



Resurrection Review

January 31, 2018

Volume 21, Issue 3

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, January 24

1:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, January 25

4:30 pm Yogalign Lvl 1

5:45 pm Yogalign Lvl 2

6:00 pm Girl Scouts Mtg

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday, January 26

9:00 am Prayers &
Squares

Sunday, January 28

8:00 am Worship

10:00 am Worship

Tuesday, January 30

11:00 am Fiber Arts

Wednesday, January 31

1:00 pm Bible Study

*Fifth Sunday
after the Epiphany*

Office hours: Mon 11-2pm, Tues, Wed, Fri 9am-12pm, Thur 10-1pm

Dear Friends,

How *does* prayer work? Childhood faith draws a direct line between our utterance and God's ear. But it doesn't take many seemingly unanswered prayers for such faith to be shattered. Parents' divorce. Violence happens. Dogs die. Hunger persists.

Prayer is one of the essential ministries of our parish. Our prayer chain regularly prays for people suffering trauma, illness addiction and disease. We pray for hurting children around the world. We pray for leaders and for good governance. We also pray prayers of thanks.

If we keep a list, I think it might be fair to say that our "thanks" list is shorter than our long list of prayers of petition. Why is that so? If God can do anything (God is God after all!) why does evil and suffering persist?

Here is an excerpt of such a wrestling worth pondering. Debbie had experienced multiple miscarriages, and struggled to know why God didn't seem to be listening to her earnest prayers. She brought her struggle to her theologian/therapist. The therapist then asked a question that startled Debbie. "What if God wants to heal everyone but can't do it singlehandedly?" God can't? The possibility had never occurred to Debbie. It's not that she thought God was controlling in the sense of completely determining everything that happens in life. But she did see God as a micromanager, acting alongside our free will, the laws of nature, and other factors.

"What if in addition to free will," said the therapist, "various factors in our lives—whether biological, environmental, social, or even at the quantum level—are sometimes conducive to healing but sometimes not?"

"But wouldn't a loving God override or control those things?" asked Debbie. "If God really is loving, why wouldn't God intervene occasionally? I guess I want to believe that God can heal singlehandedly whenever God wants to. "If you think a loving God wouldn't control our freedom, it's not so big a step to say God can't control free creatures. It's only another step to believe there are other factors in life that God can't control, either." "So, God isn't doing anything?" asked Debbie. "Is God just watching from a distance?" "Well, that's one possibility," the therapist admitted. "But that wouldn't account for the healing that does happen—or for the sense we have of God's presence in our lives, our sense of right and wrong, beauty, truth, and so on. Perhaps we should think about it like this instead: God is involved all the time, everywhere, and to the utmost, but this involvement is expressed as influential uncontrolling love."

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Debbie has been thinking about this idea ever since. It makes a lot of sense. If God can't control all the factors necessary for healing, God's not to blame for failing to heal. But her prayers may make a difference anyway, because God may use them when acting for the utmost possible good in every situation.

Mark's Gospel says that Jesus "cured many who were sick with various diseases" and "cast out many demons." Reading a passage like this, Debbie used to assume that "many" means "all." Now she wonders if it means "some but not all." After all, later Jesus goes to Nazareth and is able to perform some miracles but not others (Mark 6:1-6). Debbie is realizing that she would rather believe that God is lovingly doing all that's possible to heal than that God could be doing more and chooses not to ("Debbie's Prayers have not been Answered", Christian Century, Jan. 3, 2018). This Sunday we ponder Mark 6 together. Don't miss it!

Rev. Linda

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

There will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday February 13, from 5:30-7:00 PM for our congregation. All are invited as well as any guests you wish to bring. Please sign up on the poster in the entry. We need people to help flip pancakes, and volunteers to help serve AND cleanup. The menu is pancakes, ham, applesauce and juice, coffee, tea, milk. Suggested donation at the door \$5/ person and \$15/ family for all you can eat! Plan now to join us for this traditional meal.

Barb Crago 509-279-5467



Souper Bowl of Caring



It's that time of year again for all football lovers, where you must choose to graciously accept the fact that your

team did not make it to the Super Bowl and then choose whether or not you will root on one of the participating teams.

