

April 15, 2004

Where there is no Vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18A,KJV)

GOOD FRIDAY?

Some of you will get this on Good Friday and many of you who will get it after Easter, however, whenever you get it, let us remember what our Lord and God has done for us and give thanks! Here is the meditation from "Discoveries on the Way" by Robert H. Ramey, Jr.

Pastor Jerry

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him (Mark 15:25).

How strange to call it *Good Friday*. They crucified the only sinless man who ever lived. Those who passed by derided him. The chief priests joined the scribes to mock him. The two criminals on either side of him also taunted him. Darkness covered the whole land. A tragedy of incalculable proportions occurred. How then can we possibly call it *Good Friday*? If anything, we ought to call it **Bad Friday**. Yet the name *Good Friday* has stuck through the years. Strange indeed.

But there are compelling reasons for us to call the lowest moment in humankind's history *Good Friday*. As we look back upon it, that day, in the providence of God, was good for us. The cross symbolized the lengths to which God would go to show us sacrificial love. The cross symbolized the death of sin for all who turned to Jesus in faith. But we see all this now in the light of the resurrection. God raised Jesus from the dead!

Today we can proclaim the power of the cross because God's power "already has prevailed in Christ's resurrection." But we must be careful because "Easter does not erase or eclipse the godforsakenness of *Good Friday*."¹ *Good Friday* was awful, but now that we see God's purpose more clearly in the bright light of Easter, we can truly call it good. God Intended It for good. God used It for good.

In the meantime we live each day with the memory of *Good Friday* stamped in our minds. We bear the cross now by living for others, by sacrificing ourselves on behalf of the least, the last, and the lost. Yet we can only do that as we also remember that God raised Jesus from the dead. That belief keeps us going when we are tempted to give up. *Bad Friday* became *Good Friday* because of the resurrection.

(Footnotes)

¹Charles B. Cousar, *A Theology of the Cross: The Death of Jesus in the Pauline Letters* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990), 106.



THE PRAYER CHAIN

Libby Parrish is writing the Prayer Chain Letter for April. If you have a request or an update, please call Libby at 587-0361

PLEASE remember to call the Pastor or church office to notify us of any hospitalizations.

NEW SIGN COMETH....Southminster Church will be without a sign on Peoria for a while, but a classy sign is underway. Thank you for your patience.

THANK YOU

I want to thank the many who helped with my recovery with their prayers and cards. Bless them all!

--Mary Ann Park

To Everyone at Southminster,

Thank you for all your prayers during m pregnancy. I have prayed that God would bless all of you for praying for me.

Also, thank you for the kind words and gifts. We are truly grateful!

God bless all of you, and please take good care of my dad!J

--In Christ, Lisa (Peltz) Russell.

Dear Southminster Family,

Thank you for the beautiful arrangements you made for mother's memorial service and the reception afterward. The service was a lovely tribute to mom, and the reception was so pretty and well organized. You handled everything so well, by phone calls.

Mother loved Southminster and the many friends she had there. Her life's work, using the talents God gave her, was making the places where people live, work and worship more beautiful, and she did that in Tulsa for over fifty years. Mom knew and appreciated graceful interaction and acknowledgement among members of her church community. In heaven, she surely must have smiled at what you did for her.

--Sincerely, Dana Bathurst(daughter of ?)

KEEP IN MIND...

Cab Fare Fund The Cab Fare Fund provides transportation to and from Southminster church activities. If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to Southminster with a notation for the Cab Fare Fund..

PARENTS....

Have a graduating family member this spring? We want to know and share your joy with the rest of Southminster.

Please contact Lou Anderson or Karen Hiller for assistance in this matter at newsletter@southminstertulsa.org. May is coming soon.



NEXT SOUTHMINSTER SATURDAY

- APRIL 17 @ 6:00 PM

Too Muddy to Plow sings songs about peace and justice, an exploration of spirituality through music.

WANNA MAKE A REALLY GREAT TRADE? JUST GIVE US YOUR BLOOD

in exchange for a yummy breakfast prepared by none other than the biscuit maker himself, Pete Vorenkamp, along with his helpers Charles Franks and Vicki Berg. Arrive April 18th between 8am and 1:30pm. Sign up at the coffee bar.

PW CIRCLES MEET APRIL 22

Remember to bring your Mission project items, so they can be displayed at the Spring Gathering on April 25.

