



THE STEEPLE

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois



APRIL 2014

When Hollywood does Jesus, you can expect a few examples of dramatic license. Since the gospel writers aren't composing a biography, there are a lot of details that have to be filled in. Although I wasn't pleased how the *Son of God* movie altered the raising of Lazarus, the portrayal of Pilate was thought provoking.

In an early scene as Pilate enters Jerusalem, he commands his soldiers to clear the roadway of a broken down cart that is blocking the path of the processional into Jerusalem. When the cart is overturned, a small boy is killed.

While we think of Pilate as a weak willow swaying in the wind of public opinion, the truth is that Pilate was more like Vladimir Putin. The weak did not become Roman governors; even of a backwater post like Jerusalem. The movie correctly displays the ruthlessness, political skill and tenacity of a Roman governor.

Whether it was because of his wife's dream or his own questioning of Jesus, Pilate regarded Jesus as innocent. More than this, Pilate understood that Jesus' kingship was no threat to his political authority. He saw no reason to put Jesus to death.

Using all his political skill, Pilate tries to arrange for Jesus' release. The crowd may release Jesus or Barabbas. The choice is an intentional one. Pilate assumes the crowd will find repugnant the release of a professional thug like Barabbas. When the crowd persists in seeking Jesus' crucifixion, Pilate lets Barabbas go. He indicates his disapproval of the decision by literally and symbolically washing his hand of the decision. Ultimately, Pilate fears a riot by the crowd more than he fears Jesus.

With a public execution, a placard often hung above the person listing their crime. Pilate commands his soldiers to inscribe the placard with the title, *King of the Jews*. The High Priest protests that it should read that Jesus claimed to be King of the Jews. Dismissing the complaints, Pilate commands that it shall remain as written. With the posting of the sign, Pilate shows that he is in charge and reveals his displeasure with the outcome of the Jesus incident.

Throughout this last month, we have considered two questions: *Who Is Jesus* and *Do You Know Jesus?* Pilate knew who Jesus wasn't: *that he wasn't claiming the political throne of David, that he wasn't a threat to the mighty Roman Empire.* Beyond all this, Pilate knew that there was something special about Jesus. He was more trustworthy and truthful than the other religious leaders.

While only a small portion of Pilate's questioning of Jesus is reported, we may conclude that Pilate spent time pondering what to do with Jesus. . Pilate would have received reports on Jesus from his officers and spies. So he knew about the healings, heard oral reports of his teachings, and certainly was aware of Jesus' welcome into the city on Palm Sunday. More than sorting through the political considerations, Pilate wanted to spend time with Jesus because he found Jesus fascinating. Jesus' charisma must have been evident; otherwise the crowds would not have gathered around him.

John's report of this part of their conversation is most insightful: **"So you are a king, are you?" returned Pilate. "Indeed I am a king," Jesus replied; "the reason for my birth and the reason for my coming into the world is to witness to the truth. Every man who loves truth recognizes my voice. To which Pilate retorted, "What is 'truth'?"**

Continued on Page 2



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To make the step from curious seeker to an ardent believer, Pilate would have had to confess that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life. He was not willing to make that leap. As we celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter, we continue our reflection upon those two questions that drove our last sermon series: *Who is Jesus* and *Do You Know Jesus?* It is not enough to know who Jesus isn't like Pilate or even to know who Jesus is like the rich, young ruler. We need to *know Jesus*, that is, to be connected to Jesus as one of Jesus' followers. Until we reach the point of belief, God isn't satisfied. For God's intent is that every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

In a nutshell, that is what we do on Easter, April 20th during the 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. worship services. We proclaim that not only do we know *who Jesus is*, we *know Jesus!* Indeed, we believe that He is Risen! Jesus is for us the Way, the Truth, the Life. See you on Resurrection Sunday!

