Some Things Never Change
by PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

Back in 2004 I was still a relatively new pastor at Resurrection, working under the supervision of Pastor Bill Harmon. Pastor Harmon was and is, in my estimation, a uniquely talented leader in God’s kingdom.

Working with the staff and some key volunteers, Pastor Harmon started a new program that year, that he called One-for-One. The idea was very simple. Invite a friend to church. The goal was to encourage the people of Resurrection to personally invite friends, neighbors, coworkers, and anyone who might be without a church to join us for worship services and activities at Resurrection.

The new program was based on research conducted at the time. Data overwhelmingly suggested that the reason most people start attending a church is because they were personally invited by a friend.

Websites, mailings, great programs for all age groups, and well-designed news-

From Humble Beginnings,
A Song for the Ages
by KEN MEYN

Christmas is past. The trees are down, and the decorations put away for another year. We should, however, take note of one historical event of Christmas, 2018, before the season fades into memory.

December 24, 2018, was the 200th anniversary of the iconic Christmas carol, “Silent Night.”

This simple song had very humble beginnings. On December 24, 1818, Joseph Franz Mohr, the priest at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria, walked about two miles to visit a friend, Franz Xaver Gruber, in Arnsdorf. Gruber was a school teacher and the choir master and organist at St. Nicholas. Fr. Mohr brought
Some Things Never Change

Continued from page 1

paper ads were certainly also effective and necessary but were clearly secondary considerations in terms of what was drawing people to a church for the first time.

There was simply no substitute for a direct invitation from someone familiar.

That was fifteen years ago. The world has changed so much since then, and the changes keep coming, seemingly faster and faster. We’ve seen changes in our world and our culture, changes in technology and the way we communicate with each other. Approaches to parenting, eating, doing business, and being the church seem to be revolutionized every other week. To try and illuminate all that has changed since then would be an exercise in futility. It is all a bit overwhelming. Needless to say, many of us often struggle to keep up.

But not everything has changed. The unbreakable, unconditional love of Jesus Christ is and always will be the bedrock of our existence, into eternity. In addition, the call to reach out to others, to share the love of Jesus and make him known is and always will remain foundational to the work of the church in this world. As St. Paul writes in Romans 10, “How can they believe in the One whom they have not heard? And how can they hear if no one tells them?”

I recently saw new data, based on a survey conducted in 2018 by an organization that specializes in church outreach. According to their research, 86 percent of people who start attending a church do so because they were invited to do so by a friend.

... there is still no substitute for a direct invitation from someone familiar.

Technology has made communication more efficient and perhaps a bit more slick in the past decade and a half, but there is still no substitute for a direct invitation from someone familiar.

In 2019, we will continue to get the Word out. We will work to make Jesus known, holding fast to the belief that in Him is life, and that life is the light of all people.

The staff and leadership will do all that we can to make sure that worship services, programs, and everything happening here is top notch. We will keep the website updated, send postcards, create ads for local newspapers. We will strive to make inroads into our local communities.

But the most effective, most necessary facet of the church’s outreach efforts continues to be reserved just for you. Invite a friend to church! Sometimes there is simply no substitute for what God is able to accomplish working through you.

Pastor Jeff Browning
Pastor Browning is Pastor at Resurrection.

Notes & News

Women’s Ministry First Friday..........Fri, Feb 1, 7pm
An Agape Dinner, “a communal meal in token of Christian fellowship and love.” Sign up on Sign Up Row or via email. Info: Ellen Farber, ellen@resgc.org or Karen Schoenfeld, karen@resgc.org

Men’s Ministry Breakfast...............Sat, Feb 2, 8:30am
Devotion, prayer and discussion; topic is “Faith and Redemption”. Info: John Kingston thru the church office.

First Place 4 Health....................Mon, Feb 4, 7:30pm
The book Walking By Faith will help you learn to overcome obstacles to health and wellness.” Info: Parish Nurse Linda Wardley at 516/746-4426 ext 12 or Linda@resgc.org (Also 2/11, 2/25)

Confirmation............................Tues, Feb 5, 7pm
Info: church office, 516/746-4426. (Also 2/12)

Middle School Winter Retreat.........Fri, Feb 8, 8pm
Info, or to sign up: Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org

High School Prayer Breakfast.......Wed, Feb 13, 6:15am
Info, church office, 516/7464426 (Also 2/27)

SAIL Luncheon.........................Fri, Feb 15, 12:15pm
Info: Ruth Chisholm, thru the church office.

