



## From Our Church to Your Home

Pastor Joseph Howard

Once upon a time a Sea Horse gathered up his seven pieces of eight and cantered out to find his fortune. Before he had traveled very far he met an Eel, who said,

"Psst. Hey, bud, Where 'ya goin'?"

"I'm going out to find my fortune," replied the Sea Horse, proudly.

"You're in luck," said the Eel. "For four pieces of eight you can have this speedy flipper, and then you'll be able to get there a lot faster."

"Gee, that's swell," said the Sea Horse, and paid the money and put on the flipper and slithered off at twice the speed. Soon he came upon a Sponge, who said,

"Psst. Hey, bud. Where 'ya goin'?"

"I'm going out to find my fortune," replied the Sea Horse.

"You're in luck," said the Sponge.

"For a small fee I will let you have this

jet-propelled scooter so that you will be able to travel a lot faster."

So the Sea Horse bought the scooter with his remaining money and went zooming thru the sea fives times as fast. Soon he came upon a Shark, who said,

"Psst. Hey, bud. Where 'ya goin'?"

"I'm going to find my fortune," replied the Sea Horse.

"You're in luck. If you'll take this short cut," said the Shark, pointing to his open mouth, "you'll save yourself a lot of time."

"Gee, thanks," said the Sea Horse, and zoomed off into the interior of the Shark, and was never heard from again.

The moral of this fable is that if you're not sure where you're going, you're liable to end up someplace else.

- Robert F. Mager, Instructional Objectives



*"The Epistle to the Hebrews was written by the eternal Spirit for the whole Church of God in all ages. It shows us on what footing we are to stand before God as sinners; and in what way we are to draw near as worshippers."*

Horatius Bonar,  
The Rent Veil

## Reflections from Hebrews

Hebrews can be intimidating, but it offers the reward of laying essential groundwork for the life of the believer. It clarifies the source of our salvation and clears the way towards our sanctification. The pen of the author touches that which is so rarely addressed from our lips; namely, doubts over the certainty of our salvation. As the old familiar hymn teaches, "when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail." God intends for the surety of our salvation to stand firmly on who Christ is and what He has done - Hebrews drives this conviction home with force and finesse. With equal force, this epistle drives

into our hearts that sanctification is also by faith. "Personal imperfection on the one hand, and vicarious perfection on the other, are the solemn truths which pervade the whole. There is no day nor hour in which evil is not coming forth from us, and in which the great blood shedding is not needed to wash it away." God desires worshipers and is glorified when we boldly worship Him on the basis of what Christ did and is continually doing.

Spaced throughout the letter, just as mile markers are spaced along the highway, we are given warnings to keep us on track. Our first of five warnings is that we wouldn't drift from the things we have heard.

**Perhaps you have drifted; rest assured, He wants thee back again as the vessel of His love.**

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Sunday Morning Worship:  
Bible Discovery Groups | 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship | 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study | 6:00 PM

Visit us online @ [www.fbcwj.church](http://www.fbcwj.church)  
6605 West Jefferson Road, Quinton

# A Letter from the Pastor

*The greatest need of my family is my personal holiness.*

Good theology never says, "God needs". God doesn't need anyone or anything - this was at the heart of what He told Moses when asked His name. "I AM" means self-existing and self-sustaining. On the other hand, good theology frequently says, "I need".

**The objective of this newsletter, sent to the community rather than the church, is to provide you with those things needful. We endeavor to meet your needs by providing you with Biblical resources that will point you to Christ and help you in your journey with Christ.**

Whether you're a visitor, member, or on staff at Faith Baptist, we want you to have the resources you need to follow Christ and lead your family through personal holiness.



*"Open your Bibles and turn to..."*



*"Cultivate a Biblically literate group of believers."*

*The declension of the church always coincides with the declension of holiness within the membership of the church.*



*Joseph got to share the gospel with this "Mose" and his family in Nubia Mountain, Sudan.*

*The greatest need of my church is my personal holiness.*

Robert Murray McCheyne died a very young but very useful pastor in Dundee, Scotland. Used by God for the conversion of thousands and the establishment of a very large church, his response is interesting when asked about his role as pastor and church-planter. "The greatest need of my people is my personal holiness."

In a church-age filled with slogans like "You belong here" and programs to meet community needs called "Serve Day", we have somehow lost the treasure McCheyne knew he had found. The church is called to fill many purposes; its responsibilities include preaching the Word of God, providing oversight to the people of God, restoring sinful members, discipling new believers, and bringing glory to God. With all of this activity, it can be easy to

miss the mark of the high calling that God has placed before us - living holy lives before a holy God. The declension of the church always coincides with the declension of holiness within the membership of the church.

Not everyone in West Jefferson is going to attend Faith Baptist and that's okay! Just because you are member of another Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church doesn't mean that we don't care about your spiritual needs. **We would love to be an advocate for you and your family to grow in Christ.** Allow the preaching and resources made available to you here and online to become an avenue to grow in Christ.

**Find us online at [www.fbcwj.church](http://www.fbcwj.church). Find us on YouTube @FBCWestJefferson.**

*The greatest need of my community is the church's corporate holiness.*

All too often, holiness is described in the negative, ie. "without sin". This is true, holiness is perfection, but this description by itself is inadequate. Holiness, stated in the positive, is "absolute devotion". Think this through - if sin didn't occur until Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, was God holy in Genesis 1 & 2? Of course! Holiness is perfection; meaning without sin and completely consumed by devotion to God.

As a church, our duty before God is to accentuate His holiness by living holy lives before an unregenerate world. Churches (as buildings) can't do this, only people can. The church always and still is - people.

- The objectives of Faith Baptist church are simple:**
- 1) Cultivate a Biblically literate group of believers.**
  - 2) Implement a family-centric environment.**
  - 3) Actively participate in local and global missions.**



# Upcoming Events

## MARCH

**2-6** Victory Conference  
Falls Baptist Church  
Menomonee Falls, WI  
March 2nd - 6th

The Victory Conference will provide the opportunity to hear some of the best preachers in the country. On March 6th, our students will get to join in for BCM's College Day.

**14** WIDOW'S BANQUET  
Saturday  
10:30 AM

Hosted by the community and held at the Town Hall. RSVP with Sonya Nix (205) 601-5801. "Walk-in's" welcome too!

**22** MISSIONARY GILL-MORE PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Missionary Gillmore travels the world, implementing Bible Discovery Groups. Join us as we hear what God is doing in Papa New Guinea.

**29** MISSIONS CONFERENCE  
Sunday March 29th -  
Wednesday April 1st

Each year, FBCWJ takes time to focus our attention on what God is doing across the world through missions. It is a great time to meet missionaries and support God's work.

## APRIL

**4** COMMUNITY EGG HUNT  
Saturday  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Held at the front lawn of the church, this is a great family-friendly event that will be a blast for the kids and provide an opportunity for the kiddos to hear the gospel.

**5** RESURRECTION DAY  
Sunday  
10:30 AM

Join us this Resurrection Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the victory we have through Him!

**16** SENIOR SAINTS  
Thursday  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

This month will be catered (free of charge) from Full Moon. Enjoy the food and fellowship, then hear from a missionary and see what God is doing around the globe!

**18** MOVIE NIGHT  
Saturday  
6:30 AM - 9:00 PM

King of Kings will be sure to captivate the whole family. Bring a chair and enjoy the fun, food, and fellowship!

# "A Year in the Word"

By Lauren Howard

A Barna Research poll indicated that 61% of people believe that Billy Graham preached the Sermon on the Mount. Thankfully, a lesser percentage believed that Joan of Ark was Noah's wife. Although we chuckle at such Biblical illiteracy, it's a crippling disease many professing Christians have. It is only fitting since 14% of US adults read their Bibles on a daily basis.

I was one of "those" who had just enough Biblical familiarity to keep me from intimacy. Through my husband's example, even after 10 years of a consistent, yearly reading plan, the Bible continues to teach and convict. Here are some helps that may help you keep His Word as a daily candle to your steps.

First, pick a time and place. Calling it "Priority Time" over "Quiet Time" may help in scheduling it into your day.

Next, pick a plan. The Magic 8 Ball or Telephone Game approach will only help for so long. Verse mapping and Bible studies are great, but are only beneficial if you have read the book as a whole and for yourself. Just as you need all pieces to complete a puzzle, the Bible works together to make the whole picture come alive!

Lastly, while the Bible was undoubtedly written *for* us, it is not *about* us. With that principle established and context as key, look for God in Scripture. There is not a page void of His character; reading through the lens of searching for Him instead of ourselves is all-sufficient.

The disciple of daily reading doesn't promise a quick fix, but over a faithful period, we will become a transformed church and community with a strong, Biblically literate foundation to raise our families and teach others.



Scan to visit our website where you will find Bible Reading Plans, Family Devotion Ideas, and a complete list of Upcoming Events.

*"Reading the Bible 4 or more days a week is the tipping point for dramatic, life-altering change."*

Barna & The Center for Bible Engagement



## Senior Saints

By Earlene Harris

Getting together with like-minded people who enjoy fellowship and sharing what God has done and is doing in their lives is an encouragement to me.

Each month, we have a special program that fits the spiritual needs as well as the physical (meaning great food, of course!) and practical needs of mature folk. It may be a special speaker, music, or an outing to an interesting place. We want to have JOY in serving our Lord.

*I enjoy drinking hot tea and I look at getting older like forgetting to stir the sugar in the cup which makes it sweeter as it gets to the bottom.*

Praying for each other, being an example to the younger people who are coming along behind us and letting our light shine in this dark world are just some of our goals.

*Psalm 92:14 says, "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing."*



## Family Devotions

By Timothy Loveless

My parents were first-generation Christians. They did not grow up in church and had no blueprint for raising a godly family. Three years into marriage, God entrusted them with me, my twin brother, and eventually five more children. My father often said we were not his children but God's children, entrusted to him to steward and equip for our Heavenly Father.

The heartbeat of our home was family devotions. Every morning after breakfast, whether my father could be present or not, (as he often worked two or three jobs) we gathered in the living room. We sang hymns because my parents wanted us to love music that glorified God. They didn't know many hymns so my mother hung framed lyrics on the wall: "No, Not One", "Power in the Blood" and "The Old Rugged Cross". We first read from a picture Bible and as we grew, we read Scripture itself. Then we prayed aloud for one another, even as children. My parents were not perfect, but they were intentional.

Family devotions can be intimidating for parents. By applying these four principles, everyone can enjoy a meaningful time spent around God's word with their family.

1. **Schedule it.** Everything important is planned. Devotions should never be an afterthought; they should be protected time.
2. **Keep it real.** Devotions shouldn't be rehearsed. If God is real to the parents, He will become real to the children.
3. **Make it engaging.** Sing, read, and pray together. This is where your children will learn to read hymns, read Scripture, and pray aloud.
4. **Apply it.** Parents who believe the Bible is meant to shape daily life seek to model it humbly.

"   
*My parents were not perfect, but they were intentional.*   
 "



Pastor Joseph Howard

