

Reflections



HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 7

October 2024

Eternal Thanks - by Pastor Norm Bleick

There are two dates of great significance in October: Thanksgiving and Reformation Day.

Thanksgiving is never on a fixed date. We all know that Thanksgiving is the second Monday in October as opposed to our neighbours to the South who wait until the end of November.

According to Country Living magazine, the turkey tradition began much earlier in Canada. In 1578, English explorer Martin Frobisher held the first Thanksgiving celebration in Newfoundland to give thanks for a safe journey – way before the first feast at Plymouth in 1621. However, because their feast did not praise a

bountiful harvest, many (Americans) argue it does not count.

Canadian Thanksgiving was not officially observed until the 19th century. In 1859 Protestant church leaders in Ontario successfully lobbied for the first "national" day of giving thanks. They wanted to use good harvests as a way to prove God's existence. Actually, the tradition goes back even farther than that. The feast of Tabernacles was basically the Hebrew "thanksgiving" with roots going back almost 3500 years, give or take a century or two.

The importance of stopping to celebrate is not only an act of worship; it safeguards

against taking things for granted. In our hustle and bustle society, consumer mindset culture and consumption based economy it's more important than ever to hit the pause button. This can be partly accomplished by turning off our phones, the TV and/or computer and be present in the moment, taking time to be grateful for family and friends, and our Heavenly Father who gave us something for which we can be eternally thankful.

We'll say more about Reformation Day next month. Happy Thanksgiving, HBC. May God continue to fill your hearts with praise.

Special points of interest:

- GEORGIE - PAGE 2
- OPPORTUNITES - PAGE 3
- PAN'S GROTTTO - PAGE 6
- ACTIVITY PAGE - PAGE 9
- LET'S BUILD SOMETHING - PAGE 12

Inside this issue:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| SALLY ANSWERS | 2 |
| STTA - PAUL AS A TAILOR - PART 2 | 4 |
| CLASH OF THE GODS | 6 |
| RECIPES FROM DEBBIE AND YVONNE | 10 |
| LETTERS FROM KRISTA AND ARDATH | 11 |
| BACK TO SCHOOL | 12 |
| RICK'S TRIVIA | 12 |



Getting to Know Sally Carr - by Bill Holmes

In the September issue I started a series on our Leadership Council with an interview with Nathan Shessel. They all agreed to participate and this month the luckily person is Sally Carr.

The Leadership Board members are:

- Nathan Shessel – Moderator
- Warren MacDonald – Vice-Moderator
- Sally Carr
- Krista Carlberg
- Pastor Norm – non-voting member

" ... WE HAVE
A RESCUE DOG
WHO IS A
GERMAN
SHEPHERD
CROSSED WITH
A HUSKY ..."

The Board are representatives for the church membership. They offer support, encouragement and direction to the various church ministries. They also receive congregational feedback and attempt to respond in a Christ-like fashion to issues of concern. All decisions are voted on by the four current leadership members. The Pastor is our spiritual leader. Each member of the Leadership Board also acts as liaison with the various church committees. The committees and their Board contacts are:

- **Worship, Audio/Video** – Pastor Norm
- **Missions, Property Management** - Warren
- **Hospitality, Christian Education**- Nathan
- **Finance** - Sally
- **Benevolent, Administration** - Krista

Here we go with Sally:

1. In a few words describe your Christian journey?

I was born and raised in a Christian home and had a good foundation to begin my Christian journey. I would say my journey is one of gratitude, I am so very thankful for His grace and mercy that I can see throughout my life. The greatest lesson I have learned is to ALWAYS trust Him in all things, to remember He has the Master plan and He only wants the best for us.

2. At Hillview you are involved in the Hospitality, the Leadership Group and were on the Sanctuary Renovation team. Why are you so active at Hillview?

God calls us to serve Him with our whole heart and with the gifts He has given us. I've heard I have good organizational skills - hahaha. I believe we are happiest when we are serving others.

3. I once saw you doing sign language. How do you know that? Where do you use it?

I was an Interpreter for the deaf for 15 years working for the school board. I have used sign language to facilitate communication in the classroom from grades 2 through 12, tutored deaf students, interpreted medical appointments, church services, Sunday school and concerts. My greatest experience as an Interpreter was sharing Jesus and praying with the deaf.



4. Do you have a pet? What is the weirdest thing that it does? My son has a dog. She will chase an ice cube all over the kitchen floor – til she scores a goal, by losing it beneath a door.



