



# Boulevard Park Press

MAY 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

## Lessons from Working at Home

By Lisa Bowen (with additional items from church staff)

Hello my dear BPC family! Checking in with you from the Bowen Office Complex in Normandy Park (a.k.a. my dining room table). I just wanted to take a couple of minutes and share a few things with you. Life as we KNEW it, has come to a screeching halt, and I have learned some VERY interesting things over the past few weeks.

- Apparently I have been washing my hands the wrong way for years.
- My house was really dusty.
- We have a ridiculous number of pillowcases.
- I need to organize my kitchen cupboards. Yikes!
- That I am REALLY good at online shopping.

- I actually can live without going out to eat.
- When I am stuck at home, my go-to snack is ice cream. And chips.
- I should have invested in TP stock.
- As of today I have consumed nearly 45,000 gallons of iced tea.
- My dog sleeps pretty much all day.
- I still don't like to do the dishes.
- My husband should be up for sainthood.
- The oven is actually used for more than storing pans.
- I am not a professional hairstylist.
- Be careful where you hold your phone when you are video chatting...you can look like something from a science fiction movie if you hold it the wrong way.

All kidding aside, this experience has provided me the unexpected blessings of mandatory time to slow down, having a new appreciation for things I didn't really pay much attention to before (birds really chirp a lot in the early morning!), the chance to really listen to people more carefully, time to be more intentional about my relationships with family and friends, and the chance to know Jesus in a deeper way. Although it's been hard to be away from everyone, I am encouraged to see several other unexpected blessings rise to the surface for all of us:

- There seems to be a new appreciation for one another.
- We are looking for ways to meet one another's needs in different and creative ways.
- There is a longing for community.
- Receiving a handwritten letter is a treasure.
- Recognition that physical touch, whether through a hug, handshake, or just standing near someone, is more important than we've ever realized.
- People have a sense of humor and can be very creative when times are challenging.
- We NEED to be together.
- Celebrations are vital for us as people, where we connect and mark major events in our lives.
- Being able to have a meal in a restaurant is such a privilege.

### Church Office

From Kathy Rainey

How very different it is right now. The pastor and staff all have been working at home so that we (Kathy Rainey and Cora Miller) can come in and take care of the mail, phone calls, prayer requests, and any other basic needs that come up. It's very quiet! Not only are the planes not flying as usual, but people have been doing what they should and staying home.

Kathy comes in for the morning shift and Cora for the afternoon shift. It has been a blessing to be in the office and doing what we can. We hope that if you have any prayer requests or needs that you would call and let us know. Our hearts are so grateful for those of you who have called to pray for us and to see how we are doing, and to offer any help to those who need it. You all are just an amazing, loving church family.

Thank you especially to the Press staff for being willing to put out the Press this month. And also thank you to our custodian, Yinita Silva Jones, for coming to clean and sanitize the church. You are so appreciated.

**Church Office Hours for this time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

This monthly PAGE 2 column reminds us that a partnership takes two. We should all be active, on-going SENDERS partnering with the SENT.

Compiled and edited by Ellyn Roe

\*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact [ellynroe@comcast.net](mailto:ellynroe@comcast.net)



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Boulevard Park Church

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Photo credit on page 1  
courtesy of Lisa Bowen

## PAGE 2: YOU AND YOUR GLOBAL WORKERS Twosomes Partnering with God around the World

### EPHESIANS 6:19 vs. COVID-19

Let's be faithful to pray for our Global Workers, their sending organizations, and "their" people around the world. Perhaps you could post the following list of BPC's sent ones in a visible place and pray for one (or more) g.w. each day. Maybe this would be good to do even when God ends the pandemic. Ya think?

Jerry & Candis Bingham, Tecate Mission International

Tim & Debbie Bryce, North American Indigenous Ministries

K.D.\*, Africa Inland Mission

M.E.\*, Pioneers

C., A. & C. H.\*, Global Serve International

Tom & Judy Horton, Rural Church Youth Ministries

M. & D. H.\*, Wycliffe

Mark & Joanne Mackey, European Christian Mission

Noe, Lisa, Naya and Jocie Martinez, Ethnos 360

Rob and Nancy Norwood, Missionary Aviation Fellowship

Tim & Sharon Simmonds, Radius International

Tom & Debbie Wood, iTee Global



April 10 rooftop reunion at Sea Tac. (not pictured, happy parents/grandparents Steve and Ellyn Roe)

### Noe, Lisa, Naya and Jocie Are Home!

By Lisa Martinez

After a few stressful weeks and a long and unusual trip across the ocean, we have arrived safely in the Seattle area from PNG! We are battling jet lag as we undergo our two-week quarantine period, but we look forward to visiting with family and friends once the Stay-at-Home order is lifted in WA State. Meanwhile we are keeping busy with homeschool and Tigak church resource development. Thank you for your continued support and prayers, especially in these uncertain times where we ALL must lean on the Lord!

