



The Kingdom and the Cross

2011 Lenten

Booklet & Newsletter



Lent is a period for persons to prepare for the celebration of the central event of Christianity, the Crucifixion-Resurrection event. Some use this time to give up something in order to better focus their attention on the One who gave His all for us. Others commit themselves anew to spiritual exercises and acts of service. Additionally, some give themselves to prayer and study that they might comprehend and feel at deeper levels the significance of what Jesus Christ has done.

This year we will be taking our cues from a little book by James Bryan Smith (*The Apprentice Series*) as we explore the significance of the Crucifixion-Resurrection event in sermon and study. My prayer is that all will find this focus helpful.

James Bryan Smith sums up his hopes for this time of reflection like this:

“So, what do you think about the kingdom? What do you think really happened on the cross? This little guide is meant to help expand your understanding of these two key concepts. I do not proclaim to have every answer about these subjects, nor do I assert that I have the best explanation of them. What I offer in this book are some of the ideas and images that have been helpful to me in my journey.” (p. 8)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. John 3:16-17 (NLT)

Charlie

***Descriptions of Services, Book Studies,
Events & Lenten Calendar Inside***

Lenten & Holy Week Opportunities

Wednesdays

Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes (3/9)

12:00 (Sanctuary) A brief service begins our observance of Lent. Rev. Charlie's message, "An Audience of One," will follow by the imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross as a witness to our mortality and identification with Christ's death on our behalf.

Studies

The Kingdom and the Cross – A study and discussion of the small book by James Bryan Smith (\$5) led by Rev. Charlie. His sermons during Lent will follow the emphases of each chapter. Groups will meet on at 6:00 and Thursdays at 1:30.

Bad Girls of the Bible – A study and discussion of the book by Liz Curtis Higgs led by Gayla Abshire. The group will meet on Wednesdays during Lent and then once a month for few months following Easter.

Suppers

Each Wednesday during lent (3/9 thru 4/13) a light supper will be offered from 5:00-6:15 p.m. prior to classes and choir practice.

Sundays

Movies (Safe Harbor)

4/3 6:00 "The Passion of Christ" (Adults Only)

4/17 5:00 "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe"

Studies During Sunday School (9:40)

24 Hours That Changed the World – DVD study by Adam Hamilton led by Vickie Fuller during the Sunday school hour. It is a step by step look through the last days of Jesus' life. Walk with Jesus on his final day, sit beside him at the last supper, pray with him in Gethsemane, follow him to the cross, desert him, deny him, and experience the resurrection with him. (Rm. 106)

The Jesus I Never Knew – The Touchstones Sunday school class will be studying the book by Philip Yancey. For those who have been raised in the church and have known Jesus all of their lives and for those who are meeting Jesus for the first time, Yancey challenges both to think about Jesus as the Bible presents him—brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. Film depictions of Jesus, combined with Bible study and discussion, will help participants discover Jesus for themselves. Come join us—we meet in Room 104.

Studies Sunday Evenings (6:00)

What Good is God? Topics

March 13 "South Africa: Breaking Down the Walls"

March 20 "Memphis: An Alternative Vision"

March 27 "Middle East: Church at Risk"

April 3 "Chicago: A Place for Misfits" (4:30)

April 10 "Mumbai: A Marathon of Horror"

Sermons

March 13 "The Economy of the Kingdom" *Matthew 6:33*
In light of God's gracious, self-sacrificing nature, we consider turning away from grasping accumulation of the world toward a generous giving of ourselves.

March 20 "A God Who Seeks Our Good" *Jeremiah 29:11*
The first two kings of Israel, Saul and David, responded very differently to God. Can we, like David, trust that God is seeking our good and not to harm us?

March 27 "The Grace of the Incarnation" *Matthew 1:23*
Wonder of wonders, God becomes one of us. Why would he undertake such a risky plan?

April 3 "God Emptied Himself" *Philippians 2:6-11*
As in his birth, so in his life and death, Jesus demonstrates a willingness to humbly do all things, even suffer and die on a cross for us. Who can explain it? We but watch in awe at such love and are moved to worship and adore.

April 10 "No Greater Love" *John 15:13*
Paul tells us that Jesus' death on the cross proves God's love for us (Romans 5:8). How will we respond to so great a love?

April 17 "The Deeper Magic" *Colossians 1:19-20*
When Jesus dies on the cross, Satan appears to win! But there is "deeper magic" at work here. Let us be thankful for Jesus' sacrifice and rejoice that we may share in his victory.

