

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

"Deoxyribonucleic acid," also known as DNA, is that component of our bodies that has all of the genetic instructions about us. It is God's recipe code for how you will be as you grow. Within these molecules lie the genes that God uses to design our structure and being. These are what make us into the person that we are with the traits that we have. It is here that we find the coding for whether or not we will have black or blonde hair, or grow tall or short, or have green or brown or blue eyes.

As a person has a DNA, so does a church (figuratively speaking!) There are certain traits about every church that are a part of its subculture. These are the marks that define the type of church we will be. I am speaking of our identity as a church, and those values that we hold particularly dear.

This past year as we entered into our strategic planning, we began to investigate ourselves, trying to unlock our own church's "genome." We asked, "What kind of identity do we have that is clear to anyone around us looking on? What are those traits that really define us and are observable to anybody?" As a team, we identified three: 1) biblical instruction, 2) the family, and 3) works of service. This month I want to address the first one — biblical instruction.

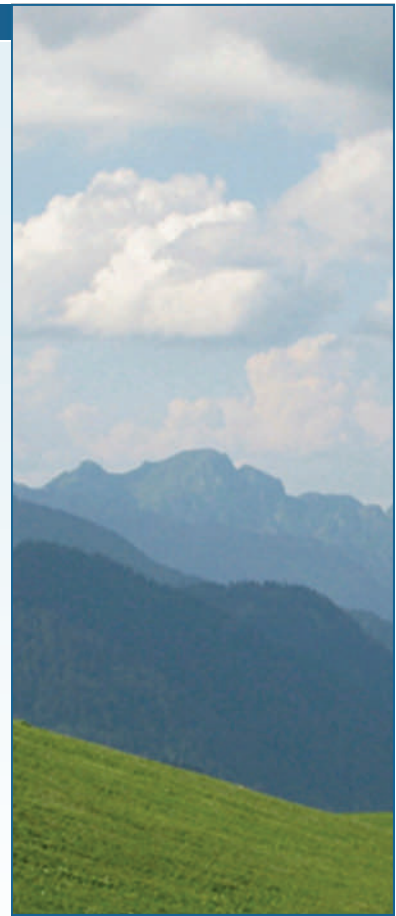
Here is what our team of people came up with in defining what we mean when we say that we are a church that holds to biblical instruction as a deep seated value:

We value the Bible as the very written words of God, the final authority for our lives, sufficient to show us who He is and who we are to be. (2 Tim. 3:16-17) Therefore, we are passionate about knowing it, teaching it, studying it, and living by it, as it guides us into a closer relationship with God Himself.

While this is a characteristic and value of our church, is it a characteristic of YOU? Are you studying the word? Are you learning it...for the purposes of obeying it? To a people who do not have a Bible, God tells us that it is like having a famine, only not of food, but rather a famine for hearing the words of the Lord. (Amos 8:11) How many times do we starve ourselves of the Bread of God's Word?

Are you listening to God through the study of the Bible? Are you living God's word through obedience? Let me give you a great avenue for help in this: L.I.F.E. groups! The "L" stands for "Lives the Bible." In these groups, one of the things that we strive to do is to listen to the Word of God for the purposes of applying it.

That may not fall naturally within your physical genome — but it is a very big part of your spiritual genome! If you aren't in a LIFE group, now is a great time to begin. You will find the various groups and their locations listed in this newsletter. Come and be a part, and be encouraged to learn, obey, and teach God's word accurately!



