

Advent Christian Church of South Eliot Newsletter

April 2019

Volume 19, Issue 4
Churchontheriver.net

Prayer Requests

Mary Lou and Pastor Charlie Downes, Family of David Leavitt obituary and arrangements pending); Family of Joel Barnes who lost his life on 3/1/19 fighting a fire in Berwick; Family of Gaylen Marble, Barbara Dubois; Terry Saunders, Ed & Lori Marquardt, Bill & Donna Bayliss, Elaine Carter, Risa Baglivo-Garland, Carolyn & Walt Beckert (brother Richard passed; Frank Jewett; Cheryl Bowden, Ken Thurston, Pat Beal, Elizabeth Fisher, Scott and Sophie Dobben

April Birthdays



3, Ginnie Thurston
12, Pat Beal and Bruce Goodwin
16, Lindy Rowe
17, Walt and Carolyn Beckert 1999
22, Remember Alan Maxfield

Upcoming Events

Sunday Worship 9:45AM to 11AM followed by coffee and conversation

Sunday Eve Service 6PM at MHV with Rev George Middleton

Men's Supper 3rd Monday 6:30pm at Church

Card-Making 1st Tuesday 12:30-2PM MHV

Official Board Meeting 2nd Tues 6PM Church
Breakfast at Norma's 1st Wed 8AM

Easter Sunday is April 21st; join us for our service at 9:45AM

Prayer Mtg & Bible Study Wed 6pm Church

Cards & Crafts 3rd Church 3rd Thursday 10 AM –noon

Sunday April 14th, The Greatest Gift will be performing at our 9:45am service

Sunday April 28th, Brad White will be performing at out 9:45 am service with a dinner to follow.



Obituary



Gaylen Marble, 85, passed away of natural causes on March 10, 2019 at York Hospital.

Gaylen was born in Dover, NH on June 10, 1933, the eldest son of the late Willis and Ruth (Hayes) Marble. He graduated from Eliot High School in 1951. He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict.

He was married to his wife Peggy Nichols in 1961. Together, they raised 3 daughters, Kimberly (Robert Emery), Lisa (Bryan Fields) and Rebecca (Scott Schnobrich).

They have 6 adoring grandchildren; Meg (Robert Bardell II) and Tess Emery; Brandon and Ashley Fields; and Olivia and Steven

Schnobrich. They also have one great grandson, Robert (Bobby)William Bardell III. His grandchildren were his greatest pride. He often said that he couldn't imagine what he and Peggy could have ever done to deserve such blessings.

Gaylen was skilled at auto body repair and welding. He owned and operated United Auto Body in Eliot, ME for over 30 years until his retirement. He enjoyed being his own boss and was able to support his family with his business. He resided at the family home above the shop until his death. He loved his business and home. He was proud to have built the place with his own 2 hands. Some of the timber came from his own land. He also loved to cut wood on his property and heated his home with his wood stove for many years, even until his death.

Gaylen lovingly cared for his wife Peggy at home for many years until she finally succumbed in their home to Alzheimer's disease in 2014. He was holding her hand as she passed. His family remains extremely proud of him for his dedication.

In addition to his daughters and their families, Gaylen is survived by his brother Edward Marble.

He was predeceased by his brother John Marble.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to:

The Alzheimer's Association

383 US Route 1 #2C Scarborough, ME 04074

or

The South Eliot Advent Christian Church

256 Pleasant Street

Eliot, ME 03903.

Gaylen wasn't much for going to church, but his faith was in Christ. This church was special to Peggy, and, therefore, also to him.

Captain Joel Barnes, Berwick Firefighter
Died in the Line of Duty on 3/1/19

Joe Chambers, one of our Deacons at the Church on the River is also the Chaplain for the Berwick, ME fire department. Joe delivered Captain Barnes' eulogy and closing prayer on 3/9/19 to thousands gathered at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland. Joe hit home the salvation message and the story was picked up by all the major news networks. We are so proud of Joe. Rest in Peace Captain Barnes. Thank you for your service.



Joe Chambers, Chaplain for the Berwick Fire Department addresses mourners at the Cross Arena in Portland.



