

John's Corner

Nowhere for me does time exhibit its fleetingness more, than when I realize we are circling back towards another Easter. And in this realization, I find a subconscious tendency to want to bypass Christ's last weeks as he heads toward his passion and death. Most likely the reason is because the subject is difficult, if not down right impossible to understand for even his closest disciples. His repeated conversations with them about his impending death leave only confused or blank looks. I'm sure, we too, find the subject moribund or depressing given Easter's triumphantly festive appeal. I mean, it's the Resurrection that makes it possible for us to be Christians in the first place, right?

Well, as I said in my last sermon, the real difficulty for Christ was shutting out the temptation of gaining the crown without the cross. This crown required a king of unparalleled moral character in the usual physical trappings of human fallibility. Yet in every moment of his life, Jesus was exactly that. Jesus had to do what we couldn't do to satisfy God. He had to conquer temptation when weak and hungry. He had to show love, healing, and mercy in instances where we would have thrown up our hands in disgust or fatigue. He had to continue teaching with joy and passion about God's coming kingdom, even in the face of knowing that a horrible end awaited the completion of his ministry. He had to pray constantly to God, because he really did know that there was no one else upon whom he could depend. He had to say "I am he" when the temple police and chief priests arrived looking for Jesus of Nazareth, when, without any real effort, he could have just as easily slipped away. He had to endure unspeakable physical torture so that our sin—*our* sin—could at last be paid for through *his* sacrifice. He had to because he knew we couldn't. He did the impossible so that we might be what is impossible through our own efforts: justified righteous before a holy God. He did it out of his love for us. He purposely went to his death so that we may live.

Amazingly, even in our sin, God chose us to be the recipients of the rewards from Christ's sacrifice. Does this make the monumental nature of grace clearer?

However, our difficulty with Christ's sacrifice and his servanthood is in the way these actions put his personal life second to God's purpose. When Christ calls us to follow him, our reaction can be to jerk the reins (or "reign"). Our sinful nature wants us in control of our lives. We want to be king or queen of our existence. Thus, we either intentionally, or unintentionally, fight Christ's sovereign claim over our lives. That is why during Lent we seek to recommit to our baptismal vows. We plead the Holy Spirit's help to die to our old selves in order to become one with Christ. So as the rest of these forty days count down toward Easter, pray for the strength to carry the cross God gives us to receive the crown. Daily, strive to make repentance an action we follow through on, not just talk about. And sacrifice part of your selfish interests in order that other people may more fully live. Learn that surrendering to His will is not only God's purpose for our lives, but always in our best interests and the glory of the kingdom's.

Grace and peace, John

Gamma Delta

Wed., Mar. 21, 12:30 PM, hosted by Rev. John and Catharine Cory.

Faith Community Nurse Note

March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month. It's been a very good year for the brain—that three-pound wrinkled lump of gray matter that directs our movements, thoughts and memories, our loves, hopes and dreams. And now we know it has far more to do with our overall health than we ever imagined. Science is also revealing the surprising power of the mind, when used correctly, to heal the body.

60 full-time researchers tested 250,000 preserved slices of mouse brain, which resembles the human one enough that most discoveries would also hold true for us. The result is a 3-D virtual mouse brain atlas that does for neuroscientists what a survey map pinpointing gold deposits does for miners: It lets them hightail it to where the action is and start digging. Scientists are already striking gold thanks to the Translational Genomics Research Institute in Phoenix.

New experimental drugs are designed to get to the root of the problem in Alzheimer's disease.

Therapies deliver healthy genes to parts of the body where faulty ones are wreaking havoc. In a larger trial, someday an advanced Parkinson's patient could have brain surgery, get a gene implanted in precisely the right spot, and go home a couple of days later. The hope is to bring this type of therapy to a much larger audience of patients in need. One hybrid drug reduced brain damage by two-thirds in rats when given two hours after a simulated stroke. There are plans for a human safety trial on the new stroke drug in late 2007.