10am: Covenant – Library

1pm: Faith – Alice Van Den Dool

1:30 pm: Rainbow—Forbes Parlor\

Interested in attending the Synod of the Sun Gathering in San Antonio this July? Contact Cathy Simons or your circle leader for registration forms. Early registration fee is due by early May.

Good food, Warm company and With a mission.

All women of Southminster are invited to keep your eye out for our annual Spring Luncheon in May on a Saturday.

Time will be 11:30 am, cost \$5, date and more details coming in the bulletin insert, around the church, and the May 1st Vision.



PLEASE WELCOME BARBARA SEZATE to our

staff as Southminster's new Administrative Assistant. She started working on Friday, March 26, 2004. Barbara has two grown sons, a degree from Tulsa Community College, extensive administrative and human resource experience with Wilbros Services, and two nonprofit organizations. Stop by the office and greet our newest slave.



Because you are buying **fair trade** coffee, I was able to send \$100.00 to Debbie Chase in Malawi last month. If you recall, when you buy coffee, tea and cocoa, you pay an extra dollar. Once it reaches \$100, it is sent to Debbie to be used for scholarships in Malawi. This was the 2nd \$100 we have been able to send, and here is her latest comment. “Many, many thanks to the people of the church who support the coffee producers in developing countries as well as the youth of Malawi through the precious gift of education.”

Marilee Story got an e-mail from Rowena Tebbe after their return from Lahore, Pakistan.

In it she said, “My heart gave a leap for joy when you mentioned the 5th Sunday offering for Forman Christian

College. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your interest. EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.” She also mentioned that a high priority is a chaplain as they now want daily chapels and someone to encourage the now 134 Christian boys (up from two or three) and the Christian staff (up to 57). They want to be God’s bit of salt with the majority Muslim community. Save up your extra pennies as we have another 5th Sunday in May. As she said, EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.

Good Works Day saw a small but dedicated group of workers get a lot accomplished. The choir members got their room cleaned out for the first time in many years, and most of the Marshall School project was accomplished that day. Several took work home to finish and the rest of the workers got various jobs done throughout the church. A big THANK YOU to all that worked so hard and to Karen and Charlie Stephenson for furnishing Dip ‘n Dots for dessert.

A number of willing souls agreed to be **monitors at Marshall for Standardized Test** the week of 4-12 thru 4-16 and then again 4-27 & 28. They are Bill Short, Pat Heath, Jane Trumbo, Betty Elsloo, Ann Gibbs, Jeanne Fowler, Marilee Story, Maxine Beatt, Martha Barr, Margaret Boyd, Elizabeth Gowans, Carla Gilbert, Elva Best, Jean MacCannell, Pat Cox and Libby Parrish. Thanks to all of you.



Denomination: Cherokee Presbytery is comprised of 39 congregations, 4 new church developments, and 12,209 members who seek to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout northwest Georgia. The mission programs are as varied as the congregations. The future is bright for this presbytery for as population shift to the northwest of Atlanta, it brings new faces into the region along with new ideas and opportunities to pursue ministry.

Presbytery: First Church, Wilburton; Goodland Home, Hugo; First Church Poteau, Our Retired Ministers.

World: Peace in the world!

Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is working hard on our behalf to find a new pastor for Southminster. They are Ken Tracy, Moderator; Bob Melichar, Vice-Moderator; Gaylyn Wattman, Secretary; Doug Dodd, Donna Goodman, Karen Hiller and Kate Stambaugh. They appreciate your prayers for guidance.

The Way of the Cross...The Way of Service

To follow Christ is to follow the One who “came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life...”

The life of service springs from love. It is an expression of solidarity, compassion, and a form of companionship. The Bible points out the necessity of doing love. James says very clearly, “Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith”.

The sainted apostle John urged, “My little children, let us not love in word only, but in deed and in truth”. Love is something to do!

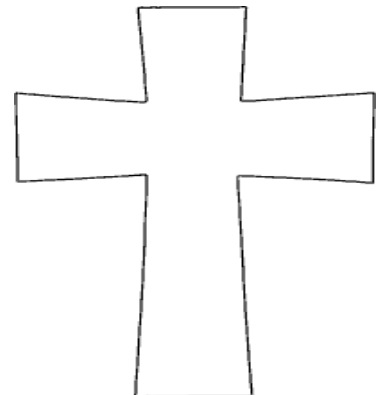
A writer struggling with a new faith made a discovery. She wrote, “Whether or not my service of love is greatly needed by another, it is still important for me. Maybe I need to serve more than the neighbor needs my service. I need to serve in order to:

- Recall that my needs are not primary
- Temper my attitude toward my fellow humans
- Fulfill my own deepest hunger
- Give life proper meaning.”

