

Princeville Presbyterian Church Newsletter

April 2018

Mark Your Calendar

- 4.1
Easter Breakfast
- 4.5
Food Pantry
- 4.10
Deacons/Session
- 4.14
W.O.W. Brunch
- 4.15
AWANA Sunday
Fellowship Meal
- 4.19
Food Pantry
- 4.29
Rockin' Seniors
- 5.2
AWANA Awards Night
- 5.3
Food Pantry

So . . . about Lazarus . . .

It's Easter. How could we not talk about resurrection?

When Christ arose after 3 days in the tomb, his returning to life was at first puzzlement, then nonsense, then mystery, then wonder to his disciples. Someone returning to life from the dead was not a category that anyone had in their framework of how the world worked. And quite honestly, it's not actually in our framework either.

It seems to me that when we modern Christians think of resurrection, it is more of a theological concept. Or should I say, theoretical concept? We believe it to be true and something God CAN and will do in his own time. But it lies somewhere in the future, on that last day, when the dead will be raised to stand in judgment before the great white throne of God. And for we who are in Christ, this means being raised to life – so we mostly think of returning to life from being physically dead.

But I've been thinking about Lazarus.

For Lazarus, there was nothing theoretical about resurrection. He experienced it. (John 11) He had died and the Lord Jesus brought him back to life after he had been dead 4 days. And after that he continued to live for a time. But what does that mean?

We aren't really told very much about what Lazarus experienced or about what he thought about life after his resurrection from the dead. In many ways we are left to draw conclusions from the meager information in the gospels and the scant explanations in the epistles. But there are a few things we know.

Continued on next page...



First, since Lazarus did not return from the dead in his own power, he did not continue living afterward in his own power either. The power that brought him back to life from the dead was the very power that kept him alive afterward. He continued living by the same divine resurrection power that brought him out of the tomb.

Second, having once died and resurrected, it isn't very likely that Lazarus was much inclined to go and sin anymore. In fact, there probably wasn't much about this world's allurements that attracted him anymore. His heart would have been drawn to something higher, more wonderful.

Third, we can be assured that Lazarus wasn't "haunted by his past". There was nothing that could be dragged up by the world or the devil that could threaten his well-being or his new life in Christ. He was already dead, what did his past matter anymore? What really mattered is that his new life was entirely maintained by his Lord who loved him.

Fourth, having died once, Lazarus probably was not afraid of "death" again. Since the new heaven and the new earth had not yet come, the likelihood was that Lazarus was going to have to die again. There were even some that planned to kill him because he was evidence of Jesus' power (John 12:9-10). Even if Lazarus learned of such a plan, what did it matter? What was there to fear? If God wanted him to come back a second time God was able to do that. And when Lazarus died a second time, God was able to keep him.

Fifth, with nothing to fear, and being set free from the allurements of sin, and knowing that he lived by Jesus' resurrection power, we can probably speculate that Lazarus lived with "holy abandon". That is, he threw himself into living for God in the fullest possible way.

These are not just items for idle curiosity, nor are they merely theological oddities. They have very practical significance this Easter. Jesus' resurrection is wondrous and fills us with hope. But such hope is not for something future only. Paul tells us that he longs to know Christ and the power of his resurrection (Phil 3:10), and that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead gives life to our bodies (Romans 8:11). Paul doesn't mean future, he means now - present tense.

What this says to us is that if we are in Christ we have the power to live like Lazarus and must do so. It is given to us to live our daily life in the resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead. The world and its sinful allurements no longer have power over us, so we should stop toying with them. Set your heart on something higher and more wonderful. Like Paul, our past no longer needs to haunt us – it cannot be held against us. We are to forget what lies behind and press on to what lies ahead in the upward call of Christ. We need not fear death because we have already died with Christ and our life is hidden in him. We belong to the God of life. We can live with "holy abandon" to promote the glory and the kingdom of God.

Resurrection? Yes, definitely . . . this is wonderful and very practical stuff . . .

Happy Easter!

