

heartland connection

April, 2011



Volume 17, Issue 4



Dear Friends,

From George

April brings with it many things including the start of spring. It is abundantly obvious to us with trees budding, birds returning, flowers breaking out of the ground, gardens starting, snow melting and spring break that winter is finally over and spring is here. It feels good to come out of our dormant stage where we have closed ourselves in our homes and get back outside in the sun. Spring is the season of new life and new life is best seen in the resurrection of Jesus. This month we celebrate the main event in the life of every Christian -- Easter.

In 1 Cor. 15, the apostle Paul reminds us of what the gospel is all about and how the resurrection is an essential element of what we must believe.

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures....for if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."(vss. 3-4, 16-19)

Did you notice that Paul says this is of first importance? In other words, this is THE essential issue for us as Christians. Christ died—He was the perfect sacrifice that took our sins upon Himself. Christ was buried—He experienced the way of all people and took God’s punishment for sin. Christ was raised—He defeated the final power of death and now gives us life! If any one of those elements was missing, our salvation would be incomplete, or as Paul says, *“your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.... we are of all men most to be pitied.”*

Michael Green in his book, *The Day Death Died*, reminds us of the importance of the resurrection to us in our walks with Christ.

"Consider the issues that hang on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If it is true, then we can be sure that God exists. And He is at once seen to be who Jesus proclaimed Him to be: one who not only made us but loves us, and cares for us so much that He came to be one of us.

If it is true, then there is life after death. Jesus, who told us that in His Father's house were many resting places can be believed. He came back from death and demonstrated the truth of what he had taught.

If it is true, then Jesus Christ really is the Way, the Truth, the Life. No other religion has been able to make, let alone substantiate, a claim that its founder rose from the dead and is alive today. Jesus has every right to be considered the bridge between God and man -- if He rose from the dead.

If it is true, then there is a future for mankind. His resurrection is a first installment of the better world we all want but seem incapable of producing. If Jesus Christ is not alive, I see no hope for the human race.

If it is true, it puts suffering and death in a new light. It tells us that this life with all its pain and anguish is not the end. On the contrary, this life is a training school for eternity. The first Easter was the day death died."

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, which never claims to be a great Christian document, gives 20,000 words to the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, more words and space than the combined lives of the following people: Aristotle, Cicero, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, and Napoleon Bonaparte. Why would they give so much space? It is because there is the uniqueness about Jesus of Nazareth. He was raised from the dead.

The evil one is always placing doubt about the implications of Christianity. “Is it true?”

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Lew Wallace was born in the 1800s. He was a successful lawyer. He was a great leader in military matters. He was a politician. In the 1800s he was the governor of the territory of New Mexico. When he was through with that assignment, he represented the United States as our ambassador to the nation of Turkey. He was influenced by a man named Ingersoll who was an atheist. Lew was encouraged to help do away with the myths of Christianity. And he put his finger on the issue, and the issue was the resurrection, and he sought to study to destroy the resurrection. The more he studied, the more he became convinced that there was no other explanation. He became a believer. He took that material and he wrote a book in the 1880s; the book is called *Ben Hur*, subtitle: *The Story of Christ*.

Another great book is *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* written by Josh McDowell. He was an atheist in his college days. In trying to disprove the resurrection he too was convinced of its truth and became a believer.

Frank Morrison also set out to disprove the resurrection and ended up writing a book called *Who Moved the Stone*. He too became a believer in Jesus Christ.

What is the great proof? Ingersoll, the great enemy of God, had it right: the issue is the resurrection. That's why, under tremendous persecution for centuries, when the Christians met each other they said, "He is risen." It is true! Everything is true! And they got the answer back, "He is risen indeed."

