



LENTEN SERVICES

Series: Restored in Christ

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Light Dinner served from 4:45-5:45 PM

The season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross. Each service in this stirring series focuses on a certain event in the Lenten story and takes a good, hard look at a broken element from that particular story. Coming to an understanding of how each of these broken elements leads to restoration in Christ is key to understanding what it ultimately means to live today as new creations in Christ.



Ash Wednesday – March 5th, 2014

“Broken Hearts Restored” • Joel 2:12-14

Our hearts are broken in sorrow over sin; Christ restores our hearts through his forgiveness.

Lenten Service 2 – March 12th, 2014

“Broken Vessel Restored” • Mark 14:1-9

A broken vessel holds costly perfume; we are broken vessels restored when Christ pays the price for us on the cross.

Lenten Service 3 – March 19th, 2014

“Broken Trust Restored” • Matthew 26:14-25

Judas breaks his trust with Jesus by betraying him; our broken trust is restored through the sacrifice of Christ.

Lenten Service 4 – March 26th, 2014

“Broken Bread Restored” • John 6:48-58

Bread is broken at the Last Supper; we are restored through the Bread of Life, Jesus.

Lenten Service 5 – April 2nd, 2014

“Broken Promises Restored” • Matthew 26:69-75

Peter’s broken promises to never deny Jesus are restored by the surpassing love of Christ.

Lenten Service 6 – April 9th, 2014

“Broken Justice Restored” • 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

A broken justice system put Jesus on the cross; we are restored when by his death we are declared not guilty.

FROM THE PASTOR

Don’t Just Retire

The first people to climb Mt. Everest, the world’s highest mountain, were Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. Hillary was just 33 years old. His feat afforded him fame, wealth, and the realization that he had already lived a remarkable life. So, what did Hillary do for the next 55 years? Did he retire and rest on his laurels? Absolutely not.

Although Hillary had no higher mountains to climb, that didn’t stop him. He achieved other notable goals, including a concerted effort to improve the welfare of the Nepalese people living near Mt. Everest—a task he carried on until his death in 2008.

Did you know that God told the Levites to retire from their regular duties at age 50? (Num. 8:24-25). But He did not want them to stop helping others. He said that they should “minister with

their brethren . . . to attend to needs” (v.26). We cannot take this incident as a complete teaching on retirement, but we can see a godly implication that continuing to serve others after our working days are over is a good idea.

Many people find that when they retire they have nothing meaningful to do with their time. They may play a lot of golf and water volleyball in The Villages, but that is all self-focused. But as the Levites and Sir Edmund Hillary did, we can refocus when we retire—giving of our time to help others. Our church at Open Bible provides many opportunities for you to serve your Savior and others. May we all look for ways to follow the example of our Savior who came “not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Go Open Bible! Don’t just retire!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By now I think most of us have seen in print or heard one or more of Pastor Schulz’s very unique outreach stories. They have shown us that, to say the least, God does indeed work at times in some very unusual ways or in some unusual settings. I, myself, had such an experience a short time ago even though it was a different type of an outreach opportunity.

My wife and I were returning to The Villages after spending the recent Christmas Holidays with our families back in Wisconsin. We were flying Southwest airlines on a Friday morning and as we settled into our seats for the approximate two and a half hour flight, I pulled out my Bible and daily devotional books and began reading.

The stewardess who happened to be working the back half of the plane started to care for the needs of her passenger’s right behind the seats my wife and I occupied. As she went about her tasks she must have noticed my reading material. After a while she stopped at our seats and mentioned that she noticed I was reading from first Peter. She stated that he was her favorite disciple and also made a comment about Peter cutting off the ear of the servant of the high priest in the garden of Gethsemane. We spoke for a moment or two

longer and she left to resume her responsibilities. A short while later she (I believe her name was Cheryl) returned and knelt down beside me in the aisle. Cheryl politely asked me if I would kindly do her a favor. I told her I would be glad to if I could and asked her what I might be able to help her with. She proceeded to ask me to pray for her four year old granddaughter who was in the ICU unit of a hospital in Baltimore Maryland. The youngster had autism and recently had developed a bleeding problem. The doctors were having a difficult time determining the cause and I could see in the stewardess’ eyes that she was very concerned. We talked further and she told me she was from Michigan and was hoping to catch a flight to Baltimore when we landed. Her daughter and son-in-law had been at the hospital day and night for the last four days and they could really use a break.

