



The West Hampden Baptist Church

MESSENGER

"Behold, I will send my messenger..." Malachi 3:1

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SPRING MESSENGER

Spring 2024

The Manifestation of God's Resurrection Power, Heb 13:20-21 By Pastor Michael Lynn

We have celebrated another Easter Sunday. This day marks the greatest display of Divine power in the history of the universe. Consider with me Hebrews 13:20-21. What can we learn about God from the resurrection of Christ on the third day? How can we live the Christian life? Note with me in these two verses the manifestation of God's resurrection power. Here we can see and learn that our God is the God of peace, power, pardon, purpose and praise.

First note with me this manifestation of resurrection power as we see the God of **Peace**. We read in verse 20, "Now the God of peace..." He is the **Author** of peace: Paul declares in I Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." The phrase, "God of peace," is used by Paul in Rom. 15:33, 16:20, II Cor.13:11, Phil. 4:9, and I Thess. 5:23. We read in Eph. 2:14, "...Christ is our peace." God is also the **Administrator** of peace: (1) that we might experience peace with God > Rom. 5:1; (2) that we might enjoy the peace of God > Phil. 4:6-7; and (3) and that we might evidence peace in God's family > II Cor. 13:11.

Second, we see God as the God of **Power**. > "...that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus..." We read of the power of God the **Father** in Acts 2:23, 24, 32; 3:15; 4:10; 10:40; 13:30, 34; and 17:31; as well as in Rom. 4:24; I Cor. 6:14; 15:15; II Cor. 4:14; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12; I Thess. 1:10; and I Pet. 1:21. The power of God the **Son** is seen in John 10:17-18 and John 2:19. And the power of God the **Holy Spirit** is seen in Rom. 8:11.

Third, note the God of **Pardon** > "...through the blood of the everlasting covenant..." We have our **redemption** - by the Great Shepherd of the sheep. He is the Savior. Notice the key word "blood." Hewitt says,

"The Lord Jesus became the one and only Great Shepherd of the sheep in virtue of His shed blood by which the eternal covenant was sealed." His blood sacrifice is both eternally powerful (Heb. 10:12) and eternally effectual (I Jn. 2:2). We have also our **relationship** - to the Great Shepherd of the sheep. He is the Sovereign. The key word here is "covenant" - an agreement or arrangement, binding and solemn, between 2 parties. In Psalm 22, Christ is the Good Shepherd; in Psalm 23, He is the Great Shepherd; and in Psalm 24 Christ is the Chief Shepherd. Christ fulfilled both Zechariah 9:11, "the blood of My covenant" and Ezekiel 37:26, "I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them."

Fourth, we see our Lord as the God of **Purpose** > "Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you..." This speaks of His **equipping** of believers: "make you perfect." The word "perfect" is used of repairing what is broken (Matthew 4:21, "...mending their nets"); used of restoring what is lost (Galatians 6:1, "...restore such an one"); and used of readying what is needed (Ephesians 4:12, "...perfecting of the saints" and I Thessalonians 3:10, "...might perfect that which is lacking in your faith"). This word "perfect" is an earnest prayer for saints to be equipped with all necessary means to do His will. "This request conveys the writer's desire that the believers might be fully fitted for their task having no weaknesses, faults, or lacks" (Wycliffe). The believer must not only know the will of God, but be equipped ("made complete") to do His will. As the God of purpose, we learn of His **enabling** of believers; "working in you..." This involves the **working** in us by the Father. Philippians 2:12-13 suggests: God works in us, we "will" to work for Him. And, as God enables us, we do His will. This also involves the **well-pleasing** by us to the Father: II Corinthians 5:9 tells us that it is only by the indwelling Holy Spirit that we can be well-pleasing to God. Christian growth and obedience have nothing to do with our own power. Chris-

tian growth and obedience are by God's power working in us that which is pleasing in His sight. The only thing we can contribute to the Christian life is a willing yieldedness. Our wills become channels for God's power to work through us.

And fifth, we see the God of **Praise** > "...to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Note the **ascription** of "Glory." I Corinthians 10:31 says, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done..." "Eternal glory is due to Him, Who is the cause of all the good principles wrought in us and all the good works done by us. To this everyone should say, Amen" (Matthew Henry). And notice also the **affirmation** of "Amen." The word is used to affirm and confirm a statement. "It is often used to confirm the words of another, and adds the wish for success to another's vows and predictions" (Unger). The word passed from Jewish custom into the Christian Church.

