



# The Caller

April 1, 2015

Each year, I get the privilege of preparing two sermons on the resurrection for Easter morning. Yes, I do a separate one for Sunrise Service. The resurrection is such a big and incomprehensible event it forces the preacher to deal with many challenges. One is finding something to say about a truth for which words are always inadequate? This is harder than you think. Second, what do you say to the skeptical hearers in the audience who just can't believe in the resurrection? "Do you really expect me to believe a dead man came back to life?" This is a miracle many just can't accept. There must be some other, more plausible explanation.

Although I have never doubted that Jesus rose again from the dead on the third day, I can sympathize with modern folks who cannot accept the bodily resurrection of Jesus. They are not alone. Many first century people felt the same way. They found the resurrection just as inconceivable. Many were eventually won over by the evidence — the hundreds of eyewitnesses and the dramatically changed lives of Jesus' followers who were willing to give their lives for this belief. But some still doubted.

Timothy Keller, in his book, "The Reason for God," says that each Easter he says to his many secular New York City friends who still come out for Easter services, that even if they can't believe in the Resurrection, they should want it to be true. One thing Keller shares with his non-believing friends is a deep commitment for justice for the poor and a concern for what humans are doing to the environment. Keller says his secular friends are perennially discouraged that so few people care about justice without realizing that their own worldview (i.e. the material world was caused

by accident and everything in it will eventually simply burn up in the death of the sun) undermines any motivation to make the world a better place. Why, writes Keller, make sacrifices for the needs of others if in the end nothing we do will make any difference? If however, the resurrection of Jesus happened, this means there's infinite hope and reason to pour ourselves out for the needs of the world. Everyone who cares about the world and its inhabitants should want the resurrection to be true.

Bible scholar N.T. Wright in one of his many fine Easter sermons said "The message of the resurrection is that this world matters! That the injustices and pains of this present world must now be addressed with the news that healing, justice and love have won. If Jesus is truly raised from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world. Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things — and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement the victory of Jesus over them. Take away Easter and Karl Marx was probably right to accuse Christianity of ignoring the problems of the material world. Take away the resurrection and Freud was probably right to say that Christianity is wish-fulfillment."

The resurrection of Jesus compelled all his followers to adopt a new set of beliefs. Beliefs that until the first Easter morning had been unthinkable. It is this resurrection mindset that changed history.

He is risen. He is risen indeed.

James Brassard



## *Holy Week* Schedule

**April 2nd is Maundy Thursday at 7:30PM:** We will examine the events of the final night Jesus spent with his disciples in the Upper room. Communion will be served around the table.

**April 3rd is Good Friday at Noon:** We will read the entire crucifixion narrative and its connected scriptures. The lessons will be interspersed with the very moving Good Friday hymns and times of silent reflection.

### **April 5th is Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord**

#### **7:00AM Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary:**

The service will conclude with communion in the Memorial Garden.

**The annual Easter Break** of scrambled eggs, sausage and pancakes will be served from 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM in Dodds Hall. A continental breakfast will be offered from 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM for families arriving early for the children's Easter program.

**The Children's Easter Program**, including the Easter Egg Hunt and the connected lessons, will be held from 9:30 AM -10:15 AM.

Our Services in **Celebration of the Resurrection** will be held at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. We will sing the classic Easter Hymns and get the second installment of our Holy Week drama.

The sermon is titled: "Walking through the Door."

## **April Sunday Calendar**

### **Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015**

7:00 AM Sunrise Service -- Sanctuary  
7:30 AM Easter Breakfast -- Dodds Hall  
8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary  
9:30 AM Christian Education  
10:30 AM Worship Service with Communion -- Sanctuary  
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

### **Sunday, April 12, 2015**

Women's Retreat Ends  
8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary  
9:30 AM Adult Ed: Christian Woman, Muslim World with Jen Woods -- Adult Ed Conf Rm  
10:30 AM Worship Service -- Sanctuary  
6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor

### **Sunday, April 19, 2015**

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary  
9:30 AM Adult Ed: Age of Reformation, part 1 with Dick Neff -- Adult Ed Conf Rm  
10:30 AM Worship Service with Baptism -- Sanctuary  
11:30 AM Baptismal Luncheon for Shawn William Campbell -- Dodds Hall  
12 Noon Free Yoga for Veterans -- CE Building  
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

### **Sunday, April 26, 2015**

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary  
9:30 AM Adult Ed: Age of Reformation, part II with Dick Neff -- Adult Ed Conf Rm  
9:30 AM Christian Education  
10:30 AM Worship Service -- Sanctuary  
2:00 PM Martie Harris Student Piano Recital -- Sanctuary  
3:00 PM Martie Harris Student Piano Recital Reception -- Dodds Hall  
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

# Births

Sarah Hyde is the proud great-grandmother of her 11<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild! Welcome **Bryson Allen** who was born on March 23 at Medstar Harbor Hospital in Baltimore. Bryson weighed in at 8 lbs, 4 oz. Proud mother LeAnne Corbett is doing well and should be home in a few days. Congratulations, Sarah and LeAnne!

## Friendly Reminder!

Don't forget the baby shower for Mikaela Devine will be on  
**Saturday, April 18 at 3 PM in Dodds Hall.**  
Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Alex Bourne at  
[ammather@gmail.com](mailto:ammather@gmail.com) or (301) 938-1687.

## ❧ In Memoriam ❧

In Memory of Elizabeth Clowes who died on February 28, 2015.  
Elizabeth was Jim Clowes' mother. Jim is a long time CCPC member.  
His mother lived in Gettysburg, PA and was 77 years old.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim and his family.

