

# PERRY PRES

A Publication of Perry Hall Presbyterian Church  
Spring 2015-2016

## PASTOR'S PAGE

The biggest thing about Easter is trying to explain the resurrection of Christ. Simply, no words are adequate enough to express its magnitude. No words seem to exist that can totally explain what happened on that day centuries ago when frightened disciples to the tomb of Jesus early one morning and find his body missing.

Jim Lowry, Pastor Emeritus at Idelwild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, is helped by understanding Easter by calling it: "Disputatious Testimony."

There are four accounts in the Bible of what happened on the first Easter morning, and they are, in fact, disputatious. They tell it differently, each one, with different people responding in different ways.

In Matthew, Mary Magdalene, and the "other Mary" go to the tomb where Jesus is buried. There is an earthquake, an angel appears and rolls back the stone and sits on it.

In Mark, it is the two Marys and Salome; a young man in a white robe tells them Jesus has risen. They flee in terror and say nothing to anyone.

In Luke's account, it is the two Marys again, and Joanna. When they tell the disciples what happened the women are dismissed – idle talk the men say. Peter alone goes to see the empty tomb for himself.

Finally, in John, the fourth Gospel, Mary Magdalene goes to the garden tomb. It is still dark. She discovers the stone has been moved. She assumes someone stole the body. She runs to tell Peter and John.

Four different accounts of one event: "Disputatious Testimony".

Why didn't someone in the early centuries, as the booksw of the New Testament were being assembled,

clean it up? Why didn't a Committee do a little editing so the story of the resurrection be coherent?

But when you think about it, any good trial lawyer or judge knows that when all the evidence presented in court is perfectly consistent, in all probability the evidence has been altered. In fact, different people describe the same event differently.

Discrepancies in the Bible are not necessarily evidence tampering but maybe the exact opposite – they are authentic records of an event experienced by different individuals who later describe it in different ways.

The only assurance we have is we know something wonderful took place. We know it because Jesus kept popping up all over after that – appearing on the road to Emmaus, by the seaside, in locked rooms. Here, there, and everywhere. There was no keeping Jesus down.

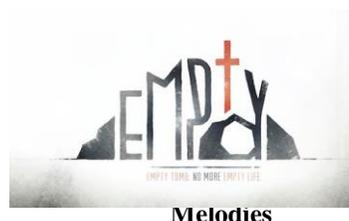
It is the same risen Christ in our lives today, popping up here and there with love and mercy and forgiveness. It is the same risen Jesus walking beside us no matter what we go through. We all can give our own testimony of how Jesus is alive in us.

So we might not have all the details of the resurrection lined up in a tidy row. For sure, the testimony has its differences, but we know in our hearts what happened – something wonderful that no words can possibly describe – Jesus rose from the dead.

We have Christ in our hearts. We have seen him work wonders for all of us, again and again.

Blessings,

Reverend John Kazanjian



and Their

**Pastor – Reverend John Kazanjian**  
**Secretary – Kim Kalinowski Church Office – 410-256-5780**  
**Music Director –**

**By Bob Barnes**

“Abide With Me,” #543 in the Presbyterian Hymnal, has a text written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847 with eight stanzas, but when Henry Ward Beecher included it in his *Plymouth Collection* in 1855 it only had five. Now considered an evening hymn, it was originally written about death and was written after Lyte had visited an old friend who was dying.

It is set to the tune “Eventide” written in 1861 by William Henry Mont (1823-1889), music editor of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

See LindaJo H. McKim, *The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion*, Westminster/John Knox Press, © by LindaJo H. McKim, 1993.

**Easter Trivia**

The name Easter derived its name from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eastre, which symbolizes hare and egg. Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25. Easter is however now celebrated (in the words of the Book of Common Prayer) on the first Sunday after the full moon, which happens on, or after March 21, the Spring Equinox. Since time immemorial, egg has been considered as the symbol of rebirth.



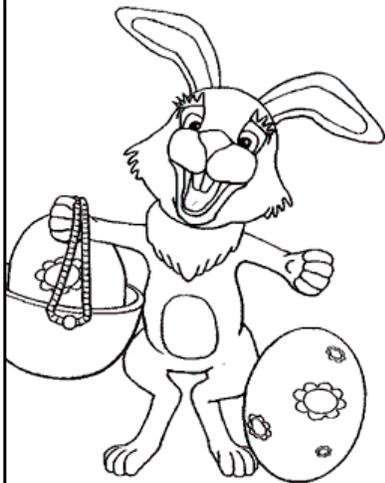
such so as to give it an appearance of a bird's nests.

