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At my ordination into the ministry 50 years ago, my Uncle Gene gave me a copy of J.B. Phillips' paraphrase of the New Testament. Inside the front cover he had written, "Make the Word of God plain to those you teach—God will convict them if they hear Him clearly. This is my favorite translation—it is plain."

I'm not sure that I agree the Phillips "translation" is plain, but I do find it to be beautiful. And, as I did again last Sunday morning, I've often quoted Romans 8:18 from it. "In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared to the magnificent future God has planned for us."

I've not only found it to be beautiful, but also very comforting. In fact, I used it in the first funeral I ever preached, and have used it in almost every funeral since then.

I don't use the Phillips for serious study, nor as a text to explore while preaching. That's not the purpose for a paraphrase. And paraphrases do more easily reflect the biases of the individual writing it. You never want to come to a doctrinal conclusion on the basis of what you read in a paraphrase.

While not being inspired by God as are the Scriptures themselves, they can however be inspirational, and they do have their place in personal reading. In fact, many of us are reading through *The Daily Message* this year, which is Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of the Bible.

I do have to admit that while reading Peterson's paraphrase this year I've often found myself wondering where in the world he got something. And at times I believe he tried too hard to be contemporary, and as a result his choice of words and phrases are already dated. I even found myself laughing last Saturday while reading through the daily passage, which actually happened to be the text I'd be preaching on the next day.

Paul does say that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth, but Peterson may get just a little too picturesque. "We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and more joyful our expectancy."

I doubt that I'll be using that in a funeral any time soon. God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

May 15, 2019

NUMBER 19



**..and YOU'RE INVITED!**

**YOUTH GROUP FINALE  
GAMES AT 5:30  
DINNER AT 6:00  
TALENT SHOW AT 7:00  
DETAILS INSIDE**

**CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
9897 So. Main St., P.O. Box 527  
Chatham, Illinois 62629

Church Office 483-3987  
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Rick Werneborg, Minister  
cell phone 836-4971  
Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister  
cell phone 971-3075  
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM  
Bible School 10:45 AM

## STATISTICS

Worship 107  
Offering \$3,413.09

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-5/19/19

Greeters .....	Will & Sara Bartels
Visitors' Stand .....	Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
Communion Meditation .....	Chris Luzio
Ushers .....	Jonathan Sperry
	Paul Hunley
	Scott Bales
	Rich Mann
	Brad Stirmell
	Jim Trimberger
	Bob Williamson
	<b>WORSHIP NURSERY</b>
Toddlers.....	Vicki Small
	Cooper Formea
Infants.....	Nikki Hunley
	Jeni & Kate Sperry
	Sunday School
Toddlers.....	Rhonda Luzio
Infants:.....	Dixie Williamson
	Shannon Higgins

## The Hidden Word

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jew from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

## A MOTHER'S DAY MEDITATION

by Kirk Polley

When I thought about a communion meditation for Mother's Day, the verses of John 19 came to mind. Jesus is hanging on the cross and the soldiers had just cast lots for His garments. Starting in verse 25: "Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' 27 and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."

(Continued in next column)

Jesus is hanging in agony on the cross. Up to this point, physically we know He had been beaten, smacked, spit upon, flogged, crowned with thorns, forced to carry His cross, and pierced with nails in His hands and feet. Spiritually we know that Jesus had the weight of the world's sins upon him. Just hours before, Luke tells us that Jesus was in such agony over what was about to happen, that while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane His sweat became like drops of blood.

Yet in the midst of all this, during the absolute linchpin of history, Jesus was thinking about...his mother...and you and me.

Mary had given birth to Jesus and raised him. She stood by his side even when other family members did not. It is widely believed that Joseph had died prior to Jesus's crucifixion and thus Mary was a widow. It is also believed that the brothers of Jesus were no longer in the picture because they did not believe in Jesus. Thus, Jesus was ensuring that Mary would be cared for even after His death. Up to His very last breath, Jesus was honoring His mother.

But there may be a deeper meaning here. John's gospel is well known for stories that have both surface and spiritual meanings. In this case, Jesus seems to be saying to Mary and John that you are family now. You are immediate family. Jesus didn't say "Mom, take care of my friend. And friend, take care of my mom. He said, "Mother, meet your son. And son, meet your mother. Mary and John were now family. And they were family because of what Jesus was doing on the cross – for everyone. Jesus was saying to all who come to the foot of the cross, you are my family. When we gather at the cross, we are all family.

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

"In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring."

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

So let us now take these emblems, remembering the sacrifice of our mothers, but more importantly remembering the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, and gather at the foot of the cross...as family.



We are about 4 weeks away from our High School trip to CIY MOVE. Just thinking about it gets me excited! It is not too late to sign up or invite a friend to join our group. The cost is now \$349 per person but if that is an issue, just let me know. I have had numerous individuals in our church family offer to help with the cost if needed.

So far, we have 9 High School kids registered to go! They are Tate, Jake, Grace, Abbie, Reagan, Karly, Emma, Kate and Anna. As a reminder, we will be leaving after church on Sunday, June 16 to return late on Thursday, June 20th. Our free afternoon will be spent in Indianapolis so kids, let the research begin. I am all ears as to something you would like to do. Also, for those registered, if I could collect the early bird registration fee of \$309 before the end of the month, that would be appreciated.



## Junior & Senior High Girls

This summer, Tina would love to have some girl time with you! Since we have a pool, it makes sense to gather there for no agenda other than to tan, swim and have fun together. No boys will be allowed! The first one is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th from 1:00-3:00. After that, everyone will decide when you would like to hang out again.



**..and YOU'RE INVITED!**

To close out a great season of Sunday evening study and Youth Groups, we are planning to cook out this Sunday evening. The entire church family is obviously welcome to return to church around 5:30 to spend some evening time together. We plan to eat at 6:00. There is no need to bring anything unless you want something else besides hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and cookies.

There will be activities for the kids to play throughout the evening including 9 square, kick ball, the bounce house, hungry hippos, etc. prior to the talent show which begins at 7:00. We are up to six individuals or groups who have agreed to share something that evening. Thank you! If history repeats itself, it will be a fun way to close out our night together. We definitely have room for a few more acts so text me this week if you can share something for our finale!



The final large scale camp work day before the campers arrive in June is scheduled for this Saturday morning. Coffee and cinnamon rolls are served at 8:30 before the chores begin. Many hands make light work, that's what mom always said. If you have a few hours to donate, please consider heading out to LSCA on Saturday.