

Chain of Lakes

CHURCH

Where Strangers Become Friends

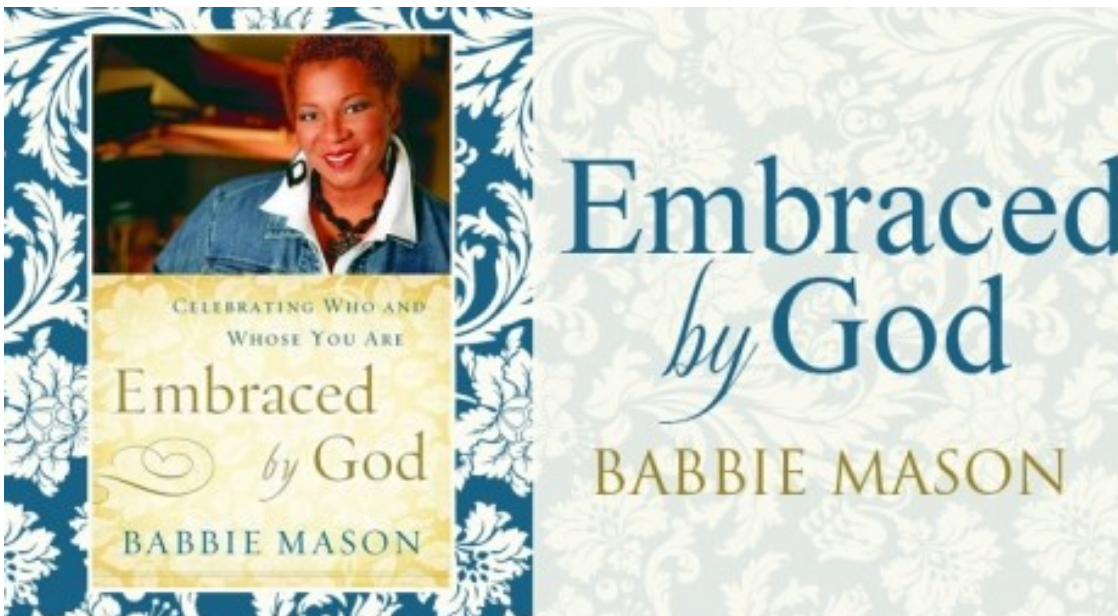
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April 2013

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Betty Long will lead a four week video series for women called "Embraced by God, Seven Promises for Every Women." The group will meet for four weeks starting Wednesday, April 17th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Some women from Chain of Lakes had the privilege of meeting Babbi Mason at a church conference this past October. Come learn how you are God's favorite!



Notes from Pastor Paul



We had a delightful Holy Week at Chain of Lakes. I was touched a number of times in how I saw the Spirit work. How beautiful to see people engaged at Maundy Thursday worship; how wonderful to have a large group of people come to the Easter Egg Hunt; how moving to worship together on Easter. Since Easter I have continued to reflect

on what it means to have the Resurrection be our defining story. The following is an excerpt from the sermon I shared on Easter about the difference between having our lives be defined by Good Friday and Easter.

A defining story is the root narrative that shapes the way we look at the world. It forms our response to the situations of our life—how we handle success and failure. It shapes how we handle adversity and how we reach out to people who are suffering.

The question I'd like all of us to reflect upon this week is this: Do we want our defining story to be Good Friday or Easter?

Good Friday is a very special day for me. This past Friday morning I got up with my wife, Amy, and we went to pray at 7:00 a.m. at a prayer vigil at St. Joseph's Catholic Church where she works. Next year I want to have a prayer vigil at Chain of Lakes Church. This past Friday I was singing the spiritual, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" throughout the day. It's a special song for a special day.

Let's be clear. Good Friday is not our defining story. For if the story of Jesus had ended on the cross, you and I wouldn't worship on Easter.

Jesus' sacrifice was one of the greatest sacrifices in the history of the world, but it's not a unique sacrifice. Many leaders throughout history have given their lives for a cause. If the story ended there we would remember Jesus, but we wouldn't come awake to all that is possible.

If Good Friday was our defining story, we would accept the world as it is.

If Good Friday was our defining story Robbie and Alissa Parker [parents of Emilie Parker who was killed in the Newtown shootings] wouldn't have met with Peter Lanza, father of Adam Lanza.

If Good Friday was our defining story you and I wouldn't work so hard to build a new faith community. We would be content with strangers remaining strangers.

