



# The Informer



SPRING EDITION

APRIL 2010

## A word from our Pastor

### ***Alleluia! He is Risen!***

*My Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant Church Family, sing with me the following excerpt from that famous hymn, He Lives. "Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian lift up your voice and sing, eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! He lives, Christ Jesus lives today. Allow this verse to serve as a reminder that each day is a worship experience. This is not to say, however, that we will not encounter struggles and difficulties in our daily lives. Jesus did tell us how hard it would be. In John 16:33 it is recorded, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Holy Bible: New International Version. Michigan: Zondervan. 2005.*

*Beloved, therefore, we can celebrate the Resurrection with joy and adoration for Jesus' journey to the Cross for the entire world. He was empowered in the Garden of Gethsemane to face the challenge of total submis-*

*sion to God. He stayed on the Cross to save you and me. The tomb could not hold Jesus. Therefore, let us go forth in great hope and become vessels of change for our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*The challenge for us is to spread the gospel of Easter in our daily encounters: Love one another and serve in dignity and compassion. Let us not wait until we see Him face-to-face to shout Hallelujah, Praise God and Thank you, Jesus. Let us get our praise on now!*

*Peace and Grace,*

*Pastor Wood*



**The following article was originally printed in the  
Wesley Theological Seminary Spring  
Convocation bulletin on April 5, 1994  
By Professor D. Kriewald**

The egg predates Christianity as a religious symbol of renewed life. To witness a new, live creature emerge from an egg shell was a startling event to the ancient Indo-Europeans. There is a record of the giving eggs as gifts at the spring equinox in the Persian empire. In early Christian times, the egg became the symbol of the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged into resurrected life.

There was also a practical reason for making the egg a special sign of Easter joy, since it was one of those foods forbidden during the Lenten fast. In Russia, Ukraine, Poland and other Eastern European countries, after the Lenten fast, Christians begin their first Easter meal with a blessed egg.

Decorated eggs, however, are the Christian evolution of

religious folk art. From about the twelfth century, the faithful painted Easter eggs in bright colors, had them blessed by their pastor, and gave them to friends, and especially to children as Easter gifts. One record has that Edward I of England (1307) had four hundred and fifty eggs boiled, dyed and covered with gold leaf for distribution on Easter Day.

The decoration of the Easter eggs depends on local traditions. In parts of Germany, hollow colored eggs are still suspended from shrubs and trees during Easter week and this custom has become popular in the United States. In Greece, the eggs are often stained crimson to symbolize the blood of Christ. Slavic peoples make special patterns of gold and silver on their eggs. In Austria,

eggs are designed to show a white pattern after the eggs are boiled. Eastern Europeans are particularly original and artistic about the design of the eggs. The Armenians, for example, decorate empty eggs with pictures of the risen Christ or other religious designs. Egg hunting has been a nearly universal Christian custom for many centuries.

The custom of distributing Easter eggs as part of the liturgy developed among the nations of northern Europe and Asia Minor soon after the conversion of these peoples to Christianity. The custom never developed in the southern hemispheres. Eggs decorated with Christian symbols are still distributed during the Easter liturgy in Orthodox congregations.

# The Folded Napkin in Jesus' Grave

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin. Is that important? You'd better believe it! Is that significant? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.



Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm done". But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant knew that the folded napkin meant, "I'm not finished yet." The folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!"

He is Coming Back...



## South Africa: A Vacation of Discovery

I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to South Africa at the end of February. When we initially began planning for the trip, I had no idea I would be so moved and awe-inspired by the natural beauty of the country and its people.

The trip consisted of 4 days in Cape Town, 2 days in Franschhoek, and 2 days on Safari. The country is in the midst of preparing to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup this summer so it was perfect timing to visit before the tons of tourists descend on this glorious country.

I would be remiss if I didn't talk about the history of Apartheid, a system of legal racial segregation enforced by the government between 1948 and 1994, that South African's are still recovering

from. I had the opportunity to tour one of the Townships in Cape Town and meet some of the people that live there today. As you talk to people and understand the history and struggle Black South African's faced and continue to face today, it is hard not to get inspired by their strength and hope for change for future generations. I encourage everyone to learn more about Africa and if you have the opportunity, visit.

I feel blessed to live in a country that provides so many opportunities for it's citizens. Through travel and interacting with people from other countries, we have the opportunity to learn and discover the true majesty of our God.

-Natalie

**The Informer** is a quarterly newsletter  
of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist  
Church

21 Wood Lane  
Rockville, MD 20850



The Reverend Jane E. Wood Pastor  
Morning Worship Service 11AM

Editor: Natalie Singh  
(natalie\_singh@yahoo.com)

**Share your good news...**

If you would like to contribute to the  
September edition of the Informer,  
please send articles, announcements, etc to Nata-  
lie by August 31, 2010.



**Mark your Calendar for these Upcoming  
Events:**

April 25th	11AM	<i>Spring Rally with Light Refreshments</i>
May 23rd	11AM	<i>UMM Original Play</i>
June 27th		<i>Homecoming</i>
	11AM	<i>Worship</i>
	2:30PM	<i>Praise Team and Guests in Concert</i>
August 29th	3PM	<i>UMW "Hatitude"</i>