

May 2019

Our New Minister ~ Pastor Michael Reaves

Editor's Note: As you have probably heard by now, Pastor Shin, Hailey, Susie and Noah will be leaving us at the end of June. While we will miss them dearly, we have also begin to turn our thoughts to the new pastor that will take over as our new spiritual leader here at New Hope UMC. Below you will find the bio that Pastor Reaves sent to us, to give us all an introduction to him, his family and his spiritual journey.



My name is Michael Reaves and I am currently serving as the pastor of Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church in King George County on the Rappahannock River District. I am excited with the opportunity to join you in ministry at New Hope Church in Augusta County. Let me share a little of my own story.

I am a lifelong Methodist and native of Virginia. I grew up in the small town of Altavista, VA which is about 30 minutes south of Lynchburg down US-29. I was baptized and confirmed at Lane Memorial United Methodist Church in Altavista.

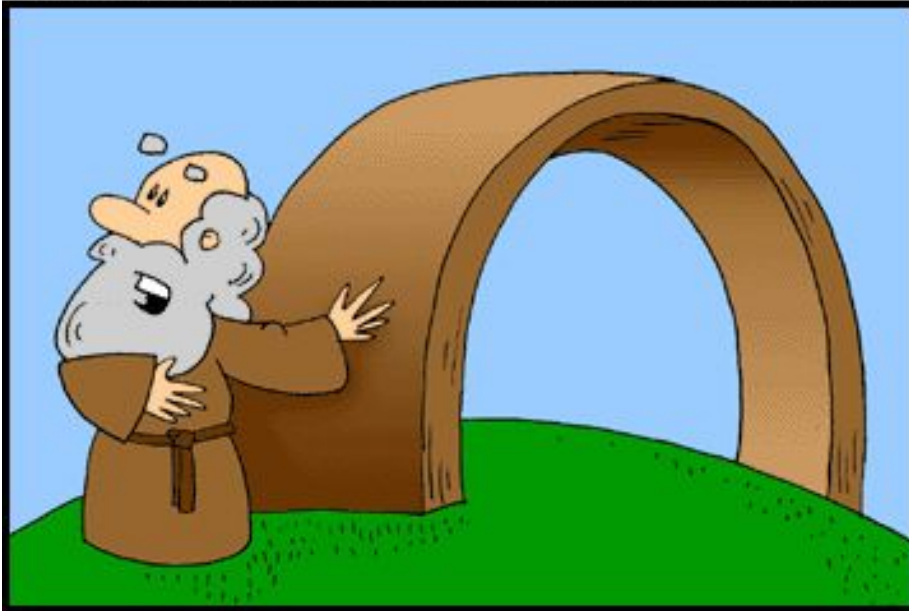
While attending the University of Virginia, I met my wife, Susan. We were married in 1984. We are the proud parents of two adult daughters – Michelle and Rachel.

Before answering God's call to ministry, I worked for Domino's Pizza as a store manager in Charlottesville, VA and, later, as an area supervisor for seven stores in Roanoke, VA. I left the restaurant business and went to work as a branch manager in the consumer finance field where I ran offices in Richmond, Suffolk, Elizabeth City, NC and Chesapeake.

My wife and I were members of Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, VA when we both heard God's call on our lives. After much prayer and counsel, Susan and I sold our home, quit our jobs, and moved to Madison, NJ where we both enrolled in Drew Theological School in August 1996.

After graduating from seminary in May 1999, we moved back to Virginia to serve our first appointments in the Roanoke, VA area. After five years serving as pastor at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church in Roanoke, I was sent to Monumental United Methodist Church in Emporia, VA and then to Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, VA before coming to my current appointment, Fletcher's Chapel, on June 27, 2012. Susan currently serves as Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in King George, VA. She will be serving Bethany United Methodist Church in Weyers Cave, VA.

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(See Genesis 6-8)

05-10-2000

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOT THAT KIND OF ARC"?

Real Church Bulletin Bloopers

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD; Dr. Hargreaves is better.

Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.

Lectionary Readings for May

May 5

Acts 9:1-6
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-9

May 12

Acts 9:26-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 19

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 26

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22
John 14:23-29

Easter Sunday at New Hope UMC 2019



Pastor Shin preaching on Easter Sunday



The children singing in the Easter Cantata



5 people joined, were baptized & confirmed



POV of the choir singing during the Cantata



Easter Egg Hunt 2019



The Easter Bunny visited New Hope UMC

**STAY IN
THE KNOW**

The following are the minutes from the **MARCH & APRIL** meetings of the Church Council. They are available for you to help the entire church congregation **Stay In The Know** about what and how this group are caring for the people and the church building of New Hope UMC - in the past, the present *and into the future!*

March 28, 2019 - Church Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Shin, Robin Craun, Bruce Rogers, Sam Arnold, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Debbie Arnold, JoEtta Walker, Susan Coffman and Teresa Barr.