### Transform Burien Outreach: Feeding the Homeless and Poor — What's Happening?

By Randy Boyd

You may have heard the city of Burien "condemned" the building that Transform and others use, evicting them as of Dec 31, 2019. But due to large public outcry, that decision was delayed until July, 2020. At the moment, Transform continues to explore its options for the future.

In the meantime, the need has never been greater, nor harder to fulfill during this Covid virus time. BPC funded, made and handed out 110 sack lunches the first Sunday of April. Only two workers from BPC participated, heavily masked and gloved. Other churches contributed workers for the foodbank, which as was also open during this time.

Transform continues to desperately need food bank items, just canned items for now. Visit the webpage for street address and times for food dropoff. Alternatively, consider donating online at <https://transformoutreach.org/donate/>.



Jill Boyd assembles sack lunches.

# God's Glory: *Dei gloriari est in cruce*

By Pastor Bud

This past month we spent time reflecting on the most heinous injustice ever perpetrated in the history of mankind, in which we find God's most eloquent displays of His glory. Our usual reaction, when we look at the cross of Christ, is one of gratitude, and rightly so. I am thankful for the cross of Christ and his subsequent resurrection from the dead. There is more to be said. In this brief article, I want us to observe the cross from a perspective that extends beyond its benefits to our lives. Instead I want us to see the cross from God's perspective because I believe that it is from our Lord's point of view that we will understand the Latin phrase, *Dei gloriari est in cruce* (God's glory in the cross).

It makes sense that God, who does everything for His glory, would also find glory through the death of His Son on the cross. Three times in Ephesians 1:3-14, Paul tells us that the heavenly blessings we receive through Christ are designed to promote God's glory (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).

I know that we are eternally grateful for our salvation. Our gratitude should have no bounds. I do not want to minimize the personal blessing of our gracious salvation through Jesus' substitutionary death. I do, however, want to infuse our view of the cross with an added perspective of the glory God gets through the cross.

Simply defined, God's glory is the sum of His divine attributes that provide the weight, splendor, and majesty of both His invisible and visible perfections. From Romans 3:21-31 we will consider three attributes of God's glory in the cross.

**1. The glory of God's righteousness is demonstrated through the cross.** Jesus' death on the cross "was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed" (Rom. 3:25). In the midst of all the judgments and bloodshed recorded in the Old Testament (OT) narrative, God's forbearance was more obvious to the people than His righteousness was. The testimony of the OT is not God's complete punishment of sin. Rather it is that he "for-

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*When I see God's glory  
in the cross, I lift my  
heart in worship.*

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*gave their iniquity and did not destroy them" (Ps. 78:38). In post-exilic Jerusalem, the Jews struggled with God's discipline of them because they believed Him to be soft on the sin of others (Mal. 3:14-15). However, on the cross God did not pass over any sin. The cross is a glorious testimony to God's righteousness. For on the cross, "the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering" (Isa. 53:10).*

**2. The glory of God's grace is demonstrated through the cross.** Through the sacrifice of His Son, God did what we could not. It was God who was offended by sin. It was to Him that we owed an incalculable debt. But, it was He who ordained the gracious payment of that debt. The extension of that grace is "apart from the law" (Rom. 3:21), "a gift by

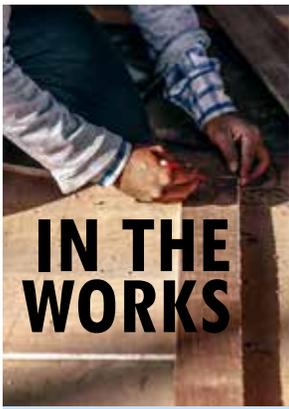
*His grace" (Rom. 3:24), and "by faith" (Rom. 3:28). Through the cross of Christ, God did all the heavy lifting because of the self-giving nature of His glorious grace.*

**3. The glory of God's impartiality is demonstrated through the cross.** God does not have a double standard. Romans 2:11 says, "For there is no partiality with God." He is the God of the Jews and the Gentiles (Rom. 3:29-30). Salvation by faith levels the ground at the foot of the cross, for Jews and also for Gentiles (Rom. 1:16-17). No matter what our ethnic heritage may be, sin places us all in the category of the condemned. On the cross, Jesus condemned sin (Rom. 8:3), and by its condemnation, He purchased life for all without distinction. "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26-28).

When I think of what my salvation cost, I bow my knees in humble gratitude. When I see God's glory in the cross, I lift my heart in worship. When I sing about the glorious provision of God brought about by the cross, music style fades, and the eternal provision of Jesus' cleansing blood reigns in my heart and mind.

Although, the cross is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles; yet, for everyone who is saved, it is the glorious testimony to God's righteous, gracious, and impartial gift of salvation. Such is *Dei gloriari est in cruce*.

*Soli Deo gloria.*



## Renovation Project

# Phase 1 Status

By Todd Neumann, BPC Phase 1 Liaison

Hello BPC family!

