



First Edition

April 2014



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

The Wonderful Cross

By Pastor Marc Heinz

In a few weeks you will have the opportunity to celebrate Holy week and Resurrection Sunday. This should be a very special time, as we, the people of God, gather together and reflect both individually and corporately on what Christ' atoning work on the cross means for each of us. It is a time in which we should pause and reflect not only on God's incredible sacrifice, but also on the fact that Jesus Christ was beaten, brutally killed, buried and on the third day He rose from the dead, in order that you and I might be reconciled to God and find life eternal.

I do not believe that there is any act of greater significance than the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! Bishop Stephen Neill writes: "In the Christian theology of history, the death of Christ is the central point of history; here all the roads of the past converge; hence all the roads of the future diverge."

Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of all the Messianic hopes of the Old Testament. He fulfilled prophecy after prophecy about the One who would come in the name of the Lord and deliver His people. He was the promised "prophet like Moses." He was the Son of David's line. He was the "Son of Man" whom the prophet Daniel predicted. He was the Suffering Servant the prophet Isaiah had written so much about. Every prophecy throughout history converged into a single tapestry and that tapestry was Jesus Christ. He was the fulfillment of all the prophetic, priestly and kingly expectations of the Old Testament. Jesus' earthly life was far and away the best and greatest life that the world has ever witnessed. Yet, it was necessary for Him to die. Why?

Scripture describes all human beings as needing to atone for their sins

but lacking the power and resources to do so. We all have sinned and offended God, whose very nature is to hate sin and punish it. It is against this background of human hopelessness, that God's Word sets forth the love, grace, mercy, kindness and compassion of Almighty God, who provided in Himself all that was necessary to appease His righteous wrath and to reconcile sinners to Himself. This amazing grace and love is the focal point of the New Testament from Matthew to Revelation.

Simply put, the purpose of Jesus' death was to rescue us. Salvation is a rescue operation, undertaken for people whose plight is so desperate that they cannot save themselves. When you come to understand that Jesus cared enough for you to die in your place, it should change everything, every single aspect of your life!

Christ's substituting of Himself for me means that I can look at my sin in all its filth and say, Thank God! He has dealt with it. I couldn't. He did it for my good. He did it in my place. I can neither contribute to it nor ever deserve such mercy. Because He died, I can truly live. Christ's substitutionary death, stripped of all its legal imagery, makes one central point that lies at the heart of the atonement. He did for us on the Cross, all that was necessary to put us in a right relationship with God. And that is something we could never, ever have done apart from Him.

Not only that, God's love is unprecedented! It was extended to those who opposed Him, who wanted nothing to do with Him, who hated Him and even those who killed Him. That is what makes the cross so wonderfully special. It shows us that we are not alienated from God.

He is not against us, or waiting to do us in. Rather, He loves us so very much that He gave Himself that we might live. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that we might have life, and be made brand new.

During Holy week, as you celebrate all that God has done for you through His Son, may you do so with the understanding that nothing can ever separate you from the One who loves you so very much! I encourage you to make time to reflect on God's great love and on His unparalleled sacrifice given for you. Worship Him and give thanks, not only for the wonderful cross, but also more importantly for sending His Son Jesus to pay for your sins!

Allow the words of the great hymn writer, Isaac Watts, to pierce your heart and mind and soul.

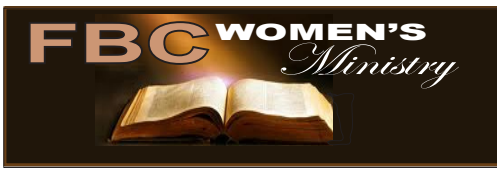
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.



Women's Ministry Retreat

By Sandy Murray

On Friday, March 14th, 27 women from FBC traveled to the redwoods near Pescadero to participate in the first Women's Winter Retreat, "Listening to God". God blessed us with warm temperatures, blue skies and the beauty of the redwood forest. After the first session in the evening we went outside to the camp's fire pit. Our experienced campers, Nikki and Alba, had built a fire for us. A full moon could be seen through the surrounding trees. We wasted no time in making s'mores. It seems that everyone has individual ideas on how "done" their marshmallows should be to make a proper s'more.