There is not the space or time to go into an in depth discussion of all the proofs of the resurrection. It is an indisputable fact of history. Thomas Arnold, former professor of History at Oxford University once said, *"I have been used for many years to study the history of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them; and I know of no fact in the history of mankind which is better proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign that God has given us, that Christ died and rose again from the dead."*

We serve an awesome God who loved us and died for us and rose from the dead for us. But now the challenge will be whether we will continue to live in the power of the resurrection for the rest of the year. What difference will Easter make in your life this month and this year and the rest of your life? Will His triumphant power change you and your attitudes and your actions or will you continue to live in the same old way? Will you be transformed or continue to conform to this world? Will you live with hope? Jesus has broken every chain that binds us--sin, death, discouragement, habits, attitudes. Let's tap into that power through the Holy Spirit and ask God to make us Easter people all year.

Go through this month, and the rest of our lives, strong in the Lord and His word, diligent and aware of our enemy and his plan to destroy, and run in such a way that we will be pleasing to the Lord and rely upon the resurrection power of Christ Jesus.

I pray that this Easter will be one that the truth and reality of the resurrection will overwhelm you in its importance. God exists. There is life after death. Jesus Christ is the only way to God. There is a future and a hope for us. Suffering and death are not the end.

He is Risen!! Alleluia!!



George

**WORK DAY - Morningstar Ranch, Florence, Ks
Saturday, April 30th**

Be sure to sign up to help as we prepare the grounds and do some building finishing to prepare the camp for summer ministries that will be scheduled there.



**Ladies of Heartland,
Spring is in the air!**

Let's welcome the change of seasons by marking our calendars for Tuesday, April 12, from 7-9 PM for a fellowship event in the gathering area at Heartland Community Church. We have the opportunity to cultivate a green thumb, our gardens, and friendship as we hear from a representative from our local Johnson's Garden Center! There are no provisions for child care, and we hope to see all of you there. Please contact Pam Bruce or Daphne Phillips with any questions.

PRAY ME FULL!

(From Pastor Rick)

PRAY ME FULL!

and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (Eph 6:19-20 NAU)

Having just driven home the point that the experience of a believer on this earth is dangerous; one of daily hand to hand combat (wrestling) with a vast array of demonic subordinates, not to mention with Satan himself and the need to stand one's ground in the Lord against such opposition, Paul, asks the Ephesians to pray for him as well. Not to pray for him simply in general, but specifically...

...that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel... (Eph 6:19 NAU)

Why did Paul make such a requests? John MacArthur, Jr., in his commentary on this passage makes the point that

Compared to most believers Paul was gifted, courageous, morally upright, and spiritually strong beyond measure. Yet he greatly needed God's help and the help of fellow Christians (p. 384).

As gifted, courageous & morally upright as Paul was he knew that these things were not of his own doing, but that they were from God. Paul was intimately aware of his own weaknesses as well of the spiritual warfare in his own life. He knew that he was in the midst of a battle and needed the prayers of the saints that he *might be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might* (Eph 6:10). If it were true that a man like Paul, an Apostle of God, was in need of prayer is it any less true of the minister who preaches the Word today? MacArthur reminds us of the importance to pray for our pastors with these words,

Our enemy knows that when he strikes the shepherd, the sheep will scatter (Matt. 26:31), and church leaders—even as the Lord Himself—are Satan's special targets. The more faithful and fruitful a pastor is, the more his people need to pray for his strength and protection. He is more subject to the devil's schemes to make him discouraged or self-satisfied, hopeless or superficially optimistic,

cowardly or overconfident. Satan uses every situation—favorable or unfavorable, successful or unsuccessful—to try to weaken, distract, and discredit God's gifted men in their work of *equipping of the saints for the work of service* (Eph 4:12) (p. 384).

Satan's attacks are well thought out & precisely executed; seeking to find the chink in the minister's armor.

While one could & should pray for his minister(s) in many different ways, it is important to begin by praying Ephesians 6:19 & 20 for your pastor. Pray that the pastor's office will once again be known as the pastor's study; where the man of God spends the bulk of his time in the study of God's Word & prayer rather than answering e-mails, preparing for committee meetings, and answering phone calls. Pray that your minister would make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel in such a way that the souls of those in the congregation would be cut to the quick. Pray that your minister would enter the pulpit with fear and trembling; knowing that he has been called to be God's mouthpiece, faithfully & accurately proclaiming God's Word.

