

The Good News Banner

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Thoughts from the Pastor

by Jack Gill

When I flew for the airlines, one of the things that we as pilots always did was to announce over the loudspeaker the destination of the aircraft. In fact, we then restated our flight number, destination, the time to get there, and the weather at the destination. This was usually after the flight attendants had also stated the flight number and destination. Why? Because invariably, after announcing it two to three times, someone would come forward while we were on the ground to confess that they had erred, and were on the wrong flight! It would be bad to be at the Denver International Airport with a destination of Colorado Springs (a 20 minute flight), only to find that you boarded a 3 hour flight to Tampa! (This actually occurred on one of my flights!)

Having said that, I wanted to take some time to comment on our destination, especially with regard to our Sunday school classes. Where are we going with Sunday school? What can we expect?

When it comes to adult classes, we are primarily going to do two things with them. First, we will train up and have several teachers that can provide instruction regarding our church's doctrine. We are going to have a systematic plan that will encompass many of the fundamental but key doctrines that we hold, such as the doctrine of the church, of God, of Jesus Christ, man, salvation, end times, and sin. In addition, we'll look at both the Old Testament as well as the New Testament as a whole, and we'll incorporate church history as well. Why? So that we can do what Paul told Timothy and Titus, "In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following." (1 Tim. 4:6) We want to equip the saints to be sound in doctrine! These classes will be offered over a repeating timeframe of about

every three years. What's more, we will not only look at what we believe, but we'll also examine what others believe, and more importantly, why we hold to what we hold to, and why they hold to what they hold to so that we can discern our differences in both essential and non-essential doctrines of the faith. All of this we hope to implement by September of this year.

In addition, we'll make sure that we also keep some other adult classes open simultaneously. However, each class will have a specific purpose behind it in order to help facilitate not only knowledge about the Word and the person of God, but also fellowship and a means of getting to know one another better!

We also want to exert due diligence with our children's classes as well. We are seeking to revise their curriculum and continue to provide solid teaching and fellowship for them too! While we currently have fantastic teachers who can encourage and call them to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, we want to keep providing opportunities for other adults to come along with them and have a strong teaching force as we continue to grow numerically.

Finally, I want to mention one last thing, and that is while seeking to grow in our doctrine and knowledge, we will continue to remember that "the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and a sincere faith." (1 Tim. 1:5) We want to continually keep sight of growing together in our love for God and one another while we grow in our minds and hearts!

So are you ready to engage? Got a desire to teach? Got a desire to grow in your knowledge? Finally, do you want to enjoy the company of believers while doing so? Then climb aboard, strap on your safety belt, and get ready for the flight into sound doctrine and faith!



Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

Spring is finally here and in full swing! It's time for cleaning our houses inside and out, beginning the yardwork routines again, and for our college students, it's time for finals and heading back home. I think we can finally pack away those coats after our up and down temps. Unless, of course, yours remains in the church lost and found...but that's a topic for another newsletter. As you are organizing through closets, or evaluating your yard, or studying for finals, I ask you to help out Blue Ridge Bible in the process. Here are four ways...

GRADUATION

It's our tradition to honor our graduates on a Sunday in June. If you are going to be a high school or college graduate this year or you have one in your family, please let me know the name, school, and future plans of the graduate. I need to hear from you by May 11.

PLANTS

When you evaluate your landscaping and determine that you need to remove bulbs, bushes, or perennials that may have overgrown their area or need to be split, please consider donating them to the church. We are particularly looking for hostas, but would be grateful for just about anything to beautify the huge landscape. Also, if you don't have a green thumb and therefore no plants to donate from your yard, perhaps you would consider making financial donations towards the purchase of more plants. Contact Shelly Farley (soaringhigh@mac.com) regarding donations of plants or money for this project.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As you clean out your craft or school supplies, the following is a list of items which we can use in our Sunday school and Awana programs. If you have items to donate OR you have items that are not on the list below and wonder if they could be used, please contact Regina Gossage (gossagefam@aol.com).