Pastor Daryl



THANK YOU

➔ *Thank yous are saved throughout the month and included in the next month's newsletter.*

THANK YOU: I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers said and all the cards written. They have been most helpful in my recovery. I thank Pastor Daryl for his calls and visits to check on my progress and to pray with me. All of this makes me feel so good and so glad that God has me working a wonderful job at such a place as St. Paul UMC. This is a good, caring church family. Thank you so much for working with me so I could take the time needed to have this surgery and to recover. Thank you also to Phil Tite for stepping up to the task and filling in for me while I was gone. *Joe Hanfelder, custodian*

“The other side of the pillow; bakery air; when socks from the dryer match up perfectly; finding your keys after looking forever; the friendly nod between strangers out doing the same thing; celebrating your pet’s birthday even though they have no idea what’s going on; when you hear someone’s smile over the phone.”

~from The Book of Awesome,
a compendium of the often-overlooked
joys in life~



© BK1
“When we say grace, do we look up at Heaven, or down at the food?”



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- We welcome **Ava Grace Toner**, born March 1, 2014 and weighing 7lbs. 4oz. Her parents are Matt & Kristen Toner; big sisters are Emma & Ella; grandparents are Mike & Teresa Toner; and great-grandparents are Chuck & Rosalie Toner. Congratulations everyone!
- We also welcome **Holden Matthew Herndon**. He was born on March 31, 2014 weighing 6lbs.13oz. His parents are Matt & Allison Herndon; big brother is Harper and big sisters are Kiley and Katie; grandparents are Jim & Jane Herndon; and great-grandmother is Mary Herndon. Congratulations to all!
- Thank you to **CRAVE** who sponsored the Soup & Potato Bar to raise funds for Vacation Bible School. **\$416 was raised!** Among the things we want to do is to purchase reusable nametags. Since we have more children in VBS with allergies, we want to place this vital information on the nametags. The theme this year is "*Workshop of Wonders*" and the music is terrific. If you would like to volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School, contact Jamie Gwaltney at 692-0898.
- Thank you to **Iris Uzzell, Lindsey & Kevin Rader**, who attended the Radical Hospitality Workshop at St. John's United Methodist Church with Pastor Daryl. Thanks to **Lindsey & Kevin Rader, Betsy Blacklock, and Harvey Chiles** who are participating in the How to Reach Younger Adults process on behalf of our church. We began with a weekend seminar at Tuscola United Methodist Church. Plans are already rolling out from these two events that will bring needed changes to our church.
- Thank you to the **Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts** for raking the leaves and gumballs in the park to help us get ready for the outdoor services this summer. It rained on it all first so these guys were raking up heavy, wet leaves. Great job!
- We wish Godspeed to **Rev. Larry Lacher** of the Roxana Church of the Nazarene. He will be leaving after his last service on April 13th to go to Roswell, NM to become pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene there. Rev. Lacher has been in Roxana over 20 years and he is really going to be missed by all of us! We pray for the Roxana church family as they seek what God has next for them.
- We offer our sympathies and prayers to the families whose loved ones have died: the family of **Izaac Thaxton**, EA/WR High School senior; the family of **Ella Weller**, sister-in-law of Jack Weller; the family of **Norma Sands**, mother/mother-in-law of Deanna (step-daughter of Vivian Sands-Franklin) & Mark Barnes; the family of **Virginia Thomasson**, church friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Victor "Chris" Greer**, brother of Connie Hickerson & Jeff Greer; the family of **Donald Taylor**, husband of Eva Taylor (both members of St. Paul UMC); and the family of **Mildred Love**, aunt of Kay Gwaltney. May God bring you all His magnificent comfort and healing.

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.

~Martin Luther

The resurrection proclamation could not have been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact.

~ Paul Althus, Theologian

Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection.

~Watchman Nee, Christian Author & Church Leader

The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in.

~Peter Marshall



Sundays at St. Paul in APRIL 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services

“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery are provided for the 10:30 a.m. Service.