On Sunday, February 4th, there will be two baskets in the Parish Hall. Bring your coins or bills and put them in the basket of the team you want to win the Super Bowl. All proceeds will be donated to the Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels. The winner of the Resurrection Souper Bowl will be announced in the Feb 8th Review and on Facebook.



Treats Needed

Resurrection will be hosting two big events in February and we are calling all bakers (or store buyers) for help. On Feb 17 we will host Dr. Dent and need 2-3 dozen cookies for this event. On Feb 18 the Bishop will make her annual visit to Resurrection and we need 2-3 dozen brownies. If you can help with either of these requests please let Marie Mitchell know.

We will need the cookies at the church by Saturday morning and the brownies on Sunday morning (or Friday/Saturday if you won't be here on Sunday). Thank you again for your help!!

Food Bank



Did you know that people who have Food Stamps can't buy the items listed below with that money?

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Hand soap | Laundry soap | Dish soap, |
| Clorox Bleach | Body Soap | Sanitary pads, |
| Handi wipes | Tooth Brushes | Cleaning supplies |

Please consider donating one or more of these items to the food bank, as your budget allows.



Bishop's Scholarship Fund

Our bishops have a special fund set aside for assistance to members of the diocese in the area of education.

Bishop Gretchen has asked that every parish assist her office in funding this work. Students come to the bishop with a variety of needs; money to finish a term, money to buy books, a pair of shoes for a boy to wear to school, etc. The Church of the Resurrection will be leading that effort by raffling off this lovely quilt made by the Mennonite community near Ritzville and donated by Pam Wagenhals. From January 28th until the bishop's visitation on February 18th, we will be selling raffle tickets for \$5 each. Bishop Gretchen will draw the winning ticket on that Sunday. Please open your hearts and you wallets to help fulfill these needs.

Prayers and Squares Ministry



The Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry has presented nine beautiful quilts so far. Volunteers are welcome and needed Friday mornings 9:00-11:00 AM. Inclement weather may cause a cancellation so it's best to check with Jeanne Baker or Barb Crago to be sure on such days. There are things people can do at home that would also be helpful. Just ask! Donations of fabric or money are always welcome. Some have asked how recipients are decided. Forms are provided on the table in the parish hall to request a quilt for someone who needs our prayers due to illness, hospitalization or are under treatment for a serious illness for example, cancer. This is a wonderful ministry and a rewarding one.

Assisting with Worship February 4

- SubDeacon:**
8am
10am Linda Bordwell
- LEM:**
8am Scott Oakshott
10am Jeremy Armstrong
- Lectors:**
8am A Palmer
10am Carrie Holtan
- Acolytes:**
Lenore Hartwig
Lila Hartwig
- Altar Guild:** Barb Crago
Diana Heimerdinger
- Ushers:**
Ralph Schmidt
Jerry Combs
- Counters:** Arlene Lee
DeAnn Waterman

February 11

- SubDeacon:**
8am
10am John Richardson
- LEM:**
8am Pat Munts
10am Jimmie Coy
- Lectors:**
8am Maxine Schmitz
10am Ann Newton
- Acolytes:**
Brooke Geffrey-Bowler
Tristan Geffrey-Bowler
- Altar Guild:** Val Schultes
Pam Wagenhals
- Ushers:**
Craig Crago
Barb Crago
- Counters:** Karen Gertson
Merry Young

CONTACTS

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Church Leadership

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Gretchen
Rehberg

Priest Rev. Linda Bartholomew

Sr. Warden Barb Crago

Jr. Warden Dave Newton

Finance Chuck Schmitz

New Members

Worship Pat Munts

Community Life Marie Mitchell

Education Jeremy Armstrong

Youth Minister Maura Buzby

Outreach Lynn Schmidt

Communications Barb Crago

Sexton Lee Samuelson

Please send all correspondence
(especially monetary) to:

PO BOX 14771
Spokane, WA 99214

Lessons for February 4

FIRST LESSON: (Isaiah 40:21-31) God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights and privileges as an apostle but he privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

PSALM: (Psalm 147:1-12, 21c) A hymn of praise to the Lord who rules over nature and has shown faithfulness to Jerusalem and his people of Israel.

SECOND LESSON: (1 Corinthians 9:16-23) Paul seeks to become all things to all people in order that he may freely and without hindrance share the gospel with them.

GOSPEL: (Mark 1:29-39) Healing events which took place toward the beginning of Jesus' ministry.



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