Eventually we got around to sharing by answering some fun and spiritual questions that Alba had prepared for us. For many this was a weekend highlight. On Saturday we began with worship led by Janet White. God had given her a special song for the weekend which she shared with us. We heard Tami Strang speak on "Listening to God." Her passion, biblical knowledge, and personal experience on this topic was used by God to bless all of us. Then, under the direction of Candace Heinz, we found our own spot and put what we had just learned into practice. Finally, came a time of sharing during which many tears were shed. It was a special time of not only of connecting with God, but connecting with each other.

Question #1 & Answers

What was the highlight of the weekend for you and why?

- ◆ Fellowship with the women! It is so important for me to spend time with women sharing my feelings about God and to understand from women's prospective what challenges they face.
- ◆ Seeing so many women wanting to connect with God and each other.
- ◆ Being in the midst of God's beauty while in the word and in His presence, communicating with others.
- ◆ Going to be alone to meditate on what we learned from our sessions. Communing with God in His wonderful creation of very tall redwood trees, and the wild animals. The quiet time away from civilization up in the mountains.
- ◆ Fellowship, the beauty of the surroundings, reconnecting with friends and strengthening friendships

◆ Our personal time of prayer and meditation. It was a special time of communicating and listening to my Lord.

◆ The fact that we were all together and enjoying each other's company. The help from the staff was wonderful too!

◆ The bonfire - relaxed atmosphere, beautiful testimonies, sharing humorous embarrassing moments, and the beauty of God's creation at night - the moon peaking through the beautiful redwoods.

◆ The campfire - we got to know one another. The time of meditation - time alone with God to reflect on His Word.

◆ Experiencing God in many different ways: the beauty of nature, God's word, great fellowship, singing and praying.

Question #2 & Answers

When and how did you connect with God?

- ◆ From the time of the campfire through the rest of the retreat.
- ◆ During the quiet, devotion time, and prayer.
- ◆ Throughout the time - spending time with His people - my family. Tami's sharing was very practical.
- ◆ God was present during the entire trip - through the weather, the time in the word, the "alone time", and the fellowship.... He made Himself known in everything.
- ◆ During the devotional time and the meditation time.
- ◆ During the worship and prayer after the message, and during the meditation time. The message was powerful to frame my thinking, my desire to hear God, and to have the heart of a listener like Jeremiah.

My Testimony

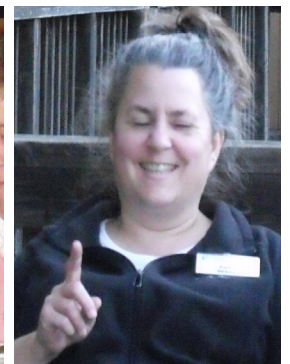
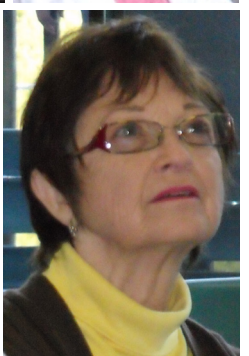
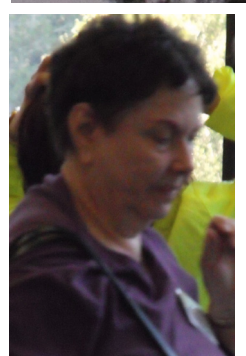
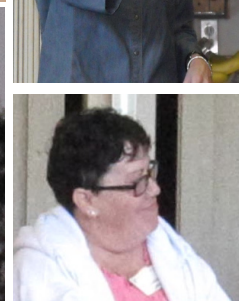
by Angie Hamill

What was the Highlight of the Women's Retreat and Why?

