



THE CORNERSTONE

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First Baptist Church Newsletter

November & December

Building Together On Christ Alone

HOW TO REST IN PEACE

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In the last several months it seems as though several families within our church family have lost loved ones or has been faced with life-threatening health issues. We all live in a fallen world, under the consequences of the curse, and we cannot escape the suffering.

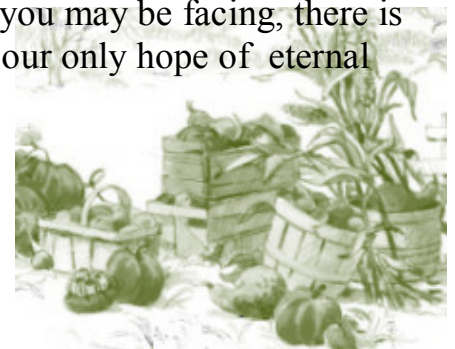
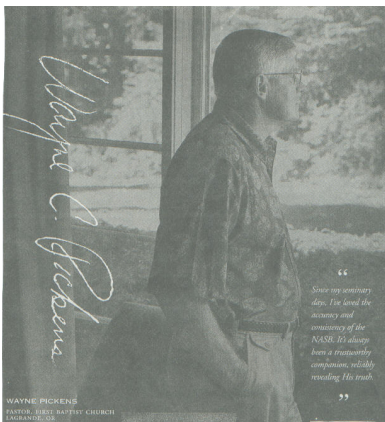
But, I am reminded of what Jesus said, *“In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome (nikēd) the world. (John 16:33b)* Victory over suffering is not found in escaping from it, but by experiencing God’s peace in the midst of it. Jesus said in the same verse, *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.” (John 16:33a)* His peace is connected to His promises. I have watched so many of you clinging to His word. *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (John 14:27)*

In 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 Paul rejoices by saying, *“Death is swallowed up in victory (nikē). O Death where is your victory (nikē)? Death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory (nikē) through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul also affirms in Philippians 1:21, *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”*

I love the new song we sing, *“Hallelujah, all I have is Christ! Hallelujah, Jesus is my life!”* Whatever you may be facing, there is peace and victory in Christ Jesus who is our only hope of eternal life. Keep singing His promises.

Pastor Wayne



VIEW FROM THE RIDGE

Mike Query



Psa 90:10 We live for seventy years or so (with luck we might make it to eighty), And what do we have to show for it? Trouble. Toil and trouble and a marker in the grave yard. Msg

We strive to live long lives yet there is a down side to longevity; you get to watch your friends die. On Oct. 17th, I lost another very close friend. His name was Robert G. Brown, but to me he was always Bobby G. If I had to pick another nickname, it would be “smiley” because he always had a smile on his face.

He was barely 66, short of the three score and ten that scripture seems to indicate we might be allotted. Much too young to die by today’s standards. Yet our time on this earth was determined before the foundations were laid. Our arrival and departure dates were already set before time began. Because God is in control, nothing happens that surprises Him, so on that Sunday morning at 1:30 am, Bob’s departure flight arrived to whisk him back to his heavenly home.

Bob and his family came into our lives the summer of 1970 when they moved to La Grande. Beth’s folks had retired here and Bob and Beth had had enough of California, deciding to give Oregon a try. I don’t remember the first time I met Bob but we both were attending First Baptist church and our two families just sort of clicked into a friendship that has lasted 40 years.

I was working for Terry Travel Trailers as purchasing manager and in September of 1970 hired Bob as the material handler, which involved the shipping and receiving of all the production materials. I left Terry in 1972 and started raising hogs. In 1974 Bob and I formed a corporation and purchased 200 acres in Summerville with the idea of farming and raising hogs. Unfortunately, Bob and I had a knack for picking the worst time to start a new venture, and with financing drying up, we were forced to go our separate ways.

In the years that followed, they moved to Portland area and Bob worked in a variety of fields, sometimes chasing rainbows looking for the elusive pot of gold. He never found it but along the way he did find a closer relationship with his Lord and Savior. In 2001 he had his aortic aneurism that should have taken his life then, but God was not finished with Bob. He still had some molding and shaping that needed to be done.

There was a period after that where Bob was angry with God for not allowing him to die and be in Heaven. He felt cheated because he was unable to work and yet he wasn’t allowed to die. In the following years Bob began to understand that he had a lifetime of experiences to share with others, and God used him to mentor and counsel others in his church.

In 2006, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and spent two months going through radiation treatments in Portland. Bob and I met weekly for lunch, spending two or more hours just fellowshiping, talking about God and Heaven, analyzing the two different and difficult roads that we were traveling, trying to make sense of it and understanding what God was trying to teach us. It was a time where we were encouraging each other through difficult times.