Inside this issue

Attendance	2
Administratively Speaking	2
Missions Update	4
Awana.....	5
February Calendar	7

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January Attendance

1/2/10

Sunday School

Adults	85
Children	92
Total	177

Worship

Auditorium	417
Classes	35
Total	452

1/9/10

Sunday School

Adults	98
Children	111
Total	209

Worship

Auditorium	459
Classes	43
Total	502

1/16/10

Sunday School

Adults	109
Children	131
Total	240

Worship

Auditorium	561
Classes	49
Total	610

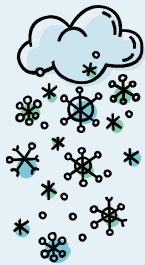
1/23/11

Sunday School

Adults	111
Children	130
Total	241

Worship

Auditorium	535
Classes	41
Total	576



Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

Maybe you have looked around lately, as I have, and noticed that we have many new faces. The Lord is bringing people into our area. Most are searching the internet for churches, finding our website, and giving us a try. Some of these great people are staying and becoming a part of our church family. That's great news for all, but it also means more "crowd management" on the administration side. Please help us all by considering how you may assist in the following ways. If we all work together, we all can "fit in" and enjoy worshipping together.

Parking – You may be noticing that there are fewer and fewer obvious parking spaces on Sunday mornings. Some of our worship and leadership people are using the Carver Center parking lot. Everyone is encouraged to limit the number of cars your family brings on Sundays, and everyone as able is welcome to use the Carver Center parking lot. BUT we could better utilize our parking lot AND provide a warm greeting before people even get out of their cars IF we had a parking team welcoming everyone, inviting visitors to our visitor spaces, and directing everyone to open parking spaces. Steven Jessberger and Joe Garber have faithfully begun doing this each Sunday, but they could use some additional team members. If you are interested in joining the parking team ministry, please contact our team leader, Steven Jessberger (thejessbergers@verizon.net).

Filling The Seats – Is it getting more challenging for your family to find space to sit together unless you arrive early and save seats? Everyone can help by using up the entire row first, not just the edges. You can also help by taking your seats quickly when you hear the music start. And your cooperation with our ushers when they ask you to move over to free up seats is much appreciated.

Calling All Ushers – We are now at the point where we need friendly and efficient ushers at the beginning of the worship service. We need men to serve on this rotation team to be an additional friendly face as people enter the auditorium, and to help new people or latecomers find the open seats in the crowd. It would be great if we had three or four men each week. Or if we had enough volunteers, each man could usher in his usual seating area, thereby getting to know others in the same area and the visitors too. This is a great opportunity to serve the church body and it doesn't require time away from family or weekly meetings or anything other than a few minutes on Sunday morning when you are already here. This is definitely an immediate need, so please contact me as soon as possible.

Getting To Know You – And as we welcome new people into our membership, we want to get to know them. It has been our tradition to have a column in the monthly newsletter called "Getting To Know You".

Our most recent writer has been Breana Paist, but she has decided to do other important things with her life...like go to college. Many, many thanks to Breana for doing a great job through her high school years of interviewing our new people and helping us get to know them. So I am looking for someone else who loves writing and finds it interesting and fun to talk to people, and is available to contribute monthly to our newsletter. Or maybe several people who could do it once a quarter, and share the joy with others. Please contact me for more information.

Young Women Serving Together

Do you want to apply your faith in practical ways with your fellow sisters in Christ? Join other girls (ages 17-26) from late January to early June 2011 for four practical opportunities to love your local community "in deed and in truth" (I Jn 3:18). This small group for girls will meet in Purcellville roughly every two weeks: first, for a short, outreach-oriented devotional, prayer, and fellowship; and second, for a hands-on application of what we've learned.

Meeting dates (outreach dates tentative after Feb. 13)

Jan 26/Wed - Devotional/fellowship #1 6:30pm
Feb 13/Sun - Outreach to widows

Mar 1/Tues - Devotional/fellowship #2 6:30pm
Mar 19/Sat - Volunteer at food pantry

Mar 30/Wed - Devotional/fellowship #3 6:30pm
April 9/Sat - Bake for rescue station

Apr 26/Tues - Devotional/fellowship #4 6:30pm
early to mid-May *Personal service to family*

May 25/Wed - Devotional/fellowship #5 6:30pm
Jun 11/Sat - Free community car wash

This group is meant to have a "come as you can" feel to it. While it would be great to see everyone all 10 times, don't decide against coming just because you can't make every event. Feel free to pass this on to a friend in the area that you know from school or from another church! Ideally, this is an "open" group, even a place where someone interested in learning more about Christianity and Jesus Christ can come to.

