



**Rev. Norwood N. "Woody" Hingle III, Ph. D; Sunday School: 9:15 AM; Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM**  
(504) 288-2242; email: [office@LakeVistaUMC.org](mailto:office@LakeVistaUMC.org) website: <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>; Vol. 20:4—April- 2019

## A Word from Woody. . .

### Two Reasons I Believe in the Historical Jesus

Without a doubt, I have had my doubts. Even ministers—or depending on your crowd, particularly ministers—have their doubts. As we enter the month for Easter our doubts can easily surface. Why do we believe in the historical reliability of the gospels, especially when they tell us that a dead man regained life? I would like to share two reasons that, among others, make me trust the gospels are not embellished stories but trustworthy history.

The first reason has to do with consistency. It would help if we have a part of the gospels which is widely accepted as historical and which confirms much of what we find out about Jesus in the gospels. One such case involves the phrase **“King of the Jews” on a sign above Jesus’ head when He was crucified.** It is noteworthy that all four gospels-- Matthew 27:37, Mark 15:26, Luke 23:38, and John 19:19—carry at least this wording. While some scholars of the past have dismissed this phrase as a secondary **addition of later Christianity to affirm Jesus’ messianic identity** (e.g., R. Bultmann, *The History of the Synoptic Tradition*, p. 284, originally published in 1921, revised in 1958), this skepticism is now generally rejected. In their major work on Matthew, W.D. Davies and D.C. Allison state, “. . . the tendency of recent research has been to accept it [as historical]” (*Matthew* [1997], vol. 3, p. 615). This acceptance is surely correct, for nowhere else in the New Testament (NT) to do we find **Jesus referred to as “King of the Jews”**. I.e., this phrase was not a confessional statement of the earliest church. Moreover, the fact that this phrase is found in all four gospels satisfies the criterion for historicity called multiple attestation. The implications of this phrase, though, are significant. The Romans put this **sign above Jesus’ head not only to mock Him cruelly, but also to serve as an impediment against anyone else making such a claim—a claim which Jesus apparently made in certain ways by His ministry.** Jesus’s words and actions carried a kingly authority, and this would mean



for the first-century Jews that Jesus had messianic intentions. All of this is completely consistent with the Jesus we find in the four gospels, where He speaks with remarkable authority (Matthew 7:28-29), Peter confesses Him as Messiah (Mark 8:29), and the crowd wants to make Him a king (John 6:15).

The second reason has to do with **circumcision. A major theme in Acts and Paul’s letters is that the earliest church struggled with the relationship between the old and new covenants.** I.e., what role did the law of Moses play in following Jesus? A central fixture of that law was circumcision. We find in places like Acts 15 and Galatians 2-3 where the question whether gentile believers should be circumcised was threatening to fracture the church. How convenient it would have been for them to refer to a saying of Jesus on the matter, but they never did! Nowhere in the gospels do we find a word from Jesus on the role of circumcision for His followers. If the earliest church had been used to embellishing the words of Jesus for the purpose of building up their movement, they surely would have done so here. The fact that they did not encourages one to have confidence in the reliability of the gospels.

It is because of these two reasons, as well as other evidence, that I agree with the judgment of NT scholar R.B. Hays from Duke University Divinity School. He states, **“The burden of proof lies upon claims concerning the inauthenticity of material in the Gospel tradition, not upon claims for authenticity”** (*The Moral Vision of the New Testament*, p. 162). We truly are justified in assuming the historical reliability of the gospels.

I make this encouragement to all of us as we enter the season of Easter. If doubts arise within us, then consider the two reasons above. The Good News of forgiveness and resurrection is not only a **comfort to the weary heart, it’s also true!**

Yours in Christ,

*Woody*

# Youth Corner

We had a great time last month going to Covington to see the inspiring movie "Run the Race", which was produced by Tim Tebow and his brother Robby. This month on Sunday, April 28th we are going bowling at AMF All Star Lanes (3640 Williams Blvd. in Kenner) from 3:00-5:00 PM. Please feel free to invite friends! Also, please plan for this summer's MFuge youth mission trip! The plans are for us to go to Nashville, Tennessee from June 17-22, with the cost being \$397 per person.



## Church Family Night

Church Family Night will meet on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a meal made for us by Chef Brian Doyle from 6:00-7:00 PM. Our speaker will be Robin Goldsmith, who will share a summary of the important course she is teaching on a Christian view of end-of-life issues based on the new book by Hattie Bryant, *I'll Have It God's Way: Living Fully Now and into Your Forever*.



