



Fire, Vehicles, and Starbucks?

By Donna Lightfoot, for the Trustees

You may well ask what fire vehicles have to do with a free beverage from Starbucks. As it happens, four of the trustees have between them twenty \$5-gift cards from Starbucks. If you would like to claim one for yourself, please keep reading.

As stated in previous Press articles, a safe, quick, quiet, and efficient exit in an emergency is one goal of the Trustees. Another goal is for your personal safety outside the building. How does one stay away from the building and yet not impede the vehicles of the first responders? How does one proceed from the west and south sides of the church to the unpaved east parking lot to retrieve one's children from the Children's Ministry staff?

After exiting the building, those on the west and south sides should gather on the S.128th Street sidewalk away from driveways, where they can proceed with caution eastward. Those re-uniting with their children will continue to the unpaved lot. The Children's Ministry Staff will not release any child except to an approved adult, just as if we were still in the building.

You will not be re-entering the church anytime soon once the building is evacuated, so, how do we all exit the parking lots when first responder vehicles are blocking a driveway? Their vehicles and equipment have legal right-of-way. (The fine for hindering a first responder vehicle is \$1,000.) Everyone who has exited the church can return carefully to their cars. Please – no running, even if

it is raining. Wait for the first responders to arrive before leaving the parking lot. Be patient and expect to be directed to the safest exit. (After all, who wants to chance receiving a ticket?) If you find your car blocked in by an emergency vehicle, please remember that you weren't planning to get home early anyway.

If you have any information as to why the alarm went off, please report it to an Elder, staff member, or Trustee, who will see it is passed along to the first responders.

What about the Gift Cards?

No, we didn't forget about those Starbucks cards. This contest is open to all adults of voting age. To claim a card you must do the following:

- 1) On Sunday, March 12, find one of these three Trustees – Stan Noble, Randy Sneesby, or Donna Lightfoot – in the MPR after the service. (On March 19, find Todd Neumann.)
- 2) Give an account of two alternate exit routes from different rooms you may frequent. Yes, this includes restrooms.
- 3) Be one of the first five to buttonhole one of these Trustees.

The Trustees thank our Press Editor for her serendipitous photos in last month's Press which may aid you in your endeavor to claim a card. Happy hunting.

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 Elyn 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



**Boulevard Park Press
March 2023**

Published Monthly by
Boulevard Park Church

1822 S 128th Street
Burien, Washington 98168-2903

Phone: 206-243-2600

E-mail: Info@bppc.org

Website: www.bpcburien.org

Pastor: Bud Diener

Worship
Services: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Press Staff

Editor: Eva Lee Henderson

Reporters: Elyn Roe

Photographer: Jessica Sneesby

Proofreaders: Peggie & Ernie Recker

The Press also is available on
the church website.

April Deadline: March 15

E-mail: bpcpress@bpcburien.org

Banner photo on page 1 by
Mauro Arrue on Unsplash.com

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

IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR:

Pastor Peter Oketta, ACTION, Country Director, Uganda*

By Jerry Bingham

What you have heard me teach publicly you should teach to others. Share these teachings with people you can trust. Then they will be able to teach others these same things (2 Timothy 2:2).

My heart is flooded with memories of the many years we worked alongside Pastor Peter. We traveled to so many remote villages and refugee camps including Congo and Sudan. We were filled as we shared the same vision: How can we help these Pastors and leaders to understand the impact of the Bible? How can we help them grow in God's Love and His Word?

No easy task, but Peter was a man of prayer. A man committed to the task. It didn't end when Candis and I left Uganda, as we continued to communicate through emails. It's been a grievous time for me hearing about Pastor Peter's transformation into the arms of Jesus, as it closed another chapter in my own life. However, Pastor Peter laid a foundation for the ministry work to be carried on. My times with this special man of God will always be remembered with praise to the Lord for the humble privilege of sharing God's Word together with him and the other men of God. I continue to pray for the Pastoral Leadership Development in Gulu, Uganda, under ACTION.

Thank You Lord for allowing me to have a part in Pastor Peter's spiritual journey. We will rejoice together soon. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)



Pastor Peter Oketta,
who finished his race well and
went home to Jesus November 2022.

