



If you are unfamiliar with the history of the Christian Church and wish to learn more about the ways that God has been at work throughout time and around the world, I would recommend you start your learning journey with Bruce Shelley's, *Church History in Plain Language*. In college I devoured this work, now in its fifth edition, due to its conversational yet comprehensive treatment of the experiences of the people of God, beginning with the moments immediately following Jesus' crucifixion, up to today, even in a global perspective. Shelley, prior to his death, gave us a wonderful quote in *Church History* which helps to distinguish trust in Jesus from any other faith: "Christianity is the only major religion to have at its central event the humiliation of its God."

Christians have always been mocked for following a crucified Messiah. There exists graffiti etched in ancient stone from around the year 200 depicting a man praying to a donkey-headed figure hanging on a cross, bearing the message in Greek, "Alexamenos worships [his] God". The shameful faith of Alexamenos was put on public display, as he absorbed the taunting and jeering of likely more than one abuser who could not fathom worshipping a failed Messiah. The very term 'Christian' was invented as an insult, as it means 'little Christ', mocking the way that followers of Jesus just wouldn't stop talking about this Christ guy and what He apparently accomplished, or failed to accomplish.

Jesus did not fit the mold of any of the Messianic expectations of his day, and not just of the Jewish faith. Remember that Ceasar of Rome was called the Anointed of God, also. And Rome certainly didn't have any issues (at least for the time being) of staking out a claim for themselves. In fact, Rome had great expertise in putting down Messianic figures who encouraged ordinary people to rise up against Roman occupation (see the Maccabean revolution). They did install a puppet kings over the Jews, but they were largely a figurehead during the days of Jesus. Everyone knew where true power lay. So when Jesus claimed a kingdom not of this world, and inaugurated it with His death, most simply stopped listening.

Except the story wasn't over. I would love to invite you into a simple experience of Scripture reading this month - just slowly read through the book of Acts in the New Testament. There's only twenty-eight chapters, so one a day ought to do you. But marvel at the beautiful simplicity of the message of the Gospel as it spread throughout the Ancient Near East.



"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (ESV, Acts 2:32-36)

David, and the political throne of the nation of Israel, could not contain the Messianic hope. Only Jesus the Christ ascended to the right hand of the father - and this only through the utterly humiliating, shameful, murderous crucifixion at the hands of sinners - was sufficient to refund the world order. This kind of upside-down absurd story propelled the Disciples and many others out from Jerusalem, throughout the known world including Africa, Europe and Eastern Asia.

Their retelling of this good news, that the Messiah has defeated death for us, could not be stopped, even as Paul carried it into the most influential spaces he could as he leveraged his privileges and abilities.
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Brookdale Vision

Pillar #3 Spiritual Formation

Elizabeth Dean

This is the third in a series, reviewing the four pillars of Brookdale's Vision. The Vision statement is: "Brookdale Church is called to bring the beauty of the gospel to the brokenness of life." We believe that Brookdale is called to proclaim, embody, and live out this gospel message in its prayer, its worship, its approach to spiritual formation, and its mission, our four pillars.

What is spiritual formation? It is spiritual transformation, being spiritual conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29). It is not behavior modification.

It goes deeper than just behavioral change. This is a change that takes place in our hearts-in our motivation, emotion, desires. In other words, our behaviors are ultimately driven by a transformed heart.

How does transformation of heart take place?

It is a process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness. It is carried out in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and by the believer's commitment to place themselves before God, through the means of Spiritual formation so He can transform us.

What are the means of spiritual formation to which Brookdale is committed?

- 1) Encourage the development of a consistent, habitual practice of the spiritual disciplines including but not limited to:
 - a) Meditation, study, memorization of scripture
 - b) Prayer
 - c) Self-exam and application of truths
- 2) Encourage participation in the corporate disciplines of:
 - a) Worship
 - b) Guidance
 - c) Celebration
- 3) Provide discipling opportunities with include:
 - a) Education of adults, youth, and children
 - b) Small groups and 1 on 1 discipling
 - c) Ministries: Men's Women's, and Seniors
 - d) Bible studies
 - e) Caring and connection, celebration, service, mission

We see Brookdale as a place where people can struggle honestly, experience grace, and discover how the Beauty of the gospel can transform every area of their lives. Quoting Rev. Bryan Gregory, "As a church we desire to be a gospel shaped people who are continually being changed into the image of Jesus...deep, lasting change in our lives."

