

Family Life

Volume 49, Number 3

January 19, 2014

Tune's Notes



I grew up the son of a preacher. "Church" has always been a part of my life – and a welcome one at that. But it hasn't always been educational.

Growing up, sermons were mostly thematic and doctrinal: "This is what we believe and this is why."

Bible classes were focused on learning some facts, getting grounded in our orthodoxy, and (eventually) learning what I shouldn't do as a teenager.

It's all I remember. To all my Bible teachers, sorry. Perhaps I just was a poor student.

In any case, when I began preaching as an occupation I was 21 – a freshly minted graduate of a State university with a B.S. in Accounting and Finance. Could anyone have been more unprepared?

My first church asked me take over teaching Genesis. They were about half way through and had been studying it for three years. I decided I would take them through the Old Testament. I used Alfred Edersheim's Old Testament History as my resource material. Imagine my surprise when I got to Nehemiah and discovered to my horror that I was basically done and had left out 23 books of the Old Testament because I hadn't any notion of where they fit in the story (and didn't even know I was leaving them out!).

It's a horrible admission. What makes it worse is that if anyone noticed my blunder – no one said a word.

For the next thirty-nine years, I spent my time learning the story of the Bible, the themes of each book, their literary flow and place in the narrative. And along the way, I've been writing about what I've learned. This past week, ACU Press/Leafwood published my book *How to Read the Bible Without Getting Lost*.

If in any way you find yourself identifying with the plight of that beginning preacher, I really believe you will find the book helpful.

For the next few weeks, my articles are going to be a bit biographical but perhaps, in reading about this journey, you will find some direction for your own journey as a Bible student.

Love you all
Mike



Resolution Runner: Run for Yourself John 20.1 - .8

Why do I believe? Why do I have faith in Jesus? Why am I following Jesus?

These are possibly the most important questions we can ask ourselves as followers of Jesus. If we can't answer these questions do we actually believe? Are we actually following? Do we have any faith?

Early in our journey we may answer "because my parents believe." This is a typical answer for someone who grows up going to church. If you came to faith later in life and didn't grow up in a church environment you might answer "because the person I studied with believes" or "because my spouse believes." Initially believing because someone important to you believes is a great start. It gets you moving on your faith journey.

In John 20, Mary has gone to Jesus' tomb but finds it empty! She runs to Peter and John to tell them the news. They in turn hear her story and then run on their own to see. Once they see the empty tomb, they believe.

This story is similar to our own faith journey. We start believing because of the faith of others. Think of this as an umbrella of faith. We start by standing under someone else's faith umbrella but we can't stay here. Just like Peter and John start running because of Mary's report, we have to start our own faith journey and have our own faith!

In order for faith to be real in our lives we have to own it. We have to make it ours. We have to look into the empty tomb for ourselves and see that it is empty.

Farther down our faith journey, our answers to the "why" questions change from what someone else believes to what we believe. We start walking under our own umbrella of faith.

This is what we are exploring on Sunday Nights in the Upper Room Teen Ministry's Bible study for the next 2 weeks.

GRACE + PEACE
John Bell

Prayer Sisters Program to Resume February 2

The women of the Falls Church congregation are invited once again to join the “Prayer Sisters” ministry of fellowship and encouragement.

Each member of this group will have a “sister,” whose name will be selected in a **drawing planned for February 2**. Each woman will pray for that sister and find ways to encourage her with inexpensive gifts, notes and expressions of care and love.

To participate, please stop by the specially marked display in the lobby to pick up, fill out and return an “All About Me” personal information card. The card has a front and back so PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU COMPLETE BOTH SIDES before dropping it into the box for the drawing.

NOTE: If you cannot attend the drawing on Feb. 2, contact Monica Tune who will draw for you!

Those who join this activity should remember that it is very important to follow through once you’ve started. Therefore, carefully consider your own time constraints before joining.

For further details, or for those who might be new to this ministry, please talk to **Monica Tune** or **Diana Kuhn**.



7th Annual Talent Show PLUS Soup & Chili Night Set for February 1, 6 pm

It’s still not too late to “Get Your Act Together” for the **7th Annual Talent Show** coming up February 1 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Added to the entertainment extravaganza is the companion dinner - the **Soup & Chili Night**. If you can’t bring either of those, please bring the “accessories” such as grated cheese, chopped onion, croutons, bread, cornbread, crackers, and whatever else you can imagine to top off soup or chili!

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin for you to let the organizers know your talent - so they can organize the show - OR to let the organizers know how many people to expect for the event. And - of course - to volunteer to help set up and clean up!

You may be asking yourself - “What can I do”?

Well, the last six shows have included:

Vocalists

Instrumental performances:

- cello
- violin
- piano
- bongo drums
- guitar - classical and country
- the recorder

Poetry recitations

Comedy routines

Magic Acts

Soccer skills demonstration

Original art work

Hula hoop demonstration

Sign language demonstration

The list goes on, but you should get the point. There IS a wide range of talent that we can enjoy and encourage. And besides, it’s just plain fun.

It’s a great opportunity for this congregation to gather together and to enjoy the blessings of fellowship.



Thank You

Congregational Prayer Request for the week of January 19:

Pray for the elders, deacons and ministers that they will have wisdom, compassion, dedication and courage to lead and serve this congregation in accordance with the will of God.

The Young Professionals Group is planning a ski trip on January 24-25 at Timberline in WV. Those who wish to join should contact **Daniel Williams**.



Two of our Elders are available after the morning assembly, in room 221 on the main level, to meet with anyone who would like prayer for special concerns.

Baptisms

Congratulations



Jay & Piera Young Are Newest Missionaries Supported by Falls Church

The Missions Committee announces that the mission work of Jay and Piera Young in Italy and in the Ukraine is now receiving support from the Falls Church congregation.

Below is background about this couple and their work in these mission areas.

Jay and Piera Young celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 12, 2012, and virtually all of that time together has been dedicated to the work of the Lord, in this country, in Piera's native country of Italy and in the former Soviet Union Republic of the Ukraine.

It has been a journey of a lifetime for a young man from Bartlesville, OK, who was stationed in Naples, Italy, with the U. S. Navy. He was invited to worship services by the American missionary in Milan, and that is where he met his future wife.

Following their wedding in the Lord's Church in Milan in 1962, they came to the U. S. where they studied Bible and engaged in missions training for four years. During that time, their son **Steven** was born in Memphis. Their daughter **Lisa Young Swetnam**, a member here at Falls Church, was born in Abilene, TX, while they were completing studies at (then) Abilene Christian College.

They returned to Milan for a year then joined the work of Gerald and Bobbie Paden in Pisa. While there, Jay also completed a Master's in Education through Boston University at two U.S. military installations. He also engaged in graduate studies in Theology at the Waldensian Theological Faculty in Rome.

After 10 years in Pisa, the Youngs moved to northeast Italy and to churches of Christ in the cities of Pordenone, Belluno, Conegliano Veneto and Monfalcone.

Returning to central Italy - Tuscany - in the early 1980's, they worked in Florence and Pistoia. Jay also conducted multiple Gospel meetings and leadership training series throughout the country. He also began doctoral studies in Italian Language and Literature at the University of Florence.



James "Jay" and Piera Young

They moved to Arlington, VA, from 1986 to 1992, and during that time they added work in the Ukraine, and helped establish the Lord's Church in Odessa. Piera was instrumental in beginning a Ukrainian child-assistance program entitled "A Child to Love." Sponsors from the U. S. and Italy help bring faith and obedience in Christ to many of the young people in several cities in Ukraine.

For the last two decades, they established The European Christian Institute of Continuing Studies, which has brought serious Biblical Studies to cities in Italy. Palermo is one of those cities, and it now has one of the largest churches of Christ on the continent of Western Europe, with an evangelist trained at the Institute. Another education program is the Italian Scuola Biblica Online (Online Bible School), for which Jay is one of the main teachers.

They also served the Rockville (MD) congregation from 2002 to 2013, while continuing the mission work in Italy and Ukraine.

They retired last year and moved to Florida, but for two people who have spent their lives in bringing souls to Christ, retirement didn't last long. And now they have committed themselves to fulltime mission efforts in their two beloved countries, with extended preaching and teaching trips twice each year.

Dearest brothers and sisters of the Falls Church Church of Christ,
Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Piera and I are so grateful to God for all of you there in the Lord's Body at Falls Church. We thank God for you and for your having chosen to partner with us in our efforts to take the Good News of Christ to the peoples of Italy and Ukraine. We will seek to keep you frequently updated about our work. Again, God bless you.

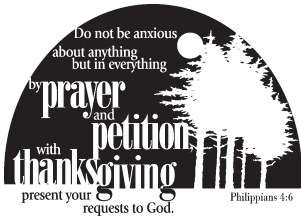
James "Jay" and Piera Young

Vacation Bible School Is Scheduled for August 8 and 9, 2014

Vacation Bible School for 2014 is officially scheduled for Friday night August 8 and Saturday morning August 9, according to Kelly Shumate, the director again this year. Yes, that date IS a few months off, but mark your calendar now and plan to be here. Even if you absolutely MUST miss the event, there is plenty to do in advance.

The Falls Church bulletin is sent to all members by email on Friday afternoon. If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please inform the church office so your name can be added to the list. It won't do to miss your bulletin!

Continuing Concerns:



A variety of greeting cards can be found on the table beneath the members' board, and there also is a list of addresses for those who are ill or bereaved. To send notes of cheer or condolences, just select a card, write the name and address of the person to whom it is intended, and leave it on the table. The church office will handle postage.

General Information

For Children:

- ❖ An attended nursery and a nursing mother's room - located adjacent to the Assembly Center - are available during our assembly.
- ❖ For ages 2 through Pre-Kindergarten, Children's Worship is conducted in rooms 223 & 221. Children are dismissed following communion.

Recordings:

Recordings of sermons at Falls Church are available for no charge on our website after about four days. Recordings also are available in CD format for \$5 and may be ordered by completing a CD order envelope located in the foyer.

Assistive Listening System:

Personal sound receivers are available for hearing enhancement in our Assembly Center. Our ushers will be happy to supply one of these aids for your convenience upon request.

Nursery Attendants

January 19, 2014

Morning
Patty Woods
Angela & Rebecca Eckstone-Hayes

Evening
Kelly Shumate

January 26, 2014

Morning
Joanne Carter
Agnes Jones

Evening
Leah Durant (Philip)

Children's Worship

January 19, 2014

2/3 Amanda Venkatesan, Lori Kobs
P-K Leah Durant, Misty Marshall

January 26, 2014

2/3 Abby Smith, Joy Hayes
P-K Casey Waterston, TBA

Worship Today, January 19, 2014

Hymn #144

O Worship the King

Hymn #51

Father of Mercies

Prayer

Wayne Doran

Hymn #71

As the Deer

Hymn #334

'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow

Communion/Collection

Mark Dawson

Hymn #134

The Lord's My Shepherd

(Children ages 2 through Pre-K dismissed to Children's Worship)

Bible Reading (*Gen. 25:29-34; Heb. 12:16-17*) Dave Miller

Bible Lesson Mike Tune

Hymn #121 *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing*

Budget Presentation for 2014 Bill Kincaid

Announcements Steve Dasher

Introduction of Visitors Jonah Shumate

Closing Prayer Jerry Williams

Song Leader Joseph Tucker

Ushers Kevin Thie, Habtu Zemech



Bobby Wilkinson will lead singing this evening;

Joshua McKay & Daniel Williams will lead the prayers.

January servers are: Lee Cassetty, Brian Collins, Richard Gunselman, John Reagan, Hal Swetnam, Beni Venkatesan

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:30 am
Morning Assembly 10:30 am
Evening Assembly 6 pm

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class 10:15 am
(October through April)

Wednesday

7:15 pm

Office Hours

9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Contact Information

6149 Leesburg Pike
P. O. Box 1036 (mailing)
Falls Church, VA 22041
Office phone: 703-820-1346
Fax: 703-820-1348
administrator@fallschurchcoc.org
Website: www.fallschurchcoc.org

Elders

Steve Dasher Wayne Doran
Bill Kincaid Jim Lane
Oliver McDaniel Joseph Tucker

Deacons

Roberto Alvarez Jose Arevalo
Matt Benschky Ben Bohannon
Brian Collins Brandon Durant
Ignacio Espinoza Perry May
Joshua McKay Scott Mills
John Reagan Saul Reyes
Wilfredo Reyes Hal Swetnam
Jonah Shumate Kevin Thie
John Waterston Ken Yeatman
Habtu Zemech

Missionaries

Kevin & Deanna Amores, Concepción, Chile
Gary & Sue Babcock, Kent County, RI
Pedro & Mireya Batres, Nicaragua
Henry & Rosa Gutierrez, Nicaragua
Gene & Janice Luna, WBI/Guatemala
Recardo & Monica Reyes, Cuemavaca, MX
Don & Esther Roarabaugh, Torrington, CT
Jay & Piera Young, Italy & Ukraine

Staff

Mike Tune, *Pulpit Minister*
Josh Byrd, *Youth Minister*
Mary Ann Kincaid, *Secretary*

Statistics

Sunday, January 12, 2014

Bible Study 231
Morning Assembly 376
Evening Assembly No Service
Contribution \$13,834
YTD Average \$13,293
Budget Goal To Be Determined

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Classes & Online 98

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Prayer - Ken Yeatman

Song Leader - Bobby Wilkinson