

Belmont Beacon

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Dr. Hal Brady of Dallas, Texas, tells of a well-known politician who, while riding in a train going through a major Eastern city, suddenly produced a \$5 bill and said, "I'm going to throw this \$5 bill out the window and make somebody happy." One of his ardent admirers suggested,

"But sir, why don't you throw five \$1 bills out and make five people happy?" At that moment, a member of the opposing party, seated in the corner, growled, "Why don't you just jump out yourself and make everybody happy."

In the current political environment, that encounter could have happened recently though it likely happened years ago. For all that one might say about politics, I would rather investigate with you this subject of happiness. You can't make everybody happy. The thing or things that make you happy don't make everyone else happy. The thing or things that make me happy probably don't make you happy. We all have different lists of people who we would want to jump out of a train to make us happy. Hopefully, some of us would be far from happy if anyone jumped out of a train.

In our diversity, we have different interests along with the different gifts that we possess. Far too often the problem with politics, among many other issues, is that we fail to listen to the person with the differing perspective. Jesus' call to new life is a call to shared life in community.

Community involves listening to each other and learning those shared sources of happiness and those things that are foreign to us or unique to us. Our listening with each other will also reveal those places of sadness and pain. We

possess the ability to encourage and support each other in whatever we face in life, but the difficulty is often putting that into practice. Sometimes we are so busy that we don't take the time to interact with those around us. We become content with minding our own business and staying out of other people's business. Sometimes we get hurt along the way and we don't know how to work through our disagreements. Reconciliation is hard work and healthy models are few and far between.

The church should be one of those healthy models. We all know that is not always the case. The saying, "stained glass cuts much deeper than regular glass" is true because we expect more from the church and from Christians.

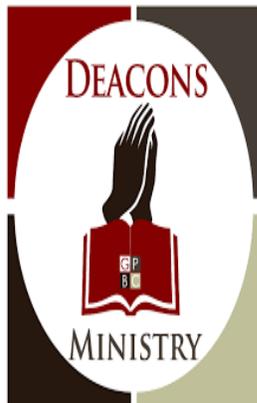
On the positive side, we have much to celebrate together through the community of Belmont Baptist Church.

Music camp is one of the highlights of the year for those who participate in this experience, and preparations are happening. Your gifts can be utilized!

Our June worship will include celebration of God's gift of the Holy Spirit and communion on June 4th. In the following weeks of the summer, our worship will focus on the Ten Commandments and living those out in our world today. I look forward to finding happiness together with you in our source of life and joy, Jesus the Christ!

Blessings,

Greg



“Making All Things New:”

“An Invitation to the Spiritual Life”

In his book, *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*, Henri Nouwen continues to provide his

brilliant insight to guide Christians in this new life with God. Although we may read the Bible daily, some things are slow to sink in. It sure is nice having Henri’s writings to clarify our understanding and presence with God.

The spiritual life is a gift. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit, who lifts us up into the kingdom of God’s love. To say that being lifted up into the kingdom of love is a divine gift, does not mean that we wait passively until the gift is offered to us. Jesus tells us to set our hearts on the kingdom. Setting our hearts on something involves not only serious aspiration, but also strong determination. A spiritual life requires human effort. The forces that keep pulling us back into worry filled life are far from easy to overcome. Jesus said, “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

“A spiritual life without discipline is impossible. Discipline is the other side of discipleship. The practice of a spiritual discipline makes us more sensitive to the small, gentle voice of God. Through the practice of a spiritual discipline, we become attentive to that small voice and become willing to respond when we hear it.... A spiritual discipline is necessary in order to move slowly from an absurd to an obedient life. From a life filled with noisy

worries, to a life in which there is some free inner space where we can listen to our God and follow his guidance. Jesus’ life was a life of obedience. He was always listening to the Father, always attentive to His voice, always alert for His directions. Jesus was “all ear.” That is true prayer: being “all ear” for God. The core of all prayer is indeed listening, obediently standing in the presence of God.”

“Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life. Solitude begins with a time and place for God, Him alone. If we really believe not only that God exists, but that he is actively present in our lives by healing, teaching, and guiding us, we need to set aside a time and space to give Him our undivided attention. Jesus said “Go to your private room and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place.” (Matthew 6:6)

Go ahead friends, find the time and place to be alone with God and allow Him to give you guidance to enrich your existence with the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Rick Wharam



We will be collecting food for the Food Closet throughout camp and at the performance. Please consider donating an item or two to help people in our town, less fortunate than us.

Food closet needs:

Canned vegetables, soups, canned meats, pasta sauce, pasta, canned ravioli or spaghetti, coffee, (often requested) rice, powdered milk are just a few of the closet needs.

NEEDS CONTACTS:

Donations/Food Clst: Virginia Brewer
New Laundry Clients: Barbara Lowery
Laundry Ministry: Sue Wharam

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

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As you know, we are hard at work planning for the musical “**Happily forever After**” that our children will be performing on July 28. Our kick-off party is Sat. June 3. when the children will begin to

listen to the music, learn their lines and continue to get excited about a wonderful week!

This magical musical tells the tale of young Brooke on a tour of castle ruins with her family, where she goes back in time and lives her own fairy tale. There is a line at the end of the musical that sticks in my mind; Brooke tells everyone: “Jesus said, if you hear My words, yet don’t follow them, your life will be like a castle built on the sand. When the storms of life come, it will crumble.” But there’s good news, God has made a new Kingdom for us and because Jesus took on the payment for our sin and defeated the dragon of death, we can live the backward life now and live happily forever after in the Kingdom of God!”

As Brooke sums up what she had learned from the Carpenter on her journey with vanity stricken princesses, over confident knights and frightening dragons in the real life fairy tale she lived, we are reminded that we too can be caught up in the self-fulfilling paths that do not lead to God.

Our children will learn a valuable lesson in a fun and exciting story that takes us to a fairy tale land.

Please stay posted for items we may need for our music camp as we approach this inspiring time in our church.

Blessings,

Peggy

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
830 Monticello Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22902



Music Camp 2017 will be July 17-21!
Here are a few things we need from you:

1. Classroom teacher for 1st and 2nd graders, 9am til 12pm each day.
2. Folks to help in kitchen for snacks each day and to help serve lunch Thursday and For the cupcake reception on Friday evening.
3. Invite children preschool to 8th graders to participate!

Registration for the Music Camp is underway! See or email Melanie Anderson at gma@anderson@gmail.com for more information or to sign up as a volunteer!

Join us on Friday, July 21, at 7:00pm for the performance of the wonderful musical:

“Happily Forever After”