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8-2021

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CARD of THANKS—Karen and Joe Harder wish to thank all who expressed Happy Anniversary to us over the weekend. Your thoughts are certainly appreciated.

Bucks Grove News

by Colleen Reamer

On the cloudy, misty Sunday morning of April 27th sixteen people met together to worship at Bucks Grove Methodist Church at 9:00 am.

Mary Ringel lit the candles.

After the Call to Worship the congregation sang “Up From the Grave He Arose”.

Other songs sung on Sunday were “Christ for the World We Sing” and “He Lives”.

Theresa Rieschick had the special. She told about someone who was reflecting that she is fat, old and worn out. The next phase was wrinkles and gray hair. Then you look at someone who is twenty-five years old and has all the energy that that age has. But, we have wisdom and experience that we’ve gotten with dealing with everything that life has thrown at us. We have souls, courage, strength, humility, grace and pride. Getting older is a privilege.

Trevor Ashcraft read the scriptures. The first scripture read was Acts 5: 27-35. These verses tell of how the apostles are being questioned by the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders were asking why they were teaching the people in Jerusalem when they had been told not to. Peter and the other apostles answered that they must obey God rather than obey people. The apostles told the leaders that you killed

Jesus but God raised Him up and put Him in the most important place at His right side. The Jewish leaders wanted to kill the apostles but a man named Gamaliel told them to think about what they want to do to these men.

The second scripture read was Revelation 1: 4-8. These passages tell of John writing to the seven churches in the region of Asia. He prays that God will be very kind to them and that He will give them peace in their minds. He tells them that Jesus Christ will also help them. Jesus always speaks a true message and He is the first person who became alive again after death. Jesus loves us and He died for us and that is how He made us free. They tell us that because of Jesus, God will not punish us for the bad things that we have done.

Pastor Dawn then read to us from John 20: 19-31. This Gospel reading tells how Jesus appeared to his disciples, who were meeting in a locked room, and told them Peace be with you. He showed them his hands and His side and the disciples were very happy when they saw Him. He told them as the Father has sent Me, in the same way I am now sending you. He breathed on them and told them to receive God’s Holy Spirit. Thomas was not with the other disciples when this happened and he didn’t believe it. Jesus came to him and had him put His finger in the holes in His hands and side. Thomas then believed but Jesus asked Him do you believe because you have seen Me? Other people have not seen me, but they believe in Me.

Pastor Dawn’s message was Perfection, Plato and Piano Tuning. Pastor Dawn said she’s kind of a perfectionist. She wanted to examine the pull of perfection and how that related to Plato and piano tuning. She told us that Plato was obsessed with the ideal. He liked to write about ideal forms. He surmised that underlying the diversity of form we see in the world, there exists an essential ideal. Plato lived hundreds of years before Jesus and we don’t know if Jesus would meet Plato’s expectation of the highest Form of Good.

Pastor Dawn then told us about music theory and that the Ancient Greeks discovered there are only two perfect intervals in music based on vibrations. One of these is called the perfect fifth. But, when you tune a piano, it is impossible to tune the fifths perfectly. If you did, the octaves would be off and the notes would not sound like they should.. She was trying to make the point that a piano is not tuned to one ideal standard. Many tunings are used.

She said she feels like her need for perfection comes from being a musician. Musicians practice for months for one performance and you want it to be perfect. She then reflected about how the batting average in baseball is good if it is in the .300 range and how .400 is a nearly impossible goal. Can you imagine watching a musical performance and only 30 to 40 percent of the notes are correct. Pastor Dawn told us this desire for perfection leads to discipline and the heights and delights that the discipline of practice can bring to a person.

What does all of this have to do with Jesus, she asked us? Well, Jesus is the ideal human, a state of human perfection that wasn’t seen before Him and hasn’t been seen since. And, if we follow Plato’s advice, we should aspire to be just like Jesus because we should always set our face toward the ideal Form. She read this desire to be perfect as your father in heaven is perfect as confirmation that these perfectionistic tendencies were right and good. Recently she feels that she has conflated the idea of perfection held by Plato with the concept of perfection, or sanctification, taught by the church.

Plato’s definition of the ideal is that there is one right way to be. Sanctification can be equated to holiness. Being sanctified means being made pure and set apart for God’s holy use. The idea of the many being made one does not necessarily mean that they must all look and think the same.

In the communion liturgy it states that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners and that proves God’s love toward us. Maybe the truth is that we move toward perfection in love - maybe one day we will be able to accept that we are loved like Christ and in turn we will learn to love like Christ.

It’s interesting how God, who is perfect, made humans, who are far from perfect. But look around at this wonderful earth. God didn’t have to make 17,000 types of butterflies or 33,000 species of fish. And, each human is unique. Pastor Dawn thinks we are each like pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle which when completed will reveal the truth of God. Each piece is necessary to reveal the face of God.

Remember as you go about your life and your collection of molecules is bumping into other people’s collection of molecules that the heart of each person contains a small part of the reflected glory of God.

Linda Rieschick reported they have a new great granddaughter - Ivy Lee and prayers are asked for Rose Marie, Theresa’s mother, who is not feeling well.

Services ended with Communion,, the Benediction and the song “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

After services ended the Bible study group met where they were discussing Luke 19 and 20.

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By Lisa Moser, K-State Research and Extension news service

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