



# Cliff Notes



April 2011

## Pastor's Corner

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As we journey through Lent, I promised I'd share a resurrection story from El Salvador with you. The war of terrorism killed the people and burned the land of vegetation. In addition a volcano erupted, but still the people tried to rebuild. They planted seeds for crops but couldn't grow enough to feed their families because of erosion. Yet they have hope and joy in Jesus Christ. He is their source of strength. Every day is a resurrection day of life to live and give to others. We saw it in their attitude, their lifestyle, and in their hospitality of sharing what they have with others. They are happy because they are free to live in a democratic society.

As part of Hunger Action in the Presbytery of Des Moines, Bob Cook went to research the situation. He found they needed fertilizer to grow better crops for a larger abundance. It's wonderful to see how much lives have changed and been helped by our churches in the Presbytery of Des Moines. Easter stories abound. Trinity United Presbyterian Church gave one small village, "casa de zinc," fertilizer for the past few years. Two years ago they had stick and mud homes. Now they raised enough crops to both feed themselves and sell in the markets so they could build a more substantial cement brick home with windows and doors they can secure. Heartland Presbyterian Church built a school and a church in two different villages. A number of smaller churches who cannot take on a project like this by themselves are looking to partner with other churches in our presbytery to do the work.



Another Easter story is that education is becoming more possible for the young people. One young family with an eight month old baby is living with the husband's family while he builds them a home and works the farm. On Saturday's a very unusual event happens. The husband stays home and takes care of the baby while his wife goes to her sophomore year of study in high school. A 20 year old, Tito is going to school on a scholarship from the churches in our presbytery so he can become a teacher for the children. One girl we met was 14 and in the second grade. Each one that can is trying to get an education so they can have a better life for their families, their neighbors, their community. This is the "new life" that Jesus has given the people. It is a real expression of the hymn, "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love."



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## Flower the Cross

We would like to “flower the Cross” again this Easter. If you have loose artificial flowers, please bring them Easter Sunday. We will put them on the Cross so all can be reminded of the glory of the resurrection! The cross is covered in chicken wire, so we can insert a variety of color and styles. We would like everyone to share in the process! If you have any questions, please see Sandy Newton.



## Cross Ministries

April will be personal pantry month—soap, detergent, shampoo, toothpaste, cleaning supplies, etc. Items will be taken to Cross after Palm Sunday, April 17. We took 86 food items to Cross after the February Souper Bowl Challenge. The folks at Cross Ministries are always so appreciative of any and all items!



## The Bible Tells Me So

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace”

Psalms 37: 1-11  
King James Version

## Evening Prayer

“Someone has said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during WWII there was an adviser to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace?”

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America...

If you would like to participate: every evening at 8:00 p.m. Central Time stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a return to a Godly nation. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.”

The above is from an e-mail I received.

**April 21** Maundy  
Thursday Services  
7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
Tenebrae Service at  
Scotch Ridge Presbyterian Church  
7:00 p.m.

## Easter

Sunrise Service  
8:00

8:30 Breakfast

10:00 Worship

## A Poem about Dale Richardson's Grandmother

By Colleen Little

Some said, "Let's burn it down." It's old and a disgrace. No one lives there anymore, at Grandma's old home place.

I remember as a child, how we would visit there. The family gathered around to eat, but first Grandma said a prayer.

She would thank the lord and bless the food; and always before she was done, she asked the Lord to save her family each and every one.

Grandma was a preacher—who went where she was sent. She preached in churches, brush arbors—even in a tent.

And when her family needed her, they would call and she would be there, for one thing that they all had was faith in Grandma's prayer.

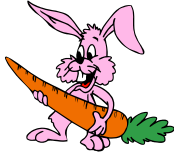
The old house is gone now; the church like a lighthouse stands alone; and somewhere up in Heaven, Grandma is singing 'round the throne.

She's got a brand new house now—a mansion made of gold. Living in a city where no one will grow old. She has a glistening robe of white, a shine upon her face; and I think about her now and then and about the old home place.



### Help

The Two Rivers Partnership is seeking someone to fill the position previously held by Kim Wilhelm. One of their activities is to serve meals six times a year at Children and Family Urban Ministries. The Partnership covers all food costs. Park Avenue, Ft. Des Moines, Highland Park, First, and Union Park are all a part of this effort. The meals are prepared in individual homes or at church and brought to the meal site. They served 115 people on Friday, March 25. The next meal will be prepared and served Friday, May 27. Please let Pastor Betty know if you would like to be a part of this activity; or if you would like to fill the position on the Partnership. Check out [www.cfum.org](http://www.cfum.org) for additional information.



### Volunteers Needed

Please contact Dale Richardson if you would like to help him paint characters for Clifton's Easter egg hunt.

Talk to John Ubben if you are interested in working in the garden this spring and summer.



### Happy April Birthdays to:



Wilma McCullough

April 3

Ryan Hansen

April 7

Marilyn Vicker April 27

Marg Olson April 28



### Happy April Anniversary to:

Stephanie and Tom Windust

April 14

Pat and Ava Wells

April 24

### Pastor's Corner Continued

They are thankful that we wanted to come and walk with them, be their friends, live with them, share their lives, and stand in unity with them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

These stories remind me of the teachings of Jesus breaking down the cultural barriers with the Samaritan woman at the well so she might be free to share her hope of Messiah's coming, experience it and go and tell.

Jesus humbly rode a donkey into Jerusalem. He washed the feet of his disciples at the Passover feast and taught them to do the same and love one another. He said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." He went to the cross and died so that we might live and love like that.

He took our sins and old nature to the cross and the tomb so that we might live in His resurrection life with Him to walk in unity and love with each other, our brothers and sisters in El Salvador, and those around the world.

God's peace be with you this Eastertide,

Pastor Betty