The meeting was called to order by Sam Arnold, Chairperson. Devotions were shared by Robin Craun from the Upper Room followed by prayer. The minutes from the February meeting were accepted as distributed.

Finance Committee: *(no report given)*

Treasurer: *(Please see the finance report that can be found in the Narthex or please see Cindy Deavers.)*

Trustees: *(Teresa Barr)*

~ Teresa reported the Library project is on hold until our new pastor arrives and see what his wishes will be for his office. Steve Riley not completed the new outlets in library due to project on hold. Room is still under clean up.

~ Four bids have been received for replacement of the flat roof section of building.

The bids are as follows:

Valley Roofing - \$53,600.00; Baker - \$45,300.00; Skyline - \$41,000.00 and Largent - \$22,760.00 + \$750.00 for 15 year warranty. Rob Riner met with all. The Council made a unanimous vote for Largent Company. Teresa Barr made motion, Susan Coffman made second motion. Project to begin first week of June and to be complete in a week. We will use funds from Line of Credit. Teresa to speak with Kevin Armstrong to make him aware.

Worship Committee: *(Susan Coffman)*

~ April 16th – Healthcare Decision Day at AH – How to get “business in order”. Similar to Advance Directive. See Susan if interested.

~ Palm Sunday plans are underway. Good Friday service will be community service held at Middle River COB. Maundy Thursday service – Meal and Communion.

~ April 28 - Promotion Sunday - Pastor Shin will recognize Confirmation and joining church.

~ Easter Sunday – Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast following. Meal will be prepared by the UMM. There will be no Sunday School. Cantata by our Church Choir.

~ Counting Room is being cleaned up.

~ Two new interested in serving as Acolyte. Training session by Susan.

Nurture-Spiritual Development Committee: *(JoEtta Walker)*

March 27th – Children’s Ministry (Waterpark at Massanutten – 16 attending)

March 31st – Invite a friend and bring a dish following Worship. Help appreciated.

April 21st – Easter Egg Hunt after service

June 23rd-28th – Vacation Bible School

Evangelism Ministry: *(No Report - VACANT Position - If anyone would be interested in taking over this position please see Pastor Shin.)*

Mission/Outreach Ministry: *(no report given)*

United Methodist Men: *(Sam Arnold reported)*

- Sam reported next men’s meeting/dinner will be April 16th.
- In May, UMM will take the UMW to the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. Entertainment will be from the Faithful Praise.
- May 12th – UMM will lead the service for Mother’s Day
- April 4th – Evening Together – Cedar Grove
- April 15th – UMW
- May 4th – Covered Luncheon and Retreat at 11:30 – “Let Your Light Shine”

~ Wanda reported cushions are needed for people to use behind their backs and perhaps kneeling pads at kneeling rail. Wanda said perhaps women who sew will make them.

Staff/Parish Relations:

~ It was reported that the new minister will be announced on Sunday, April 7th.

Membership: *(no report given)*

Lay Leader: *(no report given)*

Communications: *(no report given)*

Pastor Report: *(Pastor Shin)*

~ Pastor Shin reported that five members will join NHUMC by either Confirmation, being Baptized or by letter of transfer.

Unfinished Business:

- Church Copier - Bruce Rogers reported that on April 19th, he and Cindy Sheets will meet with SVOE rep. Contract expires soon and will try to extend.
- TV Monitor (Jerry Coffman working on getting repaired.)

- Wall Calendar (new wall calendar is posted on bulletin board)

New Business:

~ Wanda mentioned better way of communication with prayers, etc., Automated Call System – One call will go out to all interested instead of email as some do not have email. Perhaps Cindy Sheets will look into information in regards.

~ Weekday Religious Education representative needed from our church. Debbie Arnold volunteered to serve. She will get in touch with Larry Wills, President in regards.

