

March 2013



Not-So-Buried Treasure

What images come to mind when you think of treasure? Precious sparkling gemstones? Jewelry and gold coins tucked away in a hidden treasure chest? What would *spiritual* treasure look like?

The Bible tells us it looks like *thēsauros*. Translated “treasure” in the Bible, it means “the place in which good and precious things are collected.”

The *place*. Not the riches themselves. It’s the location of the collected things that is the actual treasure. And just like the X that marks the spot on many a buried-treasure map, God has given us a map in Scripture to discover the place of our hidden treasure—it’s where our heart is.

The thoughts, desires, affections, and purposes of our hearts mark the place where we’re collecting things that we deem precious. And, let’s be honest, sometimes our heart’s desires need to be relocated. Bigger houses, new i-gadgets, and more possessions aren’t meant to occupy the storehouses of our hearts. God created our hearts to store up *heavenly* things.

We don’t need a map to find a hidden treasure chest. We can open our own hearts and follow a few women who had the courage to go to the place where devotion and faith are found: the cross. Even the disciples didn’t follow Jesus to the cross, but a small band of women did, and watched from a distance.

Imagine the depth of love Mary Magdalene and the other women must have had for Jesus to endure witnessing his suffering on the cross. While people cried “crucify him!” these women remained faithful. They were rewarded for their devotion three days later with the first knowledge of his resurrection to new life.

These women discovered the *places* of their heavenly treasure. The cross and the empty tomb—where they collected the precious gifts of salvation, hope, and love. And there, in those sacred places, is where we’ll find the treasures of the true desires of our hearts.

HILL COUNTRY CHURCH

IGNITING A PASSION IN PEOPLE FOR GENUINE LIFE IN CHRIST



THE WORD

“Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

— Matthew 6:19-21

Think About It

This Easter season, what are your heart’s desires?



Easter Storytelling Cookies

Start a new tradition with this creative way to share the Easter story with family or friends while making yummy treats.

Ingredients:

1 cup pecans	1 pinch salt
1 tsp. white vinegar	1 tsp. vanilla
3 egg whites	1 cup white sugar

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, and place the pecans in a resealable plastic bag.

Read Matthew 27:11-26. Crush the pecans into small pieces with a mallet or rolling pin.

Read Matthew 27:27-31. Pour vinegar into a medium size mixing bowl.

Read Matthew 27:32-38. Add the egg whites to the vinegar.

Read Matthew 27:39-44. Sprinkle the pinch of salt on the egg whites.

Read Matthew 27:45-56. Add vanilla and sugar, and beat with electric mixer on high until stiff peaks form.

Read Matthew 27:57-61. Gently stir in pecans, and drop batter by teaspoonfuls onto the parchment paper.

Read Matthew 27:62-66. Place the cookies in the oven, and turn the oven off.

Go to bed and *read John 16:20.*

Open the oven in the morning, and take the cookies out. *Read Matthew 28:1-9.*

Enjoy a cookie, and savor the sweetness of God's love!



The Longest-Running Passion Play

The longest-running show on Broadway is in its 25th year, just a blink of an eye compared to the over 375 years the longest-running passion play has been performed in Oberammergau, Germany.

The play was first performed in 1634, after the villagers vowed that if God would save them from the plague that was spreading throughout central Europe, they would put on a performance of the life and death of Jesus every ten years. And they have been doing just that ever since. With almost 2,000 performers (all residents of Oberammergau), the five-hour performance was seen by over half a million people during the summer of 2010. Tickets can be harder to come by than a Broadway show, so it's never too early to start planning for 2020!

Want to know more? Visit YouTube to watch the Oberammergau Passion Play 2010 Official Trailer.

Share the Treasure

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart." (Helen Keller)

Share the beautiful treasures of your heart this month by giving them away!

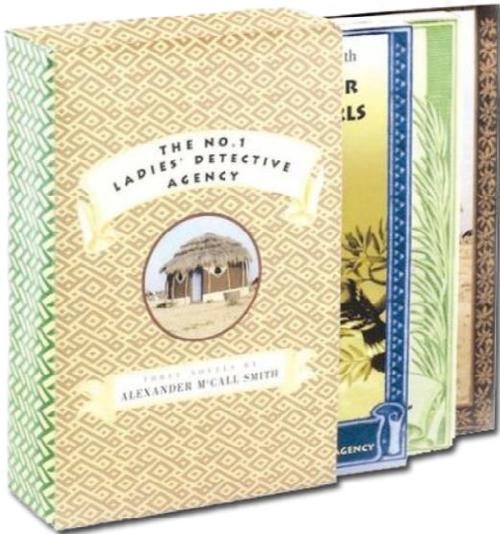
Share peace. Let the frazzled mother go ahead of you in the checkout line. Deliver dinner to a sick friend. Invite someone to take a quiet walk in the park. Lose an argument.

Share hope. Pray. Pay for a stranger's coffee or lunch. Donate to a local food bank. Send an encouraging verse and note. Smile...even when nobody smiles back.

Share love. Play together. Hug more often. Laugh. Let someone else be first. Forgive...and forgive some more.

Media Morsel

Book Review



The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series

Author: Alexander McCall Smith

Publisher: Anchor

This much-read and beloved series stars Precious Ramotswe, a strong, relatable, and “traditionally built” woman who uses an inheritance to open the only female-owned private detection agency in Botswana. Her adventures range from hilarious discoveries to run-ins with the sobering realities of life in our times.

The series, 13 books and counting, features wonderfully endearing characters. Among the most compelling is Africa itself, which figures prominently in each story. The series lovingly and gently approaches universal and important questions we all face and delivers lessons in culture and history at the same time. Plus, the author’s wonderful humor shines through even the most complex dilemma. This is a great book club read!

**Women's Retreat 2013!!
April 26-28**

Sign Up Now!!

REFRESHING



March

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship Service 10:00am			Dinner 5:30 Growth Groups 6:15			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship Service 10:00am			Dinner 5:30 Growth Groups 6:15			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship Service 10:00am			Dinner 5:30 Growth Groups 6:15			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship Service 10:00am **Women's Luncheon & Bible Study 12:00noon			Dinner 5:30 Growth Groups 6:15		Lord's Supper	Churchwide Workday
31	<p>Contact for more information</p> <p>Name: Kristy Hightower, Women's Ministry Servant Leader</p> <p>Phone: 830.438.8504</p> <p>E-mail: Kristy@HCCFairOaks.org</p>					
Easter Sunday Service 10:00am						