Holy Week Opportunities

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sermon (see April 17 above)

Monday thru Wednesday 12:15 (SH)

Lenten Light (light lunch and devotion)

Maundy Thursday 7:00 (Safe Harbor)

Good Friday 7:00 (Sanctuary)

Easter Sunday (April 24)

Sunrise Service (6:45)

"The Angel's Instructions" *Matthew 28:1-10*

Things were not as they suspected. Reassure by what they heard and saw, the women were sent out with the Good News. He is risen!

Special Offerings

April 3—One Great Hour of Sharing (UMCOR)

April 24—LA Methodist Children's Homes

March 2011

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

			1 <u>1:00</u> Remembering Your Story <u>6:00</u> Circle Up	2 <u>11:00</u> Primetimers (SH)	3 <u>8:00</u> Good & Beautiful Life <u>9:00</u> UMW Bd. Meeting <u>10:30</u> UMW Gen. Meet	4	5
6 <u>8:30</u> Sanctuary Service <u>9:40</u> Sunday School <u>11:00</u> Safe Harbor Service <u>4:00</u> Superstars <u>5:00</u> Youth <u>6:00</u> What Good is God?	7 <u>6:30</u> Stephen Ministry (104)	8 Mardi Gras Reserved Parking Office Closed	9 Ash Wednesday <u>12:00</u> Imposition of Ashes <u>5:00</u> Supper <u>6:00</u> The Kingdom & the Cross <u>6:00</u> Bad Girls of the Bible	10 <u>1:30</u> Kingdom & the Cross (106) <u>6:00</u> UM Men	11	12	
13 Day Light Saving Begins <u>8:30</u> Sanctuary Service <u>9:40</u> Sunday School <u>11:00</u> Safe Harbor Service <u>4:00</u> Superstars <u>5:00</u> Youth <u>6:00</u> What Good is God?	14 2011-12 Day School Registration for church members and current students	15 <u>1:00</u> Remembering Your Story <u>6:00</u> Nurturing <u>6:00</u> Finance <u>6:00</u> Circle Up	16 <u>12-1:15</u> Grief Support (104) <u>5:00</u> Supper <u>6:00</u> The Kingdom & the Cross <u>6:00</u> Bad Girls of the Bible	17 <u>1:30</u> Kingdom & the Cross (106)	18	19 Confirmation Day with Bishop at Wesley Center for Confirmants	
20 <u>8:30</u> Sanctuary Service <u>9:40</u> Sunday School <u>11:00</u> Safe Harbor Service <u>4:00</u> Superstars <u>5:00</u> Youth <u>6:00</u> What Good is God?	21 2011-12 Day School Registration for General Public <u>11:30</u> Social Lights (Coyote Blues) <u>6:30</u> Stephen Min.	22 <u>1:00</u> Remembering Your Story <u>6:00</u> Church Council <u>6:00</u> Circle Up	23 <u>12-1:15</u> Grief Support (104) <u>5:00</u> Supper <u>6:00</u> The Kingdom & the Cross <u>6:00</u> Bad Girls of the Bible	24 <u>8:30 to 1:00</u> District UMW Study (SH) <u>1:30</u> Kingdom & the Cross (106)	25	26	
27 <u>8:30</u> Sanctuary Service <u>9:40</u> Sunday School <u>11:00</u> Safe Harbor Service <u>4:00</u> Superstars <u>5:00</u> Youth <u>6:00</u> What Good is God?	28	29 <u>1:00</u> Remembering Your Story <u>6:00</u> Circle Up	30 <u>5:00</u> Supper <u>6:00</u> The Kingdom & the Cross <u>6:00</u> Bad Girls of the Bible	31 <u>1:30</u> Kingdom & the Cross (106)			

