



The Rincon Mountain MESSENGER

Fall 2014

Volume 2, Issue 4

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Family Carnival Fun

On Sunday evening, August 31st, the Rincon Mountain sanctuary was turned into a carnival atmosphere. Family and friends enjoyed a variety of enticements, including games such as bingo, cards and bean bag toss; crafts and face painting; and even a jumping castle. All ages participated in these events, though the jumping castle was reserved for the smaller folks. With refreshments provided, it was a great evening of fun for everyone.





Pastor Phil Kruis

Kruis Korner

When the Giant Doesn't Die

I am writing this in response to some comments and questions I received after I preached on David and Goliath from 1 Samuel 17.

I thought I'd fill in some points that could clearly use filling in. The main question I

want to deal with is, "What if the giant doesn't die?" In other words, if the main point of the sermon "You can't slay the giants in your life. You need the Giant slayer" is true, then what does it mean when some of the trials or pains or "giants" never go away or die?

1 Samuel 17 clearly shows us that David is not the hero of the story. The hero is the One to whom David gives all the credit: "The battle is the Lord's." Every battle we face in life—and we will always face battles—is known to God and is under his sovereign rule.

Here is how he defeats these "giants" or gives us victory in the battle. Sometimes he completely slays or removes the giant. I remember when one of the members of our church was suffering with cancer. The elders gathered around him in his home while he knelt on the floor of his living room and we anointed him with oil and prayed for him. We prayed that God would remove the cancer from his body—and he did! And the cancer has never returned.

Sometimes God "slays the giant" as he partially removes the pain or lessens the trial and provides us with the strength and insight we need to handle whatever portion remains.

This is often how victims of abuse find hope and joy in life. The painful memories and physical results of the abuse may affect them for the rest of their lives, but by God's grace, he slays the giant in such a way that those who have been abused can live full and productive lives.

Sometimes it seems as though God is absent or hasn't heard our prayers and there seems to be no change in the situation. The giant does not die. The wound is still open. The pain is intense. Be sure of this: God is at work. Be patient. Trust in him to provide the relief you need. Seek support and help within the body of Christ. Hear St. Peter's words in regards to this:

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Peter 5:10)

That is true for all of us no matter the size of our giant or the amount of relief or removal we've experienced. All who trust in Christ and his work of slaying the giants in our lives will go, in the words of C. S. Lewis, "Further up and further in." We will all gain that land where there are no more giants and the effects of the giants that plagued us on earth will be washed away.

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 3:17, 18)

Preparing the Lord's Supper

Have you ever wondered what goes into preparing the elements for Sunday morning communion? For the past year, Matt and Dana McReynolds have been responsible for assembling communion trays on the third Sunday of each month. Six trays are used for Matzos, unleavened bread, plus a tray of gluten-free rice crackers. Eight trays are used for a combination of wine and juice cups. The wine is port, and the juice is Newman's Own grape juice. Three bottles of wine are used each month and the grape juice comes in a large container that is replaced every two months. These elements are also used twice a month for the Sunday evening service. A thousand communion cups are ordered at a time. Quite an operation! Matt and Dana look forward to continuing in this important preparation for Rincon's worship service.



Matt and Dana McReynolds prepare communion every third Sunday.

In Focus: Film + Theology

Joelle Smith is leading a monthly film series at Rincon Mountain. She says that "Our creative God has created us to be creative people!" and "The films allow our church and local community to participate in a vibrant discussion on the beauty, brokenness and satisfaction found in creation."

The series has already featured *Bella* and *Midnight in Paris*. *Dear Frankie* will be shown in October and *Lars and the Real Girl* will end the series in November. Joelle says that one of the benefits of the series is that "We get to know everyone better, based on their response and thoughts about the films."

Joelle adds, "Some of the films are more whimsical, tapping into the heart of an artist, others more serious, but all telling, honest, true, and difficult stories."

The films show on the 3rd Friday of each month at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary with discussion to follow. For more information contact Joelle or the church office.



In Focus facilitator Joelle Smith with September's movie, *Midnight in Paris*.



