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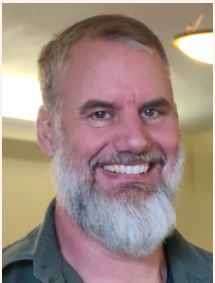
FAITH
Presbyterian Church

Vol. 15

July 1, 2024

FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR'S PRESPECTIVE



Pastor Karl Thompson

Isaiah 40:31 says, “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” I am willing to be that at some point in your life, you admired Super Man or someone like him. We all want super human strength to be able to accomplish valuable things here in this world. When we read the end of Isaiah 40 we see what might look like a promise for that superhuman strength. Wouldn't we love to mount up with wings like eagles?

But here is the deal: When you look at Isaiah 40 you see that he is not talking about us having super human strength. In fact, it is not about our strength at all. Look at the rest of chapter 40. It is about God and His strength, wisdom and power. Do you see that as we wait on the Lord, He renews our strength, by helping us with His power? You don't get your own power, you learn to depend on His power and you rise up on His wings. We run and walk on His elevated valleys and His smoothed out rough places. We have this ability because He has the power.

Be content to depend on the power of God!



THE VERDICKS



Our church was blessed to have our missionaries from Karamoja, Uganda come and give a presentation. [Click here](#) Christopher and Chloe Verdick have been missionaries in Uganda and have come to Grants Pass to share their mission work.

When they first went it was to do church planting and evangelism, but has become so much more. Here is their website if you are looking for more information. [Website](#)



RACHEL & RYAN LAMMERS



Married - May 31, 2024

Rachel VanderWall married Ryan Lammers on May 31st in Michigan. They had a dessert open house at Faith OPC on Saturday, June 29th. Hope you were able to stop by and congratulate the new couple.

On April 6th there was a Bridal Shower for Rachel with fun games and the theme was travel, they both have traveled on various mission work to spread His Word.

May God continue to Bless this union. They are planning to settle in the Grants Pass area until the Lord sends them elsewhere.



Games, food, & fun

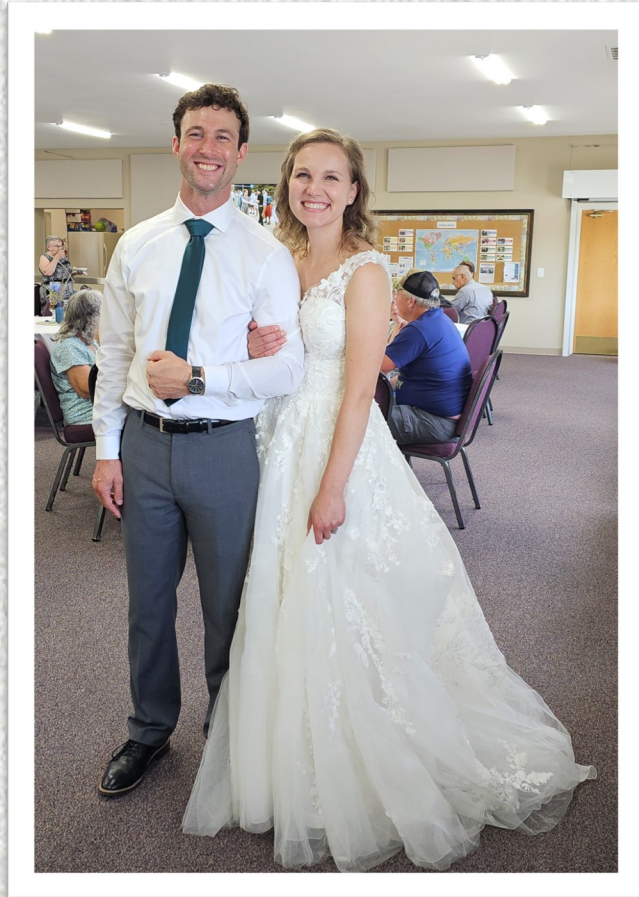


RACHEL & RYAN LAMMERS CONTINUED



Married - May 31, 2024

On June 29th the Lammers had a wedding open house at the church. They went to Banff in Canada for their honeymoon and for the time being settling in Grants Pass. God is good and brought these two together. Prayers for a long and happy marriage always honoring God.



I am constantly thinking about why the gospel is so important, and what life would be like without the gospel. Can you imagine what it would be like trying to forget every day that you are vessel of wrath, under the curse of the God of the universe? When we look at the animistic religions of the world (and throughout history), we see that man lives in fear, trying to figure out how to appease the god they have offended. They come up with complex explanations of what is wrong and even more complex remedies that need to be applied to fix what is wrong. This is not just the case historically and globally, it is the case here and now. Everyone has an idea of what is wrong and how to fix it. So many are driven by fear trying to make people help them with their own remedy. Whether it is political, psychological, ethical or environmental, people are driven to allay this fear. Unfortunately, more inventions of man's imagination will not take away the problem.

I have great compassion for people who are in this position. What they need is the truth, and it is only the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that can help them. What they need to know is the same thing that we need to cling to every day: In Christ Jesus, redemption is possible. There is a grace that is greater than their sins. There is real hope, because there is a sovereign God who loves His children and who is working for their good.



TEACHABLE MOMENT

By Karl Thompson

My oldest child turns 23 later this summer and my youngest turned 5 in the fall. I used to think about one day writing a book about raising children, but now I just pray I won't be a terrible dad. The Bible gives us all kinds of concrete instructions on how to raise our children. Only a great fool ignores those instructions. I am not a great fool, and I have not ignored those instructions. But those concrete instruction will only get us so far. Parents make hundreds of judgment calls every day in their relationship with their children. How to apply which concrete instruction in what way is the constant challenge of the Godly parent. It is not a mechanical process- Great wisdom is needed.



That is why the good parent is constantly seeking the wisdom that comes from God. Without that wisdom, our best efforts will be fruitless. We need to daily ask God for more wisdom from Him to make better decisions in raising our children the way we should. This process doesn't end when our kids are 12 or 18 or 35. We need to continue to seek God's wisdom to be to our children what God calls us to be.



As you and your spouse began examining the ‘special gift’ God has given you in your marriage, was your sense of discovery encouraged? Whether you have been married a short, or long time, things change, and being creatures of habit, it is good to be proactive by adjusting your relationship to these changes. (Please note: If you are not married, most of these questions are applicable to your life relationships. Challenge a close Christian friend to respond to your answers.) Various scriptures relating to marriage are:

Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:23-32, 6:4; Colossians 3:18-19; I Peter 3:7; I Timothy 3:4; I Timothy 2:11-14; Romans 12:18; Galatians 5:15; Proverbs 31:10-31; II Samuel 18:33. As you explore together, you find many more related passages.

The following questions are designed by Dr. Wayne Mack, for you to evaluate how you are doing in your marriage relationship and to identify areas that need updating to life changes. This is most helpful if you and your spouse discuss your answers at an uninterrupted time. Take only a few questions each time, with review of previous changes noted. (Keep a notebook of Scripture and application) Seek to understand clearly your spouse observations, and focus on how to resolve problems. **PAUSE** together: **P**- pray together; **A**-affirm your love; **U**-understand by truly listening; **S**-seek a solution together; **E**-evaluate soon and often, making adjustments as needed. Remember, God has a solution to every change as you seek to solve them in a prayerful and Biblical way.

When answering each question include: How? Then refer to Scripture seeking God’s direction to grow together while giving thanks for His gracious work.

