

March 2007

CLASS TIDBITS:

•UGH! Ken & Connie DuBois sold their house and are moving to Denton. They are retiring and moving to a retirement ranch. We're happy for you

•In our Feb 11th Sunday School class, we discussed a controversial statement by the Lesson author that our Soul and Spirit dies with our body. See the Editors response to my query on page 6.

The Kum Doubles Messenger

You CAN make a difference

Submitted by Christine Burkett

About Head Coach - Tony Dungy, Indianapolis Colts, Superbowl Champion

DETROIT, Mich. -

They were there for breakfast, and they were there to cheer New York Jets running back Curtis Martin. And it was Martin who received the Athletes in Action Bart Starr Award Saturday morning, but the hundreds who gathered in fourth-floor ballroom at the Marriott Renaissance in Detroit, Mich., on the morning before Super Bowl XL were clearly touched by the featured speaker. That speaker was Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy.

Two hours into the breakfast, emcee

Brent Jones introduced Dungy, who was welcomed with a lengthy standing ovation. Dungy thanked the crowd, shared an anecdote about Martin, then told the crowd he was going to speak for about 15 minutes.

"It's great to be here," Dungy told the crowd, then adding with a laugh, "I just wish I wasn't here in this capacity so many times of being just that close to being in the game and just being an invited speaker.

"My goal is to have our team here one day and have a couple of tables with all of our guys here. Because we have a special group of young men, a great group of Christian guys. It'd be wonderful to have them here so you could see their hearts and what they're all about.

"It hasn't quite happened yet, but we're still hoping one day it will."

He told them he was going to talk about lessons he had learned from his three sons.

The crowd fell silent. Then Dungy spoke.

And although this was a breakfast - and although at many such events speakers speak over the clinking of glasses and murmurs from

semi-interested listeners - for most of the 15 minutes the room was silent except for Dungy's voice.

He spoke of his middle son, Eric, who he said shares his competitiveness and who is focused on sports "to where it's almost a problem."

He spoke of his youngest son, Jor-

dan, who has a rare congenital condition which causes him not to feel pain.

"He feels things, but he doesn't get the sensation of pain," Dungy said. The lessons learned from Jordan, Tony Dungy said, are many.

"That sounds like it's good at the beginning, but I promise you it's not," Dungy said.

"We've learned a lot about pain in the last five years we've had Jordan. We've learned some hurts are really necessary for kids. Pain is necessary for kids to find out the difference between what's good and what's harmful.

"Jordan," Dungy said, "loves cookies. "Cookies are good," Dungy said, "but in Jordan's mind, if



Tony Dungy, Head Coach, Indianapolis Colts

The Kum Doubles Messenger

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Announcements

•Block your calendar for **April 14th**, the date of Sonrise's Style Show and Lunch. Crafts will be on sale.

•**September 2007** is the month for the Kum Doubles to sponsor the Golden Agers.

March 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Birthdays

3 Sylvia Mayhew
 11 Ken DuBois
 19 Becky Flanery
 31 Bill Holcomb

Anniversaries

3 Bill & Marni Monty
 9 Bill & Shirley Reynolds
 26 Doug & Jamie Pierson
 27 Danny & Carolyn Parsons
 30 Walt & Susan Lundgren
 31 Bill & Pat Love

March Sunday School Study Plan

Date	Teacher	Study	Scripture
4	Street		
11	Dame		
18	Clough		
25	Parsons		

Party Planner

Mon	Day	Host	Activity	Time	Notes
Jan		Committee	Chili Diner		Election of Class Officers
Feb	12	Street	Gaither Concert	6 PM	
Mar		Committee			
Apr	21	Patricks	BBQ		
May		Streets & Dames			
Jun		Committee			
Jul		Alleman & Dayton			
Aug		Committee			
Sep		Holcomb & Love			
Oct		Parsons			
Nov		Henson & Carver			
Dec		Committee	Christmas Party		

Prayer Requests

[Pages 3 & 4 are not published on the internet]

Praises

Politics & Religion

Lutherans hedge in verdict on gay pastor

By John Blake

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 02/09/07

The Rev. Bradley E. Schemling of St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta learned Thursday that he faces removal from the denomination he's loved since he was a kid. But the news didn't discourage him or some of his biggest supporters.

