

The Good News Banner

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Thoughts from the Pastor

by Jack Gill

The Old Testament prophet Samuel was quite a fellow. Here was a guy that had heard the audible voice of God as a child. He had faithfully served under the priest and judge Eli. He had stepped into the place of priest and judge himself after Eli died a sudden death. He made a circuit throughout the nation of Israel, and he would judge the people according to the Word of the Lord. He had anointed Saul, and seen Saul's disobedience. He personally hacked that wicked king Agag into pieces (gulp!), and spoke boldly to Saul (who was now king) that he would lose his office to another. He followed God's voice, and anointed David as well. In short, he was a bold and faithful man, and he was diligent to serve the Lord. He was not one to pursue that which was not directly aligned with God or His purposes. He called the nation to follow after the Lord with its whole heart.

The nation was not as diligent though. There were rumblings...murmurings. It seems the people wanted to be defined as other nations were defined—and that was by having a king. Even though the Lord had defended and cared for them, they felt that need to "keep up with the Joneses," and that a king would help in defining them in the eyes of the other nations. Now they would look like those around them. Now, they would appear strong—or so they thought—with a king at their head.

In the wake of this pursuit, Samuel made this comment to them. Listen to his timeless words as we think about what our pursuits should be:

"...you must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which cannot profit or deliver, because they are futile...fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you." (1 Sam. 12:21, 24)

You and I live in a culture in which it is easy to lose the perspective of the eternal. All too

often, we see things in the now. We can easily get focused on our stuff—or the stuff we'd like to have. Keeping up with the Joneses is much more difficult. Today, along with the temptation to keep up with our neighbor, the media pushes us to have the newest technology, or the nicest and most fashionable clothing, or the youngest and most attractive bodies! The world continually calls for us to pursue the things it deems most important. I think we need a few more Samuels today—men and women who keep their focus and pursuit on the main thing: the Lord and His purposes.

When we allow our gaze to lower on to the temporal, the tough, the demanding, that which is sacrificial, or even our suffering, we can quickly lose the eternal perspective. With that, the Joneses suddenly become much more significant and attractive...and yet they continually remain elusive.

Considering what the Lord has already done for us is a real faith-booster though! Remembering His faithful acts keeps us encouraged, as well as helps us to wait expectantly and confidently to see how He will move and act in the future.

We cannot turn aside. Like Samuel, we too need to have a healthy fear of God...and to serve Him in truth. The futile things of life are like snake-oil—promising, attractive, and hope-building—but in the end they fail to deliver. Sort of the same way with kings, isn't it?

Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson



As the keeper-of-trivia and one of the old-timers around here, I thought I would give you a few "Did You Know?" thoughts this month. Some are current and some are from the distant past, some include prayer requests, and some are just random thoughts for fun. Did you know that ...

The first worship service of Blue Ridge Bible Church was December 18, 1988 at Lincoln Elementary School.

Rich Shipe (our candidate for associate pastor) and his wife, Christy (Farris), were the first teenagers to attend Blue Ridge. Christy's dad, Mike, was the founding pastor, and Rich's dad, Jim, is on the list of first members.

Katie (Farris) Dunn, who co-leads our youth group with husband, Sean, started attending BRBC at age 11 with her family.

I've been putting together the weekly bulletin since November 1990...about 860 of them. Now that's a lot of trivia in print and unfortunately way too much stored in my trivial head.

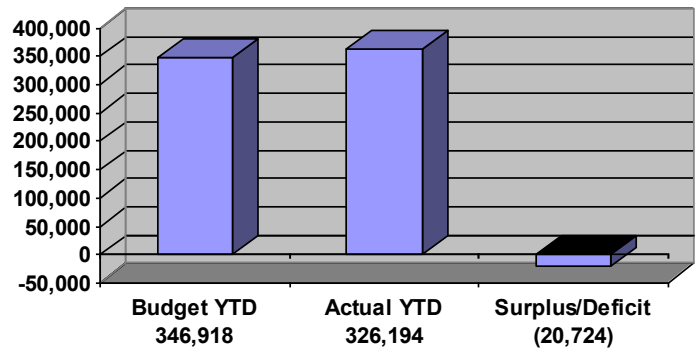
We have been preyed upon by woodpeckers who have drilled two holes in the building's pillars, and now starlings have taken up residency in one of the holes. Pray that these critters will come to their senses and realize those big white things are styrofoam and not trees, and pray that we can figure out an inexpensive and permanent way to fix the holes and keep the birds away.

