

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

Have you ever noticed how often we struggle to keep things?

We lose weight, but the struggle is in *keeping* it off...

We earn a paycheck, but it is hard to *keep* any of the money after the essential bills...

We own cars and homes, but we have to *keep* maintaining them...

We win games, but we have to strive to *keep* a winning record...

The New Testament book of 2 John is all about *keeping things*. If you can, take a minute to read this short little 13 verse book in your New Testament. In verses 4-6 we are to *keep* the commandment of love. In verses 7-8 we are to *keep* the reward. In verse 9 we are to *keep* the teaching of abiding in Christ. In verses 10-11 we are to *keep out* the false teachers, and in verses 12-13 the recipients were to *keep* up the hope of seeing the apostle again.

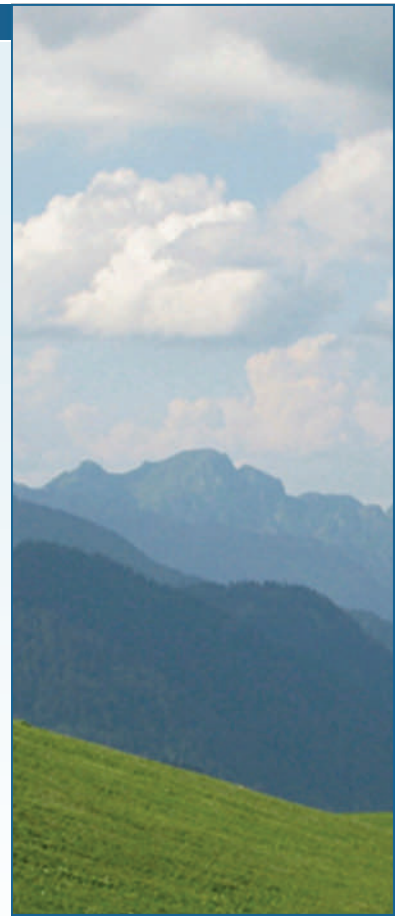
Interestingly though, the book begins not with what we are to keep, but with what keeps us – the Truth! It is that Truth which “abides in us and will be with us forever.” We cannot keep the things that God would have us to keep if we do not first abide in the person of Truth – Jesus Christ.

Too often in our Christian lives we work so hard to keep what God calls us to keep, but forget to allow Jesus to keep us. (In fact, we often strive to keep even more than what God calls us to keep!) That leads to an exhausting and defeated life. We can work so hard at keeping what we think would please God, but forget that without the person of Jesus in our lives we cannot truly keep anything.

Are you abiding in the Truth?

As a body of believers, this is where we can effectively challenge one another, but that entails a few things. First, it means that we must be engaged with one another, and we have to be willing to allow others into our lives. It also means that we are giving each other permission to speak into one another’s lives. Finally, it means that we are staying in the Word of God, allowing His Spirit to use His Word to transform us. We need to allow ourselves to be vulnerable, available, and exposed to God and to one another.

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- Rich Shipe - Associate Pastor
- Tom Gossage - Worship Pastor
- Debbie Stevenson - Administrator
- Chris George - Layout & Editor

January Attendance

	3	10	17	24	31
Sunday School					
Adults	95	101	110	105	Snow
Children	96	124	109	125	
Total	191	226	219	231	
Worship					
Auditorium	443	462	477	531	
Classes	29	42	39	50	
Total	462	504	516	581	

It is a little haunting to me that verse 4 says, “I was very glad to find ***some*** of your children walking in truth...” That means not everyone was when John wrote this – and that can certainly be the case today. Let’s allow Jesus to keep us in the Truth, and to find the help of the believers in doing so by *keeping* one another in prayer. Let’s *keep* fellowship with one another too. Finally, let’s *keep* love paramount.

But let’s keep remembering that we can’t keep anything...unless we allow Jesus to keep us!

Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

This month I just wanted to highlight a few things available to our congregation for you who are new or for those who may not have them on your “radar”...

