



THE CORNERSTONE

Volume 21, Issue 1 & 2

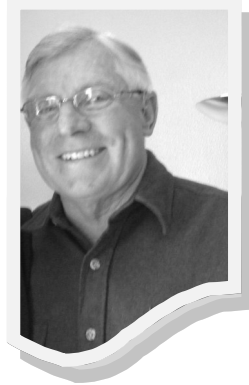
First Baptist Church Newsletter

January & February

Building Together On Christ Alone

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Praising God for Pastor Dave

I want to take this opportunity to thank God for His gracious gift of sending Pastor Dave and Gerrene Steele to us eleven years ago. Bonnie and I remember reading Pastor Dave's resume and being impressed by his honesty and humility. We read about his commitment to theological convictions and integrity.

After spending over a decade together, I am even more impressed with the consistency of Dave's commitment to Christ, the Word of God, his family and his church family. The spiritual gifts that God has given to Dave have greatly edified our church family. I have grown so much under Pastor Dave's ministry, and I know that many of you have too. I feel like I'm losing the support under my right arm, like Aaron and Hur under the arms of Moses. It has been an honor and privilege to be a team together in the cause of Christ.

Pastor Dave has helped to lay a solid foundation of sound doctrine on which our church will build for years to come. We also thank God for Gerrene's vision for Gifts of Grace, encouraging us to show the love of Christ to needy families in our community.

We know that the blessings of God will continue to be upon the Steele family. Pastor Dave, Gerrene, Abby and Nathan, thank you for coming to us and serving God so faithfully in our midst. You will be greatly missed.

Pastor Wayne



Steele Family Send-Off Celebration Sunday, January 15, 2012

*Let's gather together to praise God for the eleven years
Pastor Dave and Gerrene have ministered in our midst.
Bring your favorite pie for the reception to follow.*



AMPLIFYD (*High school youth group*)

Youth Ministry Update

Happy New Year!

As we anticipate the possibilities of the coming year, I want to briefly reflect back and thank the Lord for His faithfulness in our youth ministries this past fall.

First of all, I want to thank Him for the kids that He has entrusted to us. We have a consistent group of 12-15 students who are coming to our junior high and high school youth groups on Monday and Thursday nights. We've had fun singing, playing, and studying the parables of Jesus together. What a precious gift these students are. The Lord has granted us a great privilege to get to be part of their spiritual development under His sovereign hand.

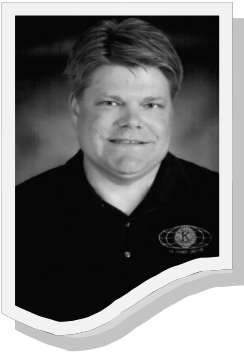
I also want to thank Him for the youth ministry staff He has provided. We have a great team of people who really love kids and are committed to their spiritual nurture. Ron and Sissy Garinger and Kevin Haye have done a great job with our middle school youth group. Chris and Erin Wunz and my mom have been wonderful in working with our high schoolers. And the Lord has worked through Mike Martin and his family to bring us a fresh influx of college students on Sunday mornings. It has been a blessing to work alongside these friends and see the Lord use them.

Finally, I want to thank the Lord for the upcoming opportunity of our annual mission trip to Mexico. We are encouraging more and more families to go on this trip and serve Christ together. Already this fall we have begun doing odd jobs to try to earn our way to San Luis. We want to express appreciation to many of you in the church who have generously provided work for us. We are eagerly anticipating what the Lord may do again this year south of the border.

Please join me in praising our faithful Creator who so generously gives us the privilege of participating in His great redemptive work. And please join me in praying for our youth, our youth ministry staff, and our youth ministries in general. We desire to honor the Lord and bring glory to Him in all we do.

Brock

**Youth Fundraiser February 12,
Taco Feed at FBC for
MEXICO MISSION TRIP
March 22—March 31**



Heidi Ho

Heidi Ho News Letter

January, 2012

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”
Romans 1:16-17

God continues to greatly bless the work and efforts of the Heidi Ho School teachers and staff. The 2011-2012 school year has been proceeding in an atmosphere of teamwork, love and faithfulness by the entire staff, parents and church family.

It has been a very busy holiday fall and winter season. It all began with rides out to the Stonebreaker’s farm for play and snacks in October and an opportunity for the children to select pumpkins from a real pumpkin patch. November offered families and classes a time to share Thanksgiving in prayer, poems, songs and a Thanksgiving Feast! December brought our yearly Christmas Chapel program for all classes and families. The Christmas story was shared with all including a live nativity by the children.

This spring will offer more days to look forward to such as pajama day, costume day, hat day and favorite color days. The school leadership team and parent, teacher, volunteer group will be planning a taco feed for prospective new families for registration for next fall as well as an open house for our current families. If you are interested in volunteering with Heidi Ho, please see Don, Lorcinada or Karen in the office.

The teachers and staff continue to offer a wonderful education to the children of Heidi Ho but they are also faithful in the sharing of God’s word through telling the Good News of the Gospel. We have had a few parents sign up for the upcoming marriage class we will be offering in February and the families that received gifts for Christmas from the church are very appreciative as well.

Thank you again to First Baptist Church for your prayers and support of Heidi Ho and may God continue to bless our church and school for His Glory!

In His Service,
 Don McLean
 Heidi Ho Director





VIEW FROM THE RIDGE

Over the years I have become an advocate for close family ties. When I was growing up most of my relatives lived in a five square mile area of Henry County Indiana. My mom and dad grew up just a mile or so apart on the same road. All the farm ground between them was owned by either a Hoover or a Query.

Once married they became nomads and we lived in places like San Diego and Hemet, Calif.; Kansas City, Missouri; Fairfax, Virginia; New Castle, Delaware, then back to Woodland Hills, Calif. If it hadn't been for the many long summers I spent in Indiana I wouldn't know hardly any of my relatives. I was always envious of my cousins because they were around each other and all the aunts, uncles and grandparents year round. I was the novelty relative at the annual family reunions. "Oh, you must be Bertie Ellen's boy!" Hug, hug, kiss, kiss. Yep, that's me!

As Abraham was told by God "*and said to him, 'Leave your family and country and go to the land that I will show you'*" Acts 7:3, in 1968 Jeri and I were directed to move to La Grande from Southern California. Maybe the voice wasn't God's but some Fleetwood executive, but I know that God was directing everything. All of our immediate family lived in Southern California as well as most of Jeri's extended family. We were young and the excitement of a new area and new beginnings was mixed with the fear of moving to a place we had not even heard of, let alone visited or know anyone from there. We stepped out in faith that God knew what He was doing and "*Surprise, Surprise,*" He did!

Scripture also tells us to "*Be grateful for the good things that the LORD your God has given you and your family,*" 1Ch 17:16 Over the years He has blessed our family "Better than I deserve" as Dave Ramsey would say. And as King David said "*Then King David went into the Tent of the LORD's presence, sat down, and prayed, I am not worthy of what you have already done for me, LORD God, nor is my family*". Deu. 26:11 We have been richly blessed spiritually with a loving church family, with a pastoral staff that preaches the truth of scripture and refuses to compromise it. We live in a beautiful valley on more acreage than probably 99% of the world. It has not been without trials and tribulations, heartache and tears, good times and bad, but through it all Jesus has walked with us, carried us when we needed to be, as God molded and shaped us into the servants He wanted us to be.

As I write this, it is still ten days before thanksgiving, and that is what prompted me to write about family and being together. Seldom do we have all our family here at thanksgiving, and so over the years we have exercised our gift of hospitality and invited friends and neighbors to join our family and our kids that make it home.

"*If his family is too small to eat a whole animal, he and his next-door neighbor may share an animal, in proportion to the number of people and the amount that each person can eat.*" Exodus 12:4. I ran across this scripture by accident but it so fits with this theme of Thanksgiving and hospitality. We normally have 12 to 14 at our table at Thanksgiving, but this year it is going to be 20 or 21. Going to need BIG turkey this year. Fortunately, God has blessed us with a house that will accommodate all of us, and a daughter, Kris, who comes a day or two early and works so hard in helping with all the cooking and baking. Another one of our blessings. Gal. 6:10 *So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.*

If a family divides itself into groups which fight each other, that family will fall apart. Mark 3:25. I have seen so many families split apart by dissention and it grieves me. I vowed years ago that would not happen in our family. I have stressed with our kids that disagreements will happen but we will resolve those issues and not let it separate us. Since 1964 we have only missed 2 Christmas' where most of us were together, and both of those were due to my health.

I am so thankful to the Lord that we have been blessed with kids that still want to be with family at Christmas and will travel great distances to be here.

Eph. 2:19 "*So then, you Gentiles are not foreigners or strangers any longer; you are now citizens together with God's people and members of the family of God.*" Because of this scripture, Mark 3:25 is also so important in the church family. We cannot be divided and fight among ourselves, for we will surely fall apart and what kind of witness and testimony will that have among the unsaved in our community.

Twelve years ago I wrote about change that was occurring in our church. For two years the church dealt with

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4—View from the Ridge

the arrival of a new pastor and his family, new style of worship, contemporary music with different instruments, various church starting times, no Sunday school and then back to having Sunday school, and we were not done yet. Just about the time we thought we might be settling into a somewhat normal routine, God ups and orders another change. He had a new assignment for his servants Rick and Jeanne. Through all this we lost some families but the church has continued to grow and prosper. We are now at another cross roads where the pastor and elders are advocating some change. Our pastors and Elders have an evangelistic vision that encompasses not only La Grande but the whole valley. So I encourage you to be mindful that we are a family of believers and we need to listen and carefully consider what is being proposed.

As for me, I have one more scripture that I need to work on to fulfill. Mark 5:19 *"But Jesus would not let him. Instead, he told him, Go back home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how kind he has been to you."* I have added another trip into my bucket list and that is to journey back to Indiana and visit one more time with what few relatives I have left and share with them what an awesome God we serve and what He has done for our family.

Joshua 24:15 *If you are not willing to serve him, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors worshiped in Mesopotamia or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are now living. As for my family and me, we will serve the LORD."*

Mike Query



Attn: MAT CHAIRPERSON

Annual reports are due January 27. Please turn in, to the church office, a 1/2 page summary highlighting 2011 events and volunteers involved in your area of ministry. Reports will be compiled and available January 29/February 5 in the lobby at FBC and on-line at www.lagrandefbc.org

DON'T THROW IT OUT! RECYCLE IT!

As you get ready for school, move into a new house, clean out the basement, or just stumble upon a treasure from the past, consider sharing those things that no longer work for you. Someone in our church family could use that guitar, computer, lamp shade, rototiller, crock pot, set of snow tires, shared babysitting....you name it! Large or small, give it a try! And, if you are looking for a certain item or service, just post it on the bulletin board, too, in the entry by the front doors. There are 3x5 cards to use: List the item, your name, your phone number, and the date.

CHECK OUT THE BULLETIN BOARD!

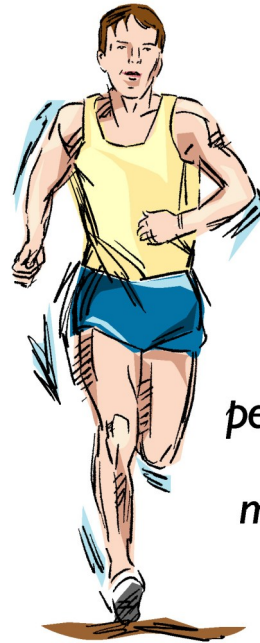


January Birthday's

- 2) Lorraine Bates
- 3) Christine McLean
- 5) Chris Wagner
Kathy Rust
- 6) Jane Hegele
Isabella Coulter
Zane Ricker
- 7) Katie Brown
- 14) Brian Leigh
- 16) Don McLean
- 17) Craig Hopper
- 18) Mike Whitmore
- 21) Lindsey Haye
- 23) Laramie Ricker
- 26) Clint Smithe
Doug Barton
- 28) Mike Query
Bob Kretschmer
- 30) Marie Moran
- 31) Bertha Thompson
Vivian Burford
Aaron Umpleby

January Anniversaries

1/30/60 George/Severly McDonald



***... let us
run with
perseverance
the race
marked out
for us.***

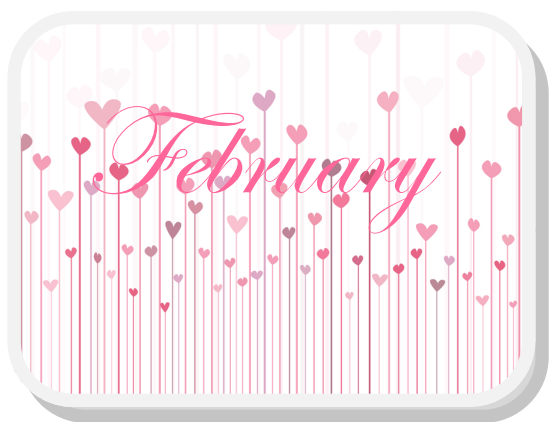
Hebrews 12:1



**Young Mom's Bible Study
Resumes January 26 , 2012
9:00 a.m. We will be completing
the book**

**Ancient Paths for Modern Women
Walking as Wives.**

If you wish to join us but do not have a book please call Bonnie so one can be ordered for you 541-963-2552
Child Care provided.



BIRTHDAY'S

- 2/1 Carrie Wallace
- 2/2 Curtis Roper
- 2/3 Gary Hart
- 2/7 Marlene O'Rourke
- 2/8 Brenda McGirr
- 2/9 Nathan David Steele

- 2/10 Pastor Wayne Pickens
Rebecca Whitmore

- 2/16 Melody Gabler
Elizabeth Cashell

- 2/17 Kathy O'Neal
- 2/18 Catherine Peters

- 2/20 Michael Jaeger
- 2/21 Bob Coulter
Kelly Martin
- 2/25 James Ridley
- 2/26 Phyllis Routt
David Nafziger
- 2/27 Joan Robinson
- 2/28 Loren Tylor Willey



February Anniversaries

- Sam/Roberta Shorb* 2/1/47
- Ehrman/Lorraine Bates* 2/14/49
- Michael/Marilyn Jaeger* 2/21/70

Please let us know if there are corrections or additions we need to make. Pray a special prayer for these on their birthday or Anniversary.





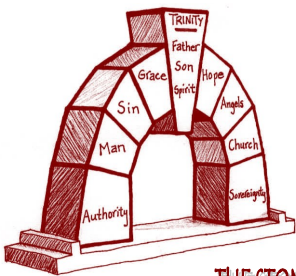
Some trust in **chariots**
and some in **horses**,
but we **trust** in the name
of the **LORD** our **God**.

P s a l m 2 0 : 7

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THE STONES
ON WHICH
WE STAND