With the current economy, we have a huge increase in calls from needy people in the community who go through the phone book list of churches to find financial help for food, gas, rent, or electric bills. Starting at "A" they don't have far to go until they reach the "Bs" and therefore us. Pray for wisdom for staff and deacons to discern real needs and to give the help they need most, and for the people to be drawn to the Lord.

With the 15 high school and college grads we are honoring this month, we also have two BRBC men who are celebrating the achievement of Master's Degrees: Paul Dillmuth with Master of Science in Information Security, and John Soltis with a Masters in Information Systems and Telecommunications Systems for Business from Johns Hopkins University. Congratulations, Guys!

Our Youth Group has volunteered to be our Levite Ministry Cleaning Crew for the summer. Yay, team!!! Thank you!!!

Actual & Budgeted Offerings as of 5/31/08



BRBC Attendance

	5/4	5/11	5/18	5/25
Sunday School				
Adults	107	114	118	96
Children	141	44	122	121
Total	248	258	240	217
Worship				
Auditorium	411	473	418	400
Classes	6	64	49	41
Total	477	537	467	441



Mark your calendars, it's that time of year again! This year BRBC's VBS will be held two days, August 1-2 from 9am-3pm each day. Keep any eye out for much more information to come in the July newsletter.





Missions Report

By Leah Garber

How were you affected by the floods in May? Last month's heavy rains resulted in widespread damage, including:

- Lost homes in a Maryland sinkhole
- Flooded basements
- Wrecked vehicles
- Power outages
- Traffic slowdowns



Are these the kinds of hardships that occurred to you when you considered the opening question? As traumatic as these events were in our area, they paled in comparison to the flooding that occurred in Myanmar last month. Consider some of what the Burmese people lost:

- Entire villages
- Food stores for the coming year
- Farming supplies
- Access to clean water
- Tens of thousands of lives



What was a mere inconvenience for most of northern Virginia was a devastating event for poverty-stricken Asia. It's hard to find a set of circumstances that more starkly illustrate the difference in sheer wealth and comfort between "western civilization" and "the third world."

Despite the obvious advantages of our culture, many missionaries have been called to minister to those who live in third-world countries. It is a love of Christ that compels them, a love that reads that last bullet point above – "tens of thousands of lives" – and weeps to consider that these lives were lost in a country that's only 4% Christian. Just as Jesus stepped down from the glories of heaven to serve fallen humanity, these

missionaries are leaving behind known comfort to reach out to people who are dying eternally.

Our missionaries who serve in these poor areas often experience uncertainties not only in the mundane aspects of life ("What will be available at my corner market today?"), but in their countries' political situations as well. Luke and Nancy Cutherell, Dan and Julie Stephens, Joe and Denise Holman are all examples of people who serve where daily living is tough and where the political future is anybody's guess. Denise Holman's recent visit to BRBC should remind us to faithfully pray for these missionaries who faithfully serve God in the callings He's given them.

So the next time you read of a natural disaster, take it as God's reminder to pray for each of our missionaries.



Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Clothing Exchange – it was a huge success! We had about 175 people come on Saturday morning and almost all of the clothes were given away to them. There was a line at the door when we got there. It was a real blessing. The few remaining clothes were donated to Salvation Army. We were able to pray with a few of the "shoppers" who had various hardships in their lives, and invited many to join us on Sunday for worship.