Did you know that our website is the number one way that new people find us? It’s also one of the best ways for you to stay current on what’s happening at BRBC, as well as download the latest sermon from Jack. Check it out at www.br bible.org.

Did you know that we have a church library located in Room 104 in the lower level? It’s full of really great books for Bible study, for children, for help on marriages or finances or relationships, or for fun fiction-reading. Stop by any time the church is open and check out a book or two. And it’s free with no penalties!

Did you know that we are always looking for creative writers and articles for the monthly newsletter? The intent of the Good News Banner is to report on BRBC happenings, as well as what’s happening in the lives of the BRBC family members. We would appreciate hearing from people about how the Lord is working in their lives, reports on personal ministries outside of BRBC, or even good stories written by kids for kids.

Update on Children's Classes

By Rich Shipe

Important Heartland Changes

A big change in Heartland is coming! Heartland is the during-the-worship-service class for 4 and 5 year olds. This ministry (along with Nursery and 2s/3s which will not change) frees parents from childcare and allows them to focus on worshipping God while their younger children are well taken care of during the service.

What is the change? Starting Sunday, February 21 the Heartland age group will participate upstairs with everyone during music and then go downstairs at announcements for the rest of the service.

Why are we making this change? We believe this change will bring two significant advantages. First, and most importantly, it will help children to make the transition from childcare during the whole service to sitting through the whole service. It is very important to us as a body that our children learn to fully participate in corporate worship. This is a learning process and this change will allow these children to take smaller steps toward this bigger goal. The second advantage involves those who volunteer for Heartland. Volunteers for this ministry only work one time per month but this change would allow them to participate in more of the worship service. Additionally, the largest part they miss, the sermon, is immediately available for them to download and listen to from the website.

How will it work? The hardest part of this change will be learning a new routine. With a little patience and flexibility we can work through any problems that arise.

If your children go to Kindergarten or 4s Sunday School: When you drop off your child for Sunday School you will indicate on the form that they will be attending Heartland. Your child will get the normal security routine for Sunday School and then you will be given an extra sticker for Heartland. Your child will need to be picked up at the end of Sunday School and before church. During announcements it will be announced that registered Heartland children can go back to the auditorium's Welcome Center area to meet the Heartland volunteers. At some point before this, the sticker will need to be completed and stuck on the child's back. Children who don't have stickers will not be received and their parents will need to bring them down to the Heartland room for registration. Pick up your child as normal after church.

If your children don't go to Kindergarten or 4s Sunday School: Before the service there will be a registration table set up downstairs near the entrance. Register and pick-up your security sticker there. During announcements it will be announced that registered Heartland children can go back to the auditorium's Welcome Center area to meet the Heartland volunteers. At some point before this, the sticker will need to be completed and stuck on the child's back. Children who don't have stickers will not be received and their parents will need to bring them down to the Heartland room for registration. Pick up your child as normal after church.

If you forget to pre-register, no problem! Just bring your child down to the Heartland room during announcements and one of the volunteers will get your child registered quickly and you can get back upstairs.

Can you help? We are always looking for helpers and leaders. This is also true of Nursery and the 2s/3s class during the service. Please consider helping in this way. It is really an easy way to minister to others in a meaningful and significant way.

Needs for 2s/3s Worship Class

Additionally we are in need of a 2s/3s coordinator for during the service. Diana Thornburgh has done a tremendous job and we really appreciate her help. She needs to step down in March. Maybe this would be something you can do? It involves administrating the volunteers who help during the worship hour in 2s/3s. If your gifts are in administration, please prayerfully consider it. Contact Rich Shipe for additional details.

Getting to Know You

by Breana Paist

Let's take a peek into the Sraders family's life – what a treat! Andis moved to Northern Virginia at a very young age, and Lisa has lived here from the start. Lisa comes from a Catholic background, while Andis was Lutheran; both attended church, but they say that neither of them were followers of Christ. "I had learned a bit about Christ from Catholic church," Lisa says, "but basically went my own way and lived a worldly life until I felt the tugging from the Lord as I was dating Andi. I ignored it for a while, then, as we had married and were about to have our first child, the Lord helped me understand that I could be forgiven all my sins – past mistakes, bad choices, worldly way of living – and be completely new in Him! I couldn't resist!" Andis and Lisa met at a government contracting firm, and were married in 1992.