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, - that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
(Philippians 3:10-11)

Taking Every Thought Captive To Christ,

It Was Early in The Morning

***It was early in the morning
On the first day of the week,
When three loving women hastened
Their buried Lord to seek.***

***As they came into the garden
By the early light of day,
They saw that from the sepulchre
The stone was rolled away***

***They looked into the sepulchre
In wonder and in fear-
And there sat a shining angel
Who said, "He is not here."***

***"He is not here but risen"
Were the words the angel said
Of the well-beloved Master
Whom they had mourned as dead.***

~~Cecil Frances Alexander

JACKSON, 4.13-14 • ANNAPOLIS, 9.28-29 • CHATTANOOGA, 10.5-6 • ST. LOUIS, 10.19-20

one hope...one faith...one church

2018 PCA WOMEN'S
CONFERENCES

one

cdm

WWW.PCACDM.ORG/ONE-CONFERENCES

ONE St. Louis, MO Conference

It does not take much to divide us as women. Age, opinions, race, preferences, comfort, conflict or any indwelling sin can find us quickly separated from God and one another. And yet fundamentally we are more alike than different. Last words can be both precious and profound. Jesus uttered some of His last words to us on His way to the cross in His high priestly prayer, "that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21ESV). You see, our unity with Him and one another is not only imperative to Christ, it is ultimately a matter of life or death... will our unity compel the world to believe in Him? Our oneness will either validate or negate the claims of the gospel. We pray you will join us at a ONE conference in 2018 where we will challenge women to think biblically rather than emotively about oneness from the truths found in John 17.

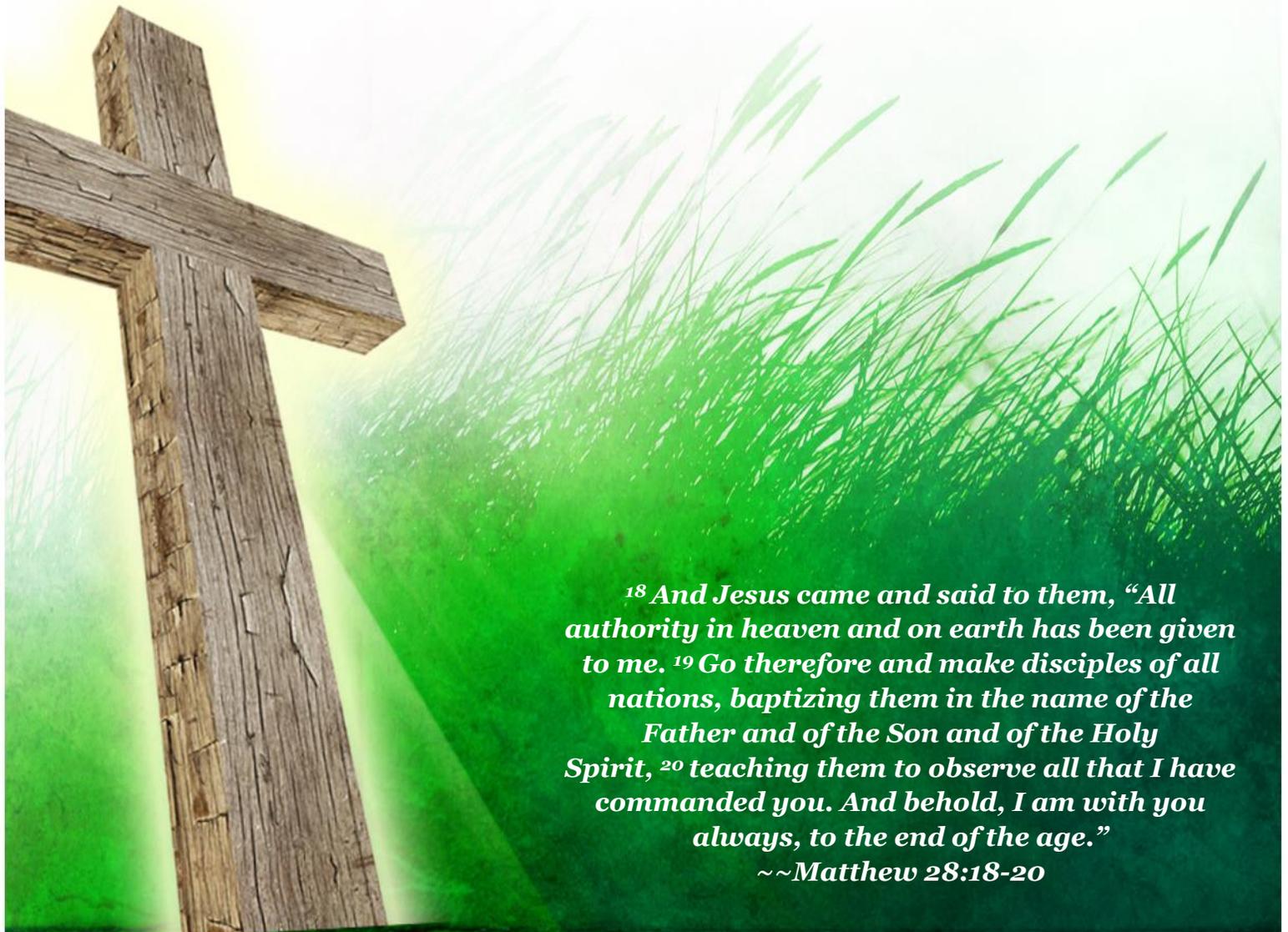
Ladies...Please consider joining your Sister's in Christ as we head to St. Louis on Friday, October 19th. We have room for 6-8 ladies to spend the night at Marilyn Baker's home. We will carpool as best we can. There is a pre-conference training that is available on Friday afternoon and is an additional \$25. There will also be tours going on at Covenant Seminary if you are interested in seeing the campus.