6 5th Sunday in Lent. Communion celebrated. We focus today upon the cross. Pilate believed Jesus was innocent of the charges against him. He provided multiple opportunities for the Jewish officials and even the crowd to release Jesus. Unwilling to go against the crowd, Pilate washed his hands of any responsibility for Jesus' death. Today we consider questions like this: *Was Jesus' death pre-determined by God? Did Jesus have the choice of another way? What does it mean for us that Jesus chose the cross?*



13 PALM SUNDAY. Birthday Sunday. Children's Palm Processional during 10:30 a.m. service. The Easter Egg Hunt follows the 10:30 a.m. service. Today, we celebrate the victorious entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. For one day, the crowd, Jesus, and the disciples were in sync. All recognized



Jesus as the Messiah whom God had sent in fulfillment of His promises. Later in the week, everything fell apart. We retrace Jesus' journey from joyous celebration to the seeming defeat of the cross.



20 EASTER. One writer described the Resurrection of Jesus as *the hinge of faith*. Another pronounced it as the *foundation of faith*. Historians writing at the time of Jesus noted that the disciples' claim of Jesus' Resurrection had created a stir in Jerusalem. We focus today upon how the Resurrection is a game changer for our life. Without the Resurrection, our faith and our practice is foolish. Living Jesus' life only makes sense if the Resurrection is real.

27 2nd Sunday of Easter. The Cavaliers Quartet returns to sing at both worship services. Their music ranges from Southern Gospel to contemporary praise music. A free will offering will be taken for the group.



Church Mice

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On that bleak barren hillside
our hope was all gone...
Cold darkness descended...
how could we go on?



But this new Sunday morning
tears of joy fill our eyes...
Our hope finds new life
as we watch the Son rise...





Nurses Notes for APRIL 2014

*“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song!”
-Pope John Paul II*

Spring, such a happy time of year. The weather outside finally welcomes us as we shed our blankets, snuggies, and other wraps of winter. The daffodils and other blossoms peek out, and we eagerly await new life- and a renewed sense of hope. We smile, as we find it easier to stop and tarry a few minutes longer to visit with friends, instead of running inside to get warm. We also have a smile in our hearts at this time of year- for yes, we are the Easter people! We remember and celebrate the empty tomb! We are joined by faith in Christ’s work on the cross and His resurrection- and will die, then blossom and live eternally! That deserves a hallelujah!

Did you know according to The National Institutes of Health children 6-19 (or 1 in 3 kids) is overweight. Obesity in children (and adults) is an epidemic in our country- with devastating results. Being overweight or obese can increase the risk for heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and certain cancers.

In 2005 The National Institutes of Health began a program called “We Can,” Ways to Enhance Children’s Activity and Nutrition. “We Can” had resources to assist parents to promote a healthy weight in children and themselves. The April bulletin board will have information on this issue, plus a list of additional information that can be pulled off websites. If you do not have a computer and are interested in the information please let me know. Being overweight does not happen overnight- it happens one pound at a time. I know this as I have battled weight for many years too. But just one small change can make a difference. After that change becomes a habit, then change one more area in your diet or activity- and it won’t be long until you will see changes and feel better. If anyone wants a suggestion where to start- give up your soda! This includes diet soda- as the artificial sweeteners have been found to stimulate appetite. Try water or switch to tea and use a natural sweetener such as stevia.

NOW FOR “THIS AND THAT”...

Alton Memorial’s Convenient Care is up and running and doing well. They are located on Godfrey Road across from the McDonald’s and are open 7 days a week (including holidays) from 2 p.m.-10 p.m. They are available to treat minor illnesses and injuries. It could save you a trip to the ER for a sore throat, etc. No appointment is necessary.

Alton Memorial welcomes Dr. Daren Kest. He is an ENT (ear, nose and throat) specialist. His emphasis is sinusitis, head and neck oncology, and sleep apnea/snoring. 618-463-7247 for an appointment.

Are you confused by the new health insurance laws? BJC has certified assistants on site at the hospital to answer questions and even help you apply. You can call 314-747-4994 or toll free 855-747-4994 and they will assist you with a local appointment.

