



Transforming Lives,  
Communities, and  
the World for  
300 Years

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May 2019 Issue



# THE BRICKETTE

A community congregation of worship and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A National Historic Landmark Site.



Presbyterian Women 2019  
Strawberry Festival — June 1

**GOOD ENOUGH,  
ISN'T GOOD  
ENOUGH.**

## A Message from the Pastor

### Transforming *Good Enough* Into Great.

*Greater Things You Will Do!* Jesus was nearing the end of his earthly ministry, and the disciples were becoming increasingly anxious. In a world without their Master in his

familiar, physical form, Jesus assured them, "You will do even Greater Things," than what you have seen, and if you need anything at all, "Ask me." Have faith. See John 14:12-14.

Hello Friend,

After graduating from high school, and before I went to Bible college, I worked as an electronics apprentice at the Naval Surface Weapons Center in Maryland. As a civilian, the Navy sent me to college and also trained me in electronics, computer design, and other tech-related areas. I really enjoyed the challenge and in my own small way, I knew I was making a difference. I didn't understand, then, when some of my coworkers remarked when finishing projects, "Good enough for government work." This low quality threshold made the goal of *good enough*, good enough. Just O.K. But good enough wasn't good enough, I soon realized on one special day.

Our shop designed, built, and shipped devices to the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet that was deployed on the other side of the world. Initial feedback indicated the products were successful. But while the equipment met the specifications and was *good enough* under the initially expected conditions, when the Fleet was redeployed to a new destination the equipment failed. When the context changed, *good enough* was no longer good enough.

While good is better than bad, good is never better than great. Isaiah 12:5 invites us to ‘Sing to the Lord, For He has done **excellent** things; **great** things known in all the earth.’ God doesn’t settle for good. Our Easter proclamation, “He is risen!” reminds us that God always exceeds our expectations! That’s what Jesus wanted the disciples to focus on as they looked to the future. They can be driven by fear. Uncertainty is a constant. Doubt creeps into our minds and spirits from time to time. And yes, we can just get by with good enough. We can settle and do good things. **But** the Resurrection Way of Life means that Easter’s “He is risen!” Power is true every day because the tomb remains empty... Jesus is still risen, and coming again!

What our communities need now more than ever is to experience the Greatest Story of all time in new authentic, relevant, and compelling ways that they can connect with. Grow in their faith. Stretch their spirits. God designed us to be excellent in our praise, and in our ministry and mission, too. That’s why we encourage one another to give our best, to serve, love, forgive, lead, listen, learn, and grow so that what we offer is continually improved moving forward. It takes work. It especially takes faith. And commitment. But what God has called us to do as Resurrection People is exceptional! Our worship, teaching, service, activities, and events should improve each time they are experienced. Our session, deacons, staff, and I are committed to the Greater Things Jesus spoke of an Easter made possible. We will experiment and try new things. Learn from what works, and from what doesn’t work. *Good* enough is *not* good enough! We are transforming when our ministry does not settle for what was good enough in the past, because new people, new challenges, new contexts compel us to greater ministry together. Like what I learned about the Navy’s 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet, we must prepare to exceed our expectations because our context is always changing.

As we discovered on our Lenten journey to Holy Week and Easter, God is doing great things in our midst. We are praising God with excellence, adapting, growing, working together to be our very best as we serve our communities. Greater spiritual energy. Greater involvement. Greater giving. Greater outreach. We are doing greater things because we have opened up to God’s emerging future. Thank you for all you do. Pray. Support. Volunteer. Lead. Serve. Everyone can be an essential part of God’s transforming work.

**I am grateful to God for everyone who is growing, learning, and trying new, great, things.** And for those who are being added! Would you consider joining the energy that engages the Easter Spirit all year long at Cold Spring Church? For 305 years, we continue to praise God with excellent praise and ministry, because for his followers serving the Master Jesus, good enough is never good enough!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Keim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## Food Pantry Donations Needed

### **FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR MAY 2019**

We hear every day about the homeless among us. The food banks are begging for supplies to fill their shelves. We have been blessed here at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church with many generous people who donate to our weekly food drive. ***Last month we collected over 300 for our two food banks (St. Barnabas and the Church of the Nazarene).*** I pray that we will continue to donate and increase our sharing each month. The list below is a guideline of the items the food banks have the most need of. In addition we take almost any non-perishable food and personal items. Please check expiration dates.

