

RESURRECTION SUNDAY!



SONrise service 7:00 AM

Breakfast 8:00

Worship 10:30

WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

March, 2005

Mike's Message...

Have you thought about inviting someone to our Resurrection Sunday service? That's right, it is only a few short weeks away. According to most research, people that do not attend church on a regular basis will attend on Easter Sunday if asked. This would be a great opportunity to ask that person you have been wanting to invite.

The whole Christian belief stands upon the fact of the resurrection. Paul stated in 1 Cor 15:13-14 *"But, if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and, if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain."* Our faith is based upon what God has done, not how we feel. Jesus Christ was born a babe in a manger, who came down from the glories of Heaven to be that perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Eph 5:2 *"Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."* When John the baptizer saw Jesus, he said, *"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29)

That, my friends, is what Easter is ALL about. It's about the RESURRECTION! This is what sets Christianity apart from other beliefs in the world. Buddha, Confucius, Mohammad and the list goes on of those who are "religious leaders." All these have died and are buried in the ground. Jesus Christ is **THE ONLY ONE**, who died, rose from the grave, and lives today! When Jesus was on the earth, a friend of His died. When Jesus got to Mary and Martha, He heard that Lazarus was dead. Jesus made a statement and asked a question at the same time. *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"* (John 11:25-26) That is a question that each of us must answer today as well. Do you believe this? If you truly do, then you MUST live your life for Him. If you say that you do and you never take time out to talk to Him, go to worship Him, read His Word, then I must ask do you really believe or are you playing a game of religion? Christianity is not a religion, it's a life style!

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1 Peter 1:3-5 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

With that in mind, let's not even use the term that the world uses for this special day. Let's call it what it truly is; **"RESURRECTION Sunday!"**

That is why we can sing, "Christ the Lord is risen today!"

Love in Christ,

Mike



He is Risen!

The winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth; signifying that summer has come back with Him who dissolves icy death into the spring of a new life and says, "Behold, I make all things new." His Body sown in the grave has blossomed in the Resurrection; and in like manner our valleys and fields which were barren or frozen, as if dead, glow with reviving life and warmth.

Bernard of Clairvaux, On Loving God

Calling all Youth!

Well, if you haven't heard, things are starting to get exciting around here. We have the contest still going on and \$20.00 still up for grabs. All it takes to qualify is 4 Youth-Group-age guest between now and the end of March. Spring Break will soon be upon us, and we will be busy. Everything starts on Sunday of that week with a lock-in (bowling, games, snacks, keeping Mike B. up all night) and end that week with R.P.M. For further information make sure you get a schedule for the week. We are looking ahead to the following months and this Summer with other adventures (Holiday World, Video game night, etc.) and maybe even a concert or two. Like I said, things are starting to get exciting around here. There's only one way to get more exciting. YOU!!! You need to make sure that you are here and participating and you need to bring your friends. I have always had a saying that I have tried to pattern my life on, "If it's gonna be, it's gonna be up to me." That is something that we can all take to heart. If my friends are gonna come, it's because I went out and got them. Once we get excited they will want what we have.

Question for the month: This one might be a tricky one. We know that Luke, the author of Luke and Acts, was a physician but can you give me the Scripture reference that tells us this fact?

Rules: Last month's winner cannot participate. First eligible date for answer: March 7th after Sunday School.

For what I have received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NIV)

English lawyer Frank Morrison was a firm agnostic who did not believe any one could really know if there was a God for sure. Upset by the claims of Christians, Morrison set out to use his powerful legal mind to debunk the faith. He set his target on the cornerstone of Christianity, the resurrection of Jesus. Morrison knew that if he could discredit this plank of faith, the rest of Christianity would collapse. He studied the evidences for the resurrection as he would materials for any other trial. As months went on, Morrison concluded after analyzing the evidence that the only answer to the empty tomb and eyewitness accounts was that Jesus really did rise from the dead. This skeptic became a believer in Jesus and wrote the book, *Who Moved the Stone!*

Are you struggling to believe? Do you wonder if the Christian faith is incredible? Consider the resurrection of Christ. No one has ever found his body. Hundreds testified that they saw him alive after his crucifixion. His followers held this confidence even in the face of suffering and even death. Take time to examine the resurrection and you will find Jesus moving the stone of doubt in your heart!

Belief in the resurrection is not an appendage to the Christian faith, it is the Christian faith. John Whale

Ladies for the Lord,

Do you have a skylight? I've noticed for years the difference in a room's lighting a skylight makes. In the dreary days of Feb. you can really see the difference. The sun gives light even on the cloudy days.

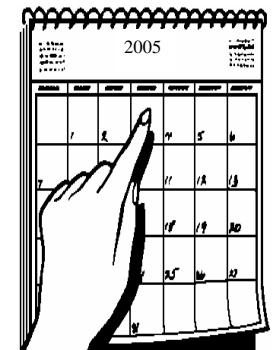
There's a different kind of skylight that is even better to have. In our spiritual lives we need "skylights." We need light from heaven to chase away the darkness in our lives and in our world. The sky lights I'm thinking of are direct links to God-reading His Word, praying, spending time in worship. The Sun gives us light even in our darkest hours.

When it starts getting dark, make sure your skylights are open to God's light!

Ladies, remember to pray for your secret sister along with a small gift or card. We need to support and encourage one another often.

UP COMING EVENTS

1st	Women's meeting at Mary Lou's	7:00
10th	Board Meeting	6:00
12th	God's men breakfast	7:30
13th	ALL Church Pitch-In	
14th	Hour of POWER	7:00
19th	ALL church work day	8:00-?
27th	Resurrection Sunday	
27th	Morning Breeze	2:30



Westport Christian Church
 Biblical Ed class 9:30
 Worship 10:30
 Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00
 Wednesday night 7:00

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Women's meeting	2 Bible Study 7:00	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Bible Study 7:00	10 Board meeting 6:00	11	12 God's men breakfast 7:30
13 ALL Church Pitch-In	14 Hour of POWER Prayer time 7:00	15	16 Bible Study 7:00	17	18	19 ALL Church work day 8:00-?
20	21	22	23 Bible Study 7:00	24 Communion Service 7:00	25 Community Good Friday service 7:00 Baptist Church	26
27 SONrise service 7:00 Breakfast 8:00 Morning Breeze 2:30	28	29	30 Bible Study 7:00	31		

BIRTHDAYS

2nd Royce Low
 6th Jason Peele
 29th Peggy Combs
 29th Kenny Blanton

ANNIVERSARIES

16th Donny & Jill
 Sageser
 31st Mike & Ronda
 Bartlett