

Weavings, continued...

5. The "Military Theory" sees the world caught between the forces of good and evil. God's omnipotent love pronounces a sovereign "NO" against the evil which seeks to destroy creation by putting all our sin, rejection and rebellion on Christ's shoulders and destroying it with the death of Jesus. Sometimes, the imagery is one of God delivering us from the captivity of the devil by the victory of the cross.

Which theory best expresses your understanding of what happened to Jesus in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago? May the mystery of the cross continue to haunt us and transform us as we follow the way of our Lord.

Peace & Joy,  
Gary Weaver,  
Executive Presbyter

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### **Presbytery Calendar**

(subject to changes/additions)

- March:** 1 – Ash Wednesday  
2-4 – Synod Meeting, Denver  
5 – Taize Worship Service, 7 pm, Ascension Episcopal, Pueblo  
7 – Pueblo/Canon City pastors lunch, noon, DC's on B St., Pueblo  
8 – Personnel Committee, 10 am, First/Pueblo  
9 – Mediation Team, 11 am, First/Pueblo  
10 – Evangelism & Church Dev., 11 am, Ivywild/Colo. Springs  
11 – Faith Reflection Group, 9:30 am, call for location  
14 – Committee on Ministry, 11:30 am, Presbytery office  
15 – Presbytery Worship Planning committee, 9 am, First/Pueblo  
15 – Mission & Interpretation, 11 am, Westminster/Pueblo  
16 – New Church Development, 1:30 pm, First/Pueblo  
22 – Congregational Services, 11 am, La Renaissance/Pueblo  
23 – Colo. Springs pastors lunch, 11:30 am, Guiseppe's  
30 – Spirituality Group, 10 am, call for location
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- April:** 2 – Taize Worship Service, 7 pm, Center for Inner Peace, Pueblo  
5 – Budget Committee, 9 am, Presbytery office  
6 – Blue Tigers, 10 am, First/Pueblo  
14 – Good Friday: Presbytery office closed  
16 – Happy Easter!  
21 – Preparation for Ministry, 1 pm, First/Pueblo  
22 – Presbytery meeting, 8:30 am registration, First/Pueblo  
27 – Pueblo Presbytery's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
28 – Submissions due for *Connections* newsletter  
29 – Stewardship workshop, 10 am, First/Colorado Springs
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- May:** 7 – Taize Worship Service, 7 pm, First UMC, Pueblo  
9-11 – Wee Kirk conference, Glorieta, NM  
11 – CLP Coordinating committee, 10 am, First/Pueblo  
19 – Evangelism & Church Dev., 11 am, location TBA  
31 – Mission & Interpretation, 11 am, Westminster/Pueblo

Start Planning Now For  
**SUMMER CAMP 2006**

**June 19 ~ 24, 2006**

**Horn Creek Ranch, Westcliffe, CO.**

***Camp Registration Opens March 1***

Cost: \$260 per camper

Camp Packets will be mailed mid-February. Your packet will contain:

- Registration information
- Camp registration form
- Cabin Leader registration form
- Intern registration form
- Answers to F.A.Q.'s



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### **Presbytery Meeting Highlights**

At the Stated Meeting on February 1, 2006, the Presbytery met at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pueblo. After enjoying refreshments and fellowship, the Rev. Bob Mitchell and his wife, Claudia led the Presbytery in a service of worship, using an ancient spiritual discipline called "Lectio Divina."

The Mission Study Task Force presented four "scenarios" for the future of our presbytery's structure and mission. All the churches' sessions, along with other pertinent groups, were asked to review these scenarios and send their feedback reports to the Task Force by April 4.

The business portion of the meeting included the following:

- During Gary Weaver's Executive Presbyter "State of the Church" report, he distributed "Certificates of Achievement" and "Certificates of Growth" to the top three churches based on the 2004 statistical report.
- Inquirer Steve Merrin was approved as a Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament.
- Presbytery accepted the resignation of the Rev. Ivan Rymes as pastor of the Ivywild Community Church on April 30.
- An Administrative Commission was elected to install the Rev. Gwen Brown as Designated Pastor of Kirkwood Memorial Presbyterian Church in Penrose on Feb. 12.
- Two Overtures were approved to be sent to the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Birmingham, AL, Jun 15-22. Christy Fisher was elected as our G.A. Youth Advisory Delegate. Our G.A. Commissioners are: the Rev. Quinn Fox, First PC/Colorado Springs; and elder Debbie Buckman, Gateway PC.
- The Rev. Dr. Jim Singleton presented an excellent workshop on "Becoming a Missional Church."
- Ten scholarships are available to the Western National Leadership Training Event in Jackson, WY, Oct. 4-6, 2006.

