

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

Kids & Sermon Notes

By Rich Shipe

I was recently inspired by an article I read by a well-known pastor and his wife on parenting and the Sunday morning church service. In the article, they shared a vision for making the Sunday morning service meaningful for children rather than just an experience to be endured. They gave many practical tips to help parents mentor their children into a richer understanding of the service.

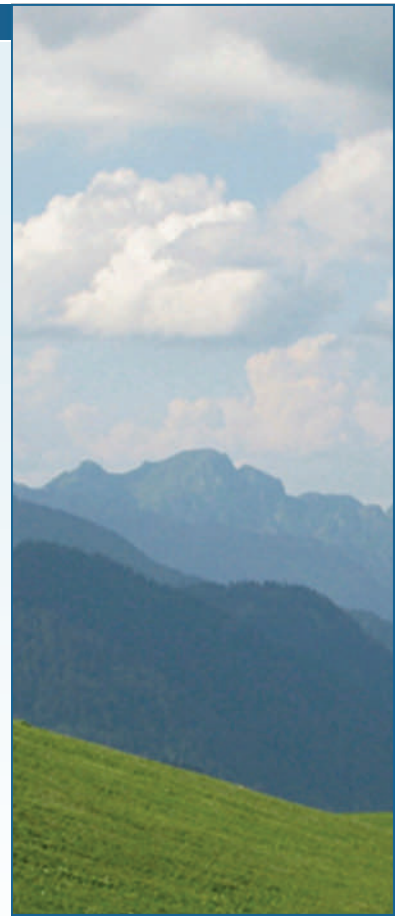
One of the ideas they shared was for parents to encourage their children to take notes during the sermon. My first thought was how hard this would be for my kids (who are ages seven, nine, and ten) because it's hard enough for me! But I decided to give it a try. I gave them some basic instructions and encouragement and we tried it out.

The first Sunday of note taking was a little rough. I had to remind them a few times to keep it up during the sermon, and they had trouble knowing what to write. Like I said, note-taking isn't easy. But one thing I did notice was that for the most part, they were paying attention during the whole sermon. It felt like a small but significant step forward.

The next thing I did that really helped was create a one-page, note-taking form for them to use. The form includes boxes that hopefully get them thinking about what to look for in the sermon. The boxes give them special places to write down the main verse, other verses, big idea or main point, what I should do, words I don't know, and extra lines for additional notes.

As an Easter gift to our kids, Christy made them each a decorated three-ring binder in which they can keep their sermon

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- Jack Gill - Pastor
 - Rich Shipe - Associate Pastor
 - Tom Gossage - Worship Pastor
 - Debbie Stevenson - Administrator
 - Chris George - Layout & Editor



May Attendance

3 10 17 24

Sunday School

Adults	115	109	108	90
Children	109	122	119	95
Total	224	231	227	185

Worship

Auditorium	407	432	398	373
Classes	45	49	46	40
Total	452	481	444	413

BRBC Homeschool Support Group

We had an amazing and encouraging tea with Elizabeth Smith in May. She challenged us to be keepers of the vision of homeschooling. We left energized and motivated to finish out the school year strong! We will take a summer break and meet again in September. Thank you to all who participated and enjoy the summer!

notes. They loved the binders and are excited about writing down things on the form each week.

We've been using this form for a couple months now, and I've been really impressed with the results. It is incredible to me how quickly they've been able to learn this skill and how much they are able to write down. The other significant thing is they are doing their best to pay attention to the sermon now. Some weeks are better than others, and sometimes they give up or get frustrated, but we've found that they are really growing in it and making progress. They are learning important life skills in listening and note taking, and I want to deliberately help them grow in these areas.

Another great benefit we've found from the note taking is it gives us an opportunity to talk about the sermon as a family. At dinner on Mondays, we all get out our notes and walk through the sermon. Christy and I help the kids fill in parts that they missed, and we explain the parts that were hard for them to understand. This also reinforces the big ideas for Christy and me too!

In the May newsletter, Jack talked about worship "preflight" and how important it is to get ready in advance to worship. That pre-worship preparation is important for success in teaching your children to take notes. Ultimately, our family goal is to teach our children about the incredible value of worship and learning in a community of believers. As a parent, I also need to teach my kids through my actions about the exciting opportunity we have on Sunday mornings to corporately worship our God and Savior. My kids need to see me truly excited about worshiping God in order to fully incorporate this lesson into their lives.

