

View

April 8, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: The Story, David Posey

5 PM – Singing, **Prayer**, Lord's Supper, Sermon

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium: Judges

Room 11-12: Evangelism Workshop

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel: Tuesday, Karlsson's home, 7 PM

Wednesday

7:30 PM – Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium – Minor Prophets

Room 11-12: The Revelation: Victory in Jesus!

News & Prayer Concerns

"First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..."

Prayer Concerns

As announced on Wednesday night, David Ramsey will be having surgery for cancer on May 1st. Please pray that will go well and that he will enjoy a full recovery.

Nola Mulligan, Grant's mother, fell a couple of weeks ago and broke both of her wrists. Continue to pray that she'll recover soon.

The Colvin family is having some difficulty. Wally and Sherrill's son "Woody" had an MRI on his arm because they found a tumor there. They'll know the results early next week. Wally, Sr. fell and hurt his head; he'll be OK but is pretty banged up. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

As reported before, Greg Bailey, Steve Bremer's nephew, has cancer and it has progressed to a very serious stage. Please pray for him and for the family. Steve's sister has also been diagnosed with cancer, so please keep her in your prayers, too.

Nola Len, Misty May's grandmother, took a bad fall recently resulting in injuries that will require surgery. Please pray for her recovery.

Please pray for the Charles Davis family. Margaret Rickerd, Dawn's grandmother who has lived with them for two and a half years has been given two weeks to live. Charles' mother, who lives in Noblesville, Indiana, fell backwards last Friday breaking her tail bone. She is in a nursing/rehabilitation center.

Please continue to pray for Carl Hanson (and Arlene), Sharon Jones, Hank and Kathy Wilson, Becky Woolpert (Utah) and those who are expecting: Candee Dickey, Amber Karlsson, Sarah Cain and Nicole Grinnell. Also, as we rejoice with these, pray for the couples who would like to have chil-

dren, but have not been able.

We are happy to report that Steven Sabath (Arletta's son) has returned home safely after his military service in Afghanistan. Continue your prayers for our men in uniform, including: Brandon Folkert (the Terrys' nephew) and Danny Boyer.

New Addition

Philip and Elaine Westphal are the proud parents of a new baby daughter, Sadie Grace. Denise (Westphal) Hopper, who has been visiting with us recently, is the very proud grandma.

Group Meetings

Please check with the deacon who is assigned to your group.

Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendar for June 25-29 for VBS and begin inviting your friends and neighbors.

Out of Town

Many may still be out of town due to Spring Break; pray for their safe return.

Gospel Meetings

Reminder: Mark your calendar for October 8-10, 2007 for a meeting with Ed Harrell. We have also booked gospel meetings with Bob Owen for 2008, Paul Earnhart for 2009 and Dee Bowman for 2011. dp



**Read your Bible
each day, and
spread the word!**

Where's the Special Service?

Besides the absence of instrumental music in worship, offering the Lord's Supper every week and the lack of fundraisers to raise money, most churches of Christ are conspicuous for their refusal to regard any day above another. Specifically, while the world calls this day "Easter Sunday," for us, it is another Lord's Day and special for that reason. For us, there are 51 other "special" days just like it during the year.

So, there was no "sunrise service," no special sermon or music, no added significance to the Lord's Supper, no guest speakers or fanfare of any kind at the Folsom Point church of Christ. Today is the Lord's Day like every first day of the week is the Lord's Day. All of them equally significant and special; in all of them, we observe the death and resurrection of our Lord and give Him our honor and praise.

What do we have against Easter? It's not that we have "something against Easter"; it's that Easter is a man-made holiday about which the Bible is silent. We have no authority to observe one day above another, except the first day of the week.

Easter's first appearance was nearly 100 years after the church was established and the canon of scripture was closed. It was actually only given "legs" by the Council of Nicea in 325 AD, when the time of its celebration was finally fixed (as a "moveable" holiday). See the article on the next page for more information on the origin of Easter.

So it's not about being "against" Easter. We're not here to be against things. We are here to do the Lord's bidding. We are here to do what God wants us to do, day-in, day-out, week-after-week.

The members of this church take seriously their responsibility to serve God daily and to attend services and Bible classes every Sunday morning and evening (and Wednesday evening for Bible classes). The Bible warns us not to become lax in our assembling, but to encourage one another often, and even more "as you see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). But even without the warning, we would be here because this is what we love to do.

dp

Preachers We Help Support

John Scholtz - South Africa, Zimbabwe
Robert Nichols - Japan
Barney Mejia - Nicaragua
Dale Pennock - Vermont
Gary Stouffer - Vista, CA
Jim Lee - Englewood, Ohio
Jeff Carr - Mandeville, LA
Roberto Tondelli, Rome, Italy **(New)**

Philippines

Armando C. Pastor - Sto. Domingo & Dumabel
Pepe G. Ando - Davao City
Amado M. Estoy - Iriga City
Ecclesiastes C. Licayan - Monkayo
Abe S. Agnete - Pagudpud
Rex M. Bayaca - Laoag City
James Amangan - Bangued
Quirino Tien - Cuyayan Valley
Rosilito F. Nardo in Koronadal City.
Johnny Buguis in General Santos City.



