

May 2011 What Is A Mother?

In this month in which we celebrate mothers on Mother's day, I write this article to celebrate my mother, Pearl De Young, and the legacy of love and truth she passed on to me.

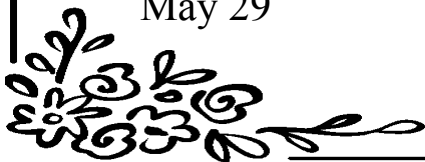
What is a mother? In an article entitled, *And God Created Mothers*, Erma Bombeck says, "She needs to have a lap that disappears when she stand up. She needs to be able to run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a kiss that can cure anything form a broken leg to a disappointed love affair, six pairs of hands, and three sets of eyes. One pair that looks through closed doors and asks, 'What are you children doing in there?' of course she already knows. Another set in the back of her head to see all those things she shouldn't but has to know. And a third set that can look a child in the eyes and say 'I love you and I understand you' without saying a word." How true!

In Proverbs 24:3-4, we have a statement from Solomon on how a mother builds a home. "By **wisdom** a house is built, and through **understanding** it is established; through **knowledge** its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." Note this is not a reference to pouring the foundation, or nailing up the two-by-fours and sheet rock. It is not related to coordinating the wallpaper with the carpet, tile, and furniture. The type of home building that Solomon is speaking about is relational, the type that is far more significant. He says this, "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." In this statement, Solomon is stating that homes are built with three primary tools: wisdom, understanding, and knowledge.

I give thanks for a mother who had this kind of insight in building the home in which I was raised. She had **wisdom**, the ability to see life as God sees it. She knew that the six of us would grow up very quickly. And so she had the wisdom to savor the sweetness of reading books, giving good-night kisses, and answering countless questions like, "Do dogs burp if they eat cookies? Why can't I see God? What are you doing? Why?"

Messages For May 2011

May 1	The Art Of Encouragement
May 8	Honoring Mothers
May 15	Why Do I Worry?
May 22	Missionary David Gifford from Mexico
May 29	Remembering Our Military



She also had **understanding**, the skill to respond with insight to new circumstances. My Mother had the understanding to know when to let go. I sometimes am amazed at the willingness of my Mother to trust me in new areas. It was only years later that I discovered the reason why she was willing to let go. Being a woman of prayer, she was not letting her son go to do whatever he desired. She was letting me go while praying for every step I took. As my mother's direct influence grew less and less as I made more and more of my own decisions, her indirect influence through prayer grew stronger and stronger. I often wondered as I grew older why she did not feel she needed to tell me what to do. Her reason was that she spoke daily to the Lord about what I was doing.

She also had **knowledge**, the rare trait of dispensing truth. She cared deeply about the truth and she was careful to let us know exactly what she thought. There were times when we were told a lot more than what we wanted to hear. To have a mother that instilled wisdom, understanding, and knowledge was a great gift. Let us celebrate with thanks to our mothers and the time and love they invested in us.



Missionary David Gifford To Speak On May 22

We are very excited to have Rev. David and Blanca Gifford to be with us on Sunday, May 22. David and his family will be staying in the Clear Lake area beginning on May 14. A number of our church family have been involved in mission projects with David. David is in his seventh year with National Board of Missions. He serves in Mexico City in leadership and church development. He also teaches in the seminary of the Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada. He is a leader of our national church in Mexico as he conducts workshops and conferences in assisting the indigenous churches. David also has played a key role in developing computer resources for Mexican pastors.

Adult Sunday School Class 9 A.M.

Wayne Staffer is leading a 5-week study of Francis Schaeffer's Whatever Happened to the Human Race? In this class Wayne will take us through issues on the sanctity of life as a social, moral, and spiritual issue. He will also inform us of the philosophical background of our post modern culture.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Martin Luther, the founder of the Protestant Reformation said, if you get Romans, God gets you. In this letter to the Christians in Rome, the Apostle Paul lays out in the clearest way in all his writings, the basic teachings of the Christian faith. Paul letter is warm, intense, urgent, concerned, logical and practical.