JOIN US FOR

			
Palm Sunday April 2nd in the Sanctuary 10:30am	Maundy Thursday April 6th in the Fellowship Hall 7PM	Good Friday April 7th in the Sanctuary 7PM	Easter Sunday April 9th in the Sanctuary (bring flowers to flower the cross) 10:30am

Holy Week
at Brookdale Church
203 S. 31st Street

Holy Week at Brookdale

Palm Sunday April 2nd 10:30 Service with a Bible Gifting Ceremony for our Third Graders.

Maundy Thursday April 6th 7:00pm Brookdale Church will reenact the Last Supper and have Communion.

Good Friday Worship April 7th 7:00pm Brookdale Church will be reminded of the power of the Cross.

Easter Morning Service Sunday April 9th 10:30am We will celebrate Jesus' Resurrection with Easter Choir and we will flower the cross.

Hope For Tomorrow Dinner
Monday April 17 6pm Fellowship Hall



For more than a decade, Brookdale has partnered with Hope for Tomorrow Orphanage in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Many members have been there and supported the children. Kenneth Sese, the Director will be with us for dinner and a presentation in Fellowship. Please Put this on your calendar and Join us for dinner on April 17th.

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As you read through Acts this month, I want you to ask the question of yourself - what is my sphere of influence? Too often we think of power using the cultural definitions of political legislation, financial prosperity, or societal influence. Jesus pursued none of those things. His followers were committed to submitting all of their lives to making much of Him, even if it meant being mocked as "little Christs" who had nothing else to talk about. Everywhere became a place to share the Gospel - beginning in small house churches where families in a neighborhood would gather together, around synagogues as followers of the Way explained how Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures, in the marketplace as spending habits changed and generosity became the order of the day for these Christians, and yes some who found themselves with influence in civil spaces even spoke about Jesus and His Kingdom to their coworkers and leaders.

How will you proclaim the victory of Jesus over death with your spouse, children, parents, and siblings? With your neighbors? With your coworkers, employees and supervisors? With your teammates and coaches? With your teachers and students? Friends and enemies? Strangers, in person and online? Where will you take the news of Jesus, Lord and Christ? Where does He call you to go?
—Henry K.

Brookdale 2023 Lenten Gatherings

Each year during Lent we set aside time to remember the love of God that comes through Christ Jesus on the Cross in His death, His defeat of death and His resurrection that brings us Eternal Life.

Brookdale has been coming together as a family weekly to eat supper together, fellowship, and watch the Tv Series "The Chosen". "The Chosen" has given us the opportunity to get a glimpse of Jesus' life as we prepare ourselves during the season of Lent.

Our Ministry Teams came together to host family suppers with delicious food. We had table top questions each week for discussion.



The Ministry Team is sponsoring a cookout.

All the fellas are invited to the 2nd Annual Spring Cookout. There will be food, fun, and fellowship! Bring your friends and your lawn chairs. It will be held Saturday April 22nd from 5-8pm at Cory's Shop.

Woodland Tea Party

What is a woodland tea party?

A time for girls to enjoy friends and learn a little bit more about how much God loves them.

We had such a great time creating fun crafts, eating yummy snacks and playing in our Pre-K room. The girls were adorable. But my favorite part was our circle time story. We read from the Jesus Storybook Bible about how God loves us even more than the birds in the sky and the lilies in the fields. We reinforced that God made everything, that God loves what He created and that His word says our worth is greater than those. How encouraging for us to know that during times of uncertainty, or when we are anxious God is with us and He loves us.

Sue Bolander



St. Patrick's Day Luncheon



Our Senior Adults enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 14th at noon. They had a Delicious Baked Potato Bar with all the Trimmings and delightful desserts. Following lunch they listened to a guest speaker talk about the History of Lake Conrary. Very interesting hearing the history and seeing pictures from the time when Lake Conrary was a popular destination.

Session Meeting Summary-March 21, 2023

Elder Eric Poggemiller has resigned from Session. He and his family intend to go to Wellspring or another church that has more children the same age as his children.

Plans are progressing for Holy Week services which will include a Maundy Thursday service with communion and a Good Friday service in addition to our regular Sunday morning service in which we will flower the cross.

We will celebrate communion on Sunday, April 2, 2023.

The Transitional Pastor Search team has interviewed two candidate and plans to follow-up with each to see which may be the best fit. Continue to pray for this process.

Session continues to prepare to fill the duties for the Youth and Worship director when Henry Kritikos resignation becomes effective on May 31, 2023. Sue Bolander will lead the youth summer mission trip.

We will have two summer interns again. Dennis and Leah Peek and others will help with Sunday morning worship.

