



Kirkwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LAMPLIGHTER

MARCH 2016



A View from the Porch...

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“The Lord is risen!” He is risen indeed!” Alleluia! These are the words with which we greet each other on Easter Sunday. It is a day of rejoicing! After all, it is the Day of Resurrection! Yet, the opening acclamation of worship that first Easter morning was not a joyful, “Alleluia.”



All four gospel writers tell us that the first Easter was emotionally overwhelming. Yet, as dawn breaks early Easter morning, it is not unbridled joy and rejoicing that dominate the story as much as words like fear or trembling, afraid or frightened that appear in one form or another. The words amazed, perplexed, astonished also drench the emotional landscape with weeping, running, and fleeing. Why such a cacophony of troubling emotions on such a day! Where is the joy? Where is the hope?



Among all the gospel writers, nobody captures the fear and trembling that accompanied Jesus’ resurrection more than Matthew. While the word “joy” is found in Matthew’s account of the resurrection once, “fear,” or some derivative of the word is found four times. Furthermore, the only time joy is mentioned is in combination with fear as the women, “hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy ...” (Matt. 28:8)

Yes, the Lord is risen, but as Tom Long says, “a shattering earthquake rippled a seismic shock through history and signaled that the fault lines of human history had shifted dramatically toward grace and hope.” We’ve heard this quaking before, both at Jesus’ crucifixion, and at the storm at sea.

The rumbling of the earthquake is the sound of God interrupting the way things have always been done, God’s dramatic intervention, disrupting the ways the dots have always connected – fear, death, grief and being shaken at their very foundations. Then an angel appears, rolling back the stone, and sits on it like he’s sitting on a park bench, enjoying the early morning light as the sun rises. His appearance strikes terror in those who would guard the places of death and fear and sorrow in this world both unleashing a whole new world of hope to those who hear his words, “Do not be afraid” and shattering the powers that would rob us of courage, hope, and joy.

Matthew tells the story with all the bells and whistles with the intention to get us to understand what a world changing experience it was. It was scary and exciting. Most scary things are exciting. One can hardly begin to understand the emotions they experienced. To say it blew their mind would be an understatement. Earthquakes, a moving boulder, a “terrifying” angel, and the earth shattering message that fear has been banished, for Jesus is alive and has gone before them. Fear and joy, despair and hope, doubt and faith, these are the two sides of our lives in this world. But in the end we have heard the resurrection promise that joy, hope, and faith will ultimately prevail.

On this Easter Sunday, and everyone to follow, fear is not the last word. So, remember the words of great theologian Bob the Tomato who said it best: “God is bigger than the Boogeyman.” Fear will not end, but it does not have to overwhelm us. Fear will not stop, but it does not have to destroy us. Fear is not the last word! Along with the cross of Friday, there is the empty tomb of Sunday. Along with the pain and death, there is Resurrection. Along with the fear, there is great joy. For the Lord is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Let all God’s people say, *Alleluia!* “*Alleluia*, may not be the first word of Easter morning, but it is both the last and the best word for us all.

Easter Blessings! Pastor Larry



Previews from the Pulpit

Join us in March as we gather in celebration of Kirkwood's 50th Anniversary!

Faithful in the Past and Faith-Filled for the Future



Sunday, March 6

Celebration of Holy Communion

4th Sunday in Lent

50th Anniversary Celebration

Isaiah 51:1-3 Ephesians 3:14-21 Luke 12:22-34

Deep Roots & Daring Branches

Sunday, March 13

Rev. Wilson Gunn, General Presbyter of National Capital Presbytery will be our Guest Preacher

5th Sunday in Lent

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

The Presbyterian Brother

Sunday, March 20

Holy week begins...

Palm/Passion Sunday

Romans 8:35-39

Boggarts & Dementors – Laughter, Light, & Chocolate!