Andi's salvation came about like this: Before they had children, Andi and Lisa began attending a local church. Andi started coming closer to the idea of God, but had many questions about the sovereignty of God (how bad things could happen to children, creation, etc.). Through the Lord's working, and Andi's understanding of his own sin situation, the Lord brought Andi to Himself on a men's retreat in 2002. "Coming to God as adults has been so exciting and a huge learning curve. God has been so faithful," Andi says. "We realize that God is giving us a chance to begin a new generation in Him – praise Him! We love the Lord, and know that His grace is so real."

The Sraders family has always played state-favoritism with Virginia, apart from moving away for a year to Madison, Wisconsin. They moved right back to Loudoun County, though, and eventually found their dream – a house with some land. They now live in Philomont in a "precious home on lovely land with a neat pond that is now frozen over." (Writer's suggestion: show up on their doorstep tomorrow morning with some ice-skates and say they inadvertently invited you.)

Andis and Lisa have two, well three-ish, children. Ellen, 14, is very imaginative; she loves writing stories and poetry, drawing, and singing. She also loves acting, playing the guitar and piano, and soccer. Anne, 12 (also an imaginative one), loves music – piano, singing and guitar. Along with that, she enjoys acting, writing, drawing, soccer, and volleyball. Felly, their 2 ½ year old Papillion, enjoys chasing golf balls, knocking over trash cans, and being sneaked scraps from the table. "We all consider our little dog, Felly, an honorary member of the family, and treat him as such! He adds a lot of laughs to our days," Lisa says.

As a family, the Sraders family enjoy taking walks or cooking new things together, watching movies, and traveling. Some of the other things they enjoy are sitting around a crackling fire and doing read-alouds of



a favorite book or listening to Radio Theatre Dramas (Les Miserables is a family favorite). Lisa's hobbies include interior design, reading, history, listening to classical music, card-making, singing, and acting. Andi likes many sports (golf and soccer particularly), drawing, reading up on apologetics and Bible doctrine, and enjoying a football game or two. Andi is a program manager specializing in information systems with General Dynamics. Lisa homeschools her girls; they have been homeschooled all the way, with the exception of Ellen going to Kindergarten.

Through homeschool activities, they knew many families who attended BRBC. "We were searching for a church that did not compromise Truth for anything, and spoke and taught from His Word alone. We had been to seeker churches in the past, and felt there were compromises being made for the sake of more coming in the doors. We also wanted a church body that focused on growing families to Christ." This has become their favorite part about BRBC – the focus on discipleship of families to grow in Christ. "[There are] so many real souls here wanting to know and love God more!" The Sraders family became members in October 2009. Currently, Andi is involved in the Reflections Adoption Ministry and the Greeter Ministry. Lisa is on the Worship Team, as well as the Voices of Blue Ridge, and is involved with the theatre group (Christmas/Easter ministries).

Lately God has been teaching them to fully trust in what He says. "We need to get our love, power, life, everything from God and God alone through His Son, Jesus, not from others or our circumstances or our abilities. He is our source for all that is true and eternal." A favorite verse for the family is found in John 15:5-8, and two favorite hymns are "How Great Thou Art" and "In Christ Alone." A guiding thought is Jesus' command to "Follow Me." Another is "It's not about us – it's about God, and letting Him use us as unique 'instruments of righteousness.'"

