

Reflections

October 2025

A newsletter for the community of Hillview Baptist Church

October is the Best Time - by Pastor Norm



ctober is my favourite month of the year. The hockey season begins full of hope for an Oiler's Stanley Cup, the NFL is in full swing and the World Series unfurls its historic mystique.

It is the month in which we celebrate Thanks-giving. Every year we take time on the second Monday of October to concentrate upon those things for which we are most grateful. The list is consistent: family and friends, health, provision, church and salvation.

I thought it might be interesting to take a look at the things the Apostle Paul was thankful for. In most of his letters Paul expresses gratitude for different things, some of which we share with

him, some of which might be a surprise... Things the Apostle Paul says he's thankful for:

- The **faith** of believers Paul frequently expresses gratitude for the faith of those to whom he writes (e.g., Romans 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 2 Thessalonians 1:3).
- The **love** among believers he gives thanks for the love Christians show to each other and others (e.g., Ephesians 1:15-16, Colossians 1:4).
- The **growth and perseverance** of the church Paul is thankful for the spiritual growth, steadfastness, and endurance of the churches (e.g., Philippians 1:3-5, Colossians 1:6, 2 Thessalonians 1:4).

- The **grace** of God given to believers he often mentions his gratitude for God's grace at work in the lives of Christians (e.g., 1 Corinthians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 9:14-15).
- The **generosity and partnership** in the gospel Paul thanks God for the support, generosity, and partnership of churches and individuals in spreading the gospel (e.g., Philippians 1:5, Philippians 4:10-16, 2 Corinthians 8:16).
- **Spiritual gifts** among believers he expresses gratitude for the spiritual gifts that God gives to the church (e.g., 1 Corinthians 1:4-7).
- **Deliverance** from danger and hardship Paul thanks God for deliverance and answered prayers in times of trouble (e.g., 2 Corinthians 1:10-11).
- God's **provision and comfort** he is grateful for God's comfort and provision in difficult circumstances (e.g., 2 Corinthians 1:3 –4, 2 Corinthians 2:14).

(Continued on page 5)

Volume 4

Issue 9

Special points of interest:

- Photographspage 8
- Puzzle page 9
- Pizza explainedpage 10
- And some cartoons

Inside this issue:

Local Missions	2
Youth Report	3
Library Information and Building Update	4
Men's Bible Study	5
Women Bible Study and Worship Insights	6
Children's Church and New Testament	7
Charlie Brown Understandings	10

Page 2 Reflections

Hillview's Local Missions - by Gloria Swain

ne thing I love is keeping track of things. In other words, I love statistics. I find it helps me to visualize progress, be it good or bad. With this article, I want to show you what your prayers, generosity and donations are doing in our Hillview Community.



Hillview Garden Plots

I believe the results of this outreach is self-evident as we look up on the hill and see that harvest is almost ready. There are a total of 21 plots, 8 of which are used by our own church people, 11 are used by people from the community and two have been planted for the Food Bank.

Hats off to Howard who is constantly pumping water from the roof reservoir to a storage tank located closer to the garden beds. We have not had to use tap water because God has supplied enough rain water. It is encouraging to see the likes of Larry and Hank out there watering all the plots and pulling the odd weed. Working together and for each other is what makes Community. Thanks to all involved.

Food Bank, Bible Distribution and the Clothing Depot.

During the month of July we helped 5 additional families because a nearby distribution centre shut down for the month of July. This has created more work, but our volunteers never complain. There are ten volunteers who come on a regular ba-



sis. Pastor Norm shows up to help unload the truck periodically and Rick deLeeuw is always available when one of the regulars is away. We have the best volunteers in all of Edmonton!

Bibles are also available, we handed out 448 Bibles, some of which Hillview Church members have donated.



Our Clothing Depot is ably run by Donalda. It's hard to keep track of how much clothing has been taken, but we try to count hangers. The last count was at 7,145. This does not include bedding, towels, kitchen items and shoes. Many of you have donated these items. I just wish there was some way we could convey to you what your contributions have meant to the people in our community. Thank you.

Inhouse Pantry

Since January we have had 11 people access the pantry, a couple of people on more than one occasion. Five were church families and six from the community. Presently our cupboard is well stocked and it seems donations arrive just as we need them. There has been no need to advertise for donations. All items are marked with an expiration

date. After 6 months we either forward the items to the food bank or dispose of them ourselves, depending on the item.

The pantry room has been rearranged, making for much better usage of the space, for the food, clothing and the Bibles.

Through the Benevolent Fund we have provided \$900 to two church families. This fund is carefully monitored and money is only for emergency cases.



White Christmas

Last year with a wonderful donation from the Woodvale Community League and donations from many of you we gave a total of \$1,200 to nine families. These families were identified by Hillview School. Eight families from the church received \$400. We also purchased some extra gift cards. These cards are for emergency situations (e.g. baby formula). The total combined amount spent was \$2,900!

Hopefully, this will give you a better understanding of some of the things we are accomplishing in our community. God Bless each one for your love, prayers and support.

To God Be the Glory. Amen!

Additional food bank volunteers -

Overseer: Yvonne Aben

Volunteers: Wayne Baker, Doug Crosby, Larry Hubscher, Gerald Kabetz, Janet Adam, Margaret Dolezal, Mo

Worobec, Gloria Swain, Backups: Hank Tweedy.

Hope I have not missed anyone. Ed

Wednesday Excitement - by Brad Baker and Chelsey Hurst



A scary point at the Wednesday's Youth Night!

ome Wednesday evening at the church, you might have noticed that a sign appeared on the door to the basement. A note of welcome goes up on the door from 7-8:30, inviting our youth to come on in!

Myself (Brad) and Chelsey launched a youth group at the beginning of July. If you haven't noticed our sign, I'm sure you have heard us over in the fireside room if you have been around. Typically, we number around 6 youth in the age range of 11 to 17. When we gather, we share a time of games, discussion, prayer, and on occasion, yummy food.

This youth group grew out of a perceived need at Hillview. We believe that our youth are vital, both in our church life and in our world. When Pastor Norm noted that the number of youth at Hillview had grown, he approached us with the shared sentiment held by many at

Hillview—that these youth deserve to be served. This youth group was hence formed to serve them by providing both a solid Biblical foundation and a space where they can form community.

Each month, we divide our gatherings as follows: the first gathering of the month is our teaching night, where we have been unfolding various aspects of the Christian faith (more on this later). The second gathering of the month is oriented around application. Questions and discussions are fielded around the previous week's teaching in order to help translate our learning into living. Our third gathering involves a guest from within the church body. We believe that integration with the rest of our church family is of great importance, so we take these nights as an opportunity to introduce other members of Hillview Baptist Church, as they share from the scriptures and their lives. And lastly, our final

gathering is a 'fun' night, with snacks (as voted upon), games, and activities.

The vision for our youth group is centered around salvation. Too often, salvation can merely become a question of what we are saved "from". While this is incredibly important, we also want to make sure the youth know and are prepared to participate in what they are saved "to"—to the joy, life, holiness, and relationships, to name a few such things—that God's salvation makes available to us, right here and now. To this end, the lessons now and over the next while will be focused on faith itself. The Bible is extensive in its use of the metaphor of 'walking' when it describes faith.

Faith, Biblically speaking, encompasses all of life as we 'walk' with God and in God's ways. At the beginning of August we began to talk about how our walk/life at some point needs to become a journey of discipleship—of knowing, serving, obeying, and becoming like Jesus. We hope and pray (and would like you to pray with us) that our youth will not just know things about God, but that they indeed will come to know him personally, and that their lives will be given to and transformed by God's presence as they walk with him.

If you would like to pray for our youth and our times together, and if you might be interested in being one of our special guests, we welcome all of your considerations! Please contact Chelsey or Brad for more information.

Page 4 Reflections

A Library Story - by Barb Hubscher



Hillview's Library

ur library was amassed and assembled by two avid readers, Ardath and Herman Effa. A good number of the books were donated by other churches that were culling or closing their libraries. When Ardath felt she was no longer able to commit to the weekly task she asked me to take over because, as quite a few of you know, I too am an avid reader.

There are basically six sections to the library: a children's, inspirational, missions/biographical, novels, videos and music DVDs. We also have some materials that are suitable for Bible studies and children's studies. Each week there is a selection for your review displayed in the foyer.

Books can be borrowed from the library before and after the Church service. If you want to borrow a book/video and I am not around, simply print your name on the card at the back of the item, the date you borrowed it and I will file the next time I am in the library. Books can be borrowed for three weeks and renewed for a further three weeks if needed.

Donations of books are very welcome but please advise me that

you are donating books so that I can check if we have them and if they are the type of book we want to carry, for example weekly devotional books geared for a year of devotions are not part of our lending library. We have a few series of books that are incomplete and I frequently check used book stores and thrift shops for a book we may be missing from these series.

Books that are surplus or duplicates are put out for Food Bank patrons to take. God can use even these humble offerings to plant a seed of faith that can grow to maturity. We make every effort to put good, wholesome reading into the hands of our congregation and any who may want them. Thanks

Property Update - by Howard Adam



"I don't know why the congregation thinks we need to shore up the church."

ell, with all the routine maintenance both inside and outside of the church, we are very busy. Damaged ceiling tiles in the sanctuary have been replaced, although there are some in the staircase still to be done.

"Little Hands Playschool" have another year on their rental contract.



At a recent Executive Council meeting the Trustees were directed to look into the possibility of air conditioning for the sanctuary.

So far so good.

Trustees look after and manage our church building and property. They have a variety of essential responsibilities such as moving snow around, trimming lawns, obtaining quotes and changing the sign etc. According to a confidential source, they are in order of priority - Howard Adam, Bob Hickman, Larry Hubscher, Martin Hurst, and Warren MacDonald. (Actually, I am joking they are all a priority, indispensable too.) Ed.

Wednesday Night for Men - by Dale Hufnagel



tarting in September, the men's study group will return to highlighting Biblical events and historical discussions using the Ray Vander Laan video series: "That the World May Know" published by Focus on the Family and Zondervan.com.

The next series is titled: The Path to the Cross, and focuses on embracing obedience and sacrifice. Ray takes us on location to Qumran, Machaerus, the En

Gedi, Jerusalem, and Gethsemane. We will explore the influence of the Essenes*, John the Baptist, Christ's time in the desert, the last supper and the "fifth cup" of Gethsemane on our understanding of the way to the cross of Christ.

The next seven lessons are entitled: Walking with God in the Desert—Experiencing Living Water When Life Is Tough. The lessons are filmed on site in the deserts of South Sinai, Egypt, and Israel. We'll explore how it is "that it's only when we are totally dependent on him that we find him closer than ever and can experience God's amazing grace and provision."

Perhaps we will have time to begin the third series before Christmas, which is entitled: Israel's Mission—Becoming a Kingdom of Priests in a Prodigal World. We will explore historical sites with Ray at the Negev, Timnah, Qatzrin, and Jerash (in Jordan). We will seek to "discover the mission that can give your life— and the lives of those around you—greater meaning than you ever imagined".

If we don't get that far, I'm sure we will enjoy a week or 2 of a side trip into another stimulating discussion perhaps related to advent, or wherever the Spirit leads us. As always, I am looking forward to moderating our discussions and discoveries during our joint journey as men. If you have not visited us, you are always encouraged to check us out. We will welcome you.

*Essenes were an apocalyptic Jewish sect, living in an extremely challenging desert environment from the 2nd century BC to the 1st century AD, known for their communal lifestyle and strict observance of Jewish Law.

October is the Best Time

(Continued from page 1)

- The **hope** of salvation and eternal life Paul gives thanks for the hope that believers have in Christ (e.g., 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Colossians 1:12-13).
- The **faithfulness** of God he is thankful for the reliability and faithfulness of God in fulfilling His promises (e.g., 1 Thessalonians 5:24, 2 Thessalonians 3:3).
- **New converts** and their testimony Paul thanks God when new believers come to faith and for the testimony they bear (e.g., Romans 6:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

• All circumstances – He encourages giving thanks in all situations, modeling gratitude even in suffering (e.g., 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:20).

This season, let us reflect and consider joining Paul in focusing on the same things for which he was thankful; even suffering. Perhaps more can be said on the positive aspects of suffering, but for now let us reflect on these two passages as we move closer to Thanksgiving Day.

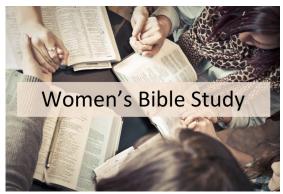
Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not

put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. - Romans 5.3-5 (ESV)

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. -- 2Corinthians 12.9-10 (ESV)

Page 6 Reflections

Wednesday Night for Women - by Marcy Hufnagel



ur Wednesday evening Ladies Bible Study resumed on September 3. We are continuing our study of the final 14 chapters of the book of Matthew.

Come join us as we delve into more of Jesus' teachings and

parables as well as His miracles. Chapters 24-25 are Jesus speaking of the end times. I'm sure we'll see much of what we are experiencing in the world today. Does this mean His coming is imminent? The end of the book takes us into the study of the final week of Jesus' life and His great sacrifice for us so that we may have life, peace, and freedom in Him.

Don't worry that you missed the first half of Matthew for there is so much more to discover of who Jesus is and how he wants us to live for Him. Finally, we always have time for sharing prayer needs and praying for one anoth-

er as we grow as sisters in Christ.

We truly want to see you in the conference room at 7 pm Wednesday evenings.



Centre Stage - by Keith Wourms

The following is a quick review and update on the Worship Ministry.

We continue to maintain and update the equipment that supports the onstage offering, with small associated updates to the mixer settings, etc. We are also reviewing the lighting system to add improvements at essentially no cost. Some of those changes are targeted at tweaking the Livestream quality.

As for worship teams, we continue to pray for persons for all positions including singers, musicians and production technicians. My personal objective has always been to work myself out of a job.

I am so grateful for those that continue to come most weeks to lead and serve. We are not able to maintain distinct teams at this



On stage - left to right: Krista Carlberg, Bob Tweed, Christine MacDonald, Norm Bleick, and Martin Hurst

time, however my intent and ongoing endeavor is to enable and support additional team leaders, such that we can have at least two teams. This will ease the burden on some and provide consistency for times that I am away.

We plan to go back to having a slightly different format for Communion Sunday with a higher percentage of hymns.

I have appreciated those of you who have provided feedback over the last 18 months. My desire is to continue to grow and learn in my role and responsibilities, as well as be 'in touch' with your needs and preferences; all while following and honouring our Father, Saviour and Holy Spirit.

Blessings

Additional worship members are Keith Wourms, Bradley Baker, Brian and Evangeline Worobec, Gift Avwomakpa, Darren Hoflin and Trevor Mallet. Ed

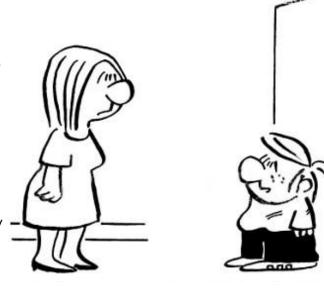
Children at Hillview- by Anne Marie Bruce

The childrens ministry is experiencing growing pains and as such the children's church is going through a transition. We are still on the lookout for a children's ministry director. A job description has been created for the role. However, I do not know where we are regarding recruitment. Nevertheless, I think it will be great to have a person leading who is passionate about children's ministry and Christian education.

Going forward, I expect numbers of children to remain the same, around 25-30 children attending semi-regularly or regularly. Of course it would be wonderful to see even more growth! Our goal for the future is to split the group into two rooms and have a 4-7 year old group and an 8-10 year old group. Presently, we are

inviting children ages 4-10 to join us. Our teachings will be primarily directed towards our younger group as they are the majority. Older children are welcome to attend or stay in the sanctuary.

In the meantime, we will be moving forward with our team of six. Gabby and I will be leading twice per month. Katie, Elaine, Marlene and Arline will be taking turns to assist us one Sunday a month.



I got excommunicated from Children's Church!

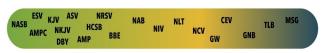
New Testament Translations - by Wayne Baker

Types of Bible Translations

WORD-FOR-WORD

THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT

IDEA-FOR-IDEA



Literal

Dynamic

Paraphrase

In the September newsletter I wrote about Old Testament translations and how we can be confident they are accurate and reliable. With the New Testament, we also can be confident that they are the inspired Word of God. We can be confident because most books or passages begin with the name of the person, the author. Occasionally pronouns referring to the individual may be changed to the authors name simply to remind the

reader who is being referred to in
long passages.
Most changes here
are insignificant or
a change to provide clarity. There
are some passages, like the end of
Mark that are in
some manuscripts

but not others. The passage at the end of Mark supports a group that thinks God will protect from snake bites. However, Christ warns us not to depend on God and do careless things for personal glory. There are many examples of God's protection in the Scriptures. Those examples are for those who accept God's will and clearly Jesus was not spared the Cross. But God had a much greater plan.

To sum up. The translator has a difficult job. Living languages change over time. Languages also have idioms, hyperbolae, exaggeration, sarcasm, inuendo, and other linguistic and forms which may not translate well into other languages. However, you need context to understand which meaning is to be used. Translating languages requires awareness of the nuance of both the original language and the language one is translating it into. One should also be aware that sometimes you will not always have an exact match for the meaning between the two languages.



Page 8 Reflections

Random Pictures





"God Almighty first planted a garden. And indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures." – Francis Bacon

Sybil working the flower bed because it makes her happy. It also brings so much joy to everyone who stops to enjoy it, even for a moment.



An unknown audio/video technician entering the church's top-secret hidey-hole.



Hank Tweedy feeling good about himself after helping create - a spotless kitchen.

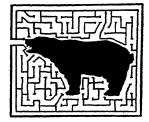


The September 14th parking lot barbecue. Another successful event, all thanks to the Hospitality people.



A Maze Puzzle

Granny's old grey goose is lost,
Please come and help her find it,
You'll have to look within this maze,
I'm sure you will not mind it.



To travel the maze, enter at the gate with your pencil. The puzzling part is to find the right path. It will bring you out at your starting point and will also find Granny's goose. You must not cross a line, not even your own pencil line. At first, make your lines lightly, so you can erase if you must.

When you have found the right path, make your pencil line heavier and fill in the outline with pencil or crayon. This will make Granny's goose stand out clearly in solid colour like the lion and bear at the top of the page.

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Rick's Trivia - by Rick deLeeuw

The History and Lore of Pizza



n Sunday August 31, there was a pizza lunch here at our church, arranged by Bill and Joy Holmes.** There was both traditional pizza and special pizza that was gluten and dairy free, as well drinks, even chocolate milk. It got me thinking about pizza and it's history.

Pizza originated in Naples Italy.



No surprise here! The dish as we know it emerged in 18th century as a cheap and quick meal for the city's working class. The modern version evolved from ancient flat breads that were topped with ingredients like tomatoes, cheese, garlic, and anchovies. The first documented use of the word pizza was in 997 AD in Gaeta, Italy. Although, Italians developed and perfected their style of pizza making, they were not the only culture that appreciated the ease and deliciousness of the dish. Some people credit the Chinese with the invention, but the Greeks (and others) also had a role. The Greeks baked a flatbread known as plakous baked in mud ovens. Italian immigrants brought pizza to the U.S.A., with the first pizza place, "Lombardi's" opening in the early 20th century.

Did you know:

- the Americans love pizza so much they eat about 100 acres of pizza everyday. That equates to 350 slices every second.
- 93% of Americans eat pizza at least once a month.
- 36% of Americans eat pizza as a breakfast meal.
- The most popular pizza topping is Pepperoni. Sausage is second. 221,770,000 lbs. of pep-

- peroni are consumed every year. That's over 334 tons a day.
- The Hawaiian Pizza was invented in Canada.

Next slice you eat, consider all the history, every slice counts!

** Regarding the pizza lunch over 50 people attended, but there were problems. We had to wait patiently for lunch. Domino's misheard and the delivery was late. But no worries, the dessert cookies were devoured as appetizers. James and Angie helped by bringing a perfectly ripe watermelon. However, no knife could be found, which just adding to my sky-rocketing stress levels. Luckily, Debbie and Christine arrived and knew where the utensils resided. Otherwise, there was a hammer! But the mess! Elaine would still be cleaning it up. And finally, an insufficient amount of pizza was ordered. Google and Dominio's all said to order 12 pizzas, but they obviously were not thinking of Hillview type people. However, I truly believe you can learn a lot from failure because it can lead to future success. Ed