Pastor Luke Smith

Hey Y'all! *The Beatitudes (for comfortable people)*

1. Comfortable are those who only engage with their immediate circle of friends, for getting to know new people can be awkward.
2. Comfortable are those who don't invest in the discipleship of others, for they lack the time and patience.
3. Comfortable are those who don't interact with others while waiting in line, for they can't be bothered.
4. Comfortable are those who don't invite others to church to hear the good news of Christ, for they know everyone is doing just fine like them.
5. Comfortable are those who don't tithe what the Lord asks, for they would have to sacrifice that which is precious to them.
6. Comfortable are those who engage in surface-level conversations with others, for anything deeper could get pretty messy.
7. Comfortable are those who spend little time with covenant children and youth, for they've "been there/done that."
8. Comfortable are those who seldom

welcome others into their home, for they have made that domain sacred.

9. Comfortable are those who gossip and are overly critical, for it gives them a sense of power.

10. Comfortable are those who don't know what's going on in the lives of their neighbors, for that requires intentionality.

When I read these, the first thought that came to my mind is "Oomph!"—a punch in the gut as it were—because I know many of these can be said about me at times. It is hard to pry us away from what makes us comfortable, isn't it? But it is precisely the Lord's calling on our lives to live out the gospel, to bless and be a blessing, that drives us outside of ourselves and towards the people and Kingdom endeavors to which the Lord has called us. In order to fight against the inherent tendencies such a list illustrates, we must put Christ at the center of every sphere of our lives—and we need to encourage one another towards this end! Christ must increase, and we must decrease.

A Word...or Two

Finding Rest in the Busy-ness of Life

I'm busy. My list (and I'm sure you have one too) of projects to do, things to fix, fires to put out, practices to attend, events to plan, people to call, and lessons to write grows ever longer with each passing day. And that's only the stuff I've planned for; on top of that are all the things I wasn't expecting, forgot, or didn't have time for yesterday.

Can you relate? Do you feel like you're on a never-stopping treadmill, and all you want is a chance to catch your breath? If so, you're not alone. We're so busy that we feel like we're coming apart at the seams. Children and youth bend beneath the stress of school, homework, band, sports, chores, clubs, and extracurricular activities. Parents, with their own crammed schedules, gradually become little more than chauffeurs because there's no other way they can get everything done.

Obviously something's got to change, but what? Scripture gives us a few keys about how we're to respond to the busy-ness of life:

First, rest. Why did God rest once he completed his work of creating everything (Gen 2:2-3)? After all, God doesn't get tired. The best explanation is that he did it for our benefit. God calls us to rest in him, to appreciate and enjoy his work, to declare alongside him that this world and the

relationships he has placed us in are good (Gen 1:31). This is what the Sabbath is all about; we rest from our work and find our place in God's work (Ex 20:9-11), culminating, of course, in Christ. Even now, he is calling us to stop our non-stop activity and rest in him (Matt 11:28-30).



Pastor Ben Castaneda

Second, prioritize. Do you remember the account of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)? Martha is "busy with serving." She's like most of us, consumed with a lot of really good tasks to accomplish. To her consternation, though, her sister Mary stops working and sits to listen to Jesus. But when Martha asks Jesus to make Mary work, Jesus gently responds, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

In the midst of the "many things" of daily life, only "one thing" is truly necessary. Rest in Christ and restructure your life to make that "one thing" apparent.

Join us for a community



Friday, October 31st
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

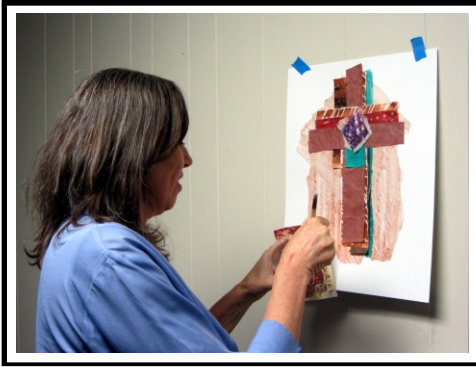
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You are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship and trick-or-treating fun! We want to host a safe and welcoming event for families to attend with their children. This event is open to the community, but is also a great opportunity for congregational fellowship. Last year, we hosted around one hundred children and had a blast. We would love to see that number grow, so invite your friends and neighbors to join us. We will be running a trunk decorating contest, so start planning now. For more information, please contact the church office or check our website.