You have likely noticed the lack of renovation activity. Many of us were expecting our phase 1 renovation project to be close to completion by now. And most of you are aware that the construction hasn't even started. Here's some history and the current status of the project.

### History

In the spring of 2019, the Renovation Committee received the phase 1 estimate from Moon Construction, and in our June 7th Corporate Meeting we approved the \$230K construction budget

Detailed contractor and sub-contractor walk-throughs began in October and continued into January. During that time additional structural issues were discovered requiring the involvement of an engineering company.

In mid-January the Renovation Committee received the project quote from Moon Construction *for over twice the original estimated amount.*

To bring down the cost of phase 1 to

match the approved budget, the Renovation Committee carefully reviewed the four major areas of this phase and chose to continue with only two of them: the major MPR restroom remodel, and new MPR flooring.

During the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, Moon Construction, BPH Architects, ThreeFold Design, and their sub-contractors have been able to provide only a low level of support for the new phase 1 estimates.

### Current

- Moon Construction continues to estimate the reduced phase 1 content, and so far has provided a couple of estimates for two different MPR flooring products. The Renovation Committee is currently determining which product to go with.
- The Renovation Committee is still waiting for the MPR restroom remodel estimate.
- MPR maintenance projects are in the planning stage and include replacement ceiling lights, repainting the ceiling, and repairing the north wall.

## Annual Drive May 31–July 12, 2020

# The CareNet Baby Bottle Fundraiser

By Ellyn Roe

As we go to press, the wildly popular CareNet Baby Bottle fundraiser is tentatively set\* to begin on **Sunday, May 31**, when you can pick up your free Care Net Baby Bottle bank in the MPR after each of the morning services. Keep it at home until July 12, when you can bring it back to church filled with coins, bills and/or checks made out to CareNet of Puget Sound. Receipts will be mailed only to check writers.

Younger volunteers and staff kept Care Net centers open during our long spring of sheltering at home. Women with unplanned pregnancies were served in adjusted but effective capacities, and received as always, free, nonjudgmental options counseling, ultrasounds, and material assistance, all of which are made possible through YOUR generous donations last year.

CareNet's March 2020 Life and Light Banquet was canceled without the option to reschedule, and with it went a major source of contributions for Care Net of Puget Sound. Thus, it is more vital than ever that this year's Baby Bottle campaign be supported magnificently so that CareNet can continue to provide *faith-based, life-affirming support* to anyone who finds themselves in an unplanned pregnancy, hurting from a previous abortion, needing parenting support, or seeking relational guidance.

BPC has a history of enthusiastic support for this event, and I hope you are able to once again respond wonderfully.

—Ellyn Roe, Care Net Liaison

ellynroe@comcast.net or 206-265-0859

\*Notice will be given if this fundraiser is postponed further.



### Golf Tourney Canceled

The CareNet Board of Directors has decided it would be best to cancel this year's Swing for Life fundraiser golf tournament. God willing, both it and the annual Light and Life Banquet will be back in 2021. Please ask God to bless Care Net's Gospel-centered, life-affirming ministry as it deals with the loss of these two major sources of financial support.

## Behind the Scenes

# Livestreaming Church

By Randy Boyd

A group of six to nine people gather every Sunday, by about 8:15 a.m. The worship team practices one last practice and the 3-4 sound/presentation/livestream folks run through practice as well. We trial the sound and livestreaming. Because we've been learning about livestreaming, each week we've been adding equipment, lovely new cameras, adding better internet connectivity to the church, adding better networking gear in the balcony, etc. This means each and every week there are new kinks to be worked out.

We have around 110-120 "viewers" on Facebook. When we polled church members, most watch with two to six people in the room. In general, we believe there are 250-300 folks online with us all each week.

Additionally we have four or five folks who don't have internet, and they dial in on their phones to listen. Call the church office if you would like to learn more about this option.

It's a journey and each week there may be hiccups, but overall it's trending in a good direction. The intent is that we can make it as simple as possible. Long-term, the church will continue to livestream one service each week for the sick, the folks who can't get out, for those who are traveling, and for the workers inside the church building.

It's sad that the sanctuary has to be empty right now. I'm thankful for the technology that still allows us to worship together, but it is a shadow of the real thing. May this lead us all to be more appreciative of each other and the true fellowship of the saints when this time come to its end and we return to worship together.

### We Thank God for You!

We are thankful for the musicians and technicians who organize and produce our Sunday morning services for livestreaming. Special thanks for making our Holy Week services worshipful, especially the Tenabrae service on Good Friday — to the elders who prepared their poignant messages and the students who read the scripture. We are very grateful to Steve Roe for selecting and arranging the music and to Roger and Mary Cox who so thoughtfully put all the pieces of the service together and supplied the four-part harmony!