(Continued on page 3)

Schedule

April

- Deacon's Meeting
- 6 Church Spring Cleaning
- 10 Missions Committee Meeting
- 21 Stillwater Healthcare Service
- 25 Service at Westgate Nursing Home

May

- Deacon's Meeting
- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 8 Missions Committee Meeting
- 12 Mother's Day
- 19 Stillwater Healthcare Service
- 23 Service at Westgate Nursing Home
- 27 Memorial Day (Monday)

June

- Deacon's Meeting
- 12 Missions Committee Meeting
- 16 Stillwater Healthcare Service
- 16 Father's Day
- 27 Service at Westgate Nursing Home
- 30 Non-Financial Reports Due
- 30 Fifth Sunday Singspiration

Notes from the Music Director

By Ethan Frost

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

With the imminent arrival of 2024’s Easter celebration I thought it fitting to do a study on a hymn focusing on the praise and adoration of Christ’s kingship. The stanzas to “Crown Him with Many Crowns” were written over a course of several years by two different authors of differing theological perspectives.

The first, Matthew Bridges, was an Anglican minister born in the year 1800. Greatly influenced by John Henry Newman and the Oxford movement, Bridges converted to Catholicism in 1848. He wrote the six original verses to the well-known hymn focusing on the majesty and power of his Lord. He was inspired by the “exaltation and many crowns of Jesus” described in Revelation 19:12.

In 1868, Anglican priest Godfrey Thring wrote six additional verses. His ministry as a Protestant brought a different perspective to Bridges’ lyrics, bringing out more about Christ’s eternal nature and lordship with phrases like “Lord of life”, “Lord of love”, and “Lord of years”.

The final version of the hymn was comprised of 12 verses – six verses by each author. Most hymnals (including the Majesty)

only include four selected verses – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”, “Crown Him the Lord of love”, “Crown Him the Lord of life”, and “Crown Him the Lord of Heav’n”. This selection provided a condensed but still rich vision of Christ’s lordship and exaltation.

The tune, DIADEMATA, was composed in 1874 by Sir George Job Elvey, an English organist who served at Chapel Royal. His tune perfectly captures the celebratory, march-like spirit of the lyrics. Despite their theological differences, the work of these three men produced a hymn that is widely recognized across multiple denominations including Baptist, Methodist, Anglican, and Catholic traditions.



Library Highlights

With Sandi Parise

The WHBC Library still remains open with 24/7 open door policy. We also continue to offer self checkout for your convenience.

The sign out sheet is on a clipboard with a two week checkout time and of course can be easily extended if needed. The library has a plethora of resources as well as novels, biographies, just to name a few. It’s our desire to fit all your library needs and welcome any and all suggestions. Please don’t hesitate to ask if you have a specific request for a book not currently available. The ongoing spiritual development of all attendees of the church is important to us. It’s critical as Christians to continue to educate ourselves in our knowledge of Jesus Christ.

I’m extremely excited to report the library is being used by a child currently attending WHBC . We continue to encourage children and adults to utilize the resources available.



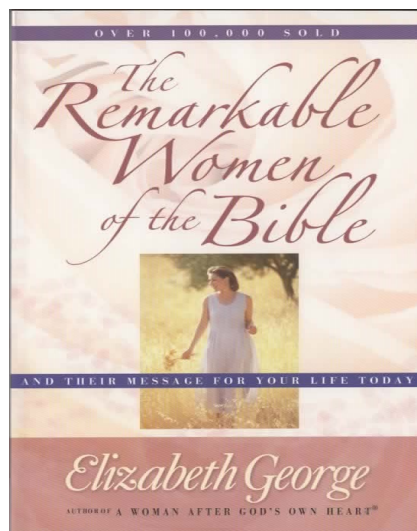
Ladies Bible Study

With Sharon Pedersen

Believe it or not, the Ladies Bible Study Group that has met once a month for the past five years, has finally completed the course on “Experiencing the Heart of Jesus.” I don’t know about the other women, but I learned a lot and am grateful for the opportunity to meet with these dear ladies.

We will begin our next study in April. It is open to anyone that would like to join us. We will be studying the lives of nineteen women in the Bible and the study book is by Elizabeth George. I am already excited.

