

Belmont Beacon

November 2015

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Is a picture really worth a thousand words? This picture is of three golf flags. These were the prizes for the annual Virginia State Golf Association Two Person Championship. I have been lucky enough to earn one of these for the past three years. To play in the tournament the two-some qualifies at an earlier event. Each one tells a completely different story.



In the 2013 tournament, my partner and I both played well and complimented each other. When I had a bad hole, Dave had a good one and vice versa. The format for these tournaments is "Best Ball." That means the lower score of the two players is counted. We won the "Net" for our flight, which involves a golfer's handicap. The actual score is the "Gross," and then based on those handicaps we received a stroke for certain holes that calculates a "Net Score."

In 2014, my partner and I won the "Net" for our flight and we actually had the lowest "Net" score for all of the flights. That day I shot one of the best rounds of golf in my life. I have shot under 80 on five occasions and that was one of them. Mike played okay, but I played really well. The 2015 tournament was recently held. My partner and I won the "Net" for our flight because of how well Karl played. On our first two holes, my score was our "Best ball," and the rest was Karl. I managed one par on the day and Karl had four birdies on our first nine holes. The harder I tried the worse I played. Karl shot an 80 while I finished with a 101. Yet, without my measly contribution we would not have won. Those two holes mattered.

I share this with you for a reason other than bragging about these "victories." I would prefer to forget the last one, but I can count on Karl to remind me of this for the rest of our lives. These three different events that would appear very similar have a

unique story associated with them. Each individual story is important.

As some of our church family have been *Dwelling in the Word*, we have been doing the important work of listening. We have listened to each other. We have listened to the biblical text of Luke 10:1-12 and how it speaks anew each time we read it. We have listened to our neighborhood with ears for how God is at work and how we might join God in our midst.

Luke 10:1-12 is where Jesus sends out the seventy to proclaim the kingdom of God. I invite you to carefully read and listen to this text. Jesus sends us out in a posture that listens to those we encounter. This stance involves leaving our baggage behind and relying completely on God. This attitude calls us to dwell with those we encounter as we proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. As we listen in this manner, we discern what God is calling us to be.

Every story is different. As we listen to each other, to God and to those around us, I invite you to share in this journey. I look forward to listening and dwelling with you. Now back to more of Karl's heckling.

Blessings, Greg



Inspiration

Deuteronomy 16:17 (NKJV)

17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.

We noticed a paradox during our review for the third quarter business meeting.

Giving was down and this was the lowest quarter of the year. A deeper analysis did not reveal an obvious reason. We did remember that two summer months are included with the third quarter. A review of past third quarters exhibits higher giving than 2015. In fact, the third quarter 2014 was \$17,000 higher which is substantial. (Year to Date comparisons also shows higher at +\$10,000 without any designed amounts included).

2015 giving:

First quarter: \$89,928
Second quarter: \$69,814
Third quarter: \$67,723*

2014 giving:

Third quarter: \$84,519*

2013 giving:

Third quarter: \$70,008

2012 giving:

Third quarter: \$71,565

2011 giving:

Third quarter: \$73,603

The question that comes to mind is why? Was 2014 a fluke or was 2015?? A review of 2011-2013 (above) seems to indicate that giving is down for 2015, even if 2014 was not normal.

The fourth quarter results could be interesting to see if a trend is developing or if giving is going back up. The Finance Team would appreciate your prayers of understanding and consideration.

Thanks for all you do including your gifts and tithes to further the kingdom of our Lord.

Finance Team

WMU

Clark Elementary School Christmas Mitten Tree

The WMU will collect mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks and underclothes (boys and girls) for Christmas for the children of Clark School.

Thank you for considering a donation to 2015 Mitten Tree!
Please bring donations November 29 through December 27 for delivery to the



Western State Hospital Operation Santa

The WMU will collect donations for Christmas gifts for the patients at Western State.

Thank you for considering a donation to 2015 Operation Santa! Gift deadline is November 22.

