WABASH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2017

WPC Alive

The Presbyterian Church, 123 West Hill Street, Wabash, IN 46992-3049
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PASTOR'S DESK

Emerging from the Tomb

By Pastor Jonathan Cornell

As I sit to write this cover article, the birds are chirping outside, the silhouette of the sanctuary building is shrouded in light outside my office window as the sun rises, track and field flags fly, and balloons of purple, gold, blue, and white dance back and forth on the handrails of the Education Building.

It's festive around here. Last night we re-introduced Wabash to *The Presbyterian School* with an open house for prospective families. A lot of hard work, thoughtfulness, and creativity went into making this a reality. Your Preschool Committee is a bunch of rock stars!

However, just a few months ago, we were unsure there would be a school to offer this year. Circumstances around us and within caused us to think, "I wonder if WPC should be in the Preschool biz?" Loss can do this to us.

We're in a time of year this Lent where we're reflecting on the *Case for Hope* in the face of our own mortality

and brokenness. The Bible is filled with images, many of them agricultural, that say in order for new life to emerge, something must die. A seed, as it goes down into the soil, dies to one way of being so that its true identity as a stalk of corn or bush bean plant may emerge. Caterpillars only become butterflies after emerging from a place not unlike a tomb.

Jesus says that in order for us to rise with him to new life—as it was meant to be lived—something in us must die. That something is our self. To receive the new life of resurrection, we must die to the belief that we are ultimately in control. Or as George Costanza would say, "master of our domain."

What is Jesus inviting you to place in the tomb with him? Your perception of how life was supposed to be? Your attitude that says, "I did my part, now God must do his in giving me what I want"? Perhaps your reliance upon those 7 dangerous words: "because that's how we've always done things"?

Lent is about trusting Jesus all the way to the cross, all the way up to the point where we are without control, utterly reliant. And it can be dark and scary, but the

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Emerging from the Tomb (con't)

promise the Bible offers in Romans 8 is this: "If God is for us, who is against us?"

Over 55 years ago, God began a good work at Wabash Presbyterian in her Preschool. This year, that well begun good work was threatened with staffing transitions, resource availability, competition, market saturation, etc. We had to mourn the death of part of that dream. But through prayer, discernment, hard work, and God's abundant goodness, the Presbyterian School is poised for a new season. A new life.

Together, we will continue to watch as that good work that God has begun in this community moves toward the beautiful conclusion to that verse:

"…He who began a good work, will be faithful to complete it in the day of Christ Jesus our Lord."

Jonathan

Pastor Jonathan
Email: *jonathan@wabashpresbyterian.com*

Pastor Jonathan Travels to the Holy Land

During the month of May, Pastor Jonathan will be traveling with The Outreach Foundation to the Holy Land. He will be out of town May 15th-26th. While there, the group will visit the sites of the Holy Land, walk where Jesus walked, as well as visit with the three primary partners of The Outreach Foundation: Bethlehem Bible College, Palestinian Bible Society, and Musalaha (a reconciliation ministry). Pastor Amy will preach May 14th and May 21st.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

2nd – Kendall Hoover
3rd – Carol Early
15th – Kim Frank
17th – Janet Haupert
21st – Theo Sparling
23rd – Max Wright
26th – Bob Lewis
27th – Don Maggart
27th – Audrey Walts

Anniversaries:

19th – Jeff & Mary Kramer
21st – Steve & Marian Denney
25th – Bob & Deni Yaggi

People I want to connect with this month (i.e., card/call, coffee/lunch, prayer, Bible study):

_____
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Community & Missions

Loving people
with the heart of Christ
in the heart of Wabash

Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged to bring canned/dry goods for the F.I.S.H. food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting macaroni & cheese.

WPC Mission Partners

- Peabody Retirement Community
- Kemmerer Village
- Meals on Wheels
- City of Refuge (Ghana)
- Thammavongsa Family Mission
- Wabash Ministerial Association's Assistance Program
- Wabash County Habitat for Humanity
- White's Family Residential Service
- Winchester Community Center
- 85 Hope
- Arc of Wabash County
- The Access
- Campus Life
- F.I.S.H.
- Character Building of Wabash County

Mission Spotlight

City of Refuge Ministries (Ghana)

City of Refuge Ministries exists to provide holistic restoration for children who have been liberated from exploitation, abuse, or trafficking. They aim to prevent exploitation at its roots by empowering individuals and communities to eradicate child slavery and achieve personal and community goals.

CORM was founded in 2010 by the husband and wife team of Johnbull and Stacy Omorefe. He is from Kenya and she is from the USA. Their mission was brought to the attention of the WPC by Kale & Emily Sparling after they had done missionary work in Ghana.

For more information, please consult the CORM website:
http://www.cityofrefugeoutreach.org/

CORM YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2R1xHump5w

Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. All of these programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

The WPC will receive our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday, April 9th. In this season of Lent, please remember those in need and give generously.

April Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 **Sunday School & Choir Practice** (9am) **Worship** (10am) & **Fellowship Hour** (11am) **Congregational Meeting** (11am) *Loose Offering: Gas Vouchers*	3 **Monday Bible Study** (9am)	4	5 **Lenten Vespers** (7pm)	6 **Kari Out of Office**	7 **Friday Book Study** (11am)	8
9 **Sunday School & Choir Practice** (9am) **Worship** (10am) **& Fellowship Hour** (11am) *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*	10	11 **ROMEO Men's Lunch** (12:30pm @ Michael's Diner)	12 **Lenten Vespers** (7pm)	13 **MAUNDY THURSDAY** **Buildings & Grounds Team** (1pm) **Maundy Thursday Service** (7pm)	14 **GOOD FRIDAY** **Office Closed** **Friday Book Study** (11am) **Community Good Friday Service** (12:10-12:50pm @ WPC)	15
16 **EASTER SUNDAY** **Sunrise Service & Breakfast** (7am, Dr. Ford Home Garden) **Sunday School & Choir Practice** (9am) **Worship** (10am) **& Fellowship Hour** (11am)	17 **Monday Bible Study** (9am)	18	19 **Community Meal** (6pm) **Lenten Vespers** (7pm)	20 **Session** (7pm)	21 **Friday Book Study** (11am)	22
23 **Sunday School & Choir Practice** (9am) **Worship** (10am) **& Fellowship Hour** (11am)	24 **Monday Bible Study** (9am) **Helping Hands Ministry**	25 **JULIET Women's Breakfast** (8am @ Fried Egg)	26 **Community Meal** (6pm) **Lenten Vespers** (7pm)	27	28	29
30 **Sunday School & Choir Practice** (9am) **Worship** (10am) **& Fellowship Hour** (11am)	*Wabash Spring Break is March 31-April 7.* *Enjoy the extra down time with your family!*					

Business Notes

March Session Minutes

- Honeywell proposal to use the church building.
- Jonathan going to Israel May 15th-26th.
- Area Presbyterian churches considering forming a cluster.
- Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services set.
- Vyvian Morris will be baptized Easter Sunday.

Loose Offering | WPC's Gas Voucher Program

The loose cash that is collected on April 2nd will help provide gas vouchers to those in our community who come to the church for aid.

Financial Report

	Feb.	Total 2017
Income:	$23,876	$41,366
Expenses:	17,681	41,210
Balance:	$6,195	$150

**We pulled $5,000 from the Endowment Account to cover our expenses.*

Give online. Use our secure site to set up recurring gifts (like pledges) or for one-time gifts (like paying for a Bible study book or supporting our Mission Partners).

Worship & Connect

Lenten Vespers

On Wednesdays, 7pm, you are invited to a time of midweek worship and renewal, as we approach the cross. Worship will last approximately 30 minutes and will include music, Scripture, and prayer. We invite you to come and relax in the Spirit's presence. Lenten Vespers go through April 12th.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 2nd to hear and receive questions regarding a special proposal from the Honeywell Foundation. All are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.

Holy Week/Easter Service Schedule

- Wednesday, April 12th, 7pm, Lenten Vespers
- Thursday, April 13th, 7pm, Maundy Thursday
- Friday, April 14th, 12:10pm, Good Friday
- Sunday, April 16th, 7am, Sunrise Service
- Sunday, April 16th, 10am, Easter Service

Connect & Serve

Life Together Community Meals

Join us Wednesdays at 6pm for good food and good conversation. Also, you can sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you want to volunteer to prepare a meal. You can be reimbursed for your expenses (save your receipts!) or choose to donate the meal.

Arts Camp

We are partnering with local artists to show kids how to use the arts to worship God. For kids ages 4-12. Saturday mornings in July. Cost will be $40/camper. Scholarships available. Registration will be opening soon. Space will be limited. Contact Kari with questions or for more information.

Men's Church Softball

Congregations from around Wabash will be forming a slow pitch softball league to begin in July. No matter what your skill level, you are invited to come out to the ball game. This is a great opportunity for men of the church to have a time of fellowship, fun, and good old healthy competition. Games will take place once a week (likely Mondays) and will last 60-70 minutes. See Pastor Jonathan for more details.

Sacred Places Update

On February 26th, we gathered after worship for a Pot-Luck Lunch. During lunch, we took time to reflect on the gifts we each possess, gifts of the head, heart, and hands. Among the many unique talents and passions, including one of us who is an accomplished bassoonist, was a talent and enthusiasm for the arts. It has become apparent to us that this is a real opportunity for us to reach out to our community and the downtown redevelopment through arts opportunities and ministries in the future.

As your Sacred Places Team, we continue to work on our Case Statement ("Who We Are, What We Have, and What We Do"). Some of you have expressed a curiosity about this learning experience. "What will we accomplish with this experience?"

