

Reflections

Shrove Tuesday -
March 4th
Decadence on Page 7



THE NEWSLETTER OF HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

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A Lesson in Trust and Providence - by Pastor Norm Bleick



The Ides of March, historically associated with the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 B.C., serves as a reminder of the consequences of betrayal and the uncertainty of human plans. In ancient Rome, the Ides simply referred to the middle of the month, often a time for settling debts. However, after Caesar's untimely demise, the phrase became synonymous with treachery and caution.

As Christians, we recognize that while history offers lessons, our faith calls us to a higher understanding of trust and divine providence. The Bible is clear that God's plans surpass human schemes. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" Unlike Caesar, who was surrounded by

betrayal, we have a Saviour who is faithful and true.

The events of the Ides of March highlight the frailty of earthly power. Despite his military genius and political influence, Caesar could not escape the consequences of human ambition and deceit. Yet, in contrast, Christ, the King of Kings, willingly laid down His life for us—not as a victim of betrayal, but as a fulfillment of God's perfect plan of redemption.

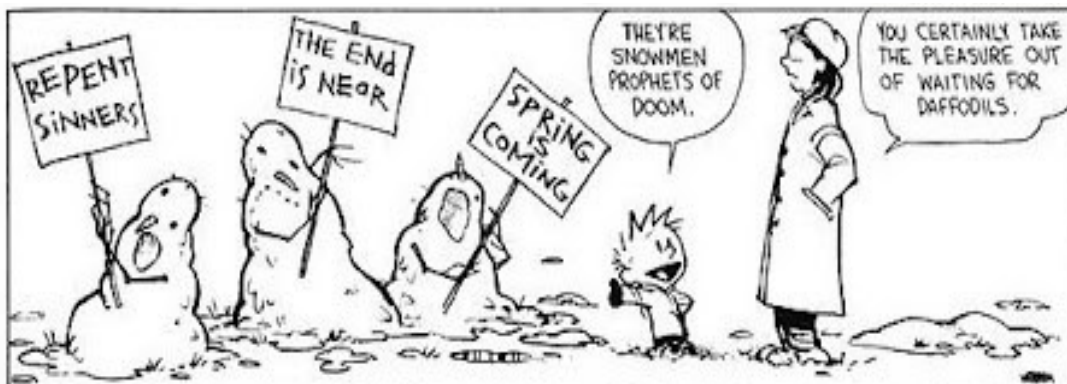
Rather than fearing what lies ahead, we are called to walk in faith, knowing that our times are in God's hands. The Ides of March is a reminder that human plans may fail, but the Lord's purposes always prevail. As we reflect on history, may we take comfort in the unwavering love and sovereignty of God, who guides our steps with grace and wisdom.

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Reflections



CAMPIO HAS,
HANDS DOWN,
THE BEST
PIZZA IN THE
CITY. SO
WHAT CAN YOU
EXPECT ...



Mark's dog, Maple
relaxing on the deck

The Best Pizza in Edmonton - by Mark Holmes

One of the challenges with doing a church newsletter is thinking up story topics and finding the people to write them. In our newsletter I have frequently indicated the need for stories, and made suggestions. The response has not overwhelmed my computer's hard drive. Last year when I was desperate for something, Pastor Norm suggested restaurant reviews. He then said there are many really great and unique restaurants in Edmonton. Really, I thought? Would Hillview people truly be interested in restaurant reviews? Maybe, but to me we are a Denny's and Swiss Chalet type of people. The bigger problem, who would I ask? I had no idea. Then a solution – as my son drove us to the airport for our Mexico vacation, he was raving about a restaurant. Here was my answer, sure he and his wife don't attend Hillview, but he can show the way, provide an example and, furthermore, he could not refuse, being my son and in my will. Here is Mark's review of Campio Brewing Company. Ed