Contact Chrissy Schneider (schneider.chrissy@gmail.com) or Brittany Paist (brittany.paist@gmail.com) to get on the email list for further info.

Ladies Birthday Club

Ladies, we want to honor our January birthdays on Tuesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the garage apartment behind the Halls (corner of Hirst & 287 in Purcellville). Happy Birthday to our January birthday honorees:

- Connie Pounders
- Rebekah Cook
- Jackie Thomasson
- Patrice Smith
- Lauri Penzien
- Bethany Johns
- Sophie Linde
- Joanne LaRock
- Jodi Benedict
- Renee Phillips
- Kelly Lawyer



Watch your email for an evite and please come! We would love to have you join us.

Missions Update - Adventures in India

By Chloe Bozarth

The following is provided by Chloe Bozarth, who spent several months late last year ministering with an organization called Bethania Kids in India.

I had never seen commas as “pretty” before. But here I was, in Kannivadi, India, listening to 11-year-old Nagirsthuri explain her answer to my question about her homework, “Why so many commas?” I squinted close to the paper in my lap. They were kind of pretty, each one sitting between a three-letter or five-letter word (and, flower, the, family, you, house). It was one of a million pieces of homework that I would read and correct over my four-month stay in various Indian orphanages. For once, I knew more than the text book.

The kids who would respond to my encouragement to speak in English to me, the staff at the orphanage and to each other, were the fastest at picking up good grammar. Commas, question marks and periods all indicate the true intent of the communication. Once the children heard the English, they could write with an increased ease.

English lessons were primarily a morning and evening event. What I did during the day varied from place to place. In Kodaikanal, there are a number of day centers where children, aged two to five, are given good food and taught lessons during school hours. I would go to these centers and teach them songs, help them memorize words and charts... whatever needed doing, I did. These children—the poorest children—often do better than others when they initially enter school because of the love that has been poured into them by the Bethania staff.

The Kannivadi home is much like a farm; when there has been sufficient rain, they have a lovely kitchen garden that feeds them well, a phenomenal guava orchard, mango trees, coconut trees, curry trees, and all your typical farming livestock. Much of my time was spent peeling onions (literally thousands of tiny onions) or doing manual labor.

Nagercoil and Rajamundry gave me opportunities to help prepare the children for the school in the morning (straighten their collars, comb their hair, check their English homework), play games after lunch until they had to return to school, help with homework in the evening, co-lead the evening prayers and serve dinner at night.

The organization that oversees these orphanages, Bethania Kids, is doing an incredible work. These children come from stark realities of physical, psychological and spiritual abuse. They come from a structure that says that to be Indian is to be Hindu, and yet most are committed Christians! Not because their house parents preach the gospel message every day, but because of the way they live vibrantly for their Redeemer.

Doing nothing but sing songs with the younger ones seems small, until you realize that most don't know how to talk when they first enter the orphanage due to parental neglect. These children are given a touchable, accessible example of Christ's unfailing love in obvious and subtle ways. They are fed, clothed, bathed, nursed, educated and mothered by the Bethania staff. If commas are the little things that tell us how to read a book, the small actions are the little things that tell us what is in a person's heart.

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. – James 2:18

AWANA

By Geni Hall

On February 6, we will have a special meeting time on Super Bowl Sunday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to allow families to get home before kick-off! That day we will also collect canned food for the Tree of Life Food Pantry too. Please give generously as this food goes directly to helping your hurting neighbors in Purcellville.

Crikey! Down Under Night on February 13 gives the clubbers a chance to dress like our southern neighbors in Australia, Mate! You won't want to miss this one!

Come February 27 for Measles Night, when clubbers will put a dot sticker on their leader's face for every section they recite! The leader with the most stickers by council time will get a candy bar! Help your leader to win!