Georgie - looking inquisitive and perhaps for trouble?

We have a rescue dog named Georgie who is a German Shepherd crossed with a Husky and who knows what else. Georgie likes calm & quiet especially after dark. His weirdest quirk is if it's past 9:30 pm and he hears a noise, generally it's from a cell phone listening to a podcast or on social media, he will enter the room and stare you down or huff until you turn it down or off. Lol!

5. Where did you spend your childhood? What was the best part?

I grew up on the East coast, in New Brunswick. One of the best things is there's no better lobster in Canada than from the Atlantic Ocean. Fact! My dad is from Lyttleton NB. Joy and I visited his homestead and stomping ground when we drove to the Maritimes. Best clam chowder, too. Actually Bill, I obviously should have said best sea food. lol

6. What made you sad this year? What made you happy?

I celebrated my 20th year working for the school board. This made me both happy & sad.

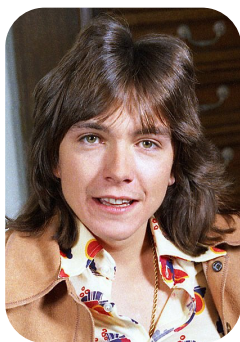
7. If you could attend an event or concert, what or who would it be?

To hear Opera soprano Kiri Te Kanawa

(Continued on page 3)

Getting to Know Sally Carr

(Continued from page 2)



8. Who was your teenage celebrity crush?

David Cassidy from the tv show "The Partridge Family". Joy's too, Ed!

9. Last book you could not put down?

A Voice in the Wind by Francine Rivers.

10. What is the one thing you have not done that you would love to do?

Visit my ancestral home of Wales and Scotland.

11. What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my daughter Madyson. She is kind, honest, cares about others, super smart and funny.

12. How would you spend your time if you could not use any devices for a month?

I would probably be outside more with the dog, reading and playing cribbage.



13. What song do you sing in the car when you are alone? Did you sing with Mady? We sang "Slippery Fish" artist unknown.

I sing along with the radio all the time. I'm sure people

driving by must think I am having a seizure or am just very weird!

14. You're in a restaurant, the church is buying. What are you having?

Chinese food, especially ginger beef!

15. Your most favourite hymn and chorus?

I have two that tie for my favs - It is Well With My Soul and Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

16. How long would you last in the wild?

If I didn't get eaten by a bear on day one, 2 days?



"my snack is stuck in this evil tree!"



Two Opportunities to Serve - by Gloria Swain

As your Hillview Benevolent coordinator, I noticed that we had a busier summer for food than usual. Since the beginning of June we have assisted 8 large families and 3 singles. I am saying this to say "HELP" our Hillview Pantry is almost dried up. We desperately need:

Kid's snacks (juice boxes, individual applesauce, granola bars, puddings, etc.)

We also need canned goods and non perishable staples.

A box is provided in the church lobby for your donation.

Thanks in advance and God Bless

Billet Requested for GEM Conference Participant

We are looking for accommodations for Kristi TenClay from October 24 to October 27. Kristi has been serving in Cameroon since 2010 teaching Missionary Children and International students.

If you are able to accommodate Kristi can you please let Gloria or Jo know ASAP Thank you.

Something to Think About - by Brad Baker

Apostle Paul as a Tailor - Part 2

In the September issue of Reflections, Brad Baker began a two part series on "tailoring" Biblical doctrines to the people we are trying to reach with the Gospel. He used Paul's letter to the Thessalonians as an example of fitting or explaining the Gospel to the people with different cultures and traditions and yet still retain the inherent truth of the Gospel. This is part two of his discussion.

" WAS IT JUST THE PAGANISM OF THE ROSALIA FESTIVALS THAT WERE BAD OR WAS THE UNDERLYING VALUE ... "

Like a Glove

There are a few points where the 'fit' of the gospel really turns heads in 1 Thessalonians. To round off our little case study, there are two particular instances of Paul's handiwork I would like to draw our attention to:

First, in 1 Thessalonian 2:19-20, Paul says to the believers:

"For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy" (NIV).