~ Bruce Rogers reported grand piano is “off key”. Shin said it needs climate control. It is now in the Sanctuary where warmer.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Shin.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Arnold – CC Secretary

April 25, 2019 - Church Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Shin, Wanda Harding, Bruce Rogers, Sam Arnold, Cindy Deavers, Debbie Arnold, JoEtta Walker, Cindy Sheets, Kevin Armstrong, Andy Breeding

The meeting was called to order by Sam Arnold, Chairperson. Devotions were shared by Cindy Sheets. The minutes from the March meeting were updated and accepted as corrected.

Finance Committee: *(Kevin Armstrong)*

~ 31% of the year completed and 29.1% of the budget paid.

~ \$1,112 collected for the building fund - if we collect \$8,900 by the end of June, then an anonymous donor will pay the other remaining half which will total \$8,900.

~ The church audit has been completed and submitted.

~ Kevin Armstrong made a motion to move \$1,000 into the Pastor’s discretionary fund, Sam Arnold seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers)*

~ Through April 23, 2019 - the total amount of giving was \$6,990.25, of that \$1,112 was given for the HVAC Fund.

~ To date we have received \$10,952.10 in donations for the HVAC Project and paid \$12,750 to the principal of the line of credit. As of April 23, 2019; \$585.75 has been paid in interest.

~ We are sharing the pastors' moving costs with Bethany UMC, because The Reaves will be living in our parsonage at New Hope, and Susan Reaves will be the pastor at Bethany UMC in Weyers Cave.

Trustees: *(no report given)*

Worship Committee: *(no report given)*

Nurture-Spiritual Development Committee: *(JoEtta Walker)*

~ On Sunday, June 30th, we will have a 5th Sunday Covered-Dish Luncheon and this will also be the first Sunday with our new pastor, Michael Reaves; so it will also act as a WELCOME Lunch for the new pastor.

Evangelism Ministry: *(No Report - VACANT Position - If anyone would be interested in taking over this position please see Pastor Shin.)*

Mission/Outreach Ministry: *(no report given)*

United Methodist Men: *(Sam Arnold reported)*

~ The UMM will have a dinner at Woodgrill on May 21st, 2019. - Meeting at 5:00pm, Eating at 6:00pm with entertainment by "Faithful Praise"

~ The UMM will set some work dates this summer to fit up some things around the church.

~ The UMM will be instrumental in building the sets for Vacation Bible School 2019

United Methodist Women: *(Wanda Harding)*

~ There will be a Ladies Luncheon and Retreat on Saturday, May 4th from 11:30am-1:30pm

~ There will be a UMW District covered-dish supper on May 9th at 6:30pm

Staff/Parish Relations: *(Andy Breeding)*

~ Sunday, June 23rd is Pastor Shin's last day in the pulpit

~ Pastor Shin and family will be moved out of the parsonage by June 19th

~ On June 24th, Pastor Reaves' personal and household belongings will be picked up; and he and his wife, Susan, will move into the parsonage on June 24th-June 25th.

~ Teresa Barr and the Trustees are handling the moving of our pastors and families.

~ Pastor Michael Reaves' wife, Susan, will be the pastor at Bethany UMC in Weyers Cave

~ June 23rd we will have a covered-dish luncheon for Pastor Shin and family as we say good-bye to them.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer)*

~ We have had 3 members pass away in 2019; Fillmore Lee Cook, Joan Darnell Caricofe Simmons and Ruby Ann Howell.

~ We have had 5 people join our church, were baptized and/or confirmed on Easter Sunday 2019.

Lay Leader: *(report given by Pastor Shin)*

In 2016, our average attendance was 84 people during Sunday Worship

In 2017, our average attendance was 92 people during Sunday Worship

In 2018, our average attendance was 95 people during Sunday Worship

So far in 2019, our average attendance was 96 people during Sunday Worship

Pastor shin encourages us to keep up the good work in getting our weekly attendance numbers up and including more people in our church and in our ministries.

5 people joined the church in April, on Easter Sunday

Communications: *(Cindy Sheets)*

~ Announced Sunday events coming in May and stated the need for another Planning Team Meeting.

~ Please see the Upcoming Events page in this newsletter for all of New Hope UMC's events in May.

Pastor Report: *(Pastor Shin)*

Unfinished Business:

~ The church copier has been serviced and maintained. We will wait now to see what the needs of the new pastor will be before we move forward with potentially getting a new church copier.

~ The tv monitor in the nursery is fixed.

~ We have contracted with the Piano Doctor to refurbish the baby grand piano in the Sanctuary, i.e.; replace pads, etc. This will be done in the next week or two. An anonymous donor has agreed to pay the bill for this, so there will be no cost to the church.