## TRANSITIONS & CONCERNS

- The **Rev. Sandra Lester** resigned as Associate Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church December 31, 2005 to pursue doctorate studies.
- The **Rev. Gwen Brown** was installed as Designated Pastor of Kirkwood Memorial Presbyterian Church in Penrose on Feb. 12.
- The **Rev. Maurice Campbell** will be Honorably Retired effective March 1, 2006.
- The **Rev. JoAnn Brechbill** will be Honorably Retired effective March 31, 2006.
- The **Rev. Dr. Ivan Rymes** will resign as Pastor of Ivywild Community Church, April 30, 2006.
- Trinidad United Presbyterian Church is preparing to call the **Rev. Gary Gardner** as Installed Pastor.
- First Presbyterian Church in Salida will be presenting a candidate to be examined to be ordained and installed as Associate Pastor at the April 22 Presbytery meeting
- The **Rev. Victoria Isaacs** was transferred from Denver Presbytery to Pueblo Presbytery at the Feb. 1, 2006 Presbytery meeting.
- The United Presbyterian Church in Canon City is searching for an Associate Pastor, and Faith Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs is progressing toward calling a new Pastor.
- Remember to use the Presbytery's Weekly Prayer Calendar in your prayers. Requests for March through May, 2006 are:
  - March 5 – First Presbyterian Church in Monte Vista.
  - March 12 – Colorado Council of Churches.
  - March 19 – Presbytery's Presbyterian Women.
  - March 26 – Alamosa Presbyterian Church.
  - April 2 – Cooperative Care Center in Colorado Springs.
  - April 9 – United Church of La Jara.
  - April 16 – Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission.
  - April 23 – Bristol Presbyterian Church.
  - April 30 – First Presbyterian Church in Salida.
  - May 7 – Ecumenical Social Ministries in Colorado Springs.
  - May 14 – United Presbyterian Church in Canon City.
  - May 21 – Covenant Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs.
  - May 28 – CEPAD (Council of Evangelical Churches), our mission partner in Nicaragua.

(The Prayer Calendar can also be accessed online at our website at <http://www.pueblpresbytery.org/prayercalendar.htm>)

Best Wishes for a  
Blessed Lenten Season  
and a very Happy Easter  
~from the staff of your Presbytery



# Presbyterian Connections

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of Pueblo  
Synod of the Rocky Mountains \* Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
803 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. H, Pueblo, CO 81003 \* Phone (719)542-1013/(800)662-1013  
\* FAX (719)545-7956  
Website: [www.PuebloPresbytery.org](http://www.PuebloPresbytery.org) \* E-mail: [pueblpby@qwest.net](mailto:pueblpby@qwest.net)  
First Quarter, 2006

The Presbytery of Pueblo believes we are called

as the body of Christ to...

Learn to live together,

Live to love each other,

Love to serve God and neighbors.



## WEAVINGS

As we approach the Season of Lent, we are reminded that it is traditionally a season of atonement for Christians. It is a time to reflect on our sinful nature and how God overcame sin through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. It prepares us to once again encounter the mystery of the cross. Why did Christ suffer and die on the cross? Theologians and religious leaders have tried to answer that question since Jesus was nailed to the cross. We refer to it as "atonement theories." We know of at least five classical atonement theories derived from scripture which I will try to briefly describe.

1. The "Forensic or Financial Theory" reminds us that the "wages of sin is death." Before the "Judge," we are pronounced "guilty" and the sentence is death. But the One who is without sin stands in for us to pay the price for our sin and to ransom us from death row. Christ is our substitute for the execution we deserve.

2. The "Sacrificial Theory" focuses on Jesus as "the Lamb of God" who is sacrificed for our sinfulness. Because of God's unlimited love, God sacrifices God's only Son to reconcile us to God. The "High Priest" does not sacrifice an animal but rather sacrifices himself for us.

3. The "Second Adam Theory" emphasizes Jesus' perfect obedience to God which reverses the effects of Adam's disobedience in the Fall and the resulting sinfulness of humankind. Even under the threat of persecution and death, Jesus still trusts the life-giving love of God.

4. The "At-One-ment" Theory sees Christ as taking into his divine self all our sin, corruption and death and healing it with his life-giving nature. We are made whole, "one with Christ," because of Christ's absorbing our sinful nature and transforming it by his divine love. Because Christ does not return our hatred and violence but absorbs it, the cycle of death is broken and we are transformed with Christ's forgiving love.

*continued...*