This expression is in fact quite beautifully and pastorally crafted. The Macedonians had a certain way of throwing a funeral, which was their way of highlighting the deceased's place of belonging in the community. An important annual celebration was the Rosalia festival, or the "day of rose adornment". The festivities at these events included joyful celebrations, where the at-

tendees would wear garlands or crowns made of roses. Honouring the dead in this manner was an integral



part of the Greek, Macedonian, and Roman culture. In fact, Thessalonica itself produced a famous epigrapher known as Phillip of Thessalonica. He compiled a collection of funeral epigrams (or inscriptions) and titled it "The Garland of Phillip".



When Paul refers to the Thessalonian believers as his "hope", "joy", and "crown", he is stepping out of his Sanhedrin (i.e., high Jewish Council) branded sandals into the world of Thessalonian culture, values, and frames of reference. Paul is saying that his joy is receiving, in Christ's presence, a crown or stephanos, which in Greek can be translated as garland. Paul

is blending something very familiar to the Thessalonians (ie garland) with the gospel. He is merging their need to belong, their uncertain hope for their fallen loved ones, and their newfound doubt regarding their own inevitable ends, with the Gospel. Thessalonians believed that people still belonged to the community after death. Christian Thessalonians were confused – could they continue to celebrate people belonging to the community even after death (i.e. the Rosalia festival) or would they have to give this up as believers? Was it just the paganism of the Rosalia Festivals that were bad, or was the underlying value misguided as well? Paul expertly handles all these things right here. In their moment of need, panic, confusion, and pain, Paul brings Christianity right down into their midst and sets forth the Thessalonians' own "hope" and "joy" as the certainties bound up in Christ's return. Just like a good tailor.

Secondly, consider Paul's words in 1 Thessalonian 4:14-16:

" For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have

(Continued on page 5)

STTA - Apostle Paul as a Tailor

(Continued from page 4)

fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first” (NIV).



How would a Thessalonian have heard this? Paul euphemizes death as “falling asleep”, all but guaranteeing the forthcoming resurrection. Paul also assures these folks that those who have already died will not be left out. In fact, those who have already died by the time Paul penned these words will be risen first when Christ returns. You know what is amazing? Paul affirms the Thessalonians’ values. He assures them that their deceased community members do and will still belong. They will not by any means become excluded from the rewards Christ will bring when he returns. As the Thessalonians turned from their idols to serve the true and living God, Paul says, they did not have to worry about abandoning hope for their dead. In fact, now in

Christ they have gained a superior hope to anything they could have dreamt up before. Now, Paul assures them, they can look to their Lord with hearts full of hope, joy, and assurance. Paul, quite clearly, cared a whole lot about tailoring his theology to his audience.

Some Other Fine Tailors

Paul stood in good company! Consider some of the Church’s other “tailors”.

.Jesus at times spoke in parables, that is, in meticulously crafted metaphors that both communicated and, to some degree, obscured God’s truth. Of course, Jesus had other tools in his toolbox, but when it came to his use of parables Jesus was able to say things that affected all the people that gathered around him. Sowing seeds? Buying fields? Makes sense in the Galilean countryside (especially if you are one of the twelve and can ask Jesus what he meant!). A wayward son sleeping in a far-flung pig pen? That will impact a Jewish audience in a visceral way!

The Apostle John also did something quite interesting. John took the Jewish apocalyptic genre and used it to communicate a powerful Christology in the book of Revelation. Paul had a penchant for using language, concepts, and rhetorical topoi (i.e. rhetorical commonplaces, themes or conventions) that his different audiences were familiar with and would understand. In a sense, these and other hall-of-fame theologians, whose works you can find in your

nearest Bible, proclaimed God’s kingdom and gospel. But, rather than disregard the language, traditions and values native to their audiences, these fine tailors eagerly used the materials available to them. Theology, as we see it worked out and put into motion in our Bibles, was never ‘off the rack’. Theology at its finest has always been tailored to those to whom it is offered.

Something to Think About

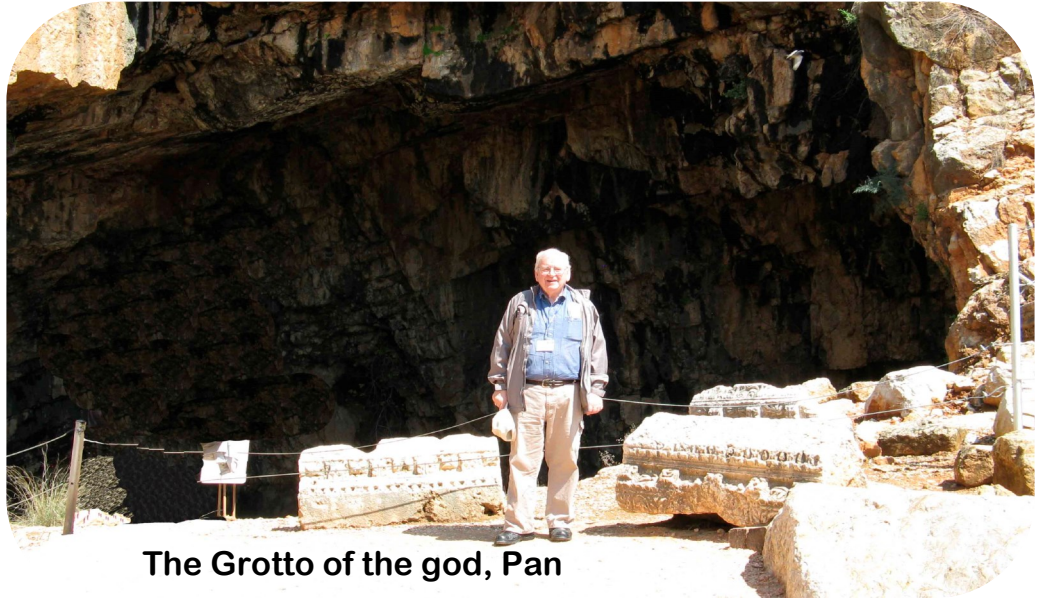
Evidently, the tasks of theology require a careful eye, not just in exegeting a text (i.e., drawing meaning out of the Scriptures) but also in exegeting (i.e., ‘measuring or understanding’) one’s audience. The tasks of theology also clearly require a skillful hand that can rightly determine the Word of God and apply it in new times, places, and situations. The task of theology furthermore requires great wisdom, compassion, and humility when it comes to application. After all, no tailor trims or sews people! And just as well, let it not be lost on us that the tasks of theology are not the sole responsibility of the ‘pros’ who stalk the halls of seminaries and academic institutions. Tailoring our theology to the world around us is a matter of witness, and for every believer witness is a matter of responsibility.

Are you interested yet in becoming a tailor? Fair warning: if you are, your work as a believer may have just become doubled, for ‘tailors’

(Continued on page 8)

"...THEY DID NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ABANDONING HOPE FOR THEIR DEAD."

Caesarea Philippi: Clash of the Gods - by Kurt Redschlag



The Grotto of the god, Pan

This cave is the nucleus beside which the sacred sanctuary to Pan was built. In this "abode of the shepherd god," pagan cult began as early as the 3rd century BC. The ritual sacrifices were cast into a natural abyss reaching the underground waters at the back of the cave. If the victims disappeared in the water, this was a sign that the god had accepted the offering. If, however, signs of blood appeared in the nearby springs, the sacrifice had been rejected.

The previous text was slightly modified from an on-site educational plaque. The Greek god Pan was supposedly born here. The handsome guy in the picture is Kurt. He supplied all the pictures for this story. Ed.

When Dale Hufnagel (in his article in last month's Reflection) mentioned that Caesarea Philippi would be one of the places the men's Bible Study group would soon look at in their video series, it aroused my interest and brought back some fond memories. I have had the opportunity to visit Caesarea Philippi several times during my eight tours of the Holyland, and it holds a special place in my heart. Allow me to share a few reflections.

Caesarea Philippi played a brief but pivotal role in the life and ministry of Jesus

(see Matt. 16:13-20). Thus when Jesus took his disciples to this northernmost region of Palestine, it was for a very specific reason. By now Jesus had been teaching and ministering to his disciples for about two and a half years. But there was still a question that weighed heavily on his heart: Did his disciples really understand who he was? Had they become convinced about his true identity? Did they believe in and were they prepared to carry on his mission once he was gone? You see, at this point in time that was not yet a foregone conclusion because, as John Mac-

Arthur points out, like their fellow Jews, the disciples, "had been taught to expect a conquering and reigning Messiah who would deliver God's people from their enemies and establish forever His righteous kingdom on earth. And when Jesus refused to use His miraculous power for His own benefit or to oppose the Roman oppressors, the disciples wondered if they were right about Jesus' identity. His humility, meekness, and subservience were in total contrast to their preconceived views of the Messiah." ¹ And

(Continued on page 7)



AT THE MEN'S BIBLE STUDY ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 AT 7PM**, KURT WILL BE GIVING A PRESENTATION ABOUT HIS OTHER ADVENTURES IN THE HOLY LAND - WITH PICTURES. PLEASE JOIN US.