In 2016 Edmonton was named one of the top international pizza destinations in the world. This list included known greatness such as Chicago and Naples, and I scoffed at the idea that Edmonton could be anywhere near that list. The article mentioned Boston Pizza (Mmm pierogi pizza) and Famoso (mmm thin crust pizza) as reasons why Edmonton was included on the list, but were

large chains like this really what we had to offer? So I got thinking about it more. I personally would have pointed to Royal Pizza as being Edmonton's best (maybe this is biased as Royal was mine, and my dad's, go to for movie night). But that all changed in 2018 when Campio Brewing opened its doors. Campio has, hands down, the best pizza in the city. So what can you expect from Campio? Well its pizza is THICK; there is no short-

on sharing an appetizer (their fried pepperoni is fantastic) and a single pizza. You will be stuffed full, bringing the cost down. Now this place is a brewery, so I would be remiss to not mention the drinks... except I don't drink and cannot comment on if their beers are any good. However, I suspect their rotating taps of Edmonton craft brews means there is going to be something for everyone. They also offer a variety of different sandwiches



Sandra, Mark, Bill and Joy (left to right)

age of toppings here. Cooking up "Detroit" deep dish style pizza, they offer 11 different options. The menu standout is "The Big McDavid" which immediately draws the eye of any hockey fans, but my personal go-to is the "Sydney to Halifax" that repurposes a donair into a pizza. That being said, I have yet to experience any one of their pizzas and not found myself sitting in a cheesy induced happy place; they are all so good. This deliciousness does not come cheap. At \$27 for a pizza, the price adds up for a family, but all but the most hungry teenagers can probably survive

and burgers if you are not a pizza person (I heard those people exist somewhere). But I implore you, go for the pizza, you won't be disappointed. You just might find yourself returning regularly, just like my cousin who goes every time he visits the city, or my puppy who really loves their pet friendly patio in the summer. Edmonton may no longer be the "City of Champions", but the city of "Campions" is definitely on the table.

*Campio's address is:
10257 - 105 Street
587-635-1952 Ed*

35 Bible Facts- compiled by Kurt Redschlag using the KJV



1. The Bible is made up of two testaments: a) Old Testament and b) New Testament
2. The Bible is composed of 66 books a) 39 books in the OT and b) 27 books in the NT
3. The Bible has 1,189 chapters: a) 929 in the OT and b) 260 in the NT
4. The Bible has 31,102 verses: a) 23,145 in the OT and b) 7,957 in the NT
5. The Bible contains 773,692 words: a) 592,439 in the OT and b) 181,253 in the NT
6. The Bible contains 12,143 different words
7. The word used in the Bible most often is the word *the*
8. The longest book in the Bible is Psalms
9. The shortest book in the Bible is 3 John
10. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119
11. The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117
12. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9
13. The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35
14. The longest word in the Bible is *Maher-shalal-hash-baz* (Isaiah 8:30)
15. The longest sentence in the Bible is the genealogy of Jesus (467 words – Luke 3:23-38)
16. The middle chapter of the Bible is Psalm 117
17. The word *Trinity* does not appear in the Bible
18. The only book of the Bible that does not contain the word *God* is Esther
19. Green is the first colour mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 1:30)
20. Manasseh was the longest reigning king (55 years – 2 King 21:1)
21. Zimri was the shortest reigning king (7 days – 1 Kings 16:15)
22. A total of 188 different women are mentioned in the Bible
23. There are twelve books of the Bible that start with the letter *J*
24. Paul uses the word *grace* within the first five verses of each epistle he wrote
25. David is mentioned 1,139 times in the Bible
26. Every quote Jesus used against Satan was from Deuteronomy
27. Jesus called himself the *Son of man* 79 times in the Gospels
28. Word for word Luke wrote more of the NT than Paul
29. Joseph was the only person in Genesis to live less than 120 years (Genesis 50:21)
30. Galatians 1:14 contains all the letters of the alphabet except *k*
31. The gospel of John contains no parables
32. Stephen was the first Christian to be martyred (Acts 6:7-8:2)
33. James was the first of the 12 disciples to be martyred (Acts 12:2)
34. The first command given in the Bible was *Let there be light* (Genesis 1:3)
35. The last word in the Bible is *Amen* (Revelation 22:21)

Reflections

Mountains After the Flood - movie review by Bill Holmes

BASICALLY THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES, THE FOLDING OCCURRED VERY SLOWLY OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS OR ...



The visuals are of high quality, especially the rafting scenes. Now I have a thrilling idea on how Joy and I can celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary; a rafting trip through the Grand Canyon! With enough lime margaritas I am sure I can get her onto the boat.

The color of rock layers were impressive, as was the Canyon itself. To me the collection of rock samples was the most interesting part; I was less enthused with the preparation and analysis of the rock samples. Obviously this movie would not be for everyone, its focus is on the scientific process, rather than rafting the Colorado River. But if you are curious as to what evidence exists to prove Noah's flood, this movie will give you something to think about.

The narration suggests there is lots of research/evidence that supports the creation model. It is the best explanation for what we see at the Grand Canyon and, indeed throughout the world. I was struck by one statement – the expected reaction by conventional scientists will be to either simply ignore the data or attack the creation scientists. That response seems very prevalent in today's culture. The issue is not the physical evidence, that becomes indisputable, but rather how you interpret it based on your predetermined biases and inclinations.

**Read:
Psalm 104: 6-9**

In the January issue of our newsletter, Wayne Baker's story on Noah's Flood provided a reference to a "YouTube" movie titled "Mountains after the Flood". I was intrigued, and decided to watch the movie while working diligently at absorbing doctor prescribed doses of Vitamin D in Mexico.

How did the folds happen? Basically there are two possibilities, the folding occurred very slowly over millions of years or it happened quickly before the layer had time to harden. I am probably not explaining it well but the movie goes into depth in outlining the two options. The movie is a master class on how both creation scientists and conventional (i.e. secular) scientists do science.

In the movie they admitted they look at things differently, just like our Prime Minister. They do not follow the preconceived and well-established paradigm or theory that the world, as we see it today, was created over billions of years. Unlike secular scientists they are willing to examine the very foundation of evolutionary geology. The movie does get technical and my interest did wane occasionally with all the laboratory scenes, but there was an Alberta angle. The rock samples were prepared by Ray Strom, a rock specialist with the oil/gas industry in Calgary.

The movie focuses on the work of Andrew Snelling and John Whitmore, both with Ph.D.'s in Geology. They undertook this trip through the Grand Canyon looking for evidence that various rock layers visible within the Canyon were laid down during the flood. The objective, find proof to connect Genesis with our existing world. They were looking for confirmation of a catastrophic worldwide flood.

The Grand Canyon provides the opportunity to find this proof and a perfect excuse for two middle aged men to take a rafting trip. Their major focus is the "folding" of various rock layers that can easily be accessed within the can-



examining the "fold" or "bend" in the rock formation

Rest in Peace - by Pastor Norm at the request of the Editor

In one of my recent messages, I spoke of the slang term we used on the railroad to refer to the tracks where we shunted disabled stock. The RIP tracks were at the shops, the garage if you will. There the carmen, or shop track people, would work on damaged cars like the one I damaged one sunny afternoon.

RIPs stood for Rest In Peace. The RIP tracks were the yard's trophy case of poor judgment or bad luck. Accidents happen when people are in a hurry. And I was. We were switching a train and there was a cut of grain hoppers destined for Prince Rupert while the rest of the train was going to Vancouver. I "kicked" the Ridley Island cars down the lead track, but they stopped prematurely. I already released some Vancouver cars back into track 16. There was a collision. Some metal got bent. Off to the RIPs we went.

The first letter in RIP stands for Rest. Rest is a concept established in the story of creation. God created all things in 6 days and on the seventh day He rested. We might not think of God as someone who needs to rest but there are profound theological implications. The idea of Sabbath is reiterated in Exodus 20. Of the 10 commandments, it ranks 4th. It is the sign of the Mosaic covenant and must not be broken. Rest is linked to God's promise to Abraham and Jesus' promise to his followers.

The next letter, I, stands for "in". Prepositions are famously important in the Scriptures. God wanted Moses to lead Israel into the Promised Land. Due to disobedience in the desert an entire generation never crossed the Jordan. Neither did Moses and for the same reason: disobedience. The Promised Land foreshadows a greater promise, a promise spoken of at length in the book of Hebrews. A promise Jesus made to the thief on the cross: "today you will be with me in Paradise." Heaven is a place that must be believed to be seen. We come to the Lord in faith and enter in to a place prepared for His followers. This promise speaks to the last letter in our acronym: P. Peace. Shalom.

The Hebrew concept of shalom is one of wholeness, wellness, and more. Peace is the absence of conflict, a place of harmony and security, no malice, no threats, nothing to fear. Peace is reflected in a baby sleeping in its mother's arms, safe and secure from all alarms. It is the picture and promise of Revelation 21:2-4

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'"



You have heard of "Finding Waldo", this is the "Finding Pastor Norm" version.

THE RIP TRACKS WERE THE YARD'S TROPHY CASE OF POOR JUDGMENT OR BAD LUCK. ACCIDENTS HAPPEN ...

Reflections

Miranda and Memories - by Bill and Joy Holmes



On Monday, February 24 Jonathan Snook shared some devastating news: his wife, Miranda, has relocated to

heaven, probably to start another Bible study. Miranda died after a short but intensive fight with cancer. She was such a gentle soul and was everyone's best friend. Although it was expected, Joy and I were, and still are, filled with an overwhelming sense of sadness and grief. We loved that girl as a second daughter.

We first got to know her in 2007 because of her friendship with our daughter, Meredith. In our house, they were the two "M's", until Matthew came along as an inadequate substitute.

For sure, we trusted Miranda with our daughter, Matthew not so much! She played and sang at Meredith's wedding.

Of course, her death makes absolutely no sense from our limited human perspective. Why God needs her in heaven is beyond our earthly comprehension. But God is God and He never promised Christians a life in a rose garden. He never suggested that our lives as Christians would be luxurious, comfortable and/or painless, not even for those who love

and serve him, as Miranda did for years as a Bible study leader, and worship pianist/vocalist. However, Jesus did promise, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age". (Matthew 28.20).

Miranda is now occupying a mansion, and probably having wonderful conversations with Jesus and as Christians we will in time see her again and make music and sing many songs together. As Meredith said, through her tears, "it is better for her but incredibly difficult for the rest of us"

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING" PROVERBS 3:5,6



Jared, Miranda and Lillian

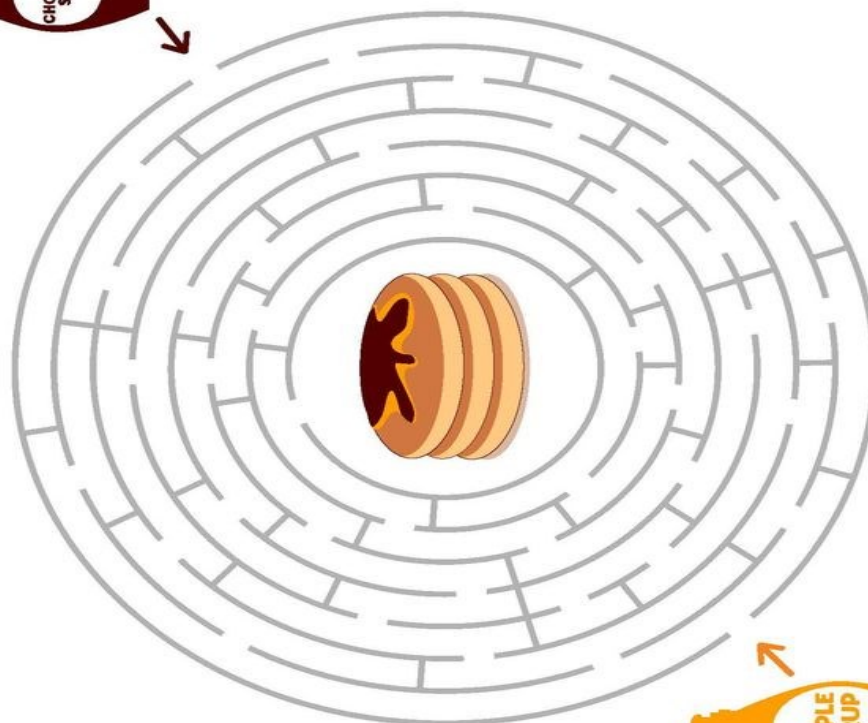
Activity Page

PANCAKE

Amazing



Draw a line through the maze to discover which topping will lead to the pancake



Chocolate Pancakes

For the pancakes

Ingredients:

- 1 cups all purpose flour
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup granulated white sugar
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 3 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate, grated or roughly chopped

Instructions:

- Sift the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt together into a large bowl.
- Add the eggs, sugar, buttermilk, canola oil, and vanilla extract. Mix until almost completely incorporated. Set the batter aside for 10 minutes.

- Over a medium-low heat, grease a nonstick skillet or griddle with butter (or oil). Use a quarter cup measure to scoop out pancakes and cook until bubbles begin to form, approx 3-4 minutes.
- Add a sprinkle of grated chocolate to the tops of the cooking pancakes. Gently turn over the pancakes, and finish cooking through the opposite side, approx 2-3 minutes. Repeat with remaining batter.

For the chocolate ganache

Ingredients:

- 140 grams bittersweet chocolate
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Raspberries, for topping

Instructions:

- Add the bittersweet chocolate and heavy cream to a medium-sized bowl. Microwave in 20-30 second intervals, mixing in between, until melted and smooth.

The will of God never takes you to where the grace of God will not protect you.

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Some people think God created the universe. Some people think nothing created the universe. And the nothing people make fun of the God people. They say God doesn't exist. I'm like, okay, but you know what definitely doesn't exist - nothing! That's the defining characteristic of nothing, is that it doesn't exist. So, what are we talking about? Either you think it's God, something you can't see, touch, taste, photograph and science can't prove; or you think it's nothing, something you can't see, touch, taste, photograph and science can't prove. But, I think we can all agree, if your nothing sometimes spontaneously

erupts into everything, that's a pretty magical nothing.

This is a transcribed and abridged comedy routine by Pete Holmes (no relation), taken from a YouTube video. It is funny in a thought provoking way. Actually, I believe you can determine that God exists through rational thought, study and by just observing our amazing world. Sure, his observations are theologically questionable, but usually it is Christians and our beliefs that are being mocked, to me it is somehow refreshing and/or poetic that a comedian is making fun of atheists, for a change. Ed



Rick's Trivia - by Rick deLeeuw

caboose is the train car from which a conductor oversees the train's operation. It is not because it rhymes with va-moose, which would be such a lovely explanation. Like

many word origins, this one is a bit unclear, but there are some good theories. One is that it comes from two Dutch words: **Kaban huis** (for shop's gallery or cabin house or shelters to protect the crew's fireplaces), which eventually got mixed into one word: **Kabuus**.

But Texans claim the word originated there. They say that caboose is an Americanization of **calabozo**, a Spanish word meaning jailhouse, which is another small enclosed space. How that translates into the wooden shanty at the back of a long freight train, seems to be lost...although the trips were long and the conductor or trainmen might have felt like they were in jail.

What we do know is that caboose began to be used in the western part of North America around

1859. It was similar to the sort of space for the crew that you'd find on a ship. In the east, the caboose was called a way car, cabin car, crew car, crummy, shanty, brakeman's cab, train car, accommodation car or conductor's van. Caboose is used in the West today, and "way car" is still often used in the East.

When was the last time you have seen a "Caboose?" I've lost track! Pun intended!

When I was researching for the trivia for this month's edition I found this particular trivia, - it reminded me of Pastor Norm's stories with his time working on the railroad.

So why is the last car of a train called a caboose? A

Hymn Challenge

From the January issue - here is the answer:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Dentist's Hymn --- Crown Him with many Crowns | 7. Optometrist's Hymn -- Open my Eyes That I Might See |
| 2. Weatherman's Hymn -- There Shall be Showers of Blessing | 8. The Tax Man's Hymn -- I Surrender All |
| 3. Contractor's Hymn -- The Church's one Foundation | 9. The Electrician's Hymn -- Send The Light |
| 4. The Tailor's Hymn -- Holy,Holy,Holy | 10. The Realtor's Hymn -- I've Got a Mansion, Just over the Hilltop |
| 5. The Golfer's Hymn -- There's a Green Hill Far Away | 11. The Massage Therapist's Hymn -- He Touched Me |
| 6. The Politician's Hymn -- Standing on the Promises | 12. The Doctor's Hymn -- The Great Physician |
| | 13. The Miner's Hymn -- How Deep is the Father's Love |