Loss of a Loved One - Shared........Sat, Feb 16, 1pm
Support group to help those hurt by the death of a loved one; Session includes prayer, discussion and sharing; lunch is served. Info: Ellen Farber at el-len@resgc.org, or Linda Wardley at linda@resgc.org

Middle School Game Night............Sun, Feb 17, 7pm
Information: Michelle Kollmeier, church office, 516/746-4426.

High School Youth Group...........Thurs, Feb 28, 7:30pm
Info: church office, 516/746-4426.

NOTE
The chime tree used by the Handbell Choir during the Christmas Eve preludes was donated by members of the bell choir and Worship Band in memory of Gaby Pugliese, one of the choir’s founding ringers.

Volunteers wanted: ushers, greeters, counters, altar guild members, choir members. Please consider joining the fun. Contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org

If you would like to have a special home blessing, please call the church office at 516/746-4426. Service of prayer and blessing takes about 15 minutes.
Faith & Music: Harmony
by DIANA AUER

Scientists have found that once a sound wave reaches your ear, your brain can recognize it in just 0.05 seconds. That’s ten times faster than the blink of an eye. That means that since there are 86,400 seconds in a day, our brain, theoretically, could recognize 1,728,000 sounds a day.

Among all those sounds is harmony. The basic musical definition for the term “harmony” is more than one pitch, or note, being played together. When you hear the word “harmony,” you may tend to think about a pleasing, even happy sound. However, the musical definition of the term allows for the inclusion of chords that may sound ominous, or even unpleasant to the listener.

Yet unlike the musical term, the colloquial definition of “harmony” speaks only to “agreement, peace or concord.” Why the difference between the definitions? Perhaps the answer lies in the focus: are we looking at the process of achieving harmony, or the act of living in harmony?

If one views the term “harmony” through the lens of the musical definition, the process of reaching harmony in our everyday lives allows for disagreements and moments that are displeasing. Musical harmony welcomes discord and is inclusive of all types of notes. This inclusivity is paramount to make the different types of chords that are essential to the stunning music that we enjoy. Difference and dissimilarity are embraced by harmony.

If we turn to the Bible, we can see that St. Paul instructs us directly on this point in Romans 12:16-18: “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

This goal should not be limited just to our direct, personal relationships, but our relationship with everyone we meet, every day.

Harmony may not be easily achieved, and the process may involve moments that are challenging or unpleasant. However, if we actively decide to seek out peace, and work to live and exist in harmony with every person that we meet, in the end, the result will be beautiful.

Diana Auer
is Director of Youth & Family Ministry. She loves to sing, bake and spend time with her husband, Matt and their miniature schnauzer, Ollie.

How about a “NO PHONE ZONE”?

Frankie & Benny’s, an Italian-American restaurant chain headquartered in London, is offering kids (under the age of 14) free meals. If their parents put their phones in a restaurant-provided box [during the meal], their children will get a free meal. While the chain is located only in the United Kingdom right now, and the challenge technically ended late last year, I’m hoping this promotion makes its way across the pond.

So, why target parents? Why not the kids? The restaurant chain decided to launch the “no-phone zone” promotion after their own survey found that 72% of children wished their parents spent less time on their phones, and 70% believed their parents enjoyed screen time more than they did. Frankie & Benny’s stated they wanted to “celebrate family time,” which is good news for families everywhere.

Hats off to Frankie & Benny’s. In the meantime, if you own (or work at) a restaurant, why not see if your establishment is interested in promoting healthier families via a similar promotion? And let’s all work to make our meal times at home a “no-phone zone.”

From “Silence is Golden—Especially If It’s a Silent Phone,” Plugged-In Blog post.
Getting to Know …
The Redfearn Family

Come meet the Redfearn family, whose life is filled with interesting endeavors and many Christian activities. They joined Resurrection Lutheran Church in 2016, but were involved with our Church since 2014.