Meditation might help, too. Calming the mind and body might even slow the spread of some cancers. Studies such as these have given credibility to mind-body approaches, which had been rejected and ignored by the scientific and medical communities. Now scientists and doctors have begun taking the next step, harnessing the immense powers of the human brain to help people heal themselves. Participants reduce chronic pain by just visualizing it per MRI and learn to control it.

And years from now, we may head to a real-time brain-imaging center the way we go to the fitness center today and buff up parts of our brain that improve performance, memory, and even intelligence. Now that would be a real no-brainer.

Condensed from Reader's Digest, "Brain Powered"

"I know the plan I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Presbyterian Women

Palm Sunday Bake Sale: Apr. 1

Our annual bake sale will take place after church in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by Presbyterian Women. All ladies, please bake and bring items to sell for this worthy cause.

Mother/Daughter Tea: May 6, 3 PM

The program will be *Faith and Flowers*, the story of Christian faith told in flower arrangements by Margie Barrett of Columbus.

PW Monthly Meeting

Tues., Mar. 13, 12 noon, lunch and Bible study.



One great hour of sharing

Palm Sunday, Apr. 1

There will be offering envelopes
in the pews for giving.

Heritage Room Highlights

Carl White passed away on Feb. 8, 2007. He will be sorely missed for his kindness, intelligence, and sense of humor, as well as his knowledge of church history. I (Jennifer) continue his work and write this column in his memory.

Church History Quiz

1. In what year was the centennial celebration?
2. What year was the cornerstone laid?
3. What year was the cornerstone opened?
4. Who was the only person that was living when the cornerstone was both laid and opened?
5. How many pastors have we had since 1990?
6. What year did we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the church?
7. Name one special activity we had during the 175th anniversary.
8. Which pastor was here for the longest time?
9. How many years was that pastor in question here as pastor?
10. For how much were the first Presbyterian dolls in the 1880s sold?

Answers are below.—*Jennifer Arnold, Heritage Room*

1. 1933 2. 1906 3. 1999 4. Juilliard Building 5. Six 6. 2003
7. Musical play, concerts, doll celebration tour to Pennsylvania
8. John Sherard 9. 11 years 10. One dollar

Deacons

A big thank-you to all for making, baking, and working Carl White's funeral luncheon. God bless you, each and every one.

—*Hugs, Dorothy W.*

Worship Assistants, March

Liturgists

4	Al Fulton	18	Deb Hablitzel
11	Tami Robinson	25	Nancy McMurray

Duty Elder: Carol Griffith

Deacon of the Month: Julie Guss

The Presbyterian

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Worship Services:

Sunday School and Bible Class: 9 AM

Worship: 10:30 AM

The Lord's Supper: First Sunday of the month

Our church is **heated**, we're **wheelchair-accessible**, and we provide aids for the **hearing-impaired** and **large-print** bulletins.

Submissions for next month's *The Presbyterian* are due the **23rd** of this month.

Birthdays and Anniversaries, March

Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Adam Barth, Randy Wynn |
| 4 | Jean Cole, Kory Kirkland (1995) |
| 9 | Rick Bauer, Jennifer Fowler,
Mary Jo Allan Neff, Marina Reel |
| 13 | Henry Cole (1997) |
| 15 | Erin and Kelly McMurray, Julius "Sam" Sabback |
| 16 | Barb Dolch |
| 17 | Kenneth Thomson |
| 18 | Chuck Collene |
| 21 | Sabrina Kohls (1993) |
| 22 | Charlie Bennett |
| 23 | Becky Barr, Al Williams |
| 24 | Jean Black, Sandy Britton,
Jim Hahn, Wanda Sharrock |
| 25 | Cindy Inscho |
| 27 | Sarah Motter, Sam Thomas |
| 29 | Chase Eyster |
| 31 | Alicia Basinger |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Brad and Angela Seibert |
| 25 | Wayne and Julie Pelter |
| 31 | Dave and Debbie Hablitzel,
Greg and Sharon Northrop |

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