The Normal Christian Life

by Rich Shipe

Bill Wilcox recommended a book to me by the great Chinese pastor, Watchman Nee called *The Normal Christian Life*. So far it is excellent! I want to share quotes from books I'm reading here and in the case of this book it is hard to narrow it down to what to share. This is becoming one of those books where there is less text that is highlighted than not highlighted. :) Here is a short excerpt from the first page:

God makes it quite clear in His Word that He has only one answer to every human need: His Son, Jesus Christ. In all His dealings with us, He works by taking us out of the way and substituting Christ in our place. The Son of God died instead for us for our forgiveness; He lives instead of us for our deliverance. So we can speak of two substitutions: a Substitute on the cross who secures our forgiveness and a Substitute within who secures our victory. It will help us greatly, and save us from much confusion, if we keep constantly before us this fact: God will answer all our questions in one way and one way only, namely, by showing us more of His Son.

And isn't that truth confirmed through the experience of the mature Christian? We are constantly struggling with simply telling God, "I know that Christ and his work on the cross is the answer, but I don't like that answer, God." "I know that Christ is sufficient for me, but that isn't what I want."

Nee's point is also made by Paul in a different way in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: *But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

And this also echos what Jack said in his sermon recently. We aren't content in what we have because we don't want what God is offering. We want something else. And isn't that the height of foolishness? The all powerful God wants to give us all of himself and we say "no thanks, I'd rather have this measly temporal thing."

But are we truly content with our "weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities"?

Missions

by Bob Mottice

Have you got your big, blowout family vacation planned for this year? Rented that villa on the French Riviera yet? Or maybe you're planning a trek into the Himalayas . . .

Well, perhaps you might instead think about something much better – a short term missions trip.

Blue Ridge Bible Church supports a number of missionary families throughout the world, and many of them welcome short-term missions trips. Adi and Lavinia Dreana in Romania have encouraged BRBC to send a mission group this summer, and several families are already exploring that possibility.

These trips can be great ways of helping and encouraging our missionaries, and a key complement to regular prayer and financial support of mission activity. As we seek to build stronger and deeper relationships with our missionaries in the field, BRBC hopes to promote an increasing number of short-term mission trips.

Of course, sharing the love of Christ with those in need is not limited by proximity to BRBC's supported missionaries. Members of our church have led mission groups to Ireland and China in recent years and established relationships with people and organizations in those countries. And this summer, a youth-oriented group from Blue Ridge will spend two weeks in Belize performing a host of Christian service-oriented projects there.

Needless to say, a short-term mission trip is not a vacation. Expect hard work and/or a busy schedule. But also expect a spurt of spiritual growth. And that will be far more refreshing than any vacation.

If you have questions about short-term mission trips or are thinking of organizing one, please contact the missions committee chairman and we will be happy to assist.

Home School Support Group

February 9

Homeschooling mom, teacher, mother...passionate wife? Your marriage is a sacred relationship that the Lord wants you to invest in.

Come hear cheap date night ideas and ways you can make your husband feel like he is a priority in your life!

There will be door prizes with date opportunities for you to enjoy with your spouse. You don't want to miss this!

For more information, contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com)

Awana

by Geni Hall

We have a "super" night planned for February 7. In honor of the Super Bowl, we are collecting canned goods to be donated to Purcellville's new food pantry, Tree of Life Food Pantry. This ministry has already ministered to 40 Western Loudoun County families! Your contribution will help those in our community in their basic needs. Please send canned goods with your clubber on February 7th. We have a special speaker talking about God's love for us.

NOTE: A special time on Super Bowl Sunday only! We will meet from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. PLEASE make a note of it!

There is NO Awana on on February 14 for Valentine's Day and President's Day Weekend!

Creation Night is February 21. Clubbers, come dressed as something that God created! Be creative. A special speaker is planned to share how God's creation points to our Creator.

February 28 is South of the Border Night. Dress up and help us celebrate! We will have a video conference with our missionaries, Joe and Denise Holman in Bolivia. You won't want to miss the chance to hear how God is working in their lives. Mark your calendar today!