Thursday, March 24

Worship at 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday

A Remembrance of the Last Supper

Pat Futato, Evening Meditation

Pastor Larry, Lay Reader

Sunday, March 27

One Great Hour of Sharing

Easter/Resurrection of the Lord

John 20:1-18

Conversations at a Cemetery

NCP Per Capita Assessment

National Capital Presbytery plays a vital role in providing education, resources and support for our local congregations and was instrumental in assisting Kirkwood to refinance its mortgage at an attractive rate. We would like to be able to fully fund our per member assessment for 2016, so please consider writing a check to Kirkwood for **\$37.50 for each member** and mark the memo line as NCP Assessment. You can also use the first envelope (buff colored) for your assessment check. Thank you.



Easter Egg Hunt

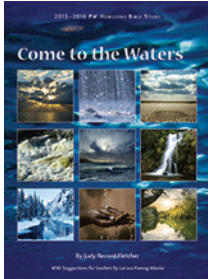
Please join us for the annual Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the 11:00 Easter Worship Service on **Sunday, March 27**. The hunt will take place in the backyard of the church.

Ages walking through 12 year olds are welcome to join. Please bring a basket for your children to carry their eggs. If you have any questions, please contact Merissa Larson at merissaklarson@yahoo.com.





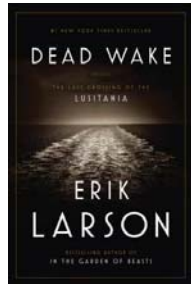
Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study will meet **Thursday, March 17** at 10:30 am in the Parlor. We will study Lesson 7 in *Come to the Waters* by Judy Record Fletcher.

Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet for discussion on **Monday, March 14** at 7:30 in the Conference Room. We are reading *Dead Wake: The Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson.



Come join us!

Support Group on Aging

Support Group on Aging invites people to attend our next meeting on **Monday, March 28** at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room.

The purpose of the group is to offer support and education to those caring for the elderly and others interested in the subject. Each meeting includes a topic chosen by the group, explored through an educational segment and group interaction.

The group facilitator is Rev. Dr. Saul Cardona who has extensive experience in working with the elderly and specialized education in dealing with elderly issues and their families.

For further information, please contact Rev. Dr. Cardona at 703-232-3041 or at saul.cardona@gmail.com.



Invite a friend or neighbor!

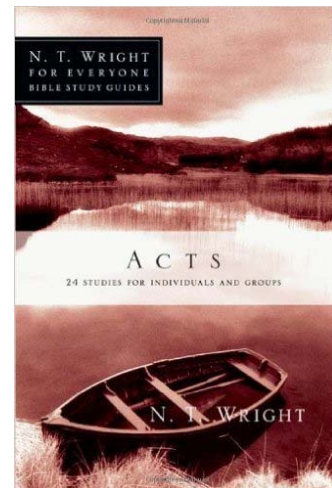
Brunch with a Bunch

The next Brunch with a Bunch will be held after worship on **Sunday, March 13** at Walker's Grille, 909 Metro Park Dr, Alexandria, VA 22310 (between Beulah St/Charles Arrington Dr and Walker Ln). Contact Jill MacNabb at macnabb.tax@gmail.com to RSVP.



WEBS

WEBS (Wednesday Evening Bible Study) has begun the study of the book of Acts. WEBS meets every Wednesday from 7:30-9:00 pm in the church conference room. The Bible study guide on Acts is written by N.T. Wright, professor of New Testament at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Everyone is invited to attend and learn from Luke that Jesus is a person who can be known and loved, obeyed and followed, a person who continues to act within the real world.



MISSION

Church World Service Hygiene Kits

Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. The Mission Committee has decided to help with this effort as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- one hand towel (16" x 28")
- one washcloth
- one wide tooth comb
- one nail clipper
- one bar of bath soap in wrapper, and
- one toothbrush (in original packaging)

We will gather on **March 13** in Fellowship hall to pack the items in bags. Please join us in this effort!



Kids Helping Kids

All kids of Kirkwood, get ready to help assemble weekend food packs for hungry students at Newington Forest Elementary after service in the Fellowship Hall. On **Sunday, March 20**. Donations of boxed mac & cheese, ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, canned chicken or tuna, cheese and crackers, and granola bars are always welcome. Bring your items with you to the Fellowship Hall or place them in the ECHO box labeled *Kids Helping Kids*.



