



## Notes from the Pastor

Just over 1 week ago the Associated Press released a story concerning the suspension of a Pennsylvania English teacher whose comments about many of her suburban Philadelphia high school students were blogged on the internet. In her post entitled "Lazy Whiners," Natalie Munroe described students at the school where she teaches as out of control. *"They are rude, disengaged, lazy whiners. They curse, discuss drugs, talk back, argue for grades, complain about everything, fancy themselves entitled to whatever they desire, and are just generally annoying."* Quoting from the musical, "Bye, Bye, Birdie," she added, *"Kids! They are disobedient, disrespectful oafs; Noisy, crazy, sloppy, lazy LOAFERS."*

In the interview with the Associated Press, Mrs. Munroe added, *"They get angry when you ask them to think or be creative, and the students are not being held accountable."* Munroe pointed out that she also said positive things, but she acknowledges that she did write some things out of frustration, feeling that many kids today are being given a free pass at school and at home. *"Parents are more trying to be their kids' friends and less trying to be their parent,"* Also, noting students' lack of patience, Mrs. Munroe added, *"They want everything right now. They want it yesterday."*

As Natalie Munroe fights to keep her job at what could be any high school in suburbia USA, debate on both sides of the issue has surfaced. *"Why are today's students unmotivated — and what's wrong with calling them out?"* One result of this story is that similar cries are now being heard from many high school teachers also frustrated by the weaknesses of the educational system in America. There are, of course, other concerned citizens who have openly rebuked the teacher for berating her own students in a public online forum. Mrs. Monroe has hired an attorney who claims she had the right to post her thoughts on the blog. *"She did it as carefully as she could,"* he said. *"It's so general that it applies to the problems in school districts and schools across the country."*

I begin this month's newsletter highlighting this recent incident in Pennsylvania because it illustrates a contemporary problem that Mortimer Adler addressed in 1941; the problem of lazy minds. And it's not just a problem with kids in school,

but their parents, too. Whether it's the public school, the Christian school, or the pews of a local church, many contemporary classrooms are filled with people who prefer not to study and learn. What has happened to man's quest for knowledge and desire for truth? Why are we not diligent students of God's Word? Has the human mind gone to sleep? In his article entitled, *Invitation to The Pain of Learning*, Mortimer Adler wrote, "The fundamental activity that is involved in every kind of genuine learning is intellectual activity, the activity generally known as *thinking*. And "anyone who has done any thinking, even a little bit, knows that it is painful. It is hard work; in fact the very hardest that human beings are ever called upon to do." *(I agree. While writing these monthly articles is in keeping with my gift, it is "hard work," nonetheless. I must discipline my mind to do it.)*

Mortimer Adler was an American philosopher, educator and popular author. In 1941, he wrote his article to express concern that the educational system in America (even in the 30's and 40's) was fraudulent and failing. "We are pretending to give them something which is described in the advertising as very valuable, but which we promise they can get at almost no expense to them." Adler used the word "expense," not to describe the monetary cost involved in acquiring education, but the mental sacrifice, effort, and fatigue that comes from the discipline and diligence of intense study. "We must honestly announce that pain and work are the irremovable and irreducible accompaniments of genuine learning."

It seems to me that some of the frustration Natalie Munroe recently expressed on her blog is similar to Mortimer Adler's rebuke of the American educational system 70 years ago. Apparently, not much has changed. Are we reaping what we have sown (or not sown) into the hearts of millions of Americans this past century; the will to work at learning? Have we parents, our children, and our grandchildren been raised to believe that play, pleasure and a comfortable lifestyle (but not hard work) are the goals and blessings of the American Dream? Mortimer Adler thinks so. "The practices of educators, even if they are well-intentioned, who try to make

