



Hop the Baby

By Carolyn Kimmel

At this time of year more than others, I wonder what it would have been like to come face to face with Jesus when he walked the earth.

As I read the familiar Easter passages, I wonder, how would I have felt as I flung down a palm in the streets of Jerusalem and watched the road for a glimpse of Jesus riding in on that donkey? Would I have been among those who pressed in for a better view as Jesus dragged a splintered, wooden cross past us—or would I have shrunk back in horror?

A few months ago, I also thought about seeing Jesus as I stood in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in Rome, waiting to see Pope Francis. Now, I don't have a huge feeling about the pope one way or another—and after several days that began at dawn and included 10 miles of walking behind my daughter-turned-tour-guide Amy, who was studying abroad—I really would have preferred to sleep in that day. But Amy pronounced, "You're in ROME! You have to see the POPE!"

That's why at 6:30 a.m., daughter Olivia, also along on our Roman holiday, and I passed through the Vatican gate, joining the 3,998 other people who had turned out to see the pope's weekly address. Amy had advised on where to stand for the best view—which meant not sitting on one of the (wet) seats set up near the platform, but hanging around the edge of the outlying ropes, where the pope in his pope mobile would zoom through the aisles on his way to the platform.

We had two hours of chilly wind to endure before the sun began to peek out. The crowd kept getting bigger, but there was no loud or boisterous behavior, no shouting or jostling for position. The longer we stood there, the more evident the building excitement became until it was almost palpable.

"I've worked for The Rolling Stones and met five presidents, but nothing compares to this," an

American man standing close to me announced with a huge grin on his face. "I can't believe we're here, once in a lifetime!" another person volunteered. Several brides and grooms strolled by in their wedding attire—what were they hoping for, I wondered? Next to me, a mother cooed at her five-month-old baby in a language I couldn't place.

A good-natured security guard approached us and I expected to be asked to step further back from the rope, but instead he looked at us and instructed, "When il Papa come, hop the baby!" What was that? The mom looked as confused as me. "Hop the baby!" he said again, this time lifting his arms up high. Ohhhhh—yes, yes, the mother grinned. She would gladly *lift* her baby up to see the pope!

At 8:15, strains of an angelic choir could be heard from the loudspeakers, and large screens on either side of the platform showed video of the pope mobile making its way through the crowd, the pope's long white robe flapping in the breeze as it went. "Where is he? Where is he?" people murmured—and I realized I was among them. I craned my neck to see if he was headed our way. "He's coming! He's coming!" Was that me who said that?

As Pope Francis neared, he wasn't waving madly, grinning widely or extending his hand out exuberantly like a politician or



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May 2019 issue to:

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or place them in Carolyn's church
mailbox by **April 8th**.

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celebrity working the crowd. He would lean forward, smile a small smile and gladly receive every baby "hopped" up to him for—as it turned out—a blessing and a kiss. He did this most reverently, as if he knew he carried a gift from Someone much higher up than he.

The mother beside me got so excited when Pope Francis stopped to receive her baby that I thought she might actually hop higher than her baby. The child was oblivious, of course, but I know she will grow to be a young girl, then old woman whose life is marked by the fact that one cold morning in November 2018, she was blessed and kissed by the Pope. It will be passed down in her family's lore, I am sure of it.

After Pope Francis ascended the stairs to his chair, priests and pastors came to the podium one by one to address the crowd, each in their own foreign tongue. Each pastor brought greetings to the "pilgrims" who had traveled to be part of what turned out to be a surprisingly meaningful service.

Pope Francis gave his sermon in Italian, and although "amore" was pretty much the only word I could understand, his delivery was sincere and heartfelt. When it was translated into English, I understood that he was talking about verses in John and advising that showing love to others was a Christian's job, just as Jesus had come to share the truth of God's love with us.

All around me, I took in the sight of multitudes of people whose beautiful faces testified to the faraway lands they called home, gathered in the shadow of St. Peter's Basilica at sunrise, where the rooftop statues of Jesus with the cross and the disciples seemed to look down over us all. And I was deeply moved.

"I think this is a taste of what heaven will be like," Olivia leaned over and whispered. I nodded.