J.W. Alexander in his classic *Thought on Family Worship* paints this picture:

The primary advantage of family-prayer to the church, is that it is answered. It is no small thing for any congregation to have daily cries for God's blessings on it ascending from a hundred firesides. What a spring of refreshment to a pastor! ... We have all heard of the preacher who told his flock that he had "lost his prayer-book," meaning their prayers; as also that good quaint saying of the last age, "**A praying people makes a preaching minister.**" Such aid has been well compared to that of Aaron and Hur. Faithful and affectionate Christians never fail to remember their spiritual guide in their household supplications (pp. 148-149).

There is a saying among Dutch Reformed ministers to their congregants: "**Pray me full, and I'll preach you full.**" What a true saying which illustrates how much pastors need and depend upon the prayers of God's people.

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As a minister of the Gospel I cannot emphasize how much it is true that your pastor(s) need your prayers; especially for the boldness to preach the Gospel! There is probably no area of a minister's life where Satan seeks to attack more than his preparation to preach God's Word. While preaching is not currently my primary responsibility I served as a Senior Pastor of a church for over seven years. I cannot overemphasize how important it is to pray for your pastor in the task of preaching the Word!

So where should we start in this endeavor of praying for the pastor? I know that many of you take the time to read the Friday Church e-mail so that you can read over the Sermon passage for Sunday morning. Let me suggest that after you read the text that you take the time to pray intently for Pastor George as he prepares to bring us God's Word. Pray that God would prepare the hearts of the congregation to receive the Word. Secondly, begin to pray for Pastor George throughout the week that he will get the study time he needs to faithfully preach the Word. Pray that God would guard him from the distractions that often arise in the life of a pastor to draw him away from study & prayer. Finally, take the time to pray for Pastor George in your family worship as well. In doing so, you will not only be supporting Pastor George as he prepares to deliver God's Word, but also training the next generation of Christians to establish habits that are pleasing to the Lord & useful to strengthen His Church. I recommend these things to you not because Pastor George is a particularly needy pastor or is inept in his preaching. Rather I ask because all ministers of the Word; even the Apostle Paul admonished his congregation:

...pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (Eph 6:19-20 NAU)

In other words, **"Pray me full, and I'll preach you full."**
In Christ,

Graduation Sunday!

Sunday, May 15th is Graduation Day at Heartland. We would like to celebrate all our high school and college graduates at this time and present a gift. If you have someone in your family who is graduating, please email their name, school and major (university students) to heartlandoffice@att.net.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY:

Interested in participating in a short-term missions opportunity? Heartland is organizing a group to go to Phoenix, AZ this summer! We will be joining with New City Phoenix in their efforts to minister to the local community. No skills required, just a willing heart! For more information visit the sign-up table in the gathering area after church OR contact

James Compton
(jcomp14@gmail.com or 305-0839)
Dan De Jong
(dan.dejong84@gmail.com or 640-3262)

Heartland Community Church

Prayer Requests -
prayer@heartlandPCA.org

Pictures of Students -
heartlandworship@gmail.com

Church Directory Updates -
heartlandoffice@att.net

Articles & Announcements -
heartlandoffice@att.net
(includes monthly newsletter,
weekly Heartland Enews
and Sunday Bulletin Announcements)



In April, the Choir will rehearse on the first and second Sundays of the month, April 3 and 10. If you wish to participate in Easter music, please make both of these rehearsals a priority. We will also rehearse on Wednesday, April 6, from 6:30 to 7:15. This is an optional rehearsal, so please let Cheryl know if you will be able to attend. If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Cheryl Hetherington(chetherington1@hotmail.com)
or Amy Shelden (gershwingirl127@gmail.com).