Caesarea Philippi: Clash of the Gods

(Continued from page 6)



Ruins of the Roman temple dedicated to the worship of Augustus Caesar.

because of that, the disciples fluctuated between displaying faith and entertaining doubt. Therefore Jesus' meeting with His disciples here in Caesarea Philippi was crucial to the ongoing success of his mission, for as Bible scholar William Barclay observed, "To put it bluntly, it involved the very survival of the Christian faith. If there were none who had grasped the truth - then all his work was undone; if there were some few who realized the truth, His work was safe." ² Knowing his remaining time with his disciples was short, Jesus took them on this mini retreat with the intention of putting them to a crucial test.

But what has always intrigued me was why Jesus chose this particular setting to administer his final exam for his disciples.

Why did he travel all this way north (and this by walking and not flying with El Al Airlines)? Why go up to the very foot of Mt. Hermon, some 120 miles north of Jerusalem and 25 miles north-east of the Sea of Galilee, to have this special encounter with his disciples? I will admit, this is a beautiful location, with luscious vegetation. It is here where the Jordan River first bubbles forth from beneath a rock formation. As one traveler described it, "It was truly a landscape of unforgettable picturesqueness, a place exactly suited to the purpose for which Jesus wished to use it." ³ It was also a secluded location that took Jesus away from the clamoring crowds and the constant pressures of the Jewish leaders. With most of the people in this region being non-Jewish, he and his disciples would have few interruptions.

So yes, in many respects it was an ideal, indeed, an idyllic setting. But on the other hand, it also struck me as being the most unlikely place for him to conduct this critical test. After all, Caesarea Philippi was the very centre of pagan religions.

The area was scattered with temples of the ancient Syrian Baal worship. It was here that Herod the Great had built a gleaming temple of white marble to the godhead of Augustus Caesar. Perhaps its most prominent feature was its association with the Greek god Pan, who it was believed was born in a deep cavern nearby, now known as the Grotto of Pan. From Pan we get the term pantheism, meaning "everything is God." In fact, because Caesarea Philippi was so directly associated with Pan, its original name was Panias, but today it is called Banias, because there is no "P" in the Arabic alphabet.

Yet it was in this place - a place that was saturated with pagan religions, a place that was littered with false altars and shrines, a

(Continued on page 8)



The beginning of the Jordan River with the snow-capped Mt. Hermon in the background.

Caesarea Philippi: Clash of the Gods

(Continued from page 7)

place that was dominated by clashing gods - that Jesus dared to ask his disciples who they believed him to be. As William Barclay said, "It is as if Jesus deliberately set Himself against the background of the world's religions in all their history and their splendour, and demanded to be compared with them, and to have the verdict given in His favour."⁴ Having first asked what the general populous thought of him, Jesus now confronts his disciples with, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" The success of his mission hung in the balance. And it was dear old Peter who came through with flying colours. Probably speaking for all the disciples, he boldly answered, "You are the Christ [the Messiah], the Son of the living God." I'd like to think that Jesus broke out in a big smile when his beloved leader of

the apostolic band, against this visible backdrop of pagan gods and religions, categorically declared that Jesus is, indeed, the long-expected Messiah, that he is the one and only true and real God, and not just another one of these mythological gods

in his heart." For Jesus this encounter with his disciples at Caesarea Philippi was a watershed moment. Yes, he was now convinced that his mission would be carried on because his disciples had recognized him for who he truly was - the promised Messiah, the Son of the one and only true and living God! Yet what an ironic setting - Caesarea Philippi, home of the clashing gods - in which to declare this ultimate truth! It is little wonder that I so dearly love and appreciate Caesarea Philippi.

For Jesus this encounter with his disciples at Caesarea Philippi was a watershed moment. He was now convinced that his mission would be carried on because his disciples had recognized him for who he truly was - the promised Messiah, the Son of the one and only true and living God.

scattered all around them. Yes, Peter had gotten it! Yes, he clearly understood who Jesus was! But that understanding, Jesus points out to him, was not brought about by Peter's human reasoning, but was a gift of God's grace to him. As someone aptly said, "It was God himself who had imbedded this truth

1. John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary - Matthew 16-23 (Chicago: Moody Press, 1988), 21.
2. William Barclay, The Gospel of Matthew (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1958), Vol. 2, 147.
3. H. La Fay, "Where Jesus Walked," National Geographic, Vol. 132, No. 6, 739-781.
4. Barclay, 149.

