

# The Erie Evangel

April 2008

604 Holbrook Street  
Erie, CO  
80516

Year 2, Issue 4



## What's The Big Idea?

“On Biting Into A Lemon”

My reading, thinking, preaching, contemplation and study recently have all been around the question, “How do you relate Christian belief to Christian experience?” or, simply put “How do I experience God in my life?” Why is it so hard?

The preacher tells me that God is seeking me. Scripture tells me that, “If with all your heart you ever truly seek Me, you shall ever surely find Me.” Then, “Why do we struggle so to make the connection?”

I don't know ...

but since I am writing on the subject I'll give you a guess (thanks Fred) – my best prognostication at this stage of my life.

God does not want:

- Manufactured experience,
- Manipulated experience,
- Coerced experience.

God wants:

- Freely won responses,
- Heartfelt responses,
- Responses of the whole person.

God does not pack us in by the carload or push us through the same knothole into the Kingdom. God respects our individuality – different temperaments – personalities – aptitudes – and life experiences. I have five kids – they are all different. I can't treat any two of them the same.

I need some understanding of what life is all about, in Christian perspective, a belief system that gives content to my faith response. But, I believe, nothing is ever internalized or ‘really real’ until it is experienced.

I may know about a lemon – color – shape – attributes – etc. but its not until I take a lemon in hand – feel – smell – and then taste that I can say, “Wow, this really is sour.” I can believe in lemons with my head but its not until I experience a lemon with my senses that I actually know.

So, I believe, if we are faithful in doing the things that scripture describes that God (in God's own time) will honor what we do by giving us an awareness of the Presence “They were of one accord in one place when the Spirit came upon them.” We can, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” We have been given as an essential ingredient of our humanity (made in the image of God) the capacity to interact with the Eternal in our midst and in our hearts. As we worship, pray, serve, study and fellowship together God honors what we are doing and we are enabled to interface with the One who brings love, joy, forgiveness, power, glory, motivation, direction, hope and purpose to our lives. I'll see you Sunday at the “Experiencing Place.”

In Christ's Love,

## MISSION NEWS FOR APRIL



Mission is serving God and others. How does that happen? As we serve others, we also lift them in prayer-asking God to comfort those in need.

Erie UMC can celebrate these outreach activities :  
25 Easter baskets full of chocolate bunnies, candy eggs, socks and toys were delivered to “Growing Home”- a ministry to homeless families by Becky Lesser and her helpers. Thank you Becky!

Easter Egg Hunt for our EUMC children was organized by Dianela Trevino and Cindy Decker and the young moms!  
Thanks!

William Lewis, Program Director of Denver Urban Ministries, shared with the Ad. Min Board, their focus on treating clients with dignity and respect. EUMC donated 2 boxes of staple food items and a cash gift for their Food Bank.

Adopting a United Methodist Missionary in a Covenant Relationship-The Missions Work Area needs your help in selecting the one! Among those available are a doctor in Liberia, a young Bolivian woman serving in Angola and a Korean widow serving in Kazackstan. See the bios in the Fellowship Hall and vote for your choice!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 15 - Tessa Whittaker (birthday)

April 24—Fernando Olivarez

### Anniversary

April 22 - Alice & Jack Clark

**Our Church grows as we invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to share with us in worship, study, service, and fellowship.**

## Church Events For the Month of April

### March 26th—Wednesday

6:45 pm

Study Session—RECONNECTING

### March 30th—Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Church 10:30 a.m.

Potluck Dinner following the service.

### April 2nd—Wednesday

Final Study Session—RECONNECTING

### April 6th—Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Church 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship after service in church hall

### April 8th—Tuesday

April Administrative Board Meeting-6:00 pm

### April 13th—Sunday

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Church, 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship after service in church hall

### April 16th—Wednesday

Women's Fellowship—1.00 p.m.

### April 20th—Sunday

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Church, 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship after service in church hall

### April 27th—Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Church 10:30 a.m.

Potluck Dinner following the service

### May 11th

10:30 a.m.

**PENTECOST CELEBRATION**

**(Wear red to church)**

### HYMN REQUESTS??

Write your request on a piece of paper and please leave in the offering plate. Lets make a joyful noise together and share the old favorites !!





### **Prayer Concerns**

**Nancy Ingenberg**, in St Anthony's hospital, for knee surgery.  
**Madeline**, a speedy recovery. We missed seeing her this past Sunday.  
**Marshall**, in Last Chance, concerns re health.  
**Kenneth Heffy**, in nursing home, having hard time walking.  
**Ronald, Horis**, having hip surgery.  
**Dee Hill**, returning home to California, facing some tests re health.  
**Joanie Calhoun's sister** in Alabama facing health issues.



The Rocky Mountain Conference offers a variety of Camping Experiences for Children and Youth. If you are interested, the brochures are in the Church Office. Contact Jim.