As we study this book in the New Testament, we will be asking ourselves four questions, What is my standing before God? How do I become a Christian? How do I grow? And what is my purpose as a Christian? We are also studying Romans 12-16 this month verse by verse. How to live God's purpose for our lives will be addressed. This is a time to address your questions that did not get covered in the messages series.

So come on Wednesday night and ask your questions as we study Romans. This study is lead by Pastor Roger. We have a great group and there is always room for others. This is an open study, you can come anytime as your schedule permits.

The Reason for God, Belief in an Age of Skepticism

New Ministry Team Being Formed at Hope Church

Have you ever tried to share your faith, and have been challenged with questions like: **There Can't Be Just One True Religion, How Could a Good God Allow Suffering? Christianity Is a Straitjacket, The Church Is Responsible for So Much Injustice, How Can a Loving God Send People to Hell? Science Has Disproved Christianity, and You Can't Take the Bible Literally.** If you have been asked these questions by people, you are not alone. Many secular people in our work world, at school and even in our families are asking these questions. How do we respond? How do we think about these questions when we sometimes are asking the same questions? Let's face it; we live at a time when there is a lot of skepticism about the church and Christianity.

To address these questions, Tim Keller a pastor in New York City has written a book, **The Reason for God**, that continues to be on the **New York Times Bestsellers list**. It is a book that answers these questions. What is unique about this book, it is the journey of the past 20 years in which Tim Keller has answered these topics and others and has built a Christ centered Reformed- Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. He has done it with a tone that is loving, kind and respectful to secular people. It is an approach that shows that not only do Christians have presuppositions (beliefs that guide our thoughts) but all people have faith assumptions that guide their thinking. Many people are unaware of these assumptions. This book might help them see them.

So how do you fit into this? The church has received a gift of 500 copies of Tim Keller's book, **The Reason For God**. We have plenty to go around. Do you know someone that might benefit from this book? Many of us rub shoulders with neighbors, those at work, members in our family who are skeptical of the Christian faith. Many of us love these people and pray for them, but don't believe there is much else to do. Would you consider reading the book and giving it to one of these people? I know some of you are just going to have to give it away, philosophy and apologetics just hurts your head. I had one person in the church a few years that told me, pastor I will get them in the seats, the rest is up to you. Really the rest is up to God, I understand. I can live with that.

So what are the actions steps?

1. Would you pray that God would guide us as a congregation as we give these books away for the rest of 2011?
2. Would you pray that our congregation will deepen in it's passion and skill in sharing Christ with others?
3. Ask God to lay on your heart one person you can give this book to and begin to pray for that person each day.
4. Ministry team members are needed for this outreach. Call the church office or speak to Pastor Roger. Ministry Team to begin in June.

HOPE CHURCH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sunday Morning 9 A.M. - Women's Class

"Dealing with sin in our lives is never easy. Just about the time we think we have one area conquered, another seems to emerge. Join the Women's Class in May for a deeper understanding of the effects of sin and spiritual redemption led by Lindy Baker & Jane Lynch.

Youth News Release!

May 2011

Despite her attempt to “shake it off” and to be strong, each thought and each memory sent her to a darker place in her soul. She sat on a bench in a park and tried to piece together how it was possible for her world to be spinning wildly out of control. She thought back on how one dark night brought the fairy tale crashing down. One discovery unraveled years of infidelity and the tail spin began.

All she could think about was the three little faces that she would have to feed now. Where would the money come from? Was she strong enough to be the mother **and** father they would need? And what about her dreams? The music career she left behind to start this family... Where was God in all this?

Suddenly, someone tapped her on the shoulder. He asked why she was crying and if he could be of help. Ignoring her instincts, she opened up and let the words and the tears flow. He listened, even shed a tear, and then took out a pocket bible and shared with her the Love of God. He shared about a God who would walk her through this, and any, situation. He reminded her of a God who gave His own son, so that she could have life and find the peace she so desperately wanted. He offered to pray with her and she agreed. She surrendered her life to God and became a new creation!

That one encounter changed my life forever because that desperate woman was my mother! God would not only give her the strength to raise my sister, brother and I, but she also led each one of us into a personal, vibrant relationship with Jesus. She instilled in us the value of prayer and the need to be open to sharing our faith with a dying world!