- Sweatshirts (M-4XL)
- Sweatpants (M-4XL)
- Women's underwear (M-4XL)
- Bras (all sizes)
- Men's boxers (M-4XL)
- T-shirts (M-4XL)
- Tennis Shoes/Socks (sizes 8-13)
- Gowns/Robes/Pajamas (M-4XL)
- Radios with batteries
- Inexpensive watches
- Clocks with batteries
- Men's body wash
- Lotion
- Brush and comb set
- Wal-Mart gift cards
- Dollar Tree gift cards
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent
- Snacks (individually wrapped)
- Juice Boxes



I To the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

want to thank you for your prayers, visits, phone calls and cards while I have been dealing with my knee replacement. Another month of therapy and I hope I will be much better. I have sincerely missed worshipping with you here at Belmont.

Love in Christ, Diane



The end of the year is looming, and there are many events and celebrations planned at BBC.

The month of October brought the Belmont Bash. Belmont Baptist Church was present at Belmont Park with several other organizations. Our presence there included a poster stating our missions which lead to a piece on the local television station about Loads of Love. Also in October we were present in our neighborhood with Halloween activities for the children.

WMU has planned several events to show love to our neighbors near and far. These events give all of us opportunities to participate in the Lord's work.

We have scheduled several events in November:

- November 14, the children will travel to local nursing homes and singing for the residents.
- November 26, Thanksgiving morning, we will serve breakfast to the residents of Park View.
- November 28, we will gather to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

This month, with the beginning of Advent, we celebrate the greatest gift we have received from our Lord and Father, the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. Let all of us give back to God by sharing in the work of our church to take care of God's people.

Cheryl Rodriguez, Deacon Chair



Otis Elliott 4th Annual Memorial Peanut Butter Drive

The month of November in America is one of thanksgiving. We plan meals to celebrate with family and friends. We think about and count our blessings. Otis Elliott was a blessing to many during his lifetime.

Otis Elliott was a simple, quiet man with a generous spirit. Remember Otis by donating his favorite food, Peanut Butter, during the month of November. This simple act will greatly benefit many in our community. You can be a blessing to others. There are several collection points and Belmont Baptist Church is one. Otis was a Peter Pan fan but any peanut butter brand or a monetary donation will be appreciated. So Purchase Peanut Butter and know Otis appreciates that his legacy lives on in you. Be generous, be thankful and be caring. Thank



Dear Belmont,

I hope you are all well, warm and blessed. What a beautiful time of year. Fall is such a busy time in public school and it really starts to **ramp up** for the church as well. I know how hectic it can be, but it would be great to have you all join us in the choir at the Advent season. I have purchased some wonderful new music, and it is exciting to learn new pieces. Think about joining us soon as we would love to have **you here**.

Please send me a list of hymns or anthems you would like to hear. Our pianist and organist as well can look for pieces you may want to hear. Music always helps me speak to God. Perhaps there is a message you need or want. Let me know and I will do my best.

Fall Blessings,
Peggy



Join us November 7, 2015 at Orange Baptist Church for Virginia's first Mission Collective event!

Mission Collective is a one-day event for equipping churches in best practices for mission through collaboration. We gather expert practitioners, church leaders and CBF staff around a relevant topic- bringing together collective wisdom for collective action. Together we seek to respond faithfully to God's call to love the world and serve our neighbor.

When: November 7, 2015
Time: 9:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: Orange Baptist Church,
 123 W. Main Street, Orange, VA 22960
Cost: \$10 per person

Deadline: Please Register by Monday, November 2.
<http://www.cbfva.org/missions/mission-collective/>
 Join CBF Global Missions Team at Orange Baptist Church to discuss Reclaiming Evangelism for the 21st Century.

Comcast Channel 13 will Rebroadcast the Worship Service Sunday at 7:00 pm.



BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
830 Monticello Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22902

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Order a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary.

Cost is \$10.00 each.

My Name Is _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

**Please indicate how you
wish the name to be
written in the booklet.**

Paid by check

Paid by cash



In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

(Orders must be received by Monday, November 18, 2015.)