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Sr. High Retreat at Wesley Center	2 Sr. High Retreat at Wesley
3 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 8:30 Sanctuary Service 9:40 Sunday School 11:00 Safe Harbor Service 4:00 Superstars 5:00 Youth 6:00 <i>The Passion of Christ</i> Sr. High Retreat cont.	4 6:30 Stephen Ministry	5 1:00 Remembering Your Story 6:00 Circle Up	6 11:00 Primetimers 5:00 <i>Supper</i> 6:00 <i>The Kingdom & the Cross</i> 6:00 <i>Bad Girls of the Bible</i>	7 9:30 UMW Board (108) 10:30 UMW General Meeting (SH) 1:30 <i>Kingdom & the Cross</i> (106)	8	9
10 8:30 Sanctuary Service 9:40 Sunday School 11:00 Safe Harbor Service 4:00 Superstars 5:00 Youth 6:00 What Good is God?	11	12 1:00 Remembering Your Story 6:00 Finance 6:00 Nurturing 6:00 Circle Up	13 12-1:15 Grief Support 5:00 <i>Supper</i> 6:00 <i>The Kingdom & the Cross</i> 6:00 <i>Bad Girls of the Bible</i>	14 1:30 <i>Kingdom & the Cross</i> (106) 6:00 Methodist Men	15	16 10:00 <i>Family Stations of the Cross</i> Easter Egg Hunt
17 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30 Sanctuary Service 9:40 Sunday School 11:00 Safe Harbor Service 5:00 <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>	18 12:15 <i>Lenten Light</i> 6:30 Stephen Ministry	19 12:15 <i>Lenten Light</i> 6:00 Circle Up	20 12:15 <i>Lenten Light</i> Cross (106)	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY 1:30 <i>Kingdom & the Cross</i> (106) 7:00 <i>pm Maundy Thursday Service</i> (SH)	22 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 <i>pm Good Friday Service</i> (Sanctuary)	23
24 EASTER <i>Children's Hm. Offering</i> 6:45 <i>Sunrise Service</i> 8:30 Sanctuary Service 9:40 Sunday School 11:00 Safe Harbor Service	25	26 1:00 Remembering Your Story 6:00 Circle Up	27 12-1:15 Grief Support	28	29	30

Superstars & Youth Lent Studies

"24 Hours That Changed the World"

Superstar Sundays

4:00 pm



March 13	The Triumphal Entry
March 20	Jesus Washes Disciples' Feet
March 27	The Last Supper
April 3	The Garden of Gethsemane
April 10	Arrest and Peter's Denial
April 17	The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Youth Sundays

5:00 pm

March 13	The Last Supper
March 20	The Garden of Gethsemane
March 27	Condemned by the Righteous
April 3	Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate
April 10	The Torture & Humiliation of the King
April 17	The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Day School Fund Raiser



Mardi Gras Parking

Tuesday, March 8



Sel-Mart Parking Lot Rates
\$50 Front Row
\$25 Second Row
\$10 Third Row

University Church Parking Lot Spaces
\$5

Contact University Day School
478-4347

Open Door Prison Ministry

A motorcycle fun run is planned for April 9. The ministry is seeking door prizes—anything from handmade items to attic treasures. For more information, please contact Chris Baldauf at 436-5952.

Additional information regarding the event is forthcoming.

Opportunities After Easter

Surprised by Hope Groups

Rev. Charlie invites all to consider participating in a small group using a DVD series based on N. T. Wright's book, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (6 sessions) dealing with the implications of the resurrection. The participant's guides are \$8.00.

Day of Caring

On Saturday, May 14, United Methodist churches across Louisiana will be engaging in projects to care for the poor in our midst. The project(s) which we will undertake will be announced in April, and there will be opportunities for all to serve.

Confirmation Sunday

On May 15 members of this year's confirmation class will affirm the vows made on their behalf in their baptism or be baptized and commitment themselves to following Christ and participating as full members of the church. Though they have taken the class together, this decision is an individual one which we will celebrate with them and their families.

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CHURCH STAFF

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Program Director	Marj Robinson
Youth, Children, & Family Ministry Dir.	Mary Stager
Chancel Choir Director	Dr. Darryl Jones
Safe Harbor Music Leader	Jahn Saucier
Organist	Steven Branch
Business Manager	Randy Morgan
Staff Assistant	Glynetta Phenice
Church Sexton	J.C. Picard
Weekend Sexton	Robert Price

Address Correction Requested

Going Above & Beyond

Manna Ministries

Your help is greatly needed for this on-going ministry. Non-perishable food items can be left on Sunday or brought to the church office. Monetary donations can be brought to the church office.



Magazines Needed

Magazines and periodicals are needed for distribution to hospitals and other sites around town. Please bring them to the church office.



Aluminum Cans

Aluminum cans help fund the Circle Up program. Please save and drop you aluminum cans. They may be dropped off outside behind the kitchen.



Flower Calendar



There are many blank Sundays on the flower calendar. Call Glynetta at 474-2003 or come by the church office to select a date. There is a two (s) arrangement per Sunday maximum. The flower cost remains the same as last year—\$39.