"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre." (Psalm 92:1-3)

A Word from **W.I.†**. by Mary KayLarson

As we watch for the changes that signal the coming of Spring, we are also experiencing changes in W.I.T. We say farewell to some and welcome to others. I want to give a heartfelt "thank you" to both Nyccole Swigart and Katie Waalkes for their past labors in developing and organizing our program. I am stepping up to be the Coordinator. If you have questions or concerns, you can contact me at mklarson51@gmail.com or 267-8641 (home). I also am grateful to Sherry Haslam for the work she has done to recruit additional people for this coming year. We believe W.I.T. is a vital ministry to young families in accordance with our vow to assist them in the training of their children in the instruction and admonition of the Lord. But don't take my words alone, read Sherry's "testimony."

Letter from a Grateful Parent

"I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Worshippers in Training coordinators and volunteers. Thank you! Our son, Ephraim, has just graduated from the WIT program. When Ephraim began WIT at 3 years old, our twin boys were 6 months old, and we were struggling to train both Ephraim and our 5 year-old-daughter to worship from outside the sanctuary. You, the body of Heartland, were the hands and feet of Christ to us through this difficult time. The body of Christ has come around us, and so many other young families, to encourage and support us in our responsibilities to train our children in worshipping our Lord. And we feel loved.

In WIT, Ephraim was taught the ACTS prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication), which reinforced what we were teaching at home. One of the most precious gifts came in the form of him learning the words to several hymns that we sing in corporate worship. We can now hear Ephraim singing some of them during his play times. This has given him a way he can actively participate in singing with the body, even though he can't read yet.

He was given instruction about what things to listen for during sermons and Bible reading times, such as "Who was there?" "What happened?" and "What is God teaching us?" The kids are guided through answering these questions after a Bible reading time designed to train them to listen- to the glory of God. We are still working on this! Through the WIT time, the focus is on encouraging heart-directed worship that gives glory and praise to our Heavenly Father. The kids see the volunteers' excitement and the love for the Lord in a personal way, and it is contagious. How precious it is when they come away with some new truth about the person of God, and that we are able to be a part of that.

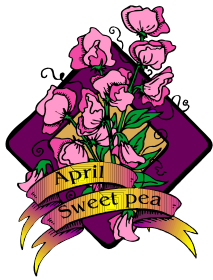
I have had the benefit of being both a parent and a volunteer. I have to say how amazing it is to have the opportunity to be the instruments in the hands of God to train His children in the praise of His glorious name that will be for eternity! We know that "out of the mouth of infants and nursing babes" He has prepared praise for Himself (Matthew 21:16b).

Though we do not have family support in town, Heartland is our family . . . you are our brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers (Mark 3:32-35). These relationships will stand the test of time, as we will be worshipping our God together throughout eternity! I love that my children are forming these mentoring relationships with our Heartland family. I can assure you that there are other families in our body who are benefiting from this ministry as well. Our children will enter worship with a better understanding of the true meaning of worship, having had a worship experience where they have been encouraged to constantly fix their gaze upon Christ. ". . . to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:21).

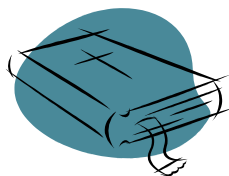
CHANGE IN DATE! THEOLOGY NIGHT - The men of Heartland (ages 17 & up) are invited to join us for Theology Night, our monthly discussion of Reformed theology, on Friday, April 29th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Frank's Home. (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE - DUE TO MEN'S RETREAT). This month we will be addressing the question: **What does it mean for the home to be a "little Church" and how important are times of family worship?** If you have questions or would like more details please contact Ben Franks at:



