

# Belmont Beacon

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The Super Bowl played on February 1, 2015 feels like it happened many months ago rather than weeks. The conclusion to the game will be remembered for quite a while as the Patriots intercepted a pass from the two yard line. The Seahawk coaches called for a pass play when arguably the best short distance running back in the National Football League was not given the chance to run for the score.

If you are a Patriots fan, you probably prefer to focus on the season that was and their Super Bowl victory. If you are a fan of any other team, you are looking ahead to next season and the possibilities for your team. As a Carolina Panthers fan, I was pleasantly surprised they made the playoffs this year as they won the worst division in football. The Panthers have some strengths and seemingly even more weaknesses if they hope to make it to the playoffs and ultimately to a Super Bowl victory.

I am not convinced that we Carolina Panthers fans have all that much to celebrate. Perhaps this is more true "on the field" than "off the field." A few weeks prior to the Super Bowl a news account detailed the story of Cade Pope, a twelve year-old boy from Yukon, Oklahoma. Before Christmas, Cade wrote a letter to each of the 32 owners of the National Football League teams. Cade explained that he lived in a state without an NFL team and was trying to choose a team for a lifetime that would be "his team." Cade requested each owner to tell him why their team was the best and why he should pick their team. Cade's handwritten letters concluded with the words, "I can't wait to hear from you."

Imagine how many of the NFL owners, billionaires, successful businessmen responded to this letter. One owner responded. Jerry Richardson of the Carolina Panthers wrote back and told Cade, "We would be honored if our Carolina Panthers became your team. We would make you proud by the classy way we would represent you." Richardson included a



Panthers helmet that was autographed by one of the team's star players.

Richardson's response makes me proud to call the Carolina Panthers my favorite NFL team. This kind gesture may not result in more wins on the field, but in this instance the message conveyed is that the fans matter. This interaction has something to say to the church that seeks to love its community and the people within it.

Personal interactions matter. When the young boy writes, "I can't wait to hear from you" to 32 different people and only hears from one, we should take notice. (I did learn that one other owner from the 49ers sent Cade an email) What is our community and world hoping to hear from us? Will we take the time to personally respond to individuals?

Social media is an important part of our world. *Facebook*, *Twitter*, email, texting and other methods are used to connect people in unprecedented ways. These tools can be helpful to sharing the gospel and linking individuals to specific churches like ours. In the midst of our world dominated by all of these communication methods, the personal touch still matters.

Taking the time for personal interaction makes a powerful impact in a person's life. The power of a handwritten note or card does not get overlooked. A personal call or invitation to church makes more of a difference than you might realize. When you are excited about something, people will notice. Share your excitement about what God is doing in your life and through Belmont Baptist Church with your neighbors and friends. Use that personal touch and allow God to work through that action.

Remember to use the "personal touch" and share with us what you learn. "I can't wait to hear from you."

Blessings, Greg



Dear Friends,

We can all admit, I am sure, that the snow is so beautiful and makes everything clean and fresh looking. That said, we can be done now. It came, we saw, we were in awe. Now let's get back to Virginia weather. As most folk around here know, I am a transplant to the area. I have seen plenty of snow, but really this is supposed to be the south.

Thank you once again to everyone that gave me a list of hymns and songs you may wish to hear and sing. Please keep them coming and I will do my best to fit them in. I also want to give you an open invitation to both the choir and the two hand bell groups. There is plenty of room, and we would love to have you come join us. It is a great fellowship time. Give it a try to see if it is for you.

I hope to use this Lenten Season for reflection. I hope some of our music we are offering will help guide you in your journey as well.

Musically yours,

Peggy

# The People vs. Judas Iscariot

... the punishment phase



Worship  
And  
Drama  
Series  
For Lent

Wm. Clayton McCord

Worship during the season of Lent provides focus on the cross. Our journey in that direction this Lent will include a dramatic twist. Based on Wm. Clayton McCord's dramatic work, *The People vs. Judas Iscariot... The Punishment Phase*, we will transform the sanctuary into a courtroom and consider the case for and against Judas Iscariot. Through

these insightful dramatic reflections, we will reflect on Judas' admission of guilt and hear a case for his eternal punishment or his eternal forgiveness. The congregation will serve as jurors..