Special thanks to the church for use of the building, to the women's ministry of Purcellville Baptist Church, to my co-coordinator Courtney Shipe, and to all of the volunteers who gave so much of their time to help, especially Marina Wilson, Kindle Gossage, Whitney Lassiter, Karen Gill, Anita Siecker, Marion Esposito, Shelly Farley, Angie Farris, and everyone else who helped make it run so smoothly this year! Also, special thanks to the men who attended the breakfast and relocated for us and stayed to help....especially Bill Wilcox for shampooing the carpet!

Finally, many thanks to the Boy Scouts who set up the chairs for Sunday morning worship in a very short amount of time – just minutes! Everyone was a tremendous blessing and I'm extremely grateful!

- Erin Landavere

Getting To Know You: **The Casserino Family**

By Breana Paist

Let me begin by saying that my family moved locally two months ago, and there are still a few boxes around, my room is only half unpacked, and don't even think about setting foot in the garage. John, Carri, Jacob, Anna, and Ethan Casserino on the other hand, have moved four times in the past four years and can get a house in order—completely unpacked, pictures hung, drapes up—in three days! Now that is a talent in a league entirely of its own.

The Casserino family moved to Virginia eleven months ago from lower MI; prior to Michigan the family lived in MA, NH, upper MI, VA, NM, England, and VA. They now live on four-and-a-half acres off of a dirt road in Philomont—plenty of room for both a dog and a clothesline. "We have a great neighborhood and love living in a small town.," says Carri. "We enjoy Airedale dogs, and now have our second one named Tobin."

Since it would be pretty bad to mention the dog and forget about the kids, let's talk some about Jacob, Anna, and Ethan. Jacob, 16, was homeschooled for four years before he started campaigning to go back to "real school." He is now at his third school, Notre Dame Academy, and will be at Valley next year. Jacob's favorite subject in school is science; other favorites are scouts, camping, cooking, lacrosse, golf, reading, and choir. Jacob is described as outgoing and focused. Thirteen-year-old Anna and Ethan, who is eleven, are both homeschooled. "It was easier when moving as frequently as we did," their mom says. Anna likes ballet, horses, and artwork. She also enjoys her job as a mother's helper for a six-month-old and learning the French language in school. Anna is reserved yet confident. Ethan's favorite activities are scouts, golf, soccer, reading, cooking, cello, writing, biking, and studying falcons. He is described as fun-loving and friendly, and his best subject in school is math.

John was raised in Brooklyn, NY and Long Island. He grew up in the Catholic church before becoming a Christian through a Bible study at the Air Force Academy. He was later discipled at Peninsula Bible Church in California. "Living most of my life in the military, I have always been sensitive to the calling of justice. At the same time, increasing rank and a sense of my own shortfalls made it clear I needed more humility in dealing with the lives of others" Based on this, it is obvious why John's life verse is Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Carri grew up in Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan, two different places in New York, West Virginia, and Vermont. "By the time I was 21 I had lived in at least 21 different houses," she remembers. "[I] attended four high schools and two colleges." During the many moves, her father's death when she was 19, and having children with difficulty, Carri says that God was there through it all holding her hand. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

John and Carri met while Carri was working in the DC area. John was teaching a singles class at the Bible church she was

attending, but he waited until after he was finished teaching to ask her out on a date. They dated for six months before marrying in 1989.

Nowadays Carri enjoys gardening, reading, history, politics, baking, entertaining, bird watching and feeding, and anything English. She told me she is an Anglophile, a word I had to look up to figure out what it meant. (It means she is a person who is, in fact, fond of England!) Carri used to work in human resources and now keeps things running at home. John enjoys woodworking and has recently finished designing and building the mantel in their home. After running 10 marathons it is safe to assume he enjoys running. Another hobby is drawing. John recently retired after twenty-five years of service in the USAF at the rank of colonel. His training was in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, and he is currently a consultant for the Defense Department and other government agencies.