S.O.M.E. Sandwich Making

Every third Sunday, after worship service, the Fellowship Hall is busy with adults and children devoting their time to feeding the hungry.



This month's making of sandwiches to feed the homeless will be in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship service on **Sunday, March 20**. Donations of bologna and sliced cheese are welcome and should be placed in the kitchen refrigerator. Please come and join others who are giving of their time to relieve hunger in our metropolitan area. This mission project is scheduled each month and takes only 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

ECHO Collection

This month's communion Sunday food collection for **ECHO** will be on **Sunday, March 6**. As you prepare your list for grocery shopping, please remember to pick up a few items for ECHO to give to the hungry in our community. The ECHO box will be waiting for your contributions at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Current needs can be found at

www.echo-inc.org



Kirkwood is Turning 50! And Won't THAT Be Nifty?

Join us in March as Kirkwood celebrates half a century of being
"Faithful in the Past & Faith-Filled for the Future"



Our commemoration will include:

- Sunday, March 6:** Celebration Worship Service and Holy Communion followed by a catered luncheon with entertainment by Bobby Jasinski and the Hot Lanes. **Please RSVP for the catered buffet luncheon (\$15.00 per adult 12+, under 12 free).**
- Sunday, March 13:** General Presbyter Wilson Gunn will bring greetings from National Capital Presbytery and will lead us in worship and preaching. After worship we will assemble hygiene kits as a special mission project.
- Sunday, March 20:** Our Palm Sunday worship will feature a festival of special music from our children.
- Sunday, March 26:** On Easter Sunday we will celebrate Christ's Resurrection with gusto and renew our commitment to a faith-filled future as well as dedicate the new *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnals.

Leading up to and throughout these events you can:

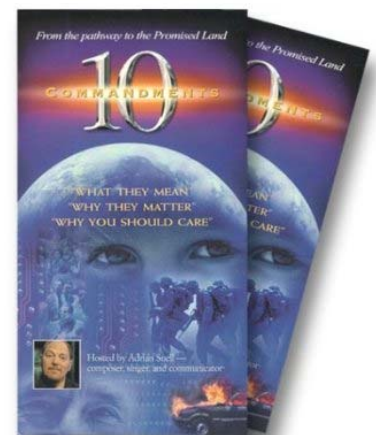
- Look back at the last five decades and share in our dreams for the next half century through a time-line banner displayed in the narthex.
- Help mark our future as we plant a new tree to adorn our beautiful "church in the woods."
- Purchase for \$22 and dedicate a copy of the new *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal for our Sunday worship services.
- "Get your Kirkwood on" by buying everyone in the family a 50th Anniversary commemorative t-shirt! Great for our social gatherings and service opportunities together. Cost is \$15 each and the shirts will be available for pick up on Sundays in late February and March after service.

Have questions? Contact Doug Amon (dla100@aol.com), Deanna Johnson (djohnson@abcstaff.org), or Joan Reynolds (jreyn9120@aol.com).

Adult Sunday School

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Conference Room for a unique study of the 10 Commandments.

This video and discussion series, narrated by Adrian Schell, presents contemporary stories and situations which put application of the 10 Commandments in a whole new light. God's Light of course, but with some serious thought in getting there.



Concerts from Kirkwood

On March 12, Concerts from Kirkwood will present its third concert of the current season, as we welcome the *Beau Soir Ensemble* in a concert that will have a Celtic flair as we recognize the arrival of spring (I'm ready... how about you?) and St. Patrick's Day. The ensemble, consisting of harp, flute, and viola perform frequently in the local area and will surprise you with their versatility and variety of the music they'll perform.

The season will end with a return performance by the *Washington Saxophone Quartet* on May 7. The quartet will perform a concert featuring not only jazz favorites but also an eclectic mix of styles and genres. The quartet is celebrating their fortieth year of highly successful performances in the broader Washington area and is the most widely heard saxophone quartet in the United States. They appear frequently on National Public Radio and have numerous recordings to their credit.

