



NEWS & VIEWS

The Newsletter from Members of First Baptist Church

Published two or three times a year, News & Views is a small piece of church for you to take home. This newsletter is for members, their family, visitors, and friends.

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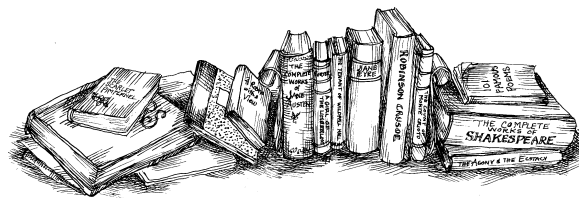
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And more . . .



**Flowers are the sweetest things God ever made,
and forgot to put a soul into.
~Henry Beecher, *Life Thoughts*, 1858**

Notes from the Pastor's Desk



“It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.’”

Mark 1:2-3

Rikki E. Watts in his helpful study of Mark’s Gospel makes the point that the opening verses of that Gospel summarize its essential point which is that what God was doing in Christ was bringing about a new exodus of His people. What the prophets had spoken about was being brought into being in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ God will be calling a people for Himself out of this world. They will be redeemed from their sin and brought into a covenant relationship with God through the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. God will, by His Spirit, write His law upon their hearts and minds. He will give them a brand new nature. This is the tremendous news which is contained in the Gospel. It is this that Mark describes in such vivid and vibrant detail.

In the process of describing this new covenant relationship Mark also leads us along a road that takes to the cross of the Lord Jesus. The new exodus can only be established at the cross. It can only be accessed by a faith that picks up our own cross in loving, and obedient self-denial. Mark’s discipleship is cross-centered. What this means for us is that we must begin our journey where the Gospel begins this is with the preparation that follows the road of repentance. The longer the disciples followed Jesus the more they encountered this sifting nature of His way. The life of faith that He called them to was one in which they would be constantly refined by the holiness of God. So Mark begins by summarizing the main point. The King is coming, and the way must be prepared in our hearts. It is literally as if Mark is asking us a key question. ***“Will you receive Jesus by faith or reject Him in unbelief?”*** That question cuts through all of our hopes, dreams, ambitions, and works, exposing them for what they are. As the Gospel unfolds the disciples are seen wrestling with their own personal unbelief, until we see them scattered by the events of the cross. In their weakness and failure however they are brought to the place of resurrection. Finally they are broken; they put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ without reservation. The whole process however is centered upon the cross.

The lesson for us is that our discipleship can only be established at the cross. We cannot experience God’s power in our lives until we die to ourselves. Dying is always difficult and unpleasant. It is however the only way through to the resurrection. To be a disciple means to be denying ourselves, picking up our cross and following Him. What Mark invites us to is the road that requires repentance. There is no other way.

This whole reflection is a long and rambling invitation to make use of this summer by engaging in a time of Biblical reflection leading up to real, genuine and fruitful repentance. Our purpose must be to really seek the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in our midst and then to make Him known to others. This is what I believe that Mark is calling every reader of his Gospel to do.

David West



COOL WHIP Chocolate Pudding Pie

What You Need

1-1/4 cups Oreo Baking Crumbs
 1/4 cup butter, melted
 1 pkg. (4-serving size) Jell-O Chocolate Instant Pudding
 1-1/2 cups cold milk
 1-1/2 cups thawed Cool Whip Whipped Topping, divided

Make It

Mix baking crumbs and butter in 9-inch pie plate; press onto bottom and up side of pie plate.
 Beat pudding and milk with whisk 2 min. Stir in 1 cup Cool Whip; spoon into crust.
 Refrigerate 30 min. or until set. Serve topped with remaining Cool Whip.



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

We wish a very special and blessed happy anniversary to Joyce and Louis Goddard who are celebrating their 60th anniversary on June 25th. Besides being married for 60 years they will welcome their first TWO great-grandchildren this year--one in late June or early July and a second one in November.

Congratulations!



Marilyn's Musical Notes

Well, as I write this, I think that spring and warmer weather have finally arrived! I had a slow start, health wise in 2013. I am happy to tell you that my surgery in Jan. was successful and I required no further treatments, I wish to thank everyone for cards, calls and inquiries. Most of all, I thank you for all your prayers. I am feeling very well now and received a good report from my oncologist 3 weeks ago at a follow-up appointment. I am glad to be once again directing the choir. Thanks to Bruce McTavish for his leadership of the choir during my absence! The choir was able to carry on very well without me for a few weeks and I really appreciated Bruce's willingness to help out! He even hosted a surprise potluck dinner in my honour in Feb.!