To the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

Thanks to everyone that made the *Stop Hunger Now* meal packaging event so successful. This special day of mission and fellowship took many months to develop. Throughout the journey, your financial contributions along with your physical labor made it possible to package **14,000** meals for hungry children in our world. Thanks to the deacons for the great soup and sandwich lunch. Thanks to the children for the cookies that you made. Thanks for efforts made in earlier fundraising efforts. Many thanks to everyone who made this event possible.



The balcony will need major cleaning when painting is completed. I'm setting a date of March 21 for clean up. Anyone interested in participating in this wonderful event "hee hee" please contact me (Linda Breeden, Cheryl Rodriguez or call the church. We welcome any help.

Time yet to be announced.

Let's make our place of worship a warm and inviting place to be.

Blessings  
Linda



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



I would like to thank everyone who contributed to or participated in the Stop Hunger Now Event. I would like to thank the Deacons who put on a delicious soup and sandwich meal, and the children for baking cookies and selling them.

We earned over \$600.00 for these two efforts.

This Month I would like to talk about "Dine with the Deacons" I want to make sure the congregation understands what the Deacons hope to accomplish by offering this time of fellowship with our congregation.

First of all we want you to have a closer relationship with your Deacons. You chose us to a position of leadership in your church. By accepting this nomination we have the responsibility of supporting you and praying for you. To this end, we designed a means of getting to know each of you on a more personal level and this gives you a chance to have conversations with us that you may not have had the opportunity to have before. What better way to do this than over a good meal.

We have held three dinners so far, and plan to have more, the next being on **March 15, 2015 at 5:00.**

Our focus has been talking with our congregation, and listening to our congregation. One idea that came out of these dinners was to create a system where we would call our members who do not have email, and relay Prayer Requests and announcements. Another topic which came up in one of the dinners, was people would like to have access to a list of the committees and the leaders for these committees. Rick Wharam created that list.

The Deacons feel this time of fellowship and communication with our congregation is very important. If you have not signed up for one of these dinners, I encourage you to do so. If you have already attended one of these dinners, I encourage you to come again. I promise you a good meal and wonderful time of fellowship.

Cheryl Rodriguez and the Deacon Board

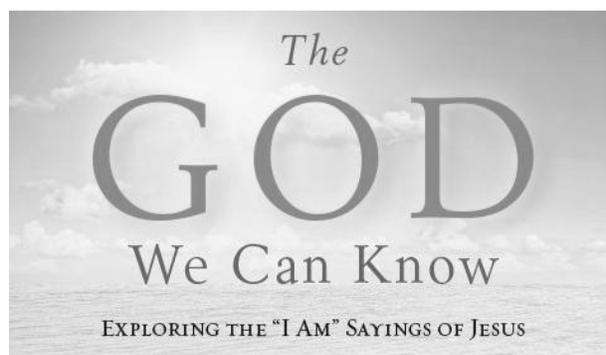
Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.



### Stewardship Note:

We are continually amazed at the generosity of the church family. Your financial contributions and gifts of time are essential to how we "Share Christ

and Serve Others." Please remember when we miss a Sunday because of the weather our expenses continue and sometimes increase with snow removal and a busted water pipe. Thank you for blessing others as you share of God's blessings to you.



New CrossRoads Study is underway:

Come join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for prayer, Bible Study and fellowship together. We are beginning a new study on the "I Am" statements of Jesus found in the gospel of John. Rob Fuquay's book *The God We Can Know* will serve as a guide to our exploration of these texts. See you then!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



***Now is the time to place your order!***

If you would like to place a pot of spring flowers in the church sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone for Easter, please complete the order form below and place it along with payment in full in the offering plate, or bring it by the church office. All orders must be received Sunday, March 22, 2015. The cost is **\$10.00** each.



**My Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Number of Plants** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN MEMORY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR OF** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the information you want written in the booklet.  
(Mary Smith, my mother, by Joan Smith).