— from the Press staff for the congregation



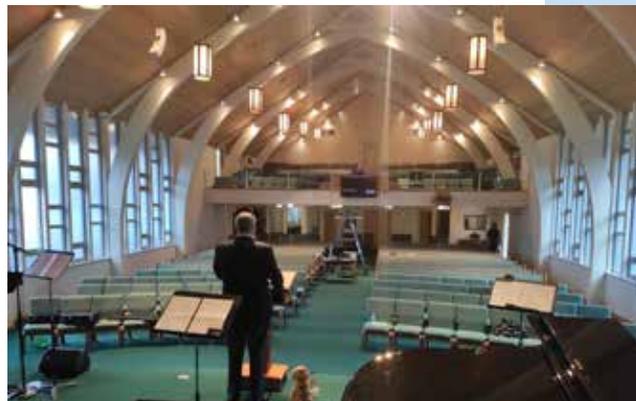
Here we are practicing our social distancing.



This was week one. Yes, that's the camera we used the first 2-3 weeks.



One week we had the livestream gear on the main floor.



Pastor Bud's view.

Photos courtesy Randy Boyd

## Milestones

### Births

**Ryker McCormack**

March 30, 2020

To Rachel McCormack.

Grandparents: John and Penny Clifton

**Gavin James Brown**

April 2, 2020

To Chelsea and Derek Brown

Grandmother: Lynda Eck

### Deaths

**Mary Whalen**

March 21, 2020

mother of Don Whalen

**Sylvia Moon Bakner**

March 22, 2020

sister of Annette Lowen

**Bob Nonis**

March 27, 2020

father of Michael Jonasson

**Dorothy Dubnow**

March 31, 2020

mother of Barry Dubnow

# Socially-Distant Giving

By John Siedenburg, Church Treasurer

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.**”*

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7) As a kid, I remember reading those last six words on the white envelopes that were dropped into the offering plate as it passed by the Siedenburg pew, second row back on the east side of the balcony. That was during the Carter administration.

Some things have changed since that time (the Siedenburgs migrated 20 feet west in the balcony, circa Reagan administration) while other things haven't changed much (like *how we spend the money* dropped into the plate). Funds collected continue to be spent on four main areas including **compensation** (for church staff, custodians, nursery workers, and others) **missions** (local, broader US, and throughout the rest of the world), **facilities** (utilities, maintenance and repairs, and office supplies), and **program** (youth, children, women, and men's ministries).

A second thing that has changed is *how we can give*. When I was a kid, almost all funds collected were dropped in the offering plate. Most of us still rely heavily today on touching that offering plate to pull the giving trigger which is a problem in times of social distancing and virtual church services. (Giving is down 30-50% during our virtual services.) All of us have had to make significant changes in our routines since early to mid-March due to the spread of the coronavirus. **Our giving medium of choice to the church needs to keep pace to avoid spending cuts to any of those four areas.**

Let me suggest four “socially distant” ways to give. First, if you are out and about grocery shopping, consider dropping off a check by the church office. Second, mail

a check from home or at the post office. Third, use your bank's “bill payer” service. My bank, BECU, has this service where I can easily establish BPC as a payee, and then set up weekly, monthly, or a one-off payment that is mailed postage free to the church. Fourth, navigate to the church website ([www.bpccburien.com/give](http://www.bpccburien.com/give)) and click “give online”. Currently 20% of our giving comes through this channel. **Would you consider making another change this week to help push this to 30-50% of our giving?** If just 30 of you took that step, we could really move the needle. It is only a 5-minute process to set up electronic giving via credit, debit, or a withdrawal from your bank account. I personally like this bank withdrawal option as the fees are lowest for the church, funds are deposited immediately to the church account, and it smoothes out seasonality in giving, creating a more predictable pattern for folks tasked with managing church finances. If you have questions on any of these giving options, feel free to email me at [john.siedenburg@comcast.net](mailto:john.siedenburg@comcast.net) or give me a call at 206-334-0239.

I understand that some of you may have reduced income either from a loss of a job or reduced hours due to coronavirus-induced economic slowdown. If you are in that situation, I am truly sorry. I would like to offer you the deacons' fund which can help pay some portion of your bills. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact my friend, Wayne Eickert, at 206-390-1938, who has faithfully served on the deacons for several years. Wayne would be happy to discuss opportunities to assist you from that fund.

For the rest of you, please take this opportunity to consider how you might willingly and joyfully give both to your home church and your neighbor next door, for God loves a cheerful giver.

# Church Renewal Is Hard

By Ken Carter, Elder

In 1975 I read a book by Dr. Larry Richards titled *Three Churches in Renewal* because one of those he described was the church I was attending. In the years since I have thought occasionally about church renewal. Why is renewal important and what does it look like?

About 20 years ago BPC remodeled its sanctuary because our worship practices had changed and the furnishings were tired. The front had tiered seating for the choir but the choir no longer sang in both services. It also lacked space for drums and other instruments used in the second service. The Board of Elders asked the Trustees to develop a plan for renewal. This was somewhat stressful because we had different visions for the remodeled sanctuary and the changes needed to get there. The final design had the platform with space for a variety of instruments and a baptismal font along with steps across the front where the choir could stand when they sang. And then demolition began and there was disruption and mess and choices to make and mistakes and disappointments throughout the process. Renewal is hard! Why bother? It is because we desired the sanctuary to be welcoming and functional for a younger generation of family and guests while accommodating our older members.