New Business:

There was some discussion about holding the church council meetings every other month, instead of every month. We decided to continue to hold meetings each month.

Next Church Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30pm.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Shin

Respectfully written by: Cindy Sheets



Vacation Bible School ~ June 23rd-28th

The theme for this year's Bible School is "Life is Wild, but God is Good!" During Bible School, we will learn about Moses and how God used him. We will also meet some kids who live in Africa and learn about what life is like for them.

Bible School is wonderful chance for us to share God's Love with our community and minister to the children who live near us.

We would love for everyone in our congregation to participate. Bible School is your chance to be a part of a life-changing experience for the children we will serve!

Don't worry, there are ways that each of us can participate!

1. You can pray for Bible School. Pray for the workers and the children that this Bible School will be a blessing for each participant.
2. You can help prepare for Bible School. This year, we are going to Africa, so you could help transform our church to the African Savannah!
3. You can donate or loan supplies to help the workers present the Bible stories in a way that is fun and exciting!
4. You can be a helper or leader in Bible School and directly impact the children who come by working with them!

See, there is something for everyone!

We can't wait to see how God will use all of us through Bible School this year!

Stay tuned, there will be more information to come!



BIRTHDAYS and
ANNIVERSARIES

2 - Jarman Fretwell

3 - Francis Stout

5 - Linda Howdyshell

6 - Lindsay Bell
- Kevin McLaren
- Chad Deavers

7 - Jerry Coffman
- Deborah Umidi

8 - Teresa Hester

9 - Keith Stogdale

10 - Melissa Fretwell

12 - Abby Killough

13 - Patrick Gruber

14 - Kimberly Campbell

15 - Cheryl Bennett

16 - Pam VanLear

18 - Nancy Hutchinson
- Laura Shiflett
- Sherry Rankin

19 - Michael Shreckhise

22 - Randall Herman
- Larry Hinebaugh

 - Mike & Roxann Canipe

23 - Michaela Craun
- Alden Hough
- Michael Sundeen

 - Debbie & Sam Arnold

26 - Candi Dunlap
- Betty Selmon

27 - Patty Morris
- Jason Pace

28 - Jeremy Kraisser

 - Mark & Robin Craun

 - Jim & Betty Gruber

29 - Steve Morris
- David Taylor

30 - Jeff Bosserman

 - Martha & Jarman Fretwell

31 - Carolyn Steele

 - Jesse & Mildred Hartman

Upcoming Events, Activities and Meetings at New Hope UMC - MAY 2019

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING*

Bible Study @ 5:00pm

Children's Handbell Choir Practice @ 5:00pm

Wednesday Night Dinner @ 6:00pm

Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

May 1, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

May 3, Friday ~ Parents' Night Out & Kids' Party from 6:00pm-8:00pm

May 4, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

~ Ladies Lunch & Retreat from 11:30am-1:30pm

May 5, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship & Holy Communion @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*

~ Acolyte Training - *Right After Worship*

~ Men's Chorus Practice - *Right After Worship*

May 6, Monday ~ Circle of Hope at church with Pam VanLear @ 7:00pm

May 7, Tuesday ~ Sisters of Faith with Glenna Beard @ 1:30pm

~ Circle of Love at the Church @ 7:00pm

May 8, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

May 9, Thursday ~ District UMW Covered-dish Supper at 6:00pm

~ Trustees Meeting @ 7:00pm

May 11, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

May 12, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Mother's Day Service by the United Methodist Men @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*

May 15, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

May 16, Thursday ~ S.W.A.T. Lunch at Ciro's Verona @ 12:00pm

May 18, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

May 19, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Heritage Sunday @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*

May 21, Tuesday ~ UMM & UMW Meeting and Dinner at Woodgrill starting at 5:00pm with entertainment by 'Faithful Praise'

May 22, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

May 23, Thursday ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

May 25, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

May 26, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Memorial Day Worship Service @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*

May 29, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

June 1, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

June 2, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship & Holy Communion @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*



Nurse's Health Corner

May is Stroke Awareness Month!

Stroke Symptoms for Men

A stroke could be a life-threatening condition. Knowing about its signs and symptoms can provide a great deal of help in taking measures before things take a turn for the worst.

Strokes are mainly of two types; hemorrhagic and ischemic. The former occurs because of the bursting of a blood vessel, whereas the latter occurs due to a blood clot in the brain. According to experts, men are more susceptible to a stroke than women. Symptoms that may indicate a stroke are as follows:

Headache

One of the most common symptoms of a stroke are headaches. A man experiencing a stroke might suffer from severe headaches on either side of the head.