Please child-friendly costumes only!

Fourth Friday Fun: Women Create Cross Collages

The ladies of Rincon Mountain have been enjoying a newer ministry called Fourth Fridays. Each fourth Friday of the month women gather at the church or in someone's home to learn a new skill or craft. Topics have ranged from organizing to bread-baking, with each session led by a woman in the church.



Shelley Kruis enjoys putting the finishing touches on her cross.

In September, Cindy Visser led eighteen women in creating cross collages to be displayed in the Narthex Art Gallery. Cindy had already created 40 crosses, which gave the participants inspiration for their own creations. The women, ranging in age from teenagers to senior citizens, enjoyed fellowship and conversation while exercising their God-given creativity in assembling unique cross collages.

For the months of November and December, there will not be Fourth Fridays, but instead there will be a single First Friday on December 5th. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletin inserts or contact Joelle Smith, Betsy Dunlap, or Dana McReynolds.



Each cross collage was as unique as the woman who created it.



Brenda, Nancy, Joelle, Laurie and Dale admire the fruits of their labor.

Fellowship Lunch: A Change of Pace

To celebrate the summer season, Rincon Mountain's monthly Fellowship Lunch was held at the Matte home, the first Sunday in August. Besides good conversation, those attending had the opportunity to play pool and ping pong, as well as swim. The menu featured finger foods and salads along with a wide variety of desserts.



The Jorg family enjoying great food at the Matte potluck.

With the busy lifestyles most folks have these days, the Rincon family looks forward to the monthly lunches as a comfortable way to interact with old and new friends.

Missions Update

The Pettengills, who are on furlough from Honduras, will be visiting us at Rincon on October 26th. The West Coast Mission to the World conference will be held in San Diego, January 30-31, 2015. This is the first time it will be held on the west coast. All are invited to attend. There is a poster on the Missions bulletin board with details.

The Missions committee will be collecting used eyeglasses to distribute to missionaries in support of their outreach.

Finally, the Missions committee is actively looking for new members.

Calendar WEEKLY

Mondays:

- Women’s Study, 1:30 pm. *Janie Craig*
- Men’s Study, 7 pm. *Grant Brown*

Tuesdays:

- Women’s Study, 9:30 am. *Lisa Collins*

Wednesdays:

- Staff Prayer, 3 pm. *Phil Kruis*
- Study Hall, 4 pm. *Ben Castaneda*
- Youth & Family Group, 6 pm. *Ben Castaneda*
- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm. *Luke Smith*

Fridays:

- Mountain Men Study, 6:30 am. *Phil Kruis*

1st & 3rd Sundays:

- College & Career, 6 pm. *Ben Castaneda*



OCTOBER

Sun. 5th: Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

Tues. 14th: Taco Dinner at Women’s Center. *Linda Anibal*

Fri. 17th: “In Focus” Film & Discussion, 6 pm. *Joelle Smith*

Sat. 18th: Desert Shootout, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Fri. 24th: Fourth Fridays, 6:30 pm. *Joelle Smith*

Sat. 25th: Make a Difference Day, 8 am. *Phil Kruis*

Fri. 31st: .Trunk or Treat, 6 pm. *Victoria Wates*

NOVEMBER

Sat. 1st: Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Sun. 2nd: Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

Tues. 11th: Nutrition Class. 7 pm. *Parish Nurses*

Tues. 11th: Taco Dinner at Women’s Center. *Linda Anibal*

Fri. 21st: “In Focus” Film & Discussion, 6 pm. *Joelle Smith*

Sat. 22nd: Matsiko World Orphan Choir, 6 pm. *Luke Smith*

DECEMBER

Sat. 6th: Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Fri. 5th: First Friday, 6:30 pm. *Joelle Smith*

Sun. 7th: Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

Sun. 7th: RMPC Choir Christmas Program, TBD. *Luke Smith*

Tues. 9th: Taco Dinner at Women’s Center. *Linda Anibal*

Sat. 13th: Youth & Family Caroling, 2 pm. *Ben Castaneda*

Wed. 24th: Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 & 7 pm. *Phil Kruis*

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