Five years ago in the Elder's Retreat we discussed a book by Thom Rainier titled *Autopsy of a Deceased Church, 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive*. We unanimously agreed that our church was in decline because we exhibited many of the attributes of the deceased churches. We realized that change was imperative if our church was to continue be a light in our community. Renewal had to begin with changes within the elders. We needed to take to heart our role of overseers/shepherds of the church by praying together for the church, and leading—not directing. We needed a heart for the gospel and the interests of others. Shortly after the retreat we hired a consultant to assess our church and provide guidance. I just reviewed his recommendations from that time. We have implemented many of them, including one to select a new senior pastor with the energy and drive to lead renewal. We selected Pastor Bud who has led many changes.

These cautionary words are from Thom

Rainier's book: *"Vibrant and living churches look after the interests of others. They are concerned for their communities. They open their door for others. In every one of the autopsied churches a significant number of the members moved the focus from others to themselves. And when a church moves in that direction, it is headed for decline then death. The decline may be protracted, and the death may be delayed. But it is inevitable. The church will die. A church cannot survive long-term where members are focused on their own preferences:*

- *My music style*
- *My desired length and order of services.*
- *My desired color and design of buildings and rooms.*
- *My activities and programs.*
- *My need of ministers and staff.*
- *My, my, my."*

The book of Philippians describes the purpose and heart of the vibrant church we desire to be:

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others (1 Phil 1:3-6, 2:1-4, NASB).*

I would like to encourage you to pray with me Paul's prayer and exhortation for our church and may we consider regularly whether our practices are both biblical and meet the desires of younger believers or are they based on our heritage of church past. Let us continue to pray for our neighbors who we hope to serve and consider their needs and desires in preference to ours. May we be a light in these challenging times. To God be the glory in all we do and say.

## Celebrations!

### May Birthdays

- 1 Noah Harder  
William McCreary  
Isaak Wiebe
- 3 Karen Cross  
Gary Schwatke
- 6 Karen Doerr
- 7 Don Whalen
- 10 Pat Peterson
- 12 Don Hartley
- 14 Melissa Gray  
Eugene Prince
- 15 Ellyn Roe  
Peter Wagner
- 16 Jim Cowin  
Fred Volkers
- 17 Lisa Bowen  
Josh Burt
- 18 Sarah Bailey
- 19 Jim Lindberg  
Wyatt Wagner
- 20 Jim Shoe May 20
- 21 Marlon Hovland  
Richard Jordan  
Jonathan Recker
- 25 Eva Lee Henderson
- 27 Brenda Partridge
- 28 Bruce Batch  
Judy Maier
- 29 Larry Gray
- 31 Dick Frederick  
Kris Sybouts  
Rae Weller

### Early June Birthdays

- 1 Noe Martinez
- 2 Lisa Siedenburg
- 3 Judy Mattson
- 4 Norma Chapman  
Farouq Hammo
- 5 Gene Deda  
Kian Conroy
- 6 Matthew Will  
Ian Faulkner
- 7 Gary Stariha  
Lisa Jones  
Larry Rice
- 8 Cora Miller  
Russell Parr  
Nathan Recker

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office.

Lessons, from page 1

- That we need to tell our people just how important they are to us ANY AND EVERY TIME we can.
- TV news is not uplifting.
- People we may not have been aware of before (grocery store staff, restaurant delivery drivers, Amazon staff, postal workers, etc.) have shown us just how important they are to our daily lives, then AND now.
- Saying “Thank You!” is something we should never forget to do.
- Worshipping together is such an incredible privilege and gift.
- Physical separation can’t really keep us apart. We always figure out ways to connect with each other.

One of the most important things I have been reminded of over and over is that no matter what may be happening in our world, **we as believers have the sweet comfort in knowing that we have Jesus and the hope He gives us in each and every situation.** I am hoping that because of this experience, and the peace that has flooded my soul during this time that I will be bolder in my words and in my witness to those who don’t know the saving grace and peace He offers.

Both Allen and I have been enjoying working from home, which has been a blessing. Our commute is a breeze...Allen to his office at one end of the house, and mine to the dining room table! We get to meet for lunch, which is an added bonus! However, I

have missed the interactions of being in the church office so much. Instead, I have been busy calling my sweet BPC sisters and MOPS mamas on the phone, writing notes, emailing and texting. I have such a new appreciation for actual phone calls again...to hear people’s voices and to really talk for a bit has become a treasured time for me. I have also been busy working on my Biblical Counseling Certificate over these past few weeks. I have been finishing up my reading requirements, and I am extremely grateful for the time to do this.