The choir's last Sun. before summer vacation time will be June 23rd. Special thanks to the choir members for all their hard work during the year. I will be arranging for soloists to lead us in our musical ministry during the summer months. We welcomed 2 new choir members this year--- Melissa Harris and Dasrene Cohen. New members are always welcome. Choir rehearsals are held Thurs. evenings at 8:00 P.M. Jan. to June and Sept. to Dec. Our repertoire is very eclectic ranging from contemporary, gospel to classical. The ability to read music is an asset but not a necessity. Choir rehearsals will resume on Thurs., Sept.5, 2013.

I will close my notes with a Biblical quotation: When the trumpeters and singers were as one----- the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. 2 Chronicles 5: 13-14.

These words express my belief that music plays a large part in our worship services. What better way to praise the Lord than through music!! I do hope that the music offered by the choir, Bruce McTavish and myself as well as special soloists has added to our Church services this past year. May you have a safe and happy summer!

"Musically Yours"

Marilyn Haynes, Musical Director.



January started a little differently with there being no C.O.L. meeting due to poor attendance the last few Januarys. You guessed it--it was a lovely night and we probably should have had a meeting. February we focused on love and had an evening of getting to know one another through the playing of games and chatting. The March meeting was divided into two parts--St. Patrick's and Easter. We had a history lesson about St. Patrick and some of the myths surrounding him and Ireland were dispelled. Janine led us in a sing along of traditional Irish songs. The Easter devotional was very moving and most of the Easter hymns were sung. It was a time to reflect on the love that Jesus had shown when He went to the cross for all of us. April's guest speaker was Councilor Elaine Moore who talked about the ecological footprint we all leave as we recycle our trash. Many new plans are in the works for the City in the next year or two including having our garbage picked up every two weeks. Elaine supplied us all with great goodie bags that included fridge magnets to help us keep straight "what goes where" when we are sorting our garbage as well as scheduling calendars and notebooks. Her talk was informative and interesting as how we deal with waste concerns us all. It is now the MERRY month of MAY and plans are underway for our indoor picnic. Tickets are \$9.00 and the meal includes different salads, cold cuts, veggie and fruit trays, tempting desserts and of course, lemonade. There will of course, be prizes and surprises at this meeting. Be sure to attend and bring a friend or two. This will be our last meeting until September 16th. Anne Bell is in charge of the September meeting and always comes up with something new and different for us. Have a wonderful, safe and happy summer and we look forward to seeing you September 16th at 7:30. God Bless Fran Greenhalgh President, Carriers of Love (C.O.L.)

Good News Stories

FBC member Mark Zaretsky reports that after chronic pain had become a way of life for him for 9 years, his newly installed Pacemaker has meant a pain-free life. A very grateful Mark praises God for this gift.

Allison Tufts just celebrated the one year anniversary of his transplanted kidney and pancreas. After some 50 years of daily finger pricks and insulin injections, Allison was no longer a Diabetic and has a fully functioning kidney. His specialist recently referred to his progress by calling him a "model patient." We join Allison and Cathy in gratitude to our loving Heavenly Father.

It's great to see Virty Grey getting out to services.

On April 13, Anne and Gerry Bell became Great-Uncle and Bis-Zia to Samuel John "Sam" Franklin. Proud parents are Master Cpl. John and Kelly Franklin of Fredericton, NB. He is a long, dark and handsome boy, just like his Dad. Thank you, God.

Our own Matthew Leaton was recently promoted to Flight Sergeant of 892 Snowy Owl Air Cadets. We are all proud of Matt and appreciate that his years of hard work were recognized.

Congratulations to Florene Queeley who recently accepted a retirement offer from Canada Post.

Sarah Farr has been approved to transfer into the PhD course studying Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology after completing a rigorous presentation to a half dozen doctors whose prestigious work she has followed. She is currently working at the Hospital for Sick Children under the auspices of the University of Toronto conducting Diabetes research and now aims to be a Biochemist and perhaps eventually, a professor.

On Volunteer Week, at the Occupational Health and Safety Building in Mississauga, Anne Bell was honoured for her years of volunteer work with Canadian Blood Services. Invited to complete a luminaire bag for display marking the occasion, Anne was asked to tell her reason for both donating and volunteering so much of her time over the years. Her reason, of course, was the first of her son's deployments to Afghanistan with the US Army Airborne. The luminaires have been posted on CBS's Facebook page.

Benevolent Fund

Every Communion Sunday we have a collection for the Benevolent Fund. I would like to share with you the purpose, authority, and the uses of this fund in order for you to understand its operation.