Gita and Stan met at Skidmore College and recently celebrated their 32nd anniversary. They have three children. Justin, 31, is a graduate of Amherst College. He has been living in China for four years where he is teaching English and learning Mandarin. Melanie, 28, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, works in finance. Cameron, 15, has many athletic pursuits, is a talented musician and a sophomore in high school. Stan is a Commercial Appraiser. Gita is a Technology Director in the Financial Services field.

The Redfearn family was introduced to Resurrection by members Michael and Karen Zung. The Redfearens were immediately impressed with the welcoming demeanor of our parishioners. Cameron was baptized in September 2015 and confirmed in 2016. Gita remarks, “Cameron considers the Church as his second home.” He has volunteered for Vacation Bible School, Mission Trips, Box City, and has been a Sunday School Assistant. He also enjoys participating in the Youth Group Breakfast and events.” That is certainly a full agenda! However, not full enough for the Redfearn family. They’ve participated in Nights in Bethlehem, were Roman guards during Easter festivities, assisted with communion and served as readers during the worship services. Wow! We at Resurrection are certainly blessed to have the Redfearn family as part of our Christian fellowship.

The Christian roots of this lovely family were initiated by Gita’s and Stan’s mothers. Stan, who grew up on Long Island, comes from a family who were “deeply rooted in their Born-Again Christian faith.” Gita, who grew up in Tehran, Iran, had a “Christian Armenian mother with deep convictions in God and faith.” Gita attended the American Missionary School in Tehran. Since she was familiar with English and American culture through her exposure at the school, she opted to come to America.

The Redfearens are particularly impressed with Pastor Browning’s messages to the congregation, which make one feel he “is directly speaking to you” personally, and that his communication is “warm and down to earth.”

Furthermore, the family especially values the Bible verses, “this is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice” and “each day is a precious gift from God.” We are pleased to have this family as part of our Lutheran community.

As a specialized RN, was supervisor, community health speaker and certified diabetes educator. Later on worked in the NYC public schools teaching science.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily held by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. If you have questions or comments about any content, please contact Pastor Browning.
On a sunny morning in early spring, when you are young and in love, it is easy to stand before family and friends and speak the vow, “For better or worse.” But how many young couples realize it isn’t a choice? As the years go by, they will all face both, the better and the worse.

In February, the month of Valentine’s Day, we are reminded that Resurrection is blessed to have many couples with long marriages. I spoke with some of them and asked them for their secrets to a happy marriage.

Resurrection’s longest married couple are Jean and James Muff, who met as children and attended the same schools and church. Friendship turned into love, and they were married at St. John’s Evangelical Church in Glendale. They raised two children, volunteered at church, welcomed four grandchildren and were recently blessed with their first granddaughter. When asked about their secret to a long and happy marriage, Jean said, “Do your best to forgive and forget.” Their strong faith, sharing common interests, and devotion to family has kept their marriage strong.

Bernie and Helen Smith met after Bernie returned from the service. They married at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ozone Park. Helen said they had the usual problems of life, but they overcame them by keeping a sense of humor, working out problems together, never holding a grudge and never giving up on their marriage. They raised three children and have eight grandchildren.

Claire and Fred Garttner met in 1953 when Claire was attending a bridal shower. Claire recalls, “In walked this handsome guy delivering the cake.” They dated and married at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill, Queens. Fred claims the hardest obstacles were making ends meet while raising two children, buying homes, and caring for aging parents. They got through it with patience, love, respect and faith. They have been blessed with eight grandchildren.

While volunteering at The Home of the Incurables, (now St. Barnabas Hospital), Bill and Marie Meyer met. They were married at
Teens Take on New Role
by MICKI DOLAN

When we turn on the news, we often hear of troubled or trouble-making teens. Here at Resurrection we are certainly blessed to have so many teens with various interests, living Christ-centered lives. One of our latest programs, involving some of our teens, is especially fun and exciting, and a wonderful learning experience for all concerned.

