

REFLECTIONS

JUNE 2023

“A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.” —*Billy Graham*

GARDENING, NO LIFE LIKE IT - PART 2

BY MARY ANNE DIETRICH

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I have loved gardens, flowers, trees, bird songs and the smell of fresh cut grass for as long a I can remember. The colours, shapes, fragrances and movements inspire my painting and I value those memories. Memories of watching my dad's assortment of tulips as they emerge around my childhood home, or being with my precious Grammie in her backyard. A backyard full of peonies.

It is in the garden that I am reminded of so many poignant Bible references to flowers, vines and trees. It was a garden that God created as the perfect environment for man and it was a garden where Jesus was buried but also where He arose to conquer death and sin.

It is in the garden that I am reminded of God's provision, how beautifully He dresses the flowers and feeds the birds. I am reminded of the fragility of life as I observe the short lived perennial flowers and grasses and, sadly, I realize how easily God's beauty and purpose in our lives can be choked out by the weeds of busyness, inattentiveness and sin.

My garden is a place of refuge and peace. The poet Dorothy Frances Gurney wrote in her poem God's Garden " One is nearer

God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth". I concur. God first walked with man in a gar-

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Drawing by Jordan Shessel. She is in Grade 10 and clearly loves to draw and paint . Robert Bateman had better watch out! Ed

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PERECT FATHERS - ALMOST

BY PASTOR NORM BIECK



June. The month that ushers in uncomfortably hot weather, hay fever, mosquitos and wasps. And yet we

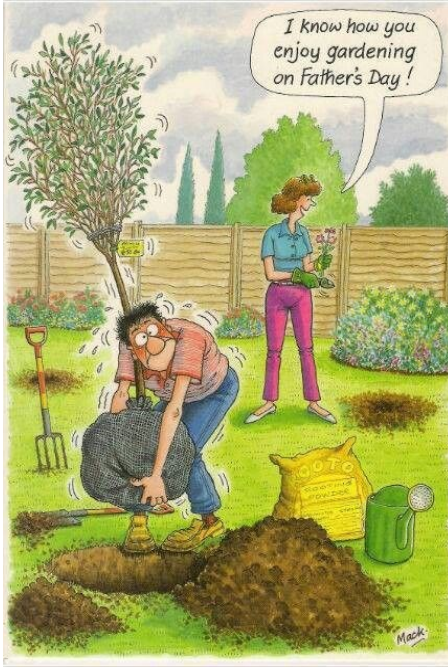
look forward to it. Despite all the terrible and nasty things that come with it, we all look forward to summer. There is something about warm weather. We get plenty of sunshine in the winter, so it's more than sunshine; it's warm weather. Or maybe its nostalgia. Maybe we remember those summer days when we didn't have to go to school, when we rolled out of bed and into shorts and T-

shirts and rode our bicycles, played with our friends, went swimming, ate watermelon, and stayed up late watching the flames of the fire in the backyard firepit slowly surrender to the night, only to be serenaded to sleep by the song of the frogs in the nearby woods or the loons on the lake.

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GARDENING, NO LIFE LIKE IT - PART 2

(Continued from page 1)



When choosing plants, especially pricy perennials, do your research. The info on the tag regarding light, water and winter temperatures needs to be taken seriously. Stick with zone 3 plants. I have found my favourite peonies to be easy to grow and quite forgiving of placement and care.

A new favorite is false sunflower-

den and it is in the garden surrounded by His creation that I think I catch a small glimpse of perfection, of eternity. Amid the colors, sounds and fragrances I am temporarily free of homesickness for that place I truly belong.

As you may have now guessed gardens are, for me, much more about the aesthetic, the emotional and spiritual. I leave the practical growing of veggies to my Herb who considers gardening more of a necessary skill to learn than a joy.

Bill sent me a few questions to answer. There are many others in our church, with beautiful yards, who are better equipped to answer but here goes.

What are the best plants for new gardeners?

Heliopolis helathoides. The flowers last a long time and 2 or 3 plants in a hot sunny spot make a show. Poppies, pinks and day lilies are good. Oh, and catmint is great and may even land you a visit from my cats.

Two of my favorite annuals are zinnias and cosmos. For climbers or trailers, nothing beats morning glories. Geraniums are amazing and showy and I have discovered easy to winter in the house so you don't have to buy new ones every spring.

What plant do you love but that gives you problems?

I have determined to get rid of the lawn (hate mowing) so I have been trying to grow various ground covers to varying levels of success. I love clematis

and astilbe but have yet to grow them successfully. At some point I've had to accept that I can't grow every flower I find at the nursery or have the perfect rock garden.

What is my opinion of the church planter box project?

I think it is a wonderful opportunity for community outreach. We all need to be supportive. I love that the Sunday School is going to plant a flower garden. I can just imagine the wonderful discussions about the Lord's creation that will happen. I hope to stop by and share what little know-how I have and gain tips from more experienced gardeners. I hope everyone thoroughly enjoys the garden.

What advice would I give? Stay on top of those weeds and be sure to water and have fun. Enjoy!

All the gorgeous photographs of various type of flowers on this page were taken and supplied to me by the Dietrich's. Apparently they have no problem in just making the rest of us feel completely inadequate as gardeners. Mary Anne attends the women's Bible study and is a reluctant worship leader. Ed



Peonies



Daffodils



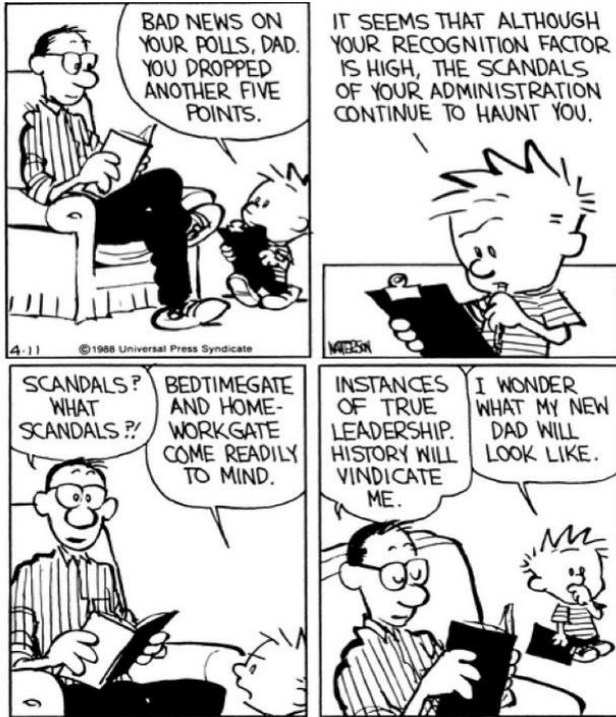
False Sunflower



Tulips

PERECT FATHERS - ALMOST

(Continued from page 1)



June is also the month when we celebrate Father's Day. For some this is a great day of celebration as we surround the man who worked tirelessly to provide for us, protect us, and model the heart of God before us. For others, the day is a reminder of fear, dread, anger, and, at times, even hatred. It seems that stories of fa-

thers evoke extremely positive memories or extremely negative ones, but rarely do I hear stories of ambivalence. I think most parents do the best they can and do what they think is right for their children. My father did. He worked tirelessly to provide for us, he took me fishing, taught me how to catch a baseball, he wrestled with me, and

every Saturday night we would watch All-Star Wrestling together. But he had his demons too: a temper he couldn't manage, failed dreams he couldn't let go off, and a strong commitment to image over substance. But he was my dad and I loved him.

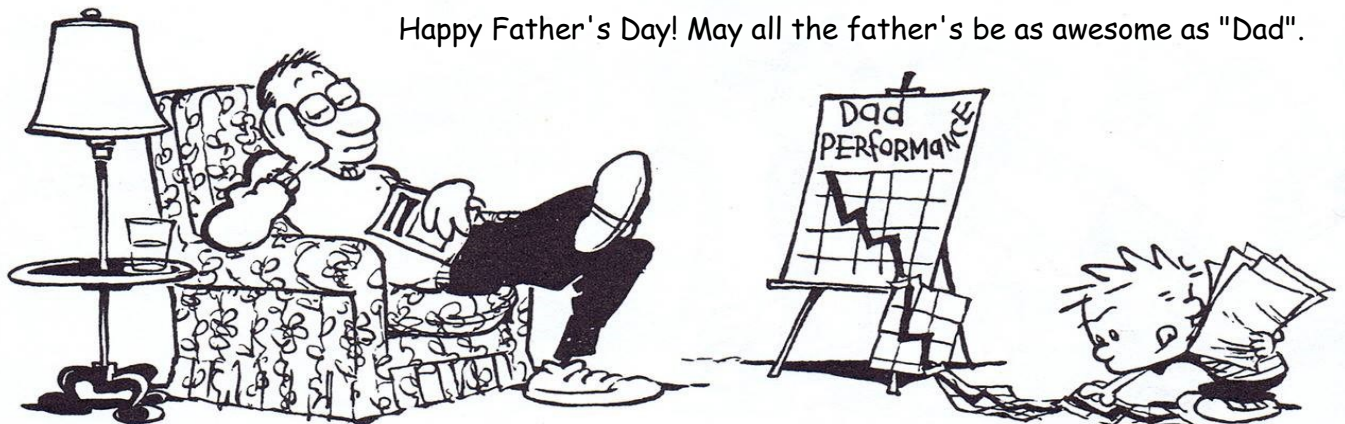
Now I'm a dad. Have been for 3 decades. I wonder how my kids will remember me. Will they remember the holidays, the camping trips, their father as coach, or will they remember the guy who got mad and yelled and scared them? Will they remember the laughter or the tears?

Father's Day. Where's the redemption? I take great comfort knowing that God forgives and calls us to forgive. I take great comfort in the fact that despite my failures, my children can still look to their heavenly Father and receive everything their earthly father failed to provide. I realize the risk in this level of transparency. I un-

derstand that some people want to look at their pastor and see a paragon of virtue and spiritual triumph. I'm sorry for failing you, too. I have never pretended to be anything more than I am: a sinner saved by grace, broken, fallible, and imperfect in so many ways. But I have this going for me: I have a Father in Heaven who loves me, forgives me, comforts, guides, and protects me. And so do you.

"Will they remember the laughter or the tears."

Happy Father's Day! May all the father's be as awesome as "Dad".



LETS TALK ABOUT EVOLUTION/CREATION

BY WAYNE BAKER

Wayne Baker is Hillview's resident expert on Genesis, and apparently he also has good understanding of evolution and creationism. Starting in September, he will have a series of articles on the problems with the Theory of Evolution and the alternative - the Biblical story of creation. The following is a list of some issues that he will be exploring and discussing over the next few months. Ed.



According to the Bible the world/universe was created in six days by God. This is known as the "Young Earth Creation" design. Many people believe this approach is in conflict with science. however, evolution also has many problems. There are also many misconceptions about the Biblical account.

- Radiometric dating is frequently used to determine the age of items. However, the original amount of the radio active element contained within the item can never be known, The initial amount is assumed.

- Geologic column can only work if there was a world wide flood. This geological feature consists of sedimentary layers that are consistent and exist through out the world.
- Some people argue that all the world's animal pairs would not fit inside the ark. The ark could hold 522 rail cars,
- God, not Noah, brought the animals to the ark.
- Many scientists reject certain creationist arguments simply because they are based on Biblical precepts.
- It is often stated that the ape "Lucy fossil" proves evolution. However the feet are missing, and only partial leg bones were found and the hip along with remnants were modified with a Dremel (ie specialized cutting tool).
- Darwin said he believed the "missing Links" would be found, without them, his theory is unproven. The links are still missing.
- The Evolution Theory itself has been modified or revised because it was proven wrong.

"Many people believe this approach is in conflict with ..."

FATHER'S DAY QUOTES

FOUND AND PROVIDED BY GREG BELESIOTIS

The greatest gift I ever had came from God; I call him Dad!!
Anonymous

Being a godly father requires much perseverance in prayer as we seek God's guidance in being the types of fathers He wants us to be.
Jonathan Falwell

In a certain sense, God has committed to every father their responsibility to embody, as a person, the ultimate revelation of the Bible; fatherhood. To be a real father is the most perfect depiction of God that any man can achieve, because it is the ultimate revelation of God himself.
Derek Prince

GOD - HE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS!

BY ARDATH EFFA



went to Caxias do Sul, to look for work. But, she was still unhappy. In fact, she contemplated suicide. As she was about to do so, she instinctively heard a voice telling her, "Don't do that". She became determined to have one goal in life, that of searching for and finding

the answer to the longing in her soul.

One day, while walking by our Church, she was attracted to the music being played over the outdoor loudspeaker and decided to attend the service. When my husband, Herman, gave the invitation to accept Jesus, Florinda went forward. I had the joy of leading her to salvation: she found the answer to her longing heart! Florinda lived with us for three years. She was completely disowned by her family and friends because of her conversion. Her life was also threatened.

Family ties are strong in Brazil, and this estrangement hurt Florinda very much. In spite of this, she refused to trade her peace for the desires of her family. Persecution followed her in many ways: threats, pleas, isolation, but with God's help, she remained

strong in her faith and began to pursue seminary training in Brazil as well as at North American Baptist College in Edmonton, AB.

After returning to Brazil, Florinda became very ill. "I will never forget that day", says Florinda. "It was a Sunday morning, and I was at church. The pastor began the service by reading Matthew 18:19-20. Then the congregation met in small prayer groups while the pastor asked me to meet him in the church study. I was completely unprepared for what took place. My pastor handed me a letter that he had received from my doctor. I had cancer! I was shocked, but I knew that God was in control, and I was trusting him. I asked the congregation to sing the song, "Simply Trusting". (ie "Trusting Jesus that is All").

Doctors had diagnosed her case as throat cancer and declared it incurable. Florinda's financial resources were very limited, so she could not pursue proper treatment until she remembered a distant relative who was a doctor in Sao Paulo. She contacted him, and he provided to her all of his medical services free of charge. As she boarded the bus for Sao Paulo, the whole church was there, crying and praying, "They were not expecting to see me alive again." She wrote, "I felt not only my pain but the pain of the entire

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"... she was completely disowned by family and friends."

Florinda was born into a very strong Catholic, Italian family. She was sent to a convent at an early age to receive her primary education. As time went on, she became a nun but did not find the peace of God. She became very dissatisfied and disillusioned as she was assigned to work in the orange groves from morning to night with little time for meditation and prayer. One day, she sneaked a letter to her parents telling them of her declining physical health and her desire to escape the daily drudgery in which she found herself. At night, while others slept, she gradually packed her few things into a suitcase. When her dad arrived and demanded he be allowed to "visit" with her alone, she was ready. She managed to leave with him.

After some time of recuperation at her home, she

A LIFE CHANGED

(Continued from page 5)

church, but I tried to encourage them and to remain always happy in spite of my condition."

"In all of this," she wrote, "God had a purpose for me, and I wasn't afraid because I always sought to listen to God. I said that even if I have only one drop of blood left, I would trust my Lord. During the following months I had treatment, but I was un-

ing the eight months I had cancer." She went on to say that she was again feeling strong, almost back to her normal weight, and was back to her favorite sports - ping pong and volley ball. She was traveling again and sharing her testimony in many churches as well as being very busy in the Caxias do Sul church. There she taught the junior highs, was president of the youth group, treasurer of the church, directed a choir, was di-

was established, and with God's leading, a pastor and his wife joined that ministry.

Florinda felt she was no longer needed in Garibaldi and the Lord wanted her to plant a church in another city. After much prayer, she felt led to begin a work in the City of Veranopolis, a city where there was no Baptist Church. She has had good response and recently wrote, "This work is going to go forward quickly!"

Oh yes, as an afterthought, she added, "I forgot to tell you that through my illness, two doctors, one doctor's wife and his son, and five members of my own family were saved, including my mom and dad! The thing I wanted most in the world was to see my parents converted, and this blessing God gave me!"



Garibaldi Baptist Church
- under construction, but being used as needed

ble to complete it because of the extensiveness of the cancer and my weakened physical condition. I thought that the Lord was going to take me home, and I was ready, but he had other plans for my life. He chose to perform a miracle, and he healed me."

One year later, we received a letter from her which began, "I am cured! I can't keep from crying when I remember what God has done for me dur-

rector of evangelism for the church and was an officer in the Brazilian Baptist Association. All that and working in a secular job.

She also began her ministry of church planting in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Her dream was to begin a Baptist Church in the shadow of the convent where she was held "captive" in the Italian City of Garibaldi. After several years, a Baptist Church

"I am grateful for the churches and the ladies in our Women's Missionary Fellowship who have supported me with their love and prayers." As Florinda put it, "We have a marvelous and miracle-working God! Praise His name!" Romans 8:28 has been proven true again.

