



The Rincon Mountain MESSENGER

Spring 2015

Volume 3, Issue 2

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Blast to the Past VBS 2015

June 22nd to 26th
 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
 Age 3 to 5th grade
 This is a free event!



This summer get ready to blast back through time and explore the lives of Moses, Rahab, David,

Peter, and most importantly Jesus. The Blast to the Past curriculum from Standard Publishing uses drama, music, crafts, games, science, and missions to help children explore the incredible, faithful, invincible, unconditional, and real love of God!

Here are some ways that you can support our VBS journey:

1. Pray for the children, volunteers, and staff that will be involved in VBS.
2. Volunteer to serve during the week of VBS – We have a job for everyone!
3. Volunteer to help prepare materials or the facility for VBS by attending one of the following:
 - VBS Prep Day – Sunday, June 7th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - VBS Set-up Day – Saturday, June 20th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
4. Donate or collect supplies.

We will have a VBS table with detailed supply needs coming in May. We will also be collecting:

 - medium to large glass jars (exm. mayonnaise or pickle jars)
 - paper grocery bags
 - gallon milk/juice jugs
 - medium to large cardboard boxes
5. Invite children that you know to attend VBS!

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Victoria Wates in the church office or at vwates@rinconpres.org.



Pastor Phil Kruis

Kruis Korner

Is it Okay to be Presbyterian Today?

The largest group of Presbyterians in the U.S. last week approved an amendment to its constitution that redefines marriage to allow same-sex unions. This large group of Presbyterians is known as the Presbyterian Church in

the United States of America (PCUSA) and is NOT the Presbyterian denomination of which Rincon Mountain Presbyterian Church is a member.

In light of changes Presbyterian groups are making in historic positions such as this, why would we still want to be known as Presbyterians? Why would we still use that name?

Defining 'Presbyterian' might be the best place to start. In its simplest form, 'Presbyterian' means 'elder ruled' or run by elders. It refers primarily to governance in the church. Every church is governed in some fashion. Presbyterian churches are governed or given oversight by elders. The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek word for elder. It is a representative form of government in which knowledge of the flock by the elders—and vice versa—is assumed. This is the primary understanding of what it means to be Presbyterian. It secondarily speaks of theological positions.

As a pastor in a Presbyterian denomination that holds to the word of God as authoritative for all of life, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), I willingly and eagerly subscribe to the governance position that our denomination holds. In

other words, I sign my name to a document saying that I believe that the Presbyterian form of government is the form best represented in the Bible. And I do so without hesitation or pain of conscience.

Why? Because it is biblical. Exodus 18 shows Jethro instructing Moses in the need for a plurality of elders in order to stave off death by overload of duties. Acts 15 describes the first church council. At this council, elders from surrounding churches came to discuss and deliberate upon the biblical answers to current issues in the churches. Paul speaks to the elders from Ephesus in Acts 20 and encourages Titus to appoint elders in the churches he establishes on Crete.

I have to admit that there are times when I don't like being Presbyterian. I do not like being associated with all Presbyterians. There are many flavors of Presbyterianism. Some can be quite rigid in their governance and views of worship. Others are too liberal when it comes to social issues and are completely wrong in their outright rejection of the authority of Scripture. If you're a part of RMPC you may need to take time to explain to others what it really means to be Presbyterian, that there are a number of Presbyterian denominations and that we are not part of the group that redefines marriage in order to perform same sex unions. Rather, we are a group of Presbyterians who believe that the Bible is the Word of God and it is our only rule for what we believe about God and ourselves and for how we live before God.

It is more than okay to be Presbyterian. It is good.

Missions Update: *Honduras 2015*

Plans for the Honduras short term missions trip this summer are firming up. Eleven people will be going. a fundraising luncheon is planned for Sunday, April 26, immediately following the morning service, and a car wash is scheduled for Saturday, May 16.



Men's Workday

Over thirty men participated in the recent workday on the Rincon campus. In addition to trimming brush and trees, the men spiffed up the inside and outside of the main building.

Audio visual services were also upgraded. While taking a work break, the men enjoyed a hearty breakfast provided by the dedicated kitchen crew. Thanks, guys, for all your efforts!



Steve Corn helped with the outdoor lights.



Paul Jonsson power-washed the walkways.



Ron Williams trimmed bushes.



Pastor Luke Smith

Hey Y'all! Don't Believe the Lies

Satan is cunning, taking the truth of God's Word and twisting it. He whispered lies into the ears of Adam and Eve saying, "No, no, no, if you rebel against God you surely will not die. Sin presents no danger." But there is a different lie that he tells us on this side of the Cross we sometimes believe. He says that we cannot have real fellowship with God. He whispers into our ears saying, "No, no, no, if you let your sins be exposed to this so-called grace and mercy of God, you surely will not live. You have sinned too much in thought, word, and deed. You're a failure. There is no hope for you." And so we begin to sew fig leaves together to hide from the Lord. But the Lord has already overcome our sin! We need to be confronted with our sin before we can begin to rightly understand and rejoice in the eternal solution to the problem of sin—we need to rightly understand the reality that we have a problem in the first place. Have you noticed how advertisements you see on television

selling certain "miracle products" don't begin by telling you the solution you need but rather that you have a problem that needs to be fixed? They create a burden that needs to be dealt with. Similarly, we need to be confronted with our sin to expose our desperate need for a solution—our desperate need for Christ. This is not pretty or fun, but it's necessary. We must remember that the Lord is faithful to us in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow—Jesus is married to us! He is bound to the marriage vows he proclaimed in covenant that we would be transformed. If we are not honest about our struggle with sin with each other and with the Lord, then we deceive ourselves and believe the lie Satan tells us that we are hopeless. But we're not—Jesus is our husband and friend! He wants us to come with everything in our lives that is scandalous, because he transforms sinners through the redeeming work of the cross and raises them to new life in perfect fellowship with God through his resurrection.

