

Tidings

Bayshore Presbyterian Church

February 28, 2016

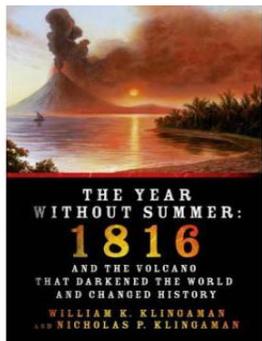
A World Gone Crazy...

Recently, rain storms, floods, snow storms and tornadoes have dominated the newspapers. Sobering stories of lost homes and lost lives make us reassess our own situations and give thanks that we, at least this time, have been spared these misfortunes.

Traumatic weather events are, most assuredly, nothing new. Biblical accounts of floods, droughts, locusts, and hail are familiar stories for us all – but there are a few memorable weather events with which we might not be as familiar.

The Year Without Summer

In April 1815, Indonesia's Mt. Tambora exploded in one of the most powerful volcanic eruptions in known history. The blast killed tens of thousands of people in Southeast Asia and hurled a gargantuan ash cloud into the stratosphere. As the cloud migrated across the globe it



blocked the sun's rays, chilling temperatures by roughly three degrees and causing weather distortions on an epic scale the following year. In India, Tambora-induced droughts and floods changed the ecology of the Bay of Bengal and helped give rise to a new strain of cholera that killed millions. Europe was visited by drenching rains and persistent

cold that brought on famine and widespread civil unrest. In the United States, heavy snows fell in some states in June, killing crops and triggering an economic downturn. New Englanders later nicknamed 1816 "Eighteen-hundred-and-froze-to-death," but it became better known as the "Year Without a Summer."

The weather disruptions had some unusual side effects. Some have credited the high price of horse feed in Europe with inspiring German inventor Karl Drais to build an early version of the bicycle. In Switzerland, meanwhile, the gloomy weather and constant rain of 1816 forced author Mary Shelley to pass the summer indoors. She entertained herself by penning the famous horror novel "Frankenstein."

Inside This Issue

1	A World Gone Crazy
2	A World Gone Crazy
3	A World Gone Crazy
3	Easter Events/March Birthdays
4	From the Pastor
4	Session Highlights
4	March Prayer List
4	Just Another Day on the Bayshore

The Carrington Event

Solar flares occur when pent up magnetic energy in the sun's surface is unleashed in blasts of radiation and charged particles. The resulting explosions are



equivalent to the force of millions of hydrogen bombs, and the solar winds they create have the ability to wreak havoc on Earth's atmosphere. That was precisely what happened in late August and early September of 1859, when the planet was bombarded by the largest solar storm on

record. The so-called "Carrington Event"—named for the British astronomer Richard Carrington—made the skies glow with shimmering, multi-colored auroras as far south as Hawaii. In Colorado, it was so bright that one witness reported people "could easily read common print" at night.

The light show might have been beautiful, but the geomagnetic disturbances that came with it brought down telegraph systems around the globe. Torrents of sparks shot out from some telegraph machines, starting fires and giving their operators painful jolts. The atmosphere was so charged with electricity in some places that technicians found they could disconnect their telegraph batteries and still transmit messages. The "Solar Storm of 1859" passed after a few days, but scientists predict that if a similar event occurred today, it might send telecommunications into a tailspin and cause trillions of dollars in damages.

THE 1874 “YEAR OF THE LOCUST”

Crop-destroying locust plagues were a common occurrence on the late-19th century American frontier, but most paled in comparison to the one that descended on the Great Plains in the summer of 1874. A dry, arid spring had created the perfect conditions for Rocky Mountain locusts to lay their eggs in large numbers.



Trillions of them later hatched and laid siege to Nebraska, Kansas, the Dakotas, Iowa and several other states. Witnesses said the

locusts arrived in roaring clouds so thick they could block out sunlight for several hours. Upon landing, they gobbled up entire fields of crops, local vegetation and even the clothes off peoples' backs. "The air is literally alive with them," wrote the New York Times. "They beat against the houses, swarm in at the windows, cover the passing trains. They work as if sent to destroy."