I told her it was a bit of a coincidence that our Pastor was also from Michigan and our congregation did a lot of praying for fellow members, as well as friends/acquaintances, of members. I reaffirmed with her that God does indeed answer prayer and I would be most happy to pray for her granddaughter and for her.

I then proceeded to ask her to do a similar favor for me. The night before our flight our twenty year old grandson had learned that one of his close friends from school had suffered a serious head injury from a fall in Colorado where he was spending a part of his Christmas break with friends. In the early morning hours before we left for our flight he had further learned that the young man had died. I also knew the young man as he had been a student at the school where I served as Principal before retiring. My wife and I said a prayer for him and shared a few words of encouragement with our grandson. Outwardly, he seemed to be handling the situation well but you never quite know what’s really going on the inside.

The stewardess left and I turned my attention to scripture and began searching for some words of comfort to share with her. I found a number of passages in the Book of Romans and went to the back of the plane. When I found Cheryl, I shared the passages with her. She then introduced me to the other stewardess who immediately assured me

that she, too, would say a prayer for both young men.

I don't know the results of our brief encounters and probably never will. Did Cheryl make it to Baltimore? Did the doctors find the cause and correct the problem? How is the young granddaughter doing? I do know that my grandson continues to appear to be doing o.k. And I do know that God heard our prayers that day just as He hears each of our prayers every day.

For a few brief moments on that flight God gave me the opportunity to share my faith and hopefully help to strengthen someone else's. A person never knows when God may call upon us to show our concern for our fellow man. As I reflect back over all that had occurred in a very short span of time, I can't help but think back to that phrase we have all heard, "People won't care much about what we know until they see how much we care."

Before I conclude the March newsletter, let me share this Irish Friendship wish with each of you and your Irish friends:

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you...

All God's blessings,
Greg Wendorf

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

March 2014

New Life in Christ Class- Taught by Pastor Schulz

A great refresher class on the basic teachings found in God's Word. This seven week study will look at the natural knowledge of God, the work of Jesus Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit including spiritual gifts, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the end of the world with discussions on Judgment Day, Heaven and Hell, church fellowship, the history of the Lutheran Church, and the differences in Lutheran

Church bodies today. If a person would like to join Open Bible as a full-time member and is not already WELS, this class would be a pre-requisite to membership.

The class meets from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM on Thursday nights in March.

Book Club- Facilitator is Pastor Schulz

March 25th from 4:00-5:30 P.M. at Open Bible.

Discussion Book: TBD

If you would like to order your book, you can either order it yourself from Northwestern Publishing House, or our church secretary, Karen Pearson can order a copy for you and you can reimburse her.

SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him)- Facilitator is Pastor Dale

The Singles of Open Bible will meet March 10th at 1:00 PM for a Bible Study.

Godly Men of Leisure-Facilitator is Dennis Duessler

The group is discussing a Bible study booklet on some of the issues retired men and men in general face. They meet monthly at Perkins Restaurant off of 466. Their next meeting is on Friday, March 14th at 8:00 AM.

The Defenders- Led by Ken Wells and Bill Sigurdson

This group meets once a month to shoot 50-100 rounds at the Gun Club off 44 near Leesburg. Ken and Bill supply everyone with targets or you can buy one for \$1.25. The cost to use the range is \$10.00.

Following the activity, the group has lunch at Beef O' Brady's and devotes time to pray for our country and military. On some months, to save on ammunition costs, the group will look at battles in the book of Judges.

The 466A Group- Taught by Pastor Schulz

This group meets twice a month for two hours at homes of members at Open Bible who live in the southern portion of The Villages in the 466A area. The group meets on Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 PM. They start off with a few mixers, have a 50 minute study with discussion, devote time to prayer, and then have some light food and drinks provided by the host family.