JESUS NOW
CONFRONTS
HIS DISCIPLES
WITH, "BUT
WHAT ABOUT
YOU? WHO DO
YOU SAY



STTA - Apostle Paul as a Tailor

(Continued from page 5)

not only need to be diligent with the Bibles in their hands but also intently observant of the people all around them. But, for a tailor like Paul and for tailors like us, that is the job.

Here's a few parting questions to ponder over: How

can we better 'measure' those around us? Do we listen for the telltale signs of what is important, what is difficult, what is authoritative, what is influential, and what is needed in the lives of others? Are we capable of exercising greater discretion and flexibility in the ways we 'fit' God's word to people? Do we love the Word enough

to obey it and love people, and conversely, do we love people enough to love the Word, knowing that God's word is God's living and active power?

Hidden Picture: Jesus Taught About Prayer

Find these objects hidden in the picture: canoe, fish, leaf, lollipop, magnet, moon, needle & thread, orange slice, plate, spoon and star



Recipes Page - by **Debbie Hurst and Yvonne Aben**



"Good Stuff" Stuffing

This recipe is for an easy and tasty gluten free stuffing. My family has a lot of food allergies, so I redesigned my original stuffing recipe. If you make your stuffing, you just need to substitute gluten free bread for regular bread. However, choose a gluten free bread that **does not** have rice flour as the main ingredient. It can contain rice flour, just not as one of the first couple of ingredients on the list.

The key to gluten free stuffing (aside from choosing the right gluten free bread) is the seasoning. You will need to over season it for the stuffing to taste good. I use a lot of poultry seasoning and sage.

Ingredients:

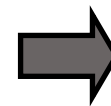
- Gluten free bread (left out to dry overnight, and torn into small cubes)
- Chopped celery (lots)
- Sausage, squeezed out of the casing, cooked beforehand (I use medium Italian sausages)
- Eggs, for binding (if you don't add enough it will be dry, so err on the side of moist)
- Salt
- Pepper
- Poultry seasoning
- Sage
- Any other seasonings you want to add



Mix all of the ingredients together and stuff the bird just before cooking. I make the stuffing the day before and refrigerate it. My family really enjoys this gluten free stuffing. Honestly, it tastes as good as regular stuffing. ENJOY!

P.S. If you like the name of this recipe... I chose it. If you don't... Chelsey chose it. Debbie

“REAL COOKING IS MORE ABOUT FOLLOWING YOUR HEART THAN FOLLOWING RECIPES.”
– UNKNOWN



**Carrot
Cake
Balls**

Ingredients:

- 1 cup walnuts
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 10 dates (pitted)
- 1 cup unsweetened coconut
- 1 cup grated carrot
- 2 tsp cinnamon (little less)
- 1/4 tsp sea salt

Add walnuts, raisins, cinnamon and salt to a food processor and pulse to get a good mixture going. Add dates until mixture is crumbly but will hold together. Add carrot and coconut. Roll into balls. Store in fridge or freezer

Honestly, these are very good, and have no added sugar. There's no storing. lol, they just don't last! Please note - this is not my recipe - a friend made it for me and I'm hooked. Yvonne

Two Letters to the Editor

Hi Bill,

Twenty-five years ago I graduated from the University of Alberta with an education degree and have been teaching junior high math ever since. This year I have taken a leave of absence, and am thoroughly enjoying the break and being able to participate in week-day activities that are just not possible during the school year. The Thursday morning prayer group at the church is one such activity.

"Hey Lord, it's Thursday! Here we are gathered together again to pray."

These sweet words from Gloria, as she prays every week, have become very dear to me. Every Thursday morning a faithful group of prayer warriors meet together to praise God for his faithfulness, thank him for all the wonderful things we are seeing him do, and to bring forward various concerns of our congregation. The meeting

starts with a short devotion followed by requests and concerns from the people present and what we are aware of from the prayer chain. The majority of the hour is spent in prayer with our fellow believers.

Prayer is a cornerstone of our faith. Our individual prayer lives are important, but so is corporate prayer. Psalm 34:3 says "Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together." By praying together we seek God's purpose for our lives and the church, share burdens together, and experience encouragement as we strengthen our faith together. We are a small group who would love to burst out of the conference room and take over the tables of the fellowship hall praying together in small groups.

