

MM Easter Edition Blue Sheet — March 15, 2016

Morgan's Moment...

ONLY OPEN ON SUNDAY...

the sign on Bill's Bakery
where I buy bread.

I was in a business like that...
open on Sundays

waiting for customers to arrive.

Seeing Bill standing by his window...
brought memories and feelings...
times I did that from my office.

Always some uncertainty...
he worried unsold loaves...
I worried unfilled pews.

He had a profitability quota in mind...
his was so many loaves...
mine so many people.

Our results were product driven...
quality was required
Sunday after Sunday.

Bill's business requires variety...
five choices every Sunday...
mine usually # 3.

My business offered 3 services
every Sunday morning
pick the type you like.

Bill can ride a unicycle...
can juggle basketballs...
which I can't do!

But I did do ministry
that felt like juggling basketballs
while riding a unicycle.

Art Morgan

BOOK CORNER

My current reading is John Shelby Spong's most recent book, *"Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy"* He is a retired Episcopalian Bishop. While his writings can sound off the wall, they are not especially new. His connecting Matthew to Jewish liturgy was new to me. It is the kind of book that speaks to questions that are not talked about in most churches.

New off the press is Bart Ehrman's *"Jesus Before the Gospels — How the earliest Christians remembered, changed, and invented their stories."* The basic scholarship will not be new to those who keep up on biblical studies.

What is new (at least to me) is his research on memory and how these studies relate to the question of how or if memory plays a part in how accurately the biblical stories have been passed on.

PALM SUNDAY ADVICE

My pre-Easter blue sheet is ready to go...at least it was. It only needs Jean's double-check. I'm home alone while she's doing a four generation thing with a great-grandson, a granddaughter and a daughter at Sun River. That's over some rivers and mountains and through the woods from Corvallis.

I had been boiling down my fresh rendition of Easter thoughts for a week or so. She has noted the rising pile of books on the subject scattered and piled on my desks.

Well, I like reading and thinking and keeping up on current scholarship. Just a few books. OK, 10 books, plus a Bible.

She's an honest critic. Always has been. She's heard all my sermons, read all my writings for years. So I sent my intended mailing for her review.

"Should I send something lighter and better?"

I was hoping that she would tell me to send it, just as she usually does. This time a brief message came back.

"Definitely lighter...Non judgmental."

She doesn't want me sounding like a preacher.

And she wants me to say in our Easter Sunday announcement...

"Open for a spring gathering."

Jean is right of course. Few are interested in biblical scholarship. Even the latest report on Bible stories about the resurrection. No matter that I have spent more time on this than anybody in town, admittedly because I have more time.

She likes it when I simplify the story. Is there someone I know who has an Easter report of a personal rising from the dead? Something like that.

Now that you mention it, I do. In fact I think of more than one. Just now an email tells me I have a message on Facebook from one such example. *"Thank you for being such a wonderful influence on my and my family's life."*

You can't know what a rising up story that is, but there are others like it if we look around.

May the rising up wonder of Easter appear to you also.

I'll send this to Jean for further review. If you get it, she said "OK."

— Art Morgan, Easter Week 2016

Moment Ministries

Easter Sunday Champagne Brunch

Open For a Spring Gathering

A small, warm, informal time for food and friendship.

Bring a light brunchish item to share

10:00 a.m. Morgan's on Airport Avenue