Engage, a series of short films, is a new style of Bible study that fits right where you are and shows you where God wants you to be.

March 13th host family is Bob & Margie O'Connell

March 27th host family is John & Janis Liermann

The North County Group- Led by Alan Johnson

These are a group of Open Bible members from the Ocala area who meet twice a month on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00 PM. Right now they are planning to meet on Sunday March 9th and Sunday March 23rd at the home of Alan and Pam Johnson. For more information on topic and meeting place, please call Alan Johnson at 352-390-6982.

Quilters- Facilitator is Ruth Niermeyer

Meets on Friday, March 7th at 9:00 AM. Join these ladies as they make some great homemade quilts.

Women of Open Bible- Led by Sandy Hahm

Meeting on March 12th at 1:00 PM. Women join together for devotion, service planning, activities and fellowship. Plans are being made for the Annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show. Hostesses for March are Audrey Hoerchner & Sandy Pawlowski.

Grief Share- Facilitator is Pastor Schulz

February 3rd thru April 28th Mondays from 4:00 – 5:30 PM – 13 weeks

The group will cover various topics; Living with Grief, The Journey with Grief, The Effects of Grief, When Your Spouse dies, Your Family and Grief, Why?, The Uniqueness of Grief, God's Prescription for Grief, Stuck in Grief, Top 20 Lessons in Grief, Heaven.

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson



Judy Mahnke is one of our more interesting new members. Although she has been worshipping with us for nearly one year now, you probably haven't heard that

she met her husband, Charles, as a substitute on a blind date! (A blind date is scary enough, but as a substitute?) They were married at Mt. Hope Methodist in Lansing, MI, in May of 1959. For the next 42 years they lived in Rockford, IL, then traveled in a motor home for 2 years, finally settling in Sebring, FL, where they lived until Charles died in 2007. In 2008 Judy found Summerfield, FL, where she has been adjusting to widowhood, recently making Carriage House her home.

Judy has 4 sons, Kenneth, Ronald, Donald and Gerald; and 6 grandsons, Shawn, Nick, Victor, Jack, Blaze and Xander, who live in Illinois, California and North Carolina.

She was born and raised in Lansing, MI, attending public schools from kindergarten through high school, graduating from Everett High. Besides being a mother and homemaker for her family, Judy was an office worker, doing bookkeeping.

That was then. Now Judy is having problems with her eyes, which prevent her from reading for long periods of time. In the past, she has enjoyed stories of pioneers and exotic places. She doesn't care for violence, so watches mostly family stories on TV or at the movies.

Judy was a faithful wife and nursemaid to her husband, who suffered with a terminal illness for 10 years. She now does volunteer work for "Love in the Name of Christ," working 2 days a week at the Centsible Furnishings thrift store where Judy and Duane Anderson met her while treasure hunting one day. Centsible is involved with 30 churches in our local area. All items sold have been donated, and any proceeds go to help local families in need.

Her other interests are singing (she loves singing in our choir) and the occasional exercise class at Carriage House. She likes being able to walk over to church and living so near that she can sit out on her balcony and listen to our carillon.

We are thankful to have Judy Mahnke in our Christian family at Open Bible.

ORGAN CONCERT

Saturday, March 8, 4:00 pm

Dr. John Nolte with Stacy Vance, flute



Dr. John Nolte is Music Division Chairman and Professor of Music at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, where he has taught since 1986. During his career he has taught

piano, organ, music fundamentals, music education, choir, and sight singing. He is also faculty advisor for the students who provide sound, lighting, and video internet streaming for campus events and drama productions.

Stacy Vance received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Montana State University with a major in Flute with a minor in vocal music in 1986. She taught music in grades K-12 in public school in Montana for 6 years.



assistance to remain students at their Christian Day School. The congregation does all it can to help finance the education of children who can't afford the tuition costs. But more assistance is needed. At our last Church Council meeting, the Council gave the green light to make known to the members of Open Bible how they might help out.