"The more I think about it, the more hopeful I am that the conversation is continuing," Schemling said Thursday. "They could have chosen to remove me immediately, but they clearly want the church to change the policy."

An Evangelical Lutheran Church in America jury Thursday called for the removal of Schemling from the clergy roster for defying church policy that bans clergy from same-sex relationships. Schemling's removal takes effect Aug. 15 — four days after the ELCA has a chance to debate the policy at its churchwide assembly in Chicago.

Yet a detailed reading of the decision — and even the timing of Schemling's removal — convinces the 44-year-old pastor and his supporters that he eventually may be vindicated.

Schemling and his supporters pointed out that a majority of the 12-member jury concluded that "no discipline of any sort" should be imposed against the pastor. The jury, noting the increase in numbers in St. John's congregation and its support for Schemling, also called for the ELCA to change at its churchwide assembly its ban on sexually active gay clergy, supporters said.

"They were so clear that my

[same-sex] relationship didn't interfere with my ministry and even more, they said the policy was bad and unconstitutional," Schemling said. "That was a courageous and bold decision."

Bishop Ronald B. Warren of the ELCA's Southeastern Synod filed charges against Schemling last year after the pastor told Warren that he was in a committed relationship with another man.

"The decision to seek Pastor Schemling's removal from the ministry of this church was difficult because of my deep respect for the pastor and the congregation at St. John's," Warren said in a statement. "But the policy of this church is clear, and it was my responsibility as bishop of this synod to enforce the established standards."

However, Laura Crawley, president of St. John's congregation, said that the ELCA jury clearly affirmed Schemling's ministry and said the standards need to be changed.

Crawley said holding the churchwide assembly Aug. 6-11 — just days before Schemling's removal — is a signal that the pastor shouldn't be removed.

"They picked that date very carefully," she said. "If this church listens to this judicial body and engages in the conversation, Bradley won't be removed."

The decision dismayed Mark Chavez, director of WordAlone, an ELCA group that wants its denomination to enforce its ban on sexually active gay clergy.

"It's just more evidence that the leadership

of the ELCA has no interest in submitting to the word of God," he said. "They still persist in deciding what they think is a sin."

Barbara Lundblad, co-president of The Network for Inclusive Vision, a group dedicated to the full inclusion of gay people in the ELCA, was encouraged.

"This is good news," she said. "The committee itself raised serious questions about the policy. The congregation has always said that the policy was the problem, and everyone knew that going into this trial."

Witnesses described the trial as emotional at times. Crawley said jurors cried and laughed at times.

Schemling said he was most touched by how well the jury, technically called a discipline hearing committee, listened to stories about his impact on St. John's. Under Schemling, the congregation has added members and drawn more youths to the church, the jury acknowledged in its decision.

Schemling said the prospect of being removed in August won't consume him.

"I feel like I've been living under this for awhile," Schemling said. "In a way, this just extends the process."

Schemling said the trial has tested both he and his partner, a former pastor.

"I certainly feel the burden of carrying a story that a lot of people don't want to hear and deal with," he said. "It's a challenge to face the resistance to change."

By the Numbers



Does Our Spirit and Soul Die With Our Body?

EDITORIAL

On Feb. 11, 2007, our Sunday School lesson included a statement by the author of the Adult Bible Studies lesson book that "...when we die, all our constituent parts die: not just our body but also our spirit and even our soul. We truly, entirely cease to be." P.81. The class consensus was that the author had a screw loose. I volunteered to write the author for clarification, and I received the following email from the editor of the lesson book.

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your email regarding the February 11 lesson in Adult Bible Studies. We deeply appreciate that your class engaged the lesson in a thoughtful way and that you are expressing your concerns about the statement on p. 81. We apologize that the statement created such controversy. Jack was attempting in this lesson to distinguish between the Greek philosophical notion of immortality (immortal souls) and the biblical notion of resurrection of the dead. His main idea, God's gift of eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus, was overshadowed by the statement. We are so sorry that it stood in the way of the lesson's proclamation of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

The following selection of scriptures might offer some further opportunities for reflection and discussion in your group.

Genesis 1:19

Job 7:21; 10:9; 21:26; 34:15

Psalms 7:5; 16:10-11; 49:15; 73:24; 90:3

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Daniel 12:2-3

John 11:23-25

Mark 12:18-27

2 Corinthians 5:1-15; 42-50; 53-54

Phil. 1:23

I hope this is helpful to you. Blessings to you in your ministry and to your class.