Skin screenings with Dr. Ahmed will be Wednesday, April 9th at the Cancer Center at AMH. This is a free screening; no treatment will be done at this time. Do you have a suspicious area that you would like to have looked at? Call 1-800-392-0936 for an appointment.

Have a joyous Easter celebration!
Eileen, Parish Nurse

*“Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness
and despair to strength and beauty and happiness.”
Floyd W. Tomkins*





April 01 Hartman, Amy
 April 02 Williams, Randy
 April 02 Foiles, Jarod
 April 03 Voorhees, Mike
 April 03 Voorhees, Mitch
 April 03 Challandes, Karen
 April 04 Bunt, Evelyn
 April 04 Martin, Tom
 April 04 Ford, Donald Jr.
 April 04 Hartman, Payton
 April 05 Pruetzel, Rohland
 April 05 Moore, Kelly
 April 05 Mayer, Jason
 April 06 Sitze, Barb
 April 06 Winchester, Jessica
 April 07 Acton, Vicki
 April 07 Bunt, Ashley
 April 07 McBride, Jaxson
 April 08 Nelson, Florence
 April 08 Bottorff, Patrick
 April 09 Skjerseth, Abbygail
 April 10 Croxford, Virginia
 April 10 Clark, Bryan
 April 10 Dawson, Lizzie
 April 11 Roberts, Jennifer
 April 11 Tite, Alyssa
 April 14 Paris, Evelyn
 April 14 Inman, Terry
 April 14 McLain, Mindy
 April 14 Wesley, Rilyn (Chester)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

"Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!"

April 15 Lair, Alexander
 April 16 Bishop, Nathan
 April 16 Laufersweiler, Peter
 April 16 Davis, Lauren
 April 17 Sands-Franklin, Vivian
 April 17 Toner, Cathy
 April 17 Tillery, Scott
 April 17 Harlan, Brittney
 April 17 Harlan, Brooke
 April 17 Decker, Lauryn
 April 18 Bunt, Michael
 April 18 Plummer, Brandon
 April 18 Dawson, Luke
 April 19 Natsch, Ilona
 April 19 Scroggins, Madison
 April 20 Gwaltney, Kay
 April 20 Hovan, Rosalind
 April 21 Crews, Bill
 April 21 Parker, Ryan
 April 21 Mayer, Edith
 April 24 Hendricks, Leona
 April 24 Plummer, Mike
 April 25 Williams, Madison
 April 25 Laufersweiler, Logan
 April 26 Garrison, Andrew

April 26 Eyster, Logan
 April 27 Kissack, Bob Jr.
 April 27 Wells, Brent
 April 27 Sheppard, Keith
 April 27 Henderson, Jaden
 April 28 Bailey, John
 April 28 Scroggins, Taylor
 April 28 Barclay, Tabatha
 April 29 Bottorff, Mike
 April 29 Redden, Darin Sr.
 April 29 Kathriner, Stacey
 April 29 Giddings, Jacob
 April 30 Cameron, Chase



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 05 Pruetzel, Rohland & Susie
 April 08 Crain, Bill Jr. & Ronda
 April 10 Crews, Bill & Shirley
 April 10 Schroedter, Adam & Stephanie
 April 11 Tillery, Joe & Linda
 April 11 Acton, Phil & Vicki
 April 14 Toner, Joshua & Brooke
 April 16 Toner, Chuck & Rosalie

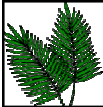
April 20 Brueggeman, Kyle & Emily
 April 21 Schuerman, Steve & Judy
 April 21 Decker, Eric & Heather
 April 21 Laufersweiler, Peter & Sarah
 April 24 Yankovich, Frank Jr. & Tana
 April 24 Sandbach, Justin & Jennifer
 April 29 Scroggins, Brian & Christy



New Church Directories Handed out This Month!
Thank you for your help in updating the information!