ben@franksfamily.net



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Heartland Reformed Book Club 7:00 pm	2 Free Swap 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am
3 <i>Lord's Day</i> <i>Communion and Mercy Offering</i>	4 <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	5	6 (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am Youth Grp 7:00 p.m. II Peter Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	7 Session 6:30pm	8 <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i> Men's Retreat - MorningStar Ranch	9 Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am Men's Retreat - MorningStar Ranch
10 <i>Lord's Day</i> Choir Rehearsal	11 <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	12 Deacon Mtg 6:30 pm Women's Event 7:00 pm	13 (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am Youth Group 7:00 p.m. II Peter Bible Study	14	15 <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i> Heartland Reformed Book Club 7:00 pm	16 Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am
17 <i>Lord's Day</i> Homeless Outreach Ministry 7:00 am POT PROVIDENCE	18 <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	19 Finance Mtg 7:00 am	20 (2) Women's Bible Studies: 9-11 am Youth Group 7:00 p.m. II Peter Bible Study	21 Session 6:30pm	22 <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i> Good Friday (office closed) MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am
24 <i>Lord's Day</i> EASTER	25 <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	26  7pm - 10:00pm Evening Prayer	27	28	29 Theology Night 7:00 p.m.	30 MorningStar Short Term Missions Men's Basketball Open Gym 8:00 am



Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

NURSERY SCHEDULE



Sunday School 9:00-10:35

Worship 10:35-12:??

Apr 3	Rachel & Kaitlyn Bouma/ Erin Sundquist	Brinkman/Rachel & Stephanie Shelden
Apr 10	Ryan & Erin Frost/ John & Rolaine Hetherington	Deb, Daniel & Timothy Johnson/ Anne Wegener
Apr 17	Phoebe Vigilius/Kay Coon/ Kathy & Will Morris	Mark & Sherri Kahrs/Carrigans/ Stephen Paine
Apr 24	Whitman/Lauren Pohlenz	Leanne & Ellen Kurtzweil/Abigail Fetzik/Beth Franks/Lois Johnson
May 1	Phillips/Ralph Drayer/ Arryn Parker	Willis Family/Lisa Paine

Worshippers In Training Schedule

Date	Music	Trainer	Helpers
4/3/11	Erin Frost	Nelson	Sarah Waalkes Colleen Gertz
4/10/11	Shelden	Shelden	Lois Johnson John Hetherington
4/17/11	Emily Langness	Larson	Phoebe Vigilius Seth Larson
4/24/11	Hetherington	N Franks	Arryn Parker Daniel Johnson
5/01/11	Erin Frost	Crist	Anna Hetherington Kay Coon

Date	Prayer of Confession	Prayer of Thanks/Supplication
4/03/11	Chase Tinius	Rocky Trammell
4/10/11	Morton Vigilius	LaVerne Waalkes
4/17/11	Jeff Waalkes	Brad Welles
4/24/11	Mark Waalkes	Bryan Yourdon

GREETERS

April: Brian & Julie Jansen & Family

Please arrive at 10:15 a.m.

April Birthdays

- 1: Ralph Drayer
- 2: Courtney Holloway
Olivia Hull
Lori Triba
- 4: Emily Langness
- 6: Tell Parris
Kurt Scharping
- 7: Finneas Waalkes
Abigayle Wegener
- 8: Terri Dugger
Stephen Fetzik
Karis Gensch
Keith Kuhlman
RC Swigart
Jason Wegener
- 9: Kelly Huenergardt
Mike Snowbarger
- 10: Abby Hannaford
- 11: Cooper Hanning
Phoenix Holloway
- 12: Samantha Holloway
Stephen Parris
- 13: Grant Strain
- 14: Faith Lind
- 15: Leigh Clark
Audrey Crist
David Dirks
Andrew Dirks
Harrison Klaassen
Barry Malcom
- 16: Dayne Ervin
Luke Humphries
Zeke Neblett
Kya Yourdon
- 17: Anne Wegener
- 18: Bruce Brinkman
Eli Carrigan
- 19: Justin Albert
Phila Glass
Ethan Luper
Meredith Mork
- 21: Sabra Parris
- 22: Beverly Alexander
Jama Challans
- 23: Henry Castro-Miller
- 25: Anthony Haslam
Dylan Haslam
Samuel Snowbarger
William Zimmerman
- 27: Nathan Franks
Andrew Franks
- 28: Noelle Klaassen
- 29: Mary Kahrs
Nicholas McCabe
Tom VonStroh
- 30: Brian Gensch
Brad Welles