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FAITH
Presbyterian Church

Vol. 3

March 1, 2022

FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR PERSPECTIVE



Pastor Karl Thompson

Galatians 6:9

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

This verse teaches that Christian obedience is fruitful. It is Fruitful!

Many in the church are working on reading through the Bible together with our Faith OPC reading plan. There are times when this work is an immediate blessing, and there are other times when it feels like a chore. Yet, when we keep after it, it is a guaranteed blessing! Here are some ways this is a blessing:

Reading God’s Word helps us to know God. This is the greatest pursuit!

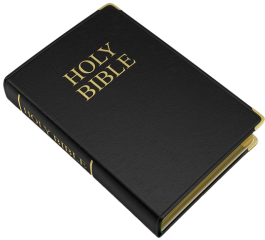
Reading God’s Word helps us to grow in joy, grace and holiness.

Reading God’s Word every day helps us to establish or maintain a discipline that will help us the rest of our lives.

Reading God’s Word from cover to cover helps us to benefit from all the blessing of the whole counsel of God!

Reading God’s Word together gives us the opportunity to learn from each other as we discuss the things we are reading about.

Every day is a new opportunity to jump in or get back to it! I want to encourage you to join us in our Faith OPC Bible Reading Plan! [Click here to see the Bible Reading 2022.](#)



check this out...



Nathaniel Duarte

After Tim’s health crisis, we decided it was time to start a family business. In July of 2021, Grants Pass Window Cleaning was launched. Scott Croucher was instrumental in training and getting us set up.

When the Carmacks moved to Portland, Grants Pass Window Cleaning acquired the carpet cleaning side of their business and became Grants Pass Window and Carpet Cleaning.

We provide window, carpet, upholstery, rug, and gutter cleaning for residential and commercial customers.

GRANTS PASS
**WINDOW
CLEANING**

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?



A few months ago the church purchased a storage unit to house extra chairs, tables, Christmas items, and other articles. Bill Stevenson and others laid a concrete slab for easy access in and out of the storage unit to the Fellowship Hall. Great job men! And no one was tempted to put their hands in the wet cement.....



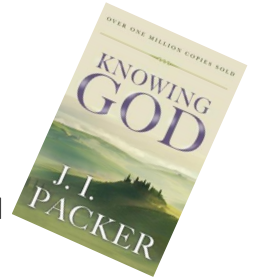
Work work work



Have you had a good experience with a local business and want to recommend them or give a review? Let us know, email: office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com

TEACHING MOMENT BY PASTOR KARL

J.I. Packer's book, *Knowing God*, has a chapter on the Goodness and Severity of our God.



Romans 11:22

“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”

Here we learn that God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but He will not let the guilty go unpunished (EXO 34:6-7). All authority lives in the balance of this dichotomy. Later in Romans 13 we learn even that earthly government is to punish the evildoer and praise the one who does right.

The world today teaches us to only speak positively to our children. Don't tell them they are wrong, just encourage them to what is right. This worldly foolishness ignores the wise teaching of Proverbs 23:13 which tells us our children won't die if we discipline them. It will actually be good for them! This worldly foolishness is a one sided exercise of authority, which will never be a blessing.

In my experience children always need correction, and they always need encouragement. Parents need great wisdom to give their children the best prescription for their children. Remember that even Ephesians 6:4 teaches that we must raise our children in the “Nurture and Admonition of the Lord.” Here is one more place where we are called to encourage our children in the right direction and discipline them for going in the wrong direction. Both are necessary.

If you have children, pray that the and as you encourage and correct have children, please pray that in raising their children in the



Lord will give you great wisdom your children. If you do not parents will have great wisdom Lord's Nurture and Admonition.

RECIPE FOR ANY DAY

Raw Apple Cake

For 50+ years, I have given credit for this recipe to my grandfather. Not that he was known for his skills in the kitchen, but most likely because he was simply present the first time I ate *Raw Apple Cake*. This is my go-to recipe that will not disappoint when you need the perfect end to a meal. Put a big scoop of vanilla ice cream or a hefty spoon-full of fresh whipped cream on it and enjoy. Marylou



SUDOKU CHALLENGE *Answers on page 9*

1	3			9		5	8	
		2			3			7
9		7			5		3	
5	4	6			2			8
	9	8	4		6	3	5	
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	6	1		7			2	5

RECIPE:

Raw Apple Cake

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup oil
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 4 cups chopped apples

Beat together eggs, sugar, and vanilla.

Beat in oil until smooth

Sift together flour, soda, cinnamon, and salt.

Stir in dry ingredients into egg mixture.

Add nuts and apple and mix well.

Turn into a greased and floured 11" x 7" pan.

Bake at 325 ° for 1 hour.

Cool cake in pan.

Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

Enjoy!