*II Corinthians 9:7 NLT "For the Lord loves a person who gives cheerfully"*

*Acts 20:35 Remember the Words of Jesus "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

#### **Deacon Collection for April**

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|--------|--|
| May 5  | Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers              |
| May 12 | Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce |
| May 19 | Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables     |
| May 26 | Hot and cold tea, hot & cold cereals, powdered milk, canned meat |

Your donations can be dropped off at Price Hall, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday in the sanctuary narthex. ~ Neil Oberlin, Coordinator

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### **Session Notes**

These are the summary notes --or highlights-- of our most recent session meeting. For further details of these notes and additional session discussion matters, please refer to the next set of complete Session Minutes (upon session approval and publication).

Our Session approved the following agenda items on April 2, 2019:

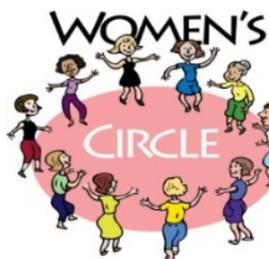
1. Minutes of Stated Session Meeting of March 5, 2019;
2. Pastor's vacation requests (3) during May, June, and August 2019;
3. Re-schedule session meeting for May 7 to Thursday, May 16;
4. Proposed new position: Communications Coordinator;
5. Proposed January - May 2020 monthly concert series;
6. Merge church activity accounts into the general church account.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Church members complimentary use of facilities;
2. Special committee on the Manse: progress report;
3. Updates on various projects in Price Hall;
4. Status of tree removal project along Academy Rd.

Complimentary copies of our approved Session Minutes are located on our information table in the church narthex; additional copies are available in the designated rack by the church office bulletin board in Price Hall. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the current meeting agenda items, kindly contact the pastor, a session member, or myself for clarification.

-- Rob Riehl, Clerk of Session

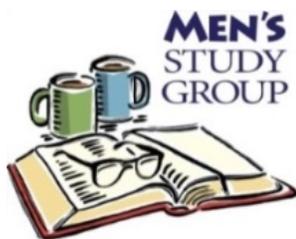


*The May meeting of the Mary Circle will be at 7 p.m. on May 21, Vickie Banks and Ruth Traber will be co-hostesses. Nancy Reed will do the Bible reading and Joan O'Neill will read from the Mission Book. We will be meeting as usual in Price Hall.*



*Presbyterian Women's Annual Strawberry Festival will be held Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please come out and support this major mission fund raising event. There will be arts and crafts, white elephant, linen, jewelry, baked goods and strawberries in addition to strawberry shortcake and a hot dog barbeque. If you are spring cleaning and have donations for our tables, please bring them in and the church secretary will show you where to leave them.*

## **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



**Men's Group Ministry:** *New Series...*

There is nothing more important you can do with your life than spending time getting to know Jesus. Join author-pastor Rick Warren in this journey through "*The Son of God: The Life of Jesus in You*", where you will receive practical teaching on the life of Jesus and its impact on your life, and life purpose. Jesus' teaching will transform you from the inside out! We meet at 10:15am for coffee and fellowship on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. All men are welcome!

**Christian Living:**

What would you say if someone were to ask you, "Do you know that God loves you?" Do you *really* believe it? Are you *living* like you know and believe it? In this dvd series, "*Know and Believe The Love*", Kenneth Copeland will help you grow from mental agreement with the fact that God loves you, to *knowing* in your heart and living in the truth of His love every day. Live in *the blessing* as God always intended for you, and step into a whole new level of love for your family, your friends, and your world! Join us for the viewing and discussion of this "love

ministry"! We meet at 10:15am for coffee and fellowship on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Everyone is welcome!

### **Affirmation of Faith:**

Our "Fifth Wednesday" program (May 29) examines the ideology of socialism, a movement that has captured the imaginations of our younger generations. Socialism is touted as a Biblical system of economics, and millennials are gravitating toward its political ideology in frightening numbers. The questions "Does the Bible teach socialism?" and "How can people of Faith respond to its alluring call?" are addressed in the new DVD presentation "What's *wrong with Socialism?*" Discover how the lilting siren song of free health care, guaranteed income and college tuition for all actually leads to a stifling loss of liberty and prosperity. Our faith in God's truth is affirmed by His Word! We will meet at 10:15am for coffee and fellowship with our program beginning at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome!

*All classes are held in the Taylor Room of Price Hall.*



**God Is On The Move!** Volunteers With A Car Needed! Are you looking for a way serve others in a very practical way, have room in your car and enjoy company? Consider volunteering to be on our **God Is on the Move!** Riding team. "Holiness is best demonstrated by generosity" (Lk 11:41, LB). **Need a Ride?!** If you know of someone who would appreciate a ride to worship, or to our other events, please let us know. We want to put them in touch with volunteers who can assist with that! Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, where God Is On the Move!