Chaplain Joe Chambers prays over the casket of Capt Barnes at the Cross Insurance Arena on 3/9/19

Thrift Shop Ministry



Thank you Peg Byrne for organizing this clothing and household item exchange ministry. All items are free. If you are looking to jazz up your wardrobe or know of someone who is, come visit us after our Sunday service.



Bill Bayliss and Daniel Ashley



Bill Bayliss, Bob Mills and Daniel Ashley



Bill Bayliss and Bob Emery

Baby Quiz

Well who could this pretty little second-grader be? Hint: her eyes are just as beautiful today as they were then.



Last month's mystery kid was.....JOE CHAMBERS!!!



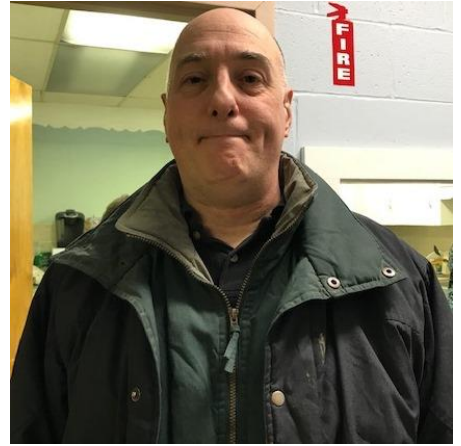
Highlights from our February 24th
Dinner!



Dinner is served!



Pastor Charlie and Mary Lou with daughter Katherine



Bob Emery



Joe Chambers and George Middleton



Dot Manson and Kent Davis



Carolyn Beckert and Mary Lou Downes



Laurie Chambers



Dick Dubois

St. Paddy's Day Shenanigans!



Priscilla O'Connell



Dot Manson, Sharon Mills, Cheryl Goodwin



March Breakfast at Norma's



More fun at Norma's!

Special Music

Do you have musical talent and/or a healthy dose of self-confidence? Then why not treat us to a special music during our Sunday service?



Pat Beal and Jody Dahlen sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness" on 3/24/19

Resurrection Realities: The Miracle of Easter

from www.james-dave.com

(The angel said) "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."-Luke 24:5-6

"Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it has a God who knows the way out of the grave."-G.K. Chesterton (1)

Christianity is a religion that is viewed through the shadow of the cross. Whether adorning a majestic church spire or dangling from a necklace, the Cross is the universally recognized symbol of the Christian faith, and for good reason. We look back on the cross with awe and reverence, recalling the unmeasurable depths of God's love

paying the ultimate price to reconcile us to Him (2). The great preacher Charles Spurgeon puts it beautifully: "We will by faith put ourselves at the foot of the little knoll of Calvary. There we see in the center between two thieves the Son of God made flesh, nailed by His hands and feet, and dying in an anguish that words cannot portray. Look steadfastly and devoutly, gazing through your tears...I will ask you first to smite your breasts, as you remember that *you see in Him your own sins*...Then see the greatness of your sins that required so vast a sacrifice...If Jehovah did not spare His Son, how little would He have spared guilty, worthless men if He had dealt with us after our sins and rewarded us according to our iniquities."(3)

Although it seems repulsive to our natural minds, it is truly beautiful to consider how such a hideous instrument of torture and death could become a symbol of life and hope to millions. This is because the story doesn't end at the cross. Rather, it leads up to an event so powerful, so dramatic that it has split our calendar in half into "B.C." and "A.D.!" I am referring, of course, to Jesus' bodily Resurrection from the dead. Often referred to as "The Capstone in the Arch of Christianity," Jesus' Resurrection is the "seal" which authenticates everything He said, did and stood for.

Consider for a moment the common objections skeptics have toward the Christian faith: "Churches are full of hypocrites." "Religion has caused wars and other atrocities." "If that's what Christianity is all about, I want no part of it." But that is *not* what Christianity is all about. I certainly do not deny that some heinous things have been done in Christ's name, but that is totally irrelevant to the ultimate truth of Christianity. Neither the Crusades, the Salem Witch Trials nor the more recent televangelist scandals can undo the irrefutable, historical fact of the Resurrection. As Christian philosopher Ravi Zacharias observes:

"It all seems so simplistic, does it not? A group of gullible, pre-scientific men, succumbing to the illusions and deceptions of their day. Yet, every piece of evidence mustered, including the prophecies that long preceded the event itself and the unexplainable change in the courage and confidence of the early believers, supported by the empirical evidence, argues powerfully for the truth of it all." (4)