Early sign up (\$75) is recommended as the conference has sold out early in the past. Amanda will be doing online sign-ups for the group. Please sign up on the bulletin board, choose your 2 workshops, and pay the registration fee ASAP so you can be registered. See Amanda for additional information or ANY questions you might have. Such an exciting opportunity we have to worship, fellowship, and grow with other women in the faith.

Summary of Session Work from March 2018

The Session meeting began with the Deacons included. We opened with prayer and a devotion from Nehemiah 2, where Nehemiah inspected the condition of Jerusalem before laying out the project that they faced. In our case, evaluating the condition and the need is critical to good leadership. As usual, then, we took care of the regular business of reviewing minutes, treasurer's report, upcoming duty assignments, farm report and correspondence. At pastor's request, we decided to move April Communion to the 8th instead of serving on Easter. Interim Pastor Baker reported that he is gathering leadership profiles from the church and assessing Spiritual gifts to help refine a summary for advertising the pastoral opening here at the church. Approval was given to Pastor Baker for vacation time the last week of May, and IPM conference time the second week of June. Approval was given to Teresa Snodgrass for April 1st use of the parking lot. Estimates will be sought to re-install a gate bar at the north entrance of the parking lot to help protect children who play there during the week, and to post "Private Property" signs at the entrances of the parking lot to remind our neighbors that it is not public space to be used at will. Time was taken for discussion surrounding the spiritual health of the congregation and prayer for member concerns.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.



¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

~~Matthew 28:18-20

Atlanta Leadership Training – Teresa’s Thoughts

The acronym for our women’s ministry here at Princeville Presbyterian is W.O.W. (Women of the Word) and in coming away from the PCA Women’s Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA all I can say is WOW! And yet wow doesn’t even seem to be enough to sum up the experience of these three days.

The conference was entitled “Sticky Ministry: Word Base and Relationally Driven”. Many sticky topics were discussed. But before I get to that I would like to share a very big highlight of the trip! Amanda and I were able to meet and get our picture taken with a couple of the godly women whose studies we have done or are currently studying. We met Courtney Doctor whose study we just finished (From Garden to Glory). Courtney was so easy to talk to. It felt as though we were just catching up with an old friend. We also met Karen Hodge, whose study we are doing right now (Transformed: Life Taker to Life Giver). Karen was able to answer a question we had about the study. She would love to hear our feedback after we have completed the study. Then there was Susan Hunt, who co-authored our current study with Karen Hodge. Though we did not get to meet Susan Hunt face to face we did get to see this seventy-eight year old little firecracker in action. This lady is on fire for the Lord and has no plans of retiring from her service to Him!