Allen and I also have been busy working on little projects around the house, doing lots of yard work, reading and eating a lot of good food! We’ve been “seeing” our extended family by doing things like meeting in the parking lot at church, circling our cars, and backing them in so we can all sit on the tailgates and visit...at least six feet apart!\*

I have realized that “absence does make the heart grow fonder” and just how precious you are to me, my sweet church family. My arms are just aching to hug all of you tight! I am looking forward to the day when we can actually sit together in the same room, talk, laugh and worship together. How completely sweet that will be! So until then, I will be praying for you and cheering you on as we all hang out at home and trust that God is doing something great in this “time out” we’re all in!

\*See photos on page 1.

## Youth Ministries

From Nate Kowallis

Hey family,

It has been quite an experience explaining to my kids why we’re not doing normal things. My heart melts when my toddlers ask to go to church again, particularly when Fletcher wants “to see all the people.” Declan has been capitalizing on solo-play opportunities, and Callum – in the meantime – has learned to walk!

The good weather has been particularly helpful to Erryn’s soul and mine: Many of you know we had a vibrant patch of ivy at our place, and the trustees felled some trees recently; we no longer have that ivy, and we’re going after the tree stumps now. We’re excited to make some raised planter beds and beautify the space around the house, and the kids have enjoyed being a part of the process. Declan is trying to understand the complex relationship between blackberry thorns, the fall of man, and Jesus creating all things, so I’ve been honored to share with him the Gospel according to landscaping.

The Youth Ministry continues in some form during this season. Erryn has blown up our social media presence, and we alternate leading devotional discussions with the youth on Instagram. Wednesday nights we have fairly open-ended video chats, and Erryn is leading a book study with some ladies on Thursday nights. We are holding the future with open hands, but eagerly await the days we can personally connect with our church family again.

## Children's Ministries

From Lisa Siedenburg.

We have been trying to keep up with our church families by emailing a weekly "Sunday School" lesson video and mailing the coloring/activity pages that go along with it. Our Awana kids have also been calling in on Wednesday evenings to say their Bible verses. It's been encouraging to see their enthusiasm. One 2nd grader said 18 verses the other day! Convicted me to start working at memorizing more, too!

Our family has been strangely busy during this time of social distancing. John and I are both working from home, and the girls work on homework most of the morning and into the early afternoon. Between chores, music practice and online music lessons, youth group and book club, our afternoons and evenings fill up pretty easily. For the first several weeks of homestay, we were baking as our pastime and joy. However, now with the better weather and expanded waistlines, we are trying to find joy in exercising more and eating healthier.

The best part about this time for me has been being home with my family, catching up on some home projects, getting a longer quiet time, and being able to read/listen to some books. We've also been able to spend Sundays with two of our dear friends as they have been joining us each week for the worship service and lunch after. Usually our Easter count is around 30 with many of John's family coming over. Though we were much smaller this year, it was a sweet blessing to be able to share our egg hunt with the little 18-month-old neighbor.

The Book List so far, in case you're interested:

- *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren (In a nutshell, we can see, know and please our Holy God in the ordinary practices of daily living.)
- *Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption* by Katie Davis (Ironically opposite of the first book, as she says 'yes' to God and serves Him in amazing and very un-ordinary ways.)
- *Stay: Discovering Grace, Freedom, and Wholeness Where You Never Imagined Looking* by Anjali Paschall (Recommended by Erynn Kowallis who is leading our youth group girls as they read this for a book club. Focuses on "staying" in the discomfort of past hurts, habits and hangups in order to find transformation through God's love and healing.)
- *Pursuing Peace: A Christian Guide to Handling Our Conflicts* by Robert D. Jones (Recommended by Lisa Bowen! It's exactly what the title says.)

All but *Stay* are in the King County Library System digital catalog.

## Worship and Congregational Care

From Conor Malis

Natalie and I have been doing all right during this time of quarantine. We have been cooking/baking at home much more frequently, playing music, and watching movies together. Working from home has been an adjustment for me, but I'm getting used to it. Natalie always works from home, so she's accustomed to it, but her work has slowed down quite a bit with weddings and photo sessions being postponed.

We miss our church family a lot, but we keep in touch through weekly bible study calls, youth group game nights, and Sunday mornings with our small team.

Some podcasts that we've been listening to are: Crossway, For the Church, Simply Put, and Redeeming Truth. We have also enjoyed watching Tim Challies' documentary series called, "Epic: An Around-the-World Journey Through Christian History".