SNOW CANCELLATION PLAN FOR AWANA – Because we are in our snowiest season, our Awana policy is if BRBC cancels church, Awana is automatically canceled! Also, if we do make the call to cancel due to weather, you should receive a personal phone call from your child's leader. For some of you, that may mean several personal phone calls but we want to make sure each parent is called! This is a priority to us! We will make every attempt to call you only once. You may also check the church website at www.brbbible.org for the latest postings on closing.

February 6	Soup-er Bowl Night **Special Time 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**
February 13	Down Under Night
February 20	NO AWANA (President's Day Weekend)
February 27	Measles Night

Women's Retreat - An All Consuming Passion for Christ

If you desire to know Christ better, to fellowship with old friends and meet new ones, then make sure you sign up for the Women's Retreat, March 18-20 at Rocky Gap Resort near Cumberland, Maryland.

Our speaker is Becky Johnson from Denton Bible Church in Texas, where she teaches women's Bible studies. She has a passion for teaching women to pray, saying "I absolutely love ministering to women and seeing their eyes light up with the hope that comes from the Lord and His Word." She spent 16 years with Moms In Touch International as a leader and an Area Coordinator. She also has a passion for the next generation of women to be prepared to take the baton of leadership when it passes to them, and spends time mentoring college women.

Our retreats offer times of intense spiritual learning, growth and application as well as wonderful food and enough "down time" to relax and rejuvenate. The accommodations are wonderful and the scenery is spectacular.

Check out the website for more information and then register online or at the table in the upstairs foyer on February 6 and 13. So make plans now, encourage others to come too, and set aside this time to get away with the Lord and your sisters in Christ!! For more information, contact the Retreat Committee co-leaders, Heidi Berry (heidi@kinsmanfarm.net) or Mary Anne Armstrong (maa@bskb.com).

Life Groups

A LIFE Group is a smaller community within the church as a whole that is seeking to make disciples of Christ. A healthy LIFE Group will be one that...

Lives the Bible

Be doers and not only hearers of God's Word

Inspires "Works of Ministry"

Be obedient to God's calling for your life

Fosters Love

Love for God, the Body of Christ, and the Lost

Encourages Intimacy

Real Biblical fellowship, shared life, encouragement, accountability, support

LIFE Groups will also be missionally minded (emphasizing making disciples and evangelism), will meet weekly (three ten week sessions/yr), and will seek to apply the sermon. For additional information on the concept of LIFE Groups or to get specific details on your choice of group, please contact Rich Shipe (rich@brbible.org).

Current groups: (more to come)

Philomont - Casserino, Thursdays, childcare provided

Purcellville - Larry, Wednesdays

Lovettsville - Richardson, Mondays, childcare provided

Lovettsville - Thomas, Thursdays, childcare provided

Round Hill - Stocker, Fridays, childcare provided

Round Hill - Wilcox, Wednesdays, adults only

Round Hill - Sraders, Thursdays, childcare provided

Berryville - Shipe, Tuesdays, childcare provided

Bluemont - Smith, Fridays, childcare provided

Bluemont - Reynolds, Fridays, childcare provided



February 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	2 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.)	3 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.)	4 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)	5 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)
6 AWANA (3.00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)	7 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.)	8 Ladies Birthday Club (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	9 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.) Missions Committee	10 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.)	11 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)	12 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)
13 AWANA (6.00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)	14 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.) Moms in Prayer Valentine's Day	15 Newsletter Deadline LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	16 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.)	17 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.)	18 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)	19 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)
20 Singles Sunday (College/Career) Fellowship (1:30 p.m.)	21 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.) President's Day	22 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	23 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.)	24 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.)	25 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)	26 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)
27 AWANA (6.00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)	28					

Blue Ridge Bible Church

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www.brbbible.org

Blue Ridge Bible Church

Communicating Christ,
Building Believers,
Sending Servants.

The Church exists for no other purpose but to draw men into Christ. . . If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other reason. – C.S. Lewis