We meet the second Monday of the month and we take January and February off because of the unknown weather and driv-



ing conditions. We meet at the church at 10:30, and with a coffee cup in hand, we dive into the Scriptures for an hour and a half. The time goes fast. The ladies all contribute a name of a restaurant that they would like to go to. We then put the names into a bag, and each month we choose one. Everyone who wants to, can go to lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship with their sisters in Christ.

The books will be provided by the church, but lunch will be each person’s responsibility. We understand that you all can’t make it every time, and that’s OK. But when you can, we need your input and hopefully, you need us. Please consider joining.

Church Project Plan Update

By Michael Payne

It has been a while since we have discussed the Major Projects List. For those who do not know what I am speaking of, here is a short history to bring you up to speed.

As a Church body, we have tried over the years to do some major projects around the facility. Most were deferred, primarily for funding issues. In 2019, at the beginning of the Covid Pandemic, the Deacon Board decided to put together a focused list of projects that we would do, in priority order, to fund and to carry out to completion. To develop the list, the people in the Church were asked what they would like to do, and based on how many “voted” on a particular project, would assign a priority on that particular project. From this survey, a list of fourteen projects were compiled and this list would come to be known as the Project Plan. Each year, we try to whittle away at this list.

As of this year, here is the status of the original Major Projects List.

1. Replace piano side landing and stairs and repair front entry stairs. With both, replace the shingle roof with metal. – **Project completed.**

2. Heat pumps for the sanctuary. – **Project completed.**
3. Paint sanctuary, entry way and foyer. – **Project completed.**
4. Build a garage. – **Project completed.**
5. Handicap lift system. – **Working.**
6. Replace glass entry way and doors.
7. Replace church carpeting.
8. Replace or upgrade church road sign.
9. New flooring in the nursery.
10. Replace shingle roof on small shed with metal roof. – **Project completed.**
11. Carpet stairs from foyer to second floor office and teen room.
12. Install heat in entry way. – **Project completed.**
13. Replace folding tables and chairs.
New shutters for the church.

In addition to the Piano side stairs, the handicapped ramp and the exit on the Organ side of the church were also covered with a metal roof and additional work was done to finish both of these exits.

So, with these projects, the question is what is next? Right now, we are working on the handicap lift system. Since last year, we have been back and forth with the Town of Hampden, the State Fire Marshall’s Office,

and a local engineering firm with minimal results. We are currently holding \$43,779 in anticipation of an approval to move forward. As you may remember, our challenge right now is the requirement to install a \$250,000 sprinkler system. We are working on a grandfather clause for this, but with little result at this point. When we get approval, and the project starts, the basic structure will be done by the church. The installation of the lift will be done by the manufacturer and their team. Please make it a prayer that we can get by this latest hurdle.

In addition to the remaining seven projects, the driveway into the church and the parking lot has been a topic of the last two Annual Meetings. Time has not been kind to the driveway, and we need to address it. Several experiments were conducted to see if we could “patch” the holes. We were somewhat successful, but the environment has continued to degrade the asphalt.

Now is the time to reassess what needs to be done. With the remaining list, how would you like to see us proceed? Are there some other projects that you would like to see the church take on to improve our facility? If you have an opinion, please see Pastor or one of your Deacons or Trustees. We would like to hear from you.

Ladies Lace

By Gwen Lynn

ARE YOU TALLER?

Are you taller, lady friend? As the oldest of eight children, I grew to be the shortest one in my family; however, now with age and physical ailments, I no longer occupy that “prestigious” position of being the shortest amongst my siblings. That marks my position physically.

Evangelist Mike Shrock reminded us repeatedly that our position spiritually should be changing. Our first thoughts about growing always focus on our physical being. Have I gained weight? Have I lost weight? Our physical changes usually are the result of our physical diet. Am I eating nutritional food? Am I eating “junk food”? Our bodies can become just inflated blobs of fat molecules. Physical exercise likewise can affect our physical wellness. That exercise can tone our bodies so that we develop greater physical stamina. The advent of warmer temperatures causes us to relish spending time in the outdoors. We can easily become focused on our physical being.

