

Phone: 541-479-7863

Email: office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com



FAITH
Presbyterian Church

Vol. 12

October 1, 2023

FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The Term "Brokenness"



Pastor Karl Thompson

The term "Brokenness" comes from the biblical idea that there is something wrong with every member of the human race. This is clear from what the Bible teaches from the Fall to today. Man was made in the image of God, but that image was distorted, or broken in the fall. That is why Jeremiah can say that the heart is desperately wicked. It is!

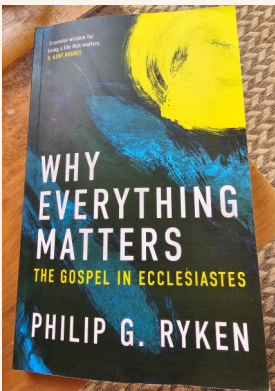
The issue with brokenness is that some people know that they are broken, and others do not. Some people think they can depend on their own thinking, their own heart and their own instincts. If they think something is good, then it is good and if they think it is bad, then it is bad. Unfortunately the heart that Jeremiah describes is like a broken compass that points in the wrong direction. Those who follow it will always be lost. It is best to know that you are broken. Psalm 51:17 teaches that a broken and contrite heart, the Lord will not despise. In this Psalm, David knows he is wrong- he knows that he is broken. Yet knowing he is broken he comes to the Lord in repentance and faith. Then, he gets help from God.



Sign up to visit a shut-in by following the link below. Our shut-ins long for contact with the church and would be greatly encouraged by your visit. You also would have the blessing of service and a great time of blessing if you were to visit with our shut-ins.

[Shut-ins Visitation Program](#)

JOIN THE LADIES BIBLE STUDY



Come and join the ladies Bible study, Tuesdays at 10am. We are reading, *Why Everything Matters, The Gospel in Ecclesiastes* by Philip Ryken.

Class is in the newly remodeled part of the church in one of the classrooms. Marj Robertson leads this very interesting and informative study.

In November, we will be exploring a new study on Abraham. We read the chapter during class so you are welcome to come any time or just drop in as you can. We have some thoughtful discussions while fellowshiping with one another.



WATERING WITH THE WORD



Genesis.....a book in the Bible and a name!

This year our water truck was called out to the Flat fire in Agness, Oregon, at the end of July for a two-week stint. Gary was the driver on this fire. He had many great conversations with other fire workers because of the name of our water truck, Genesis Equipment. Although Gary is quiet and doesn't usually share too much, he will answer questions when people ask him. The first guy he encountered was someone that came over to the truck and told him he liked the name of the truck because that was also his daughter's name.

Then one of the inspectors, (each piece of fire equipment has to go through inspection before they are approved to be on the fire) asked about the name, Genesis Equipment, so Gary had the opportunity to explain about it being the first book in the Bible, and that our business name is after Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." He told him that the verse was also painted on the back of the truck. The guy said that he loved it when there were like-minded folks on the fires and that he appreciated the name we had chosen for our business.

Then there was Jeremy, another water tender driver who approached Gary and asked about the name Genesis and asked what church we attended. When Gary told him Faith OPC, Jeremy asked him what kind of church it was. Gary told him it was a reformed Presbyterian church. Jeremy then asked him what *reformed* meant. After Gary explained it to him, Jeremy said, "That's right brother, you see, I go to the Medford OPC Church, and I just wanted to see how you explain what *reformed* means. They both laughed and became friends and brothers in the Lord after that.

Next came Derrick, Gary's division boss. He asked if there was significance to the name on the door of the truck, Genesis. This opened another door for some great conversation about Christianity and God. He told Gary that he was a Christian but that he had not gone to church in an long time. Gary was able to encourage him toward getting back in church and in the faith.

Another water tender driver, Jason/Rum Runner, approached Gary and said he had been told by someone in town that there was a yellow and brown water truck called Genesis that had a Bible verse on the back and to look out for it, that the driver was a real nice guy to work with and be around. Jason proceeded to tell Gary that he, too, was a believer, but on fires, to fit in, he would get caught up with the other guys and use foul language along with

(Continued on page 3)



GENESIS—CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

them. Gary told him that it was important not to do what they do, but to be different, to be set apart from the world so that others would see God shining through them (Matthew 5:16). Jason agreed and said he was going to try and do that, too, and that he appreciated the encouragement.

Then there were the pump operators who were in charge of filling the water trucks with water out of the Rogue River with an overhead pump setup. One was pumping at the Cougar Lane Resort in Agness, and the other was set up at the Quosatana Campground boat launch. Both guys were Christians and said they liked to let the water run over the top to wash the dust off the back of the truck so the Bible verse would show.

This was the first fire where so many people commented on the name of the truck and where Gary was able to have some good deep conversations about the Bible and God. When we bought the truck and were pondering what we would name our business; we wanted something that would reflect our beliefs and spur people to ask about it, and thankfully that is what has been happening. To God be the glory!



Photo credit Coos County Rescue



Brokenness and Beauty

The amazing thing about the broken and contrite heart, is that it is not despised by God. Most broken things are considered useless, and are discarded. Yet, the broken and contrite heart that comes to God in repentance and Faith is not discarded by God, but is instead redeemed. Having been redeemed by the shed blood and broken body of the Lord continues to have a real level of brokenness. Though we are being changed by the gracious work of the Spirit, there will always, in this life, be a battle with ongoing brokenness.

Yet, in that brokenness we are used by God. He graciously works in us by faith to accomplish beautiful things. Despite our brokenness, we can know Him and glorify him. We can love and serve Him and love and serve others. Imperfectly to be sure, but really! In the book of Hosea, the prophet loved a profoundly broken woman to show God's people how he will bring redemption in the midst of their brokenness. One of the reasons I love to study the book of Judges is because every judge has serious defects, and yet they are used by God to do great things. So we can say that even though I am broken, and that brokenness is profound, by God's grace, I can glorify Him and be used by Him.



ELDER'S BBQ AND NEW BUILDING DEDICATION

Thanks to several helping hands, Faith church was able to expand the Fellowship Hall, add a nursery, Pastor's office, another office, two classrooms, storage and bathrooms. Tom Keosababian helped orchestrate the plans and Tom Velasquez worked with a wonderful builder, Lance Holder. Paint colors, carpet and other design elements had to be decided and Mary Potterf and Kathleen Emmons took on this task and made the new section cohesive and updated. We still need to work on better areas outside, but thankful to the Lord for all the progress that has been made thus far. Psalm 127 was read for the dedication at on September 17 in the expanded Fellowship Hall.



NEW BUILDING REMODEL



Classroom



Nursery



Classroom



Pastor's Office



Office



George was born in Anacortes, Washington in November 1942. He lived in Washington, Oregon and California at differing times in his life. He spent three years in the Army in California. He found God in his life when he attended a Billy Graham Crusade revival when he was 30 years old. In preparation for the rest of his life he bought property, where he now resides, in Merlin/Hugo area. God led him into becoming a bus driver for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF).

Martha was born in Vancouver, Washington, April of 1943. Her first marriage was when she was 19 years old. She was blessed with two beautiful children and then two grandchildren. Two years after her husband's passing she married George.

God was always a very big part of her life and when she was five she went forward to commit her life to the Lord when she attended a "tent revival". She is so thankful to have been brought up in such a wonderfully godly home.

She had been working on memorizing scripture, specifically, Psalm 46. and during this time she was in a car accident. She woke up in the car with this scripture in her mind and then forever in her heart.

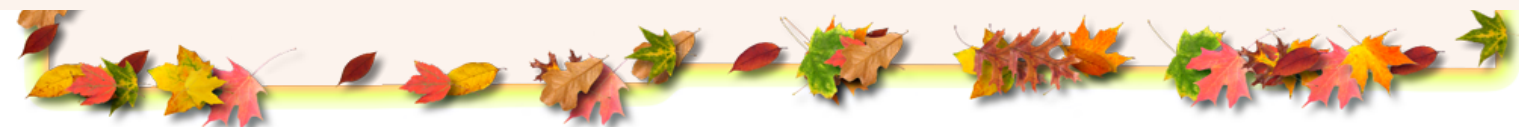
Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
 A very present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear,
 Even though the earth be removed,
 And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
³Though its waters roar and be troubled,
 Though the mountains shake with its swelling. *Selah*
⁴There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
 The holy *place* of the tabernacle of the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
 God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.
⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
 He uttered His voice, the earth melted.
⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
 The God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,
 Who has made desolations in the earth.
⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
 He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
 He burns the chariot in the fire.
¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
 The God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Martha's mother taught her to play piano and read music, but Martha is able to play by ear to her mother's annoyance. Martha plays piano at our church about once a month and at Oak Lane when we worship with them once a month. They are both very involved with CEF and she also plays piano at many CEF meetings.