## Thank You!

Dear James and CCPC Family,

As I move to Pittsburg, I'm having mixed feelings. I want to spend more time with my family, which I'm happy with, but I'm sad I'm leaving my wonderful life here with all of you. You are my family too! My life here has been very rewarding and happy. I'm going to miss all of you so much.

I'm extending to all of you an invitation to visit me if you are ever in Pittsburgh. My door will always be open to you. I value all of you, and your friendship and love means everything to me. Thank you for your support, your love, and your prayers when I needed them. I will miss you. I'm going to miss my hugs too! Please pray for me.

Love you all, Mary Keller  
4940 Brightwood Road, Apt. A409, Bethel Park, PA 15102  
301-262-7069 – yes, this is correct. I was able to keep my phone number!

# Tim and Gloria Wheeler — *Mission co-workers in Honduras*

Serving with Heifer Project International and the Presbyterian Church in Honduras

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for reaching out to others in the world, for sharing a vision of being present in Honduras and for your prayers and support for us as missionaries. Nothing that we do could we do alone.

*The 2015 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study, p.68*

**Theme: Hope in a better future that raises up Human Dignity.**

Previously, we wrote about ending our mission assignment at the end of 2015. Yes, this is certainly a different type of year for us with a different feeling. Being in transition, we find it hard to plan for the long term. We savor certain moments of fulfillment with people we are called to be with and we know, too, that we will never completely leave Honduras. Nevertheless, a little girl named Sofia in a small village raised our spirits as we began a year of transitions.

I turned today to reflection 8 in the devotional guide that Gloria prepared for the recent Voices on the Border study trip that looked into the situation of immigrants coming from Central America to the Mexican-U.S. border. The devotion raises question that speak to us all wherever we are.

*“Our world is convulsed due to struggles, wars, confrontations of all types, including drug traffic. Daily we see children walking the streets looking for something to eat, beaten women, abandoned and violated by the indifference of society. The majority of these people opt to immigrate in search of a better future. On the other hand, in our country there are a great number of indigenous people and poor people. Some have had their land usurped and others have been denied the opportunity to land ownership.”* This paragraph could speak to us in many different places; it certainly relates to us in Honduras as do the following questions.

- ❖ How can we recreate hope in such an adverse world?
- ❖ How do we maintain (our) faith when everyone talks to us about death?
- ❖ How can we raise up human dignity in a world where the majority lacks the minimum to subsist with dignity?

When I saw her I felt sorry for her, barefoot and unkempt. It was a cold and wet day in January. We were just starting a housing project in the village with North Americans accompanying the organized village groups in working together on the first steps of the project. The mud made it difficult for most to move around. The ones with the least trouble seemed to be some little kids who actually were laughing as they slid around in a playful way carrying stones and water to the site to help pour the foundation of the house that I found out would belong to a single mother. Yes, there we were trying to do **good in the world** carrying forth our principles of mission as we understood them. Yet the children seemed to have a different take on the situation, especially this little girl with dark long hair and a mischief look as she carried forth. She was enjoying every moment. Her joy definitely wouldn't be related to a theological mission concept of helping those who need it. No, it was much more basic and less abstract than that. She was building her own better future. She told me of her plans, she was to start kindergarten in a few days, she would have a new house.

I went over to her and asked whose house this would be. She answered without hesitation, “it is my house”. She blurted it out. You could see she was really happy. Yes, her mother, the single Mom, was there working too and it would be Sofia’s house.

I thought about the questions posed in the devotional about recreating hope, maintaining faith and raising up human dignity. Suddenly the questions took on a different twist for me. It was less about going out in the World and doing things for other people so that they would be raised up with faith and human dignity in some abstract way. It was much more about simply being present, and accompanying those who are trying to do these things and looking for those opportunities right around us. Little Sofia taught us about the simple joy of participating in direct action in response to the question.

Of course it is more complicated than that. Gloria and I have the relationships as a mission program to partner with a local government, identify the village where we will carry out the project, assist in organizing the people and facilitating the purchase of materials to carry it out. The Mission group from Phoenix, Arizona has come every year as part of a mission focus in the world, fully supported by their congregation to do so and actively plan, raise funds and interpret their mission focus throughout the year. They deliberately chose to come in mission in this type of program. But, nevertheless, little Sofia taught us all something too. **It is necessary to just start. We can contribute to a better world right where we are, today. Let us start with our good intentions where we are, the larger theological questions of breadth and depth will be answered as we go.** David LaMotte talks about this in his book “Worldchanging 101”. He talks about little steps that are premeditated and that become visible one day when we see change taking place right before our eyes. Those are the moments that we savor and celebrate.

Thank you for sharing and supporting our mission focus through many years, for lifting up people like Sofia and for doing justice in the World where you are. If you are so called, please do continue to support us this year with financial gifts and with prayers and encouragement for those who most need it. We greatly appreciate your presence with us on our mission journey this year as we continue to write and reflect about it.

Yours faithfully,

Tim and Gloria

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The next Caller will be sent out on April 14th. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Wednesday, April 8th.  
Any questions, please call the office.

# Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.

*Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community,  
and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.*



## Belair Cooperative Nursery School

The school is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization. It's located in the CE Building of Christian Community Presbyterian Church.

Call 301-464-5782 or Email [info@belaircoop.org](mailto:info@belaircoop.org)

[www.belaircoop.org](http://www.belaircoop.org)



## Imagine - Yoga & Wellness Center



Located in the CE building, offers yoga and a variety of wellness programs to CCPC members and the community. For more information, visit [www.ImagineThePlace.com](http://www.ImagineThePlace.com), call 443-510-6308, or e-mail [Ann@ImagineThePlace.com](mailto:Ann@ImagineThePlace.com). Scholarships available.