If you'd like to try out the form we created you can download it from the church website here:

<http://brbible.org/kidssermonnotes.pdf>.



Administratively Speaking

Summer Fun, Summer Help

by Debbie Stevenson

It's summer and that means everyone is wanting to "get outta Dodge!" for vacation, relaxation and a break from routine. But in the life of a church, church life happens seven days a week, 365 days a year, no matter what month it is. The following are some needs that we have this summer, and we ask are asking for your help

Get A Sub for Yourself – First, if you are in ministry here or on one of our children's class rotation schedules, please don't leave town without getting a substitute for yourself.

Sunday School – Our regular teachers and helpers want a summer break too. Please consider volunteering to teach a class or help a few Sundays this summer.

Facility Cleaning – EVERYONE can help with this at ALL TIMES by picking up your own trash, emptying trashcans after your meetings, and leaving the room in better condition than when you entered.

Facility Use – Although the church is generally used less during the summer months, it is still necessary for you to SCHEDULE your meeting through me. I've been hearing lately that there have been meetings going on by people who are just assuming the church is available. For a number of reasons, it is very important not to make this assumption...the most obvious being the room may not be available for you. We want the church to be available to everyone, but for security and scheduling reasons we need to know who is using the building and when.

Landscape Maintenance – Does the big outdoors interest you? We have plenty to do to keep individuals and families busy making our grounds look great, all summer long.

Thanks for stepping up! Ministry happens here all year-round, and you may be the one to do it. And you might even have summer fun doing it.

Getting To Know You: The Schulman Family

By Breana Paist



After living in the heart of Leesburg, where a short walk into town holds the promise of a cup of coffee or some shops (which Terry particularly enjoys), the Schulman family moved to more rural Round Hill (which her husband David likes) and a happy medium was found. “Surrounded by country, and shopping isn’t terribly far away!”

When they moved to Round Hill, the Schulmans made up a list of churches in the area they planned to visit over the next few months. BRBC just happened to be the first church on their list, there also just happened to be a newcomers luncheon that Sunday, and it just so happens that David and Terry know all these “just happens” were God’s way of leading them right to this church. “Needless to say, we never visited anywhere else!” Terry says. “We immediately saw the joy of the Lord in the body, people joyfully serving each other, a high view of Scripture and teaching the body how to study it.” That and worshiping with “unpretentious people attempting to walk out a genuine faith in Christ” are both huge parts of what the Schulmans love about BRBC. The family recently became members, but did not wait until then to start serving in BRBC! Among other things, David occasionally plays with the praise team on Sunday mornings, and Terry most recently coordinated all the food for the church’s Mother’s Day brunch. “We serve where we feel we can best glorify

the Lord Jesus and bless the body: artistic endeavors, cooking, music, landscape and general ‘labor’ where needed.”

David Schulman’s main Christian influence came from his grandparents, with whom he spent much time after his parents’ divorce. “By watching the life of my grandfather I saw the Lord Jesus. When I was eight I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior.” David says. “[Yet] after several years of following Him, I turned my back on Christ. I was fourteen, hurt, and confused about many life issues, not the least of which being my father and his apparent lack of interest in me. For 10 years I delved deeper into sin and worldliness, all the while knowing God was displeased with my life. At the age of 24, a feeling of terrible spiritual misery culminated into my showing up at Reston Bible Church one Sunday morning; a friend of mine had been inviting me for years. I began attending the Single’s Group where sound, biblical teaching was paramount and I repented of my sin and consciously gave control of my life to the Lord Jesus in submission to His Word, trusting Him for my salvation and every other need in my life.” Since then, David has continued to experience the joy of Christ by remaining in regular godly fellowship and discipleship. He says his faith has deepened as he walks with Christ through the trials and happiness of life. “I am eternally grateful to be in the Family of God and to have found such a godly fellowship in Blue Ridge Bible Church so nearby my home! Soli Deo Gloria! Hallelujah!”