John and Carri say that an important experience that stands out to them in their Christian life is that "wherever we have lived, God has been with us and provided a wonderful church and strong believers to worship with. God is faithful and we are always learning." The Casserinos decided to become members of BRBC in October of last year after finding the church online. They chose BRBC because it is a Bible church and the many homeschooling families attending there. They especially like the people, the teaching, and "all of Jack's military stories." They have hosted youth and Jr. High events, and just had their first job as greeters.

Various spiritual lessons they have learned lately are that God's provision is sufficient, to trust Him as they wait for their house in Michigan to sell, and gratitude for health, blessings, and opportunities to witness for Him. As a family the Casserinos like to travel, play games, watch movies, and hike. The guys like to play golf, and the family also enjoys collecting first edition books by pre-1950 authors, especially C.S. Lewis.

Several guiding principles for the Casserino family are: serve God first, work before play, and determine your spiritual gifts then center the choices of your life around them. A favorite hymn of the family is *Be Thou My Vision*. "Our favorite contemporary song is probably Twila Paris' 'God is in Control.' In a life of constant change this is very important," Carri says. "PS: We hope to be here for a very long time." :)



June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Business Meeting	2 American Heritage Girls Scouts	3 Fontaine Small Group	4 Worship Practice Youth Group Wilcox Small Group	5 Smith/Berry Small Group	6	7 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship Youth Group Party
8 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Baptism Sunday	9 American Heritage Girls Scouts	10	11 Worship Practice Missions Committee Youth Group Wilcox & Van der Vaart Small Groups	12	13	14 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship
15  Happy Father's Day! Worship Practice Elders' Prayer	16 Scouts Newsletter Deadline	17	18 Worship Practice Youth Group Wilcox Small Group	19 Smith/Berry Small Group	20	21 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship
22 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Women's Ministry Committee Scout's Summer Camp	23	24 Deacons' Meeting	25 Worship Practice Youth Group Wilcox & Van der Vaart Small Groups	26	27	28 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship
29 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Communion	30					

Happy Birthday to...

1 Jack Gill
1 Anabel Winants
2 Hannah Dillmuth
2 Terri Ehler
2 Cecelia Gleason
2 Addison Gossage
3 Lisa Reynolds
4 Daniel Kirkwood
5 Carter Dowden
5 Melissa Jessberger
5 Kara Heidorn

6 Colton Hall
6 Mary Parker
6 Leyla Dorsey
7 Amanda Taylor
7 Isaiah McPeak
7 Chip Vann
9 Canyon Lukasiak
10 Eileen Cook
10 Betty Luckabaugh
10 Joseph Larry
10 Julie LaRock

11 Ryan Hall
11 Nathan Lants
11 Carolyn Matovich
11 Danielle Carter
12 Catherine Gilanshah
13 Sarah Gill
14 Jonathan Simpson
14 Brittany Jenkins
15 Tim Chambers
16 Landon Reynolds
18 Mark van der Hoek
18 Robert Johnson
19 Joel Gicker
19 Jim Marshall

19 Allen Thornburgh
19 Matthew Kirkwood
20 Patty Taylor
21 Sam Porter
22 Carlos Fernandes (Sr.)
22 Rachel Dillmuth
23 Lauren Siecker
23 Evan Siecker
23 Janine Gleason
23 Allen Bozarth
24 Julia McKenzie
24 Heath Strickland
24 Charlie Tedrow
25 Shelly Farley

26 Victoria Protic
26 Amy McPeak
26 Laura Thomas
27 Nancy Wilcox
27 Emilie Rottman
28 Benjamin Fontaine
28 Christy Shipe
28 Allie Shipe
29 Samuel Soltis
29 Paul Dillmuth
30 Kenton Geyer





Blue Ridge Bible Church

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Spiritual Food For Thought...

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
God didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.
When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.
Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.
Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
Be careful you are not a church member who is singing "Standing on the Promises" but just sitting on the premises.
Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.
Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.
Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
God grades on the cross, not the curve.
God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
Don't give God instructions – just report for duty!
The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.
The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.
We don't change the message, the message changes us.
You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.
The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

