

FAITH NOTES



FBC Newsletter • May 2008 • Volume Three, 5th Edition

R.I.C.H. CAMPAIGN

Reaching into the County of Harney
Faith in Action

"Don't just 'go' to church, 'be' the church."
– Pastor Mike

Project Day – May 18
Dinner at church following projects.

JESUS IS BY MY SIDE...

Jesus is by my side everywhere I go.
I can hear Him speaking to me,
but I cannot see Him.
I know that He is there
and Jesus is very special to me.
How do I know?
Because the Bible tells me so,
and that is why Jesus is special to me.
Yes, Jesus is special to me.
The Bible is the book for me.
I stand on the Word of God, the Bible.
– By Anna Brewer

NEWSLETTER NOTE...

In an effort to save money on postage, we will be printing hard copies of the FBC newsletter only for those who do not have access to the website, beginning July.

Please contact the office (573-7777) if you need a hard copy of the newsletter.

MOTHERS...

"My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it." – Mark Twain

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness." – Honoré de Balzac

"A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary."
– Dorothy Canfield Fisher

FROM PASTOR MIKE'S DESK...

"Where will you be found?"

No one knows the day or hour... When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant is evil and thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? (Matthew 24)

I wonder; as people think of the situations they find themselves in, would they more often wish the Lord would return right then or wish He would not? When the Lord returns, what kind of situation will you be in? Obviously, we don't know, but we do know the kind of situation we would hope to be found in. As I think ahead to our May 18 service project morning, I have thought of the beauty of a church family being found serving others.

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MEET THE GUINDON FAMILY...

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by Jess Wenick

“Where will you be found?”

By Pastor Mike (Continued from front page)...

Whatever situation we may be found in does not necessarily summarize all of our life. In fact, it would do us well to remind ourselves that God is with us every minute of the day, and even more so, He dwells within us and views our body as His Spirit's Temple (see 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16).

Oftentimes we look at not knowing the hour of our end (death or rapture) as a disadvantage. God doesn't think so. If we knew exactly when Christ was returning, we could get lazy before that time or we might justify sinning right up until that point.

To sit in a room and ponder Heaven until Christ comes for us is not what God has asked us to do either. God has informed us that we have work to do this side of Heaven and we don't stop that work until He has taken us home. May we be found serving, caring, growing, fellowshiping – walking with God.

“...until He comes” (1 Cor. 11:26)

Pastor Mike

UPCOMING EVENTS...

May 1	National Day of Prayer – Bring your lunch and meet at FBC at noon for prayer
May 3	Sage Rat Damage Control Workshop
May 4	Communion
May 6	Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, 6:30pm
May 10	Mother's Day Tea
May 18	R.I.C.H. Project Day, 9:00am-1:00pm Dinner at FBC Following Projects
	The Aspens Service, time to be announced

The pastors meet for prayer in the church offices on Tuesdays at 8:30am. Everyone is welcome.

RETAINING A SENSE OF WONDER...

A man who took a trip observed the majesty of the mountains, the colors of wildflowers and the magnetism of a stream where trout were swimming. He returned home saying, “I hope I never get used to the glory of nature.”

None of us should “get used to” the goodness of God, the Good News of Christ, the inspiring music of a choir, the stories of great saints, the thoughtfulness of neighbors, the assistance of strangers and the uplifting laughter of children who haven't lost the gift of wonder.

“What is Sola Scriptura?”

By Jess Wenick

As evangelical Christians, we rely on the Word of God to provide us with the basis and sustenance of our faith in Christ. It is the only trustworthy source of truth that we have available to us. As the Bereans of old, we search the Scriptures to test any doctrines that come before us. We understand that all doctrine should be firmly rooted in God's Word so that it is not susceptible to the whims of man.

The Reformation was built upon this principle at a time when the Church had become infiltrated with teachings that were either beyond or contrary to the Scriptures. Our Protestant fathers used the term *Sola Scriptura* to define their use of Scripture as the ultimate authority for the reformed Church's teachings and doctrinal positions.