Terry grew up in a Christian home as well, and though she was also surrounded by Christians and asked Jesus into her heart at a young age, Terry believes she did not become truly saved until her mid-20s. “The reason for this is my life did not show any fruit,” she says. “I thought I was a Christian, but I remember trying so hard to ‘please God’ by making my outward appearance look ‘Christian,’ while on the inside I felt so far from Him. Over the years I interpreted Christianity as being condemning and never really felt ‘cleansed.’” She later began to see things differently, when at a missionary school speakers talked about grace and forgiveness. “I clearly remember coming to a point, thinking that for me to embrace ‘grace’ would mean to walk away from all my former beliefs about God. I wrestled for months over this, and eventually ran from it all. It wasn’t until I was 25, pregnant with my daughter and facing divorce, that I realized I couldn’t

run anymore. I had become broken and realized I needed Him. Although I have regret over the time I walked away, I know that He caused all things to work together for good because I now love Him, and am called according to His purpose.”

It was not until 1994 that David and Terry met at Reston Bible Church, despite the fact they had grown up just a couple miles away from each other in Fairfax County! Terry says that the story behind what led up to their marriage in 1996 is an incredible story of God’s unfailing love and adds, “Come ask me about it any time!” David and Terry now have three children: Rachel, Noah, and Matthew.

Rachel, 15, loves soccer, listening to music, and hanging out with her friends. With a joyful attitude and sweet spirit, she is always willing to help out whatever special project is going on. “I often tell people that she is the perfect teenage daughter come true!” says her mom, “Never afraid to question, but has always been compliant. We are very close and I am so thankful for our relationship.”

Almost-eight-year-old Noah is the ham of the family. He loves playing the drums, has a natural ear for music, and enjoys anything outdoors—biking, scootering, exploring the woods and the like. Terry says that she is amazed how quickly he will make friends, “He’ll walk in the library and meet someone and walk away saying, ‘Mommy, that kid is like my best friend! He wants me to come back to the library tomorrow at the same time so we can see each other, okay?’” She also says that Noah is their tender-hearted child, always concerned when people are hurt or sad. Just the other day, Noah’s little brother was in his bedroom for a time out, so Noah kept him company and drew him pictures.

Four-year-old Matthew is the “squeaky wheel” of the family. “He knows how to get what he wants, and feels very comfortable with himself,” his mom explains. “In fact, when we were very new to BRBC he’d stand at the door and tell everyone good-bye. Karen Gill walked by one time and Matthew said, ‘Goodbye! Come back soon!’ But how do you explain to a four-year-old that the pastor’s wife will definitely come back soon?!” Currently, Matthew is obsessed with going to work with his toy lawn mower. He goes out in his special work clothes and “mows” the lawn for his mom. “When he’s done he always stops and picks me flowers for my kitchen window ... a charmer, indeed!”

“One life lesson I [have] learned is that I need to randomly ask my kids to explain the Gospel to me so

that I am sure they understand it completely,” Terry says. “I think it is just assumed that when you grow up in a Christian home, you know these things. But the truth is that I couldn’t CLEARLY and without hesitation explain my salvation until much later in life.”

As a family, the Schulmans love to jump in the car and explore places where they have never been, and because of David’s work schedule they are able to spend much of their time together, a blessing that is truly relished! Though David owns two small businesses in the landscape industry and also plows snow in the winter, he is a musician at heart—playing the drums, piano, and guitar. Terry homeschools their three children, and loves to paint on “architectural salvage,” which she describes as old barn doors, ceiling tile tins, church pews, antique footboards, etc. as a hobby. She also sells her artwork in local interior design shops. It makes sense then, why Terry has spent lots of time turning their house in Round Hill into a work of art by painting it to look as old as possible.

As the family serves the Lord together, the Schulmans’ goal is: “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God,” (1 Cor. 10:31) and “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Col. 3:17)





By Geni Hall

Congratulations to all clubbers who completed their book and hid God's Word in their heart!

A special note of recognition to our third year Sparks (age 7) who completed three books totaling 166 verses: Jonathan Blevins, Abby Dillmuth, Joe Donnelly, Catherine Fernandes, Renee Garvis, Reagan Hall, Jack Hill, Tyler Holdridge, and Riley Phillips. Jonathan Blevins memorized an additional 120 verses for a special award of merit!

We had some incredible, hard-working clubbers who received their Timothy trophy which represents 438 verses memorized! Congratulations to Abby Stocker, Thomas Garber, Matt Holdridge, Joel Monroe, Vincent Escobar and Timothy van der Hoek.

Our Meritorious Award for 632 total verses memorized went to Sam Porter and Rachele van der Hoek. Way to go!

And finally, we gave out the highest award Awana allows: The Citation Award, which represents a completion of ten books totaling over 1,000 verses memorized plus reading through the entire Bible and numerous service projects completed. Our hard-working graduating clubber who received the Citation Award is Adam Hall. We are so proud of your diligence!

A special thank you to all our directors and leaders for a successful year of hiding God's Word in the hearts of boys and girls. We seek to train clubbers to serve Christ and grow in their knowledge and relationship to Him.

Missions Update - Ministry in the Middle East

by Bill Wilcox

On my trip to the Middle East in May to visit a prospective partner ministry, it quickly became evident that God is at work amongst his faithful servants. Smyrna Ministries International has decided to partner informally with this ministry which uses a variety of means to gain opportunities to share the Good News in the Arab nations.

One method of blessing the people and sharing the gospel is through children's backpacks. In late summer every year, the ministry schedules a series of parties for school children in small villages and the slums of larger cities. At each party the children play games, share food, and receive a backpack full of school supplies for the coming year. The ministry cannot share the gospel openly at the parties because of the prohibition on evangelizing Muslims. However, the Arab tradition of hospitality to strangers and guests results in invitations from parents to visit the homes of some of the children. Thus relationships are developed and opportunities for witness arise.

Another innovative opportunity is the veterinary program for the Bedouins, a nomadic people who live in tents and keep sheep, goats, and camels. Veterinary services are provided at cost for wealthier Bedouins and free of charge for poorer Bedouins thus gaining the opportunity to share in their lives. During several visits to Bedouin families during my trip, I sat on the ground in the tents, sipped tea, and drank sheep's yogurt with the men of the families. Women and children did not join us at the first several tents.

Finally at the last tent we visited, after a time an older woman joined us for tea. After the visit, I asked why the woman had joined us in the one tent but women had not in the others. Our partner said in the earlier tents we visited men he had known only a year or so, and it was not proper for the women to join us. He had known the last family more than four years and had built the requisite trust during that time for the woman to join us.

Other projects include adult literacy, water tanks, distribution of food bags and Bibles, medical supplies, and wheel chairs. I was impressed by this ministry's agility in meeting physical and spiritual needs in a seamless way.

One of my great blessings when I make these trips is the opportunity to meet believers of immense faith and courage. We met a young female convert from an offshoot branch of Islam. As a teenager, Narjes (not her real name) became disillusioned with her religion. In time she found Jesus Christ and surrendered her life to Him. Her parents tried to force her to recant her faith in Christ but failed. They threatened her not to tell anyone about Jesus because that would bring shame to her prominent family. Whenever she brought a Bible home, her parents would throw it away as soon as they found it. Her mother would never leave her alone in the house so that she couldn't pray. Narjes played hymns on her guitar while praying the hymns' words in her mind. After a year or so, her mother figured out what she was doing and threw away the guitar.

As Narjes grew older she took classes while living at home and gained a professional license. She secretly kept a Bible at school. Each day she copied a page of the Bible. Carrying the pages home under her clothing, she memorized verses late at night. Her profession brought a good salary, and she managed some savings. Her parents wanted her to marry a cousin of her parents' faith. She desired to live out her own faith. Ultimately Narjes ran away from home, and her parents still try to track her down. She changes apartments every few months to avoid detection. She can no longer practice as a licensed professional because her parents can use her license to find her. She had found work paying only a fraction of her former salary. The recent economic decline caused layoffs where she worked, and she is currently unemployed. She has used up her savings.

Despite sacrificing her family relationships and her profession, joy radiates from Narjes' face as she talks about Jesus. Now in her twenties, Narjes is one of the youngest women in her congregation. Yet her pastor has assigned her to teach Bible to the church women each week. We were able to help our partner with assistance for Narjes.

If you'd like to read more about my Middle East trip and other Smyrna issues, go to www.smyrnaministries.org and click on Captain's Log.

June 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Scouts American Heritage Girls	2 Fontaine Home Group Youth Shelter Team Women's Bible Study	3 Wilcox Home Group Worship Practice Youth Group	4 Outreach Committee	5	6
Directory Photos						
7 Honoring Graduates Women's Ministry Committee	8 Scouts	9 Fontaine Home Group Youth Shelter Team Women's Bible Study	10 Missions Committee Meeting Worship Practice Youth Group Wilcox Home Group	11	12 Parker Home Group	13
Directory Photos			Drama Boot Camp			
14 Scout Family Day	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Youth Shelter Team Women's Bible Study	17 Worship Practice Youth Group Missions Committee	18	19 Parker Home Group	20
21 Father's Day	22	23 Youth Shelter Team Women's Bible Study	24 Worship Practice Youth Group	25	26 Parker Home Group Deacons	27 Lassiter Pool Party
Scout Camp						
28 Communion Baby Dedication	29	30 Youth Shelter Team Women's Bible Study				

Happy Birthday to...

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jack Gill | 6 Leyla Dorsey | 15 Tim Chambers | 23 Evan Siecker | 27 Nancy Wilcox |
| 2 Hannah Dillmuth | 7 Amanda Taylor | 16 Landon Reynolds | 23 Lauren Siecker | 27 Joan Kirkwood |
| 2 Addison Gossage | 9 Canyon Lukasiak | 17 Jennifer Lung | 23 Allen Bozarth | 28 Bejamin Fontaine |
| 2 Lauren Black | 10 Betty Luckabaugh | 18 Mark van der Hoek | 24 Julia McKenzie | 28 Allie Shipe |
| 2 JJ George | 10 Joseph Larry | 19 Joel Gicker | 24 Heath Strickland | 28 Christy Shipe |
| 4 Daniel Kirkwood | 10 Julie LaRock | 19 Allen Thornburgh | 24 Charlie Tedrow | 29 Samuel Soltis |
| 5 Carter Dowden | 11 Nathan Lants | 19 Matthew Kirkwood | 25 Shelly Farley | 29 Paul Dillmuth |
| 5 Melissa Jessberger | 11 Danielle Carter | 20 Noah George | 26 Victoria Protic | 29 MaryAnne Armstrong |
| 5 Kara Heidorn | 12 Catherine Gilanshah | 21 Sam Porter | 26 Amy McPeak | 29 Scott Richardson |
| 6 Colton Hall | 13 Sarah Gill | 22 Carlos Fernandes | 26 Laura Thomas | 30 Kenton Greyer |
| 6 Mary Parker | 14 Brittany Jenkins | 22 Rachel Dillmuth | 26 Michelle DeFazio | |

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

...helping people know God better
and love him more!

Happy Father's Day!!!

Legacy of a Praying Dad!

You've probably never heard of George McCluskey. To my knowledge, no biographies have been written about his life. McCluskey was a man who decided to make a shrewd investment. As he married and started a family, he decided to invest one hour a day in prayer. He was concerned that his kids might follow Christ and establish their own homes where Christ was honored. After a time, he decided to expand his prayers to include not only his children, but their children and the children after them. Every day between 11 A.M. and noon, he would pray for the next three generations.

As the years went by, his two daughters committed their lives to Christ and married men who went into full time ministry. The two couples produced four girls and one boy. Each of the girls married a minister and the boy became a pastor. The first two children born to this generation were both boys. Upon graduation from high school, the two cousins chose the same college and became roommates. During their sophomore year, one of the boys decided to go into the ministry as well. The other one didn't. He knew the family history and undoubtedly felt some pressure to continue the family legacy by going into the ministry himself, but he chose not to. In a manner of speaking this young man became the black sheep of the family. He was the first one in four generations not to go into full-time Christian ministry. He decided to pursue his interest in psychology and over the years, met with success. After earning his doctorate, he wrote a book to parents that became a best-seller. He then wrote another and another, all best-sellers. Eventually he started a radio program that is now heard on more than a thousand stations each day. The black sheep's name? James Dobson, without a doubt the most influential and significant leader of the pro-family movement in America. His ministry is the direct result of the prayers of a man who lived four generations ago.

Quoted from Bible.org: Steve Farrar, *Point Man*, p. 154