- The custom of giving eggs at Easter time has been traced back from Egyptians, Gaul, Persians, Greeks and Romans, to whom the egg was a symbol of life.
- During the medieval times, a festival of egg throwing was held in church, during which the priest would throw a hard-boiled egg to one of the choirboys. It would then be tossed from one choirboy to the next and whoever held the egg when the clock struck 12 was surely the winner and will retained the egg.
- Americans however celebrated Easter with a large Easter egg hunt on the White House Lawn.
- Pysanka is the term used for the practice of Easter egg painting.
- The maiden chocolate egg recipes were made in Europe in the nineteenth century.
- Each year nearly 90 million chocolate bunnies are made.
- Besides Halloween, Easter holiday also paves way for confectionary business to prosper.
- When it comes to eating of chocolate bunnies, the ears are preferred to be eaten first by as many as 76% of people.
- Easter Bonnets are a throwback to the days when the people denied themselves the pleasure of wearing fine angels for the duration of Lent.
- Kids' favorite Easter foodstuff comprises of the Red jellybeans.
- Some Churches still keep up the old tradition of using evergreens - symbolic of eternal life - embroidered in red on white, or woven in straw, but most now prefer displays of flowers in the spring colors of green, yellow and white.
- The date of Passover is variable as it is dependent on the phases of the moon, and thus Easter is a movable feast.

**Easter Word Search Puz**

Y S E R U T C I P M I G X I T  
 D B D Y A S P R I N G N M M A  
 N Y R R P S O D O O G I I Y E  
 A E H E A P G W J R L R Y T S  
 C L Z I L B A G G Z Q O A F S  
 H L C T L I B H E B W L D L N  
 C O E A Y U G T G A Q O N B C

BASKET  
 BONNET  
 BUNNY  
 CANDY  
 CHILDRE  
 CHOCOLA  
 CHURCH



# Easter egg hunt

The words easter egg are hidden in this puzzle 20 times. Can you find all of the easter eggs?

W	E	A	S	T	E	R	E	G	G	M	E	O	G	Y
J	O	E	R	P	R	Y	G	W	H	G	O	E	K	W
E	D	E	A	S	T	E	R	E	G	G	O	A	V	E
R	A	R	E	S	R	M	M	G	O	Y	E	S	J	A
G	E	S	Z	E	T	O	Y	G	F	D	A	T	E	S
E	K	A	T	B	I	E	G	T	D	K	S	E	A	T
E	A	S	S	E	E	E	R	G	B	Q	T	R	S	E
M	A	S	N	T	R	A	G	E	F	R	E	E	T	R
E	W	S	T	E	E	E	S	F	G	D	R	G	E	E
H	A	W	T	E	R	R	G	T	B	G	E	G	R	G
C	G	S	K	E	R	V	E	G	E	S	G	T	E	G
E	A	Z	T	Z	R	E	B	G	H	R	G	V	G	H
E	A	S	T	E	R	E	G	G	G	Z	E	B	G	X
H	A	T	V	S	S	D	G	G	Z	S	P	G	D	F
E	L	O	Y	Y	B	O	U	G	G	X	R	J	G	U

## WHERE TO LOOK IN THE BIBLE WHEN YOU:

### Need Rest & Peace

Matthew 11:28-30

### Worry

Matthew 6:19-34

### Are Lonely or Fearful

Psalms 23

### Need Peace of Mind

John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-8

### Are Disappointed by People

Psalms 27

### Grow Bitter or Critical

1 Corinthians 13

### Have Sinned

Psalms 51, 1 John 1

### Are Discouraged

Psalms 34

### Feel God Seems Far Away

Psalms 139

### Think the World Seems Bigger than God

Psalms 90

### Are Sick

Psalms 41

### Feel Sorrowful

John 14, Psalms 46

### Are in Danger

Psalms 91

### Want Courage

Joshua 1:1-9

### Need Assurance

Romans 8

### Forget Your Blessings

Psalms 103

### Are Looking for Joy

Colossians 3

### Leave Home to Travel

Psalms 121

### Think of Investments

Mark 10:17-31

### Need Guidelines for Living

Matthew 5-7, Romans 12

### Need Rules of Conduct

Exodus 20:1-17

### Need to Know God's Will for Your Life

Proverbs 3:1-6

Submitted by Kim Kalinowski



Mother's Day is on Sunday, the 8th of May.