“The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised” Luke 4:18

Today, 37 years later, my conviction is stronger than ever that God is on a mission. The Youth Group at Hope Church agrees! Together we want to make a difference in a cold, indifferent world. God hasn't called us just to be good ‘church people’, He has given us the glorious calling to be Salt and Light.

Last thing.... Please make sure you hug your mother extra tight this year. She deserves it. **Happy Mother's Day Mom. I miss you.**

– Dedicated to M. Susan Wray April 1, 1939- May 20, 1997



NORMAL WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Sunday School (9a-10a)
- Wednesday Night – Fusion (6:30p-7:30p)
- 1st and 3rd Sunday Night – The Gathering (5p-7p)

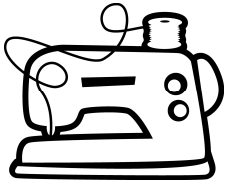
SUPER-COOL EXTRA ACTIVITIES

- May 7 – Garage Sale at the Church!!**
- May 8 – Mother's Day – We love our mothers!!**
- May 9- Camp Registration Deadline**

Thank you Hope Choir for a wonderful season.



Extended Praise Band will rehearse May 1 & 15th.



Wrapped In God's Love summer sewing class will meet Thursdays starting June 9th at 9:30. All school-age children are invited to participate. We will continue making baby blankets and burp pads for two crisis pregnancy centers. We will also design costumes and small gift bags for Bibles to be used during VBS. Parents are encouraged to stay and help with these projects. We need scraps of material (denim, duck, canvas) and decorative trims. Please contact Donna Hussey (donna.hussey@prodigy.net) or Linda Schooley (mschooley@sbcglobal.net) with any questions or ideas.



Thank you volunteers for successful Easter Day activities including our egg hunt.

Discover Hope Church Class

The next Discover Hope Church Class is to be held on Sunday, May 15, from 2-4 PM. If you would like to find out more about Hope Church or are interested in becoming a member this class is for you. If you wish to attend or have any questions you can contact the church office at 281-488-0900. Childcare is provided.

Bought With a Price

“A tith of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30

This verse appears in a section of Leviticus dealing with the rules regarding making promises to God. An Israelite would promise a servant, an animal, a house or some land to God as an expression of gratitude and thankfulness to Him. Once a person devoted something to God, it became the Lord's possession. He gives it and it is forever the Lord's. The Lord declares it holy—meaning set apart for special use, dedicated for service.

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 6:19-20, “You are not your own; you were bought at a price”. Because of Christ's sacrifice for us, we are now the Lord's possession. All that we are and all that we have are His. In I Peter 2:9. Peter writes, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light”. Like the dedicated things of Leviticus, we not only belong to the Lord, but we are set apart and consecrated for His use. We are His and all that we have is His.



Hope Kids

DONNA HOSSEY, CHILDRENS MINISTER

May 2011



July 25-29, 2011

Everyone loves a good story from their mom, dad, or grandparents. Can you imagine the kinds of stories Mary could tell? We will travel back to Hometown Nazareth, where they'll stand up for their faith among people who doubt that the carpenter's son is really God's Son.

Join us for training In May!

Wednesdays (4th, 11th, 25th)
6:30 – 7:30 pm

- *Decorations
- *Small Group Leaders
- *Arts & Craft Leaders
- *Drama

MEET THE GIFFORDS

CRWRC Missionaries in Mexico

May 18, 2011

6 pm – 9 pm

The Hussey's

Bring a side and a 2L drink

I give thanks for:

- *Folks who invited (and brought!) friends and family
- *Wonderful greeters & hospitality
- *Those who brought eggs & candy & stuffed eggs day and night!
- *The youth for handing out flyers
- *Small Group leaders for helping lead kids through the stations
- *The youth for helping with the egg hunt and registration.
- *Cheyenne Escalante, Bonnie Faber, & Jasmine Juliette with registration

...And a special thanks for our station hosts:

Jorge & Gabriel Charriez
James, Letty, Eric & Cathy Davis
Debbie & Anna DeYoung
Lisa, & Jason Juliette
C.W. & Vienna Sims,
Vanessa Wray, Maria Hussey
Hunter, Josi, Sofi, & B.J. Moore

Each of you helped make Easter a memorable experience for our children.