Giving to others has a strange way of opening us up to receive the gift of a gracious God! We receive by giving. The cross speaks of a paradoxical message: the greatest shall be the servant of all; the last shall be first, and we receive by giving. This paradox might be called the politics of the kingdom.

Faith – Works. On the way of the cross they are inseparable.

The way of service...is the way of God.





THE VISION

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3500 SOUTH PEORIA
TULSA, OK 74105-2522

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TULSA, OK
PERMIT NO. 296

Thursday, April 15

5:30pm Serve Meal

Saturday, April 17

6pm Southminster Saturday

Sunday, April 18

BLOOD DRIVE

9:00am Coffee/Fellowship

9:55am Announcements

10:00am Worship

11:00am Church School

3:45pm Youth

VISION DEADLINE

Monday, April 19

7:00pm SPY Youth Bible Study

Tuesday, April 20

9:30am Sewing Day

4:00pm Confirmation Class

Celebrate Life Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 21

6:45am Men's Prayer Group

10:00am Lenten Bible Study

5:30 pm PNC Meeting

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 22

10am: Covenant – Library

1pm: Faith – Alice Van Den Dool

1:30 pm: Rainbow—Forbes Parlor

Sunday, April 25

9:00am Coffee/Fellowship

9:55am Announcements

10:00am Worship

11:00am Church School

Monday, April 26

7:00pm Session

7:00pm Youth Bible Study

Tuesday, April 27

9:30am Sewing Day

4:00pm Confirmation Class

Celebrate Life Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 28

6:45am Men's Prayer Group

5:30pm Prepare Meal

5:30 pm PNC Meeting

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3500 SOUTH PEORIA
TULSA, OK 74105-2522

Head of Staff: Pastor Jerry Peltz--jpeltz@southminstertulsa.org

Music Ministry

John Brobston, Adult
Allen Cox, Assistant Director
Betty Kirk, Organist

Mission Outreach Coordinator

Libby Parrish

Children's Ministry

Christie Peacher

Youth Ministry

Christie Peacher-- cpeacher@southminstertulsa.org

Office Staff

BARBARA SEZATE Administrative Assistant
Darren O'Guin, Sexton

Vision Karen Hiller / Lou Anderson

Church Office 743-4427

E-mail info@southminstertulsa.org

Church Fax 743-0811

Senior Citizen Center 749-2623

To e-mail information to the Vision

newsletter@southminstertulsa.org

Website: www.southminstertulsa.org

Church office hours: 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Rain Dance anyone?



I am quickly discovering that the term “April Showers” does not at all apply in India. It is summer time here- children are out of school, watermelons are in season and the sun is as intense as ever. We are experiencing acute water shortage right now, but have altered life accordingly and are getting along. You don't think of all the things you need water for- washing plates and utensils, cooking, washing clothes, cleaning floors, not to mention flushing the toilet. Every drop has to be

conserved very diligently. I have started re-wearing my clothes because there often is not enough water to wash them by hand as well as wash my self. So I have to choose. Drinking water is of course the highest priority, for me at least. At the home where I live and work, they have a well that provides the majority of drinking water. I still boil it before I drink it, but it is very clean water. People ask me a lot now if I have a well at my house, when the dry season is in the US, what we do when there is a water shortage and if we boil water before we drink it. Someone asked me where we get our water from without a well. I honestly had no idea. It just comes out of the tap.

Water shortage of this extent did not used to be so common in this part of India. The major reasons for the worsening drought conditions are population growth, extreme deforestation and changes in lifestyle that necessitate more water. Ground water is significantly less than it has ever been because there is less un-paved ground to soak up the water and places like paddy fields which hold water have been converted into cash crop fields. When it does rain, there is often flooding and soil erosion because about 60% of tree cover here has been cut down, again for agriculture and other forms of development. Topics that environmental groups always talk about are now becoming real for me. What if we as humans really are completely destroying all natural resources?

Well, I am starting to get thirsty talking about water so much. I preached last week about Jesus offering the woman at the well living water so that she will never have to draw water again and will no longer thirst (John 4). I think I could use some of that about now. I love hearing from all of you. I have been pretty slow to respond but I do appreciate you keeping me updated with the things in your lives. Keep it up!

Peace,
Francey