February 7	Soup-er Bowl Night Special Time 3 to 5 pm
February 14	NO AWANA (Valentine's Day/President's Day)
February 21	Creation Night
February 28	South of the Border Night

Food Pantry

Did you know that even in Loudoun County we have families who do not have the money to purchase food? There have been a few resources for food in Eastern Loudoun for a number of years, but those are too far for Western Loudoun families, who may not have regular transportation either. Some people from Purcellville Baptist and some other churches and parachurch organizations recently started a food pantry for our area. It's called the Tree of Life Food Pantry and is located in the industrial park on 21st Street. We were recently provided information on this pantry and its needs. Even though this just started in November, they are steadily providing food for over 30 families per month.

On February 7th, which is Super Bowl Sunday, BRBC congregation and Awana encourage you to bring food to church and Awana for a "soup-er bowl" Sunday. We will have donation areas set up in both foyers for you to drop off non-perishable food. Some suggested items are:

- Healthy cereal or cereal bars
- Baking products
- Instant meals (i.e. Hamburger Helper)
- Rice, pasta, beans (canned or dry)
- 100% Juice
- Canned fruits, vegetables, soup, chili, pasta sauce
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, turkey)
- Peanut butter, jelly, honey
- Mayo, mustard, ketchup, salad dressing
- Dry soup mixes
- Baby food or formula

Of course, there are needs for volunteers as well as food, so if you or your family would like to volunteer, contact Tree of Life at 703-554-3595 or treeoflife@purbap.org.

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	2 Shipe Women's Group	3 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Tigges Men's Study Wilcox Home Group	4 Fontaine Home Group Stevenson Women's Group	5 Berry/MacKay Home Group Reynolds Home Group Refuge Home Group Discipleship Now	6 Men's Breakfast
7 AWANA (3—5pm today only) Super Bowl Discipleship Now	8 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Mom's In Prayer	9 Homeschool Support Group Shipe Women's Group	10 Veteran's Day Missions Committee Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Tigges Men's Study Wilcox Home Group	11 Fontaine Home Group Stevenson Women's Group	12 Berry/MacKay Home Group Reynolds Home Group Refuge Home Group	13 Men's Breakfast
14 Valentines Day	15 Presidents Day Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Newsletter Deadline	16 Shipe Women's Group	17 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Tigges Men's Study Wilcox Home Group	18 Fontaine Home Group Stevenson Women's Group	19 Berry/MacKay Home Group Reynolds Home Group Refuge Home Group	20 Men's Breakfast
21 AWANA Tigges Home Group Singles Sunday Home Group	22 Mom's In Prayer	23 Deacons Shipe Women's Group	24 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Tigges Men's Study Wilcox Home Group	25 Fontaine Home Group Stevenson Women's Group	26 Berry/MacKay Home Group Refuge Home Group Women's Retreat	27 Men's Breakfast
28 AWANA Communion Women's Retreat						

Happy Birthday to...

1 Felicity Harris
2 Grange Newton
2 Caroline Thomas
3 Angie Farris
4 Jessi Lassiter
4 Andria Donnelly
6 Jordan Hall
6 Nathan Hall
6 Kenny Reynolds

6 Craig Penzien
7 Adam Hall
7 Rachel Soltis
7 Shelby Jones
7 Caleb Blevins
12 Nancy McHale
13 Chung Kim
14 Aviel Gilanshah
15 Cori Metzgar

16 Jonathan Garber
16 Rebekah Watson
16 Nancy Ziemnick
16 Matthew Schulman
18 Amy George
18 Amanda Devairakkam
18 Jonathan Monroe
19 Micaela Brown
20 Olga Garber

20 Maddie Farley
20 Kindle Gossage
22 Kim Chambers
23 Michael Soltis
23 Evan Stocker
23 Shahrzad Ghaffari
24 Kenyon Gossage
25 William Shipe
25 Steven Heidorn

26 Clayton Stocker
26 Abby Dillmuth
26 Corrie Bozarth
27 Benjamin Strickland
27 Kyle Ziemnick
28 Phoebe Darling
28 Jason Yost
28 Nate Sullivan

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

...helping people know God better
and love him more!

Happy Valentines Day!

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and every-
one who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does
not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God
was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into
the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not
that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the
propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought
to love one another. I John 5:7-11