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Beads | Hole punchers(any kind) | Shells |
| Buttons | Pipe Cleaners | Stamps/stamp pads |
| Construction paper | Popsicle sticks | String |
| Fabric | Ribbon | Tissue paper(colors) |
| Felt | Rulers | Yarn |
| Foam shapes | Q-tips | |

ORGANIZERS NEEDED

After you complete your projects at home and discover that you have the gift of organizing and find great joy in seeing order, please consider becoming a part of the BRBC kitchen team. I am primarily looking for someone who finds great satisfaction in putting things back in order. Because of much use, the kitchen cupboards, pantry and countertops are in need of attention. If the task is done regularly, it wouldn't require much time after the initial organizing. Please contact me if you are the person who has been looking for a place to use your organizational skills in service to our congregation and our Lord.

BRBC Attendance

	4/6	4/13	4/20	4/27
Sunday School				
Adults	154	119	99	99
Children	128	50	119	123
Total	282	269	221	222
Worship				
Auditorium	485	439	441	396
Classes	65	78	63	53

THANK YOU...

From Clint & Melissa Thomas:

We would like to express our deep appreciation for all the people who have helped provide meals, transportation, help with childcare and everything else related to getting us through Melissa's chemo/radiation treatment. You're all like family to us and words cannot express what you mean to us. Every single act of help has not gone unnoticed and we just wanted to say thank you again. Melissa's sort of in a holding pattern right now pending another test before scheduling surgery sometime in the next month or two. Please continue praying for healing and that God's purpose in all of this will be made perfect.

From Steve & Patti Gregory:

We would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome that Tyler has received since coming into our family and our church family. There have been many answers to prayer, even just during his first initial two months as part of our family. A medical praise is that the doctor informed us that he does not have a cleft palate, and therefore will not need any medical attention until he has a small cosmetic surgery when he is about five years old. The Lord has indeed been watching over this little boy's spirit. One day, he may choose Job 10:12 as one of his life verses: "You gave me life, and showed me kindness, And in Your Providence, watched over my spirit". Thank you for the many baby shower gifts, and words of encouragement for Tyler!



Mother's Day Brunch Saturday, May 10th 10am-noon at the BRBC

Join other moms for a special brunch served on real china and linens. We want to honor you on this special day. Our guest speakers are Vickie Farris and Jayme Farris Metzgar, authors of the book, *A Mom Just Like You*, as our special speakers. We'll also enjoy special music from some of our very own children. Make sure you RSVP Regina Gossage at [Gossagefam@aol.com](mailto:gossagefam@aol.com). You are welcome to invite your own mom or a friend to this special event. Just let us know if you're bringing someone.



If you have the gift or skill for singing or playing an instrument then Tom Gossage wants you to come and be a part of our Praise Choir or Praise Orchestra!

Both groups rehearse on Wednesday nights; choir from 7:30-9pm and orchestra from 6:15-7:30pm in the sanctuary.



Missions Report

Mini Mission Conferences – Your Feedback Wanted!

BRBC has just celebrated another Mini Mission Conference centered around the visit of our supported missionary Johnson Asare from Ghana. Other Mini Mission Conferences in the past year have been arranged around the visits of Stephen Aputara, also from Ghana (September), and Adi and Lavi Dreana from Romania (December).

It is the Mission Committee's hope to have similar events once a quarter to keep missions in front of the congregation on a regular basis and to help us deepen our relationships with BRBC missionaries. When supported missionaries aren't in town we might bring in a local ministry or an outside speaker who can educate us on some aspect of missions.

Johnson Asare had several opportunities to interact with BRBCers during his time in northern Virginia:

- Speaking at Home Groups
- Sharing during Sunday School
- Giving greetings during Sunday service
- Attending a potluck on Sunday afternoon
- Speaking at AWANA in club rooms and Council Time

If you've thought of venues that the Mission Committee has overlooked, or if you've seen ways to improve the activities we currently include in Mini Mission Conferences—please tell us! We welcome your suggestions and invite your full participation in these special events.

New Mission Website – Your Input Wanted!

The Mission Committee is working to improve the mission area of BRBC's website. In the next couple of months we hope to use this area to:

- Provide more detailed information about our supported missionaries
- Post a calendar of upcoming mission-related events
- Highlight elder-approved giving opportunities to provide an easy way to connect financially with our missionaries and those they serve

If you have ideas for other features that would assist you in being connected to BRBC missions, please let us know!