On Sunday mornings, at 9:45, you will find our “High School Helpers” helping the younger students in Sunday School. These young men and women work with the children, under the guidance of the teachers and director, Mrs Jean Dietterick. Chloe and Emma DerGarabedian are the preschool helpers. Benjamin Woo helps out in grades 1 and 2. Cameron Redfearn enjoys working with the older children in grades 3, 4 and 5. Grace and Sarah Faley and Christina LiCalzi are also helpers involved in the program.

There are benefits to all concerned. The teens are great role models for our younger children. They patiently guide them and help them with puzzles, crafts, and Bible stories. They were also a big help in preparing the children for the Christmas pageant.

The feedback from our teachers is excellent. They love having these young people there to help out.

The teens find a sense of purpose and develop teaching strategies and other skills they may use in the future. Will they become teachers? Perhaps. But the kind and patient approach while working with others will serve them well in whatever fields they choose.

If you are in high school and are interested in being a helper in Sunday School, speak to Pastor Browning or Mrs Dietterick. It is a great way to have fun, acquire new skills while doing something to help others.

For Better and For Worse
Continued from page 5

St. Mark’s Church in Yonkers. After graduating from Concordia Seminary, in 1963, the Meyers served parishes in Columbia, SC, and Patchogue, NY, before coming to Resurrection. Pastor Meyer claims that the most difficult times were early in their marriage during their first assignment in South Carolina. Separation from family was very hard. But the Meyers overcame it with faith, prayer, love and laughter.

While writing this article, I asked my husband Jim for his secret to a long marriage. He replied, “Don’t get divorced.” Thinking this was one of his attempts at humor, I said (quite sternly), “I need a serious answer.” Jim calmly said, “A lot of young couples just ‘cut and run’ as soon as the first problem pops up. They need to work through it, just don’t give up”. I am the worrier in the family. Jim is the calm one. If I am stressed out over any problem, I will often say, “I just don’t know what to do.” He will always reply, “That’s okay; God knows what to do.” And He always does.

I think the common thread in all these marriages seems to be a strong faith and love of the Lord, a sense of humor, and that inexplicable love for each other that goes deep beyond that first attraction. In the words of the great philosophers Lennon and McCartney, “All you need is Love.”

For Better and For Worse

St. Mark’s Church in Yonkers. After graduating from Concordia Seminary, in 1963, the Meyers served parishes in Columbia, SC, and Patchogue, NY, before coming to Resurrection. Pastor Meyer claims that the most difficult times were early in their marriage during their first assignment in South Carolina. Separation from family was very hard. But the Meyers overcame it with faith, prayer, love and laughter.

While writing this article, I asked my husband Jim for his secret to a long marriage. He replied, “Don’t get divorced.” Thinking this was one of his attempts at humor, I said (quite sternly), “I need a serious answer.” Jim calmly said, “A lot of young couples just ‘cut and run’ as soon as the first problem pops up. They need to work through it, just don’t give up”.

For Better and For Worse

Continued from page 5

St. Mark’s Church in Yonkers. After graduating from Concordia Seminary, in 1963, the Meyers served parishes in Columbia, SC, and Patchogue, NY, before coming to Resurrection. Pastor Meyer claims that the most difficult times were early in their marriage during their first assignment in South Carolina. Separation from family was very hard. But the Meyers overcame it with faith, prayer, love and laughter.

While writing this article, I asked my husband Jim for his secret to a long marriage. He replied, “Don’t get divorced.” Thinking this was one of his attempts at humor, I said (quite sternly), “I need a serious answer.” Jim calmly said, “A lot of young couples just ‘cut and run’ as soon as the first problem pops up. They need to work through it, just don’t give up”. I am the worrier in the family. Jim is the calm one. If I am stressed out over any problem, I will often say, “I just don’t know what to do.” He will always reply, “That’s okay; God knows what to do.” And He always does.

I think the common thread in all these marriages seems to be a strong faith and love of the Lord, a sense of humor, and that inexplicable love for each other that goes deep beyond that first attraction. In the words of the great philosophers Lennon and McCartney, “All you need is Love.”
More Than Just Fun and Games
by ARIANA SCHRAM, Teaching Assistant and Physical Education Teacher

It is such a great blessing to be working in Resurrection’s Preschool this year! I am especially excited to be working with the students on physical education.