Unfortunately, as the centuries since the Reformation passed and liberal, extra-biblical interpretations began to infiltrate Protestant denominations, many Christians began to replace *Sola Scriptura* with *Solo Scriptura*. Although the terms are almost identical, the simple substitution of an “a” with an “o” has had tremendous ramifications.

Solo Scriptura, as taught today in fundamentalist circles, teaches that the Bible stands alone. Many of us profess this concept without realizing the full weight of what it implies. It is a concept that arose in response to the liberalization of our society and in turn, many denominations. As Christian universities began to fall to modernism and general skepticism of the supernatural began to flourish, fundamentalism withdrew from higher education and society in general. To protect the Scripture from abuse, fundamentalists attempted to remove any influences that could compromise its integrity. By doing so, homage to *Solo Scriptura* began to sweep through evangelical circles relatively undetected.

This concept holds that tradition is useless and misleading, and that creeds and confessions are the results of man-made traditions. The problem with this position is that it creates contradictions. If the Bible is the sole source of our faith, and nothing outside its pages has validity, then the Trinity and many other Biblical doctrines cannot be confessed. In fact, the moment adherers to *Solo Scriptura* claim they have no creed or confession outside of Christ and the Word of God, a confession has just been made and the intent of *Solo Scriptura* has been violated. In this regard, it is an unattainable concept. In addition, many disastrous heresies have come directly from within Biblical texts. This is why removing any means of informed interpretation outside of one's own study can have dire consequences.

In direct contrast to *Solo Scriptura*, *Sola Scriptura* elevates Scripture as the final and ultimate authority for our faith, but holds that it was never intended to stand alone. Within this concept lies tradition and reason as well. It is tempting to throw tradition and reason out from our midst due to the abuses they have suffered over the centuries. Contrary to popular belief, however, the reformers did not discard them, but placed them in their proper positions as subservient to Scripture.

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“Divine Finger Pinching”

By Pastor David

Not long after our third child was born this past summer, my parents came over from Western Oregon for a visit. While they were here, we tried to come up with some ideas of what they might be able to do and how they could help Kristi and me. Since my Dad has a mild interest in history, I suggested that they take our two older children to visit the Pete French Round Barn for the day. They all agreed that it would be a wonderful idea and would make the house much quieter for Kristi and the baby.

Everything seemed to go as planned until I got a phone call at the office from my parents that Sydney had hurt her finger and they were bringing her into the emergency room. Not going into great detail I will tell you what had happened. Once they arrived at the visitor center and the round barn, the kids needed to use the restroom. Payton, our oldest, went first and after he came out Sydney had decided that she did not need to go, so Payton proceeded to close the door. Well, at the last minute, Sydney changed her mind and tried to get her hand in the door before it closed. Since the door was much heavier than my three-year-old daughter's finger, her finger was badly pinched in the door.

I share this memory with you because I have been thinking this week about how God opens and closes doors, and what our reactions are to the opening and closing of these doors. Like you, I often pray and ask God to show me what His will is regarding certain decisions and opportunities. I ask Him to open the doors that He wants to and close the doors that He wants to, trusting that He knows what is best. This all works great until you factor in human emotions. Sometimes, as finite human beings, we can have a difficult time discerning what the will of an omniscient God is. This can lead us to begin to believe that a certain path is God's will when in fact it is not. Now, as we begin to move down this path, we become increasingly emotionally invested with the people whom we meet on that path.

Now eventually, God will close the door on this path and we will have to make a choice. Will we stay clear of the door and turn around and seek out the path that God has really marked out for us, or will we resist God's will and stick our hand into what remains of the open door getting our fingers pinched in the process? I think, because we are emotional beings who value relationship, we often tend to experience some “finger pinching” when God closes a door. It is not that God enjoys causing pain or difficulty in our life. In fact, it is through these divine finger-pinching moments that God can bring about some great growth in our lives.

As I have thought about this, I have concluded that it is okay to experience pain and sadness when God closes a particular door. These emotions do not mean that you are not allowing God to direct your life, rather they just mean that you are human and did not know in advance in what direction God would ultimately lead you. So, may you experience some divine finger pinching as you allow God to direct you on the path of life.