Suddenly I was so glad I had dragged myself out of bed to see the pope. Not because I especially love the pope, but because he had convened a group of people, many of whom appeared to truly love the Lord, and created for us a holy moment of togetherness in the Lord's presence.

But I also gave silent thanks that I don't need the pope or anyone else to bless me. I can go directly to the Father and "hop the baby" – myself, in this case—directly to His waiting arms.

And that's because of Easter. Alleluia!



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

By Avis Whitesel

Here are highlights from the February Leadership Council:

- A motion was made, seconded and approved to leave \$13,735 of 2018 excess funds in the general fund and move \$3,432 of the prior year's excess funds to the general fund.
- We discussed possible elders from nominations from council meeting.
- We spent some time talking and dreaming about possibilities for future expansion.

The full minutes of the Leadership Council meeting are located on the bulletin board in the lobby.

If you would like additional information or to follow up on any items, please contact a Leadership Council member: Mike Beachy, Clarence Brubaker, Pastor Rob Douglass, Phil Engle, Christie Gustafson, Gary Lebo, Sharon Miller or Avis Whitesel.

APRIL EAT 'N RUN MENUS

Anne-Marie Brandt and Sarah Hoover are co-leading and looking for assistance in setup, meal prep, serving and clean up.

Serving time is 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to allow reset time before the rest of the evening's activities. Helpers will eat together at 4:30 p.m.

The meal is free and open to the community.

APRIL 10

SLOPPY JOES
POTATO CHIPS
FRESH VEGGIES
FRESH FRUIT
DESSERT

APRIL 24

CHICKEN CORN SOUP
ASSORTED BREADS
CRACKERS
FRESH VEGGIES
DESSERT

WE WILL HAVE
GLUTEN-FREE
OPTIONS!!



Peace Promise would like to thank all those who attended the Peace Promise, For Love and Freedom fundraising banquet on February 22. I am happy to say the event was sold out and support was most generous. At this point, they have received more than \$18,000 in donations.

I personally wish to thank the people from Dillsburg BIC who came and supported this ministry. We were encouraged by the positive feedback regarding all aspects of the evening.

The keynote speaker, Bethany Smith, gave us much information to think about. She is very knowledgeable and communicated clearly the magnitude of the problem worldwide, in our nation and in our own backyard. In fact, she is founder of Not In My Back Yard, a Lancaster-based organization that focuses on raising awareness about modern day slavery.

For those who attended the banquet, the following information will be familiar. It is information that Bethany shared in her talk and it appeared in the banquet program. I want to make sure that our people understand why our church decided to get involved in fighting human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a \$32 billion-a-year business with sex trafficking growing at the fastest pace. It is an industry that exploits the most vulnerable members of our community—those who experience poverty, little or no protection from family or friends, believe they have low personal worth or value and have a history of childhood sexual abuse. Sex trafficking is happening right here in our own community—in truck stops, bus and train stations, rest stops, motels, strip clubs, bars, erotic massage parlors, some nail salons, in our streets, even out of our homes with parents not even aware, through escort services, and online prostitution.

Since 1997, the accessibility and anonymity of internet pornography use have significantly contributed to the abuse of trafficked men, women and children. In the United States, the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old. Most teens are lured into the industry by a pimp posing as a boyfriend and then are held by brutal force, coercion, drug dependency, and a sense of belonging. Once trafficked, only 1 percent of victims are rescued. The average life span of a person being exploited in prostitution is seven years, and the most common causes of death are drug overdose, suicide and murder. This is the picture of modern-day slavery and it is horrifying. It is not a respecter of economic status, educational background, race or whether someone has been brought up in a faith-based home. It requires that parents remain vigilant to what their children are paying attention to in school, with friends and on devices and that those who work with young people are aware of and are alert to signs that this may be going on.

Increasing education and awareness in our homes and communities can help fight the insidious spread of sexual exploitation. Peace Promise offers “Let’s Talk” programs to educate families, schools, and communities. Contact Peace Promise today for more information.





*We serve a mighty God and we have much to be thankful for, no matter our circumstances. I love the reminder in Psalm 100 that says “we are his people.” This is what unifies and binds us together. So when we call you our partners in Push The Rock, it is because you help us financially and support us with your prayers. For this we are always grateful and we give thanks to you and to God for the blessing you bring to us.