We have so much fun being active during our time in the gym! We spend our time together playing games that help the students further develop their coordination, gross-motor skills and balance.

During our time together, all of our activities encourage teamwork and positivity. Our games and activities often incorporate ideas being learned in the classroom, like the letter of the week. The games that we play also help the students with social skills, decision making and problem solving.

All of this just goes to say that we spend our time in the gym being active and having fun. Seeing the students enjoying themselves and learning new skills always brings a smile to my face. It is my goal to start the students on the path of healthy lifelong activity while also creating fun memories!

From Humble Beginnings, A Song for the Ages
Continued from page 1

with him a poem he had written two years earlier, and asked Gruber to set it to music.

Oberndorf sits next to the Salzach River, which had recently flooded, ruining the church organ. Because Mohr was desperate for music for the midnight Christmas Eve mass, he asked Gruber to compose a piece for guitar and two voices.

In only a few hours, Gruber wrote “Silent Night.” At midnight, Mohr and Gruber stood at the altar of St. Nicholas and sang, for the first time, the song that has become the very symbol of Christmas. It is estimated that the carol is now sung in over 140 languages throughout the world.

As the carol’s popularity began to grow, many people thought the music had been written by a major composer, possibly Beethoven, Haydn or Mozart. It was only in the mid-20th century that a manuscript version in Mohr’s own handwriting was authenticated, removing all doubt as to the song’s origin.

Because the Salzach River continued to flood often, St. Nicholas Church was demolished in the early 1900s. For the same reason, the entire town of Oberndorf was moved to a drier spot in the 1920s. At that time a small chapel was built on the original site of the church, commemorating the origins of “Silent Night.” A stained-glass window in the chapel shows Fr. Mohr with his poem.

It is thought that “Silent Night” was first heard in America in a 1839 concert near the famous Trinity Church in lower Manhattan. The carol was translated into the English words used today in 1863.

Interestingly, a literal translation of the German lyrics from verse one of “Silent Night” reveals somewhat different words from the ones we now sing.

Silent night, holy night
everyone sleeps; alone watches
the beloved, holy couple
blessed boy in curly hair
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Where do you find your comfort? When life gets rough, where do you turn? When you have questions, whom do you ask? When you don’t know what to do, where do you go? For me, the answer is church. Sometimes the comfort is just being in the presence of God. Sometimes it’s being around my church family. Sometimes it’s a hug from a friend. My father passed away almost 12 years ago. You know where I feel most close to him? That’s right, at church! He was a faithful servant of God and raised me to be the same. Because of his faith, he’s made my faith strong. And being at Resurrection has strengthened it even more.

**THINK**
My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God! How amazing is God’s love and grace? There’s no other place that I feel it, like I do when I’m in God’s house.

**Psalm 84:1-2**

Where do you find your comfort? When life gets rough, where do you turn? When you have questions, whom do you ask? When you don’t know what to do, where do you go? For me, the answer is church. Sometimes the comfort is just being in the presence of God. Sometimes it’s being around my church family. Sometimes it’s a hug from a friend. My father passed away almost 12 years ago. You know where I feel most close to him? That’s right, at church! He was a faithful servant of God and raised me to be the same. Because of his faith, he’s made my faith strong. And being at Resurrection has strengthened it even more.

**PRAY**
God of grace and love, continue to live in us and around us. Continue to help us find strength in You and all who serve You. Help us to understand how great Your love and grace are. Welcome us into Your home and presence. In Your name we pray, Amen.

**DO**
What an amazing opportunity we get... to be able to spend time with God in His presence. A place where we get to hear God speak to us through His word. A place where we get to be around people who help strengthen us every chance they can. A place where I can’t wait to see you again.

*Katherine Mitchell*

---

**Worship with Us**

Saturday 5:30 PM  
Sunday 8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:45 AM  

---

**Up next in our March newsletter ...**

The next issue of The Lamplighter will be our March publication, with articles on Comfort in Community at Lent, a Getting to Know You interview, the Spring Café Ablaze Coffeehouse event, Faith & Music: Topic of the Month, a Daily Bread devotional message, and much more.