They both moved to George's Merlin property and updated the home, adding a music room (Martha calls it a ministry shed).

Martha's brother Nathan has been attending church with them which she thinks is a huge blessing. Martha believes that scripture memorization has been a great blessing to her and it is so wonderful she is still able to put scripture to memory.





These are the new housing units called Cathedral Square. These affordable housing units will not be done until March 2024 but they all will be our next door neighbors!!! Shortly we will have some meetings at church to implement some of the great suggestions. Please keep this in prayer that we can successfully share the Gospel with our new neighbors.



TEACHING MOMENT By Karl Thompson

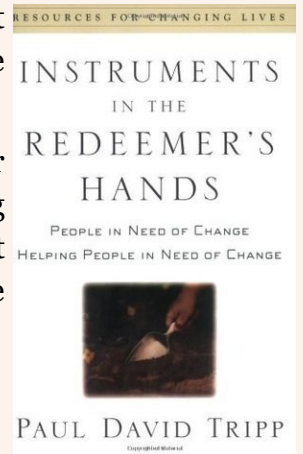
Brokenness and Parenting

When my kids were two years old they thought I was wonderful- I could do no wrong. Yet with each passing year, they became increasingly aware of my flaws and failures (or brokenness). I too have become increasingly aware of this brokenness. That is good, and that opens the door Gospel conversations.

My goal as a parent is not to point to myself as the archetype of moral excellence, nor to be the ideal example for them to follow. I need to point them to Christ in all these things.

Of course, parents, and all of us, should make every effort to grow in grace and minimize the effects of our brokenness. Yet, it is in living out repentance and faith before our children that we have the greatest impact. Remember, the greatest damage is done when we pretend we are not broken, and the greatest good is done when we have a broken and contrite heart. Help your children understand that you come before them and before God, knowing your weakness and your complete dependence on God. This will teach them to do the same thing.

We need to be careful though. Just because we are broken, we still need to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of God. “People in need of change helping people in need of change” is the subtitle of a book by Paul Tripp. This book teaches that the way that broken people help other broken people is in total dependence on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



BEAR HOTEL—IN GRANTS PASS

Every summer there are large artful bears placed in front of businesses in Grants Pass. Right after Labor Day the bears are placed in hibernation at the Bear Hotel owned and operated by Evergreen Federal Bank. The Bear Hotel received its name during the production of Evergreen's most popular art project called "BearFest." Through BearFest, 187 fiberglass bears have been created by local artists. Nearly half of the bears created have been auctioned to raise over \$250,000 for local nonprofits. The remaining bears are now part of Evergreen's permanent art collection that Evergreen displays on the sidewalks of Grants Pass each summer. When not on public display, the bears hibernate at Evergreen's Bear Hotel.

The hotel is a cross between an interactive museum, an art studio, a warehouse, event space and love letter to southern Oregon. It's a perfect family-friendly attraction, especially in the colder, rainier months of the year – which happen to coincide with the hibernation season of the local bears.

Did you know you can tour the Bear hotel in the off season? Here's the info: Evergreen's Bear Hotel is located at 2101 NE Spalding Avenue, Grants Pass, OR 97526



Tours of the Bear Hotel are available Monday through Friday by appointment at no charge.

To schedule a tour, call [541-479-3351](tel:541-479-3351) and ask for Evergreen's Bear Hotel.



BOOKS & BREW

Women's Monthly Book Club
Join us as we drink tea and discuss our monthly book pick!

Last Monday of the Month
6:30 pm

Contact Sarah Young for
location information.
(951) 217-9404

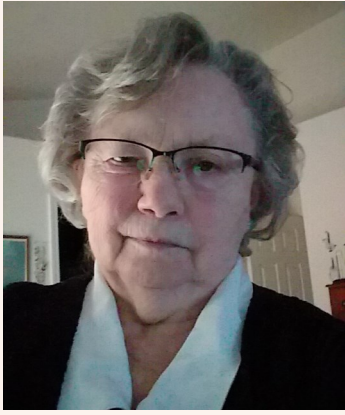


Sarah Young has started a women's social book club called *Books & Brew*. The ladies will meet on the last Monday of every month.

This month the club will meet at Sarah's new home. (All ages welcome). All ladies are invited to join as you drink tea and discuss the monthly book pick.



TESTIMONY TIME— BY LAYLE PAREDES



1Thessalonians 5:9-11 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build on another up, just as you are doing”.

The questions common to articles about ourselves are important because we are told in the Bible to know our brothers and sisters. We need to hold up our brothers and sisters to God. How can we hold them up if we do not know a little about them? How can we pray for them if we do not know them? And if we don't know them, it's because we have not taken the time to know someone else. We sit in the same pew; we talk to the same people after service; we sit with the same people at fellowship meals. Have you said, “Lord, lead me to the person who needs a word or who will speak Your word to me?” (1Thess 5:25-26) “Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss Brethren, pray for us.” Maybe someone should say, “Welcome to the fellowship meal. Now every other person at a table move to another table. Get at least three questions answered from each person at the new table.”

I am Layle Paredes. I was born in Ashland, Oregon. I was reared in the Medford area. I graduated from Ashland high School. There were five kids, three brothers, a sister, and me. We played in the street in front of the First Christian Church of Medford. My folks had us go to Sunday school there because it was close and because it got us out of their hair for awhile. One summer I was sent to church camp and while there at the campfire, I asked God into my heart and life. I do not remember any follow-up from that church, but God got a permanent place in my heart. He stayed there with me, but it didn't stop me from getting in trouble. He did, however, provide help for me. Looking back at my life, I can see His place in my life, how He provided help and brought certain people into my life to help me.

I asked Him to send someone who would love me. He sent Kim, my daughter. I asked Him for a daddy who would love her, and He provided my first husband for her. I asked Him to make sure she loved this man, and she did along with God. I asked Him for a church that would help me learn about Him, and He brought me to Faith OPC. I asked Him for a home in Grants Pass, and He provided so much that I can hardly take it in, and my breath is taken away when I look where I live.

Churches along the way of my life have pretty much let me down. They were not really Bible believing or teaching, but I learned some things and a little about God, so it kept me looking. Then I told God, “I can't find it; I have looked high and low. It was here yesterday; why can't I find it today? My Heavenly Father gave it to me to store up for the rainy day that will come. Maybe that is why I can't find it; it's not raining yet! It will be found when I need it. It has been there all along just waiting to be needed; it was Jesus in my life.

When I was asked to write this article, I said, “Who me?” God said if not you, who? Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:19-20 “And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory, in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever.”





COMING UP

Oct 1 — Faith Fellowship Meal

Oct 14— Men's Breakfast 7am

Oct 23 — Men's meeting 6pm

Oct 31 — Reformation Trivia Night

10am — Monday Stand for Life

10am— Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

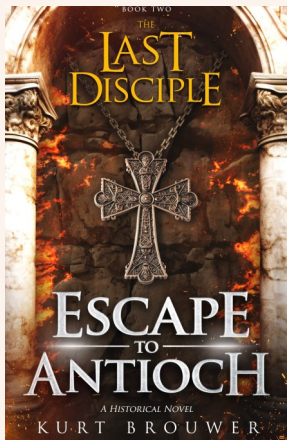
6:30pm—Tuesday Night Book Study

6:30pm— Wednesday Bible Study

To view the church calendar— [CLICK HERE](#)



FROM THE LIBRARY



Escape to Antioch By Kurt Brouwer



July 2023 Frode rated it 3 stars

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book is available in the church library

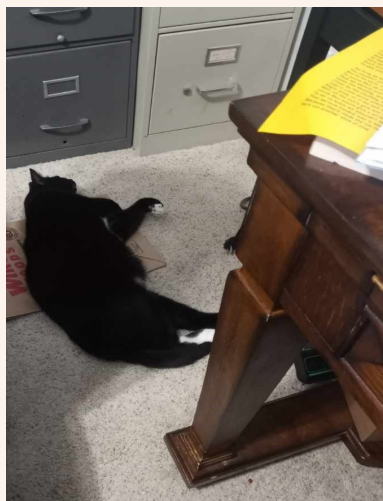
The story of John the disciple continues on, but this book doesn't finish it. This book ends in 69 AD. The author says he is planning two more. This one ends in a cliff-hanger; John is taken away in chains by the Romans, presumably to see the governor. What is covered in the story is mainly the activities of John and the church in Antioch and what goes on in the town. Emmaus leaves for a while to check on his family, so there is a side story there. Bartholomew shows up and accompanies Emmaus back to Antioch.

Some characters appear who may be fictional. Evodius is not mentioned in the Bible, but extra-biblical sources might give his name. He is the head of the church in Antioch. The Roman aide to the governor of Antioch is Aulus Maximus; he may have been a real person, but his words and actions are clearly the author's invention. Titus, the Roman general who will raze Jerusalem, appears along with Bernice, queen of Israel. John has a strange attraction to her; she is a sensuous woman who seems like a cat ready to spring. However, she seems to be intrigued with John and wishes to help him. Their interchanges are brief but interesting.

The author gives the reader a sense of how John came to write his gospel. He and the church get the idea to make copies of the other gospels so that they can distribute those copies to other churches and believers. That idea bears some fruit. Later John is persuaded to sit and talk with Bartholomew about their memories of Christ while the copyists take notes. The author lends the impression that those notes might be the basis for the Gospel of John. It is speculation, but perhaps it has some merit.

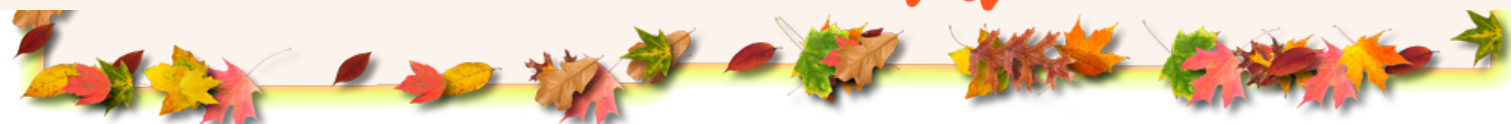
At times various Bible verses appear in conversations, but they are worked in without being a distraction. There is a decent flow. The general setting follows the history of the time and place. The Jews are not particularly in favor with other ethnic groups, particularly the Romans. Of course, the rebellion in Israel, and particularly in Jerusalem, causes tensions and suspicions and even jealousies to arise. Unfortunately for the Christians, at times they are lumped together with the Jews although in Antioch there are many non-Jewish people in the church. It's a messy situation, but it makes for some good drama.

POOCH CORNER

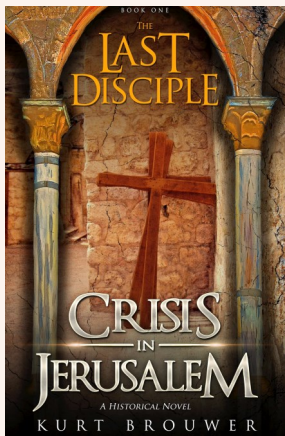


Can you guess the owner of this little cutie? Read the hints and you can turn to the last page of the newsletter to find out who owns this cute kitty.

This feline is our constant companion! Does he make messes? Of course. But, at 4 ½ years he has been "our" cat (as much as that is ever possible) for all but 6 weeks of that. Our delightful pet who entertains, aggravates, delights, and brings comfort to us. We both agree that he is the best cat we have ever had.



FROM THE LIBRARY



Crisis in Jerusalem

By Kurt Brouwer



July 2023 Frode rated it 3 stars

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book is available in the church library

It's fiction about a real character in a real time, but it is still fiction. The author uses his imagination to fill out the character of John, the son of Zebedee, one of Christ's original 12 disciples. It is apparent that Mr. Brouwer has done some homework to become familiar with the times, customs, and geography in the story. I liked that, but one has to remember the portrayal he gives of John is his interpretation of how John might have been. From the documentation listed, I would say his interpretation is a good guess, but it is still a guess.

Jerusalem is a boiling pot in 62 AD. Most of the Jews hate the Romans, and the reciprocal is also true. Christians don't care for the Roman rule, but they are not revolutionaries like the Zealots and Sicarii. Unfortunately that puts them in the crosshairs of the more radical Jews. It's a tough spot. John is living in Jerusalem with Mary, the mother of Jesus. She tells him he needs to take a trip and go to a number of the cities in Israel and encourage the Christians in those churches. He decides to go and takes a young man, Joseph bar Symeon but who is called Emmaus. The story is really about their journey and the interaction they have with others. Bartholomew, another disciple, is with them on part of the journey. At points one or the other of the two disciples quote Scripture and sometimes have very brief discussions about it.