**... I
thought
the Lord
was going
to take me
home ...**

ACTIVITIES AT HILLVIEW



Karaoke divides humanity into two groups: those who don't want to sing and shouldn't be compelled, and those who do and shouldn't be allowed.

Dennis Vickers

This is going to be tested at Hillview Baptist Church on

Saturday June 17, 2023

Watch the Church Bulletin for details.

All Ages welcome.

Rumour is Norm and Gabriele will be singing

"I've Got You Babe"!

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EDITORIAL COMMENT



"I don't fully understand how it works, but as long as I don't touch anything it takes care of itself."

Dear one and all,
As I wrote in the May issue there will be a sabbatical for everyone from the newsletter during the months of July and August. I will not be seeking stories until August for the September edition. This is assuming that "Reflections" will return in September, but that decision will be up to the new Elders Board, and the Pastor. Some things we perhaps need to consider are:

- Is this something that should continue into the future, there is a financial cost, and what about the irritation I cause by asking you for stories. People are beginning to run when they see me coming.
- is monthly too frequent, perhaps quarterly?
- actually are there more stories to be told? Will people continue to contribute anecdotes, yarns, tales and pictures?
- Is the name "Reflections" ok? I needed a name and it came to mind. Anybody have an alternate suggestion for a name?

Again, I want to thank all the people who provided stories, especially those people like Mary Anne who claimed they cannot write. Boy, was she wrong. I must apologize for misplacing, I mean losing, some stories. Apparently, sometimes emails just disappear into the gears and cogs of my computer. Truly, I have an intense dislike of computers and software that does not work in a way I think they should. I am almost positive that "Publisher" was specifically designed to cause me grief and frustration. I am much better with a hammer, but so far I have not used it on my computer. Joy rescues me, frequently, she is a huge help in proofing, helps to censor anything bordering on controversial and occasionally provides motivation. I greatly appreciate her nagging, honest! Pastor Norm and Katie also proof and review the newsletter. Katie is really, really good at finding errors. I just love it when she shows me up, such an irksome woman! If I mutilated your story during the editing process, I apologize for that too, but as Pastor Norm once told me, "you are the omnipotent and supreme editor and you can do anything you want". So glad to have his absolute and mostly unwavering support.

Some readers have provided story ideas. Things like the following:

- "Ask a Question" feature - a reader would submit a question to be answered probably by the Pastor because he doesn't have enough to do. The question would be either scriptural or about the Church.
- Profile who's new at Hillview
- More pictures of church activities /people (but some people object to having their picture in the newsletter)
- More information on church ministries - White Cross, Samaritan's Purse
- Promote the Church directory

That's it for now. To all, you have a grand summer. Bill

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday June 4 - coffee and other stuff

Monday June 5 - Annual General Meeting - everyone welcome

Saturday June 10 at 2pm - Secret sister reveal

Sunday June 11 - more coffee

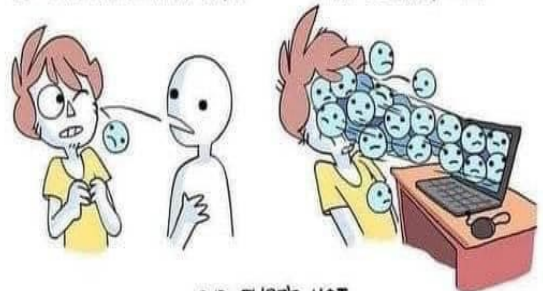
Saturday June 17 - Karaoke Night - I drink, ...err water, therefore I karaoke!

Sunday June 18 - Father's day

Sunday June 25 - Celebration Sunday for birthdays and anniversaries

BEFORE THE INTERNET,
YOU COULD RECEIVE
MAYBE 1 OR 2 PIECES
OF BAD NEWS PER DAY.

BUT NOW YOU GET TO
HEAR *EVERYONE'S* BAD
NEWS FROM ALL OVER
THE WORLD, 24/7



AND THAT'S NOT
MENTALLY HEALTHY.

IT'S IMPORTANT
TO TAKE
SOME TIME
TO SHUT OFF
THE PHONE,



CLOSE THE
LAPTOP,

AND JUST FIND
SOMEWHERE NICE TO
SIT AND RELAX.



*All I want, found a special place to unwind
and be calm, it is called Hawaii! Ed.*