



# The Parish Caller

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott Established 1880

"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

March 10, 2017

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Page 1

- ◆ This Week at a Glance
- ◆ From Pastor Jay

### Page 2

- ◆ "Our Choice: Peace or Violence?" From Moderator, Marti Garrison

### Page 3

- ◆ "Our Choice: Peace or Violence?" continued.

### Page 4

- ◆ Announcements
- ◆ Contact Us
- ◆ Stewardship

## This Week at a Glance...

- ◆ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:00 am
- ◆ **Sunday Lenten discussion:** 9:30 am
- ◆ **Sunday Worship Service and Fellowship time:** 10:30 am
- ◆ **AltarNotes Rehearsal:** 12:00 pm
- ◆ **PASS MEAL:** Wednesday 5:00 pm church parking lot
- ◆ **Wednesday Lenten chili and discussion:** 5:30 pm
- ◆ **Bell Choir Practice:** Thursday 11:00 am

## FROM THE PASTOR

This Sunday we consider perhaps the most recognized verse in the Bible – John 3:16 (thanks to the rainbow wig and John 3:16 sign at all sporting events for years!) John 3:1-17 is an account of a visit to Jesus by Nicodemus, and he gets more than he bargained for as Jesus confuses him with talk of being "born again." I can't think of a more important topic for our Lenten journey than our spiritual state. Are you "saved?" Are you "born again?" Come Sunday and find out! Jay



Nicodemus helping to take down Jesus' body from the cross (*Pietà*, by Michelangelo). Pietà nel Museo dell'Opera del Duomo di Firenze.

## Roland Wood

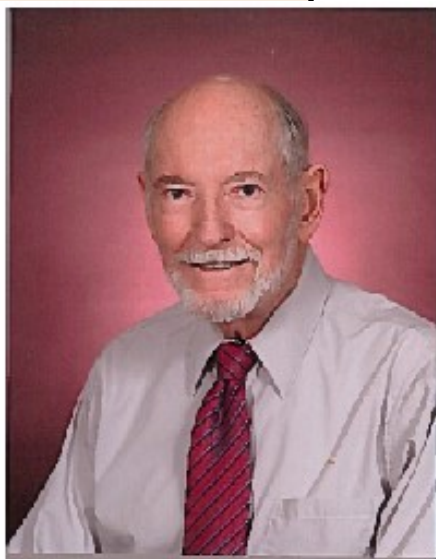
August 22, 1925 to February 24, 2017

The dearest, kindest man has gone to his home in heaven. Roland was born in Hoquiam Washington to Thelma and Glen Wood. After graduating from High School he joined the Army Air Corps to train as a pilot. Upon discharge in 1945 he married his beloved Phyllis Wells Wood. They had two sons, Jeff and Michael. Roland went to UCLA on the GI Bill and received a degree in business. Roland spent most of his working life in California and retired in 1993, and then moved to Prescott, Arizona. He was an active member of the Master Chorale and the First Congregational Church. He loved tennis, golf, singing and travel.

Roland was preceded in death by his Phyllis, his parents, and his brother and best friend Jeb.

He is survived by his loving wife Carolyn whom he married in 2001, his sons Jeff (Shelly), Michael (Teri), step children Shaun (Bob), Erin (Greg), and David (Krista), 11 grandchildren and their spouses, 6 great grandchildren and many many friends.

Go with God Roro, we will always love you!



# Our Choice: Peace or Violence? The path from Genesis 1 to Revelation 1.

By Rev. Marti Garrison

“How does the biblical struggle between Jesus, rider on the peace-donkey of the Gospel, and Jesus, rider on the war horse of Revelation, apply to the violence and disorder of our world?” This was the theme of four lectures, February 17 and 18, given by John Dominic Crossan, professor emeritus at DePaul University, noted biblical scholar and writer, and co-founder of The Historical Jesus. Four of our church members, Julie and John McCurdy, Marti Garrison, and Julie Jaquette attended this event at The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, AZ.



Crossan introduced his topic by contrasting the messages of Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Deuteronomy 28: 1-68. God the Creator of the archetypal story of Genesis 1 is what Crossan describes as The Great Householder, a name he believes is more appropriate than Father or Mother or any gender combination. Good householders make sure all people, animals, crops, land, and neighborly relations are in order. All receive enough, and those who need more care, the sick, infants, or elderly are attended to fairly. In the mythic poem of Genesis, God created this peaceful arrangement. It is the essence of “distributive justice,” which means justice and fairness built into creation.

And, all get a chance to rest; according to the seven days of Genesis, God rested and so did everyone and everything else. Being made in the likeness of God, we are called to be good stewards of all we have been given. Stewardship implies not working everyone to their last ounce of strength or exhausting the land. God was an architect of beauty and logic. If we betray that identify, we destroy ourselves.