Then this year I was diagnosed with Mucosal Melanoma, a rare cancer that involved surgery and another 6 weeks of radiation. We spent four months in Portland and again Bob and I started meeting once a week for lunch. It again was a time of soul searching for both of us, a time of



OFF TO A GOOD START

For those of you who have prayed for our youth groups, thanks! It's working! In the midst of transition the Lord has been gracious and the road has been smooth so far.

Hi-Life (Middle School Youth Group)

We have had a consistent group of ten to twelve committed young disciples attending Hi-Life every week. They have been good servants: waiting tables for the Gifts of Grace dinner and packing water downstairs for Heidi Ho. They have also been good students: attentive and willing to learn.

Our theme for the year is "Finding Your Identity in Jesus and His Gospel". We're leading the kids through lessons on some of the major Bible themes: Revelation, God, Creation, Fall, Man, Redemption, and Restoration while trying to emphasize the importance of understanding our worth, identity, and purpose in light of where we fit in this grand plan of God's.

God has given us great kids to minister to and an equally great staff. Matt and Livvy Pidcock have been faithful as usual, all the while trying to finish construction on their new house. Kevin Haye has had some fun "Minute-To-Win-It" games for us this fall and has developed a Hi-Life Facebook page that you can link to from the church website (lagrandefbc.org). Check it out! And Ron and Sissy Garinger have been a tremendous addition as directors. We're headed to their house this Monday for a "Bonfire Night". It should be fun.

AMPLIFYD (High School Youth Group)

As with Hi-Life, we have likewise been blessed with a solid and consistent group of ten to twelve disciples in the high school youth group. They also took their turn waiting tables for the Gifts of Grace dinner in September and did a good job. They too have been inquisitive and earnest students. And as always, Chris and Erin Wunz have been a blessing to work with—full of enthusiasm, humility, and good ideas.

We're calling our lesson set for the fall and early spring "I AM: The Majestic and Intimate LORD". We're studying God: His names, attributes, the Trinity, etc. We want our conception of God to be enlarged so that we would have a better understanding of how great He really is!

This understanding has a profound impact on the way we live our lives. As Bruce Ware has said, "God has so made us that we instinctively, naturally seek to become like whatever it is that we esteem most highly." If we treasure the Lord above all else, our character will more accurately reflect His. This is our goal in Amplifyd.

We also have some fun trips planned for the year. Lord willing, we will make it to Mexico again this spring break. And on the more immediate horizon we're headed for Camp Elkanah and the East by Northeast youth conference November 5-7.

Thanks again to all you prayer warriors and warriorettes! Give thanks to the LORD for He is good!

Brock

[View From the Ridge continued from pg.2](#)

supporting each other, and a lot of speculation as to what heaven would be like. We became as close as brothers, brothers in Christ, brothers in God's family. I will treasure those days, and will miss those times of sharing.

A couple of years ago Bob and Beth came and spent a long weekend with us. I had borrowed a contraption called a "Rodenator" and it involved pumping a mixture of propane and oxygen into gopher tunnels and igniting it. The resulting explosion and concussion would kill the gophers even in their deepest tunnels. Here were two old guys out in my pasture, blowing up the ground, laughing and having a blast like we were kids again. I don't think we even cared whether we were killing any gophers; we were having too much fun just blowing up the ground. We did this for over two hours and finally had to break for lunch. Good times, good times.

Years ago I wrote about walking my four year old Doberman on Pismo Beach. Every morning while we were camped there I would take him down to the beach and let him run free. As I made him sit to unleash him, his whole body would quiver with excitement in anticipation of being freed to run with the surf and wind. As soon as he felt and heard the snap release on his collar, he was off like a bullet! He ran back and forth, up and down the surf, chasing sea gulls, exploring sand dunes, always moving, always coming back and checking on me, then off he would go again, full tilt, never tiring. It was a sight that I never tired of. The thought occurred to me as Quincy was being unleashed from my physical control, that this must be what people experience in death. One minute we are shackled to this earth by a body suffering aches and pains and no longer wants to move or operate the way we want, and the next instant we are unleashed, free to move about like never before; free of pain, free of time restrictions, free of stress, free of sin, free to worship in the presence of God and Jesus-- free at last, free at last! Finally I understood visually why Jesus said death could not claim victory.

[View From the Ridge continued from pg.5](#)



WHY DOES FRANCIS SCHAEFFER MATTER IN 2010?

There is a good chance you have seen people carrying around a big book by Francis Schaeffer. Last month, forty-four students began a journey in Veritas Fellowship; a journey that would open up a new and exciting means of sharing and defending the Gospel; a journey that would explore the life and ministry of Francis Schaeffer. But Schaeffer began writing in the late 60's. How can evangelism methodology from the 60's be relevant? In short, why does Francis Schaeffer still matter?

Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer (1912-1984) may very well be one of the most important Christian thinkers of the twentieth century. Schaeffer graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary and was heavily influenced by J. Gresham Machen, Cornelius Van Til, and the Dutch theologian, Abraham Kuyper.

In 1948, after a ten year pastorate in the United States, he moved his family to Switzerland to engage in missionary work. In 1955, Dr. and Mrs. Schaeffer founded L'Abri in a small mountain village in Switzerland. French for "shelter," L'Abri became a refuge for people in need of spiritual help.

The Schaeffers were especially interested in people who sought answers to basic philosophical and metaphysical problems. He writes, "To the best of my ability I gave the Bible's answers. But all the time I tried to listen and learn the thought forms of these people. I think that my knowledge, whatever it is, is formed from two factors: 1) Forty years of hard study, and 2) Trying to listen to the twentieth century man as he talked" (*Eternity*, March 1973). Schaeffer's keen ability to listen carefully and engage the intellect of these people became a primary factor that contributed to his success.

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Dear First Baptist Family,

The last couple of months have been a whirlwind working as the Heidi Ho director and Pastor of family life. God has been so good in blessing the work at the school while blending the school and church ministries together. The outreach dinners put on by Gifts of Grace were very well received and appreciated by the families that attended. Thank you Valerie and Gerrene and all those that helped in serving those meals. We also recently filled a very important position in the school office with Lorcinde Johnston assisting Livvy and me in administrating school operations. Lorcinde and her husband James along with their two children, Trevor and Zac, attend First Baptist Church. Lorcinde has many years working in child development and daycare and brings with her a desire to serve children and families. If you see Lorcinde and her family, please welcome her to the new position. We have also been blessed by having Pastor Wayne share at the school chapel for the month of October and his visit to the teacher's Wednesday morning prayer meeting was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Marcus Carpenter and Mike Whitmore who have assisted us in building maintenance and repair and added a new fire alarm bell outside of the sanctuary. We also offered scholarship monies to at least 12 families needing assistance. I want to thank those who have donated to the scholarship fund and made it possible to assist families in need. Finally, I want to thank the entire staff at Heidi Ho and our leadership team for their dedication to share the truth and love of God with the families that entrust their children to us daily and have so very much welcomed me to the school. May God continue to be Glorified!

I am also very happy to report that AWANA continues to see new children enroll weekly as our numbers push 100+ per week. I am so thankful to all those assisting with the AWANA program who continue to be faithful in keeping the program up and going strong. Now that the club has been running for a few weeks, we had our first director and leader meeting the week of October 25th which gave us a chance to discuss what is working well and areas that may need improvement. The meeting also allowed us to plan for the upcoming Grand Prix which is a pinewood derby contest which should be lots of fun. I find it to be such a blessing to see God's word placed in the hearts of kids while they are having fun sharing in games together. We always have room

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[View From the Ridge continued from pg.4](#)

Bob and I had always questioned why we cling to this life on earth when Heaven offered wonders unimaginable. God built into us a will to live so we would not quit when things got tough. Bob was not a quitter. He hung in there when others would have given up.

We also agreed that when each of us died, it would be a time of celebration, not mourning. Yes, it is sad for us that he is not with us today, that our times of fellowship are put on hold, but he has just departed on a journey to another world which the rest of us who know Christ as Lord and Savior will follow later. Bob is free now, free of pain, free of all the medications, free to run and jump as never before, free at last, free at last.

He is beginning his journey through eternity where there is no sadness. I know the saints in heaven are rejoicing at Bob's arrival – and so should we. Bob and I agreed that when we die, it is party time! So celebrate and enjoy the good memories of your time with Bob and Beth and the kids, and know that on this day Jeri and I will be dancing a jig on some beach in Hawaii thanking God for the times we had with Bobby G.



November Birthday's.....

- 5) Julie Brown
- 10) Emily Butler
- 8) Brian Larson
- 14) Don Emmons
 Jim Pellerin
- 16) Kelsey Brown
- 18) Natalie Leigh
- 19) John Tucker
- 20) Stephanie Stonebreaker
 Marie Gabler
- 21) Ed Hegele
- 22) Tracy Cook
 Tom Brown
- 23) Bernice Miller
- 27) Ehrman Bates
 Cameron Gaertner
 Dean Stone
- 29) Jeri Carter
 Paige Marie Barker

.....and Anniversaries

- 11) *Bob and Phyllis Routt* 1977
- 16) *Curt and Twila Roper* 1945
- 17) *Tim and Laura McManus* 1984 20]
- 23) *Curt and Tatiana Ricker* 1996
- 28) *Ron and Sissy Garinger* 1987