### **ACOLYTE**

Each week we light the candles in front of the church. There is a symbolic meaning behind how and why this is done, through the use of acolytes.

The Word "acolyte" is derived from the Greek word akolouthos, meaning companion, attendant, or helper. It refers to anyone performing ceremonial duties such as lighting and extinguishing the altar candles and ringing the church bell to call the congregation to worship. The acolyte can be any age or gender (usually 10 and up).

The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Before extinguishing the altar candle, the acolytes relight their candle lighter and then leave the sanctuary. This symbolizes the light of Jesus going into the world where believers are called to serve, illustrating that Jesus is for all people everywhere.

"Acolyte" Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 7 March 2008

—<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acolyte>—

Cindy Decker  
Church Worship Committee

## Volunteers Needed for Children's Programs

We are excited about the growing number of children coming to our children's Sunday School and activity time during worship each week! Our nursery is open and staffed to take very young children during worship. And we now have a new monthly youth program. At Erie UMC we love our children and youth, and take seriously our baptism vows to nurture and help them grow in Christian love.

Our children's program is a vital ministry of our church and as we continue to expand we need more help. If you would like to volunteer to help, please talk to one of the Education Board members (Becky Lesser (chair), Violet Ann McTavish, Theresa Pelser, Joanie Calhoun and Linda Freund).

### ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AGES 13 AND UP—JOIN TNT!

Our new monthly youth group began with Gen Bachelder, Susie Glennen, Scott Glennen, Nathan McAdams, Ian McAdams, and Michael Pelser and his friend Justin having food and fun at Gunther Toody's with Pastors Jim and Linda.

We are off to a great start with a new name selected by the youth—"TNT". With a name like that we are expecting to have an explosive and unpredictable group! This month we will be coming up with a list of activities that will make this a fun group with things *you* want to do, not stuff your parents think up!

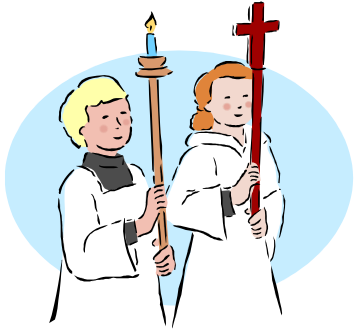
**Bring a friend and meet at church at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 13.  
We will have pizza and fun. Don't miss out!**

A Remarkable Puzzle....

Test your Bible Skills!

Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is the most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot....that's a fact. Some people will find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentation from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like! Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuation or spaces in the middle or normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete.

Remember, there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph.



### Acolyte Training

Children who are 8 years old or older are invited to participate in our worship services by becoming an acolyte. We are planning a training to be held this spring to help you learn about the role of the acolytes and what you need to know to become one. All acolytes must attend this training, either for the first time or as a refresher. If you are interested in being an acolyte, please contact Becky Lesser at 303-828-4190.



We received great news that our own **Stacey Glennen** has graduated from Basic Training and is home in Erie with her family.

The **Powells** are proud to announce the birth of Bethany & Griffin Bengie , their new twin grandchildren.

**Joe & Lisa Guarnero** are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda to Jordan. Wedding to take place in Utah, in December. We wish them all the best.

## LENTEN STUDY FOR ADULTS DRAWS TO A CONCLUSION

### OUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY

Our Lenten study is about renewal and reconnecting with God's Story. We have had a group of 12-14 people every week, and everyone is very engaged with short readings and learning about John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and our church. You are welcome to join us, even if you have not been able to come to our earlier sessions.

We are meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 to 8:15. Here is the schedule of sessions remaining:

- Mar 26: The church today: Connecting the past and future
- April 2: What does this mean for Erie UMC?

We have been stretched by our reading, reflection and our discussions. There are no prerequisites for this study, nothing you need to have studied before—your own experiences and struggles with church and your faith are all that is needed. Feel free to join us for these final sessions. If you have any questions about the study, or if you have young children and need help with childcare, please contact Linda Freund at (303-733-

### NOTICE:

**Please if you have any prayer concerns, joys, pictures or articles that you would like to include in the newsletter, please put in my mailbox which is located in the church hall.**

# April 2008

| Sun                                   | Mon | Tue                            | Wed                                    | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|
|                                       |     | 1                              | 2<br>Final Study<br>Session<br>6:45 pm | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6                                     | 7   | 8<br>Admin<br>Board<br>6:00 pm | 9                                      | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13<br>Youth<br>Group<br>2:30 pm       | 14  | 15                             | 16<br>Women's<br>Fellowship<br>1:00 pm | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20                                    | 21  | 22                             | 23                                     | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27<br>Potluck<br>Following<br>Service | 28  | 29                             | 30                                     |     |     |     |