## Directory Changes

**Alex Alford**  
18953 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave South  
SeaTac WA 98188

**Elly Jackson**  
206-241-3743

**James Bingham**  
Jamesbingham777@gmail.com

**Jessica Barton**  
253-249-5019

**Jean Bakken/Sunset Family Home**  
6701 SE 123<sup>rd</sup>  
Bellevue WA 98006  
206-531-4049

**Betty Bennedsen**  
11442 SE 186<sup>th</sup> St  
Renton WA 98053  
206-937-2729

**Krista Chapman/Acclaimed Care**  
34122 28<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Federal Way, WA 98023  
253-545-1750

## A Word to Parents

# Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith

By Lisa Siedenburt

*Nothing less than a whole Bible  
can make a whole Christian.* – A.W. Tozer

This past month, a handful of us were able to “attend” the NW Ministry Conference. Because of coronavirus shutdowns, we attended virtually, which turned out to be a blessing as we could watch the workshops at our own pace. A couple of us listened to Jana Magruder’s presentation of her book, *Nothing Less: Engaging Kids In a Lifetime of Faith*. As Director of LifeWay Kids, she and her team asked LifeWay Research to identify for parents the “best practices” for children’s spiritual development which would lead them to adult spiritual health.

Lifeway Research surveyed 2,000 parents of young adults. These parents evaluated each of their adult child’s current spiritual health and then answered questions about each child’s upbringing. This resulted in 15 characteristics that were predictive of spiritual health in adult children.

They found that most Americans agree on what is mandatory to be a good mom or dad (loving, supporting, protecting, encouraging, understanding, involved, trusting, teaching, tender, providing, consistent, fun, with less importance on admitting mistakes, generous, religious, being a committed Christian). However, only 29% say that faith is the most important influence on their parenting.

### Faith Is Important

So, for those parents who do say their children’s faith in adulthood is important, what were the 15 greatest influencers that made an impact on their Spiritual Health?

#### Largest Impact

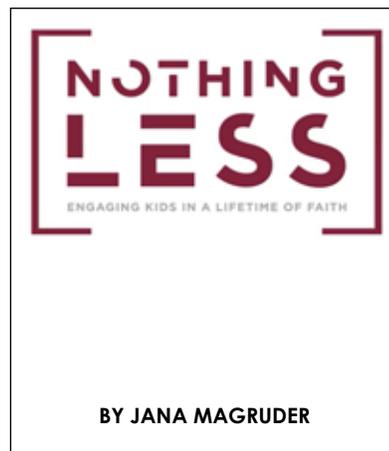
- ❖ Child regularly **read their Bible** while growing up

#### Moderate Impact

- ❖ Child regularly **spent time in prayer** while growing up
- ❖ Child regularly **served in church** while growing up
- ❖ Child listened primarily to **Christian music**
- ❖ Child participated in church **missions trips/projects**

#### Smallest Impact (both + positive and – negative influencers in spiritual health)

- ❖ – Child did not want to go to church as a teen
- ❖ + Child’s best friend was an influence to follow Christ while growing up



- ❖ + Child is female
- ❖ + Child connected with several adults at church who intentionally invested in them
- ❖ – Child was rebellious growing up
- ❖ + Parents typically asked forgiveness when they messed up
- ❖ + Parents pointed out biblical principles in everyday life
- ❖ – Child regularly listened to secular/popular music
- ❖ + Child had siblings
- ❖ – Family dropped in frequency of family church service attendance growing up

In summary, researchers found these to be the top 10 categories of spiritual influencers.

1. Bible Reading
2. Prayer
3. Serving
4. Music
5. Mission Trips or Projects
6. Interest Level in Church
7. Influence by Others
8. Influence by Parents
9. Gender & Siblings
10. Church Attendance

As we can see, church attendance ranks much lower than a personal relationship with God and His Word. You can see in the statistics in Part 2 the many “activities” parents engaged their children in, perhaps in an attempt to “outsource” their child’s spiritual development. Considering the fact that “regular” church attendance these days averages about 2-3 times per month, that would not be enough to grow that personal relationship with the Lord.

In an interview with *Christianity Today*, Jana emphasizes, “If you do nothing else as a parent, read your kids the Bible and help them read it on their own as they get

older.” Deuteronomy 4:10 tells us how God instructed Moses to “...*Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.*”

Parents have the primary role in providing teaching, encouragement and opportunity for their children to grow in their faith and future walk with the Lord. We want to support and encourage you in that! We as a Children’s Ministries team will be looking at these influencers as well, to see how we can better support you in your role. Please let us know if there is something more we can be doing to support you. May the Lord continue to bless you in your parenting, grandparenting, neighboring... We all can have an influence on our younger generation! Let’s make it a positive one!

(<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2018/october/interview-jana-magruder-engaging-kids-lifetime-faith-ed-ste.html>)

## Part 2 – More Statistics

Do you love statistics? Here are some more that Jana Magruder gave based on the LifeWay Research:

The research found that we’re chasing the wrong things.

American parents defined themselves as successful parents if...

- my child has good values, 25%,
- my child becomes a happy adult, 25%
- my child finds success in life, 22%
- my child is a good person, 19%
- my child graduates from college, 17%
- my child lives independently, 15%
- my child is godly, has faith in God, 9%

Few American parents include their kids’ godliness or faith in their definition of successful parenting. In fact, they found that Christians don’t define the meaning of life all that differently than most Americans.

When asked “What’s my purpose in life?”

- 84% of Americans and 66% of Christians said that “Enjoying yourself is the highest goal in life.”
- 86% of Americans and 72% of Christians said that “You enjoy yourself and find fulfillment in life by pursuing the things you desire most.”
- 91% of Americans and 76% of Christians said that “To find yourself, look within yourself.”

This counter-gospel statement is the societal worldview in which our children are growing up. However, if we are looking

within ourselves to find our purpose in life, we are not looking to Jesus to define our purpose...and even Christians are buying into this worldview that is so pervasive.

What things did parents do to encourage their children in the faith when they were young?

Here’s the list:

- 62% regularly attended Sunday School or small group
- 54% attended Vacation Bible School
- 50% attended youth group/youth worship as a teen
- 50% participated in church social activities for children/teens
- 47% regularly attended children’s worship/children’s church
- 44% attended church camps/retreats
- 33% regularly served at church
- 27% participated in church mission trips or projects
- 29% regularly read the Bible
- 28% regularly spent time in prayer

Surprise! Here’s what **did not** make the list!

- Family ate meals together at least once a week (It’s not a spiritual discipline unless we are intentionally speaking biblical truth, it’s not necessarily developing them spiritually.)
- Family went on **vacations**, fun outings, 1-on-1 outings
- Church **size** or **consistency** at one church home school, public school, Christian school, or private school.
- Child playing sports, getting good grades, having a job as a teen

Similarly, among adults, the spiritual activity with the **most impact** is Bible reading. God’s word is powerful! However just 53% of Americans have read only several Bible passages or less.

- 10% have read none of the Bible
- 13% have read only a few Bible sentences
- 30% have read only several passages or stories from the Bible
- 15% have read at least half of the Bible
- 12% have read almost all of the Bible
- 11% have read all of the Bible
- 9% have read all of the Bible more than once

## VBS Stats

Among other statistics, Jana Magruder and LifeWay Research note that:

- 9 out of 10 American adults who attended VBS while growing up report having positive memories of those experiences. And, if you did attend VBS, chances are that you went because your immediate family, relatives, neighbors, or friends took you or invited you.
- 69% of American parents will encourage their child to participate in VBS IF THEY ARE INVITED BY A FRIEND.”
- Gen-Zers, also known as the i-Gen, are digital natives, never knowing the world without the internet or smartphones. This is creating a crisis of loneliness.
- Kids are on their phones, tablets, and gaming devices. They are photographing their food, their friends, themselves... and posting everything going on in their lives without actually living real-life experiences. They are more concerned about followers and likes than true relationships.
- And what does that make them—and the adults around them? LONELY.
- Research tells us that kids and teens who have Christian friendships at church have healthier spiritual lives as adults. VBS can provide the opportunity to meet and develop friendships through fun and real-life experiences. Similarly, kids and teens who connect with godly men and women at church have healthier spiritual lives into adulthood.

So, yes, Vacation Bible School is still in the works.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANS FOR 2020

Right now the plan is to do it July 13-17, 9 a.m.-noon. If the “shelter-in-place” continues or we get back to normal at a slower pace, we may push it into August. We are using Answers In Genesis’ “Mystery Island: Tracking Down the One True God”. We’ll look at these questions: . . . **Is there just one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God?** To get involved, contact Kelly Siedenbug ([kelly@dehneng.com](mailto:kelly@dehneng.com) or 206-349-2095) or Lisa Siedenbug ([children@hppc.org](mailto:children@hppc.org) or 206-334-6775).



# BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

*Reaching Our World for Christ*

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## Join Us for BPC's Livestream Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Due to the restrictions that Washington State and County officials have placed on gatherings to minimize the spread of COVID-19, we will not physically gather for worship services through the beginning of May and all events have been postponed. As the situation evolves additional information will be sent by global email.

In place of our normal gatherings, we are livestreaming our worship service on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Go to [www.facebook.com/bpcburien](http://www.facebook.com/bpcburien) or click on livestream on the church website [www.bpcburien.org](http://www.bpcburien.org) (sermon notes are available also). A Facebook account is not required. For more on Sunday mornings and other updates, please visit our website information page.

We love you all and truly miss gathering together to worship, but we are thankful for God's provision of technology that allows us to sing praises to Him, pray, and study His Word. We know that streaming a worship service can never replace the biblical mandate for corporate gatherings (Hebrews 11:24-25), however this is a necessary and temporary measure for the time being.

**Pray for One Another**  
Until we can be together again for our church services and other activities we can support each other with prayer. Pastor Bud prays faithfully for all the requests he's aware of and he encourages you to reach out with your requests/praises. You may contact him as follows:

1. Call the office at 206-243-2600.
2. Email a prayer request to [info@bpcburien.org](mailto:info@bpcburien.org), or [Kathy.rainey@bpcburien.org](mailto:Kathy.rainey@bpcburien.org).
3. Go to [www.bpcburien.org](http://www.bpcburien.org) and send a prayer request via the contact page. (There is a link to the contact page under "Welcome" on the home page of the BPC website.)

—Pastor Bud