December B-Days

- 1) David Pidcock
- 2) George Barrow
- 5) Pam Boe
 Eldon Chandler
- 7) Noah McLean
- 8) Jeanne Pellerin
 Rebecca Daggett
 Emily Boe
- 9) Paula Davenport
 Kristin Lawrence
- 10) Warren Moran
- 11) Rachael McLean
- 14) Issac Seggerman
- 16) Les Patterson
 Kyle Robinson
- 21) Doug Hopper
- 22) Diane Whitmore
- 23) Marcus Carpenter
 Brian Kruse
- 24) Cathy Patterson
- 28) Debra Stevens
 Bob Butler
 Corey Ackerman
- 29) Pat Seggerman
- 31) Mary Lanmon



& Anniversaries

- 8) 2002 Fred & Verna Hill
- 13) 1975 Pat & Marlene O'Rourke
- 16) 1961 Clyde & Betsy White
- 19) 2008 Kevin & Lindsey Haye
- 20) 1980 Gary & Pam Howland
- 22) 1974 Gary & Phyllis Hart
- 23) Dean & Judy Stone



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for more helpers. If anyone would like to volunteer as a Bible verse listener or offer help in other ways with AWANA, please contact me, John Tucker or Laura McManus.

Thank you all again for having confidence in me to run these programs while I also perform other outreach work with Young Life and Prison Fellowship. I am daily humbled by God and know that I cannot do anything good without Him performing the work through me. Please continue to keep me and my family in prayer as I continue to balance family time and ministry. God is so good! May He receive all the Glory!

In His Service, Pastor Don McLean

T O L L E L E G G E

We have an array of books available. A book makes a great gift. Choose from a large selection of quality books. If you are looking for a particular book, let the person manning the bookshelf know and we will do our best to order it for you at the very best price possible.



MISSIONARY CHRISTMAS OFFERING SUNDAY, NOV. 7

Following the Lord's Supper our Fellowship Offering will be designated for our Missionaries as a Christmas Gift. You may also give at any time between now and then by designating "Missionary Christmas Offering."

Women's Praise Evening Monday, November 8, 2010 7 p.m. Sanctuary and Narthex

"Preparing Your Heart for the Holidays"

- Are your Christmas cards ready to go?
- Are your Christmas gifts wrapped?
- Is your holiday baking finished?
- Can you feel your stress level rising already?

Not to worry!

Join together for music, sharing and goodies in a no-hassle, casual, pre-holiday evening guaranteed to put your heart in the right mode for the holidays—Worship.

Bring a plate of your favorite finger food!



Operation Christmas Child

Shoe Boxes are available in the lobby. We will collect them on **Sunday, Nov. 14** see insert for more info. Thank you for participating in this ministry.

Donna



Nosu Sisters Club

- New embroidery items on the way! Watch for our display
- See the Relevant Art **Facebook page** to see pictures and information about the co-ops that produce the beautiful work we have for sale...it's inspiring!
- Check out Relevant Art on **YouTube.com!**
- We will have a bazaar table at the **Holiday Bazaar** at the armory on **December 4**... we need items to sell to help raise \$300.00 for our support project this year...what can you contribute in the way of handmade items? See Melody Gabler or e-mail melody.gabler@gmail.com for information.

Continued from page 4 Francis Schaeffer

Students came to L'Abri from varied backgrounds – philosophy, medicine, architecture, science and theology. The Schaeffers ministered to college professors, students, pastors, engineers and lawyers to name a few. The common thread among all L'Abri visitors was a thirst for truth. These people sought answers to the basic questions of life: Who am I? Where am I going? What is my purpose in life? How does God fit in the scheme of things?

The stated purpose of L'Abri is “to show forth by demonstration, in our life and work, the existence of God” (*L'Abri*, 16). L'Abri continues to operate and fulfill the vision of Francis Schaeffer even over twenty-five years after his death. The ministry of L'Abri may also be found in Holland, Australia, England, Sweden, India, South Korea and Massachusetts.

Francis Schaeffer published his first book, *The God Who Is There* in 1968. He subsequently wrote twenty-two books which have been translated into more than twenty-five different languages. A common unifying theme runs throughout Schaeffer's books, namely, “the Lordship of Christ in the totality of life” (*The Great Evangelical Disaster*, 303).

Schaeffer still matters because he unpacks the unchanging Gospel of Jesus Christ in a winsome and intellectually credible way. Therefore, the church misses a key opportunity when she passes over Schaeffer's writings. My encouragement to Christ-followers is to read and absorb Schaeffer's books. College students should especially devour Schaeffer's works as they seek to engage with people in a postmodern culture. May we commit ourselves afresh to the task of evangelism. And may we follow the example of the apostles who proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about Christ with boldness and without hindrance (Acts 28:31).

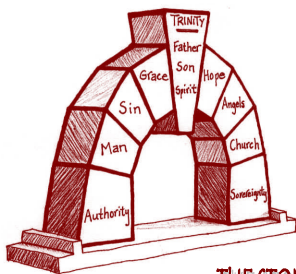


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THE STONES
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