We are up to eighteen in the number of men with whom we have fellowship in their efforts to teach the gospel in various places. These are men we support on a monthly basis. We also have sent support recently for specific preaching trips to India, China and Japan. In the near future, we will provide addresses for these men and ask you to take a few minutes to write to them to encourage them in their work. Our encouragement is just as important as our dollars.

The Origin of “Easter”

EARLIEST OBSERVANCE, SECOND CENTURY AD.

WHEN OBSERVED: ON THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE FIRST FULL MOON AFTER THE VERNAL EQUINOX, FALLING BETWEEN MARCH 22 AND APRIL 25.

COMMEMORATES: JESUS CHRIST’S RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.

The day’s name derives from an ancient pagan festival and is the name of the Saxon goddess of spring and offspring, *Eastre*.

Second-century Christian missionaries, spreading out among Teutonic tribes north of Rome, encountered numerous “heathen” religious observances. Whenever possible, the missionaries tried not to interfere too strongly with entrenched and popular customs. Rather, quietly—and often ingeniously—they attempted to transform pagan practices into ceremonies that harmonized with Christian doctrine.

There was a very special reason for this. Converts publicly partaking in a Christian ceremony, and on a day when no one else of their clan was celebrating, stood out like the proverbial sore thumb, easy targets for persecution. But if a Christian rite was staged on the same day as a long-observed pagan celebration, and if the two modes of worship were not glaringly different, then the new converts might live to make other converts.

The Christian missionaries astutely observed that the centuries—old festival to *Eastre*, commemorated at the start of spring, coincided with the time of year of their own observance of the miracle of Christ’s Resurrection. Thus, the Resurrection was subsumed under the protective rubric *Eastre*—later spelled Easter—saving the lives of countless Christians.

It just so happened that *Eastre*, a fertility goddess (the ancient word *eastre* means “spring”), had as her earthly symbol the prolific hare, or rabbit. Hence, the origin of the Easter bunny.

At the feast to *Eastre*, an ox was sacrificed and the image of his horns carved into ritual bread—which evolved into the twice-scored Easter biscuits we call hot cross buns. In fact, the word “bun” derives from the Saxon for “sacred ox,” *boun*.

For several decades, Easter was variously celebrated on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Finally, in 325, the Council of Nicea, convened by the emperor Constantine, issued the so-called Easter Rule: Easter should be celebrated on “the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.” Consequently, Easter is astronomically bound never to fall earlier than March 22 or later than April 25.

At this same council, Constantine decreed that the cross be adopted as the official symbol of the young faith.

The high significance of Easter as the feast of Christ’s Resurrection led early Christians to believe that the celebration could not be undertaken without spiritual preparation. Their souls needed conditioning through clays—eventually, forty days—of fasting, penance, and prayer. That became the function of Lent.

It is interesting that the holiest day of the liturgical Christian year, Easter Sunday, bears the name of the pagan sex goddess *Eastre* and the pagan sun god *Solis*.

Excerpt from Charles Panati, *Sacred Origin of Profound Things*, pp. 204-205

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

*Private classes arranged at your
convenience.*

For more information,
visit our web site at:

www.folsomchurch.com

Calendar for the Folsom Point church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Lord's Day Young Peoples' Class	2	3 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	4 7:30 PM Bible Classes	5	6	7
8 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	9	10 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	11 7:30 PM Bible Classes	12	13	14
15 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	16	17 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	18 7:30 PM Bible Classes	19	20	21
22 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	23	24 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	25 7:30 PM Bible Classes	26	27	28
29 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	30					

Mark Your Calendar

June 25-29, Vacation Bible School

October 8-10, 2007 - Meeting with Ed Harrell

The View contains news and articles of interest to the members of the Folsom Point church of Christ. Announcing an activity or event does not necessarily imply that we financially sponsor the event or that the elders specifically endorse every component of that event, since it may not fall under the direct oversight of the elders. The church's work and the elders' oversight is limited by Scripture. We will not announce events that are primarily social in nature. However, we do want to publicize and encourage those activities that provide an opportunity to be built up in the faith and provide an opportunity for you to be a more involved and active member of the body at Folsom Point.

ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT FOLSOM

We are a church of Christ patterned after the New Testament example of local churches. We believe in the authoritative word of God and will provide you with a Bible answer for everything we do in our doctrine and practice. We exalt Jesus Christ and seek to glorify Him, not ourselves (Ephesians 3:21). Therefore, our efforts are directed toward promoting commitment to Christ, not to any man or institution (I Corinthians 2:5).

Our assemblies are simple. We sing without use of an instrument (see Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; we will be happy to show you why we use no instrument, if you desire further study on this issue). We pray (I Timothy 2:1), partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (I Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 20:7) and teach from God's word. All preaching comes from the Bible.

The financial support of this congregations comes entirely from the free-will offerings of its members made on the first day of the week (I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-7). We never solicit funds from non-members. Contributions are used for the spiritual growth of this church and for the support of a few men in other areas, such as the Philippines, who are preaching the gospel. We do not use money collected here for social programs or the support of any human institution. We believe the church itself can do all the work God has given it to do. And we aim to do *only* the work God has given it to do – teach the gospel, build up the members, and help needy Christians. All other "good work" is the responsibility of individual Christians (Titus 2:11-14; James 1:27; Galatians 6:9-10).

We offer personal Bible studies at your convenience. We are here to help you with your spiritual needs: please favor us with a request for a Bible study or correspondence course that you can complete at your pace.