Genesis 1 is the opposite of Deuteronomy with its lists of rewards but many more punishments. Crossan distinguished between consequences and punishments. Israel suffered for so long because warring armies had to cross its borders to avoid the impossible trek through the desert. This was simply a consequence, “bad luck,” not God’s punishment for the horrors inflicted upon Israel by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, and Romans.

The struggle between the archetypal models of our relationship with God: justice (meaning equality) and punishment (humans speaking for the angry God they create) dominates the Bible, said Crossan. The prophets primarily called for justice, saying yes to the God of Genesis and no to the God who punishes. Crossan defined the concept of a God who does not punish, who offers divine forgiveness and mercy, as counterintuitive and “radically absurd.”

During the first several hundred years of Roman rule over territories that included Israel, there were four huge rebellions. The usual Roman response was to crucify thousands of these rebels who actively resisted. What was different about Jesus? Why were his followers not crucified? Because they were non-violent. They accepted they might be killed, but they would not shed blood. In this light, Crossan interprets John the Baptist’s and Jesus’ relationship in an interesting way: John and his followers fasted because of what is coming, the revelation, the apocalypse. Jesus realized something was wrong with John’s strategy. He and his followers feasted, as in celebrating because the kingdom of God is already here; God is simply waiting for us to cooperate. For Jesus the divine covenant reads like this: we are waiting for divine intervention and God is waiting for us to meet God. The kingdom here is in cooperating with God, not God intervening with rewards or punishment. The consequence of our following God’s distributive justice is the peace and order of Genesis...or how that would look in the real world, then and now.

Parish Stewardship		
<b>Offerings</b>		
	<b>Feb</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Offerings	\$ 8,187	\$ 18,989
Other	\$ 5,201	\$ 5,595
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,388</b>	<b>\$ 24,584</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	<b>Feb</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Budgeted	\$ 19,731	\$ 45,407
Non-Bud	\$ -	\$ 5,849
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 19,731</b>	<b>\$ 51,256</b>
<b>Outreach Gifts</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Jan	\$ 135	\$ 270
Feb	\$ 170	\$ 195
Mar	\$ 949	\$ -
Apr	\$ 165	\$ -
May	\$ 279	\$ -
Jun	\$ 415	\$ -
Jul	\$ 4,373	\$ -
Aug	\$ 215	\$ -
Sep	\$ 240	\$ -
Oct	\$ 1,009	\$ -
Nov	\$ 625	\$ -
Dec	\$ 1,492	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,067</b>	<b>\$ 465</b>
<b>Attendance</b>		
1-Jan	78	
8-Jan	105	
15-Jan	104	
22-Jan	92	
29-Jan	128	
5-Feb	114	
12-Feb	82	
19-Feb	77	
26-Feb	81	
1-Mar	31	
5-Mar	94	

Continued on page 3

**“Our Choice: Peace or Violence?” Continued from page 2**

**NEW MEMBER /  
INQUIRER CLASSES  
APRIL 2&9**

**After worship,  
Moderator Marti  
will meet with  
those joining the  
church, and also  
anyone interested  
in learning more  
about the church  
for about 45  
minutes. All are  
welcome. New  
members will be  
received on April  
16.**

**EASTER SERVICES  
APRIL 16TH**

**Church Wide  
Family Potluck  
will follow the  
service. Signup  
sheet in Perkins  
Hall.**

**March Birthdays**

Betty Corn	13-Mar
Kathy Stephens	13-Mar
John Feuerriegel	15-Mar
Amy Wilson	15-Mar
Patty Gard	18-Mar
Andrea Worthington	19-Mar
Mack Gilpin	21-Mar
Jim Gilpin	22-Mar
Chuck Jarvi	22-Mar
Bret Ely	26-Mar
Andre Shrimpton	28-Mar
Roz Vedda	29-Mar
Sherry Hager	31-Mar
Kristin Steele	4-Apr
Wesley Bradstreet	5-Apr

Crossan noted that if Jesus is non-violent, then God is, and the other way around. This is a major paradigm shift: “God is not going to do it for you.” Crossan said “God is not going to clean up this mess for us. We have to do our part.” This is the radical vision that Jesus lived and taught, and it led to what some theologians call the “absurdity of the cross.”

Crossan finished his lecture series with examples from the Gospels showing how Mark is the least violent, intensifying up to and including John. The slow steady escalation of violence prepares for the Apocalypse. Instead of the peaceful donkey, subverting Roman might, Jesus appears on a war horse, and nothing could be further from God’s original Creation.