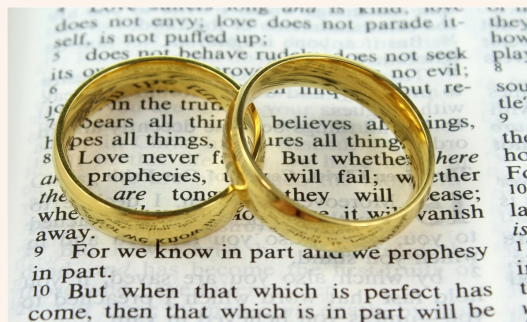
Does the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord manifest itself in your marriage?

Do you use Scripture to determine your convictions, decisions and practices in marriage?

Do you and your spouse study the Bible and pray together? Worship together?

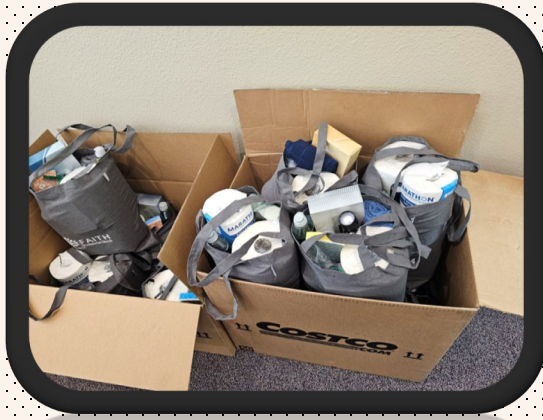
Do you serve God together in church activities to build up the church?

Do you and your spouse seek to please one another? Do you ask forgiveness for wrongs?

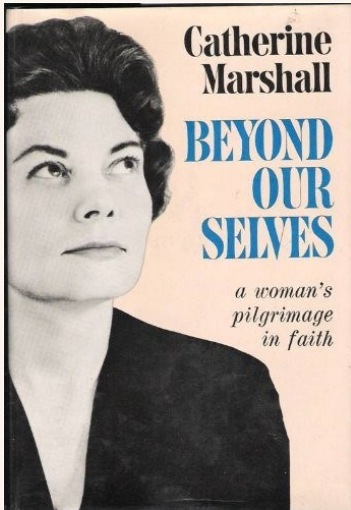


CATHEDRAL SQUARE OUTREACH

Our new neighbors started moving in May 4th and several people helped with organizing, fulfilling, and stuffing welcome totes. Fifty totes were made in all and included useable move-in items, such as, Kleenex, TP, flashlight, disinfecting wipes, trash bags, detergent, sponges, paper towels, Gospel tracts, new testament, and church information. Many hands made light work of the tasks and the totes were delivered. Please pray that we will be accepting to many new visitors. Praise the Lord for this outreach opportunity.



BEST-SELLERS



[Above: The cover of *Beyond Our Selves*, one of Catherine's many books—still available in various formats

In 1936 Catherine Wood married pastor Peter Marshall. She was fresh out of college; he was on his way to becoming one of the twentieth-century's most popular ministers. Eleven years later, he would be chaplain of the United States Senate. His sermons were noted for poetic wording that made faith vivid in modern terms:

Let us therefore act like believers,
live like Christians so that we can die
like Christians
with songs and rejoicing...

At the peak of his success, Peter, who had always overworked himself, died of a massive heart-attack. He left a life insurance policy that would enable Catherine and their son, "wee Peter," to scrimp by for a few years if she cut expenses to the bone. However, she felt the Lord could—and would—do more than let her

scrimp by. She had always wanted to be a writer and had tried her hand at various formats, keeping notebooks of ideas. She believed that if God put an unquenchable desire in a person, he would help fulfill it. She had prayed years earlier that if her desire to write was of God he would bring it to fruition.

Now she found opportunity to begin fulfilling her dream. Friends and publishers asked her to assemble a collection of Peter's sermons. Help for the task came from many directions. She learned all she could about paper quality, book sizes, and print formats. She wrote an introduction, summarizing Peter's life and character. Certain that it was good, she offered it to Revell, the publishers who were printing the book of sermons. They accepted it hesitantly, but were immediately impressed by its high quality. Her career as a writer had gotten its start.

From her experiences as a widow and the struggle to handle court work and legal fees because her husband had left no will, she would write, "From that travail I had been left with a crucible of conviction that, since Christ is beside us, the worst that can happen to anyone of us in this life need not overwhelm us."

Catherine became one of the twentieth-century's best-known Christian authors. Her successful books began with *Mr. Jones, Meet the Master*—her collection of Peter's sermons and prayers—and continued with *A Man Called Peter*, a biography of her late husband. This best-seller was made into a movie.

After the success of the biography, she turned her hand to Christian inspirational writing, to editing, and to novels. Her novel *Christy* not only was a best-seller, but became the basis for a television series.

(Continued on page 8)



DEATH OF CATHERINE MARSHALL

(Continued from page 7)

Her inspirational writings included *To Live Again*, which dealt with her experiences as a widow and consequent faith-struggles.

She joined the staff of *Guideposts* and married Leonard LeSourd, its executive director. Together with John and Elizabeth Sherill they would form the publishing company Chosen Books, to publish their own writings and the inspirational writings of others. The LeSourds also founded a ministry through which people could express their prayer needs which then were assigned to intercessors.

On this day 18 March 1983, Catherine Marshall died of heart failure at Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach, Florida. She was sixty-eight.

Her writing ministry continued after her death through a final novel, *Julie*, published posthumously, and the inspirational *Light in My Darkest Night*, compiled by her second husband Leonard, in which he interwove his insights with Catherine's descriptions of her spiritual struggles, and some reflections by other family members. Her books sold millions of copies and transformed many lives.

—Dan Graves



GRADUATION

Congratulations to our graduating student— Kara Thompson. She has worked hard toward this goal and succeeded! We pray the Lord will guide her all the days of her life and that mercy and grace follow her.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Faith Women's Retreat was held on May 16-18 was held at Rogue Retreat in Galice. This was a slightly new location but was very spacious and had easy access. The ladies enjoyed each other's company while cooking, hiking, and having Bible study. Marj led one of the Bible studies. This event is held every year, so plan to come out next year. Rachel Uhl did a great job organizing, if you'd like to help her next time, let her know.



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

On April 7th during the Worship service there was an ordination and installation of church officers. Keith Hansen and Keith Anderson were called by God to serve our church as Elders. Also, Clyde Petty has continued his calling to be Deacon in our church. We thank God for these wonderful serving men.



BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS



RU Needing Help?
541-226-5977
RLM25.RM@GMAIL.COM
Rachel Uhl
RU Administrative Solutions LLC.

Professional concierge services tailored to your lifestyle needs. Specializing in errand running, personal shopping, grocery delivery, transportation and home organization. Let us handle your to-dos, so you can focus on what matters most.

541-226-5977

Need shopping done, or a trip to the doctor? If you have any needs please contact Rachel Uhl of Solutions LLC.

Please keep our shut-ins in prayer.



Doris

On May 24, 2024 we lost our precious saint **Doris Vander Stoel**. And she is in the Lord's hands.

Please keep Jake in prayer along with the family as they deal with this tremendous loss.



Carol and Ralph Swanson thank the Lord for all the help they receive, cooking, cleaning, and grocery shopping. Carol is now 89 and still recovering from the 6 spinal fractures she had. She asks prayer for strength to what is necessary every day and that Ralph will continue coping without eyesight.

Carol said, "No matter how tough things get, the Lord is tougher and will provide.

They are expecting their 3rd son, Eric to come and visit for 10 days from Japan. And Eric has not been able to visit for 8 years. He teaches English for as his job in Japan. His children will follow in his footsteps.

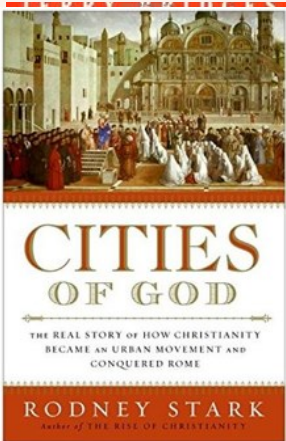
We thank the Lord and ask that this visit will be a blessing to all of them.

COMING UP

- | | |
|---|--|
| Jul 4 — 12PM Faith Church picnic—Riverside Park | 10am — Monday Stand for Life |
| Jul 7 — Faith Fellowship meal | 10am— Tuesday Ladies Bible Study -on hold till fall |
| Jul 12 — 6PM Faith Movie Night | 6:30pm— Tuesday Night Book Study -canceled |
| Jul 13— 7AM Men's Breakfast | 6:30pm— Wednesday Bible Study |
| Jul 26 — 4PM VBS | |

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





Cities of God -
By **Rodney Stark**

Cities of God: The Real Story of How Christianity Became an Urban Movement and Conquered Rome

I like Rodney Stark's books. He writes well, is clear and documents his work. Recently I finished *Cities of God*, a rather scientific book about the rise of Christianity. His thesis, which he proves with quantitative research, is that Christianity took hold in cities, mostly port cities to begin with that had a good number of Jews in them.

The first chapter talks about missions and how they work, how monotheism was particularly suited for mission work, and why Christianity was uniquely shaped to do mission work. He also speaks to subjective versus objective views of history. His position is that history can be viewed through quantitative analysis, and that it will actually prove what went on. Too many historians, according to Stark, are subjective as to causes and events.

He devotes one chapter to Paul and his missionary activities. Stark contends that Paul worked mostly with Hellenized Jews and that in many cases churches already existed before Paul got to a city. Mission work was going on naturally through relatives and friends and business contacts. He includes a chart that begins with 1000 Christians in 40 AD and ends with 31,722,489 Christians in 350 AD. This is achieved by a 3.4% growth rate per year, which is perfectly achievable with person to person evangelism. He appreciates Paul and is thankful for his epistles but says that Paul made little difference in the overall growth of the church.

In later chapters the author explains how a rural Galilean faith became urbanized, and he identifies 31 cities in the Roman Empire having at least 30,000 inhabitants. He also talks about Isis and Cybele, two oriental goddesses that moved west and were monotheistic. These two religions helped set the stage for Christianity and its monotheism. I think he gives a good explanation of why Christianity displaced polytheism and the two goddesses. Mr. Stark also explains why many Jews of the Diaspora were inclined to accept Christianity. Finally he deals with Gnosticism and other heresies. He also shows why Mithraism was never a serious contender; it was for men only and mostly for soldiers and very secretive.

His final chapter is titled "Why Historians Ought to Count." In this chapter he argues for quantitative data and that serious historians should make use of it to be accurate in their conclusions. He chides many historians for being subjective and parroting what others said before. Edward Gibbon comes in for his share of criticism. Gibbon was very anti-Catholic which biased his views. Gibbon's views were not based on quantitative data but on subjective feelings. Those people longing for the good old days of tolerant paganism just don't know their history.

There are lots of charts and maps and tables in this book. It is well presented and done so in a clear and logical fashion. It is a book for serious Christians to read and to be inspired by. The only reason I give it 4 stars is because it is technical and requires concentration when reading, especially the part explaining concepts and theories, concepts and indicators, and hypothesis. This part is necessary to understand how he goes about using the data, but it is not easy reading.



FAITH 2024 BIBLE ACADEMY

The session has decided to do a chronological approach to the Bible reading starting last 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 did begin in the Old Testament but we will be pausing and reading in the New Testament for December then back to the Old Testament. 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 a good review day. 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. We will be continuing through 2024 in finishing the Bible reading, but will switch over to the New Testament.

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 like.	

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.

Feel free to write an article anytime, just email to the above link.