As many of you know, in June 2013, due to medications, I had a seizure, lost my job and life seemed to tumble down. But really knowing God, but not knowing what His plans in my life were, I fought God, kicking and screaming, wanting my

job back. What I did not realize is that if I had been working, I would not have been at retreat. I would not have been able to give my heart to my Heavenly Father.

I watched my sisters' faces as we were surrounded by all of God's beauty. I learned when standing under the redwood trees that God created, He also created me human. I was able to hear birds, and watch them land, tilt their head and grab a worm, and then fly away. As I stood there I realized that just like the birds, God is taking care of me. I finally gave my heart to Him, and my struggles. I am glad now that this happened because I felt like I was in a Disneyland of God's beauty with heartfelt sisters in Christ.





Holy Week

By Doug Andrews

Calendar of Events

Palm Sunday Worship

9:30 and 11:00 am

Communion Thursday - 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm

Resurrection Sunday

Sunrise Service - 6:30

(Location TBA),

Celebration Breakfast 8:00 am,

and

Combined Celebration Service

9:30 am.

As holy week approaches, I'm in great anticipation as to what the Lord is going to do in our hearts and lives. One way to prepare our hearts is to read the four accounts in the gospels of Jesus' last week before His death and resurrection. Included here is an incredible excerpt from JC Ryle, "The Cross" from [Day by Day Devotional](#).

"When Christ died, He died of His own voluntary free will. He uses a remarkable expression to teach this: "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from me, but I lay it down myself."

The point before us is of no ordinary importance. We must never suppose for a moment that our Lord had no power to prevent His sufferings, and that He was delivered up to His enemies and crucified because He could not help it. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The treachery of Judas, the armed band of Temple soldiers, the enmity of the scribes and Pharisees, the injustice of Pontius Pilate, the rude hands of the Roman soldiers, the scourge, the nails, and the spear, all these could not have harmed a hair of our Lord's head, unless He had allowed them. Well might He say those remarkable words, "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" Matthew 26:53-54.

The plain truth is, that our Lord submitted to death of His own free will, because He knew that His death was the only way of making atonement for man's sins. His death was not the death of a martyr, who sinks at last overwhelmed by his enemies, but the death of a triumphant conqueror, who knows that even in dying He wins for Himself and us, His people, a Kingdom and a crown of glory. He poured out His soul unto death with all the desire of His heart, because He had determined to pay our debt to God, and redeem us from hell. For the joy set before Him He willingly endured the cross, and laid down His life, in order that we, through His death, might have eternal life.

What an amazing and incredible truth. We see this throughout the gospels and particularly found in the pivotal, yet often overlooked verse of Luke 9:15: "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." How many of us, if we knew what awaited us, would resolutely set out for the cross? But the wonderful thing is that Jesus is not like us, and yet He became one of us to take the punishment that so deservedly should have been put on us. What a God we have! What a Savior we know! What a love story is told! What grace is bestowed!

I pray that as we experience this year's holy week events, we would fall even more in love with our God and Savior, and commit ourselves more totally to living for Him, carrying our own cross daily, and seeking first His Kingdom that He died to purchase and establish for Himself and His glory.

Holy Week

Calendar of Events April 13 - 20



Palm Sunday Worship
9:30 and 11:00 am

Communion Thursday
7:00 am



Good Friday Service
7:00 am



Sunrise Service
6:30 am (Location TBA)

Celebration Breakfast
8:00 am



Combined Celebration
Service
9:30 am



By Alba Kellejian

We have some fun and meaningful activities planned for our children during Holy Week. Please join us as we journey through Holy Week together and discover God's amazing love for us.

Palm Sunday

Sunday school classes will meet at their regularly scheduled time and locations.

Maundy Thursday

Children's program 7 pm in room 301.

Good Friday

Children's program 7pm in room 301

Resurrection Sunday

Sunrise service

at 6:30 am (location TBD)

Celebration Breakfast

in Fellowship Hall – 8:30am-9: 45am

Children's Sunday School Classes

will meet during the 9:30 combined service.