### **JOIN OUR CARING TEAM!**



The mission of the Deacons is to show love, care, and compassion in the name of Jesus Christ. That's why we refer to it as our Caring Team! We are looking for a few more loving humanitarians to serve as deacons at Cold Spring Church. We are exhorted in God's word to have Faith, Hope, and Love. Of these three, love is the greatest. All of us can demonstrate a love of God and love for others. This is an amazing opportunity to serve and to help others in our community. If you are interested becoming a Deacon, please let the pastor or one of the deacons know.

*Thank you! Neil Oberlin, Moderator of the Deacons*

### **Easter Worship at 6:15 AM and 10:30 AM**

A record turn-out of 109 early risers gathered at the 6:15 AM The Grille for our third annual Easter Sunrise Service at Sunset Beach.

We are grateful to the Bloom and Hume families, and many others, for offering their hospitality!



Our 10:30 AM Easter service welcomed 108 joyful worshippers. Listen again or share with your friends the messages and music on our website. Click the swords and Music tab. [www.coldspringchurch.com/sermons](http://www.coldspringchurch.com/sermons).



### ***Easter Blessings For All!***

On Easter Sunday, our Deacons prepared and distributed 20 Easter pails, 25 Easter baskets, and 9 devotional books. Amazing! If you'd like to purchase copies of the daily devotional book for kids, or the Children's Bible, contact Neil Oberlin.



## ***"Believing What We Have Seen"***

Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."(John 20:27)

Any one of us could have been Thomas, a skeptic who needed "hard evidence" before he was convinced. To his credit, Thomas did not "cut and run" never to be seen again; he humbled himself before his brethren and his Lord, exclaiming with deep conviction his unwavering belief in Jesus. Have you (and I) ever doubted Jesus? Doubt (not denial) is good, for it presses upon us to seek truth. Most of our twenty-first century faith belief is rooted in sacred scripture, the teachings of the church fathers, church traditions, as well as historical accounts, archaeology, works of art, spiritual commentaries and personal testimonies. Thomas had none of these to lead him to believe; he believed from his heart the truth of what he saw. And I would believe from that illuminating moment, Thomas began a personal relationship with Jesus --never again doubting who Jesus said He was!

Some people visit Israel and Jerusalem to do "sight-seeing"; others visit "the Holy Land" and "the Holy City" to bolster their faith beliefs; still others visit biblical places "to see what they *already* believe" --with no evidence required. The latter is a deepening faith experience! If you have ever returned to the neighborhood of your childhood, you would have noticed that your residence, your street, and "way of life" have changed over the years --sometimes dramatically; nonetheless, there are most often at least some traces of what your old neighborhood "used to be". In like manner, many --if not most-- of the original sites where Jesus resided, preached, and performed miracles have undergone notable changes over the past two-thousand-plus years. Venturing forth on a pilgrimage-type journey to the Holy Land conjures up images of Jesus and his apostles in biblical times; the reality shatters these images of "what used to be" with the accrued presence of church structures, museums, and commercial enterprises that have over the millennia radically altered "the neighborhood". I wondered, "Would Jesus recognize His own homeland? Would Jesus be recognized if he appeared in his old neighborhoods?"

Visiting such established traditional religious sites as the Garden of Gethsemane, the Crucifixion, and the Tomb of Jesus can be quite daunting. One has to patiently endure the pressing crowds, the interminably waiting in long lines, and the competing tour groups to enter a sacred space, touch a venerated object, and quickly move on so that others may enter. Other "religious" sites have been commercialized, such as being "re-baptized" in the Jordan River or to "experience floating" on the Dead Sea. Is it worth the effort? Yes, because for most tourists it is a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity, and I for one did not want to have any lingering regrets. So as the apostle Paul would say, "I press on!" God has graciously provided me (and many others) with the opportunity to see what we have believed! So is "seeing" believing? Everyone believes they are seeing tourist sites; most believe they are seeing religious sites; fewer believe they are seeing the evidence of Jesus. God gave us enough revelation to know Him; Jesus Christ gave us enough evidence to have a personal relationship with Him.

What is the message in all this for us? That Jesus says we are blessed for believing in Him *through faith* --and without needing to see him "in the flesh" (as Thomas required). We have Christ's assurance that what we have believed --and *continue to believe*-- is true! "Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **by believing you may have life in his name.**"(John 20:31

~ Rob Riehl

*P.S. If you were unable to attend my "**Tour of Israel**" presentation and are interested in receiving the photos and commentaries of this pilgrimage-tour, simply contact me at [robriehl@verizon.net](mailto:robriehl@verizon.net) and request "Israel photos".*