Yours in Christ,

Pamela Dilmore

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Unfortunately, the editor's references did nothing to clarify the authors statement. The editor gave several good proofs for the death and decay of the physical body to dust and for the resurrection of the body to everlasting life. However, her revelation is nothing new to this class. I dare say that every single member of the class already claims the promise of the resurrected body, and with a little research can quote chapter and verse in the same manner that Ms. Dilmore did.

Proving that the soul and spirit die with the flesh and cease to be is quite another matter. In fact, our Lord said to the man hanging on the cross with Him that that very day He would be in paradise with Him. The implication is quite strong, although not proven, that the thieves' soul would live on in paradise—a direct contradiction to Mr. Gilbert's claim.

I again wrote Editor Dilmore and the following is the key paragraph from her second response. "...You are correct that Jesus words to the thieves in Luke 23:43 as well as Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:1-15 and Philippians 1:23 point to the view of some kind of immediate afterlife, which is a different view than the one expressed so strongly in the February 11 lesson."

In light of both emails, as well as our basic intuition based on our collective knowledge of the Bible, I must say that the writer took some liberties which were not warranted. Although I love our lesson book and always find it helpful to my journey, in this one isolated instance, the writer proclaimed a false doctrine. Please don't let this one isolated instance cloud the message of that important lesson. Christ died that we may have eternal life and all Christians will be resurrected in a manner similar to Christ's resurrection. When HE returns, we will meet HIM in the clouds.✠

PERKS OF BEING OVER 50!

Submitted by Doug Pierson

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm and ask, did I wake you?
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 4 pm.
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
19. You can't remember who sent you this list . ✠

You can make a difference Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

they're good out on the plate, they're even better in the oven. He will go right in the oven when my wife's not looking, reach in, take the rack out, take the pan out, burn his hands and eat the cookies and burn his tongue and never feel it. He doesn't know that's bad for him."

"Jordan," Dungy said, "has no fear of anything, so we constantly have to watch him."

The lesson learned, Dungy said, is simple.

"You get the question all the time, 'Why does the Lord allow pain in your life? Why do bad things happen to good people? If God is a God of love, why does he allow these hurtful things to happen?'" Dungy said.

"We've learned that a lot of times because of that pain, that little temporary pain, you learn what's harmful. You learn to fear the right things.

"Pain sometimes lets us know we have a condition that needs to be healed. Pain inside sometimes lets us know that spiritually we're not quite right and we need to be healed and that God will send that healing agent right to the spot.

"Sometimes, pain is the only way that will turn us as kids back to the Father."

Finally, he spoke of James.

James Dungy, Tony Dungy's oldest son, died three days before Christmas.

As he did while delivering James' eulogy in December, Dungy on Saturday spoke of him eloquently and steadily, speaking of lessons learned and of the positives taken from experience.

"It was tough, and it was very, very painful, but as painful as it was, there were some good things that came out of it," Dungy said.

Dungy spoke at the funeral of regretting not hugging James the last time he saw him, on Thanksgiving of last year.

"I met a guy the next day after the funeral," Dungy said.

"He said, 'I was there. I heard you talking. I took off work today. I called my son. I told him I was taking him to the movies. We're going to spend some time and go to dinner.'

That was a real, real blessing to me."

Dungy said he has gotten many letters since James' death relaying similar messages.

"People heard what I said, and said, 'Hey, you brought me a little closer to my son,' or, 'You brought me a little closer to my daughter,'" Dungy said.

"That is a tremendous blessing."

Dungy also said some of James' organs were donated through donors programs.

"We got a letter back two weeks ago that two people had received his corneas, and now they can see," Dungy said. "That's been a tremendous blessing."

Dungy also said he received a letter from a girl from the family's church in Tampa. She had known James for many years, Dungy said. She went to the funeral because she knew James.

"When I saw what happened at funeral, and your family and the celebration and how it was handled, that was the first time I realized there had to be a God,"

Dungy said the girl wrote. "I accepted Christ into my life and my life's been different since that day."

Added Dungy, "That was an awesome blessing, so all of those things kind of made me realize what God's love is all about."

Dungy also said he was asked often how he was able to return to the Colts so quickly after James' death. James died on December 22, and Dungy returned to the team one week later.

Dungy said the answer was simple.

"People asked me, 'How did you recover so quickly?'" Dungy said.

"I'm not totally recovered. I don't know that I ever will be. It's still very, very painful, but I was able to come back because of something one of my good Christian friends said to me after the funeral.

"He said, 'You know James accepted

Christ into his heart, so you know he's in heaven, right?'

I said, 'Right, I know that.' He said, 'So, with all you know about heaven, if you had the power to bring him back now, would you?'

When I thought about it, I said, 'No, I wouldn't. I would not want him back with what I know about heaven.'

"That's what helped me through the grieving process. Because of Christ's spirit in me, I had that confidence that James is there, at peace with the Lord, and I have the peace of mind in the midst of something that's very, very painful.

"That's my prayer today, that everyone in this room would know the same thing." ✠



Results Get Rewarded

A minister dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates.

Ahead of him is a guy dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans. Saint Peter says to this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Cohen, taxi driver, of Noo Yawk City."

Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

The taxi driver goes into Heaven with his robe and staff, and it's the minister's turn.

He stands erect and booms out, "I am Joseph Snow, pastor of Saint Mary's for the last 43 years."

Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the minister, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute!" says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept. While he drove, people prayed."✠

—Ed Rowell, *Franklin, Tennessee; heard from a friend.*

How To Forgive

Submitted by Christine Burkett

One day a while back, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job.

His thoughts turned to those who had stolen his things and cheated him.

He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had that no one could cure. His very soul was filled with anger, resentment and frustration.

Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find, knowing all else had failed him, he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there. And with tears in his eyes, he prayed:

"Lord- You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed. Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot. I don't know how. It is not fair Lord. I didn't deserve these wrongs that were done against me and I shouldn't have to forgive. As perfect as your way is Lord, this one thing I cannot do, for I don't know how to forgive. My anger is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray that you teach me to do this one thing I cannot do - Teach me To Forgive."

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt.

He could not turn to see what it was because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them.

He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into His head. Finally he saw the suffering and pain on

His precious face. As their eyes met, the man's tears turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak.

"Have you ever told a lie?" He asked?

The man answered - "Yes, Lord."

"Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?"

The man answered - " Yes. Lord." And the man sobbed more and more.

"Have you ever taken something from work that wasn't yours?" Jesus asked?

And the man answered - "Yes, Lord."

"Have you ever sworn, using my Father's name in vain? "

The man, crying now, answered - "Yes, Lord."

As Jesus asked many more times, "Have you ever"? The man's crying became uncontrollable, for he could only answer - "Yes, Lord."

Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before.

Jesus said, "I didn't deserve this either, but I forgive you." It may be hard to see how you're going to get through something, but when You look back in life, you realize how true this statement is.

If God brings you to it - He will bring you through it.✠

Teaching Makes A Difference

Submitted by Chritine Burkett

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life.

One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education.

He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers:

"Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make? (She paused for a second, then began...)

"Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could.

I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental... You want to know what I make?" (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.)

I make kids wonder.

I make them question.

I make them criticize.

I make them apologize and mean it.

I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions.

I teach them to write and then I make them write.

I make them read, read, read.

I make them show all their work in math.

I make my students from other countries learn everything they need To know in English while preserving their unique cultural identity.

I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe.

I make my students stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, because we live in the United States of America.

Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life.

(Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.) "Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make?

I MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

What do you make?"✚

Superlatives

Submitted by Harrold Henson

The most useless thing to do ... Worry
The greatest Joy...Giving

The greatest loss...Loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work...Helping others
The ugliest personality trait...Selfishness
The most endangered species...Dedicated leaders

The greatest "shot in the arm".
...Encouragement

The greatest problem to overcome...Fear
Most effective sleeping pill...Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease... Excuses
The most powerful force in life...Love
The most dangerous pariah...A gossip
The world's most incredible computer... The brain

The worst thing to be without...Hope
The deadliest weapon...The tongue
The two most power-filled words..."I Can"
The greatest asset...Faith

The most worthless emotion...Self-pity
The most prized possession...Integrity
The most beautiful attire...A SMILE
The most powerful channel of communication...Prayer

The most contagious spirit...Enthusiasm
The most important thing in life...GOD ✚

DUELING COMPUTERS

Submitted by Lee Moore

Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering.

Finally fed up, God said, "THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job."

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused...
They faxed...
They e-mailed...

They e-mailed with attachments...

They downloaded...

They did spreadsheets...

They wrote reports...

They created labels and cards...

They created charts and graphs...

They did some genealogy reports...

They did every job known to man...

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency, and Satan was faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off! Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers.

Satan started searching frantically, screaming: "It's gone! It's all GONE! I lost everything when the power went out!"

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan observed this and became irate. "Wait!" he screamed. "That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?"

God just shrugged and said, "Jesus Saves."✚

Entitlements Are Out Of Control

by Rush Limbaugh:

Submitted by Izzy Bischoff

I think the vast differences in compensation between victims of the September 11 casualty and those who die serving our country in Uniform are profound. No one is really talking about it either, because you just don't criticize anything having to do with September 11. Well, I can't let the numbers pass by because it says something really disturbing about the entitlement mentality of this country. If you lost a family member in the September 11 attack, you're going to get an average of \$1,185,000. The range is a minimum guarantee of \$250,000, all the way up to \$4.7 million. If you are a surviving family member of an American soldier killed in action, the first check you get is a \$6,000 direct death benefit, half of which is taxable. Next, you get \$1,750 for burial costs. If you are the surviving spouse, you get \$833 a month until you remarry. And there's a payment of \$211 per month for each child under 18. When the child hits 18, those payments come to a screeching halt.

Keep in mind that some of the people who are getting an average of \$1.185 million up to \$4.7 million are complaining that it's not enough. Their deaths were tragic, but for most, they were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Soldiers put themselves in harms way FOR ALL OF US, and they and their families know the dangers.

We also learned over the weekend that some of the victims from the Oklahoma City bombing have started an organization asking for the same deal that the September 11 families are getting. In addition to that, some of the families of those bombed in the embassies are now asking for compensation as well.

You see where this is going, don't you? Folks, this is part and parcel of over 50 years of entitlement politics in this country. It's just really sad. Every time a pay raise comes up for the military, they usually receive next to nothing of a raise.

Now the green machine is in combat in the Middle East while their families have to survive on food stamps and live in low-rent housing. Make sense?

However, our own US Congress voted themselves a raise. Many of you don't know that they only have to be in Congress one time to receive a pension that is more than \$15,000 per month. And most are now equal to being millionaires plus. They do not receive Social Security on retirement because they didn't have to pay into the system. If some of the military people stay in for 20 years and get out as an E-7, they may receive a pension of \$1,000 per month, and the very people who placed them in harm's way receives a pension of \$15,000 per month.

I would like to see our elected officials pick up a weapon and join ranks before they start cutting out benefits and lowering pay for our sons and daughters who are now fighting.

RETARDED GRANDPARENTS

Submitted by Marni Monty

(this was actually reported by a teacher) After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida.

Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now, and do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but in it, they all jump up and down with hats on.

At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. They go cruising in their golf carts!

Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night --- early birds.

Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck.

My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren. ☺

Lessons Life Taught Me

Submitted by Christine Burkett

By Regina Brett, The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio

To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolls over to 50 this week, so here's an update:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.
17. You can get through anything if you stay put in today.
18. A writer writes. If you want to be a writer, write.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.

21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over-prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
38. Read some good books. They cover every

emotion.

39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
42. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
43. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
44. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
45. The best is yet to come.
46. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
47. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
48. If you don't ask, you don't get.
49. Yield.
50. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift. ♣



I Believe

submitted by Christine Burkett

I believe - that just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

I believe - that we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

I believe - that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I believe - that true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.

I believe - that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

I believe - that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

I believe - that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

I believe - that you can keep going long after you think you can't.

I believe - that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

I believe - that either you control your attitude or it controls you.

I believe - That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I believe - that money is a lousy way of keeping score.

I believe - that my best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time.

I believe - that sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down, will be the ones to help you get back up.

I believe - that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

I believe - that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them

and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

I believe - that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

I believe - that no matter how bad your heart is broken the world doesn't stop for your grief.

I believe - that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

I believe - that you shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret. It could change your life forever.

I believe - two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.

I believe - that your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.

I believe - that even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you -you will find the strength to help.

I believe - that credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

I believe - that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.

Upscale Church

Submitted by Gerald Carver

One Sunday morning an old cowboy entered a church just before services were to begin.

Although the old man and his clothes were spotlessly clean, he wore jeans, a denim shirt and boots that were very worn and ragged. In his hand he carried a worn out old hat and an equally worn out bible.

The Church he entered was in a very upscale and exclusive part of the city. It was the largest and most beautiful church the old cowboy had ever seen.

The people of the congregation were all dressed with expensive clothes and accessories.

As the cowboy took a seat, the others moved away from him.

No one greeted, spoke to, or welcomed him. They were all appalled at his appearance and did not attempt to hide it. The preacher gave a long sermon about Hellfire and brimstone and a stern lecture on how much money the church needed to do God's work.

As the old cowboy was leaving the church, the preacher approached him and asked the cowboy to do him a favor. "Before you come back in here again, have a talk with God and ask him what He thinks would be appropriate attire for worship."

The old cowboy assured the preacher he would.

The next Sunday, he showed up for the services wearing the same ragged jeans, shirt, boots, and hat. Once again he was completely shunned and ignored.

The preacher approached the man and said, "I thought I asked you to speak to God before you came back to our church."

"I did," replied the old cowboy.

"If you spoke to God, what did he tell you the proper attire should be for worshiping in here?" asked the preacher.

"Well, sir, God told me that He didn't have a clue what I should wear. He says He's never been in this church!☪"

Church Chuckles

Submitted by Gerald Carver

STORY OF ELIJAH

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar.

He had them do this four times. "Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?" A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied David. "How could he, with just two worms?"

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how pow-

erful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES & THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Rickey was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

CHURCH SMILES

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad

news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."✝

**Kum Doubles Sunday
School Class**

First United Methodist Church

211 W. Third St.
Irving, TX 75060

FUMC office: 972 253-3531
FUMC Fax: 972 254-2498
E-mail: carly@fumcirving.org

Class Officers

President	Marni Monty
Vice President	Doug Pierson
Secretary	Shirley Reynolds
Treasurer	Harold Henson

Committees

Party	Pat Love, Shirley Carver, Mary Holcomb
Sunshine	Sylvia Mayhew, Jamie Pierson, Jan Dame
Nominating	Christine Burkett George Adamson Judy Dayton

Missions Coordinators Anna Wilkins, Ed Dame

Travel Planner Bill Holcomb

Webmaster Doug Pierson

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Kum Doubles Sunday School Class Teachers:

1st Sunday	Jim Street
2nd Sunday	Jan Dame
3rd Sunday (Alternating)	Gayle Baggett, Pat Clough
4th Sunday	Danny Parsons, Doug Pierson, Harold Henson
5th Sunday	Guest Speaker

Kum Doubles members serving elsewhere during

Sunday School:

JoCarol Adamson	Music Director
Dottie Creech	SS Secretary
Paul Creech	Sonrise Village
Allan Knott	Covenant Class Teacher
Pam Knott	Covenant Class Teacher
Mary Lou Niethamer	Ass't SS Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT

to be developed

VISIT US

Come as you are for coffee, fellowship and good Bible based instruction. We meet each Sunday morning [9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.] in room 315 [3rd floor at top of stairway near elevator].

CONTACT US

To activate prayer chain—Sylvia Mayhew [Phyllis Street, if Sylvia unavailable]
General questions—Marni Monty
FUMC Christian Education Director—Carly Abel 972 253-3531 ext. 27
Newsletter—Jim Dayton
Website—Doug Pierson

SEND US NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

We're always seeking stories and news for the newsletter. Please submit information on anything you think the class would enjoy. We'd love to hear you brag about your children or grandchildren. Forward me the emails that you get—inspiration, politics, jokes, one-liners, etc. What about photos that you think the class would enjoy? What about a letter to the editor expressing your opinion?

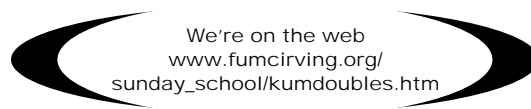
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ALL BACK ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER, both *Kum Doubles Kapers* and *The Messenger*, are available on the web at:

www.fumcirving.org/sunday_school/kumdoubles.htm

THE NEWSLETTER PRAYER REQUEST PAGE is only published in the classroom edition of the newsletter. If you receive the KUM DOUBLES MESSENGER over the internet, and you would like to receive the prayer request pages, please contact Jim Dayton or a member of the class to make arrangements for receiving those pages.

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