There is a young girl whose mother was laid off in late November from her work position. The name of the child is Tirzah Joy. The mother is separated from her husband, and is basically raising two girls on her own. She speaks about the education her child is receiving at King of Kings: "Tirzah has been with King of Kings since pre-school and is now in Kindergarten and loving every minute. We anticipate many more years of her growing in knowledge and in the Lord at this school. Tirzah loves sharing with her little sister Zaniah the stories from the Bible she is learning. She has a blast at Chapel. Every day I pick her up from school and ask her how her day went and she says good! The experience we have had with King of Kings has been truly priceless. I feel so blessed to have found a school that is rooted in the love and the Word of the Lord and both instills and reinforces the values I have always desired my daughters to have."

When I called the church secretary today, I was informed that Tirzah's mom just got a new job. However, financial assistance is still very much needed.

The cost of education for Tirzah is around \$5250.00 a year. Any financial gift you may be able to give toward Tirzah would help very much. If you would like to help out, you can make a check out to King of Kings, with a notation: Please apply this gift to the education of Tirzah Joy. Her mother's name is Dawn Boulding.

You can either drop the check off in the offering basket at Open Bible or mail it directly to:

King of Kings
1101 N Wymore Rd.
Maitland, FL 32751-4240

HELP NEEDED

Help Needed for Tirzah



Every year the children from King of Kings in Maitland come to Open Bible and sing in our worship services. We all enjoy these young people and the songs they share with us. It has been brought to my attention recently that several children at King of Kings are in need of financial

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The church council met on Feb 20th. Here are the highlights from the meeting:

- January expenses were slightly above income due to several unique expenses.
- 2 new full time members were accepted.
- We will hold off on buying any more chairs for the church.
- The communion registration book will be placed just outside the doors leading into the church from the fellowship hall.
- The assimilation committee has put together a revised Spiritual Gift – Time Talent survey for new members.
- Various small groups will help with some of the Lenten suppers.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Our Worship Committee met for their monthly meeting on the first Thursday in February. The meeting opened with a devotion by R. Brutlag on what was the Psalm for the coming Sunday.

Worship plans for the coming weeks were discussed and changes made where needed. Organists were assigned for the coming services and hymns and liturgies were talked about.

A new setting for the Psalms of the week was presented and it was decided to order a CD of these settings to see if they could be used in our worship services.

A new setting for the Venite might be used on the 5th Sunday in March. The choir would introduce it. It was also decided that when an unfamiliar hymn is chosen for a service the choir will introduce it to the congregation. Also, when suitable we will try to choose one favorite hymn of the congregation in the service. However, since the hymns and readings all point to the theme of the Sunday this is not always possible.

The new electronic piano has already been used in our worship service and also used for choir rehearsals. This instrument will prove very helpful for rehearsals and for our services. A wonderful addition for our congregation.

The Lenten theme, Restored in Christ, was discussed and services finalized. Ash Wednesday begins on Wednesday, March 5th with two services at 4:00 and 6:00 PM with a fellowship meal at 4:45 PM.

Until next month we pray that your worship will be God pleasing and you will be edified through our planned services.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The February Fellowship Event sponsored by the committee was a game night which was well attended once again. It seems that our members really like to play games. The event started off by each person in attendance had either a former U.S. president or First Lady pinned on their back and then throughout the evening tried to guess who they were by asking only questions that could be answered with only a yes or no. Most people figured out who they were before the games began. Wizard seemed to be the most popular game of the evening. A few guests and friends were invited by our members. Our fellowship activities are a good way to introduce Open Bible to our friends.

The committee will not be planning any formal activities during March and April because of all the times we will be together throughout the months. Lent starts in early March, organ concert on the 9th, weekly Lenten services, Holy Week and Easter all give us ample time to see each other. However, Carol Yahn is planning on having a game night sometime during the coming months.

The present committee has met for over two years to plan fellowship activities for our members. It is now time to pass the leadership on to others in the congregation. The Brutlags are stepping down from the committee and wish to thank all of our members for the support they have received the

past two plus years. We will be happy to help our replacements get started.