As Mike Shrock reminded us from God’s

Word repeatedly, all believers need to be growing spiritually. What is our diet? We need to be studying and meditating on God’s Word daily, not just at church times. God’s Word needs to shape my decisions, reactions, plans, and thoughts each moment of the day. What is your diet? Is it the news, political pundits, social media, or pop culture? Is your diet guided or controlled by anyone else other than the Lord? If so, as a believer, one must repent and turn to the Lord. His Word has the answers for the day in which we live. Is His Word changing and shaping us so that we can stand for Him? Are we more mature spiritually today than a year ago?

I will never be taller physically, but surely with the Lord’s help I can grow taller spiritually. Will you join me in that goal?



The Manifestation of God's Resurrection Power,

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What lessons about God can be seen by a look at the resurrection of Christ? Do you have a personal relationship to this God? Is Christ’s resurrection only acknowledged in one’s head or has it been accepted in your heart (Romans 10:9)? He is described as the “*God of peace.*” Have you experienced peace with God? If so, are you enjoying the peace of God? Do you evidence peace in the family of God? God is also identified here by His power as well as His pardon. Do you have a relationship with the Great Shepherd of the sheep because of your redemption by His shed blood? We see here the God of purpose, Who both equips and enables His saints to do His will. Are you allowing Him to work in and through you that which is well-pleasing in His sight? And lastly, He is the God of praise. Will you join this writer’s ascription of glory to God in Hebrews 13:20-21 and add your affirmation, *Amen?*



Missions Committee Notes

By Hattie Stickney

As we look ahead to another year, the Missions Committee of the West Hampden Baptist Church is very appreciative of your continued giving to the missions program. Without your support, we would not

have a missions program at our church. We prayerfully ask that you continue to pray with us for missionaries that we support. Each one of us here in the homeland realize the high cost of living for us. What must it be for our missionaries.

We had one of our own members, Nancy Frost, travel to Ghana, West Africa, in January 2024 with Grace Dental and Medical Missions, with other medical personnel.

We ask for prayer for Pastor Lynn as he continues to fill in the schedule for the 2024 Fall Missions Conference.

We do ask our church family to pray for the members of the missions committee: Pastor Michael Lynn, Angela Lundquist, Mike Payne, Sharon Pedersen, Alma Rickards and Hattie Stickney.

The following verses are so important to the work of the Lord being done by our missionaries: Matthew 9:37-38, *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."*



Spring 2024 Church Social Calendar

April

6	Church Spring Cleaning	7:30 AM
8	Ladies Bible Study	10:30 AM
8	Pastor's Fellowship	10:00 AM
13	Ladies Event	3:00 PM
	Soup Night & Church Scrapbook	
21	Stillwater Healthcare Service	2:30 PM
25	Westgate Rehab Service	9:45 AM
27	Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:30 AM

May

4	Ladies Event	Noon
12	Mother's Day	
19	Stillwater Healthcare Service	2:30 PM
23	Westgate Rehab Service	9:45 AM
25	Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:30 AM
27	Memorial Day (Monday)	

June

8	Baby Shower for Kate Reeves	
9	Senior Saints Luncheon	After AM Service
16	Father's Day	
16	Graduation Sunday Celebration	Evening Service
16	Stillwater Healthcare Service	2:30 PM
27	Westgate Rehab Service	9:45 AM
29	Men's Prayer Breakfast	7:30 AM
26	5th Sunday Ice Cream Social	Evening Service

Details of Major Events

April 13, Ladies Event, 3:00 PM **Soup Night and Church Scrapbook**

Come join us at the Church as we enjoy some soup and scripture for the soul with Lynn Reeves. For our activity, we are going to take some time and work on the Church Scrapbook. There will be more information in the Bulletin and on the Facebook page. If you would like to help with the event, please see Emily Lundquist

Saturday, May 4 – Noon, LADIES' LUNCHEON **Theme: Puzzle or Plan?**

Is your life a puzzle? Do you wonder what is happening? Is God really in control? Miranda Cozad, a pastor's wife, will be talking with us about those things on Saturday, May 4. Ladies of all ages are invited to attend. Invite a friend to attend with you. RSVP by Sunday, April 28.

June 8—Baby Shower for Kate, Time to be determined.

We will meet at the Church as we celebrate the arrival of a baby. There will be more details as we get closer. If you would like to help with the event, please see Lynn Reeves.

June 9 after the Morning Service **Senior Saints Luncheon**

Open to all seniors. It's been a long time, and what better way than a time of fellowship together. We will be celebrating the "Taste of Italy". Please plan to join us for some food and fellowship around the Word.