Problem Pregnancy – Your Prayers Wanted!

As was mentioned in a recent bulletin mission highlight, Pam Richardson, our supported missionary to Mexico, is currently nearing the end of her pregnancy, which has been complicated by gestational diabetes and other long-term health concerns. Please remember to pray for the Richardsons, as Pam's due date is at the end of May.

Why Do Ladies Retreat To Retreats?

Greetings Ladies,

When you hear the words "women's retreat" what goes through your mind? For me, I think: Time alone with God, a time to build relationships with the friends that I have, and also a time to meet new sisters in Christ. A woman's retreat is a time to refresh your body, mind and spirit. It's a time to hear new biblical insights, to grow in your relationship with God, and to share with others what God has done in your life, both the joys and the struggles. It's a time to laugh a lot and a time to shed a few tears.

Now I know some of you are thinking, "Karen, many of the reasons *you* like a retreat are the very same reasons I *don't* like a retreat." *Talk to strangers?* (No, I said meet new sisters in Christ. Frankly ladies, we are all going to be in heaven together anyway. Why not get to know one another here first?) Now, about *building relationships with friends*: "Who need friends," you may think? "I have a husband and children to meet those needs." To this let me say ever so gently: Your husband can't meet all your needs and your children--unless they are adult children--are not supposed to be your friends. As to the *sharing time* of a retreat, it may just be that the Lord has done things in your life that could benefit one of His other children.

One of my favorite life verses is 2 Corinthians 1:3-5:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

Ladies, let me encourage you: Getting involved with the women's ministries at Blue Ridge Bible Church will enrich your life and the lives of those you touch. As Pastor Jack has said many times recently, fellowship is an important part of the spiritual growth of a Christian. He's told us that small groups are a place to find that kind of fellowship. I agree wholeheartedly. I would also like to add that attending a women's retreat (and any of the other women's ministry events) can play an important part in the life of a godly woman.



So ladies--in closing I would just like to say thank you to all the Blue Ridge women who have made me--a newcomer--feel so welcome. I would also like to invite you all to step out of your comfort zone and get involved. All of us on the Retreat committee hope that next year the women of BRBC will fill the retreat center to capacity!

Blessings to you all, Karen Heidorn



Our Awana year draws to a close in May. We have had a fantastic year truly blessed by the Lord with ample opportunity to teach children about Christ and see His Word hidden in their hearts.

Our last club meeting is on the 4th which will also conclude our water memory challenge. For each clubber who memorized the most sections per club, they will have an opportunity to throw a wet sponge in Mr. Hall or Mr. Berry's face!! This will be a hilarious time of memories to reward the clubbers' hard work. You don't want to miss this night! Bring your cameras!

No Awana on the 11th as we spend time honoring our Moms.

Our 11th Annual Award Ceremony and Ice Cream Social is on May 18th from 6 to 8 pm. EVERYONE is invited to come and see the clubbers receive their rewards for all their hard work. Ice cream will be served immediately afterwards. Please bring a topping to share. All ice cream will be provided .

During the Award Ceremony, we will also be giving out the highest award in Awana, the Citation Award. Earning the Citation Award is the ultimate achievement. It represents a minimum of 10 years worth of hard work and service. The Citation is the reward for having spent countless hours attending group meetings, working with children, getting involved in the community, completing 10 years of biblically grounded curriculum and learning more than 700 Bible verses. This will be our fifth Citation Award presented in our 11 year history. Emily Hall will be presented the award at our 11th Annual Award Ceremony. Come and cheer on all our award winners!

May Awana Dates:

May 4	Rain Gear Night, 4 th quarter club attendance
May 11	NO AWANA (Mother's Day)
May 18	11 th Annual Award Ceremony and

Getting To Know You: The Vann Family

By Breana Paist

All you tech people, or whatever you call yourselves, who put together BRBC's website, go ahead and give yourselves a pat on the back for doing a swell job. The Vann family came to BRBC for the first time last year because of two reasons: some of their friends had recommended the church and because they liked the website!