Nursery care will be provided for children less than 36 months during all of the services.

Excerpt from The Gospel

Commission

By Michael Horton

Submitted by Doris Waddell

“The elaborate ceremonies and sacrifices that God delivered through Moses provided a temporary “covering over” of transgressions. These rites directed Israel’s faith to the true Lamb of God. Yet Moses’s mediatorial ministry was partial and temporary. Neither Moses nor the priests could forgive sins or heal the straying hearts of God’s people. Moses’s ministry was great. However,

‘Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses -- as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. . . . Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (Heb. 3:3, 5-6)’

“Like Moses and the Israelites, Jesus was tested in the wilderness -- his forty days recapitulating Israel’s forty years. Instead of demanding the forbidden fruit (like Adam) or the food he craved (like the unbelieving generation in the wilderness), Jesus answered Satan’s temptation with God’s Word. All of Jesus’s replies to Satan in the temptation (Matt. 4:1-11) are taken from Moses’s speech in Deuteronomy 6:13, 16; and 8:3.

“After his faithful completion of the trial, enduring temptation and fulfilling all righteousness, Jesus bore our judgment in his own body. And then he was raised by the Father and the Spirit into the sabbath rest of everlasting glory. This is the *real* exodus, through which the Son “ransomed for God people from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9). And now, in the last scene of his earthly ministry, Jesus is about to ascend, commencing the *conquest*: this time not merely of a sliver of real estate in Palestine, through the military sword, but of the whole earth, through the sword of his Word and Spirit.”

A colorful advertisement for a sports camp. The background is dark blue with white stars. At the top, it says "First Baptist Church San Mateo" in white. Below that, a green banner contains the word "SPORTS" in large white letters, "And more" in smaller white letters, and "CaMP" in large blue letters. To the left of the banner are a green basketball and a green soccer ball. To the right are a green tennis racket and a green musical score. At the bottom, a green box contains the dates "July 7-11" in white, and below that, the website "www.fbcSANmateo.org" in white. A green megaphone is also visible at the bottom right.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

April 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship	1 9am BSF Leaders 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	2 5:30pm F.A.T. Dinner 6:30pm AWANAS 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	3 9am BSF 11:30 BSF Seminar 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	4	5 8:30 am Men's Breakfast Youth Retreat	
6 Communion	7 7pm Boy Scouts	8 9am BSF Leaders 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Ministry	9 6:30pm AWANAS 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	10 9am BSF 11:30 BSF Seminar 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Leadership Retreat 7pm Friday - 3pm Saturday </div>	12
13 12:30 Children's Ministry Lunch Palm Sunday	14 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Prayer Meeting	15 9am BSF Leaders 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	16 6:30pm AWANAS 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	17 9am BSF 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm Scouts Meeting 7pm Communion Thursday	18 7 pm Good Friday Service	19
20 Resurrection Sunday 6:30 am Sunrise Service 8 am Celebration Breakfast 9:30 Combined Service	21 7pm Boy Scouts	22 9am BSF Leaders 7pm Women's Ministry 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	23 6:30pm AWANAS 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	24 9am BSF 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	25	26
27	28 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Prayer Meeting	29 9am BSF Leaders 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	30	All Events Are Subject to Change.		

Daily Bible Readings - April

The following Bible reading schedule was compiled by Robert Murray McCheyne in 1842. Using this Bible reading schedule you will read four portions of Scripture each day (two in the morning with "family" or individually and two in the evening in "secret" or privately), and read through the Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice in a year.

