

THE VISION

March 2016

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." *Amen.* Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 28:7, "[H]e has risen from the dead."

It is time to celebrate Easter! Jesus' death and resurrection from the dead has saved us from Satan's evil grip! I was reminded of the Battle of Waterloo and just how much the English victory parallels our victory over death! Consider the facts surrounding the crucifixion:

"Sir Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington (aka the "Iron Duke") was commanding the English Army and marched to put an end to Napoleon Bonaparte's plan to conquer all of Europe.

It was 9pm that night in 1815 when The Battle of Waterloo ended. 9 years later, an evewitness account surfaced, revealing the way the result of the battle was transmitted to the waiting Britons that same night. The news was flashed homeward across the English Channel by flickering torch light-much like Morse code today. On the distant shore, eagerly awaiting word of the battle's outcome, the English were frustrated by fog that had begun to set in. As a result, the message was interrupted and the only discernable words were "Wellington...defeated.

England was thrown into a panic as the news began to spread that they were now at the mercy of the "Little Corporal," as the French dictator was nicknamed. But then, as hearts were failing with fear, the fog began to lift defeated! and the message appeared more clearly: "Wellington...defeated ... Napoleon!

What a difference the completed message made! Defeat at The Battle of Waterloo ended Napoleon's near 20 year reign in France and Western Europe. He was exiled to the island of Saint Helena where he died in 1821I General Wellington fought his last battle at Waterloo and became a hero throughout Europe."

Here is one way this historical event applies to us: at

Calvary, darkness began to descend as Christ hung suspended between heaven and earth. There were several reasons to believe the message would be nothing more than "Jesus...defeated."

- Christ had been crucified an declared dead by ex-1. perienced soldiers:
- 2. Christ's body had been taken and prepared for burial with 100 pounds of spices;
- 3. Christ's body had been placed in a rock tomb:
- Christ's tomb had been sealed and was guarded by 4. Roman soldiers:
- 5. Christ's disciples were in hiding—one had already hanged himself.

It seems it could not look worse for this band of believers and their now-deceased leader. But then, 3 days later, when hearts had melted in fear and despair, the darkness lifted! The message ended with a word that changed everything: "Jesus...defeated...death!"

What a difference that last word made! Let us keep that in mind no matter what we are facing...Jesus Christ will, in the end, have the LAST word!

Thank the Lord that death and sin have been forever

Thank Him that, because of Calvary, our sins have been forgiven and our future with Him is eternally secured!

Easter means that death and sin have been forever defeated!

Thank Him that, because of Calvary, our sins have been forgiven and our future with Him is eternally secured!

Happy Easter, Pastor Bud Goude

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Attention All Ladies Don't Miss Out On This!!

"Follow Me"

You may think you are a Christian—but are you sure? Jesus' call to follow him is more than an invitation to pray a prayer. It is a summons to lose your life...and, find new life in Him.

Pastor David Platt continues to challenge cultural Christianity in this much anticipated follow-up to "Radical". This book compels each one of us to examine the validity and vitality of our own personal faith. "Follow Me" is a life and death message for all who claim the name of Christ.

Please plan to participate in this transformational 6 week
Bible Study! The class begins April 12th at 10am in the
Youth Room and meets each Tuesday for two hours
finishing up at noon. If you are interested, please
contact the class administrator, Ann Hogge, at 642-6846
to order a study guide. The workbook is \$13.50 for use
with the DVDs. If you are not taking the class but would
like the original book the study is based on, we can order
it for \$16.80.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Warren at 757-879-0862. The study is open to the community...please invite a friend. Looking forward to sharing the indescribable joy to be found, the deep satisfaction to be felt, the eternal purpose to be fulfilled in dying to ourselves and living in Christ. Are you ready to answer the call??

Looking For Something Fun To Do This Summer? Try Vacation Bible School!



Save the Date!!!

This year's theme is "Submerged—Finding Truth Below the Surface".

VBS will be held June 20-24.

Plans are underway. Teachers and helpers will be needed in all areas. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex.

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Easter Crosses

Would you like to place a cross on the cross in Memory or Honor of a Loved One? Donations go to support Benevolence. A cross can be placed for a minimum of a \$5 donation, but more will gladly be accepted. The deadline is Thursday 3/24 and crosses will be placed on the cross as donations are received. A Contributors List will be included in the Easter bulletin.

Place your form and payment in the labeled box in the Narthex. Contact Paulette Ashe at 642-3251 with any questions. Thanks for your generosity!



March Family Night Supper

The March Family Night Supper will be held on THURSDAY March 24th at 6:00pm followed by the Maundy Thursday Service and Part 1 of the Easter Cantata.

Bring a salad, vegetable or dessert enough to share with 10-12 people. Come join us and bring your family and friends!

Sunday Morning Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday Morning Service, please sign-up for a specific Sunday on the flower signup sheet in the Narthex. If you are placing the flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, contact Michelle to provide the information so it can be included in the bulletin. What a great way to recognize a birthday, anniversary, etc. and help to decorate the sanctuary.

Youth Readers 3/6—Emma Cirillo 3/13—Morgan Wymer 3/20—Aaron Cirillo 3/27—Olivia Adkins

Deacon of the Week

3/6—Buck Hartman

3/13—Gus Saunders

3/20—Ted Fisher

3/27—Faye Branen



Older Children's Church

3/6—Sarah Saunders 3/13—Jennifer/Derick Hall 3/20—Jennifer/Craig Cannon 3/27—Charlene/John West

<u>MARCH</u> WORKERS

Nurserv Workers

3/6—Nancy Bolton

3/13—Pauline Littell

3/20—Tracy Williams

3/27—Rebecca Joyce

Sun. Sch. Nursery Sharon/Howard Warren

March Ushers:

Sonya Anthony

Stan Gandee

Seth Gandee

Jamie Moore

<u>March Tellers</u> Murielene Swindeck

Chris Blavlock

Younger Children's Church

3/6—Kristen Eifes/Tracy Williams
3/13—Jennifer Podbesek/Sonya Anthony
3/20—Denise/Mallory Gandee
3/27—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells