

# the *Good News* banner

## Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

In aviation, immediately after every flight we conducted a de-brief. This is where we rehashed everything that was done in the flight, from takeoff to landing. The purpose? To develop our flying skills, critique the execution of our missions, and to learn from our successes (and mistakes) so that we would always get better. The goal was that if we ever found ourselves in a real war, we would have learned as much as possible in peacetime.

To a degree, that is a great philosophy for any endeavor that operates on a repetitive basis. Any organization that has to give speeches, perform, instruct or train others, or produce a product must evaluate itself. To fail to do so is to never improve and to get in a rut – a recipe for mediocrity at best, failure at worst.

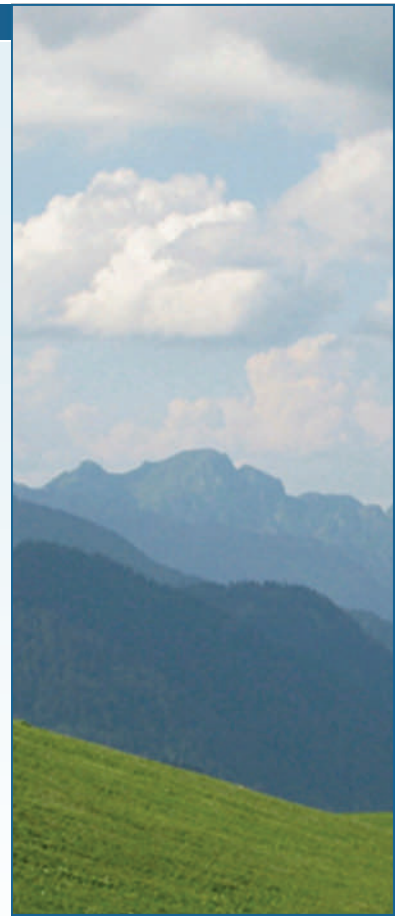
Along those lines, I would challenge us all to consider our corporate time of worship through a post-service reflection as a family. It would be good for us to ask of one another, “What did our worship time accomplish?”

To do this, we need to establish a plan in which we can follow up with our families about church. For starters, it would be good to determine a time when your family plans to get together and is ready to engage. Is it on a weekday night over a meal? Or a morning devotion? Or is it a Sunday right after church is over? No matter what time you might meet, consider a few things. Are the people in your family ready to engage at the time you are considering, or would another time be better? Consider where they are physically and mentally so that they will be ready to engage with you.

What should you do during this time of reflection? The sky is the limit (keeping on that aviation theme ☺)! You can re-read the passage of Scripture or just ask questions about what was stated. What was the “Big Idea” of the sermon? What did we learn about the character of God? What other Bible passages support what we discussed?

Also, for any time in which people will be asked questions about something, I think that it helps a lot to know ahead of time that a discussion is coming. In fact, your first meeting time would be perfect for getting your family ready for the next get-together. Give them things to consider listening for at the next sermon. If your children are younger, then consider giving them a small worksheet of your own to have them try and listen for ideas such as the Bible passage, story, main characters, etc. (For more information on that, see

*(Continued on page 2)*



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



## August Attendance

5 12 19 26

### Sunday School

Adults	95	113	102	93
Children	83	109	111	92
Total	177	222	213	185

### Worship

Auditorium	410	385	431	389
Classes	44	37	51	50
Total	454	422	482	439

## 2009 YTD Financial Report

Budget thru 7/31/09:	\$520,826
Giving thru 7/26/09 :	<u>\$450,679</u>
Shortfall YTD:	\$70,147

## Oh, For The Posters

Have you seen the new display box on the main stairwell wall? Wonder what it's for? Well, glad you asked. There are a number of times when groups want to put up posters advertising their upcoming events. Now we have a specific place for them, in the stairwell which is centrally located and the most used on Sunday mornings and other times too. Our goal is to eliminate the displaying of posters throughout the building and foyer doors. The new display box is locked, so if you are wanting to display posters for upcoming events, please contact Administrator Debbie Stevenson or Worship Pastor Tom Gossage, and they will get it inserted in the display box.

Pastor Rich's article in the June newsletter. See <http://brbible.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/newsletter-june09.pdf> ) For the older children in your family, you can have them listen for concepts. Finally, and maybe most importantly, have them think through their own applications. What will they do as a result of what they learned from God's Word?

Church was never meant to be passive! We invest about 4-6 hours of our week toward a Sunday morning. We set our alarm clocks, purpose to appear physically presentable (usually!), eliminate other options in our schedule, and come to engage with our God in worship, song, and study! What's more, we want to do it as a corporate body and as a family as well. Let's not allow it to go by without purposed reflection!

"...making the most of your time, because the days are evil. " (Eph 5:16)

## Worship Arts at Blue Ridge

by Tom Gossage

I believe this is the first worship arts newsletter column I have ever written in my three plus years of being on staff at BRBC. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for letting me serve you each week in the area of worship. It is a very high honor for me and I take it seriously.

I would like to talk a little bit about Christmas believe it or not, and what BRBC is planning for our 2009 Christmas Musical. I know that this may seem like "Christmas in July," but we have to get started early to beat the Christmas rush, and thinking about Christmas time at anytime is a good time.

This year's event is going to be titled along the lines of "Christmas Time In Purcellville 1908-1930". We have taken last year's play and focused on the events that occurred in the first 30 years of Purcellville history and expounded on them. If you'll remember, last year we covered 100 years and we did not have the time to go very deep into character development, but this year is very different! We will discover the radio together, see what the "speak easy" was all about and see Christmas Time in Purcellville in the Roaring 20s. The script for the musical is finished and it's only July! Now we have begun work on the music.

We are going to need you to volunteer to help in many areas, not just acting and music, so please get in touch with me quickly and we will find the perfect place for you to help. Please don't wait for someone else to step up, let this be your Christmas Time witness to your family, friends and neighbors. This prayerfully is going to be the very best of our musical efforts so far to date so, don't delay, be a part of this wonderful outreach opportunity of Blue Ridge Bible Church. Remember... Christmas time anytime is a good time.

# Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

## Welcome Team Ministry

*Most people think it takes a long time--years, months or even days to accomplish something profound, something great for God. The truth of the matter is that church greeters have this opportunity every time someone walks through the doors of their church. Greeters have the awesome ability and opportunity to be an ambassador for the Lord. The pastor's vision is carried on and God's ministry is extended through these everyday people. Sound exciting? It is! (Greeting 101 by Buddy Bell).*

Yes, there have been books written about greeting, and there are even websites on the topic!

So who wouldn't want to be included in something profound and great for God? Did you know that the way in which a visitor is greeted on the first visit can be the determining factor in whether or not they return? Think back when you have visited other churches. Did you feel welcome? Were you confused and lost trying to find the auditorium? Did you have trouble finding a seat or a parking place? Or did you come away feeling like you were special and that someone cared that you showed up that day?

Or what about even now, when you come to BRBC each Sunday morning? Don't you appreciate a warm smile and a handshake with your bulletin? Or someone opens the door for you as you struggle with car seats and diaper bags, while counting to make sure every child made it out of the car? And you walk away feeling good to be here when someone calls you by name and says he is glad you are here?

Then the Welcome Team Ministry may be the best ministry around and you may be the person who can make it even better. We are looking for individuals, couples and young people who remember what it was like to visit a new place and want to make newcomers and old-timers alike glad they have been here. There are many types of things that the Team will be doing in addition to handing out bulletins and being friendly, including showing newcomers to the auditorium, hosting our new "welcome center", taking people to Sunday school classes, having them sign a guestbook, and maybe even sharing the gospel or praying with them. If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact me (Debbie Stevenson – [debbie@brbible.org](mailto:debbie@brbible.org)) immediately. The first training meeting will be August 12 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

## Clothing Exchange – October 19-24

Clean those closets and save those clothes!

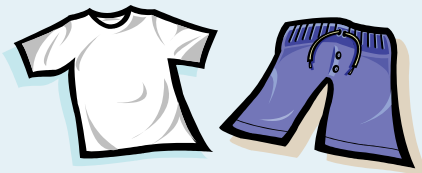
Our annual clothing exchange will be October 19 -24!

Drop-off & shopping hours – Monday-Friday, 9 to 1 p.m.

Evening shopping hours only, Wednesday & Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.

Clothing accepted through FRIDAY morning with open outreach to the community Saturday morning. Everyone who drops off clothes is asked to distribute their clothes into the proper categories before shopping. Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution of clothing. (This will eliminate clothes piling up in the hallways!!)

This is primarily an opportunity to clothe our corporate church Body and bless one another so shopping will certainly be open during the entire week we are running. Also, because we have each been abundantly blessed, we want to be able to give back to our community with the free clothing give away on Saturday morning. More details will be included in next month's newsletter article. If you have any further questions or wish to volunteer to help, please contact Geni Hall ([genihall@aol.com](mailto:genihall@aol.com)) or Courtney Shipe ([allshipesandsizes@gmail.com](mailto:allshipesandsizes@gmail.com)).





By Geni Hall

Our first Awana meeting will be on September 13. Our leader training will take place on Sunday, August 30 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 12 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. If you are feeling the Lord tugging at your heart to participate in this dynamic ministry which reaches boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and trains them to serve Him, please contact Earl & Geni Hall (earlwmhall@aol.com or geni-hall@aol.com, home phone 540-338-4287).

We also have an opportunity for youth to lead. Leaders-in-Training (LIT) is for clubbers age 14 to 18. We have an LIT program that trains tomorrow's leaders today. The female LIT's work closely with our Cubbies program. The male LIT's work with the Sparks. Each week, the LIT's get practical training, working as a leader and modeling their Christian walk to younger clubbers.

In addition, the LIT's are required to complete the 24/7 Bible curriculum which helps keep the LIT's grounded in prayer, Bible memorization and scripture reading. This is an excellent program for the older teens who feel called to lead the next generation in their spiritual training. Attendance at the Leader's Training meeting on August 30 or September 12 is required for LIT's.

## Missions Update - Missionaries and Giving

by Olga Garber

"Shall I give to the Lord that which costs me nothing?" David said to Ornan when insisting on paying for animals to sacrifice. It is a valid principle today, when it is so easy for us, as "rich Americans" to donate a dollar or two. It has not been hard for me to contribute to many missionaries, both long and short-term. It is a real sacrifice, however, to give my own precious daughter Leah.

The Incarnation cost God. In the Incarnation, God took upon Himself the form of a human, so He could identify with us. Jesus experienced our joys and sufferings, thirst, pain, temptation...every kind of situation that confronts us, just to show the reality of His love for us. In the same way, a missionary becomes as much as possible like the people he wants to reach. As Paul says, "to the Jew I am like a Jew, to the Gentile I am like a Gentile, that I may be all means save some." Just as Jesus limited Himself by giving up the glories and privileges of heavenly riches, so American missionaries give up the advantages of living here.

Not everyone is called to be a missionary the way Leah is. I can see her sincere love for the Africans she is called to serve. I was glad to observe her genuine desire to be as much like the people as possible, in dress, in eating style, in worship posture, and in being sensitive to cultural mores. She doesn't want to impose her Western ways on them "just because that's the way she's always done things." She is eager to present God's love to them in ways they can understand, without hindering her witness by some careless American habit. For example, the left hand is considered "unclean" by the people there. As a southpaw, I find it difficult to force myself to use my right hand, but God has prepared Leah (who's right-handed) to discipline herself to honor those around her in these seemingly little gestures. I am thankful I was able to see how God's grace is giving her joy in the midst of very limiting circumstances.

God loves a cheerful giver. Give, and it will be given unto you. When we give, we are being like God, Who so loved us that He gave His Only Begotten Son. Amy Carmichael once said "you can give without loving, but you can't love without giving." Giving doesn't have to be monetary. Peter told the lame man "silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I you." Leah is giving of herself, and I know God will reward her. One thing I am giving Leah is heartfelt prayer support, and I ask you to join me in upholding her during this time of spiritual testing. Would you please pause right now and ask God to bless and protect her, and use Leah to glorify Himself?

p.s. If you want to follow Leah's blog go to [ghanagarbergirl.blogspot.com](http://ghanagarbergirl.blogspot.com) or if you want to send an email, her address is [africanleah@gmail.com](mailto:africanleah@gmail.com). She also shares her thoughts about going to the mission field and observations about Ghana as she starts her year there on the Smyrna Ministries website at [http://www.smyrnaministries.org/on\\_ground\\_in\\_ghana\\_view](http://www.smyrnaministries.org/on_ground_in_ghana_view).

# August 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Scouts PLC Ireland Night	4 women's Bible study Youth Shelter	5 Youth Group Worship Practice	6	7 Shipe/Stocker Home Group Parker Home Group	8
<b>Vacation Bible School</b>						
9	10 Scouts	11 Women's Bible Study Youth Shelter	12 Welcome Team Training Youth Group Missions Committee Worship Practice	13 Newsletter Deadline	14 Shipe/Stocker Home Group Parker Home Group	15
16 Women's Ministry Committee	17 Scouts	18 Youth Shelter	19 Youth Group Worship Practice	20	21 Shipe/Stocker Home Group Parker Home Group	22
<b>Scouts Outing</b>						
23	24	25 Youth Shelter Deacons	26 Youth Group Worship Practice	27	28 Parker Home Group	29 Lassiter Potluck/ Pool Party
30 Communion Awana Training	31					

## Happy Birthday to...

1 Emily Hall	10 Abby Stocker	17 Debbie Cefalu	24 Francesca Edling	28 Larry Black
2 Cate Metzgar	10 Carri Casserino	18 Mark Crosen	24 John Zareva	30 Jenna Dunn
2 Joel Monroe	12 Mike Degan	18 Anthony DeFazio	24 Roger Pounders	30 Lane Stocker
4 Clint Thomas	13 Tyler Gregory	19 John Maldonado	25 Michael Farris	30 Melissa Rogan
4 Zachary Thornburgh	13 Amy Blevins	19 Samantha Maldonado	25 Skyler Jordan	30 Mitchell Reynolds
6 Amanda Garvis	13 Christian Warren	20 Collin Black	26 Debbie Stevenson	30 Chloe Bozarth
6 Russ Jenkins III	14 Jon Garber	21 Alandace Gossage	26 Karen Gill	30 Libby Chase
6 Rachel Schulman	14 Joanna MacKay	21 Kayleen Miller	27 Mike Farris	31 Katie Dunn
7 Christina Jenkins	14 Anna Blevins	22 Geni Hall	27 Ryan Mottice	31 Danielle Garvis
8 Rich Shipe	15 Evan Shipe	22 Noah Hinkle	28 David Siecker	
9 John Phillips	15 Brian Benedict	23 Miranda Brown	28 Julie Smith	
9 Melissa Jordan	16 Christopher Tedrow	24 Dolores Davidson	28 Betsy Chase	

Blue Ridge Bible Church

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

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

## Things to do with your extra time on a lazy summer day...

1. Wonder why pennies are larger than dimes.
2. Think of a name for male ladybugs.
3. Try to find out if fish get cramps after eating.
4. Figure out why sour cream has an expiration date.
5. Find someone who knows why we park on driveways and drive on parkways.
6. Ask who named the pineapple. After all, it's not an apple or a pine.
7. Find out why bald cooks have to wear hairnets.
8. Try to find a pound cake that's only 16 ounces.

And if you think you have some of these answers OR if you have some additional thought-provoking questions, send them to Debbie Stevenson ([debbie@brbible.org](mailto:debbie@brbible.org)) and they may appear in future newsletters.