There are some interesting historical facts woven into the narrative, and Mr. Brouwer gives a good sense of the time and place. Travel is slow, sometimes difficult, but walking allows for descriptions of the countryside and God's goodness in creation. Not everything goes well as they have to deal with a few bad actors, but the journey is completed when John and Emmaus return to Jerusalem. The story has some drama and some humor as well. It's a pretty easy read.



VISIT WITH OTHER MEMBERS

As a reminder and an update, there is a portion of our congregation that is unable to fellowship with us regularly because they are infirm. This group has recently grown, as the Elders have added Kerry Goodwill to our home visitation sign-up sheet.

There is great mutual benefit from engaging with our shut-ins. They often long for better contact with the church, and they would be greatly encouraged by your visit. You also would have the blessing of service and a great time of blessing if you were to visit with our shut-ins.

We still have our digital sign-up sheet available with the hope that all of you would sign up for an occasional visit, you will find the link below. If you have any problems accessing the link, please reach out to me at [541-531-7155](tel:541-531-7155), I'd be more than happy to reserve a slot for you or assist in any way I can.

These may be people you already know. If so, go and enjoy catching up on things with them. Perhaps, you have yet to meet our shut ins. Take the opportunity to introduce yourself and get to know them. I assure you in any case, it will be a time of blessing for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Brandon Schak

[Sign-up sheet](#)



FAITH 2023 BIBLE ACADEMY

The session has decided to do a chronological approach to the Bible reading this year.

You will be given a chart each week. It will be on the church website, www.faithgp.org, sent via email, and in print on the table in the foyer each Sunday. The reading will begin in the Old Testament this year at the very beginning, Genesis 1. Using this plan we will not get through the Bible this year. The reading will consist of about a chapter per day except for Sundays. Sunday will be a review day; you will not have to read anything but your chart. The session is asking you not only to read the Bible but also to react to it. The goal is to get you to think a little about what you are reading. You will find space to write on the chart; we are asking you to do two things; see below.

You will be asked to generate a short thought about the reading, probably 15 words or less will fit in the space given. It can be a summary, a reflection, whatever you decide. For instance, let's say you were asked to read Leviticus 25. It is relatively long being 55 verses, and it covers a lot of material: the Sabbath year, the year of the jubilee, and the redemption of property and of the poor and enslaved in that year. You could make a summary statement about content. *It covered the Sabbath year and the year of Jubilee.* You could reflect on the chapter's content. *God gave them specific rules for redeeming property and people. The 50 year redemption is a shadow of Christ's ultimate redemption. I don't think the jubilee system would work today.* You might even ask a question? *How would this affect investing in property in year 48?* The point is to get you to think a bit about what you have read.

The second thing you are asked to do is copy a verse you like. You are not asked why you liked it. Just pick a verse you happen to like for whatever reason and copy it down with the reference, V14 for instance. Sundays are review days. Again, you are asked to write two things. First, look at your chart and make some sort of statement about the reading for the week. Second, pick one of the six verses you had previously copied down. Write this verse in the review section and think about and maybe even jot a note as to why you picked it. At the fourth Sunday evening service of the month, we will talk about your review items, 1st week, 2nd week and so forth. It would be helpful for you to bring your sheets with you to that service. This is an experiment. We think it will take about 15 minutes or so per day to read and fill in the chart. After a time, maybe a couple of months, we will take a bit of time for evaluation of the process. Our desire is to get you involved with your Bible on a daily basis. If you have some other reading plan already in place with which you are comfortable and believe is profitable for you, that's fine; you can continue to follow that in lieu of what we are proposing.

Date	Chapters	Instruction	Notes
1-Jan	Review		Finish 2022 Reading
2-Jan	Gen 1	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	
3-Jan	Gen 2	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you	

*Pooch Corner— This cat belongs to the Hecks and his name is Gunner on page 12.

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@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and Frode Jensen. Also thank you to those that took photos and to Sarah Young our new church photographer.