The final question Crossan left us with was which way have we chosen, and how will we open the window of opportunity of divine mercy? He stated human beings can change before it’s too late in this violent, greedy, and self-destroying world. This change is based on a dualistic vision: saying yes to justice; saying no to divine punishment. Perceiving God as a punisher simply reinforces how we punish ourselves and others. Acting on God’s call for distributive justice moves us out of the trap of violence that is ideological (considering others not human), rhetorical (speaking that), and physical (using power to execute those “others.”) Crossan asks if we are good householders. The answer speaks for itself....so far. However, God continues to reach, to wait, to forgive, and yes, to demand what is required of us: justice, mercy, and humility.

See [www.johndominiccrossan.com](http://www.johndominiccrossan.com)



**“HOSPITALITY” TEAM**

Thank you to those that attended our fellowship team meeting this last Sunday. “Hospitality” will be our focus for this group this year. Look for further announcements in upcoming Parish Caller for more details.

**CORY PAINTING**

Thank you to those who have made contributions to the Cory Replica. We have received \$270 so far to go towards the final cost for the digital copy, printing on canvas and framing, is \$1,026.68. If you would like to contribute to the expenses, please designate Cory on your gift. Thanks to all!

**STUDY GROUP FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT, STARTING MARCH 5**

Meet in the downstairs large meeting room (former library), 9:30-10:15.

Topics from the Series “Great Figures of the New Testament” by Amy-Jill Levine.

- March 12: Pilate
- March 19: Barabbas
- March 26: Centurions

These topics (parallel to those to be given the following Wednesday evenings by Rev. Harry Strong) are scheduled for those who prefer the Sunday morning time.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES BEGINS MARCH 8 - 5:30 to 7:00 pm**

Each Wednesday we will gather at 5:30 pm for a meal and then watch a video of Rev. Harry Strong portraying a character from the passion narrative.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| March 15 — chili | Pilate (Rev. Harry & Rev. Ralph Wagner)    |
| March 22 — soup  | Barabbas (Rev. Harry & Rev. Gary Gard)     |
| March 29 — stew  | Simone of Cyrene (Rev. Harry & Pastor Jay) |
| April 5 — soup   | Centurion (Rev. Harry & Marilyn Kirstine)  |

**Please help with the meal by signing up in Perkins to bring meal items each week!**

**EASTER SERVICE AND CHURCH WIDE FAMILY POTLUCK**

There will be a potluck meal after worship service, signup sheet is in Perkins Hall.

**OUTREACH FOR MARCH**

This month's mission emphasis is the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (PAHH). PAHH is entering its 28th year of serving working low income families. Thus far, 87 families have been helped to settle into their new homes. Construction volunteers may phone Gail Martin at 928 445 8003.

**Everyone deserves a decent place to live. Through shelter, Habitat for Humanity empowers people to build a better future for themselves and their families.**

From last month's mission emphasis, a check for \$490 is being sent to the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). PASS provides shelter and social services to women with children.

**Thank you for your support of our outreach to a world in need of compassion and justice.** Gary Gard, Mission Outreach Chairperson

Habitat for Humanity is the largest privately held homebuilder and regularly ranks as one of the top 20 homebuilders in the United States. So...

**what does it take to build a Habitat house?**



**The average Habitat house in the U.S. has:**

**1,200 square feet** of space  
**3 bedrooms**

**150 pounds** of nails  
**400** two-by-fours

**250 - 500 hours** of sweat equity from homebuyers, who help build their own home

**Habitat's national partners help build. In one year alone, their donations included:**

**288** roofing systems from GAF

**9,190** privacy blinds from Hunter Douglas

**215,943 gallons** of paint from Valspar

**42,914** locks from Yale

**100 football fields'** worth of STYROFOAM™ brand insulation from Dow

**63,402** Square D electrical products from Schneider Electric

**11,152** refrigerators and ranges from Whirlpool

**16,700** LED lights from Cree

**CONTACT US:**

216 E. Gurley Street  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
928-445-4555  
fccprescott@gmail.com  
Administration Office Hours  
Monday-Thursday 9:00 - 4:00  
Friday: 9:00 - 1:00  
Pastor Jay  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 - 1:00  
Other times by appointment  
Cell: 928-899-9066  
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

**Regularly Scheduled**

**PASS MEAL**

Once a month we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

Meets 9 am before worship on Sundays. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!

**BELL CHOIR PRACTICE**

Meets for rehearsal at 11 am on Thursdays

**PRAYER CHAPEL**

Called to Care weekly prayer group meets at 10:00 am on Mondays in the Chapel

**CABINET MEETING**

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

**PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library/Chapel. See Julie J. for more details.

**KNIT WITS**

Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month from 1-3 pm in the Office Conference Room.

**Lenten Series Schedule**

March— April 5th  
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm for meal and "Great Figures of the New Testament"

**Sunday Lenten Series Schedule**

For the month of March, Sunday morning at 9:30 "Great Figures of the New Testament"

LEARN MORE AT

**habitat.org**