Last month's speaker, Sarah Kreutziger, with Woody.

## Palm Sunday Luncheon and Easter Egg

On Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Palm Sunday at the church. Directly after the service we will enjoy a luncheon prepared by Chef Brian Doyle. At 12:30 PM we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the community. All are invited to these special events, and please bring friends!

## New-- Good Friday Service!

We are replacing our annual Maundy Thursday service with a Good Friday service this year on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 PM. Please mark this on your calendar as we worship the God whose passion has made salvation possible!

# Ole Fashioned Pounding



## Sermons for April

---

Pastor Hingle will continue the Lenten sermon series called, "The Intersection of Cross and Culture" which will explore the necessity of the cross and how it applies to modern culture. He will return to the previous sermon series on the Gospel of John called "Good News for Life" on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Easter Pancake Breakfast!

---

A great way to begin the day of celebration of our Lord's resurrection is fellowship over food with a devotional—and we've got it! On Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> we will have a pancake breakfast with bacon and other goodies from 9:00-10:00 AM. We'll have a brief devotional at 10:00 AM, and then prepare to worship our risen Lord at the 10:30 AM service!

## VBS Prep Is Here!

---

Our first meeting to prepare for this summer's Vacation Bible School will be on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Our program is called "Roar: Life Is Wild—God Is Good". Mary Ellen Herbert is our VBS Director, and all who are interested in this wonderful ministry are invited to this first meeting in the Fellowship Hall. VBS this year will be from July 22-25, with the VBS Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. Please help us get the word out!

## Prayer Focus

---

- ✚ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✚ For The UMC's "Supreme Court", the Judicial Council, for its April 23-25<sup>th</sup> meeting to determine what is constitutional from both the Traditional Plan and the exit plan passed by February's General Conference
- ✚ Beryl Lynn Jones, recovery from back surgery
- ✚ Brenda Marks, in the death of her beloved husband, Mr. Herbert Marks, Sr.
- ✚ Wayne and Laura Smith, in the loss of her father Dr. Gaut
- ✚ Dr. Elaine Salzer's brother-in-law, Wayne Cotton, cancer
- ✚ Jay Goudeau, healing from surgery
- ✚ Debby Grimm's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, health

## A Time for Guys' Fellowship!

---

We have a new adult Sunday School class which is geared for men! Pastor Woody Hingle is leading this group that meets in the Library at 9:30 AM, and we are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. Also, the men will enjoy their monthly supper together on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM at New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood, 817 Veterans Memorial Blvd. in Metairie—and please bring your Bibles. All men are invited and encouraged to bring friends!



St. Patty's Party

---

## Skeptic's Class

---

**Skeptic's Class:** We are starting a new book with a bag lunch and discussion on Fridays, April 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00 PM in the church's Parlor. We will discuss the book *Morality Without God?* by the atheist philosopher Dr. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong from Duke University. At the first meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> all are encouraged to read preface and chapter one and at the second meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter two.

---

## New Help on End-of-Life Decisions

---

Robin Goldsmith will lead a six-week Bible study based on Hattie Bryant's book *I'll Have It God's Way: Living Fully Now and into Your Future*. This study focuses on end of life issues, and is ideal for seniors, children of aging parents, and family caregivers. The three final meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM on April 9<sup>th</sup> to April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Fellowship Hall, and is free (with materials!) to the first 20 participants. Those who would like to participate can sign up by calling the Church Office or indicating on their church attendance sheet.

---

## Small Group Offerings

---

**Wednesday SONrise and Wonderful Wednesday Bible**—The SONrise Prayer and Communion service will meet from 6:30-7:30 AM each Wednesday this month. Later in the day Pastor Woody teaches a Bible study which is an in-depth review of the previous Sunday's sermon, and this group will meet on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome!

**The S(tudy), P(ray), A(ct) Ladies'** The SPA Ladies will finish Lee Strobel's *Case for Easter* study on Tuesday, April 2 at 9:00 AM in the parlor. On Tuesday, April 9 they will meet in the Fellowship Hall to stuff Easter eggs. The Spring studies will end with a brunch at Mary Ellen's house—date and time to be announced.

All are welcome to participate.

---

## Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

---

**This month's** Prayer Walk: Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this important ministry

---

*A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.*

# Lake Vista

## United Methodist Church

6645 Spanish Fort Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70124