Coming Next month...

*More VBS News

*Super Summer 2011 for kids

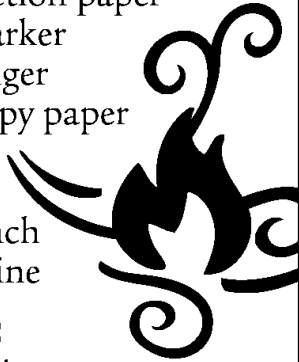
AND SOOOO... MUCH MORE!!

PENTECOST MOBILE

Make this craft as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit is all around you.

What you need:

- Tissue paper (red, yellow, orange), torn into squares
- Plastic transparency
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Construction paper
- Black marker
- Wire hanger
- White copy paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Fishing line



What you do:

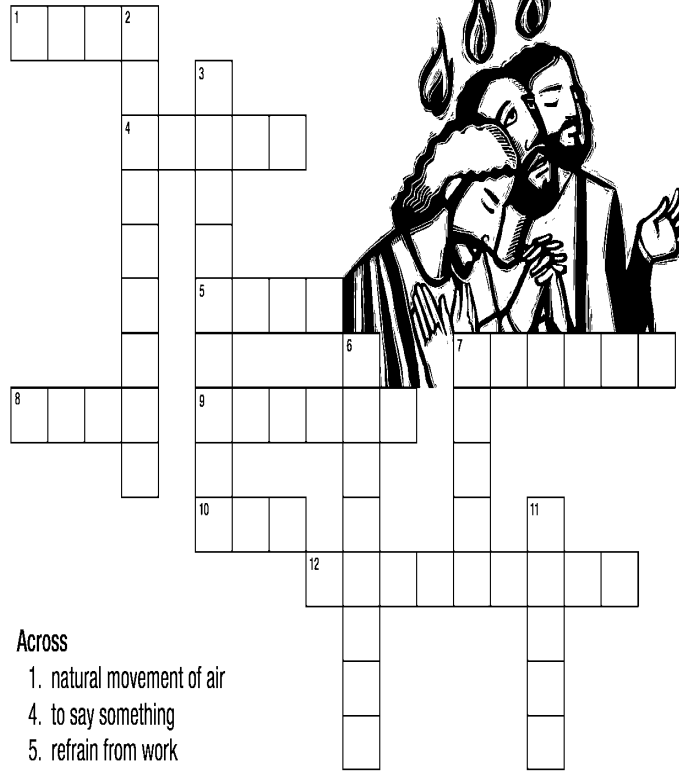
1. Overlap tissue squares as "flames" on the transparency.
2. "Paint" glue (thinned with water) over the squares.
3. Fold construction paper in half. Write out Acts 2:4 at the top, by the fold.
4. Poke the hanger through the middle of the fold.
5. On the white paper, write "Holy Spirit" in English, Spanish (*Espiritu Santo*), French (*L'esprit Saint*), etc.
6. Cut out a flame pattern and trace it on the back of the transparency.
7. Cut out flames and glue the "Holy Spirit" names on them.
8. Thread fishing line through a hole atop each flame and tie flames onto the hanger.



The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

1. natural movement of air
4. to say something
5. refrain from work
7. place where God is
8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
10. the time between sunrise and sunset
12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

Down

2. followers of Christ
3. moved apart
6. quickly and unexpectedly
7. a building where people live
11. vibrations that travel through the air

Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound

Special Events

May 15 Discover Hope Class 2PM
May 7 Hope Garage Sale
May 17 Women's night out
May 21 Men's Fellowship
May 28 Bay Wind Nursing Home
Visit, 10 am 4th Sat of
month

Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday Schools: Adult,
Youth, & Children's
Worship Celebrations
9:00 AM &
10:30 AM Hospitality Time
11:45 AM The Gathering: Junior
5:00 PM High & High School
Students
May 1 and 15th

Monday

7:00 PM Women of Hope May 16th

Tuesday

7:00 PM Elders/Deacon meeting

Wednesday

6:30 PM Junior High & High School
Bible Studies
Adult Bible Studies
7:30 PM Open Gym
7:45 PM Praise Team Practice

Thursday

Friday