Inability to Understand and Speak

A stroke affects the sensory organs to a large extent. Men suffering from a stroke attack, normally lose their ability to read, write, speak, and most importantly, understand what is going on around them.

Vision Problems

A stroke affects the brain directly, therefore it is quite possible that a man might be confronted with vision problems such as impaired vision or seeing double, in either or both the eyes.

Numbness in Various Body Parts

A stroke might also lead to numbness in the hands, legs, arms, or facial parts on either side of the body. The probable reason behind this might be insufficient blood supply to the aforementioned body parts.

Improper Coordination

Another symptom of a stroke is lack of coordination of different body parts and its movements. The individual usually experiences dizziness and loses control over their voluntary body functions, and therefore might also collapse.

Stroke Treatment and Prevention

The type of treatment usually depends upon the cause and the type of stroke. Ischemic strokes diagnosed within 3 to 4 hours are treated with the help of a clot melting medicine using a tissue plasminogen activator. But this is not recommended for everyone, or for those suffering from a hemorrhagic stroke. For a hemorrhagic stroke, medicines to control the immediate symptoms such as high blood pressure, fever, and brain swelling, may be administered. But for a hemorrhagic stroke with a large amount of bleeding, surgery is the only option to lower the pressure in the brain and increase the chances of the person's survival.

Strokes are a result of insufficient blood supply to the brain. Therefore, for stroke prevention, it is necessary to introduce healthy eating habits in one's lifestyle. Cholesterol is the prime reason behind the blockage of blood supply, therefore, foods high in cholesterol should be completely avoided. Addictions to alcohol and smoking must also be halted, since it can cause severe damage to the arteries over time. Regular exercise promotes a healthy heart and brain, therefore working out is an important part of heart health.

The above information on stroke symptoms for men, and other aspects related to strokes, will help you get a clear idea about this condition. Remember, the symptoms of a stroke usually occur without any warning, because it is a result of an interruption in the blood supply to a particular part of the brain. And more importantly, whether damage is temporary or permanent depends on how long the blood supply has been interrupted.

A brief interruption can be treated and a complete recovery can be expected, but a longer interruption mostly leads to permanent damage. Getting the problem diagnosed at an earlier stage and getting it treated as soon as you notice the aforementioned symptoms, is the key. Also, recognizing these symptoms is crucial, in order to provide a patient immediate care post stroke. It is found that seeking early treatment increases the survival rate of a person, and also prevents such an attack to occur, if patients take care of themselves thereafter.

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Pre-Stroke Symptoms for Women

A stroke can be described as brain attack. Most people know a lot about heart attack, but they have very little knowledge about stroke and stroke symptoms. A pre stroke is also known as mini stroke. As it suggests increased risk for stroke, it is necessary to know the signs of mini stroke. Because of unawareness, the mini stroke symptoms are often overlooked. Before taking a look at pre stroke symptoms for women, let us take a look at what is stroke and what are the causes and risk factors for stroke.

Stroke

An interrupted blood supply to brain area results in stroke. Leakage of blood due to ruptured artery or vessel can affect the supply of blood to brain. Similarly, a blood clot can block the blood flow to brain. Lack of oxygen to brain and insufficient supply of glucose to brain cells results in death of brain cells. Damaged brain results in difficulty in movement and speech, incontinence, and loss of memory, etc. Effects of stroke depend upon where the stroke occurs, which parts of the brain are affected and how much are they affected.

A pre stroke is also known as a transient ischemic attack (TIA). It is nothing but a small stroke. It is experienced when blood supply to brain is stopped for a very short period. Its effects may be experienced for a few hours or for a few minutes. The symptoms usually subside within 24 hours. They begin rapidly, and they go away very soon. They do not leave any kind of permanent damage like the signs of a stroke.

The following are more likely to notice the warning signs of a stroke.

- People over age 55
- People with family history of stroke
- Overweight people
- Those who smoke, drug addicts, alcohol addicts
- Those who have had pre stroke
- High levels of homocysteine
- Those who use certain medications in excessive amount
- Those who have undergone hormone replacement therapy
- People with high cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases, etc.

It is believed that men are more susceptible to stroke than women, but if you check the above list of risk factors, you will notice that women are equally susceptible to stroke as men.

Pre-Stroke Symptoms

Pre stroke usually affects those parts of the brain which are concerned with speaking and movement of limbs. Signs of stroke in women can be non-traditional, and hence can be misinterpreted.