Tues.	1	Lev. 4	Ps. 1,2	Prov. 19; Col. 2
Wed.	2	Lev. 5	Ps. 3,4	Prov. 20; Col. 3
Thurs.	3	Lev. 6	Ps. 5,6	Prov. 21; Col. 4
Fri.	4	Lev. 7	Ps. 7,8	Prov. 22; 1 Thess.1
Sat.	5	Lev. 8	Ps. 9	Prov. 23; 1 Thess.2
Sun.	6	Lev. 9	Ps. 10	Prov. 24; 1 Thess.3
Mon.	7	Lev. 10	Ps. 11,12	Prov. 25; Thess.4
Tues.	8	Lev. 11,12	Ps. 13,14	Prov. 26; 1 Thess.5
Wed.	9	Lev. 13	Ps. 15,16	Prov. 27 2 Thess.1
Thurs.	10	Lev. 14	Ps. 1	Prov. 28; 2 Thess.2
Fri.	11	Lev. 15	Ps. 18	Prov. 29; 2 Thess.3
Sat.	12	Lev. 16	Ps. 19	Prov. 30; 1 Tim. 1
Sun.	13	Lev. 17	Ps. 20,21	Prov. 31; 1 Tim. 2
Mon.	14	Lev. 18	Ps. 22	Eccles. 1; 1 Tim. 3
Tues.	15	Lev. 19	Ps. 23,24	Eccles. 2 1 Tim. 4
Wed.	16	Lev. 20	Ps. 25	Eccles. 3; 1 Tim. 5
Thurs.	17	Lev. 21	Ps. 26,27	Eccles. 4; 1 Tim. 6
Fri.	18	Lev. 22	Ps. 28,29	Eccles. 5; 2 Tim. 1
Sat.	19	Lev. 23	Ps. 30	Eccles. 6; 2 Tim. 2
Sun.	20	Lev. 24	Ps. 31	Eccles. 7; 2 Tim. 3
Mon.	21	Lev. 25	Ps. 32	Eccles. 8; 2 Tim. 4
Tues.	22	Lev. 26	Ps. 33	Eccles. 9; Titus 1
Wed.	23	Lev. 27	Ps. 34	Eccles. 10; Titus 2
Thurs.	24	Num. 1	Ps. 35	Eccles. 11; Titus 3
Fri.	25	Num. 2	Ps. 36	Eccles. 12; Philemon 1
Sat.	26	Num. 3	Ps. 37	Song 1; Heb. 1
Sun.	27	Num. 4	Ps. 38	Song 2; Heb. 2
Mon.	28	Num. 5	Ps. 39	Song 3; Heb. 3
Tues.	29	Num. 6	Ps. 40,41	Song 4; Heb. 4
Wed.	30	Num. 7	Ps. 42,43	Song 5; Heb. 5

Favorite Passages from God's Word



"Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar ; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."

Isaiah 56:7

And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS ' ? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN."

Mark 11:17

In the New American Standard Bible, when we see phrases or statements in the New Testament in all capital letters, it means that portion is a quote from the Old Testament.

An interesting observation -- to find the Savior quoting Isaiah to emphasize the fact that His house shall be called a house of prayer. God's intention for His house to be characterized by prayer was not new to the New Testament. God's desire for relationship with His people demanded that prayer be a part not only for His house, but a consuming part of each life in His community of believers.

Another interesting observation is that the authors of three of the gospels included this statement of Jesus (Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17 - quoted above, and Luke 19:46), illustrating again the importance of prayer in the life of the church and in the lives of believers.

Special Offerings

For the month of April, the special offering taken at the close of Communion and received all month long, will be for the Deacon Needy Fund.

"Oh, the joys of those who . . . delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on His laws and thinking about ways to follow Him more closely."
Psalm 1:1-2 Living Bible



ATTENTION: ALL MEN

April 5th (this coming Saturday) is the next Men's Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

Nominating Committee at Work

If you have recommendations, contact
Mara Prieto, Chair.

F.A.T. Dinner

First And Third Wed, Nights
April 2, 5:30 p.m.



MENU THIS WEEK

Hot Dogs
and all the fixin's
Salad
Dessert
Drinks

Cost: \$5.00 age 18 and over
\$2.00 age 12-17

Please make your reservation, or better still, make a standing reservation if you are planning to eat with us on a fairly regular basis. Use the insert from the bulletin today, or call the church office, 650-345-1965 Ex. 10 before 3pm Tuesday.