Changes/Additions:

If you are going to move soon, give the church office advance notice of your new address. Also, remember to update us on your new phone number. Thank you!



 **Monthly Loose Change Project!**
(loose coins in offering plate)

April's Loose Change Project is the **Community Hope Center** in Cottage Hills. Not only do they run a food pantry which our church uses as a referral source, but they offer free clothing and other programs to help people in need.

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See psalms 100) 02-05-2004
 MOM SAYS WE SING HYMNS TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD ... I PERSONALLY LIKE TO YELL "YIPPEE" EVERY NOW AND THEN

HAPPY
 Resurrection
SUNDAY
 Because **He** Lives


MARCH Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 3/31/2014	25541.50
Designated Giving:	through 3/31/2014	1121.50
	Capital Improvements	320.00
	Loose Change	135.50
	Flowers	214.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	240.00
	Funeral Dinner	50.00
	Gas & Electricity	100.00
	Offering Envelope	22.00
	Youth	40.00
Easter Offering		10.00
Easter Egg Hunt		10.00
Health Fair Donations		65.00
One Great Hour of Sharing		50.00
VBS (Fundraiser)		416.00
Upper Room		24.00
Charles McKnelly		200.00
Total:		\$27438.00

**DEADLINE FOR
 MAY 2014 STEEPLE,
 Mon., APR. 21st!**

APRIL Ushers (10:30):
Apr. 6th: 4 needed!
Apr. 13th: Sydnie, Piper, Tamera Martin
Apr. 20th: Debbie & Ryan Tite, Lindsey Rader, Janet Hughes
Apr. 27th: Tom & Ruth Voorhees
→ Call the Head Usher if you will help!
APRIL Head Usher:
TOM VOORHEES
Average Attendance for MARCH 2014

Early Service	48
Late Service	93
Sunday School	49
Visitors	6





Easter Baskets for Needy Children

Once again our congregation has the opportunity to make Easter Baskets for needy children. We have delivered approximately 370 baskets over the last 8 years to the Community Hope Center and Operation Blessing. We deliver baskets before Easter.

Baskets can be homemade or bought. Traditional Easter candy, a small toy, a stuffed animal, or some personal items, or school supplies can go into them. We do ask that you cover the basket with cellophane or some kind of see through protection,

so the items do not fall out. Place these in the food collection area.

You can also bring individual items which will be made into baskets by the craft ladies. Put the items in the bins labeled for such in the same area. The craft ladies will then assemble baskets from these. We need "empty" baskets and we need lots of good things to fill them with.

Easter is on April 20th this year...
Individual items need to be in the collection area by Sunday, April 6th.
Completed Baskets need to be in the collection area by Wednesday, April 13th.
Delivery will take place on the week of April 13th.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!



SEEKING GRADUATION INFORMATION

If you have a son or daughter who is a member or an active participant at St. Paul graduating from 8th grade, high school, junior college, college, or graduate school, please turn their name and information into the Church Office immediately so we may be able to honor him or her on Graduate Sunday, May 18th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service!

Call 259-5210 or send to info@stpaulwired.org.

Thank you for your assistance!



**Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion**

**Thursday, April 17th
7:00 p.m.**

*Something special is going to happen tonight - join us in the Fellowship hall
For The Journey To The Cross!*

Flower Calendar for 2014 is posted on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing. Fill it up! Thank you!





Easter Egg Hunt



**Palm Sunday, April 13th
after the 10:30 a.m. Service!**

If you would like to donate candy or empty, plastic eggs for this event there is a box set-up in the entryway.

Place your donations there.

Thank you in advance!



It is time to order your Easter Flowers for 2014. The order forms are in the worship bulletins now. Remember to pay for your flowers when you order them. The flowers will cost \$9.00 each this year. If you have any questions, call the church office @ 259-5210.

Deadline to order: Sunday, April 13th

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**APRIL 18, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

**1st United Methodist Church
- Wood River
30 N. Sixth St., Wood River, IL**

sponsored by Wood River Township Ministerial Alliance - offering received will go toward their Benevolent Fund.