Marylou Hansen



CONGRATULATIONS

Lucy and Everett Kunda received a plaque for memorizing the Children's Catechism and Westminster Shorter Catechism back in October.



Marley finished memorizing and reciting The First Catechism! We are so proud of God's littlest ones.



STAND FOR LIFE

On Tuesday afternoons at 1:30pm there is a weekly ministry called *Stand for Life*. Many times there are 12 or more of us out there holding signs that convey a message of how important life is. We are there to stand up for the most innocent, helpless of our species. We are there to represent life for those created in God's image. It is a privilege and an honor to be part of this ministry. We are getting to know each other in ways that we can't by just coming to church. Please come and join us. Janine Johnson



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study meets on Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 in the church Fellowship Hall and is open to all ladies.

We study the Bible based on an individual book and a corresponding commentary. We are now reading *Discovering God* by Philip Graham Ryken. Our teacher, Marj Robertson, has a wealth of knowledge about Bible history and makes it interesting to learn more about our Savior. It's a very relaxed atmosphere that allows for asking questions and making personal comments. No lengthy homework, we just do our assigned reading, think about it and bring our questions to the group.

It's a great way to continue to learn and understand more about the Bible and it's a wonderful way to meet new people. We also have child care available.

This has been such a blessing to all of us and we look forward to sharing it with others. Glenda McLain



LIBRARY UPDATES

All 2,050 books have been scanned into the Book Collector software and can all be viewed and searched by title, subject, or author [here](#). Anyone with a computer will have access to this database. The library is now sorted by author; if no author is listed, it is sorted by publishing company. The library shelves are separated by non-fiction and fiction and categorized alphabetically.

We are still in the process of getting the library organized and have purchased a step stool and small kids table along with installing new lighting and removing the printer and office supplies. Future plans consist of clearing out the unneeded tables and craft items. New book shelves are being made by KA Designs and should be installed within the next few weeks.



A NOTE FROM THE SWANSONS



Dear Faith Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers for us. The Lord is answering and enabling us to adjust to a new life. We thank all of you who have assisted with food and help in many ways.

The Lord bless all of Faith Family to be a witness and testimony for His glory.

In His love,

Ralph and Carol Swanson

COUPLES NIGHT



There was a fun *Couples Night* held at Wild River Pizza in Grants Pass on February 12th. Rachel Uhl organized this event and is planning more in the future. If you would like to help Rachel, email or give her a call.



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS FEBRUARY 2022

For years I have been the main guy setting up the tables and chairs for fellowship meal. I have had good help along the way, but a vast majority of the time, I have been the guy setting up and taking down the tables for the fellowship meal. I enjoyed the work and would redeem the time by listening to an audio book or a podcast, but in the end it was a time consuming chore.

Then recently, a few guys took the responsibility of doing this task. To say I was happy about this would be an understatement. To show up on fellowship meal Sunday and see everything just right made my heart happy. To see, on Sunday evening, as a huge crew swooped in and put everything away so fast, it was nearly a blur. In that blur a burden became a joy.

There is a secular proverb that says, "Many hands make lite work." But even more true is Galatians 6:2 where is says, "Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ." Not only is the job done better, but Christ is glorified!

"Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2



FROM THE HEART BY LAYLE

I had no close girlfriends when I was a kid. One reason was I was not willing to share myself, my trials or tribulations with anyone. I am still having trouble sharing with you all-but mostly with God. I know He already knows all, but I am learning He wants me to get to know Him and feel free to talk to Him. Since coming to this church, I have realized several ways to get to know Him:

1. Attending church every week I can
2. Attend any and all opportunities to worship, pray, and hear His Word. (such as meals, evening services Bible studies)
3. To read the Word every day
4. Pray, pray for pastor, elders, persons sitting next to me in church and the prayer list, the government, missionaries (I don't always know what the need is but this actual act of praying for them helps).

Sometimes it feels like others will think me off for stepping out in another meeting. I feel I do not have anything to add to another meeting-just taking up time and space. BUT I am finding that the more I step out, the more a part of those meetings I feel. I really do have something to add. Those around me sometimes want to hear what I have to say. (I recently read a saying that if I do not step out- that space will not be filled. I am the only one who sees the things I have seen. No one else has been where I was and am.) When asked if I would like to join the Tuesday morning Bible class taught by Marj Robertson (with the leading of the Holy Spirit) I immediately felt, I have nothing to add. I do not read well. I do not retain information. But I went anyway and I find myself really learning. I do know most of the books of the Bible (at least I usually know if the book is in the OT or the NT.) I sometimes stumble when reading, but so do others.

I do not jump others for their mistakes, and they do not jump me when I misread. We all need each other; we need to read aloud, pray aloud and feel no condemnation. We need to hear God speaking to us. We need to hear our sisters voice the same reservations as we have.