In this study, we will look at a few of these evidences. On numerous occasions, prominent scholars have researched this topic, and to the surprise of many, have strongly verified the historicity of the Gospel accounts. One example would be Dr. Simon Greenleaf, the Royall Professor of Law at Harvard University. Dr. Greenleaf is considered one of the world's top authorities on legal evidences. After applying this expertise to the Resurrection, he concluded that it was, in fact, an historical reality. His research is available in a book called *The Testimony of the Evangelists*. Another example would be British lawyer Frank Morrison. He set out to write a book repudiating the Resurrection and instead found the evidence so overwhelming he actually became a believer himself! His findings can be read in his book, *Who Moved The Stone?*. Similarly, journalist Lee Strobel began his quest as a skeptic attempting to discredit the Christian faith, but wound up having his own life-changing encounter with the risen Jesus. His story is told in the popular book *The Case For Christ*. As we shall see, these men came to their conclusions based on verifiable historical and archeological facts which make Jesus' Resurrection the single most provable event in human history.

Three of the most common arguments used to deny the Resurrection are:

1. Jesus did not really die on the cross. Rather, He simply "swooned" or lost consciousness. Later, He revived and walked out of the tomb Himself.

2. His disciples stole His body.

3. The four Gospel accounts of the Resurrection are worded differently, each including details omitted by the others. Therefore, they are contradictory and cannot be trusted.

Of course, the first two arguments are totally ridiculous in light of the facts. As anyone who has seen the movie *The Passion* can attest, the horror of crucifixion (which included a whipping so brutal that it alone was often fatal) was not something a person could simply survive and walk away from. Jesus' death was confirmed when a Roman guard put a spear into His side (John 19:32-34). This resulted in a discharge of blood and water, which indicated that the cause of death was a constriction of the fluid sac surrounding the heart. Later, a Roman soldier reported to Pilate that Jesus was indeed dead (Mark 15:44, 45). Jesus' body was then wrapped for burial and placed in the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (John 19:38-40). The tomb's entrance was sealed with a heavy, disc shaped stone weighing between one and a half and two tons. A stone of this size would take approximately 20 strong, healthy men in order to move it. In addition, the tomb was guarded by elite Roman soldiers who would be brutally executed (burned alive) if the tomb was disturbed (5). Obviously, this does away with any possibility that Jesus' body could have been stolen. Also, as we shall examine shortly, the disciples were willing to suffer and die for their faith in the Resurrection. Why would they do this if they had staged the whole thing by stealing the body?

Moving on to the third argument, it is true that each Gospel narrative puts a unique perspective on the Resurrection account. But is this a contradiction? Not at all. Each Gospel features its own special points of emphasis, and these additional details are complimentary, not contradictory. The notes on

Matthew 28 in the *Scofield Study Bible* combine all four narratives to produce a very helpful time line of the post-resurrection events:

1. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, start for the sepulchre, followed by other women bearing spices. The three find the stone rolled away, and Mary Magdalene goes to tell the disciples (Luke 23:55-24:9; John 20:1-2).
2. Mary, the mother of James, draws nearer to the tomb and sees the angel of the Lord (Matthew 28:2). She goes back to meet the other women following with the spices.
3. Meanwhile, Peter and John, warned by Mary Magdalene, arrive, look in and go away (John 20:3-10).
4. Mary Magdalene returns weeping, sees the two angels, then Jesus (John 20:11-18) and goes as He bade her to tell the disciples.
5. Mary (mother of James and Joses), meanwhile, has met the women with the spices and, returning with them, they see the TWO angels (Luke 24:4-5; Mark 16:5). They also receive the angelic message, and going to seek the disciples, are met by Jesus (Matthew 28:8-10). (6)

One of the most striking evidences for the Resurrection is its immediate impact on the religious world of the day. With the founding of the church in 32 AD, we see a sudden change in the day of worship. This is significant because all of the early Christians were Jews coming from a strict background of observing the seventh day Sabbath. Once they became Christians, however, they made their day of worship Sunday, the first day of the week (Acts

20:6-12; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2) (7). This was done in order to commemorate Christ's Resurrection on that day (Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-9; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1-16). In addition, we see new ordinances practiced by Christians from the very beginning of church history. These include Lord's Supper, i.e. Communion or Eucharist, which represents Jesus' broken Body and shed Blood, as well as baptism, which represents His death, burial and Resurrection. In addition, the Resurrection is depicted in Christian art found in the catacombs dating back to the time of the persecutions. The First Century Church has also left numerous other monuments to this history altering event, such as hymns and church readings done in honor of the Resurrected Christ (8).