In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. In some countries it was changed to dates that were significant to the majority religion, or to historical dates.

### Earliest History of Mother's Day

The earliest history of Mother's Day dates back to the ancient annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to maternal goddesses. The Greeks used the occasion to honor Rhea, wife of Cronus and the mother of many deities of Greek mythology.

Ancient Romans, too, celebrated a spring festival, called Hilaria dedicated to Cybele, a mother goddess. It may be noted that ceremonies

in honor of Cybele began some 250 years before Christ was born. The celebration made on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple of Cybele lasted for three days and included parades, games and masquerades. The celebrations were notorious enough that followers of Cybele were banished from Rome.

Early Christians celebrated a Mother's Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of



Lent in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. In England the holiday was expanded to include all mothers. It was then called Mothering Sunday.

### **History of Mother's Day: Mothering Sunday**

The more recent history of Mother's Day dates back to 1600s in England. Here a **Mothering Sunday** was celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter) to honor mothers. After a prayer service in church to honor Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to pay tribute to their own mothers.

On the occasion, servants, apprentices and other employees staying away from their homes were encouraged by their employers to visit their mothers and honor them. Traditionally children brought with them gifts and a special fruit cake or fruit-filled pastry called a simnel. Yugoslavs and people in other nations have observed similar days.

Custom of celebrating Mothering Sunday died out almost completely by the 19th century. However, the day came to be celebrated again after World War II, when American servicemen brought the custom and commercial enterprises used it as an occasion for sales.

### **History of Mother's Day: Julia Ward Howe**

The idea of official celebration of Mother's day in US was first suggested by Julia Ward Howe in 1872. An activist, writer and poet Julia shot to fame with her famous Civil War song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Julia Ward Howe suggested that June 2 be annually celebrated as Mother's Day and should be dedicated to peace. She wrote a passionate appeal to women and urged them to rise against war in her famous **Mother's Day Proclamation**, written in Boston in 1870. She also initiated a Mothers' Peace Day observance on the second Sunday in June in Boston and held the meeting for a number of years. Julia tirelessly championed the cause of official celebration of Mother's Day and declaration of official holiday on the day. Her idea spread but was later replaced by the

Mother's Day holiday now celebrated in May.

### **History of Mother's Day: Anna Jarvis**

Anna Jarvis is recognized as the Founder of Mother's Day in the US.

Though **An na Jarvis** never married and never had kids, she is also known

as the Mother of Mother's Day, an apt title for the lady who worked hard to bestow honor on all mothers.

Anna Jarvis got the inspiration of celebrating Mother's Day from her own mother Mrs. Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis in her childhood. An activist and social worker, Mrs. Jarvis used to express her desire that someday someone must honor all mothers, living and dead, and pay tribute to the contributions made by them.

A loving daughter, Anna never forgot her mother's word and when her mother died in 1905, she resolved to fulfill her mother's desire of having a Mother's Day. Growing negligent attitude of adult Americans towards their mothers and a desire to honor her mother's soared her ambitions.

To begin with Anna, sent **Carnations** in the church service in Grafton, West Virginia to honor her mother. Carnations were her mother's favorite flower and Anna felt that they symbolized a mother's pure love. Later Anna along with her supporters wrote letters to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mother's Day holiday. The hard work paid off. By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state in the Union and on May 8, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.



## History of Mother's Day: Present Day Celebrations

Today Mother's Day is celebrated in several countries including US, UK, India, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, Mexico, Canada, China, Japan and Belgium. People take the day as an opportunity to pay tribute to their mothers and thank them for all their love and support. The day has become hugely popular and in several countries phone lines witness maximum traffic. There is also a tradition of gifting flowers, cards and others gift to mothers on the Mother's Day. The festival has become commercialized to a great extent. Florists, card manufacturers and gift sellers see huge business potential in the day and make good money through a rigorous advertising campaign.

It is unfortunate to note that Ms. Anna Jarvis, who devoted her life for the declaration of Mother's Day holiday was deeply hurt to note the huge commercialization of the day.



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his [General Order No. 11](#). "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).



It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

## Red Poppies



In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

*We cherish too, the Poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies.*

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and

learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

## National Moment of Remembrance

The "[National Moment of Remembrance](#)" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to '[Taps](#).'"

