



# His Place focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HIS PLACE WORSHIP CENTER  
MAY 2017

*"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..." Sng of Sol 2:11-12*

## His Place Celebrates the "Telling" (הַגְּדָה) of God's Passover Sacrifice through Christ



וְאָמַרְתֶּם זְבַח-פֶּסַח הוּא לַיהוָה, אֲשֶׁר פָּסַח עַל-בְּתֵי בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִצְרַיִם, בְּנֹגֵפוֹ אֶת-מִצְרַיִם, וְאֶת-בְּתֵינֵנוּ הִצִּיל; וַיִּקַּד הָעָם, וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ.  
*"That you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' So the people bowed their heads and worshiped."* Exodus 12:27

"Tradition teaches that in each generation, we must consider ourselves as having personally been freed from Egypt. As we prepare for the experience of personal redemption, let us put far from us the leaven of sin hidden within our hearts."

With these words, Pastor Paul began the "telling" (Haggadah) of the Passover story during the church's Seder service on Resurrection Sunday, April 16. Paul was reading from "The Messianic Passover Haggadah," by Barry and Steffi Rubin.

The Passover story tells not only of the deliverance of the original children of Israel, but our own deliverance from sin. The Rubins' work notes that when the Messiah celebrated his last Passover with his disciples, "Yeshua revealed to them the mystery of God's plan of redemption. He spoke to them of his body and blood. He explained to them that he would have to die."

The unleavened bread – the matzah – as the body of Christ, served a prominent place throughout the ceremony. So, too, did the "wine," the blood of Christ, consumed at four different points. Through the matzah and wine, plus the items on the Sedar plate – parsley, horseradish, a sweet apple/nut mixture, a bone, and a roasted egg – church attendees encountered God's eternal deliverance.

Parsley dipped in salt water served as a reminder that "life is sometimes immersed in tears." The bitter horseradish, scooped onto matzah and eaten, recalled the bitterness of slavery, whether to Egypt or to sin. The horseradish was scooped onto matzah a second time and then dipped into the sweet apple mixture, because "even the most bitter of circumstances can be sweetened by the hope we have in God," read the Haggadah text.

The bone represented the sacrificed lamb, and the roasted egg "is regarded as a symbol of mourning" for the destruction of the second temple in 70 AD.

The ceremony ended with the "wine" cup raised in a final act of praise. Pastor Paul reminded the congregation, "This is the day the sacrificial lamb was lifted up for the whole world."



- The Holy Spirit is scheduled to appear each Sunday during our worship services. Worship begins at 10:30 am.
- "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105). We study the Bible together each Sunday at 9:30 am, and have classes for children and adults.
- Join us the last Saturday of each month for "Saturday Night Alive." Come from 6:30-9:30 for food, fellowship, worship, prayer—and the work of the Spirit.

# His Place Haggadah



Marilyn Collins reads Biblical instructions for the Passover from Exodus 12.



Pollyanna Boyer reads about young Moses's rescue from the water by Pharaoh's daughter.



The children of His Place search for the *aftkomen*: matzah wrapped in white linen, symbolizing "the coming one."



Greg Peck reads the four questions traditionally asked by a youngster during the ceremony.



Items on the Seder plate are (from top, clockwise): a lamb bone, a sweet apple mixture, romaine lettuce, parsley, a roasted egg, and (center) horseradish.



Pastor Paul presents a Passover chalice.



Bonnie Childers reads about God's appearance to Moses through a burning bush.



Jimmy Rogers reads about Moses's flight from Egypt to Midian.



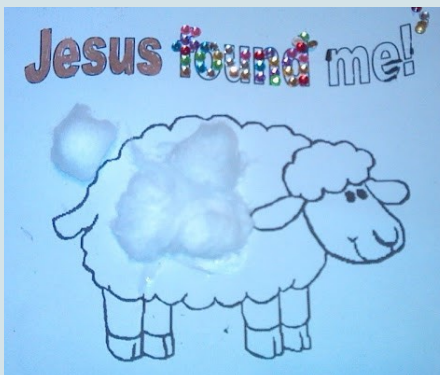
Pastor Marian lights the festival candles.