- A feeling of light-headedness
- Headaches
- Hiccups
- Nausea, vomiting
- Rapid heartbeat
- Chest pain
- Pain in arms, legs and face
- Difficulty walking
- Sudden numbness or weakness in your face, arm or leg
- One side of the body is painful
- Difficulty in understanding what others are saying
- Sudden vision problems
- Drooping mouth or eyes, difficulty smiling
- Difficulty in raising hands
- Difficulty in speaking
- Difficulty in moving one arm or one leg
- Mini stroke signs also include confusion and loss of balance.

Since women are more prone to hormone imbalance, and they often become victims of obesity and several health problems, they need to follow a healthy diet and perform exercises regularly. Following a healthy lifestyle helps reduce the chances of stroke. A larger stroke may result in paralysis or death. Early stroke signs should be considered as a warning sign of a stroke in future. It is believed that chances of a pre stroke turning into a larger stroke are more for women than men. It has been noticed that most women fail to recognize the signs. I hope you found the above information on warning signs of stroke helpful.

Disclaimer: This HealthHearty article is for informative purposes only, and should not be used as a replacement for expert medical advice.

Kid's Corner

(Parents please feel free to print this page for your kids to color while you read them the story.)

Jesus Is Alive!

by Sharla Guenther



After Jesus died, a man named Joseph (from a place called Arimathea) put Jesus in His tomb that nobody had ever used. The tombs they used then were cut out of rock, almost like a cave, they weren't buried deep in the ground like they are now. Before Joseph left, he and some men rolled a large heavy stone in front of the tomb.

Mary and Mary Magdalene had waited a day to see Jesus because they couldn't go on the Sabbath (which was a day of rest). They made spices and oils as a sign of respect to Jesus and went very early Sunday morning to go see Jesus' body.

As they were just about at the tomb, the earth suddenly shook and an angel came down from

heaven. He easily rolled away the stone at the entrance of the tomb and sat on top of it.

The women looked at each other and rubbed their eyes since they couldn't believe what they had seen -- plus it was very early in the morning, and they were still a little sleepy. The angel was so bright -- almost as bright as lightning! His clothes were as white as snow.

There had been guards watching the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. When they saw the angel, they fell over and they couldn't move or speak because they were so afraid.

Then the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died. But He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself, the tomb is empty."

The women were confused. How could this happen? They were sure Jesus had died, and now He was alive? They looked in the tomb and the cloths Jesus had been wrapped in were lying on the ground; the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus He's on his way to Galilee."

So the women hurried away, They were laughing and crying at the same time. They didn't know what to feel; they had been so sad that Jesus was dead and now they were so excited that He was alive! They just knew they had to find Jesus, and they had to tell the disciples the good news.

As they were running down the path, they turned a corner, and there was Jesus. "Greetings," He said. The ladies fell at His feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to come to Galilee. That is where they will see me."

The disciples came to Galilee, having heard by this time that Jesus was alive. They were sitting around talking about it when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be with you."

The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were shocked to see Him standing there with them.

Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me like you've just seen a ghost? Why don't you believe what you're seeing? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see, I am not a ghost but a real person."

The disciple's mouths were open in amazement because they still didn't know what to think. They were so full of joy, and yet it was so impossible. Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible."

Jesus had told the disciples when they had the Last Supper together; they took the bread at communion and Jesus said, "this is my body which I have given to you..." but the disciples hadn't understood what it really meant.

Then Jesus told them, "You have seen these things that have happened, so stay in the city and soon I am going to give you what God has promised you: the Holy Spirit.

When we become Christians, Jesus automatically gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. The Holy Spirit makes us know when we have done something wrong. We might feel sick to our stomach, or just get a bad feeling but that is the Holy Spirit reminding us that we are doing something wrong, or that we need to stop and say sorry and ask for forgiveness for what we've done.

The story is almost done, but Jesus had one more person to see. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the disciples that wasn't there when Jesus met with them. Thomas had also heard that Jesus was alive, but would not believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes.

A week later when Thomas finally saw Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe." But Jesus continued, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but it is more amazing for those who don't see me, and believe anyway."

It's really neat, but Jesus was actually talking to us when He said this. If you believe in Him, without seeing Him, He will think you're very special! That is exactly what faith is: believing in God even though you can't see Him.

***If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact
The Hilltopper editor, Cindy Sheets at cds3501@gmail.com or call/text at (540) 280-1860***

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