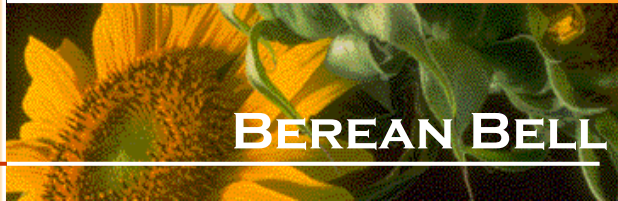


July
2009



BEREAN BELL

A Note From the Pastor...

Gen 2:15-16

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

This summer I am doing some concentrated studies on the Gospel of John. My seminary education focused mostly on the Synoptic (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), so I am reading and researching John over the summer. I am also focusing some study time on two particular areas of Christian Ethics; Environmental and Economics. The third week of July I am going on a week long conference on Christian Ethics and economics. This week's studies uncovered an interesting connection on Creation and creativity that I thought I would share with you;

The first come from William Cavanaugh's 'Being Consumed; Economics and Christian Desire.' He writes, "*Fewer and fewer Americans or Europeans have an idea what factory work is like, since the process of globalization has sent many manufacturing jobs overseas, with more such transfers coming every day...we don't make anything at all... Why should we care? Perhaps because it has something to do with widespread negative attitudes toward work in our society...Many people do not see their work as meaningful, only a means to a paycheck. One's labor itself has become a commodity, a thing to be sold to the employer in exchange for the money needed to buy things...Our work was meant to be an outlet for creativity, a vocation to make our impress on the material world...Being more human means...participating in the creative activity of God. 'The word of God's revelation is profoundly marked by the fundamental truth that man, created in the image of God, shares by his work in the activity of the Creator.'* This is the true meaning of the call in Genesis to [work] and [take care of] the earth."

→

From the Pastor (continued)

Cavanaugh closes his reflection above with a quote from Pope John Paul II 'On Human Work'. I remember as a boy going to visit a much older friend of my mother's, Uncle Frank. Uncle Frank kept an immense garden every summer and I would help him work and take care of it. He would tell me stories of his youth during the depression. One in particular always stuck with me. He wanted to go skiing, but his family had no money for skis. So, he took apart an old potato barrel and made himself a pair of skis, certain not Olympic level, I'm sure in their performance, but he made his own skis. I wouldn't even know how to begin.

We live in a culture that trains us to consume, to purchase more and more goods, and then throw them away to purchase more. But I think Cavanaugh is correct in asserting that we don't create as we used to as a society, and that furthermore, this has a profound effect on understanding of our purpose in life, and our connection to God.

So 'Craft Circle Ladies', you are teaching us how to run counter to culture and stay creative, to work with our hands and make things. Gardeners, you too inherit a tradition of staying close to the earth and working in concert with it to produce food. Some of you work with wood or play instruments or cook. I think that one of the ways that we can resist the pull of consumerism is by creativity and by sharing our creativity. So I encourage you to attend the craft circle. Help out in someone's garden. Learn an instrument. For in creating a meal, a blanket or a song, we create the opportunity to connect with another human being and through that gift of making, giving and sharing, the Holy Spirit brings Christ near.

Outreach News

Summer, Summer, Summertime but where has the sun been during the month of June, not here in Burrillville that's for sure! One nice thing about rain is the sound of it as it falls against the roofs of our homes and the lush green lawns it leaves behind. It's been great for gardens (except for the strawberries). The Farmer's Market has started up and most of the farmers we worked with last year are on board with again this year to help with the Summer Lunch Program. It is off to a good start with currently 8 families needing service which includes 20 children. There may be a few additional families added if need is determined. Rhonda has been busy finalizing all the details and the first delivery was made June 14th with several more scheduled for June 21st. The deliveries will primarily be on Sundays after service and will continue through Aug 30th. Joe & Julie Markey have been wonderful and have secured donations of provolone & mozzarella from Daniele Proscuito Co, fruit such as apples, pears, and grapefruit from Polseno Apples, and produce such as tomatoes & peppers from A. Siravo Co. We are very appreciative of all their efforts in supporting this program. We have eggs, milk, cheese, fruit, produce, bread, lunch meat, as well as cereal, pasta, sauce, peanut butter, tuna. We are encouraging all of you to continue to "Plant A Row" & consider donating to the Summer Lunch Program or you can check the bulletin board in the church hallway for a list of the food pantries in town where you can drop off your produce. This year more than ever our community needs our help. The Emergency Food Assistance Pantry continues to be busy with an average of 18 families and there are several people in our church family who have been generous in their giving and we want to say thank you for your support.



The Clothes Closet is now closed for the summer except by appointment only and we expect to service families in that manner for the next two months. We will begin accepting fall/winter coats and fall/winter clothing on September 5th when we reopen. We plan on doing some reorganization over the summer to utilize the space we have more efficiently. Thank you to all who worked and helped in the closet these past 9 months, it really has given us a chance to get to know each other even better and it's been great to work with such dedicated ladies. →



Outreach News (continued)

As of the date of this writing we have not heard if we have been awarded the grant from the Childhood Poverty Institute which we applied for on April 30th. Notification was to be on June 15th so we will need to be patient a bit longer.

The Colonair's Chicken BBQ is planned for Sunday, August 2nd and they would like to donate the proceeds to Outreach for the Emergency Food Assistance Pantry. If you have any questions or would like to help please see Janis or Candis.

There will not be any Outreach meetings for July or August so relax & refresh. Once September rolls around we will immediately begin work on the 2010 budget and begin planning a yard sale for Oct 3rd.

Have a fun, happy, & SUN-FILLED summer, get out and enjoy all that our little Rhody has to offer.....bike trails, beaches, lakes, and clam cakes (yummy!)..... Galilee and Jerusalem..... beautiful places to be.

Peace,
Sharon



Summer Lunch Program News



The Summer Lunch Program is in need of bags to disburse the food in. So if you have paper, plastic or any kind of bags just lying around the house, bring them in and they will be put to good use.

This year, there are also 3 babies included in the families that are being helped. For them, donations of diapers (sizes 2, 3, 4) and wipes are greatly appreciated.



As always, thank you for your help and generosity!

Church News



We will have a quarterly meeting on July 26th. We will hear reports from all committees. We will also be voting on the following items:

Don Campbell has stepped down as Assistant Treasurer and Sue Maiocchi is willing to fill the position-vote to be taken. We will try again to vote on the bylaws change in finance as previously discussed. If you need a copy of the change, please contact the office or review it from the annual report. If you are interested in filling any of the available positions on any committee, please contact me or the Pastor, we can vote you in at the July meeting.

Thank you, Kelly Hunt Moderator

On August 2, the Colonairs are hosting a chicken BBQ at their home. Proceeds will go to benefit the Food Pantry. Please see Janis for info and stay tuned to weekly bulletins for more specifics.



Pastor Darin will be on vacation July 4-July 11 and will be away at a conference July 18-July 25. If a pastoral need should arise during that time, Darin will leave contact information on the church's answering machine for emergency pastoral care. (Emergency: serious injury, serious illness or untimely passing)



On Sunday, July 19 the women from Teen Challenge Providence will be here to share their lives with us through testimonies and song. It is a powerful experience.

"Hope Lives Here...Freedom Is Found Here...Changed Lives Leave Here..."

Craft Circle News



The Craft Circle is meeting throughout the summer on Monday evenings at church 7 to 8:30 & Tuesday afternoons at Ashton Court 1 to 3. We are working on three quilts and beginning to knit hats & mittens for Tri-Town Head Start for the upcoming winter (gee! didn't we just have a winter?).

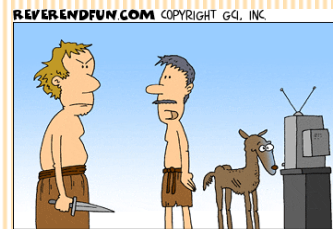
The Ashton Court Craft Circle just donated 10 knit & crocheted blankets to the Make-A-Bed project started this past winter by a senior at Douglas High School. It is a project that will be passed along to a senior each year.

Both circles have continued to make several more blankets for Lauren Capron's Warm-A-Heart blanket project. Those blankets are tied polar fleece blankets given to Adoption RI for the children as they go on to new homes.

We are looking for more acrylic yarn to begin to knit sweaters for the family shelter in Woonsocket. If you would like a copy of the pattern we are using call Janeen Rawson 568-8733.

As you do your spring, summer, fall cleaning remember that we can finish your knit, crochet and sewing projects and pass them on where there is a need.

Small donations may be left on the sofa in the conference room at church. Large quantities should be arranged for by calling Janeen at the above number.



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GQ, INC.
New Yorker 181
SORRY MAN, FATTED CALF HAS BEEN HOOKED ON THE BIGGEST LOSER 06-01-2009



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GQ, INC.
See Exodus 1:11
MAKE SURE YOU STOP FOR A SEC, MOSES, AND REALIZE JUST HOW WILDLY COOL THIS IS 06-05-2009

American Baptist Women: Break The Chains

Note from ABW-USA national office:

As of May 29, **\$318,387.98** total has been received for the Break the Chains project. Wendy has moved the thermometer upward on the Break the Chains website's "How Do I Give?" page at www.abwmbreakthechains.org. We've far surpassed the \$250,000 goal. But more significant are the women who are being touched by the project. I've had conversations even today with an AB woman who is seeking God's purpose for her life as she feels drawn to do advocacy work in her state around human trafficking laws. She became interested because of our national mission project.

May God continue to use these amazing ministries to bless God's people everywhere. Once again, thanks to everyone for their support.

From Nancy at Mansion of Light Baptist Church in Costa Rica

(this church received a Break the Chains grant to begin family life and outreach ministries in its poor community, which includes persons susceptible to trafficking and prostitution): *[Pastor] Xinia had eye surgery last Wednesday and her eye has been very swollen and she won't be working with us for the next month. Please pray that she recuperates quickly and that her sight is good. I also wanted to tell you that Priscilla is working with another woman from the church, Edith who has four children, the baby is 1 1/2 years old. Also, Xinia's sister Flor is in charge of cleaning everyday so that the kids always have a clean place to come, especially because of the flu, we are keeping the place extra clean. Every Thursday we have a lunch with the kids, the mothers bring the ingredients to prepare and everyone eats together in the church. I bought glasses and plates and a large plastic container to store them in. Dayana, the sociologist is in the country and will help us move forward with the community investigation and diagnostic to better prepare for our work in the coming year.*

The Mansion of Light Baptist Church in Costa Rica has been chosen by ABWM of RI for our state project for 2009-2010.

Goal: \$ 1,000



Happy Birthday!

Sandra Trimble -- July 12

Bob Beckwith -- July 12

Jeremy Ponce -- July 13

Mike Colonair -- July 22

Gail Sweet -- July 27

Melodee Bowser -- July 29



(If I forgot your birthday,
please let me know so I can
add it)



REMINDERS

Flowers help beautify our Sanctuary
and can be given

"In Honor of" or "In Memory of"
a special someone or event or "Just Because".

Next newsletter: August 2009.

Committee Chairpersons:

Please submit your report to the
Church Secretary on or before
the **20th of July.**