“Til next time,
Pastor David

YOUTH EVENTS...

High School:

- May 5, 12 High School Youth Group, 7:30pm
- May 18 R.I.C.H. Project Day
Youth serving at HHOPE Shelter
9:00am – 1:00pm
- May 19 Senior Night, 7pm, at FBC

SUMMER CAMP

For summer camp this year we are encouraging all of you to sign up to go to Young Life camp.

FBC Youth Ministry will have some smaller events as well as SNAC (*Sunday Nights after Church*) on Sunday evenings, but we will not have a summer camp to offer.

For more details about Young Life Camp, you can contact Yao or attend Club on Thursday evenings at 7:57.

Junior High:

- May 4, 11, 18 Trek 24/7 (7th & 8th Grades)
- May 18 R.I.C.H. Project Day
Youth serving at HHOPE Shelter
9:00am – 1:00pm

Opportunities are always available to volunteer in our youth programs. If interested, contact Pastor David 573-7777.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL...

You are invited to attend any of the following classes, which are currently available. Note new teachers and/or study topics:

- 9:00am Minor Prophet Study – Bill Edwards, Teacher
10:45am 20 Future Prophetic Events – John Adams, Teacher
10:45am *Boundaries* Ladies Class – Rolleen Reed and
Arlene Woodell, Teachers
10:45am *Homebuilders* Class for married couples – using the
book, *The DNA of Relationships* by Gary
Smalley (book available in class) – Joe &
Sharon Davis, Teachers

PHOTOS FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY...

Mark Armstrong and Richard Yates are available on Sunday mornings between services to photograph FBC family.

Please contact the church office 573-7777 if you would like to set up a time to have your photo taken for the church directory.

We will be making this opportunity available through Sunday, May 25.

A HEART FOR Mom

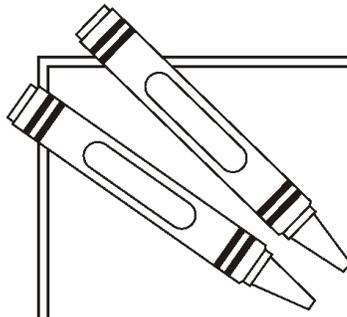
Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



Just for KIDS

A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2 "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3 "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4 "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5 "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6 "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| ___ Caring | ___ Godly | ___ Prepared |
| ___ Hardworking | ___ Hearty | ___ Priceless |
| | ___ Kind | |

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. hardworking, 4. hearty, 5. hearty, 6. caring, 7. godly

MEET THE GUINDON FAMILY...

The Guindons moved to Harney County from Canyon City, Colorado nine months ago and began attending FBC as soon as they arrived.

Bill and Pam have been married for 17 years (in July) and have three children: Nathan 14, Rachel 11 and Ben 6.

Bill is the Burns Fire Chief and Pam works in the admitting department at Harney District Hospital.

The Guindon family hobbies are camping and fishing.

Nathan attends Trek 24/7, Rachel is an AWANA clubber and all three children attend Sunday School.

Bill and Pam are both planning to begin working in FBC youth programs.

We are looking forward to getting to know Bill, Pam, Nathan, Rachel and Ben even better in the years to come. We're glad you are here!

"What is Sola Scriptura?"

By Jess Wenick (Continued from page 2)...

Tradition is a powerful tool that ensures doctrinal consistency within our church body here at Faith Baptist. The active members of this congregation know each other's interpretations of Scripture. Many are intimately familiar with their grandparents' interpretations. We serve as witnesses of the same truth. As steel sharpens steel, we discuss, debate and contemplate Biblical doctrines to ensure that these truths are safeguarded and passed on. Tradition is a tool that we regularly use to make sure that the Scriptures are interpreted correctly.

Anyone who has studied from a Systematic Theology book has engaged in the use of reason to properly interpret Scripture. Reason recognizes that the Bible cannot contain contradictory doctrines. It links the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles with the writings of the prophets and weaves Scriptural passages together in a way that enables us to comprehend overall themes.