People tried to burn the bugs with fire and blow them up with gunpowder, but they were powerless to fight so large a swarm. Millions of dollars' worth of crops were eventually destroyed in what became known as "the Year of the Locust." The U.S. Army was called in to distribute supplies to the victims, but many homesteaders simply admitted defeat and retreated east. Similar plagues would continue to hound settlers during the next several years. They only trailed off in the early 20th century, when environmental changes caused the Rocky Mountain locust to go extinct.

THE DUST VEIL OF 536 A.D.

In the mid-6th century, a cloud of grit and dust suddenly descended over much of the globe, dimming the sun and causing uncommonly cold temperatures for several



years. "A most dread portent took place," the Byzantine historian Procopius wrote of the year 536. "For the sun gave forth its light

without brightness...and it seemed exceedingly like the sun in eclipse, for the beams it shed were not clear." The long winter that followed brought on drought, crop failures and famine around the world. Some scholars speculate that it also played a role in triggering the first known outbreak of bubonic plague in Europe.

Despite its widespread effects, scientists are still not entirely sure what caused the global cooling of the 530s. One theory is that a massive volcanic eruption spewed dust into the upper atmosphere and blotted out the sun's rays. Studies of 6th century ice core samples from Greenland and Antarctica show heavy concentrations of sulphate ions released by volcanoes, and there is evidence that there may have been a massive eruption in El Salvador in the 530s. Other researchers point to a strike or near miss by a comet as the more likely culprit. Halley's Comet passed by the Earth in 530, and it's possible that a piece of it may have broken off and created a giant cloud of debris upon impact.

THE GREAT SMOG OF 1952

Not all natural disasters are entirely natural. In December 1952, manmade air pollution in London formed into a mass of sooty smog that lingered for four

days, wreaking havoc on air quality. The deadly miasma was the result of a high-pressure system that created unnaturally stagnant conditions. Rather than dispersing into the atmosphere as usual, billowing clouds of coal smoke and pollution from factories gathered over the city and refused to budge. The smog reduced visibility in some places to almost zero. Livestock dropped dead of asphyxiation in their pastures, and scores of Londoners came down with bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory problems. Many children and elderly people died, their lungs ravaged by inflammation.



Some 4,000 people were killed before the wind finally picked up and blew away the smog, and thousands more may have perished in the weeks and months that followed. Spurred on by the disaster, the British government later instituted the Clean Air Act of 1956, which gave citizens subsidies to convert to cleaner fuels and banned the emission of black coal smoke in certain areas.

THE TUNGUSKA EVENT

Shortly after 7 a.m. on June 30, 1908, a blinding light streaked across the skies of Siberia and exploded over the Podkamennaya Tunguska River. The shock wave that followed carried the force of five to 10 megatons of TNT—hundreds of times more powerful than the atom bomb later dropped over Hiroshima. It obliterated nearly 500,000 acres of forest and knocked people off their feet more than 40 miles away. Amazingly, no one was killed in the explosion, but its effects were felt across the globe. Atmospheric and seismic devices were tripped as far away as England, and for the next few nights, the

skies were so bright that people in Asia could read newspapers outdoors. Experts suspected a meteor strike was to blame, by when a Russian expedition finally reached the remote blast site in 1927, they found no sign of an impact crater.



Despite the lack of a smoking gun—or crater—most scientists maintain that the “Tunguska Event” was the result of a hit from a space rock. One possibility is that it

was caused by an icy comet that evaporated upon impact, leaving little evidence of itself behind. Even more likely is that a meteor around 65 to 100 feet in diameter exploded in the upper atmosphere and broke into tiny pieces. Witnesses supposedly reported hearing “a noise like stones falling from the sky” after the initial blast, and samples of decayed vegetation from Tunguska include high deposits of nickel, iron and other substances commonly found at meteor impact sites.