Matthew 18:20 says. "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." As I have prayed weekly with this faithful group of believers for the last few months I have been blessed. To be able to come together as a collective group before our Heavenly Father with a common pur-

pose encourages me beyond measure. The deep love and care these people have for others and for our church touches me deeply and I strongly encourage everyone who is able to attend this weekly meeting.

Please join us on Thursdays from 10am - 11am in the lower level conference room.

If you have more questions about the prayer meeting, do not hesitate to reach out to me, Pastor Norm or contact the church office.

Krista Carlberg



"I am going to say my prayers ... do you need anything?"



Hello Bill,

Just want to say what a great job you are doing in Reflections. Thanks for your hard work in putting it together.

I'm sorry that my FATHER acrostic was incomplete in the June issue. The "E" for Example was missing in FATHER but I guess you ran

out of space. Anyway, it was a good issue. God bless you for all your time and effort.

I used to edit a paper about missions for our denomination called Gleanings" (From the Harvest Fields). I did it for over 20 years but quarterly, not monthly. It was sent by email to all the pastors in our NAB churches in Canada and the USA. It was fun and I had lots of good feedback. When my husband retired from being Missions Director for NAB, I felt I should retire, too, since a lot of missions news would no

longer come easily to me. Someone else was going to take over but she only did one issue and then quit. So, it no longer exists.

Ardath Effa

Ardath, thank you for the kind words and the encouragement. But, it is not me as much as it is the people who write the stories, and then tolerate my mutilating, (just ask Brad, Dale or Wayne) I mean editing, their stories, that makes the newsletter work so well.

I am so sorry about dropping the "E" portion of the

"FATHER" acrostic. I checked the June edition because I was puzzled about what happened. You were right - it was a spacing issue and unfortunately I didn't actually realize that it was an acrostic (not that I knew the term). I have learned something new thanks to you. I am also wondering, as restitution, if you would have a "Christmas" acrostic for the December issue of Reflections? I promise minimal editing! Ed.

God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called!

HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

253 Woodvale Road West
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 1E5

Phone: 780-461-5393
Email: office@hillviewchurch.ca
Website: hillviewchurch.ca

Back to School - 2024 Edition - by Gloria Swain

We all know that our church is situated on a hill. As we look around us there are some family dwellings, but the majority of our surroundings are low income family dwellings. What an opportunity to reach out to our community just before the start of school. We all remember how expensive it was to get our children back in school at the start of the year and today things are probably more costly. Out of this scenario our "Back 2 School" event was born.

No one knows the many hours of work that went into putting this event together. Hours spent at the church, in various homes and contacting many businesses and sponsors. On August 24th the long awaited day arrives. It is overcast and talks of showers, but the weather didn't keep our volunteers away. In total we had 72 volunteers show up from our church and our community. They came early and they stayed late. The weather didn't keep the families away either. Soon there was a line up at the registration table, to get registered for the draws and to pick up their school supplies.



We're in trouble here; maybe we do need the instructions!

Up the hill they went to get a free haircut, bounce in the bouncy castle, try their hand at various games, trying for a prize at each game and then getting their faces painted and finally to sit and rest and try their hand at art in the creative tent. Down the Hill, the Freedom Band was entertaining a lot of the parents, cooks were cooking and handing out free hotdogs and cold drinks. Tokyo Express was handing out free sushi and our clothing closet was giving away free clothes and kitchen items by the bag full.

A new feature this year was the prayer tent. Gloria and Uma manned that and were excited to have prayed for 9 people. Six Bibles were picked up, along with a dozen other Christian books.

We had security on hand along with a medic. Thankfully neither had to be used. Volunteers, we could not have done it without you and you all know who you are. Thank you so much.

To God be the Glory!

Fascinating Trivia - by Rick deLeeuw



"We're conducting a productivity study."

CHUCKING WOOD?

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

Well according to Cornell University, a woodchuck would chuck about 315 kilos (If it could). They say that compared to beavers, groundhogs/ woodchucks are not adept at moving lumber, although some will chew wood. A wildlife biologist once measured the inside volume of a typical woodchuck burrow and estimated that-if wood filled the hole instead of dirt-the industrious animal would have chucked about 315 kilos worth. For those who wish to express this in pounds...well it converts to approximately 694 pounds. That's a lot of wood for a woodchuck to chuck wood!