The fact remains that the Bible has always been commented on and explained. Jesus Christ did this, as did the apostles. Their disciples carried on this tradition and offered explanations that carried on the apostolic teachings. Known as the Rule of Faith, or *regula fidei*, it represents the faith which was held "always, everywhere, and by all." *Sola Scriptura* carries on this tradition by passing on the essential doctrinal elements of the faith, contained in Scripture, which were taught by the early Church and revived through the Reformation.

FBC LIBRARY BOOKS GOING TO QATAR...

Duplicate books in our library are going to be donated to Grace Fellowship, an English-speaking church in Qatar.

Tom and Sally King will be taking as many books as possible this month when they travel to Qatar for their daughter Sharon's graduation.

Congratulations to Sharon, who will graduate from Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Congratulations also to Tom and Sally.

HYMN STORIES...

It Is No Secret

1949

*"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
Romans 10:13*

Though the 1949 Los Angeles Crusade was to launch Billy Graham to worldwide fame, the meetings appeared to get off to a slow start. Arriving in Los Angeles before the crusade, Mr. Graham gave a news conference, then eagerly waited for the next day to see how the crusade would be publicized. Not a single newspaper carried the story.

But among the supporters Graham did have was the influential Presbyterian Bible teacher Henrietta Mears, who invited Billy to her home in Beverly Hills to speak to a group of Hollywood personalities. Present that day was a hard-drinking star of cowboy westerns named Stuart Hamblen who also hosted one of the most popular afternoon radio shows on the West Coast. He was infamous for his gambling and brawling.

The two men took a liking to each other, and Billy longed to win Stuart to Christ. But as the three-week campaign neared its end, there was no sign that the big cowboy was under conviction.

Sensing that momentum for the meetings was building, the local crusade organizers wanted to extend them; but Billy was hesitant, having never done that before. He put out a "fleece," and asked God for a sign. The next morning at 4:30, he was awakened in his room at the Langham Hotel by a phone call. It was Stuart Hamblen, and he was in tears. Billy woke his wife and friends, who gathered in another room to pray while Stuart and his wife, Suzy, drove to the hotel. That night, Stuart gave his heart to the Lord Jesus.

It was the sign Billy needed to extend the meetings.

Meanwhile, Stuart excitedly told the story of his conversion on his radio show, and the local newspapers picked up the story. Soon all of Los Angeles was buzzing about the Billy Graham meetings. The resulting publicity launched a half-century of mass evangelism virtually unparalleled in Christian history.

Shortly afterward, Stuart Hamblen reportedly met movie star John Wayne on a street in Los Angeles. "What's this I hear about you, Stuart?" asked the actor.

"Well, Duke, it's no secret what God can do."

"Sounds like a song," said John. Stuart went home, sat down at his piano and wrote "It Is No Secret." He went on to write 225 other songs before his death in 1989.

Robert J. Morgan

Then Sings My Soul, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2006

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER...

We will be meeting for prayer at noon on Thursday, May 1. Feel free to bring your lunch.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14

Our National Day of Prayer...



The first Thursday of May each year is designated as a day for the people of our country to pray.

Yes, there is separation of state and church in America, but Christians in our nation would never vote for the separation of America from God.

This country surely will always remain, "one nation under God."

Therefore, we are right to set aside a day for national prayer – a day when we can beseech God's guidance regarding our nation's policies and actions, and pray for the general welfare of all citizens, especially for the helpless and those suffering injustices.

The Newsletter *Newsletter* ©

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARNEY COUNTY

777 N. Saginaw, Hines, OR 97738

541-573-7777 • Fax 541-573-7922

E-mail: faithbc@centurytel.net

Web site: www.faithbchc.com

Sunday Schedule

The Nine 9:00am

Fellowship 10:15-10:45am

The Quarter 'til. 10:45am

Sunday School runs concurrently with services.

Staff

Rev. Mike Fast Senior Pastor

David Curtis Associate Pastor

Tom Garo. Director of Worship

Dona Johnson Secretary



FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARNEY COUNTY

777 N. Saginaw
Hines, OR 97738