

Belmont Beacon

September 2014

Vol. XXII, No. 10

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Whenever I return from a seminar week in Lombard, Illinois at Northern Seminary, I am stuck between two distinct feelings. One of those emotions is a sense of accomplishment upon completing another portion of this educational process. The other reaction is feeling the stress that accompanies writing the paper to conclude the class.

These two feelings get intertwined when I consider finishing this paper will put me one-third of the way there to the projected graduation date of June 2017. Before anyone asks, I am not a doctor yet but I am almost one-third of a doctor. I do not think that counts for anything, but I suppose you have to be one-third of a doctor and then one-half of a doctor before you can complete the degree.

I really do appreciate your encouragement and support that are and have been crucial to this educational journey. I attempt to share with you what I am studying in hopes of "taking you to school with me." This is my way of sharing the questions that I have been asked with you and allowing you to wrestle with them as well. I realize that you did not sign up for that deal, but you will not be asked to write any papers or take any exams.

The current class is *The Bible in Context*. The professor is Dr. Scot McKnight. Some of you read his book, *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others*. The class focused on the themes of gospel, Scripture, kingdom and conversion theory. For the past months and specifically for that focused week, I have been wrestling with these questions. *What is the Bible's central story and how does this shape your view of Scripture's sense of authority? Define Kingdom. Define Church. What is the gospel? What are the dimensions of genuine conversion?*

The readings and discussions on the topic of the gospel were most provocative to me. As I and the other students were challenged to define this term, we considered how the gospel is most often equated with salvation and more specifically with being saved from hell.

All of this got me thinking and wondering about who



we are as the church today and specifically with us; Belmont Baptist Church. In the New Testament, the gospel, "good news" is above all the story of the life of Jesus and salvation is part of that. 1 Timothy 3:16, 2 Timothy 2:8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and 1 Peter 3:18-22 are examples of gospel summaries that do not put all the emphasis on being "saved from our sins."

How do we understand the "good news?" Do we limit our understanding of the good news to "being saved from our sins" or "saved from hell?" I imagine that many of us do. Salvation is an important part of the gospel but it is only a part.

My wonderings on this center on things that you have heard me question before. Have we done a disservice to people with the over-emphasis on John 3:16 and the message it provides? "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life?"

When we have focused the gospel on believing in Jesus so that we can receive eternal life we have only provided a portion of the good news. All this also causes me to ask, "What is the connection between being saved and living in the fullness of the gospel?" Another way to ask this is, "If being saved from hell is what we have prioritized, then should we be surprised if someone does not feel the need to come to church or to commit his or her life to living out the good news in community with others?"

If we have presented salvation from sins and hell as most important thing of all, then the person that has made the "profession of faith" has arguably done what they need to do. The good news of Jesus Christ is so much more. My hope for Belmont Baptist Church, for Charlottesville and for all of our world is that we can experience the fullness of the gospel of who Jesus is and how that changes everything. In this good news, we find salvation and we find so much more. Let us discover it and live it out together.

Blessings,

Greg



What a wonderful celebration it was for our 65th anniversary. As someone who worships a lot through music I could not express how great the entire day was. What a blessing I received.

As we get into fall I am excited about the opportunities we will have with the possibility of two bell choirs. I am especially happy to work with new ringers and the children. I look forward to the morning that the bells will ring out a joyful noise in the service.

Please consider joining any of our groups and/or letting me know if you would like to sing a specific hymn or hear a certain song sung by the choir. If we can make that a part of one of our worship services we will do so.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday.

Musically Yours,
Peggy

Upcoming **Children's** Events

October 26 Children's Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
Children of all ages are welcome to join us after church on October 26. Bring a bag lunch. We will eat and then caravan out to the "patch".

October 31 Trick or Treat at Belmont
Come help pass out treats to our neighbors on Friday October 31 from 5:30 pm-7:00 pm. If you would like to donate candy or school snacks to pass out, you can leave them on the table in the Fellowship Hall outside the Sunday School office.



The painting committee hopes you have been enjoying the freshening up of the sanctuary. As you know, the baptistry, the choir loft, and the lower part of the sanctuary have now been painted. It has been approximately 40 years since the last paint job. Consequently, the painting has addressed many issues, including the necessary repair of the

rotting windows, the flaking paint in the baptistry, the darkening in the walls above the heaters, and the various other blemishes on the walls. And, in preparation for the painting process, we also had 20 broken window panes replaced in the sanctuary. The committee believes that the sanctuary certainly looks much better. The painting committee recommends that the church approve the painting of the furniture in the main part of the sanctuary, including the pews and chairs and tables in the front, as the next phase in the painting project. The committee will bring this matter up for approval at the next business meeting, Sunday, October 12, and will discuss the remainder of the project which includes the vestibule and the balcony area and remaining furniture, to see what approach the church would like to take. Please come and join us.

A new pictorial directory is coming soon.

Church Directory



As a part of the process, Jim Carpenter will be available to take family portraits following worship on October 5 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm at Gitchell's Studio, 618A Forest Street.

Your smiling face is needed for this very important project.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE
PUBLIC
ACCESS** 

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



Dine With The Deacons

The sign up sheet for the October 19 "Dine With The Deacons"

is in the vestibule. Please sign up as soon as you are able. We have 12 slots for Dinner. This is your last chance to "Dine with the Deacons." ALL YOU NEED TO BRING IS YOUR APPETITE.

Deacon Chair,

Rodney Thomas



To the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

This is to express my thanks for the fellowship and cake at the Squirrels baseball game and the transportation provided. Thanks again for all the cards and letters you send and for your prayers. I pray for you.

My love to all,
George Reynolds



Thank you for housing us and feeding us wonderful food. We really appreciate your hospitality in welcoming us to Charlottesville. By giving us a place to stay you keep our costs down which in turn allows us to put more money into the affordable housing cause. Thanks for your generosity and hard work!

Sincerely,
CVS 14



Thanks for prayers, cards, food, phone calls, visits, love and care. God loves you and so do I.

Bonnie Bailey



Thank you all for the time and effort put into the meal you delivered. It was thoughtful and delicious and one less thing to figure out that day. Your continued support of our family is beyond appreciated.

With love,
Megan, James, Marley and Xavier Watson



Pat and I wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness and prayers shown to us during my Mom's illness and her going to be with God. A special thanks to Greg for all the phone calls and kind words.

May God bless and keep you all.
Cutler and Pat



We would like to thank our Belmont family for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, food, and other acts of kindness and support during Robert's illness and passing. Family and friends appreciated the meal following the service; it offered a time to reflect on what Robert meant to us all.

With Christian love,
Janet and Katherine



Calling all decorators or decorator-wanna-be's; we need you!

The flower committee supports the worship experience by overseeing the altar flowers and general decoration of the sanctuary, including the weekly Sunday needs as well as Christmas and Easter and seasonal decorating.



We would appreciate help from anyone who would like to share their decorating ideas or who would like to help out with the seasonal or weekly decorating. No experience necessary!!

Also, if you would like to participate by either providing flowers or paying for flowers on a particular Sunday, which can be in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please write in your request on the Flower Request Sheet which is in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, please contact Ann Haney at #295-3795.

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
830 Monticello Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22902

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Needlework Guild

The WMU ladies will collect new clothing items from infants to senior adults on Sunday, September 28 and Sunday, October 5. All items can be left on the tables at the rear of the sanctuary.

The WMU Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 11 in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone wanting to order Brunswick Stew or Chili can contact Becky Bowers to place an order.