This brings us to the strongest evidence of all: The fact that the risen Jesus was seen alive by over 500 eye witnesses! Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances are verified not only by the Bible, but by secular history as well. Josephus writes: "...he appeared to them alive on the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him."(9). If these appearances were a delusion, how could this many people testify to the exact same thing? This is especially significant when we consider that many of them were tortured and killed for bearing witness to it. Would people endure this for something they knew to be false? We also see the dramatic conversions of two previous skeptics: James, brother of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7) and a brilliant scholar named Saul of Tarsus, who we now know as the mighty apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8-9).(10) Again, I quote from Zacharias:

"Paul was too much of a thinker to construct his life on an uncertain foundation of credulity. He shunned all deductions that were based on false premises. Yet, this persecutor of the early church, who had called for the death penalty for those "seduced" by the Christian message, found himself a

trailblazer for the cause of Christ. It was the knowledge and conviction that Christ had truly broken the chains of death and conquered the grave that gave Paul his hope." (11)

It is also noteworthy that, in his own commentary on the Resurrection, Paul states that most of these 500 witnesses were still alive at the time (1 Corinthians 15:6). In other words, the reader could easily ask them about the things they had seen.

The Resurrection narratives strike at the very core of who we are as human beings. To anyone who has ever lost a loved one, whether it be to a long, painful illness or a sudden calamity such as a car accident, the shadow of death is a continual reality in our lives. We gaze into the coffin knowing full well that one day we are destined to be there ourselves. Hebrews 2:15 tells us that the fear of death will hold our entire lives in bondage. In other words, until this fear is dealt with, we will never truly learn to live. Knowing this reality makes Jesus' promise all the more precious: "...because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19).

Friend, it all comes down to this question: Is what Jesus did a reality in your own life? Have you recognize your own sinfulness and need of God's grace and forgiveness? Everything Jesus did on that cross was for YOU! He took the punishment we deserved and paid the price so that we could be reconciled to God. Through Jesus, we can have a relationship with Him that will last forever. If you have never received this precious gift, why not open your heart to Jesus today? (12) © 2006 JHB

1-Quoted in *The Real face of Atheism* by Ravi Zacharias. 2004, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI. p. 146.

2-For a detailed study of Jesus' crucifixion, see our article *The Cross: Violent Grace*, <http://www.james-dave.com/violentgrace.html>

3-From the sermon "Mourning at the Sight of the Crucified" by Charles Haddon Spurgeon. From the book *The Power of the Cross of Christ*. Compiled and edited by Lance Wubbels. 1995, Emerald Books, Lynnwood, WA. pp. 184-185.

4-Zacharias, p. 147

5-McDowell, Josh. *A Ready Defense*. 1990, Sixth Printing 1992. Here's Life Publishers, Inc, San Bernidino, CA. Compiled by Bill Wilson. pp.226-230.

6- *Scofield Study Bible*. Edited by C.I. Scofield, D.D. New York, Oxford University Press. 1909, 1917; Copyright renewed 1937, 1945. p. 1043.

7-Little, Paul. *Know Why You Believe*. Third Edition, 1988 by Marie Little. Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill. pp. 50-51

8-Kennedy, D. James. *Why I Believe*. 1980. Word Publishing, Inc. Dallas, TX. pp. 107-108.

9-Josephus. *Antiquities 18:3:3. The Works of Josephus*. Translated by William Whiston. 1987. Hendrickson Publishers, Inc, Peabody, MA.

10-Zacharias, p. 147

11-Ibid.

12-If you need more information on a relationship with Jesus, see *How to be Born Again.*, <http://www.james-dave.com/born.html>, If you would like to talk to someone one-on-one about your decision, call toll free 1-888-NEED-HIM (633-3446).

