

The Good News Banner

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JACK GILL
Pastor

Rich Shipe
Associate Pastor

TOM GOSSAGE
Worship Pastor

DEBBIE STEVENSON
Administrator

BRYNNA MCCARTHY,
RYAN MOTTICE
Layout, Design & Editors

Blue Ridge Bible Church
770 South 20th Street
Purcellville, VA 20132
(540) 338-2299
www.blueridgebiblechurch.org

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Thoughts from the Pastor

by Jack Gill

Have you ever heard the little quip that goes like this, "Good things come in threes!" There's some truth to that! Let's see...S'mores (chocolate, graham crackers, and marshmallows), the American Flag (red, white, and blue), education (reading, writing, and 'rithmetic)...and even the best of family entertainment, the 3 Stooges (Larry, Moe, and Curly)!

In the same vein, I would propose a set of good things in a package of three for us at Blue Ridge as well—a rule of three for everyone who is a part of our body. We have so many excellent programs and opportunities in our church for a person to participate in to aid their growth in Christ. How does one choose? With September just around the corner, and all of the new beginnings that happen in that month, it can be difficult to decide what you will be a part of, and what you will not. I'd like to propose three fundamental areas we could all be a part of when it comes to the church.

The first of the three is Sunday morning worship. We ought to make our corporate time together a priority in that we set aside Sunday mornings and participate in some way—from teaching, to helping children, to ushering and greeting, to assisting adult teachers, to helping in worship, or to cleaning up! This is the only time during the week when we are all gathered together as a large body and get a little taste of heaven in our worship en masse! Keeping this as a priority can be one of the easiest, as most of us usually don't have to work or schedule other things.

The second ministry of the three that we ought to be a part of is a little different. It's not so much a program here, but rather a setting aside the time for the building of relationships with non-believers. This does not necessarily have us spending time at the church, but rather is a time that we purpose to find a way to engage with people who do *not* go to church, and do not know the Savior. Ask most people who have come to Christ, (including most of our own experiences), and you'll find that people are not persuaded into the kingdom by circumstances and knowledge as much as they are won over by the love of a person who took an interest in them and led them

to Jesus Christ. The leadership at Blue Ridge wants you to be "freed up" to find time to cultivate relationships with those who need Jesus Christ.

So if we are uniting together on Sunday mornings, and we are finding time to build relationships with the lost, what's the third thing? That's why I'm writing—and that is that we would be a part of a small group.

Small groups allow us to go deeper in fellowship than we can encounter on Sunday mornings corporately. It is a time in which we can find a greater level of encouragement, as well as a time of getting to use our spiritual gifts for edifying others! It's the model that we see in the early church in the book of Acts, and it's wonderful! Here you can really become built up to know Christ more, to love one another more, and to help one another more. In short, small groups allow for a greater depth of love, encouragement, exhortation, and discipleship with one another.

This fall, they are starting up again—new groups and new topics! Beginning in September, we will be encouraging you to examine the different groups and to begin prayerfully seeking one that is near you and that can both minister to you, as well as to afford you the opportunity to minister to others. Each group will have the goal to equip you "for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." (Eph. 4:12) Here we hope to help each person grow in their commitment to Christ, sharpen them to be more competent to serve Him better, and enable them to bring in their creative skills and apply them!

So what do you think? Sunday morning church, spending time with non-believers, and a small group on one evening a week. Great things still come in threes!



Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

As I get older...and older...I've been asking myself if there are things that I could or should be trying that I've not done before. Is God wanting me to step out of my comfort zone?

Does He have something additionally creative for me to do (over and above typing the bulletin and emails each week)? Or should I just be laughing more and making people laugh more? Well until I get answers to the heavy questions, I thought I would use my column this month to make you laugh. At the risk of sounding like something out of a Jim Carrey movie, here goes...let me know if anyone tries these things.

Fun things to do in an elevator:

Whistle the first seven notes of "It's a Small World" incessantly.

Crack open your briefcase or purse and while peering inside ask, "Got enough air in there?"

Offer name tags to everyone getting on the elevator and wear yours upside-down.

Grimace painfully while smacking your forehead and muttering, "Shut up, all of you in there, just shut up."

Stand silent and motionless in the corner, facing the wall, without getting off.

When arriving at your floor, grunt and strain to yank the doors open, then act embarrassed when they open by themselves.

