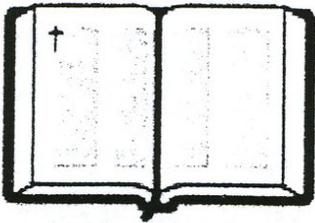


Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

MAY, 2009



CYCLE B APRIL LECTIONARY For the Lord's Day

5/3 4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23;
I John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

5/10 5th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31;
I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

5/17 6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98;
I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

5/24 7th Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1;
I John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

5/31 Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14;
Ps. 104:24-35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27,
16:4b-15

PASTOR'S PAGE: A GREAT EASTER HYMN FORGOTTEN FOR FIFTY YEARS

In addition to being one of the first English hymn writers, Charles Wesley was also the most prolific. His total output neared sixty-five hundred.

Charles Wesley wrote hymns morning, noon and night. One day when his horse fell from under him, his arm was almost broken. But his prime concern was that his injured arm delayed his writing for a whole day. When he courted, at forty, he wrote love letters in the form of hymns. He wrote hymns on his wedding day.

John Wesley, who was a great evangelistic preacher, held his brother's hymns in high esteem. He published them in his pamphlets and hymnbooks. But as the founders of Methodism grew into the sunset of life, John wanted to preserve the best of Charles' hymns in one great book. In the preface of his collection he pleaded that editors not "tinker" with nor alter any of his brother's poems, as they could neither "mend the sense or the verse."

But John Wesley might have served his cause better had he employed an editor. For he himself discarded "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" and one Charles wrote in 1739, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

In 1830, fifty years after John Wesley published his famous collection of his brother's hymns, an editor discovered "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" and included it in the Wesleyan hymnbook. Charles did not write the Greek word "Alleluia" at the end of each line; a "tinkering" editor did that to make the verses better fit an old Easter tune. But perhaps John Wesley wouldn't mind, for otherwise the world would have been denied one of his brother's finest hymns.

Christ the Lord is risen today,
Sons of men and angels say,
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply,
Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.

- from "A Hymn Is Born" by Clint Bonner

Peace, Bill