By definition the word benevolent is characterized by or the suggestion of doing good. The fund is concerned with and organized for the benefit of charity; ie helping others.

Our constitution designates the control of this fund to the Board of Deacons. The fund is subject to an annual audit.

Now we zone in about the fund itself. In 2012 we received and deposited \$12,869.00. Where and to whom are the funds disbursed? At various times throughout the year a specific month's collection can be dedicated for a particular purpose which is announced ahead of time. The money collected is the exact amount paid out and this amount is made public to the church. Examples over the past include Haiti relief, Japan relief, and Goderich tornado. Every December our collection is dedicated to the Baptist Ministers Retirement Benevolent Fund and we collected and paid out \$3,764.10 in 2012. Other recurring payments include \$200 per month to Redemption and \$100 monthly to the Copeland's Ministry. Annually we support Matthew House, Hands Across the Nation, The Gideons, Power to Change, and needy families during Christmas. Last year we supported 30 families with \$50 gift cards from Walmart rather than cash or cheque. We also donated funds to the William Farr Mission.

On occasion we have families from outside the church requesting assistance. After a detailed interview a recommendation is presented by Pastor West. Finally, we also have church family members that find themselves in need occasionally. These are handled in the most discrete manner. In total the Benevolent Fund paid out \$16,090.50 during 2012. Some years we pay out more then we receive depending upon the need.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, most of this information can be found in the church annual report. May the Benevolent Fund be blessed by your continued generosity.

Respectfully submitted by
Dennis Melnyk
Chair of the Board of Deacons

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."



A Box of Kisses

Some time ago, a man punished his 3-year old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box for a birthday present. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box empty. He yelled at her "don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside it."

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said "Oh Daddy, it is not empty. I blew kisses into the box all for you Daddy."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

It is told that the man kept that gold box by his side for years and whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it in there.

In a very real sense, each of us as humans have been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, friends, family and well-wishers. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

The power of words... it is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times. Words that encourage and bless do far more good.

TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BRAMPTON

ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR 140TH ANNIVERSARY

It's time to say Happy Anniversary again
We do it every year
This time it is one hundred and forty
A milestone for one so dear.

Those early pioneers who from England came
Knew they had lit a spark
They began with nine people on Centre Street
In June 1876 they moved across from the park.

Over the years change took hold
Men went to war and paid the final price
Depression, recession and secular change
Through it all God's grace did suffice.

Through one hundred and forty years
A shelter from whatever storm we have had to face
This Church has been here to remind us
That surely God is in this place.

We come tonight to feast and fellowship
To break bread with friends old and new
So many memories are gathered here
We'll shed a tear or two.

Fire could not destroy us -- we simply rebuilt
Proving we would continue to stand
Overcoming each and every obstacle
Held firm in God's omnipotent hand.

The Church Triumphant should be our battle cry
As we march like Christian soldiers of old
To share God's name and love
Let our actions and deeds be bold.

Those looking at our structure
See bricks, mortar and stone
For those who enter in however
We call this building home.

Let each person here feel family ties
No matter the path they have trod
We are one in the Spirit and one in His blood
All part of the family of God.

Tonight we give you thanks Heavenly Father
For all that you have done
We praise you for our heritage
And look forward to being one hundred and forty-one!

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

Who Inspires

"Who is an inspirer" a young girl asked
Someone who encourages you like no other
Someone you look up to and admire
Why that's you, my dear mother.

How truly blessed are those whose mother is
Someone they can feel that way about
For those who are not that fortunate
God sent us angels from heaven, no doubt.

Character is molded by those who care
A teacher, an aunt or friend so dear
All have their special gifts to give
Especially those who lend an ear.

We tend to think that only those
Who are advanced in years
Can teach us, inspire us
Laugh with us and dry our tears.

Not so my friends for those who are young
Have their own special gifts to impart
It does not have to be with sage advice
For many things can touch the heart.

Carla has set an example for us as she
Teaches our children His word
Every parent who sends her their children
Gives thanks for her dedication to the Lord.

Using the talent she has been given
Sarah lifts her voice in praise
My heart and soul have both been touched
Watching her serve in many ways.

Inspiration comes from many things
When we realize there are those who really care
They brighten our days and lighten our load
With the caring that they share.

Could we make a difference
Could we truly inspire
Could we be someone who is looked up to
Could we that person someone admires?

Look around you--is someone hurting
Offer a comforting smile
Give a hug, share a tear
Walk that extra mile.

That is really all that it takes
To show your concern is real
Don't be afraid to show you care
Don't be afraid to show what you feel.

So start today by reaching out
Add to friendships old, someone new
You never know that what they might need
Is someone just like you!