Chip, Chris, Sydney, Shelby, Cooper, and Tucker Vann moved to Round Hill eight months ago from Connecticut. Chip had begun working in Business Development for Intersections, Inc. based in Chantilly, which is a financial services company. After he began work in Virginia they started thinking about moving south, plus the family was tired of Connecticut's long winters. "We have family in the area which was a big attraction to moving back to Virginia," says Chip. The Vanns did decide to head south and now have three acres with a house that is "medium- sized for this area." This house comes complete with a long, paved driveway that the kids like to ride down on their bikes and scooters! Seven-year-old Shelby and her big sister Sydney, who's eleven, like to ride bikes, roller skate, and ice skate. The girls' identical twin brothers, Cooper and Tucker (each boy is four years old...since they're twins and all), are really good on their razor scooters! Sydney goes to Blue Ridge Middle School, Shelby attends Round Hill Elementary, and the boys go to Loudon County Community Center in Round Hill for preschool.

Like I said, Chip grew up here in Virginia, but that wasn't the only place! "I was the son of a Marine, so we moved around a lot. I lived in Japan, Quantico, VA, and Camp Lejeune, NC," Chip explains. "I spent most of my childhood in Springfield, VA." Chip grew up going to a Methodist church and became a Christian in 1990. "I had fallen away from all that I learned in the church growing up, but the seeds had been planted. Convinced of my desperate need, I accepted Christ shortly after moving to California." California!? Since when did Chip live in California? Well you see, his wife Chris grew up in Orange County, California, and the two of them had to meet somehow.

Chris did not go to a church as she grew up. Since her mother was Protestant and her dad was Catholic they could never agree on a church, so they never went. Chris met Chip working at an advertising agency in Southern California. "Chris trained me on my first day," Chip says, "and complained to my boss that I wasn't listening to her. Fourteen years later, not much has changed in that department." :) The two became friends while working together for three years, and in 1992 Chip led Chris to the Lord. They were married on May 21, 1994 in Virginia Beach.

Through the years, Chip and Chris have seen that God is faithful, and He will prepare you for His calling in your life. "We had a stillborn son in 1999. God covered us with His grace. We saw Him work in amazing ways and many of our friends came to know the Lord through it." Three other particular spiritual lessons they have learned lately is that God is always with us, life is precious and short so we should be thankful for each day, and we need to constantly remind ourselves of what God has done in our lives. Good lessons!



As a family, the Vanns like to visit relatives (and Disneyland!) in Southern California, and go to Nags Head, NC, to put-put golf, jet ski, and of course hit the beach. Chip really loves to surf. "When we lived in California, I would surf every weekend," he says, "and sometimes on my lunch hour!" Since Round Hill is kind of far away from any beach, he runs regularly and lifts weights to stay in shape for the few chances he gets to surf. Chris likes to garden, read, as well as going to the beach (all this talk of the beach makes me want go there!) and they both love to travel.

When the Vann family moved to VA and visited our church, they decided they liked the church doctrine, the worship, the people, and Pastor Jack, as well as the fact that BRBC has a great Awana program. Chip and Chris teach the four-year-old Sunday School class, and Chip is involved in the men's ministry committee. They became members in October of last year.

The Vanns say their family purpose is to serve God and train their children to be followers of Christ. "To help them grow in the Lord and one day live on their own in the center of His will." The family also particularly loves the old hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul." "I love the faith it took the author to write that hymn during a devastating personal experience."