Enjoy your fellowship time with each other as Open Bible moves forward. Many new members can become assimilated through our Fellowship activities.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Lord has blessed Open Bible with a tremendous amount of visitors and prospects. As a result making contact with these blessings has become too much for Pastor to make on his own. Therefore the former Evangelism Committee has been revised. New faces are on the committee, new responsibilities have been taken on and Pastor is receiving the help needed to make sure that there is some type of contact with these guests.

The rejuvenated committee is made up of the following members:

Dottie Plybon – Visitor card coordinator
Renda Mackey – Email follow up coordinator
Keith Mackey, Doreen Schaefer, Judy and Duane Anderson – Personal visitation team

This committee meets monthly under the direction of Pastor to carry out assignments and to coordinate the evangelism program at Open Bible.

We will be having our first Friendship Sunday of the year on April 13th. That is Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week. Now is the time to begin thinking about who you may invite to this service. More details will be forthcoming.

Our greeter program is also being rejuvenated under the leadership of Herb Schaefer. More is needed besides just greeting our visitors. We would like to have them sign the guest register, get a name tag, and visit with them awhile before services. This will take some real coordination and training. Also, we need to have more room around the welcoming area so that our visitors don't feel claustrophobic. Members can help in this area by moving their visiting further into the fellowship hall or go into the church for meditation and worship preparations.

CPR AND AED TRAINING

Two years ago in April, a number of members of Open Bible were trained, certified or recertified in CPR and AED. That particular training and certification could prove to be a lifesaving tool for someone here at church or wherever you may be. It is now time to be recertified.

We have contacted the authorized training personnel of The Villages public safety department and they have consented to retrain those of us who went through the original training program, as well as anyone else from Open Bible who would be interested in learning this potential lifesaving technique.

The training will take place on Thursday April 10th from 2:30 – 5:00 pm at the Fire Station Headquarters just south of Hwy 466A on Morse Blvd. next to the Sarasota driving range. The address is: 3035 Morse Blvd. We are encouraging our members to give this careful consideration.

We will need a head count for the training personnel and will place a signup sheet on the greeter's table from Sunday March 30th thru Sunday April 6th. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet provided.

Thank you

LADIES LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW

The Women of Open Bible will host their 5th Annual Spring Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show on Friday, April 4th at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Salad Luncheon



Fashions will be provided by Anthony's Ladies Apparel. RSVP by March 28th to Gail Rathgeber at 352-653-9584 or watch for the sign up sheet in the kitchen pass through in the near future.

All ladies of Open Bible are invited and bring a friend!

PALM & LILY PLANTS FOR EASTER

The Altar Guild will again be purchasing Palm plants for Palm Sunday, April 13th & Easter lily plants for Easter Sunday, April 20th. If you would like to help us purchase these plants, please give your donation to the church by **Sunday, March 30th**. A donation of \$10.00 per plant is appreciated. You may pay in cash or write a check to Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church & indicate the amount for the Flower Fund. If you have questions, contact Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079.



SPRING RALLY SATURDAY, MARCH 8th

All ladies please note: You are invited to learn more about our "Vicars in Missions" with Pastor Ed Schuppe, South Atlantic District Mission Counselor, at a rally at Zion Church in Gainesville beginning at 10 am. Registration and coffee begin at 9:15 am. Lunch will be catered and will cost \$7.00. Twelve of our Open Bible ladies have signed up to attend, and will be carpooling from the church parking lot, leaving at 8 am. If you have not signed up yet, but would like to go along, or for more information, call Leslie Nelson, your LWMS Reporter, at 352-753-2484. Even if you cannot attend, please pray for our Lutheran missionaries and their families, and support their efforts through your individual mission offering.

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

March Bonnie Farnsworth

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Christian Schmolke – 2
Sally Langer – 4
James Malone – 5
Bonnie Farnsworth – 7
Pam Johnson – 7
Ty Miter – 8
Betty DeWitz – 17
Greg Wendorf – 26
Dianne Occhetti – 27
Chris Moelling – 27
Robert Sanner – 29
Sharon Sanner – 29

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Chuck & Pat Major – 3
Jim & Eva Orcutt – 8
Bill & Jeri Leeper – 17
Jerry & Ina Taylor – 18
Jim & Joanie Musiel – 26
Pastor Mark & Jeanne Schulz – 27