Concerts from Kirkwood has been very fortunate to have been sought out by not only local, but also national and international artists. These artists, many of whom are widely recognized on the international stage actually ask to perform for our series. Why? It's because of the reputation of our series for quality and the stated goal of our church to bring quality music to the community as our gift to our neighbors.

This highly effective community outreach effort has brought literally hundreds of people to our building and offered the opportunity for us to interact with them. They enjoy the physical beauty of our sanctuary as well as the outstanding acoustic quality of the space. As we host the audience at a meet-the-artists reception after each concert, we have the opportunity to speak with them to create overwhelmingly positive impressions of our church, its members, and its place in the community. That's the positive side of the equation. Unfortunately, we do not take the best advantage of these opportunities as a relatively small number of our members attend the concerts and help welcome our guests. We have a loyal core of members who attend and contribute to the receptions and the management of the series, but we need more support for each concert.

Concerts from Kirkwood is funded entirely by contributions from those who attend and from the generous support of a number of supporters within and outside of the church. It receives no support from the church's operating budget. The concerts present a wide variety of music and artists, and present an outstanding opportunity to expose children to good music and to help build in them an appreciation of the arts. I'd invite each of you to attend and support the series. Beyond the chance to serve in this ministry of Kirkwood, you're sure to enjoy the music and the fellowship. Please contact me if you have questions or would like to become involved.

Mark Wessman,
Concerts from Kirkwood chairman



Dear Kirkwood Members and Friends,

The Session approved and presented to the Congregation on January 21st a 2016 operating budget of \$342,575. The Session is very thankful to the members and friends of Kirkwood for their financial support. In particular, we greatly appreciate everyone keeping up with their 2016 pledges as well as all members paying the National Capital Presbytery assessment of \$37.50 for each member.

Respectfully,

Budget and Finance Committee





March

- 1 Andrew Hall
John Burbank
- 2 Kenny Williams
- 3 Chris Furth
- 8 Michael Hock
- 11 Peggy Costello
- 12 Deborah Grubbs
Peter Scott
- 18 Joy Groettum
- 19 Violet Burbank
- 22 Art Schwalb
- 25 Benjamin Yancey
- 28 Becky Costello
- 31 Joan Reynolds
Ardyss Wherry

Sorrows:

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Clydette Lobred on the death of her brother, Mike.

Special Concerns:

- Tom & Karen Mirabella and family, serving in the mission field in Japan
- Chris Sadler, grandson of Jack Downing, providing humanitarian relief in Turkey
- Dustin & Sherri Ellington and family, mission workers in Zambia
- 1LT Kyle Snyder, deployed to Afghanistan

Health & Personal Concerns:

- Karen Qualley
- John Webster
- Mark Gearhart
- Bob Flory
- Hal Sellers
- Dick Pape
- Keith Scott
- Bob Snow, father of Heather Telfer
- Abigail, daughter of Joan Reynolds' nephew
- Kenneth Martin, father of Susie Yancey
- Kevin Helmick, friend of Sandy & John Webster
- Josiah Mirabella, grandson of Cecilia Wu



March

- 19 Sylvia & Pete Kelty

Please email Clydette Lobred (tclobred@aol.com) with Prayer Ring requests and also if you would like to update, add or remove your email address.



Office Closure:
The church office will be closed on **Monday, March 28** for Easter Monday.



KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Pastor, Rev. Larry C. Lees
pastor@kirkwoodpres.com

Director of Music
Christopher Smith

Organist/Accompanist
Hongjoo Lee

Office Manager
Anne Myers

Treasurer
James Lister

Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter lily, please sign up on the flower calendar outside the kitchen. Donations are accepted as payment.



Concerts from Kirkwood presents

Celtic Spring!

Featuring
The Beau Soir Ensemble
Harp, Flute & Viola

Saturday, March 12, 3:00 PM

A scenic photograph of a stone tower on a grassy hill overlooking the ocean under a cloudy sky.

Monday, March 21 is the deadline for articles and/or photos to be included in the April 2016 Lamplighter. Please send content to Anne at office.manager@kirkwoodpres.com

