



Berean Bell

Berean Baptist Church

July 2010

From the Pastor...

Job 41:1-1

1 "Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? 2 Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? 3 Will he keep begging you for mercy? Will he speak to you with gentle words? 4 Will he make an agreement with you for you to take him as your slave for life? 5 Can you make a pet of him like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls? 6 Will traders barter for him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? 7 Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears? 8 If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! 9 Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering. 10 No one is fierce enough to rouse him. Who then is able to stand against me? 11 Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me. 12 "I will not fail to speak of his limbs, his strength and his graceful form.

These are the words of God to Job who has entered into a debate with God about justice and fairness. Job feels that he has been treated unfairly. God responds with a long speech which simply seems to suggest that we are not at the center of the universe. We are a part of a larger whole, a whole that God created and loves in its entirety, and which we cannot fully comprehend.

The sad irony of these verses is that God is quite convinced that humanity will never be able to subdue the Leviathan. God has created the natural world and its creatures, organisms too great for us to comprehend or control fully. The events in the Gulf Coast threaten to make these verses woefully irrelevant. Up to two million gallons of crude oil a day are spilling into these waters which will subdue not only the Leviathan but also the already endangered Kemp's Ridley →

From the Pastor... (cont.)

Turtle, roseate spoonbills, egrets, turns, and blue heron's, loggerhead turtles, brown pelicans and dolphins. I suppose we could cynically ask what this has to do with us, but then we have missed the point of these verses. It isn't all about us. God's love extends to all creation and not just humanity. In the final verse above God states 'I will not fail to speak of his limbs, his strength and his graceful form.' Is it just me or is God waxing poetic about the beauty of Leviathan. God takes pleasure in seeing the majestic beauty of the sea creature. Which to me suggests that God is saddened and hurt when these creatures are unable to thrive as they were created to.

We will hear much of the politics of this tragedy. Some will want to stop off-shore drilling and some will be concerned with the economics of that action as it not only effects the oil companies but the simple folk who feed family and pay mortgage with the money earned from this drilling. These are complex issues that cannot be overlooked or oversimplified. But as we consider this tragedy, how it affects humanity, how it ripples through the economy, like God we must also not fail to speak for the creatures God has created. I am convinced that God is saddened by this event, an event caused by us all as we heat our homes and run our cars on oil. The question, 'what can we do?' must be pondered. In order to reach an answer we must first, I believe orient ourselves to the question not as Democrats or Republicans, Conservatives or Liberals, but instead as God intended us to orient ourselves; as those who would heed God's call, hear God's word, and then speak. This passage from Job reminds us that we are not at the center of creation, but one part of a whole. It reminds us also that the rest of creation, oceans, forests, and all the life that teems within, are not valuable because of how they feed us or supply us with economic gain, but simply because they are created by God.

Pastor Dawn



Choir News

We are so fortunate to be able to enjoy such a variety of music at our church. From our Sunday worship, with classic and contemporary songs; piano, organ, and guitar (and Linda's flute); choirs and soloists; and last but by no means least, congregational singing, we are blessed. One extra special treat is having Carillon here each month to bring pleasure to our worshipping ears. Thank you Christine Noel, accompanist Elsie Law, and singers.

Our choir is on hiatus for the summer months, and on their last Sunday, Debbie Ferland, on behalf of Worship and Fellowship presented a "thank you" pin to Ashley Morrissey, Kathy Roberts, Carol Pelkey, Barbara Morin, Marge Fenley, Toni Roselli, Joyce Wolfe, and Brian Ferland. The choir, in turn, shared a gift of "thanks" with Ashley Morrissey in appreciation for sharing her gifts with us so graciously.

We hope for some special music each Sunday this summer, including a surprise song from the seven women who attended the recent ABW conference at Canonicus.

I leave you with two requests:

1. If you or someone you know would like to bring special music this summer, please let me know.
2. If you or someone you know would like to join our choir (or other music ministry) in the fall, let me know.



A happy and healthy summer to one and all.

Gary...your Minister of Music



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See Genesis 6-8) 04-03-2010
NOAH PREPARES FOR ANOTHER HUGE DAY

Try our Sundays.
They are better
than Baskin-Robbins.



Outreach News

*How far that little candle throws his beams! To shines a good deed
in a weary world.*
~William Shakespeare

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, I want to thank you all for your outstanding support for our June 12th fundraiser "Celebrate Community." Thanks to the generosity of people like you, we are able to continue the many programs that service our community.

We especially want to thank Gary Chabot for donating his time and talents by providing the fantastic music that got us all moving on the dance floor. A special thank you to Joseph Fidrych, kitchen manager at the Columbus Club, and his wait staff for providing us with a delicious chicken dinner and outstanding service with a smile.

We greatly appreciate the fantastic door prizes and raffle items that were so generously donated by our church members.

Thank you Linda, Julie, Carolyn, June, Rhonda, Sharon, and Joyce for all your help getting this event off the ground and making it a great success. Thank you Pete for always being there to help us. You are a true friend of Outreach. You are a fantastic team and I do appreciate all that you do.

IN
Everything
GIVE
Thanks

God bless you all and have a safe holiday.

Kathy Roberts

From Our Mailbox...



Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for your prayers for our daughter, Amy Campbell Buban. Amy is making progress every day, gaining strength and feeling some sense of normalcy returning. She speaks to me of her gratitude for your prayers and the very sustaining, life giving, peace giving strength of your prayers. Amy is strong at her very core and that is helping her to heal. She and her family join me in thanking each and every one of you, dear friends at Berean Baptist Church.

With Love, Nancy Campbell

Amy, Joseph, Katelyn & Ethan Buban

Off The Beaten Path

The late spring sun was hot. At my age, I tire more easily along the trail. An inviting log beckons for a much needed rest, so there I sit. There at my feet lie a huge army of ants scurrying every which way. I count about 50 within a foot square and estimate there must be at least another three hundred within that area. Over about 10 square feet there must be at least four thousand ants on the surface alone. They seem to be heading in varying directions with no aim in mind. But I see that many carry bits and pieces of forest litter and disappear into ground nests. How ceaseless they are as they carry out assigned missions with such marvelous organization and discipline. Would that humans could cooperate on such a crowded scale. I wonder what lies beneath in their underground colonies.



Ponder this: if all of earth's ants taken together were weighed, their biomass would be greater than all of humanity's would. Ants are found over most of the planet's surface and they behave in incredibly organized and industrious ways for millions of years longer than man has. Yet their accomplishments and landscaping has resulted in nurturing plants, and animals, and soil to a remarkable degree. Conversely mankind's industrialness in the past hundred and fifty years since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution has brought about a decline in virtually every existing ecosystem on earth. So who stands taller, ant or man? In the cosmos' scheme of things, who has the more grander natural design plan? Logs, like pews, can be a danger to sit on, and pondering such thoughts off the beaten path can lead to strange conclusions.

Don Waterman

Church News



*In July, there will be NO Pastoral Relations Meeting. The August meeting will take place as normal.

*The quarterly congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, July 25th following the worship service.



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 2010.

Committee Chairpersons:

Please submit your report to the
Church Secretary on or before
the 19th of July.