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8-2021

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Your local newspaper fulfills an essential role in serving your right to know. After all, it shouldn't be your responsibility to know how to look ... where to look ... when to look ... and even what to look for in order to be informed about public information. It is the government's responsibility to notify you of public information, and your local newspaper is the most accessible place to find it.

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Where public information is accessible to the public.

Bucks Grove News

by Colleen Reamer

Twenty-two people met together to worship on the beautiful Mother's Day Sunday of May 11th at Bucks Grove Methodist Church at 9:00 a.m.

Mary Ringel lit the candles.

After the Call to Worship the congregation sang "Come, We That Love the Lord".

Other songs sung on Sunday were "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" and "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought".

Trevor Ashcraft had the special. He played the song "Mom" by Donna Traggart. A lovely song about a baby waiting to be born and meeting his mom.

Pastor Dawn then met with the children present. She told them they had a cool mom but did they know they could actually think of God as their mother also. He takes care of them and loves them like a mother does.

Leroy Rieschick read the scriptures. The first scripture read was Acts 9: 36-43. These scriptures tell about a woman named Tabitha which in Greek is Dorcas which means "deer". She was a good woman and did good things. She was a believer. She became very ill and died. The believers in Joppa heard Peter was in Lydda and they went for him and asked him to come in a hurry. Peter returned with the men who had come for him and was taken to Tabitha. The women there showed Peter all the clothes Tabitha had made while she was alive. Peter sent all the women away and went to Tabitha telling her to stand up. She opened her eyes and when she saw Peter she sat up. Peter helped her stand and showed Tabitha's friends that she was alive.

The second scripture read was Revelation 7: 9-17. In these passages John is telling about a vision he is seeing where he sees a very big crowd with people from all nations and tribes. They are standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb. They shout that they worship God and the Lamb. All the angels are standing around the throne and the leaders and the four beings. They also worshipped God. One of the leaders asks who all

the people are and is told they are people who had a bad time of trouble and have come out of that. They have washed their clothes in the blood of the Lamb and their clothes are now white and clean. They will never again be hungry or thirsty. The Lamb is with them and will take care of them.

Pastor Dawn then read from John 10: 22-30. This Gospel reading tells of how the Jewish leaders are standing around Jesus and asking Him to tell them straight out if He is the Messiah. He tells them He has told them and they don't believe. He told them they don't believe it because they aren't His sheep. His sheep recognize Him and follow Him. He gives His sheep life forever with God. They will never die and nobody can ever take them away from Him.

Pastor Dawn's message was Plain Talking. She told us about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the time that celebrates the Maccabean revolt when the temple was rededicated to God. The Temple had been captured and the victors tried to turn the Temple of God into a Temple of Zeus. They were trying to make this area more like Greece. The Greek

influence in this area lasted for almost 300 years and greatly influenced our Western thinkers and shaped our culture.

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, celebrates the purification of the Temple in Jerusalem and its rededication to the God of Israel. Central to this celebration is the miracle of the oil. When the Maccabees secured the Temple they only had enough olive oil to light the lamps for one day but the lamps remained lit for eight days until some new oil could be obtained.

Jesus was walking in the Temple during this festival and was not recognized. This is when the leaders were asking Him to tell them plainly that He is the Messiah. But isn't that how we talk to God? Don't we ask Him to give us a clear sign? A miracle that we can hang our hats on.

Pastor Dawn thinks that God might be too much for us to understand. Remember how just the sound of God's voice terrified the Israelites and how changed Moses was after he met God face to face. A face to face encounter with God would be terrifying and that is why we got Jesus. Jesus came to us in human form. A person you could talk to without being afraid. He called to people and they followed him.

Pastor Dawn said that we tell ourselves we understand Jesus. He was human like us - how complicated could He be? But Jesus left us a record of parables that are sometimes so confusing that we are just left scratching our heads.

God is not something that we can grasp completely. He is not a simple concept to be spoken about in easy words. Words about God must be couched in mystery because that is where God lives - in the clouds, hidden from view, shrouded and veiled. If we are to follow the Risen Christ we must give up certainty and live in the very real world where nothing is simple. Jesus

revealed the parts of God to us that we may be able to understand.

Pastor Dawn then told us about a litter of kittens they had who were born in a very confined area. When they grew too big the mother moved them out to a bigger area. That's when her job got very difficult when the kittens started to explore. She finally gave up going after them but when she would call they would come. Jesus told people who He was but some didn't believe. His sheep believed and listened to His voice. We must become the sheep who know the voice of our shepherd and follow without fail.

We tend to rely on our own understanding - our voice starts to drown out the still small voice of God. Instead of trying to become independent and self-sufficient we must instead relearn complete dependence. When we let go of our need for complete understanding that God becomes our mother. When God

is our mother, when we have been nourished and protected from all harm through no effort of our own - the stronger that voice becomes.

Pastor Dawn ended her message by telling us about the explorer who went into the Amazon. When people asked him what it was like he told them to go see for themselves and drew them a map. The people who had the map considered themselves experts on the Amazon. Pastor Dawn said she is here to point the way to God for us but no words or stories will ever adequately explain God to us. If we want to experience God we are going to have to follow His voice.

Linda Rieschick reported they had a very nice turn out for the Soldier alumni. The oldest alumni there was 93 and the youngest was 74. It was nice to have Fred's brother Joe with us on Sunday.

Services ended with the Benediction and the song "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought".

Hochstedler Still Running at 45



To celebrate her 45th trip around the sun (May 20) Leanne Hochstedler made yet another questionable life choice, The Fly Over Challenge! Two 13.1 km races in 2 different states over 2 days. Saturday she did the TopCity half with her brother in law Paul Muzzy and the next ran The Lincoln Half Marathon in Nebraska. Both were well-supported courses and were very enjoyable! She admits she probably should have logged more back-to-back miles to get ready for this weekend, but hindsight is what it is. she finished, and is grateful to be able to do what she loves every mile!

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