There is ongoing discussion about setting up a funeral committee.

The Presbytery is increasing per capita giving from \$15 per member to \$17 per member this year.

Elder Ann Weston was elected to be Brookdale's representative at the next Presbytery Meeting to be held on April 26th.

Session plans to begin meeting with small groups and others regarding communication about the concepts presented at the Leadership Retreat held with PIR Ministries.

April Birthdays

- 1- Kristin Lemon
- 4 - Andrew Schweder
- 9- Jen Schaeffer
- 10 - Drew Lemon
- 12 - Judy O'Donnell
- 13 - Joyce Clibon
- 15 - Carl Smith
- 16 - Ellie Larson
- 21 - Jim Burnham
- 23 - Beth Bachman, Drexel Midyett
- 24 - Andrew Schaeffer
- 26 - Annie Austin, Jerry Zweerink
- 28 - Henry Kritikos
- 29 - Mary Lou Marlowe
- 30 - Lydie Dean, Cyndy Poggemiller,
Laney (Beier) Withers

May

- 5 - Ed Bartelt
- 6 - Howard Miller
- 7 - Doug Paden

Lent Supper Thank You.

It was a joy to experience the fellowship of serving, gathering and watching The Chosen.

Thank you to Beth Bachman for having the dream of sharing the TV series with Brookdale's body of believers. And for asking me to facilitate.

Thank you to Travis Brinton for setting up and monitoring the audio/visuals. Especially the close captioning.

Thank you to Christina Huffman for helping to promote this event.

Thank you to the ministry teams for setting up, providing, and serving the meals throughout lent:

Women's Ministry, Deacons, Men's Ministry, Food Kitchen Team, Senior Adult Team, Elders. The food nourished our bodies and the time spent together nourished our fellowship.

Thank you to Henry Kritikos and Randy Dudik for facilitating tabletop discussion.

Thank you to our congregations for coming together, fellowshiping, supporting this event. It was a great time!

1 Corinthians 10:31—"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1 Peter 4:10—"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

Thank you, Lord Jesus for Your presence in our hearts.

HOLY WEEK is upon us. The last Wednesday supper will be April 5th with the Elders serving: pizza, salad, and BROWNIE BAR. We will complete that 1st season of The Chosen that evening viewing episodes 7 & 8.

—Julie Schmitt

Women's Ministry Update...

The Women's Ministry Leadership Team has been busy planning some upcoming event. Please Save the dates:

—Women's Spring Fellowship: Fellowship Hall, Saturday May 13th, 10-11am. More information coming soon.

—Women's Retreat: Heartland Retreat Center, Parkville, MO, September 8-10. We're hoping to have 20-24 women interested in some spiritual and recreational renewal. Again, more information to come. Interested? Let us know at donnaawsmith2@msn.com or 303-507-4401.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 Dance Fit
2 Palm Sunday Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	3 10:00 Women's Bible st.	4 6:30 Mens 5:30 Dance Fit 5:30 Personnel 6:30 Deacons	5 6:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible study 11:00 Daytimers 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Supper/The Chosen	6 9:30 Bible Study Feil. 10:30am Women's Ministry Meeting 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	7 6:30 Mens Bible Study 7:00 Good Friday	8 10:00 Dance Fit
9 Easter 10:30 Worship	10 Office Closed 10:00 Women's Bible st. 2:00 Women's Bible st. 5:15 Finance	11 11:00am Daytimers 5:30 Dance Fit 6:00 Trustees	12 6:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible study 5:30 Dance Fit	13 9:30 Bible Study Feil.	14 6:30 Mens Bible Study 2:00 Book Club at Doris Wyckoff's House	15 10:00 Dance Fit
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	17 10:00 Women's Bible st. 6:00 Hope For Tomorrow Dinner	18 5:30 Dance Fit 6:30 Session	19 6:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible study 11:00 Daytimers 5:30 Dance Fit 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	20 Haven House Food Kitchen 9:30 Bible Study Feil.	21 6:30 Men's Bible study	22 10:00 Dance Fit 5:00 Men's Ministry Spring Cookout
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	24 10:00 Women's Bible st. 2:00 Women's Bible st.	25 11:00 Daytimers 5:30 Dance Fit	26 5:30 Dance Fit 6:30 Mens Prayer Break-fast	27 9:30 Bible Study Feil.	28 6:30 Mens Bible Study	29 10:00 Dance Fit
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship						



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*Brookdale Church is called to
bring the beauty of the Gospel
to the brokenness of life.*

