

It Is Finished

(Pats Pondering from the Pew)



Yes it is finally finished. The last dust bunny and spot of dirt has been removed and the house is now sparkling clean and ready for the master of the house to come.

The conclusion has been added to the student's term paper while the student waits the teacher's decision. The cost has been calculated for the remodel and the builder is pleased with the results. Yes, it is finished! At least these projects are.

I recently had an e mail from a friend who expressed confusion and many questions about the assurance of their salvation. They quoted a few passages from scripture, however, from the negative and with conditions. After posing the question to a few others, it became clear that several professed Christians are not confident or at peace with their own salvation; some question or doubt or compare the teachings in the bible with writings of other religions.

These three words, "It is Finished," were also uttered by Jesus as he finished His work that he was sent to earth to do. What was that finished work and how do I know this is true? These and others are a couple of questions that were asked.

His work is our salvation and our guarantee of eternal life with him. Our promise and assurance of salvation is recorded quite early and found in Genesis, however, the word commonly used is 'deliverance' and is used interchangeability with salvation.

Our salvation is both a hope and a covenant promise made by God Himself and he has re-affirmed this throughout the centuries to His people. Consider "He who believes in the Son has eternal life" (John 3: 36) and "My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me, and I give them eternal life. (John 10:27-28)

We need to trust in the work and person of Jesus Christ. If we can't recall when we accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, perhaps we should question the procedure whether in public or in private as well as the sincerity of our confession of sin. When Christ finished his work on the cross we are now free of condemnation and are "justified, in that God demonstrated His love for us, that Christ died on the cross and we shall be saved from the wrath of God

through Him. And are reconciled to God through the death of His Son and we shall be saved by His life." (John 5: 8-10)

How do we know that our sins are forgiven? In Acts 10:43, speaking of Jesus, Paul tells us that, "of Him, all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins" .

How many can be saved was asked by some. John 1:12 gives us that answer. "but as many as received him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believed in His name." And John 3:16 "for God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whosoever believes in Him shall have eternal life. " John continues our reassurance in that he writes that God sent His son that the world may be saved through Him.

As some, over the years, think they have their salvation by works they do. Titus 3: 5-7 disputes this thought. Titus writes, "He saved us not on the basis of deeds, which we have done, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and by the Holy Spirit, who he poured out richly through Jesus Christ, that being justified we might become heirs, according to the hope of eternal life."

Salvation is free as it is written in Eph 2: 8-9. Paul writes, " It is by Grace that you have been saved, through faith, it is a gift of God." How much faith? As small as a mustard seed.



In the beginning analogy, the house is us and our 'soil' is or had been compromised due to varied reasons and living life, sometimes wrongly, but Jesus has still entered and cleaned out all the garbage piece at a time until finally we were ready for the Master. The final conclusion to our life has been noted and we find our name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The cost, we cannot repay. It was marked paid in full and is incalculable as Jesus said, "It Is Finished" then we shall hear, "now enter into the joy of the Lord."



WELCOME HOME

Churchie Words

Salvation--deliverance from danger or preservation from condemnation.

Redemption—to buy something or someone to gain their freedom.

Justification--an act of pronouncing acquittal from guilt.

Condemnation--to pass judgment on another or to pass sentence on someone

Blasphemy- profane speech about God, cursing, taking Lords name in vain



Our Lenten Soup Suppers and Vespers continue.

Mar 2 members with last names A-K

Mar 9 Members with last names L-Z

Mar 16 Everyone

Please bring soup enough for 8-10 people and bread too. Please bring your own bowl and utensils with you.

Holden Village Vespers begin promptly at 6:45PM following supper-----

HOLY WEEK

24th-Thursday worship with Holy Communion 7PM

25th-Good Friday (with stripping of the altar)- 7 PM

27th- Resurrection Day March 27, 2016

8:15am & 10:45am --both with holy communion

**HE IS RISEN--- HE IS ALIVE--- HALLELUJAH---
HE IS RISEN INDEED**



Easter Celebration with Brunch between the services

March 27, 2016



The annual children's egg hunt in the back yard will delight all the youngsters

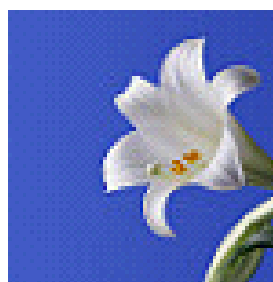
Donations of colored hardboiled eggs or filled plastic eggs are appreciated for this fun time event for the kiddo's.

One of Our Neighbor's Celebration

A little remembered day for Christians is Purim. This will be celebrated by our brothers and sisters of the Jewish faith on March 23rd and 24 this year. It commemorates Queen Esther's plea before the king to spare her people from the evil deed that Haman had conceived against the entire Jewish people. The entire story is re-told on this day.

A word from Dietrich Bonhoeffer fits this story quite well in that he wrote: "I believe that God gives us all the strength we need to help us to resist in all times of distress, But it is never given in advance, lest we should rely on ourselves and not on God alone." Queen Esther was saved for just such a time.

Decorate the Sanctuary



Still time to honor or in memory of a loved one with your gift of an Easter Lily. Cost this year is \$10.00. Deadline will be March 6. Anne Barnes is spearheading this.

Upcoming in April

This editor invites the members to submit a 4,8 or 12 line poem for publication in April's Gracelines on any subject that is dear to your heart, but an original. Let's have fun with this as April is national poetry month.

Bible Study—Fellowship---Small Groups

Grace offers an abundance of opportunities during the week to deepen a person's faith walk. Regardless of what one calls the group each share a lot of laughs, some sorrows, a few concerns, their triumphs, as well as delving deeper into the Word of God, either through the bible or other books of faith.



This Thursday morning group (10am) offers lots of refreshments that compliments their study. They welcome new comers. They have a wide variety of life's experiences to draw from and not shy about sharing.



This group of ladies meet each Tuesday (1PM) and are quite adamant at being labeled Grace's Grandma's, even having a Great Great Grandma among them. They often share a wealth of laughing, loving and living times with joy



This group is working through the bible every Tues Evening (7PM). They have been responsible for spearheading a variety of outreach projects into the community, working them into their busy work schedules.

Not pictured are a men's only group (Monday 8am) as they are on hiatus right now.

Another group that's meets in a members home every Weds at 7PM (they take off during the Lenten season and will resume after Easter and were not available on pic day.)

The longest running group are the ladies that meet monthly (2nd Moday of month) and call themselves, Martha Circle. They rotate and meet in each others' homes.



The newest group with several missing on pic day meets Monday's at 10am. They are currently concluding the book of Ezekiel then will continue with another book in the Bible.

Note: I'm not much on recipe's, however, this one caught my eye and is a GREAT way to tell the story.

Resurrection Sunday Story Cookies

You will need

1.c whole pecans

1 tsp vinegar

3 egg whites

Pinch salt

1 c sugar

Zipper baggie-----Wooden spoon---tape-----Bible

Preheat oven to 300 F degrees- do not wait till you're half way done with the recipe! Place pecans in zipper bag and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19: 1-3

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink
Read John 19: 28-30

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain Jesus gave His life to give us life.
Read John 10:10-11

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup of sugar, Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us . He wants us to know and belong to Him
Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 -16 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that that color white represents the purity in Gods eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.
Read Isaiah 1: 18 and John 3:1-3

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.

Read Matthew 27: 57-60

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn OFF oven. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed Read Matthew 27: 65-66

Go to Bed !!! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9

He is Risen!!!!

Author unknown



Communication!!!



Often the “left hand does not know what the right is doing”. or “ I just realized my lips are inside out and I was talking to myself” ; “so the whole war or argument is because we can’t talk to each other” are some phrases we might hear.

It has been recently been pointed out that one of the major issues at GLC is the lack of or poor communication.

With two services, often one does not get the message and certainly our worship time is not intended to be a place to discuss the business of the church or last minute announcements that do not relate to emergency or crisis related.

One way to improve this shortcoming is to let our administrative assistant (Lilly) know whats going on either via e mail, phone call or in person. She knows who and how to pass the information to the appropriate leader/staff or member.

Remember, “The less people know, the more they yell or not participate”

Introducing Newest Member

Mr. Leroy Glass



Give him a big shout out of welcome! Leroy is a member of the Special Olympic team of Mendocno County. Way to go Leroy!

---On Stewardship

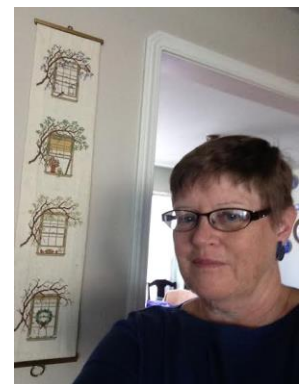
Our focus this month and going forward into the new year will be on our ‘hidden talents’ this editor will try to ferret out the talents of our members that you may not be aware. This allows us to get to know each other more fully.

SHINING THE LIGHT

We shine our light on two people this month. First is, Cheryl Johnson’s many creative talents in the kitchen with scrumptious cakes and other edibles, she also lends her giftedness to video production as well as dabbling in fine arts with brush and edible paints. Cheryl hails from Chicaco, Il and came to Ukiah via York, Pa..



Our light goes to another gifted person of Grace.



In addition to teaching high school students the finer points of higher math, **Gwen Raasmusson** also does beautiful stitchery and quilting. Gwen is a native Californian and hails from Petaluma where her parents had a Christmas Tree farming business. She graduated Dana college in Iowa. Gwen is also responsible for designing and stitching the incredible skirt that covers the base of Grace’s Sanctuary Christmas tree.

-----On Hospitality

The biblical understanding of hospitality goes back to the Old Testament where we find Abraham entertaining three strangers with the best that he has to offer. Then to Lot when he opened the door to 'angels unaware' to protect them from harm.

It's about relationship building and allowing new people into our lives that changes us to be more Christ-like in our behaviors. It's about making the guest feel special and giving up our seat at the table to those guests who



might be marginalized by society's standards.

Practicing Christian hospitality benefits others and not ourselves as we have an opportunity to touch others' lives in a more intimate personal way.

Your Church Council at work in Feb



Elected to the exec board this year is:

President- Steve Prax

Vice President- Carol Mordhorst

Secretary- Holly Conormon

Executive session held

Treasurer- willing to answer any questions for new council persons

Soup Supper offerings to go to Plowshares

Easter Brunch offerings to VBS

Call Team – skype interview scheduled

AV System- possible not meeting current needs and will request additional info from Admin Ass't, Lilly

Christian Ed—Sunday School teacher needed for Mar, Apr, & May

Council to look at committee set up's next month

Turn your mourning into one of Joy

Hospice of Ukiah is offering a free weekly Grief Support Group beginning Tuesday, April 5th from 2 to 3:30 pm

For anyone suffering the loss of a loved one, this is a safe, confidential place to learn about the course of grief and to share feelings and insights with others.

For more information or to register, please call (707) 391-1817. Hospice of Ukiah is a non-profit, volunteer Hospice that has served the Ukiah area for over 30 years. Led by Dick Lumaghi, chaplain for Hospice

Valentine Day's Fellowship Dinner



Lovely décor provided by Holly Conormon



There's always room at the table.



A few of our honored Guests Don Rone at age 99 and his bride of 4 years and father-in-law to Gwen Rone and her hubby Don JR. Delightful dinner companions all. Over 15 non-members attended. Great turnout.

Thanks to the several men who did clean up duties. It is appreciated!!! Thanks also to Bill Rus for his life-saving measures on behalf of another guest.

Reaching Out into the Community to give a hand up to those who are homeless, needing counseling services, mentoring, healthy food for breakfast, a safe place to escape increment weather, and more.

NOR-CAL Christian Ministries, a new local non-profit organization is different than the current not for profit organizations around town in that it is Christ centered.

According to Tony Huerta, the executive director, NOR-CAL is love in action with its mission reflecting this. TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF THE POOR AND HOMELESS THRU GOD'S LOVE.

To be a part of this exciting new ministry give Pat Boesel a call and get connected.

We are asking for lots of prayer cover for this newly forming outreach of many Christian Congregations, in the Ukiah Valley, as well as your talents.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



We wish a great birthday smile and blessings to Eula Kahle on her 92nd year Daughter, Ann Horton reports that she will celebrate with her family at a dinner at Ann & Robert 's home.

Eula manages to keep busy at Brookside with bible study and new friends, although she does miss her Grace famiyy and would welcome visitors from GLC.



The above is a facebook posting by Sierra's aunt--- she has been found in Oklahoma and has been detained. Prayer answered! Sierra has arrived safely at Meryl and Janet's home on 2/19. Keep prayers coming for this young lady.

**We are an ordinary people Celebrating an
Extraordinary God**

Growing in Faith

Serving in Love

Proclaiming God's Grace