K.Spear

"It's Administrative Professionals Day. So I got my computer some flowers."

FREE

pancakes & prayer

**Join us on Sunday, April 27 from 9-10:15 a.m. for more Pancakes & Prayers!
Bring your family & friends!**



You Are the Apple of His Eye!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life
John 3: 16



CHURCH SPRING WORK DAY!

Saturday, April 26th
8:00 a.m.-Noon

There is work inside and outside. The more folks who come out to help the more work we get completed and the more fun we have! If you have any questions or suggestions call Trustees Chair, Jim Herndon, @ 466-6736.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

VBS has been scheduled for **June 9th-13th**, with the closing program taking place on June 15th (Father's Day) during the 10:30 a.m. service. Mark your calendar now for this fantastic week of ministry and watch the bulletins and the next 2 newsletters for more information!



The Cavaliers Quartet Sunday, April 27 Both Services

The Cavaliers Quartet has been singing the Good News of Christ since the early 90s. The founding members of this exciting quartet are: baritone - Anthony O'Neal and bass - Wayne O'Neal, two brothers from the middle of Tennessee. These two have been singing and playing music since early childhood. They are joined by tenor - Ben Mullins and lead - Jason Reese. Ben is Jason's uncle so as you can see, we have family harmony - just two different families.

Anthony was saved at age 8, has been involved with music all of his life, and knew from an early age that he wanted to sing gospel music. His goal is to reach as many people for Christ as possible. Anthony is very involved with studio work at his home, and also has a great talent for writing songs.

Wayne was saved when he was 10 years old, and his faith in Christ is as strong now as it has ever been. He thanks God for allowing him to have the best job in the world; going out and sharing the Gospel to the hurting and lost souls of the world.

Jason is only twenty-eight years old, and has been with the group for the past six years. He was saved at the age of ten during a revival, and knew God was calling him to sing ever since. His goal is to see the lost and hurting souls of this world come to know the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Ben was saved at the age of eight, and has a powerful testimony. Ben is thankful that the Lord has blessed him to go and present the Word of God through song. His favorite scripture is Philip-pians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

The Cavaliers sing every style of gospel music from traditional, to praise and worship; from acapella to contemporary. "We are excited to sing the music that has great meaning, with a life changing message, in a way that lifts spirits and changes lives!" Bring someone!!



APRIL - Church of Rock (COR) Youth News

Psalms 136:26 - "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever."



Contact Kevin Rader at (618)303-0044 for information of Youth activities this month!



*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



ST PAUL
united methodist church

10 North Center St, East Alton, IL 62024
(618) 259-5210

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171020936311281/>

Who are we?

We are young adults with a passion for living, a passion for learning, and a passion for loving Christ! We *CRAVE* knowledge that helps us live more like Christ, we *CRAVE* a life filled with Christ's love, and we *CRAVE* fellowship with others that *CRAVE* the same. **Do you feel like something is missing from your life?** We invite you to join us as we feed the craving to learn more and build a stronger relationship with Christ! Young adults – 18 years old to 30s.

CRAVE – Bible Study

Sundays – 9:15 a.m.
upstairs CRAVE Room

CRAVE – Activities

1st Sunday of each month –
Breakfast 9:15 a.m.
3rd Sunday of each month –
Lunch 11:30 a.m.

Apr 6th Breakfast at 9:15

Apr 20th Easter!

May 4th Breakfast at 9:15

May 18th TBA

Special Events –

AGAPE Fest - Sat., April 26th
Movies - Dates TBD



Service Projects –

April 25th - Spring Cleaning in the Upstairs Sunday School Classrooms

ATTENTION 2014 High School Graduates!!

We want you to join us at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday for fellowship (and sometimes food)! For additional information on any and all activities or to learn more about CRAVE, please contact Betsy Blacklock at 618-259-3858 or e mail betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com