Greet everyone getting on the elevator with a warm handshake and ask them to call you Admiral.

On the highest floor, hold the door open and demand that it stay open until you hear the penny you dropped down the shaft go "plink" at the bottom.

Stare, grinning, at another passenger for awhile, and then announce, "I have new socks on."

When at least eight people have boarded, moan from the back, "Oh, no, not now...motion sickness."

Meow occasionally.

Walk on with a cooler that says "human head" on the side

Wear a puppet on your hand and talk to other passengers "through" it.

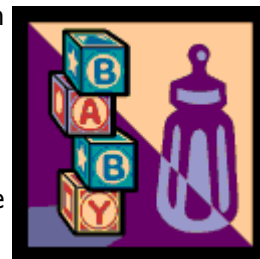
Say "Ding" at each floor.

Make explosion noises when anyone presses a button.

And after you get through laughing, perhaps you could start asking yourself some of my challenging questions. Because what if we all sought ways to be challenged every day to do things for God's Kingdom rather than for our own comfortable "world"? How would that impact our families, our friends, our

Baby Shower Coordinator Needed

Many, many thanks go to Katie Dunn who has served as our baby shower coordinator for the last several years. Katie has done a fantastic job in organizing and planning showers for our new moms. However, at this time, due to other commitments, she needs to step down from this position. Thanks for all your hard work, Katie!



Since Katie will no longer be our coordinator, we need a new one! Ladies, are you an organizer and one who enjoys planning and coordinating events? Then perhaps you are the one the Lord might use to fill this position and bless others in the church. Responsibilities include working with the shower hostess and honoree in all aspects of planning the shower. Interested or just have questions? Call Karen Gill at 540-338-0764 or e-mail jkgillfam@comcast.net.

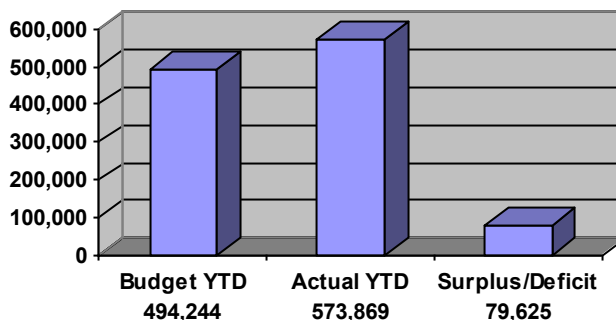


HOLD THE DATE!

2009 BRBC Women's Retreat
 March 20th - 22nd
 Rocky Gap Resort
 Cumberland, MD
 Speaker: Margaret Ashmore

More details will follow later this year, but for now, hold the date!

Actual & Budgeted Offerings as of 7/28/08



BRBC Attendance

	7/6	7/13	7/20	7/27
Sunday School				
Adults	91	101	74	79
Children	99	124	76	103
Total	190	225	150	182
Worship				
Auditorium	359	403	389	359
Classes	28	32	41	30
Total	387	435	430	389

EXCITING YEAR AHEAD FOR CHILDREN'S CHOIR



The 2008-2009 choir season is shaping up to be a very exciting year! We already have three very special events lined up for the fall: a performance at the Church's Emancipation Day Celebration on September 20, a mini-musical in October, and the Children's Choir will also be a part of the Christmas Play put on by the

church in honor of the Town of Purcellville's Centennial celebration. In addition to these special events, we will continue to perform occasional specials in the worship service.

Because our first performance is just around the corner, **choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 27** from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. for the entire choir (ages 7 to 13 as of January 1, 2009) and from 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. for the Senior Choir (ages 10 to 13 as of January 1, 2009). The choir as a whole will be working during the regular rehearsal hour on the musicals, dramas, and special performances throughout the year. The additional rehearsal for Seniors will allow them to be working on more challenging music to be performed as specials in the worship service.

This schedule provides a healthy mix of both fun and challenging music for the entire age-range in the choir. Younger children will enjoy staying together with the older children during the main rehearsal as we all work together on more special performances than ever. Older children will get to stretch their wings with the additional challenge of Senior Choir, and children of all ages will love the musical dramas we have planned for this year! Your children won't want to miss our kick-off on August 27!

For more information, check out the church website at www.brbbible.org (go to "Get Involved" and then click on "Children's Choir") or contact Children's Choir Director Christy Shipe at clshipe@gmail.com.

