

St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter
April, 2011

Edification: Many and varied are the "Rites of Spring" that we anticipate every year. April showers begin to fall. Buds peak out and reach for the sun. And usually by this time the Cleveland Indians have been eliminated from the post season (though they're holding on this year). But what better rite of spring is there than the celebration of the resurrection of Christ that all the world calls "Easter"? Well, maybe not *all* the world. There's a town here in Ohio that decided that for their annual Easter egg hunt they need to jettison the "Easter" portion of that title. "Easter" is just too sectarian, too narrow. Some well-meaning Christians are quite offended by this action. "How can you remove the word 'Easter' from the annual Easter egg hunt", they indignantly ask. But have we lost the forest for the trees? Or more to the point, have we obscured the resurrection for the sake of indulging the children? Is the question *how can you remove the word Easter from the annual Easter egg hunt, or why are we having an Easter egg hunt to begin with?* Yes, Easter egg hunts are for the children. And yes, watching children excitedly hunt for eggs is sweet and adorable. But is that a *reasonable reason* for obscuring the remembrance of the resurrection of Christ? Has Western Civilization, specifically America arrived at the point where children are the final arbiters of what is good and right in society? Are children essentially innocent and their desires, inclinations and delights basically pure and safe to indulge at will? What has the culture of Dr. Spock created (Spock as in the baby doctor, not the pointy-eared Vulcan)? Is it a more enlightened society where the supposed innocence of children holds sway and leads the way?

Events/Information: We'll be meeting for bible study on 04/20/11 at 7:00 p.m. at the church gathering place (a.k.a. the church building).

"You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year." Deuteronomy 14:22

Encourage: In a very well known passage in the book of Romans the Apostle Paul says; *"There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one"*. Surely that can't mean children! Surely Paul can't be saying that! Children are innocent, their inclinations pure and undefiled. Whatever makes a child happy is what is good and right with the world, isn't it? When Paul lays out his case he creates a category that consists of all the righteous ones that do good. And who exactly belongs in that category? *None, no not one*. Not even children. Our hearts are desperately wicked from conception. We inherit our father Adam's fallen nature. We're not to be trusted, nor to be indulged. To indulge children is to indulge sin, theirs and ours. With great huff some may protest; come on, colored eggs and chocolate bunnies at Easter and elves and Santa Claus at Christmas aren't indulging some sinful inclination of children. OK, but what happens when those indulged inclinations have "grown-up" unchallenged? What happens for instance when the inclination is toward sexual relations in their teen years? What then? Then it may be too late. The sweet, adorable hunt for eggs is now over. The hunt now is not sweet, nor adorable. And nothing short of that routinely obscured resurrection can save them. God save us and our children from our own sinful indulgences. And may He begin with me.