Bruce Koblish, Push The Rock

*A big thank you from all the students and listeners of Bible Adventure for allow us to use your church building.

*Thank you for your faithful support for many years in helping us provide affordable housing and support services to adults in need with Christ-like love.

Jodie Smiley, Executive Director, Paxton Ministries

*Thank you for your support of Matt and Julie Walsh. You are critical to our mission.

Bruce Johnson, President, SIM USA

*As I write this, 20 days into full employment with Peace Promise, I find myself wondering how to sufficiently say thank you for your faithfulness and financial support. A couple of women have shared that they have been holding onto the dream of getting out of the industry because they did not know if they could do it alone, and they now feel like they have access to the support and encouragement they need . . . They have taken their first steps toward freedom, they spoke their desire to have change in their lives. So, simply put, thank you for your investment and commitment to be a life changer.

Patty Seaman, Executive Director, Peace Promise

*Thank you for your gift to Capital area Pregnancy Center. Gifts like yours get me excited, but what really energizes me is to see how the gifts are used by God to impact and save lives—both physically and spiritually!

The Rev. John Schaffer, Executive Director, Capital Area Pregnancy Centers



*We need your help!
Company is coming!*



Upcoming Host Week April 28-May 5, 2019

Come help us share the Love of God with our Family Promise guests.

*Mission: empowering families through relationships and skill building
to move from homelessness to home.*

www.dillsburgbic.org/family-promise
Sign-up sheets online

- Set-Up Volunteers
(April 28 - after Service)
- Meal Volunteers - Daily
(Drop off at 6 P.M.)
- Fellowship Volunteers-
Daily (6 P.M.-8:30 P.M.)
- Children Fellowship
Volunteers (play with kids!
Daily 6P.M.-8:00 P.M.)
- Overnight Hosts- Daily
(8:15 P.M. -6:45 A.M.)
- Takedown Volunteers
(May 5 - 7 A.M.)
- Laundry Volunteers
(week of May 5th)
- Van Drivers - Daily
- Supply Food Donations

Family Promise Coordinators

Anne-Marie Brandt: 717.421.4706
abrandt@teambrandt.net

Sarah Hoover: 717.829.6921
sarah@whoover.com

What comes to mind when you hear "ministry"?

In the early Church, the root meaning pictured someone kicking up the dust as they ran on an errand. Ministry is an action word describing servants of Jesus serving the world and each other.

DBIC organizes many kinds of ministries in response to needs and opportunities. Some are larger, more permanent structures; others are fluid, lightweight approaches to current situations. Either way, when it comes to ministry impact, we experience God's blessing both in giving and receiving.

Visit <http://www.dillsburgbic.org/ministries/> to learn more about our ministries here at Dillsburg BiC.

You are gifted! And for good reason. To offer your service in an area (or for help discovering your gifts and opportunities), reach out to a ministry leader, team, or pastor any time.

the
Book Nook
by Harriet Conrady



Again, we have added significant books to our church library. Any of these books, both the books of fiction and nonfiction, can be a blessing to you as you read them.

FICTION

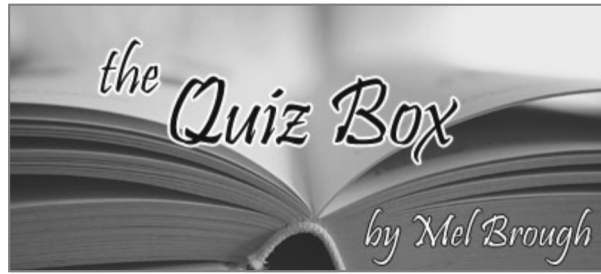
- **Burden of Proof**, by DiAnn Mills. This book is a well-written, suspense-filled novel. FBI Special Agent April Ramos is caught off guard when a frazzled young woman shoves a crying baby into her arms . . . then disappears. April puts her hostage negotiation skills to use to learn more about who she's dealing with. Something very sinister may be happening in the small town of Sweet Briar, Texas.
- **Hidden Among the Stars**, by Melanie Dobson. This is an historical novel about Hitler's troops sweeping into Vienna, Austria in the year 1938. Max Dornbach promises to help his Jewish friends hide their most valuable possessions from the Nazis, smuggling them to his family's summer estate. It's a mystery about hidden treasure, a castle, and people who resisted evil in an extraordinary way.
- **Miles from Where We Started**, by Cynthia Ruchti. Weeks away from their one-year wedding anniversary, Mallory and Connor Duncan can't agree on how to end their marriage. A last-minute crisis lands them on a three-thousand-mile road trip together and they wonder if their story may not be over after all.

