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Worship Leaders & Teachers

- May 5**—Worship leader, Doug; teaching by Jerry; Communion
- May 12**—Worship leader, Bret; teaching by Jerry
- May 19**—Worship leader, Doug; teaching by Lois
- May 26**—Worship leader, Vangie; teaching by Pat

April Giving

March 31	\$140.00
April 7	\$610.00
April 14	\$454.00
April 21	\$1,375.00



Mission Focus

- May 5**—Mothers 4 Mothers (Sally)
- May 12**—Disability Issues (Sally)
- May 19**—Immigration (Pat)

April Attendance

March 31	23
April 7	32
April 14	25
April 21	26

Church Building Update

We are now meeting in our new church! Our stuff is moved! Thanks be to God!

We received \$31,455.00 for our building fund—thanks to our many contributors, both members and friends.

In addition, we also approved a significant remodeling project: transforming the stage into a dining room, adding a kitchen, removing pews, and changing the direction of our worship space. We trust that these changes will suit us and our ministry better. May we continue to dream, discuss, plan, organize for future ministry and not forget to engage our neighbors, wherever they might be.



Shepherds On-Call

We have made a major shift as a church this last month. As of April 1, MCS no longer has a pastor. However, we now have more Shepherds! The Shepherds have decided that they, and Sally, a minister, will each take a turn, one week at a time, to be 'on-call.' The Shepherd on call would be responsible for the following:

- emergency calls from members
- checking the church mailbox
- checking phone messages
- checking gmail messages

The 'on-call' week begins on Sundays. See the calendar, page 4, to determine who is on call.

Thanks to our Shepherds and Sally for bringing this service to us!

Universal Harmony Concert

Global Faith in Action is sponsoring a Universal Harmony Concert on Sunday, May 6, 6:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 123 N. Andover Rd.

The concert will be an interactive, interfaith, featuring three internationally renowned musicians, plus mime and dance.

The musicians are Ustad Ghulam Farid, a foremost Sufi Pakistani sitar player; Mark Childs, Jewish cantor and a touring recitalist of Jewish art song and folk song ; and Jakub Omsky, Principal Cellist for the Wichita Symphony Orchestra.

Also performing is Nicholas Johnson, WSU Director of Mime and Dance. There is no charge for the concert; a free-will offering will be taken.

For more information, visit globalfaithinaction.org

Servant Groups

- Immigration Servant Group: Lois (264 3686) or Pat (262 2644)
- Women's Discipleship Group: Cindy (832 0050)
- NT Greek Reading Group: Jerry (263 0204)
- Ladies Reading Group: Vangie (263 0204)
- Hospitality Group: Geneva (262 2644) or Doreene (265 3848)
- Men's Contemplative Spirituality: Jerry (263 0204)

International Workers Day Celebration Potluck May 1

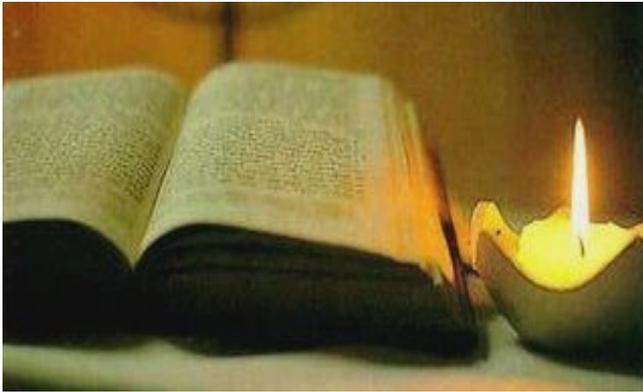
Demand A Living Wage is the theme for this year's May Day celebration on Wednesday, May 1, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at the Peace Center, 1407 N. Topeka. Bring a dish and a friend, and join us in showing our solidarity with workers worldwide. Co-sponsored by the Peace and Social Justice Center, Sunflower Community Action, the Wichita Democratic Socialists, and others.

The Fire Within

"What needs to be guarded is the life of the Spirit within us. Especially we who want to witness to the presence of God's Spirit in the World need to tend the fire within with utmost care ... Our first and foremost task is faithfully to care for the inward fire so that when it is really needed it can offer warmth and light to lost travelers."



Henri Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart*



The Four Senses of Scripture

By Jerry Truex

If we are to be rooted and grounded in the Word, I believe we need to read scripture, in accordance with ancient tradition, at four levels: the literal, the allegorical, the moral, and the mystical.

The **literal sense** refers to the historical message of the passage “back-then-and-there.” It is the plain meaning of the text. If scripture describes Jesus casting demons, it is about Jesus factually and concretely driving out evil. Of course, understanding the literal sense can be enhanced by Bible experts and commentaries.

The **allegorical sense** refers to a hidden meaning beneath the surface. Discovering this sense is particularly important when a literal interpretation is obscure or yields a meaning unworthy of God. With an allegorical reading, the literal stands for something else. For example, early church leaders thought the crossing of the Red Sea in the OT pointed allegorically to Christ’s redemption in the NT.

The allegorical sense can also point to elements of your own life, something the authors of scripture never explicitly foresaw or intended. This is a very personal level between you and God, but it can be easily demonstrated. Notice when you read scripture to apprehend the plain meaning (literal sense), it often dawns on you that the passage illuminates your own experience and life circumstances (allegorical sense). When you read that Christ drove out demons (the literal sense), you may see Christ is also driving out “demons” in your own life (allegorical sense).

But how do you know if the allegorical reading you discover is correct or wholesome? Augustine offers this advice: An allegorical reading is correct if it increases your love of God and neighbor, or if it decreases your selfish desire. James recommends praying for wisdom (Jam. 1:5). And Paul encourages communal discernment: “We have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16).

The **moral sense** refers to how the passage shapes your values and behaviors. If scripture was “written for your instruction” (1 Cor. 10:11), it is important to listen to the teachings of Moses, the prophets, and Jesus for how you ought to live. If you come to believe that Christ is driving out “demons” in your our life (allegorical sense), you might also hear Christ teaching about changing your attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors (moral sense). When you embrace the moral sense, you become a “doer of the word and not a hearer only” (James 1:22-25).

The **mystical sense** focuses on God’s future or last things. However, as the NT reveals, the “last things” have dawned in Jesus Christ and the “last things”—do not read this literally—point to the unification of all beings and realities in God now and in the future (Col. 1:17; Eph. 1:10).

When we grasp the mystical sense of scripture, I believe we are grasped by God; we glimpse our unity in the One Reality of Being and Consciousness, the One that unites all-in-all (Col. 1:19-20). In this way, scripture is mystical and symbolical discourse, communicating a direct intuition of God by the writers of scripture, intending to awaken the same intuition of God in the mind of the reader.

The passage is no longer about Christ casting out demons (literal), nor about Christ casting out personal demons (allegorical), nor about doing the Word (moral), but about union with God, about our direct and personal experience *within* God as God renews the image of God *in* each of us and all humanity (mystical).

Vacation Bible School 2013

It is time to sign up for vacation Bible school. It will be held on June 3-7 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at First Church of the Brethren, 1103 N. Jefferson Street, Wichita. All children from grades pre-K through grade 5 are invited. A nursery is available for siblings of attendees.

This year's curriculum *Breathe It In: God Gives Life* will teach children about air—the life-giving breath of God and the wind that teaches God is with us. They will hear stories, learn scripture, see dramas, sing songs, do crafts and more.

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please contact Doreene, 264-3826 or dorie-sau@yahoo.com for more information on registering your child or for volunteering. We welcome your child to vacation Bible school and pray that the lessons will last for a lifetime.

Retreat

It has been our tradition to have an annual retreat at Camp Mennescah on Mother's Day weekend. However, because of our recent purchase of our new building, we will have "work-worship-potluck retreat" on May 11th. We will gather at 10:00 am for worship and work. Vanige will organize the potluck and/or bar-b-que for noon time. We will complete our work by early afternoon. Special activities will be planned for the youth by Cindy and Bret.

Embodied Spirituality

"All reality, even material reality, around each one of us exists for our souls.... Whatever affects the body, affects the soul."

— Teilhard de Chardin

Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for our church as we consider how to glorify God with the space given us: to grow in faith, to build positive relationships with the community, to choose ministry wisely.
2. Continue to pray for healing for Belinda.
3. That our youth may know and love God and follow in God's path.
4. For the future of Mothers 4 Mothers.
5. For those in our congregation seeking em-

Lectio Divina Process

Choose a passage of Scripture that you will pray with. It might be the Gospel reading used in the liturgy of the day, or anything else you want. The process then follows these steps:

Reading (*lectio*) After settling in and quieting yourself, read the passage slowly, prayerfully. Just let it sink in for a minute or two, then read it a second time, paying closer attention to the words or phrases that speak to you.

Reflecting (*meditatio*) What do you hear God saying to you in this passage? What words or phrases caught your attention?

Responding (*oratio*) What do you want to say to God in response to what you've heard? Here you can also voice your prayers of petition, remorse, thanksgiving, praise, and so forth. If you sense God speaking to you in your thoughts, feelings or imagination, you respond as you would in any conversation.

Resting (*contemplatio*) If, at any time, you feel drawn to simply rest in the awareness of God's loving presence, you let yourself do so. Remain in loving silence as long as you feel comfortable, perhaps using a simple word or phrase from the Scripture passage to help deepen your openness to rest in God.

- Phil St. Romain,
Spiritual director, author, and teacher
for the Dominican Sisters of Peace

MCS May 2013

www.mcswichita.net/calendar.htm

Verse of the Month: Psalm 126:1-3
Song of the month: "God has done great things for us"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5 pm—7 pm: International Workers Day Celebration	2	3	4
.....Lois on call.....						
5 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	6 6:30 pm: Universal Har- mony Concert	7 <i>Happy Birthday, Jennifer Hurd</i>	8 <i>Happy Birthday, Latyvionna Cheaney</i>	9	10	11 Retreat & Work- day at New Building
.....Pat on call.....						
12 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	13	14	15	16	17	18
.....Sally on call.....						
19 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	20	21	22	23	24	25
.....Bridget on call.....						
26 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	27	28	29	30	31	
.....Jerry on call.....						

Psalm 126: 1-3

<A Song of Ascent.>

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." ³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.



Our mission is to welcome all people into a community covenanted to follow the way of Jesus Christ through

- Committing ourselves to radical and biblical spirituality
- Living in relational and accountable community
- Seeking Christ's peace within and in the world

Shepherds Lois Barrett: 264 3686
Pat Cameron: 262 2644
Bridget Siedler: 871 6771
Jerry Truex: 253 4673

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