As I mentioned, there were several sticky topics discussed. Discipleship, gender specific roles and God’s plan for those roles, submission, servanthood, transformation from life taker to life giver, leadership, and cross generational conversations just to name a few. I could not possibly choose a favorite topic as they were all so good. After tossing them into a hat, submission is the topic I pulled out. The topic of submission always brings much debate. There are so many passages that explain God’s plan for submission. Many people struggle with submission. Some taking offense while others feel it may just be a little old fashioned. Why do we struggle with the actions and meaning of this word so much? Did you know that before sin, Eve joyfully submitted to Adam? But sin came along and we have wrestled with submission ever since! Submission is the idea of oneness. Oneness with your spouse, boss, teacher, parent, elder, etc. We are called to submit to people in authority over us. Submission is “submitting to others according to the authority and order established by God”. Did you catch that? Submission was established by God. Therefore when we submit we are ultimately submitting to our Heavenly Father, the greatest authority. God already had a plan of submission in order when he named Adam as headship and Eve as Adam’s life helper. This is where gender specific roles come into play, but that was another workshop! Submission is not something that is easier for some people and harder for others. Submission is not something that was applied in the old days but no longer applies in today’s world. Submission should not be a response to one’s character in authority over us. Submission should be a response to Christ’s love and His character. Submission is a work of grace. The next time I am struggling with submission I hope I can remember that we are never more like Christ than when we submit. I want to truly reflect on Christ’s ultimate act of submission to his Father, his death on the cross. Do you think Christ mumbled under his breath, asked questions, or whined and complained in his final act of submission??

In closing I want to thank the session for allowing and providing the opportunity for Amanda and I to attend this conference. It truly was a wonderful experience and we both truly appreciate it. Our hope is to bring back and implement what we have learned so that our ladies in the church will be blessed as well!

***Love in Christ,
Teresa Snodgrass***





April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter Breakfast @8am	Prayer Group @ 9:30am WOW @ 10:30am	WOW @ 6pm	AWANA @ 6:15pm	Food Pantry @5pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Communion	Prayer Group @ 9:30am	Deacons @6:30pm Session @ 7pm	AWANA @ 6:15pm			WOW Brunch @10am (Barb's)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
AWANA Sunday Fellowship Meal	Prayer Group @ 9:30am WOW @ 10:30am	WOW @ 6pm	AWANA @ 6:15pm	Food Pantry @5pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Prayer Group @ 9:30am WOW @ 10:30am	WOW @ 6pm	AWANA @ 6:15pm			
29	30					
Rockin' Seniors	Prayer Group @ 9:30am WOW @ 10:30am					

Member Spotlight – Diana Williams

I was born the eldest of four children to Julius and Lucille Theobald Lauber. I *grew up in the village of Monica, among many* aunts, uncles, and cousins. I attended grade school at Monica and high school at Princeville. As a young teen I accepted Jesus as my savior after being led by Rev. Keith Gaither. At the time, we had a very active Methodist Youth Fellowship. My life was forever changed! I loved school and wanted to be like my teachers, Mrs. Myrtle Rock, who had the patience of a saint, and Mrs. Ada Addis, who encouraged me to read and write. Both women were excellent role models and let me help tutor younger students. Although our Monica Methodist Church was small, we had a strong Sunday School, Bible school, and role models of strong faith as leaders. When I was 12, Sandy Stichling asked me to help teach pre-school Sunday School and I jumped at the opportunity. I definitely wanted to be a teacher. I taught Sunday School and Bible School from then on until I graduated from high school. What a great opportunity to work with others.

After graduating salutatorian from PHS, I received an Illinois Merit Scholarship that enabled me to attend Illinois State University for the next four years. I was a comprehensive Home Economics student. I became a member of Kappa Omicron Phi, Mu chapter, a Home Economics honorary, and Kappa Delta Epsilon, honorary education chapter. My senior year, I did nine weeks of student teaching at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park, a western suburb of Chicago. Sandburg was a school of 2600 students. Quite a change from Princeville! But somehow, it all worked. Following a challenging but rewarding student teaching experience that included teaching a 16-year-old young man how to bake a prize winning cherry pie at a regional contest, I was asked to interview for a teaching position at the school. I was hired to join a six-person department and teach Foods and Nutrition, Child Development, and become part of a Title 8 program. This program was titled Visual Communications and was designed to train designated students as “risks to graduate” to develop career skills. I had these students for three years of training. During their junior year, we operated an in-school restaurant for faculty at least eight times a year. What a challenge! With lots of hard work, headaches, heartbreaks, prayers, and the Lord’s blessings, all twenty students graduated and were launched into the real world.

Ron (Rollo) Williams returned home to Princeville after spending 2 ½ years with the U.S Army in Germany. Although we were classmates, we had not dated. According to my sister, Linda, he finally got up enough courage to ask me out one fall weekend that I had come home. And, so it began! By April, we were engaged when Ron said, “We’re getting married!” And I did not argue the point. Oh, yeah, I was in love! We were married July 8, 1972, at the Monica Methodist Church. Our 1st home was a small house on Jubilee at his uncle’s farm. I was working as a grade school secretary at Princeville grade school. Ron was farming with his father and working for Meyer/Morton Grain Co. Our first son, Curt Alan, was born in May of ’73 and died from birth complications a day later. I had never known such grief and pain. It took a long time of prayers, soul-searching, and Ron’s supporting love to help me heal and keep it together. God answered our prayers and blessed us with a healthy, happy boy, Ryan Lane, on July 29, 1974. Seventeen months later, a beautiful little girl joined our family on December 27, 1975. We named her Nicole Lynn or as she was better known, Niki. We moved to the Williams’ family farmhouse in February of 1977, where I still reside today. I transferred my church membership to this church in the mid 80’s, so that we joined a long list of Presbyterian Williams’ and could worship as a family. I continued to teach Sunday School and Bible School for many years.

I began to teach Punkin’ Patch Nursery school from 1977-87 at the Princeville Methodist Church. I loved each day of challenging and inspiring those active, eager 4-year-old minds. So, imagine my shocked surprise to discover that we were to add another member to our family. Bret Landon was born Sept. 17, 1987 to 8th grade big brother, Ryan, and 6th grade sister, Niki. WOW! I didn’t know how hectic life could become with two junior high student/athletes on the go and an infant. I must admit my memories of those years are a blur but what a wonderful time! Ryan and Niki both successfully participated in three high school sports and Ron was coaching softball, both travel and school ball. Bret and I were on the road just trying to feed, clothe, do laundry and keep up with all.

When Bret entered kindergarten, I was asked to return and teach Family and Consumer Sciences ½ time at Princeville High. This position grew to full time and I taught 13 more years until retiring in 2011. On July, 12, 2002, Ryan and Sue Thompson wed. We were blessed with our 1st grandson, Chase Logan, on May 12, 2003. He was followed by Jacob Dylan on Feb. 11, 2007. I am so blessed!!! Niki finally said “enough” of the cold, windy Chicago weather and moved to Napa, Ca and wine country where she loves being a wine-maker for Franciscan winery.

Life threw us a new challenge in 2012, when Ron developed health issues and was finally diagnosed with MDS, myelodysplastic syndrome, a leukemic precursor. After numerous trips to Mayo’s, Normal Cancer Center, hospital stays, and too many transfusions to count, Ron enjoyed fifteen wonderful months of remission. Our many prayers had been answered. He enjoyed good health, energy, and happiness. He loved mentoring Ryan as he took over our grain/cattle farming operation.

On June 20, 2014, Ron and I proudly watched Bret and Rachel Sipes pledge their vows in her lovely, country church. Our family was growing and I had two precious daughters-in-law!

Unfortunately, Ron’s MDS reoccurred in a new form early in 2015. He bravely battled on but on Sunday, Aug. 25th, Ron’s big, strong loving heart gave up the battle. Rachel, Bret and I returned from Church to find that he was gone. I have never known such a devastating loss. With my family, friends, and the understanding that God knows best I have been “keeping on”. Thanks to my church family, Rev. Puckett, Bible study group and WOW, I have been able to cope and continue my walk with Christ and this worldly life.

I take comfort in these verses, Hebrews 13:5. “I will never leave you nor forsake you”, Romans 8:28 “And we know for those that love God all things work together for good, for those who he called according to his purpose.”, and Isaiah 4:10 “Be assured that He is holding your hand and will not let go” So, in closing, I will simply quote a popular country song by Collin Raye,” that’s my story and I’m sticking to it!”

~~ Diana

Prayer Ministry

Please continue to lift up the following people in prayer:

Birthdays

10th – Ryan Lehmann

Michael Webber

16th – Jean Coon

17th – Ron Peterson

27th – Cathy Hyde

30th – Brayden Lehmann

Anniversaries

17th – John & Chris Meuser

24th – Don & Brenda Peterson

Mary Scott

Connor Webber

Eli Keighin

Don Wilson Family

Church Elders & Deacons

W.O.W Ministry

AWANA Ministry

Sunday School Teachers

Fellowship Team

Pastor Search Committee

Transition Team

Our missionaries:

Jeff & Marilyn German

Paul & Elizabeth Branch

**If you would like a loved one added or taken off, please contact the office.*

Matthew 28:5-6

But the angel answered and said to the women,

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here;

FOR HE IS RISEN, AS HE SAID.

Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