May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Holman Missions Desert Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship Shipe Small Group
4 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Awana	5 American Heritage Girls Scouts	6 Fontaine Small Group	7 Praise Groups & worship Practices Children's Choirs Youth Group Wilcox Small Group	8 Holman Baby Shower Smith/Berry Small Group	9 Fernandes Small Group	10 Mother's Day Brunch Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship Shipe Small Group
11  Worship Practice Baptism Sunday Elders' Prayer NO AWANA	12 American Heritage Girls Scouts	13 Fontaine Small Group	14 Praise Groups & worship Practices Children's Choirs Missions Committee Youth Group Wilcox & Van der Vaart Small Groups	15 Newsletter Deadline Garber Small Group	16 Shipe Nomination Mtg and desert Fernandes & Mickahail Small Groups	17 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship Shipe Small Group Scout's Campout
18 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Scout's Campout Awana Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social 6-8pm	19 American Heritage Girls Scouts	20 Fontaine Small Group	21 Praise Groups & worship Practices Children's Choirs Youth Group Wilcox Small Group	22 Smith/Berry Small Group	23 Fernandes Small Group	24 Brotherhood Prayer/ Breakfast Fellowship AHG Outing Shipe Small Group
25 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Communion AHG Outing	26  Memorial Day	27 Deacons' Meeting Fontaine Small Group	28 Children's Choirs Youth Group Wilcox & Van der Vaart Small Groups	29 Garber Small Group	30 Ladies' Fellowship & Bible Study	31

Happy Birthday to...

1 Ivan Edling
1 Drew Essex
1 Marion Esposito
2 Chris Rogan
4 Adina Baer
4 Catherine Fernandes
4 Molly Virts
5 Natalie Garvis
8 Lauren Garvis

8 Jett Reynolds
10 Axel Edling
11 Whitney Lassiter
13 Ken Shipe
15 Linda Brown
16 Emily Farris
16 Caleb Jones
16 Andrew Baker
17 Clara Davidson

18 Chloe Chambers
18 Lanie Landavere
18 Winfield Wilson
19 Erin Landavere
19 Claudine Jenkins
20 Maddie Essex
20 Anna Gicker
20 Cari Peacock
20 Hope Lukasiak
20 Anna Cox
21 Sarah Mickahail
21 Emma Shipe
21 Larry Houchins

22 Lawson Landavere
22 Lisa Yost
22 Laura McCollum
23 Liberty Landavere
24 Thomas Garber
24 Rachel Shipe
24 Robert Hogan
24 Kristen Lung
25 Terri Stocker
25 Jessica Hogan
25 Chase Farley
25 Nuriya Reynolds
25 Amelie Kirkwood

26 Sara Watson
27 Jeremy Cole
27 Lindsey Rogan
27 Katarina Esposito
28 Joshua Lassiter
29 Olivia Cox
30 Dave LaRock
30 Sarah Mehrens
30 Courtney Shipe
30 Chris Vann
31 Lucy Cole





Blue Ridge

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Thoughts on Motherhood from Humorist Erma Bombeck

Have you any idea how many children it takes to turn off one light in the kitchen? Three. It takes one to say, "What light?" and two more to say, "I didn't turn it on."

Spend at least one Mother's Day with your respective mothers before you decide on marriage. If a man gives his mother a gift certificate for a flu shot, dump him.

Who, in their infinite wisdom, decreed that Little League uniforms be white? Certainly not a mother.

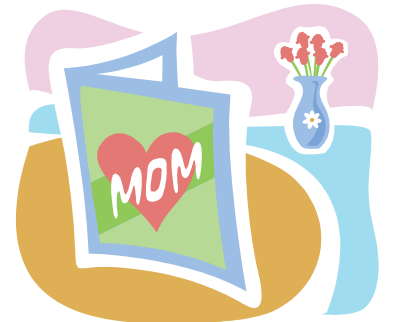
There's something wrong with a mother who washes out a measuring cup with soap and water after she's only measured water in it.

All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with white carpet is one of them.

Everyone is guilty at one time or another of throwing out questions that beg to be ignored, but mothers seem to have a market on the supply. "Do you want a spanking or do you want to go to bed?" Don't you want to save some of the pizza for your brother?" Wasn't there any change?"

Mothers have to remember what food each child likes or dislikes, which one is allergic to penicillin and hamster fur, who gets carsick and who isn't kidding when he stands outside the bathroom door and tells you what's going to happen if he doesn't get in right away. It's tough. If they all have the same hair color they tend to run together.

When mothers talk about the depression of the empty nest, they're not mourning the passing of all those wet towels on the floor, or the music that numbs your teeth, or even the bottle of cap-less shampoo dribbling down the shower drain. They're upset because they've gone from supervisor of a child's life to a spectator. It's like being the vice president of the United States.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!