NONFICTION

- **Kisses from Katie**, by Katie Davis Majors. The sub-title of this book is "A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption." You will find that this title fits Katie as she has dedicated her life of radical love for the people of Uganda. She has adopted thirteen children in Uganda and has established a ministry, Amazima, that feeds and sends hundreds more to school and teaches them the Word of Jesus.
- **Messiah College: A History**, by E. Morris Sider. This history was written in 1984, but it tells the story of how Messiah College was founded and established by the Brethren in Christ Church. This book was donated to our library and has an important message about the establishment of the college established very near to our church.

See you in the library!





Our Dillsburg quiz team finished with four wins and one loss at the monthly practice tournament on March 2 at Fairview Avenue BIC church in Waynesboro. There were five teams from five churches (Dillsburg, Elizabethtown, Fairview Avenue, Grantham, and Harrisburg. We had five quizzes. Fairview Avenue served us lunch after quizzing.

The next quizzing event will be the Allegheny Open tournament hosted by the **New Hope BIC church on Saturday, April 13**. This will be an all-day event. The address and phone number for New Hope BIC church are: 584 Colonial Club Dr, Harrisburg, (717) 545-3400. We will be quizzing on John Chapters 1-18.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates.

- Saturday, May 4 – Charlie Crider Memorial Tournament at E-Town BIC – All day
- Saturday, May – Since there are only two teams in the Susquehanna Conference (Dillsburg and Grantham) and both teams will be going to Denominational Finals, it was decided to not have Regional Conference finals.
- Friday, June 21 at 4 p.m. – Sunday, June 23 at noon – Denominational Finals at Bongiorno Center, Carlisle

Verse of the month: John 17:3 – “Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” – Berean Study Bible

A great way to financially support the quizzing ministry at Dillsburg is to purchase Giant gift cards. Please see Avis Whitesel to purchase gift cards or if you have any questions.

To be eligible to quiz, you must be between the ages of 12 and 19 sometime during the quizzing year, which is defined as beginning Nov. 1 and running through Oct. 31. Quizzing provides an opportunity to study God's Word, fellowship with other youth, participate on a team, and experience positive competition.

If you have any questions about quizzing, please contact one of us:

Mel Brough
Brent Whitesel

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717-432-9048

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jack & Helen Leach	April 2
Nathan & Sarah Hoover	April 16
Jon & Diana Dale	April 29

"Be generous with gratitude, for it is contagious"



Happy Birthday



Tim Horst	April 1	John Reed	April 15
Erika Pease	April 4	Tony Monko	April 17
Jason Smith	April 4	Ariela Vader	April 17
<i>(Jay and Judy Smith's son)</i>		Ed Strayer	April 17
Aaron Poole	April 6	Grace Horton	April 18
Ethan Beachy	April 9	Patti Miller	April 18
Jason Emig	April 9	Connor Engle	April 21
Tyler Monko	April 10	Hope Gabikiny	April 22
Corie Thuma	April 10	Chris Eyster	April 23
Mary Reed	April 11	Ana Wingert	April 24
Kayce Heck	April 12	Luca Thuma	April 25
Shelby Sieber	April 12	Ray Knepper	April 27
Thomas Walsh	April 14	Travis Moyer	April 30

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Pooles')	2	3 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	4	5	6 11:00 a.m. Mandated Reporter Training
7 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	8 Doulos Deadline 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers') 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Pooles')	9 6:30 pm Impact	10 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 5:15 p.m. Eat 'n' Run 6:15 p.m. Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship	15 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday	16	17	18 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	19	20
21 Easter 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship	22 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday	23	24 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study Brunch 5:15 p.m. Eat 'n' Run 6:15 p.m. Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive	25 6:30 pm Leadership Council	26	27 9:00 am Prayer Walk
28 9:00 am Classes 10:30 am Worship	29 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday	30				
			FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING			