

THE
LAMPLIGHTER

Publication of
Belmont Baptist Church
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"Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" Psalm 119: 10

From the Pastor's Desk:

**UNEMPLOYED AND UNHAPPY:
THE GOOD NEWS WE DO NOT ALWAYS HEAR AS GOOD NEWS**



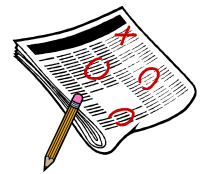
Two weeks ago, when preschool began, I got to witness a phenomenal gift of love. Preschool moms and dads would deliver their precious children to our care and then LEAVE them while their young sons and daughters, who had never experienced anything like this before, were crying tears of desperation for the parents who were abandoning them to these strangers! Those tears, I am sure, broke their moms and dads hearts—but that short separation would pay rich dividends. Mommy and daddy had lived in their child's world every minute of every day for the last several years, but now their child would begin taking the first difficult steps of entering another more beautiful and exciting world—a world that would make them "big and smart" and more like mommy and daddy!

Sometimes, we are that preschooler being dropped off by God our Father. As we cry and scream, wondering why we are being abandoned, God's fatherly heart is breaking for us. But still to class we must go . . . to learn the lessons of a mature child of God.

I firmly believe that for the children of God, nothing is coincidental or accidental. Rather, everything is determined and for a distinct and specific purpose—either for our blessing, correction or chastisement. So, what is God's purpose when the pastor's wife loses her job and doesn't find another after six months of diligently searching? More specifically, when because she is made in the image of her Redeemer, and refuses to be molded in the image of her employer, she falls from the rolls of the gainfully employed wouldn't you think God would "quickly" reward her with another "better" job? Well, it doesn't always work that way—not in this sinful and broken world anyway! After she had served the company so well—leading it from near bankruptcy to record profits in less than a year, wouldn't logic dictate this employee who had sacrificed her life for the "home team" be given a Christmas bonus, a fat raise, and a hearty "well done" instead of a termination notice.

What does a loving, supportive husband say to his wife when she breaks down in tears after she has given so much and is paid back with such evil—the evil of being replaced by a tax accountant so the employer can hide away his profits like a squirrel hides away its winter store? Where is the God of justice and consolation when His children are returned evil for good?

The "gospel" (good news) is all about receiving healing, salvation, strength, victory and joy from our Lord. The gospel promises deliverance from anger, hurt, frustration, depression and sorrow, as well as, sin, death, and hell. But where is the good news when God's grace seems to pass you by for six months? Where is the good news when your prayers for God to supply another job go unanswered, and you edge closer and closer to your financial cliff? Where is the good news when all day of every day is spent searching for job leads, filling out applications and being interviewed by recruiters only to get two job interviews and both possible employers hire someone else?



(Cont'd on next page)

From the Pastor's Desk: (Cont'd from previous page)



God's silence and inactivity can send you reeling and crashing in a world of self-doubt, confusion, questions, and anger. What is happening? Why God are you not answering our prayers? Why God are we being punished for doing the right thing? Am I really a Christian? Am I outside your mercy, grace, and/or will? Is it possible God that you don't know my need? Have I committed some terrible sin that I am being punished so severely?

Will you provide for us God? Should I be looking elsewhere, but where and for what? I am desperate, O God. Help me! The questions are endless—and the answers do not come! Like Job, your conscience plays the role of his accusing friends—it makes a poor counselor. There has to be a reason that God is withholding His blessing. Why can't I discern His will? Will we lose our retirement home in the Pocono's?

In it all, all you can do is cling to your faith. It's all you have. Without your faith, you don't even have hope. Sandy and my despair is nothing "new" in the Kingdom of Heaven. All the followers of Jesus must be prepared to suffer. No one is exempt, not even pastor's and their wives. The message about suffering is the part of the gospel that we do not want to hear. In 1 Peter 4:12-13 the apostle says, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed." There is then a gospel for sufferers. Jesus not only suffered in our place, but also suffered as an example for us to follow. He tells us that trusting and obeying Him in a sinful and broken world like ours will never be easy. It will not repay us good for good. Living honorably and faithfully as we serve God will not only expose us to pain and disappointment but will even be a "lightning rod" that draws the world's venom upon us.



After much pain and prayerful reflection, Sandy and I have decided that God's silence and temporary separation is actually His gift to us. How? **First**, it's a blessing because it enables us to share just a little bit of what it meant for Christ to be utterly abandoned by His Father when hanging on the cross for the sins of the world. **Second**, God's silence is a blessing because it forces us to become stronger and more mature. None of us are ever faithful "enough." If God came running to rescue us every time we were threatened, instead of making us "mature in the faith" it would instead make us spiritually spoiled cry babies. God desires us to become more like Him, stepping out in faith and confidence, especially when the outcome is unsure. You can depend on God—ALWAYS!

Third, God's silence enables us to identify more easily with others in our household of faith who feel estranged and alienated by God. It makes us more effective ministers. Being in the ministry earns no "free passes." **Fourth**, this trial has helped us to decide what is really important, and what is only material and temporary. We already have a "home in glory that outshines the sun." And, it has no mortgage—it's paid in full, praise His name! **Fifth**, it has taught us humility. Even at age 57, when we would like to help our children, and mothers, we have learned that often times they can help us instead. We thank God for our family. In Christ we ARE rich!

From the Pastor's Desk: (Cont'd from previous page)

So yes, there is a gospel message for the child of God who is struggling and God does not seem to be leading us out of the wilderness quickly enough. It's a part of the gospel that we would rather not hear, but when we are forced to listen, its harsh words turn into a chorus of angels. God will not deliver us from "all" our pain and sorrow. Instead, He will lead us to maturity by graciously allowing our suffering to continue . . . just a little while.

Like the preschooler who has love and confidence in our daddy, we know He will come to pick us up soon. So Lord, help us be a big boy and girl, and learn our lessons well. We want to be like our Daddy! Amen.

Pastor Ed

STRENGTH FOR THE DAY

**There is a time of quiet rest at dawning of the day,
while all the world is asleep I open my eyes to pray.**

**Each morn I am overwhelmed as I awake to see
that God in His infinite mercy has once again blessed me.**

**There is an acute awareness as from sleep released so sweet,
I find comfort, joy and peace, as my Savior I once again meet.**

**My first thoughts are of Thanksgiving, for life and health and joy.
I have so much love inside me nothing in this world can destroy.**

**The love I have is God's love, it was given to me to share,
So many need so much in life, how can I help but care?**

**Dear Lord, I need understanding, make me humble, I pray;
and as I arise to do Thy will, grant me strength for the day.**



Belmont Baptist Church Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Morning Worship
6:30 p.m., BYG 4 Jesus
6:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group
 (starting date –October 18)

Wednesday

7:00 p.m., Prayer Meeting
8:00 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday

7:30 p.m., Home Bible Study

October Sermon Schedule

October 4	The Feasts of Israel: Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement)
October 11	The Feasts of Israel: Tabernacles
October 18	The Pearl of Great Price
October 25	How to Destroy Your Church

Belmont Baptist Pre-School

Teachers -

Mon-Fri.—9:00 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
 (Serving children age 2 to 4 years)

Joann McDougald
Jane Kofroth
Rose Gallagher



Worship Leaders

Oct. 4	Sandy Smith
Oct. 11	Bob Peters
Oct. 18	Jane Kofroth
Oct. 25	Jim Yates, Sr.

Song Leaders

Oct. 4	Sandy Smith
Oct. 11	Gary Kimmel
Oct. 18	Barbara Duffy
Oct. 25	Bob Flubacher

OCTOBER 2009



Door Greeters



Oct. 4 Claire McLaughlin &
Emma Jean Murphy

Oct. 11 Asinata & Djawotho Kisa

Oct. 18 Jim Yates, Sr., Jim
Yates, Jr.

Oct. 25 Earl & Barbara Russell

Communion Preparers

Jeff Kimmel

Communion Servers

Kevin Yates, Anne Moore, Michael Talluto,
Fred & Marlyn Eliassen

Head Ushers

Jeff Kimmel

Childcare Ministry

October 4 Christine Yates, Roger Naimoli
October 11 Joann McDougald, Anthony Nastasi
October 18 Mike McDougald, Ally Jones
October 25 Terry Yates, Debbie Lawson

Cleaning Teams

October 3 Church Work Day
October 10 Gary, Kay & Jeff Kimmel
October 17 Joann & Mike McDougald; Clare LaPalombara
October 24 Jenny & Ryan Siddons; Roger Naimoli



Belmont Driving Schedule

October 4 Jim Yates, Jr.
October 11 Gary Kimmel
October 18 Kevin Yates
October 25 Bob Wilhelm

BYG 4 Jesus News

This year at BYG 4 Jesus, we are starting a series which will last all year entitled “Drawing Closer to God: Transforming My Spiritual Life” and our theme verse this year is James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”. Each month we will have a different theme, all of which are designed to help the students draw closer to God. The monthly themes are:

September~	Making the Commitment
October~	Who Am I Really?
November~	Laying a Firm Foundation
December~	The Filter
January~	Spending Time with God
February~	Investing Time with Others
March~	Taking Care of the King’s Things
April~	Pay It Forward
May~	Now Who Am I Really?

We are meeting every Sunday night from 6:30- 9:00. Our meetings begin with opening prayer and announcements. We then take prayer requests and pray for one another. We have a time of worship followed by our lesson, and then we have free time for the rest of the evening.

This year, we are starting something new. BYG 4 Jesus will be sponsoring our own missionaries. Bill and Gina Laky are going to Spain to minister to the Muslim community there. We will be joining them as prayer partners and will be supporting them with letters, emails and financially as well.

We are also starting our youth committees where the students will be taking a bigger role in the way things are run. We are looking forward to a great year at BYG 4 Jesus. If you have any questions or would like to help out in any way, please contact Michael Talluto.





SENIOR VAN TRIPS

We have planned our next two van trips and hopefully you will be able to join us for both!

Friday, October 5th—Historic Smithville, NJ - We will visit the many shops on the Village Green and we will eat an early dinner at the historic Smithville Inn. If time allows, we may even get to walk on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. Cost for transportation and dinner will be \$28 per person—due on the morning of the trip.

Friday, December 4th—American Music Theater's Christmas Show

In Lancaster County

This will be our third trip to this great show, which is filled with wonderful entertainers presenting a variety of secular and gospel Christmas favorites. We have ordered 30 tickets for this show. For all of those who have joined us in the past, this is the highlight of our van trips for the year. Cost for the show and transportation will be \$40 per person and is due by Sunday, November 1st. Lunch will be separate.

Please let May Arra or Jim/Maryanne Yates know as soon as possible if you will be able to join us on one or both of these trips.

BELMONT'S 4TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL—October 17th 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

As October 17th is quickly approaching, External Ministries requests your support.

Please sign up for specific donations on the bulletin board. They include food, beverages, utensils, monetary gifts, etc.



We request that all donations would be given by October 10th. Please see Christie Wilhelm and/or Jimmy Yates for specifics... Thank you in advance.



TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND HOME BIBLE STUDY

10. You can check out your host's décor—you might get some ideas for yourself
9. You can eat and not feel guilty—nobody looks because they are reaching for the food too
8. There is always good conversation—not much listening—but that is what makes our fellowship so sweet
7. This is a great chance to “really” get to know your brother and sister in CHRIST
6. It is a great opportunity to bring a friend or family member to study God's word in comfortable surroundings
5. You have the opportunity to share in a small group—your joys, sorrows, and needs
4. You can pray together for those things that have been shared, than rejoice together when answers are received
3. Your thoughts and insights about God's word are welcomed and encouraged, it's refreshing when we can all learn together
2. You get to study God's wonderful word in depth—to dig for the golden nuggets of truth that it holds for all of us to find

AND THE #1 REASON.....

1. It will definitely be a life changing experience!

(We begin on Thursday, October 1st, 2009 and end May 20th, 2010. We meet the first and third Thursday of each month).

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, December 6, 2009

(Immediately following morning worship)



Christmas Dinner at Caroline's Restaurant

Our theme this year is “*Christmas Around the World.*” We will be asking individuals or families to make a short presentation of a Christmas custom in another land (possibly something from your family background). If you would be willing to be a part of our Christmas Around the World presentation, please let Jean Anderson know at 610-527-3639. Thanks.

October Birthdays!





What's Cooking?

“This month’s recipe is from Allrecipes

Banana Pumpkin Bread

Ingredients:

2 ripe bananas, mashed
2 eggs
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 1/3 cups canned pumpkin puree
1/2 cup honey
1/2 cup white sugar
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3/4 cup raisins (optional) or walnuts

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes

Ready In: 1 hour 5 minutes

Servings: 12



DIRECTIONS: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9/x 4 inch loaf pan. In a large bowl, stir together the mashed banana, eggs, oil, pumpkin, honey and sugar. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, pie spice and cinnamon, stir into the banana mixture until just combined. Fold in the raisins and/or walnuts if desired. Pour batter into the prepared pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean. Cool loaf in the pan for 10 minutes before moving to a wire rack to cool completely.

Cookies for Friends

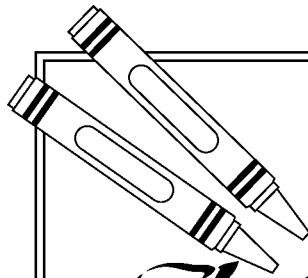
Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.



Just for **KIDS**

A harvest of...

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

"But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."



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