Yesterday we had an Easter egg hunt, and it was a big success. We started something yesterday that can continue. You know what the forecast was for yesterday morning? Rain. I was awakened at 4:00 in the morning to the loud clap of thunder. I had my doubts about whether we should do the Easter egg hunt. Who wants to take their kids to an Easter egg hunt in the rain? A Good Friday person gives in to doubts. We aren't Good Friday people.

We went ahead with the Easter egg hunt. A lot of people came. The Easter bunny, who I discovered is very cool, came. The Steering Committee organized the event. When the Easter egg hunt was over we all gathered in a circle to pray and we couldn't help but say, "Yay God."

If Good Friday was our defining story we would give in. We would give in to cancer, mental illness, even evil, and death. We would say that this is how life is meant to be and we can't do anything about it. To accept Good Friday as our final story is to accept fatalism.

If Good Friday was our defining story we wouldn't be hearing about Mary or Peter's story.

But we are—hearing their story. We're hearing their story because of 17 words. They are the 17 words that the angels said to Mary and the other women who understandably thought that Jesus' death was the end of the story. The 17 words are short phrase that describe the resurrection.

"Why do you look for the living among the dead. He is not here. He is risen."

These words are our defining story. Through them we come awake.

Coming awake means we aren't afraid of our own death. Death doesn't frighten or really concern us because we know that death is not the end. When we die we have an entire eternity to enjoy with God.

Coming awake means when the doctor tells us we have cancer or another disease we aren't ultimately overwhelmed. We certainly have difficult moments. But we will do everything we can to live and if we don't live, we know our disease won't have the final word.

Coming awake means that when our difficult family relationships inevitably erupt we don't accept that this is how it has to be. Instead we will do everything we can to repair relationships, reaching out in love even when we don't have a clue how it will turn out.

Coming awake means we never give in to the skeptics who say that people in 2013 aren't interested in God or the church. Or even to Presbyterian skeptics. Instead we believe that God wants and is calling vital churches to exist who at their core believe in the resurrection and whose defining story is shaped by these 17 words.

May Chain of Lakes Church always be a community whose defining story is shaped by the resurrection!

Change of E-mail address

As of Tuesday, April 16th Pastor Paul will only be using his pastor@colpres.org E-mail address. He will be deleting his other mail E-address: pastor@comcast.net.

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Curling Team!

Would you be interested in participating in a Chain of Lakes Curling Team? Join a few others from Chain of Lakes for a Learn to Curl clinic on Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 p.m. at the Ice House in Blaine. Cost is \$10.00

each. The Learn to Curl clinic is a great way for anyone to get your first exposure to the sport. This is a two hour introduction and instructional session that teaches people the basics of curling. Participants learn physical play, rules and strategy. Within minutes, you are throwing rocks and sweeping. You finish off the session playing a mini game. Contact Dave Nyberg for more information, 763-717-2490.

Community Gardens

Thanks to everyone who has indicated an interest in a Community Garden which will be set up on the property of Chain of Lakes. An Organizing Committee for the Community Gardens is in the process of being assembled. If you still are interested in having a plot, contact George Black at geblack1@comcast.net

Prayer Partners



We had a wonderful response recently during worship about having a prayer partner. If you would like to have a prayer partner, E-mail Pastor Paul at pastor@colpres.org. You can choose your own prayer partner if you like or just be given a prayer partner.

CLUB 20-40

Club 20-40 will be going to the Chris Tomlin concert on Sunday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Target Center. Kids are welcome to come. If we can get twenty people to sign up we can get a group discount ticket of \$20. Contact Jennifer Huehns at info@colpres.org if you are interested in attending. Deadline for tickets is April 11.



♪ Music Ministry ♪ by Kristel

Easter morning we sang a song together proclaiming:

**"O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light;
The glory of God has defeated the night."**

Christ is Risen by Matt Maher

Do we truly believe that the glory of God has defeated the night? That God has defeated sin and the baggage we carry around with us? Some days are more difficult than others to grasp that beautiful reality. That is why I am so glad that we have a community of believers that reflect the glory of God by blessing others and sharing God's love. We are standing in the light of God, and spreading it with each act or word of kindness, with each silent prayer, with each hug we share, and every song we sing.

Singing His Praises!



Where Strangers Become Friends

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We're on the Web!

www.colpres.org



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Chain of Lakes Church Purpose:

We are called to be an authentic, Christian community where:
Strangers become friends
Friends become disciples
Disciples impact the world.

Our Worship Location

Directions: Located at DaVinci Adademy Charter School
13001 Central in Blaine, at the intersection of Highway 65 and 131st Ave
(just north of Cub Foods)

Come Join Us! Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