# Children's Ministry

*Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. Psalm 127:3-5*

## Kids Encounter The God Who Seeks Us Out

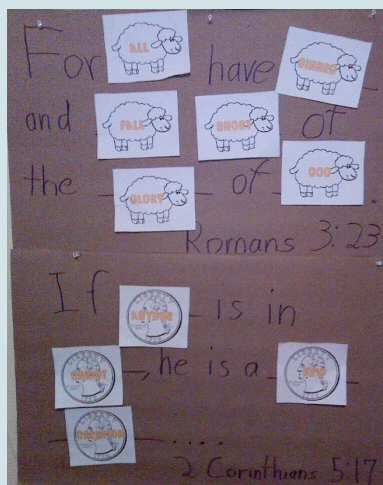
Throughout April, His Place worshippers celebrated Christ's sacrifice of his life and his subsequent resurrection. The kids of His Place, in turn, learned about repentance and the forgiveness for sin that Christ's act made possible.



During Sunday Bible studies in April, the children learned that God seeks us out, as a woman would a lost coin or a shepherd would a lost sheep (Luke 15:1-10)

They learned that "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). They also learned that, like the father who welcomed back his "prodigal son," our heavenly Father puts a ring on our hands and sandals on our feet when we repent and return to him.

These concepts were reinforced in craft/activity sessions held during the Sunday messages. The kids searched for cardstock "lost coins" and "lost sheep." The coins and sheep were inscribed with words which the kids

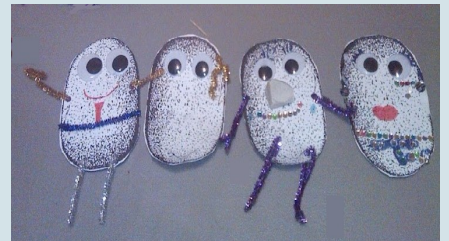


used to fill in the blanks to complete relevant Bible verses. These verses were: Romans 2:23 – "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"; and II Corinthians 5:17 – "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..."



Activities for the "prodigal son" lesson included a pig hunt and a mock banquet (featuring Kool-Aid and goldfish crackers) in honor of the repentant son. The children also decorated balloons with sharpies, to welcome home the son.

On April 9, Palm Sunday, the children heard the details of Jesus's triumphant ride into Jerusalem, described in Matthew 21:1-11. They also decorated card stock rocks with google eyes and pipe cleaner arms and legs.



This served to emphasize Jesus's Palm Sunday assertion that if the rejoicing crowd were to become silent, "the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40).

On Resurrection Sunday, the children joined their parents and the rest of the church family in a celebration of the Sedar, to honor Christ our Passover lamb. (See article on page 1, and photo spread on page 2.)

# From The Pastor's Desk

## Thoughts from Pastors Paul and Marion

What a wonderful Seder meal we shared on Resurrection Sunday. It was the first one we have celebrated as a congregation, but definitely not our last (unless, of course, the Lord returns before next resurrection Sunday, and we celebrate the Passover with the original Passover Lamb).

We have assisted at several Sedar meals on various occasions in the past, but this is the first time we have soloed. Thanks to all of you, and especially to the Holy Spirit, for helping us pull it off.

Special thanks to Pat Epley, Marilyn Collins, Jessie Green, Pollyanna Boyer, and Mariah McKinney for setting up the tables and

laying the ceremonial dinnerware in place the Saturday before the ceremony. Also thanks to lay readers Marilyn Collins, Greg Peck Senior, Greg Peck Junior, Bonnie Childers, and Jimmy Rogers. Not to mention the rest of the attendees, who sang, danced, prayed, listened, worshipped, and otherwise served as vessels for the Holy Spirit.



Paul taught the adult Sunday Bible Study April 6 for the first time in 6 months. Volunteers had filled all the slots until then. Do we have a great servant-centered congregation or what?



Thanks to Mira McLaughlin, Tony and Mariah McKinney, Chris



Dominianni, and Roger Hornback for their contributions to the Sunday Bible study and to worship services in April. God has Blessed us with some amazing people in the five-fold giftings.

Pastors Paul & Marian

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“His Place Focus” is edited by, and unattributed articles are written by, Marion Stephan. Biblical quotations are from the New King James translation of the Bible.

**22** Dianne Slater

**31** Pat James

*From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.*  
Psalm 71:6