A Word...or Two

Saved From What?

Dr. R. C. Sproul once told a story about being approached by a young man while walking down the street. The stranger ran up to him and asked, with obvious urgency and fervor, "Are you saved?" Dr. Sproul responded (somewhat tongue-in-cheek), "Saved from what?" Yet this simple question led to an embarrassed silence. The stranger hadn't given that question any thought, so he just stood there, speechless. He didn't know the answer.

The question "Saved from what?" is at the heart of Christianity. It's one of the most important questions you could ever ask. How would you respond? What are you saved from? It's well worth your time to stop reading for a moment and think about your answer.

If you've grown up in the church or been a Christian for any length of time, you might respond by saying that Jesus saves you from sin or from hell. And if one of those is your answer, you're right! Jesus does indeed save us from sin (Rom 6:11) and hell (Rom 8:1), but is that all there is to salvation? Or does it go deeper than that?

In a sense, we're actually saved from God Himself. The

reason why sin is so disgusting and horrible is because the One we have sinned against is so holy and pure. The reason why hell is described as infinite, eternal punishment is because the One we have sinned against is infinite and eternal. Every sin is treason on a cosmic scale and deserves to be punished forever. God can't sweep our sin under the rug. If God ignored our sin and let us go free, He would be unjust, much like a judge would be unjust to release a convicted felon. In addition, we can make no appeal to a higher court. We sit condemned by the Judge of all the earth (Gen 18:25).

This means that, in order for us to be saved, God must save us from Himself. God takes the initiative to satisfy His own justice. As Paul explains in Rom 3:25-26, God pours out the punishment we deserved on His own Son instead. As a result, God can be both just (He has fully punished our sin) and our justifier (He can declare us righteous in His sight). This is the wonder and beauty of the gospel! We are saved from God by God.



Pastor Ben Castaneda

Joyful Easter!

On Easter Sunday the Rincon family had the opportunity to attend both the Sunrise Service and the Easter Worship Service in our sanctuary. There was also a brunch before the main service that was enjoyed by many. "He is risen!" was the theme of the day with the congregation enthusiastically replying, "He is risen indeed!"



Youth Winter Retreat

by Ben Castaneda

At the end of February, the Youth & Family Group traveled up Mt. Lemmon to enjoy a long (and cold!) weekend studying the topic of relationships. We spent the first day of the retreat laying the groundwork for our discussion. We looked at the first two chapters of Genesis and saw that, because we are made in the image of a relational God, human beings are relational too. From James 4, we learned about conflict, how it begins and how to resolve it. We ended the day with a group discussion about what biblical forgiveness looks like and how to extend that forgiveness to others.



Rincon's youth had a mountain top experience at Winter Retreat 2015.

The second day of the retreat, we applied these principles to specific kinds of relationships. We took an honest look at how to have healthy relationships with parents. We also discussed the differences between what our society thinks about marriage and family and what the Bible says about those things. Lastly, we had a conversation about "true love," our identity in Christ, and guy/girl relationships.

But it wasn't all serious, either. We had plenty of fun too! From watching *The Princess Bride* to learn about "twue wuv," to multiple games of capture the flag in near-freezing temperatures, to playing "sardines" in pitch darkness, with numerous trips to the Cookie Cabin sprinkled in here and there, we had a blast!



The youth studied the Bible to learn what it has to say about relationships.

Springing into Easter

The Fourth Friday event each month is an opportunity for women of the church to get together for fellowship and to participate in a craft. At the end of March, several women dyed eggs and used Sharpie markers and ribbon to decorate them. According to Susan Vande Geest, the event coordinator, "It was good calm, intimate fellowship."



The Kruses and McReynolds concentrating on finding the right answer.



RMPC ladies enjoyed crafting Easter eggs at a Fourth Friday event.

Trivia Night

On Sunday March 29th, Rincon had its second annual Trivia Night hosted by Pastor Luke Smith. With a musical background of popular 70s music, seven teams competed to be the trivia champ. Questions covered such areas as geography, sports, history, movies, music and science. Team W won with 177 points, followed by team Amelia with 152 points and team I Don't Know with 135 points. Luke Smith chose tough questions, but team participants were often up to the challenge.

Calendar

WEEKLY

Mondays:

- Women's Study, 1:00 pm. *Janie Craig*
- Men's Study, 7 pm. *Grant Brown*

Tuesdays:

- Women's Study & Children's Program, 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*

2nd & 4th Sundays:

- College & Career, 12:30 pm. *Ben Castaneda*



APRIL

Fri. 24th: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Dana McReynolds*

MAY

Sat. 2nd: Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*

Sun. 3rd: Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

Wed. 6th: Preschool Play Group, 9 am. *Victoria Wates*

Sat. 16th: Honduras Mission Trip Car Wash, 8 am. *Phil Kruis*

Fri. 22nd: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Dana McReynolds*

JUNE

Wed. 3rd: Preschool Play Group, 9 am. *Victoria Wates*

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

Fri. 26th: Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Dana McReynolds*

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