FALL CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Have you done any cleaning lately? Kids outgrow their summer/winter clothes? Tired of storing extra clothes "just in case"? We've got the solution for you! BRBC is sponsoring a Fall Clothing Exchange on October 20 through the 25. Pencil the date in on your calendar and watch for more details to come. Contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) if you would like to help.



MINISTERING TO PRACTICAL NEEDS



"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. *Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*" Romans 12:9-13 (emphasis added)

We have a unique ministry opportunity to put Romans into action. Our meals ministry feeds a practical need to those in our congregation. Emergency hospital stay, prolonged recovery, new baby...these are just some of the needs we have met with meals in this last year alone. This is a super easy way for everyone to get involved in sharing with God's people who are in need. Singles can pick up pizza and drop it off to a family experiencing need. Families can involve their entire crew by having the kids make cards, decorate the paper bag to deliver the food or even have the kids pitch in and help make a meal for another in need. Everyone is blessed by participating! Won't you consider reaching out to the Body and ministering to those in need? Send your name and email to Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com). You will be contacted when the next need arises. God can use even our simplest actions to serve Him in a big way. Don't miss out!

BRIO MISSIONS '08 – LIMA, PERU

By Breana Paist

In July, Breana Paist traveled with a group of 600 teens with the Focus on the Family's Brio ministry to Lima, Peru. She provides a brief recap of her experience below.

The missions trip started out with drama training in Miami. For two straight days our drama instructor showed my team when, where, and how to perform our parts—my part was an evil cat. Once in Lima, Peru all 600 of us started our ministry days. On these days the 39 people on my team climbed onto the bus that took us to who-knows-where'ville! Groups of six went out with a translator to let people nearby know that the drama performance would start in 15 minutes at this place, or that field.

As a crowd began to gather, we would play with the little Peruvian children. Bubbles and stickers made them especially happy. I learned how to say "duck, duck, goose" in Spanish, too! At last we would start the drama, which portrayed the gospel through a story about a Toymaker (God), his son (Jesus), some toys they made (yes, that would be you and me), and an evil magician (the devil). There could be anywhere from 30 to 200 people watching

the show. After the drama was finished, someone from our group would give their testimony and then an invitation to ask Jesus into their lives.

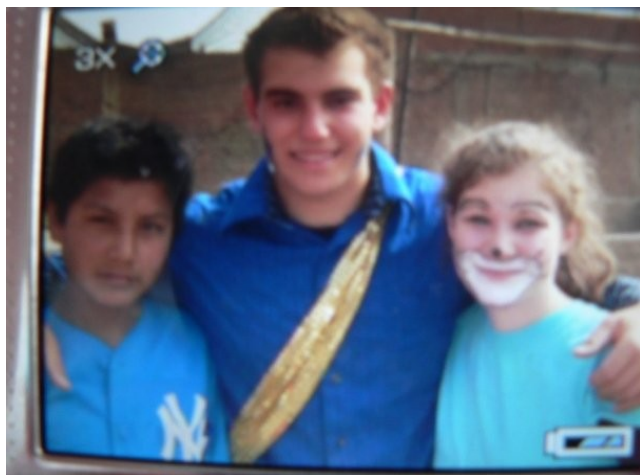
After the drama, our translators asked for whoever had just accepted Christ as their Savior to raise their hand. I noticed one 12-year-old guy raising his hand half-way... and he looked a little embarrassed about it. I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to give a Bible to him – one of the Spanish New Testaments. So I did! Then Dave, from my team, and I sat down by the guy and looked up John 3:16, Romans 3:23 & 6:23 for him to read. We learned his name was Jefferson, and I could tell he read more than just the verses we showed him—this kid was hungry for the word of God, and it was awesome! I really wanted to make sure Jefferson understood that the Bible is God's Word, so we got a translator to tell him that and also that when he reads the Bible, God will teach him things through it.

I'm kind of overwhelmed by all that happened! This morning if Jefferson had died (trying to climb the mountain up to his house probably!) he would have gone to hell. But now, six hours later, he's heaven-bound!

I didn't really do anything... all I did was behold the awesomeness of God at work!

The goal of the missions trip to Peru was to grow closer to God and tell other people about Him. God blessed us more than I would have ever guessed. Every speaker, every quiet time, every prayer drew me closer to Him. And as far as telling others about Jesus ... now you'll be able to meet 7,256 more Peruvian people in heaven!

'Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents.' Luke 15:10

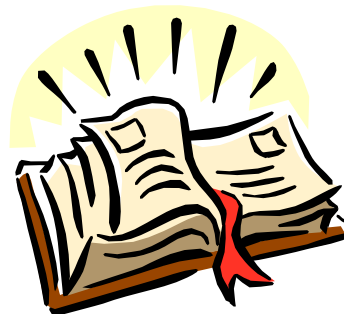


Jefferson - Dave - Breana (cat!)



Awana is centered on the gospel. Bible memory is a key element of our curriculum. We use a complete and systematic approach for training

kids from preschool to high school to know, love and serve Christ. Our exclusive circle games generate maximum fun at Awana meetings. We have a commitment to reaching unsaved youth and families with the gospel. The Bible teaching is designed to build a biblical worldview. We fully support parents as kids' primary spiritual trainers. Awana is a fun, dynamic approach to learning God's Word. We provide ongoing volunteer training for all leaders. Our Awana is unique in that we emphasize a discipleship relationship with the leaders and clubbers to help come alongside the parents in reinforcing Biblical standards to the clubbers. Pray about your involvement in this dynamic ministry.



Summer Memory Challenge: Our summer memory challenge to every clubber, parent and leader is Ephesians 6:10-20. There will be a special pin for everyone who comes to Awana in the fall ready to recite these verses word perfect.

Leader Training: Leader training will be Sunday, August 24th and Friday, September 5th from 7 to 9 pm. ALL those planning to be a leader in Awana MUST attend ONE of these training times unless you contact me! Please pray about your involvement. Last year, we had 200+ clubbers who actively hid God's Word in their hearts each week. It is exciting to be a part of this ministry where you can see God's Hand move each week. Won't you join us? Contact Earl & Geni Hall with any questions and to volunteer (earl@phc.edu, genihall@aol.com).

First Club Meeting: September 7th is our first club meeting. Registration will begin at 5:30 pm with club starting at 6 pm sharp. Mark your calendars!

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 vacation	2 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship Bible school
3 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer	4 Scouts	5	6 Worship Practice	7	8	9 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship
10 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Baptism Sunday	11 Scouts	12	13 Worship Practice Missions Committee Van der Vaart Small Group	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship
17 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Women's Ministry Committee	18 Scouts	19	20 Worship Practice	21	22	23 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship
24 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Awana Leadership Training 7-9pm	25 Scouts PLC	26 Deacons' Meeting	27 Children's Choirs Worship Practice Van der Vaart Small Group	28	29 Scout's	30 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship Campout
31 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Communion						

Happy Birthday to...

1 Emily Hall
2 Cate Metzgar
4 Clint Thomas
6 Amanda Garvis
6 Russ Jenkins
7 Christina Jenkins
8 Rich Shipe
9 John Phillips
10 Abby Stocker
10 Carri Casserino

13 Tyler Gregory
13 Stuart Marshall
13 Amy Blevins
13 Christian Warren
14 Jon Garber
14 Joanna MacKay
14 Anna Blevins
15 Brian Benedict
16 Christopher Tedrow
16 Matthew Simpson

18 Michael Protic
18 Mark Crosen
18 Anthony DeFazio
21 Alandace Gossage
22 Geni Hall
22 Steven McCollum
24 Dolores Davidson
24 Francesca Edling
24 Kristi Joy Matovich
24 John Zareva
24 Roger Pounders
25 Michael Farris

26 Karen Gill
26 Debbie Stevenson
27 Mike Farris
27 Ryan Mottice
28 David Siecker
28 Julie Smith
28 Betsy Chase
29 Debbi White
30 Jenna Dunn
30 Lane Stocker
30 Melissa Rogan
30 Mitchell Reynolds

30 Chloe Bozarth
30 Libby Chase
31 Katie Dunn
31 Danielle Garvis





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Did I Read That Sign Right?

- In a London department store: BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS
- In an office: WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN
- In an office: AFTER COFFEE BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE COFFEEPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD
- Outside a secondhand shop: WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?
- In a Laundromat: AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT
- Notice in health food shop window: CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS
- Spotted in a safari park:(I sure hope so) ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR
- Notice in a farmer's field: THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.
- Message on a leaflet: IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS
- On a repair shop door: WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