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# Church Happenin's

- Feb. 28, Mar. 2 & 4 FISH Food Bank service
- Wednesday, Mar. 2 Upward Bound Share-A-Dish Meeting at 11:30 AM at the Dillon home (1404 Dillon Rd).
- March 7-15 Pastor Bruce will be attending the CBNW Annual Meetings, followed by the Shepherd's Conference in California
- Monday, Mar. 7 Council Meetings, 7 PM—If you would like to participate in the ministries at FBC, please join us. Elders & Deacons meet at 6:30. Mission Council—Now meeting at 2 PM at the home of Doris Kahler
- Sunday, Mar. 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins—set your clocks forward 1 hour  
Guest Speaker: Brian Janssen  
Musical Guests: the Women's Chamber Choir of The Master's College, potluck to follow
- Saturday, Mar. 19 Men's Breakfast, 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- March 21-25 Church Secretary on Vacation, Pastor Bruce will be in the office
- Wednesday, Mar. 23 Upward Bound Trip—OMSI & IMAX theatre, dinner at the Rhinelander. See the Dillons for more details and meeting times.
- Monday, Mar. 28 Elder Meeting, 6:30 PM

# Future Events

- April 8-10 Summit-to-Summit Men's Camp
- Sunday, Apr. 10 1st Quarter Business Meeting
- Friday, Apr. 22 Good Friday Service, 7 PM
- Sunday, Apr. 24 Easter Breakfast, 9 AM



David Warrenka	March 1
Dani DeHaven	March 2
Julie Ueland	March 5
Jenna Lee Arrington	March 9
Alyssa Bryan	March 10
Laura Wittmeyer	March 14
John Page	March 16
Jared Bryan	March 19
Lois Nance	March 19
Marian Warrenka	March 22
Ben Spotts	March 23
Robert Rowan	March 25
Oscar Stenberg	March 26
Paul Brown	March 30
Becky Sandercock	March 31



\*\* If your birthday doesn't appear on the list, that means we have no record of it. Please let Lora know in the Church Office, and we will add you to our lists.

## Church Library

Our Church Library has books available in fiction, children's, biographies, Christian Living, and Bible Studies and Devotionals. Have you checked out the library lately?. The display on the table in the foyer also has some of Pastor Bruce's recommended books. Please sign the card on the back page of the book and place it in the blue box in the library, which is in the back half of the classroom at the end of the upstairs hall. See Marian Warrenka for more information.

## Help for the Needy

Our Church Deacon fund is a means of ministering to people in our church family and community who are in financial distress. The Deacon fund is not a part of our general budget, but is funded by special offerings. The fund has seen a great deal of use this year, and needs your support to continue ministering to the needy. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help those in distress. There are small envelopes in the church pews which can be used for this purpose, or checks may be marked for the Deacon fund and submitted in the Sunday morning offering.



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learning less painful than it is, not only make it less exhilarating, but also weaken the will and minds of those on whom this fraud is perpetrated.” The lie being advanced, he said, is that “childhood must be filled with as much play and as little work as possible,” and he holds both parents and teachers responsible.

Clearly, the issue of lazy minds is trans-generational and spans both secular and sacred institutions, as well. Reading Shakespeare may be difficult, but understanding the Bible requires hard work. Peter’s comment about some of Paul’s teachings is appropriate. “Paul, in all his letters wrote to you ... in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction” (2 Pet. 3:16). The mind had better be able to comprehend eternal truth or it risks damning the soul. Also, in Paul’s letter to Timothy, the apostle forewarns all teachers and students that the spiritual wisdom gleaned from God’s Word will not come easy. Intense thinking and study is required if the Christian teacher is going to rightly divide the Scripture. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). The word “diligent” is *spoudazo* in the Greek, and means “to strive, or labor with earnest intent.” Believers committed to knowing and understanding sound doctrine must strive to acquire God’s wisdom by working hard in Bible study. While the Spirit of God illumines the mind to understand the Scripture (1 Cor. 2:14), He does not by-pass the discipline of the mind in renewing it (Rom. 12:2). Even the prophets who spoke for God made “careful search and inquiry,” so why shouldn’t we (1 Pet. 1:10)?

The book of Proverbs emphasizes the need for God’s people to practice diligence and warns what will befall those who are lazy. “The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat” (Prov. 13:4). “The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty” (Prov. 21:5). “Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer, and gathers her provision in the harvest” (Prov. 6:6-8). While these basic principles in life can also be applied to people who are not Christians, believers have the distinct advantage of having God dwell in them through the power of His Holy Spirit; to have both the mind and body controlled by Jesus Christ!

Adler is right, the discipline of diligence must permeate all of life for every man, but the specific purpose for this article is to emphasize the necessary labor required to understand God’s truth and feed the soul; the listening, reading and study that is needed to possess the mind of Christ and live the Christian life. Sadly, today, publishers are printing small books with large fonts and even larger white spaces just to find an interested audience. By God’s grace believers should be hungry for truth, not ignoring it. May God rekindle our love and appetite

for His Word, lest we find ourselves perishing (2 Thess. 2:10). In recent years, the Christian Research Institute has joined the chorus of concern, citing sloth as a significant reason why people do not understand the Bible. “Anything really valuable requires diligent attention. Yet, one reason why people do not understand the Bible is because they do not work at understanding it.” They have become spiritually lazy.

I’m grateful to God for granting me an appetite for truth, the desire to study His Word, and a passion to interpret Scripture correctly. God is glorified when His Word is rightly divided and received! However, I regret to admit that if *blogging* were available in the day I went to high school, my teachers’ blogs about me might resemble Mrs. Munroe’s comments about her own students. Back in the 60’s & 70’s, I despised the pursuit of knowledge and wanted school to be entertaining, fun, easy and relevant, but not hard work. I labored little to grasp concepts that were “over my head.” I just didn’t care. I simply secured the most convenient tools available (i.e. Cliff Notes and other students’ tests and notes) to make the grade.

As believers we mustn’t allow the world to shape our values and priorities, especially as it relates to training the mind. Satan, the ruler of this world, would prefer that we park our brains in neutral and go to sleep. He knows the temporal and eternal good that comes to children and adults who study and apply God’s Word; the blessings and benefits of being wise according to the Scriptures. We must fight the mediocrity of our day and work hard at learning. In my humble opinion, educational programs that promote an “outcomes-based education” actually hinder excellence and promote mental laziness among students who are not reaching their full potential. While OBE goals sound noble and promising, the outcomes have proven to be disastrous for our nation as we watch the global competition gradually surpassing our country’s academic and professional achievements.

Lest we think that mindless mediocrity is only a problem for modernity, Jesus weighed in on the issue, too. In Luke 10:27, the Lord taught His disciples that loving God also involves the *mind*. True faith in Jesus is not mindless. God calls us to *think* before we act; to *consider* our calling before we yield to the flesh, the world, and the devil; to possess the mind of Christ through faith in the living Word! As I write this article, I’m staring at a row of books written by scholars who have studied very hard indeed (i.e. Calvin’s Institutes, J. C. Ryle’s, Holiness, or Stephen Charnock’s two-volume masterpiece on the Attributes of God). These writings, and others like them, reflect minds devoted to the discipline of learning; brains willing to dig for the treasures of truth that are buried deep in the soil of Scripture. God expects His children to grow spiritually; to mature by means of both milk and meat and to chew on food that sometimes is difficult to swallow and digest.

Over 30 years ago, Tim LaHaye, like Adler, sounded a similar alarm when he released his Christian book, The Battle for the Mind. He understood that the enemy’s tactic was to keep us from “*taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Cor. 10:5); from training our minds to think deeply

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## Women's Chamber Choir

**With us March 13th!**

The Master's College Women's Chamber Choir will be giving a special presentation during our morning service on Sunday, March 13th. We will hold a **special offering** to help cover their travel expenses. There will also be a **potluck** following the morning service to provide lunch for these young women and their director. Please take this opportunity to get to know them better.

### ***We Need Houses***

We need your help! We are in need of families who would be willing to help house these young ladies on Saturday night, and provide breakfast for them Sunday. For the protection of their students the Master's College asks that the girls be divided up in pairs for their overnight housing.



### ***About the Choir***

Directed by Dr. Carolyn Simons, The Women's Chamber Choir is a 15-member auditioned choir representing various states and major areas of study. They perform music from every major stylistic period, relating spiritual truth to people today. Their time with you will feature music and testimony. The Women's Chamber Choir performs throughout the year on campus as well as off campus in churches, schools and convalescent hospitals. The women's choir is the newest musical group on campus, established in 2000.

## **Summit to Summit Men's Camp**

**"GET OUT OF THE BOAT"**

-Matthew 14:29

**April 8-10, 2011**

With Guest Speaker Dave Brown. Brochures are available in the Church Foyer. The Cost is \$115 after March 1st.

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and theologically about our earthly pilgrimage and eternal future. Two centuries earlier, the apostle Paul warned about what happens to our lives when our minds are distracted and deceived.

*"For the **mind** set on the flesh is death, but the **mind** set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the **mind** set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so"* (Rom. 8:6-7). Paul also expressed concern in his second letter to the church at Corinth that *"as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your **minds** should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ"* (2 Cor. 11:3). The battle, beloved, is indeed for the mind of man; a mind that must be protected, trained and transformed.

In just a few days I will be attending CBNW's Annual Meeting in Seaside followed by a week of learning at the 2011 Shepherds' Conference. These convocations are yearly highlights for me because of the privilege I have to sit at the feet of gifted teachers and preachers; to learn as we study the Scriptures from dawn till dusk with men who have yielded their minds and disciplined their lives for the spiritual benefit of God's church. Please pray that my mind will be set-apart, stimulated, stretched, saturated and satisfied by week's end; that true "learning" will have taken place as I devote my mind, heart and soul to the disciplined study of Scripture; that I will work hard in my role as student and avoid the temptation to be another "lazy whiner."

I will pray for you, too; that Jesus would cultivate minds that are intensely devoted to God's will and His Word; and that we would not shrink back from the hard task of learning and study, but would *"comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God"* (Eph. 3:18-19). This will only happen as we are "conformed to the image of Christ;" and that will only happen when we are "transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Rom. 12:2).

Perhaps Paul's wise counsel to the Corinthian believers, and the brothers and sisters in Galatia, will motivate our hearts to be committed to learning, serving and sacrificing for Jesus.

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Cor. 15:58). *"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary"* (Gal. 6:9). As believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, let us be diligent to present ourselves to God as unashamed workman, willing to handle accurately the Word of God because we've studied hard. We can all do it, by His grace!

Trusting in Jesus!

*Pastor Bruce*



# NOTES

By Doris Kahler

Fidelis Missionary/Pastoral Supply is a designated fund in our Church budget, totally dependent on free-will offerings. Our group makes items requested by mission hospitals and our local nursing homes, and collects various items needed by missionaries, Christian schools, and other Christian organizations. We also raise funds and collect items to assist with local area ministries such as the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC), Child Evangelism, and Columbia Gorge Young Life.

We use:

- Lots of old, part-cotton sheets of any color or design for roller bandages and wipes for mission hospitals.
- New or good used baby clothing and blankets for the PRC and mission hospitals.
- Fabrics for making clothing protectors, neck pillows, and walker bags for nursing homes.
- Health care items such as cotton balls or rolls, sterile and non-sterile exam gloves, 4"x4" gauze pads, and adhesive tape for mission hospitals.
- Cancelled stamps, which will be sent where they can be sold to collectors to raise funds for missions.
- Christian literature, such as daily devotionals, magazines (please no *Guide Posts*), biographies, books, teaching materials, Bibles and Concordance. These will be sent to Christian Resources International, which will distribute them to missionaries all over the world.
- Monetary Donations. (Please make any checks out to First Baptist Church, and mark any funds for Fidelis.)

**Volunteers Needed!** - Katie Curtis, our roller bandage maker, has retired and we are now in need of some volunteers who would be willing to take on the task of making roller bandages. The mission hospitals that we help supply have been very grateful for these bandages over the years, and we would like to be able to continue to keep them supplied. Please let me know if you might be able to help with this valuable ministry.

If you have any questions about our work, or would like to find out how you can help, please contact Doris Kahler at 541-386-5388.



## Spotlight on Missions

By Marian Warrenka

**Paul & Diana Mayhugh (Macau, China)** - Paul & Diana are presently on furlough in Ephrata, WA., caring for Paul's mother who has Alzheimer's. While on furlough, Paul has been working on his PhD.

**Excerpt from their recent prayer letter:**

*"We thank the Lord as we look back upon 2010. Pastors received more theological training. Special training sessions were conducted. Spiritual growth is steadily occurring in most of the churches. Many high school and college students believed in Christ this year. In one venue 22 of 29 high school students came to Christ one weekend! In 2010 we saw scores of individuals baptized and incorporated into local churches. New baptisms demonstrate a number of things: Christians are witnessing for Jesus; God is saving the lost; church leaders are remaining faithful to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20); and churches are growing numerically.*

*I was honored to be asked to help baptize 7 new believers in one church. A young mother shared her salvation testimony prior to her baptism that night. She testified that her primary reason for converting from being an atheist to a Christian was due to the life change of her husband. (A year previous I had the privilege to baptize her husband.) After observing his 180-degree life change over the year, she was convinced that only Jesus Christ, the true and living God could do such a miraculous thing and she wanted the same for her life! (These new baptisms occurred in a church that had previously been threatened with closure.)"*

**Christian Youth in Action**—Teens, learn how to teach children about God's love. Grow in your Christian faith. Training is April 8-10 thru Child Evangelism Fellowship.

**Rod & Jackie Allen (Argentina)** — Praise God: Rod teaches seminary students, who preach in their local churches. Praise God for 106 new believers and 87 who are being disciplined by seminary students.

**Nadine House (Appointee to Taiwan through CEF)** - She has applied at Tunghia University for language school in Mandarin Chinese. Pray for her acceptance at this school and for her support to come in by May. She still needs \$684 more a month. While in New York, Nadine trained 6 workers to carry on the Chinese Children's program she started. In the last 4 months 25 Chinese children have accepted Christ. There are 30-40 who attend the Good News Clubs every week.

**Paul Geary (Indonesia)** - Please pray for the Indonesian government to renew Paul Geary and Steve Anderson's medical licenses so they can return to Bethesda Hospital to teach medical students.

**Ben & Libby Spotts (India)** - Libby is expecting their 4th child in 1 week. Her mother is there with them now. Ben had ACL surgery on his knee and is doing well. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

# First Baptist Church

1889 Belmont Dr.  
Hood River, OR 97031



**Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**Sunday, March 13th**

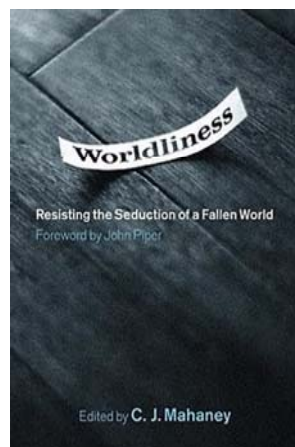
Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour next weekend.



## Book of the Month

“Worldliness” by C. J. Mahaney

*Worldliness* reveals how Christians are to engage a fallen world and boldly preach the gospel, yet not be conformed and ultimately seduced by the system of this world. As readers learn to identify the presence of worldliness in the areas of media, modesty, music, and material possessions, they can begin to resist its influence in their lives and instead pursue eternal godliness.



*“The difference between the world and the church is eroding at an alarming rate, and we need help with holiness. This book is biblically grounded and Christ-centered, full of grace and truth. Every chapter raises the bar of Christian living without falling into legalism. One of the most timely and much-needed books I've read in years. I highly recommend it.”* - Randy Alcorn



**From 9:15 to 10:15 Sunday Mornings**

### Children & Youth Classes:

- Nursery**—We're looking for helpers to cover the Nursery during the Sunday School hour
- Pre-K**—Downstairs Hall, 2nd door on the right; learning about the “Love of God”, led by Sandy Parker
- K-5th Grade**—Downstairs Hall, last two doors on the left; “God’s Bib Picture” Genesis to Revelation Bible survey, led by Tom Yates & Marian Warrenka
- 6th-8th Grade**—Downstairs Hall, 2nd door on the left; studying Israel and the Patriarchs, led by Tony Clark
- 9th-12th Grade**—Downstairs Hall, 1st door on the right; studying the book of Romans, led by Carol Yates

### Adult Classes:

- Luke, Deuteronomy**—Upstairs across from Sanctuary; led by Ned Chestnut
- DVD “The Reason for God”** - Downstairs in the Fellowship Hall; led by Hal Ueland
- Revelation**—Downstairs, NW corner classroom off Fellowship Hall; led by Ray Kulper