Marj has such wisdom in her teaching- it would be bad for us to one day realize we could have/should have been sitting in her class but stubborn foolish pride held us back, and we missed her loving care. Another thing I have learned is God uses the weak to confound the mighty. That is very true with me. If He ever uses me, it will be very true. I am trying to learn to say, "Here I am Lord, send me". Layle Parades



COMING UP:

March 6—Fellowship Meal

March 13—Daylight Savings Time

March 12—7am Men's Breakfast

March 25—5-8pm Spaghetti & Board game night

March 28—6pm Men's Meeting

April 17—Easter Sunday

10am Tuesdays—Ladies Bible Study

1:30pm Tuesdays—Stand for Life

6pm Thursdays—Bible Study

March 9 & 23—Youth Night

April 28-30—Women's Retreat



R.C. Sproul, A Life is a biography of R.C. written by Stephen J. Nichols. Since I liked and admired R.C., this book was a natural for me. We were pretty much of the same age, so we grew up in the same time frame. His experiences were not mine, but they had some commonality. Mr. Nichols is a good and clear writer, so I thought the book flowed quite well.



May 27, 2021 Frode rated it was amazing

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book is not yet in the library, but several people in church have it if you want to borrow it.

The book itself is a combination of three things. Much of the material was taken from interviews Nichols had with R.C. There is some commentary by the author and by others who were associated with R.C., and finally there are many sections taken from R.C.'s books, so R.C. in a sense wrote a good portion of the book. Thus, the book is a mixture of R.C.'s history and his theology along with some personal reflections.

The book is chronological; it begins with R.C.'s birth and ends with his death. Of course, no book can encapsulate a man's entire life, so it hits the high points and emphasizes certain things. The big takeaway is that R.C. was captivated by God's holiness; it was what drove his ministry. His passion was that the average Christian would come to a greater understanding of who God is. Getting that concept would illuminate and inform a person about who he is. I think it is all about properly understanding the creature/Creator concept.

R.C. was a great communicator. His mentors were what he called, "battleground theologians." He loved Luther, but he also highly appreciated Aristotle, Aquinas, Augustine, Calvin, Turretin, Edwards, Hodge, Warfield, and his personal teacher, John Gerstner. R.C. learned much from these men and in turn was able to teach much of what he had learned to the man in the pew. While R.C. was an academic, he was equally at home with regular folks; in fact, they were really the ones he aimed at. From its beginnings in Pennsylvania to its current location in Florida, there is much about the work and its development and all its various

ministries and how they came to be. R.C. was a man full of ideas and energy and vision. God used him mightily: Ligonier, R.C.'s 100+ books, teaching videos, *Tabletalk*, the "Renewing Your Mind" radio programs and podcasts, conferences, New Saint Andrew's Church, and Reformation Bible College are examples. This biography gives an overview of all that and more. I recommend it. FJ



ANSWERS TO SUDOKU ON PAGE 3

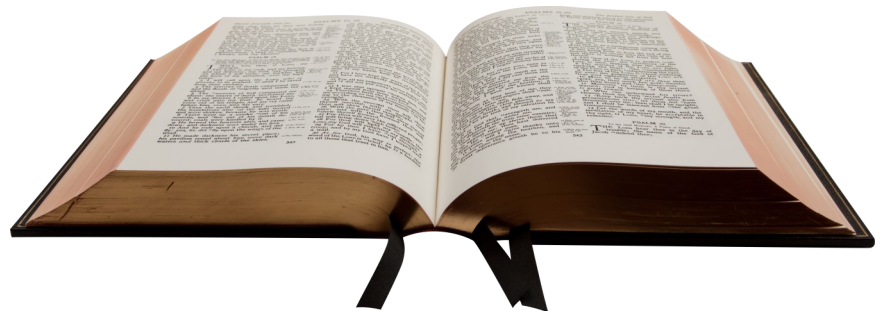
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MEMBER PHOTOS

This photo is from our member Joey Uhl, if you have a photo you'd like to share send it to office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com and we would love to publish it.



Bible Study Together



A lot of care, time, and effort went into the publishing of this newsletter and we would love to hear your comments, recommendations, and thoughts. Drop us a line at: office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and Frode Jensen.

You are invited to join us in the Faith OPC Bible Reading 2022! There will be two plans: Through the New Testament in a Year (one NT chapter per day) and Through the Bible in a Year (the NT plan plus three OT chapters per day). Imagine the value of many of us reading the same portions of scripture together.

You can see on the page NT (for New Testament reading) and OT (for Old Testament reading) and they are listed by date. Catch up is a day that a reading is not necessary and you can use it to "catch up" or study. Reading the Bible is an enrichment to your life and to your relationship with God.

[Click here to see the Bible Reading 2022.](#)