information, call Mary at 717-646-6901.



They Are among Us

No, we're not talking about angels or aliens. We're talking about individuals who care about others. The Scriptures describe their service well:

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering". - Hebrews 13:3

If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. A new training class for Stephen Ministers will take place at our church October & November 2011 and January & February 2012. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister contact Rev. Lou Nyiri at (717) 334-1235, ext. 4.

Attention All Summer Mission Trip Participants

(Honduras, Workcamp, Mexico, and South Dakota)

Don't forget our meeting

on

Sunday, May 15

Following the 11:00 a.m. service!

The meeting will last about 45 minutes.

See you there!!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 7:40 a.m. Early Choir 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 12:00 p.m. Exploring Membership Class 4:00 p.m. Session 5:30 p.m. SHIP & MidSHIP 6:30 p.m. South Dakota Meeting	2 8:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Mission & Interpretation	3 8:30 a.m. Sewing Workshop 10:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish 6:00 p.m. "May Banquet" 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	4 10:00 a.m. Moms & Friends 12 Noon Men's Interfaith Lunch 5:30 p.m. High School "12" 5:30 p.m. Cont. Music Practice 6:00 p.m. Welcome & Outreach 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Historic Church Walking Tour	5 12 Noon Newsletter Deadline 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music 6:30 p.m. Small Group 7:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir	6	7 6:00 p.m. "10 Great Dates"
8 YOUTH SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 5:30 p.m. No Mid-SHIP & SHIP	9 8:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Cancer Support Group	10 7:30 a.m. Habitat Board Mtg. 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Leaders 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision	11 5:30 p.m. High School "12" 5:30 p.m. Cont. Music Practice 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir	12 10:00 a.m. Ministerium Mtg. 10:00 a.m. Young @ Heart tour of Gettysburg Times 6:30 p.m. Christian Education 7:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir	13	14
15 VBS Registration Begins 7:40 a.m. Early Choir 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 12:00 p.m. Mission Trip Participants Meeting 12:15 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 12:15 p.m. Property Committee 5:30 p.m. No Mid-SHIP & SHIP	16 8:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 9:30 a.m. Mom's Board 1:30 p.m. Elizabeth Circle 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m. Mary Martha Circle	17 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:30 p.m. Personnel & Administration	18 5:30 p.m. High School "12" 5:30 p.m. Cont. Music Practice 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Ministry Team Mtg.	19 9:30 a.m. Esther Circle 4:00 p.m. Historic Church Walking Tour 6:15 p.m. Gastric Bypass Support Group. 7:15 p.m. Adult Bell Choir	20	21
22 7:40 a.m. Early Choir 9:30 a.m. Last day of Sunday School 12:15 Session - Confirmands 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Mid-SHIP & SHIP Year-End Picnic @ Lake Heritage	23 8:30 a.m. Burden Bear Workshop 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	24 5:00 p.m. JMJ Spanish 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision	25 5:30 p.m. High School "12" 5:30 p.m. Cont. Music Practice 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Health for All	26 12:00 Noon Newsletter Deadline	27	28
29 Confirmation-Commissioning Sunday 7:40 a.m. Early Choir	30 (OFFICE CLOSED) Memorial Day	31	<h1>May 2011</h1>			

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, May 5, 2011**

May 2011	
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE	
Traditional Services @ 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.	
Contemporary Service @ 9:30 a.m.	
5/1	Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35)
5/8	Youth Sunday
5/15	Taming the Tongue (James 1:26; 3: 1-12)
5/22	Write it on a Rock (Job 19)