The questions you're asking are meaningful and important ones. As a church in transition, one that is redeveloping, changing in its demographics, and working in a community in transition, it is pivotal that we are able to articulate our mission clearly and purposefully. To do so, Sacred Places is helping us to see clearly, "who we are, what we have, and what we do." This helps us narrow our focus so that we can reach out to our community in the most effective way possible.

We all need to be able to tell our story, the story of Wabash Presbyterian Church. At our last day-long seminar, we learned about effective and efficient strategies for capital campaigns. Armed with a laser-focused, concise, compelling case statement, it is possible for us to share our story and our value to Wabash with individuals and organizations far beyond the membership rolls. This will help us achieve our goals and complete the work on our physical space that will enable us to be a presence for ministry in Christ's name long into the future.

Scripture Verse

Romans 6:23 NIRV

When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

Reflection:

Prayer List

Butch Randol
Family of Hank Decker
Family of Amy Turner
Ari Halderman
Brenton Yarger
Christine Murphy
John Schultheiss
Mike Philip
Stan Williams
Pastor Enoch
Carl Willmert
Hope Unger
Carolyn Biltz
Judy Waggoner
Kay Caudill
Tina Easterday
Jennifer Maxwell
Teresa Bowman
Judy Lovellette
Danika Landis
Heather Houlihan
Rita Alexander
Kevin Gerhart
Debbie Phillips
Jack Francis
Mary Jane Garrison
Bill Skeans
Lois Smith
Nancy Chowning
Lois Dickinson
Mildred Paullus
Elmer Myers
Ron & Faith Rider
Mary Leland
Dessie Sturgeon
Connie Squires
Helen Shanks
Martha Helm
Katie Baer

Have a prayer request?

If you have a prayer request, please email Kari Bartkus at office@wabashpresbyterian.com. Please respect the privacy of others and share their concerns only with their permission. You can also email Kari if you'd like to receive the weekly prayer list via email.

DIG DEEPER

Dear Mary

An Imaginative Meditation/Conversation with Mary

By Kari Bartkus

Where were you, Mary, when you found out your Son had been taken by the soldiers to stand trial? Did you find out as soon as the disciples ran out of the Garden? Did one of them come wake you up to let you know? Or were they too frightened by what was going on? Too afraid to be seen talking to you?

Were you there in the courtyard as others falsely accused Him? If so, how could you bear it? Did you try to shout out? Did they shush you? Or did their cries simply overpower your own? When Pilate asked which person the Jews wanted to release, did you scream "Jesus" as everyone else hollered for "Barabbas"? Was your voice hoarse afterward from shouting with everything that you had?

I don't know if you were in the courtyard that night. I'm not sure if you saw Peter standing by the fire and then run off after the rooster crowed. I'm not sure if you walked alongside Jesus as He, beaten and weak, carried the cross up the hill. But at some point, you found out what was going on, what they were doing to your Son. And you just had to go and be there with Him. Because we see you there at the foot of the cross as Jesus is dying.

I'm glad you weren't alone. I'm glad the other women stood with you. You showed such strength. I know a mama's love couldn't let you leave, but oh, how your heart must have been crushed. Did you think back to Simon's words to you when you dedicated Jesus at the temple as a baby? "A sword will wound your own soul too," he had said. If only he knew how your soul was wounded now…

You watched your Son die. You—watched—Him—die. Then three days of darkness. Silence. Grieving. Confusion. Heartache. What did those three days hold for you, dear Mary? What was it like at your house?

You had just celebrated Passover the night before, remembering when God had freed the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. Were you wondering why He wasn't taking such miraculous measures now? This was your Son, but it was *God's* Son, too. You knew that better than anyone. How could this have happened?

But, oh Mary, what was it like when you heard that Jesus was alive? I'd love to hear…

Kari

Kari Bartkus
Email: *office@wabashpresbyterian.com*

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

Resurrection Garden

This sweet mini garden is a great visual and tactile way to keep the holy reminder of Easter in your home. You'll need:

- Shallow potting dish
- Small 4 inch terracotta pot
- One large rock from your yard for the tombstone
- Potting soil
- 6 small stick pieces from your yard for crosses
- Grass seed
- Hot glue or twine for crosses
- Moss and small rocks, or whatever you want to find to decorate your mini garden

Find complete instructions at http://farmhouseinthevalley.com/mini-resurrection-gardens/.

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Loving people with the heart of Christ in the heart of Wabash

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday – We will be led into Holy Week by our choir with a cantata entitled *Come to the Cross and Remember*.

Maundy Thursday – Communion and foot washing ceremony, led by the choir, and featuring the music of Taize, as well as Keith and Kristen Getty Music.

Good Friday – Come to a special community service of worship as we gather to remember the cross. Service will be led by local ministers and musicians.

Easter Sunday – We will celebrate Resurrection Morning by offering two services. The Sunrise Service will take place at 7am in the Dr. James Ford House Lawn, a light continental breakfast will follow; Sanctuary Worship will take place at 10am and include the blooming cross.

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