Source: History.com



The International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness is observed on March 20 (also the first day of Spring this year; coincidence?). Jesus said We'll all be happy (or blessed) when we're meek, merciful, pure and so on (see his Beatitudes in Matthew 5: 3-12). In other words, happiness results from putting others' needs above our own.

Research confirms that helping others boosts People's self-esteem, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of belonging and purpose, decreases stress, increases gratitude and sparks others to “pay it forward”. In fact, the University of Texas researchers found that the “activism cure” is a great way to overcome bouts of sadness. So get helping – and get happy!

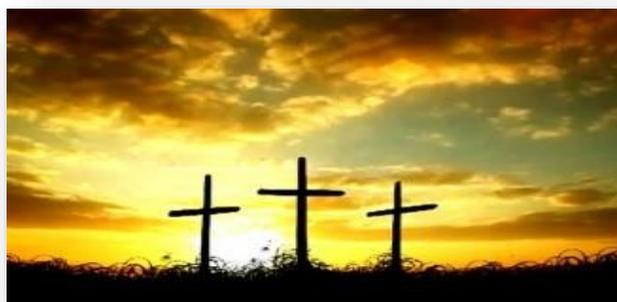
EASTER AND HOLY WEEK



Mauddy Thursday Service 7:00 pm
Traditional worship service with prayers, music, scripture and a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Easter Sunrise Service 6:24 am
Annual on the lawn service with music, meditative readings, bagpiper. Buffet breakfast served.

Easter Morning Worship 10:30 am
Celebrate the Risen Lord with our traditional service with joyful music.



*The message of Easter is not only that
Christ is risen,
not only that suffering is not the last word,
not only that God gives new life,
but this:*

Nothing is impossible with God.

- The Rev. James Martin, S.J.

March Birthdays

4 Paul Schatzberg	17 Frank Allen
5 Gregory Bulnes	26 Helen Allen
7 Gordon Knapp	Cindy Ullen
11 Anika Smith	

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear members,

This year as we move into Lent and prepare for One Great Hour of Sharing, I remain grateful for the transformation made possible through this special offering. In places like Kitui, Kenya, Asheville, North Carolina, and Iona, Michigan, those most in need are finding hope and help through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self-Development of People program, and their partners in ministry. In this media-driven environment of “the next big story,” it is easy to become distracted from the reality faced by our brothers and sisters around the world where poverty, disaster, and war cause displacement and suffering.

This is why we continue to give to One Great Hour of Sharing. When we give this year, we give in faith—knowing that staff in the three One Great Hour of Sharing programs will be responding in Christ’s name to the cries of our sisters and brothers throughout the next year. We trust that they will respond as they did in West Africa in the wake of the devastating Ebola crisis: immediately, directly, and through our partners wherever the emergency occurs. But equally important, we know that they will remain in areas of devastation long after the news cameras have moved elsewhere as they continue rebuilding both lives and communities. Feeding the hungry, helping people build up their own livelihoods, responding to disasters—these are all ways that your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are changing lives, changing communities, and changing the world. We’ll read about examples of this in bulletin inserts leading up to the Offering, and hear Minutes for Mission that will give further examples of how our offerings are used.

I hope you will join us Easter Sunday and that you will join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Yours in the love and grace of Jesus Christ,

Rev. Kathy

Session Highlights

- Work is underway to “refresh” and update the church Website
- The Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6:45 am
- Debi Pridgen has agreed to Chair the Nurture/Outreach Committee
- Estimates for repair of the steeple and parapet have been received and approved – work to begin shortly
- Eco-friendly disposable coffee cups have been found and will replace the coffee mugs on Sunday mornings
- Candy Venable was nominated and approved to serve as the Clerk of Session

Session minutes are available on the table in the Narthex.

Prayer List

Lona Elly, Henry Gomez, Bill & Nan Grothmann, Richard & Doris Guenther, Marcia Hausman, Carolyn Heagey, Dolores Henwood, Ann Herbert, Rosemary Hodge, Gail Huff



Just Another Day on the Bayshore