*Pastor Peter was included in our May 2022 Global Workers Press Article

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Jerry and Candis Bingham



Car Needed!

K.D.* needs to buy an inexpensive car, or better, borrow one during her Home Assignment March 24-September 24, 2023.

She needs to visit supporters in Oregon & Idaho, as well as get around the Puget Sound area.

If you can help, please contact Randy Boyd:
randyboyd@hotmail.com or the Church Office.

Introducing Potential New Missionaries – Jared and Laurie Garcia

By Doug Barton

It's been many years since BPC has supported a global worker/missionary that was not in some way connected to our church. Most have been related to a member, have served as a youth leader, or have been otherwise involved in the life of the church before going out to the field. Now, we believe God has providentially brought a new family, the Garcias, to us. The Missions Committee has recommended to the board of elders that we financially support this family. The Elders have the final decision on whether we support or not. We have had money in the missions budget for years, praying for God to bring a missionary to us who aligns with our vision, "Training church leaders in places that already have a gospel presence, but need maturing."

The Garcias fit this perfectly. So who are the Garcias?

Jared Garcia was born in Baguio, Philippines, where he and his wife Laurie will be serving. At age 7, he moved with his family to Manila. In his early teens his family came to Kent,

Washington, where he went to school and was greatly influenced by his youth leader who preached the Word in a way that Jared had never heard. This was the beginning of his call to preach. After completing seminary, Jared traveled back to Baguio and preached and taught for two years. It was during this time that God showed Jared the need for pastoral training in the area which inspired him to return to South Carolina to get a Ph.D. to be better prepared. He plans to complete his degree in May of this year. While in school, Jared attended Emmanuel Bible Church in South Carolina, where he is an elder and preaches occasionally.

Jared and Laurie met at Emmanuel Bible Church where they discovered that they both attended the same seminary. Laurie grew up in a Christian home in Pennsylvania and attended a gospel-preaching church as a child. She came to know the Lord at an early age and was baptized as a teen. Laurie is no

See **Global Workers**, page 7

The Priesthood of Believers

By Pastor Bud

Understanding the Christian life is not an intuitive process. The Bible teaches us that when we come to Christ, we are *new* creatures (2 Cor. 5:17). We are like spiritual infants (1 Cor. 3:1). A newborn baby has no category of thought that informs his intuition. All of life is unknown. For this reason, a baby will put things in his mouth that would make an adult gag. Why? One reason is a lack of informed intuition. So it is when we are new in Christ. We are babes who have not yet developed biblical categories of thought about our relationship with Christ and each other. So, *“like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it we may grow in respect to salvation”* (1 Pet. 2:2). We grow by the efficient work of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of God’s word.

Thankfully, God’s word provides us with more than just words. The Bible also paints brilliant word pictures through analogies, metaphors, and similes. The gracious provision of these pictures helps us form the boundaries of our thinking about the Christian life and inform our intuition. Here are a few of the main pictures to which I am referring:

- **The BODY of Christ** (Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 1:22-23)
– When we look at the body, we see a masterful cohesion of absolute and necessary diversity. This picture teaches us the essence of the church’s unity and the critical necessity of harmonious interaction between diverse parts.
- **The BRIDE of Christ** (Eph. 5:22-27, 32; Rev. 19:7-8)
– As the bride of Christ, we understand the essential fidelity in our relationship to Him. But we also are moved by His gallant sacrificial love for us. Such love, when regularly remembered around His table, motivates our faithfulness.
- **The PILLAR and SUPPORT of the truth** (1 Tim. 3:15)
– Truth liberates (Jn. 8:32), sanctifies (Jn. 17:17), and solidifies (Eph. 4:13). Truth trumps culture. Without transcendent and established truth, there is no basis for anything. The church is not a truth-negotiator, a truth-shaper, or a truth-creator. The church is the pillar and support of the truth.

There is one final picture I want to mention, and because it is less familiar to us, we will develop it a bit more.

- **The church is a PRIESTHOOD** (1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10) – Two elements become clear from this picture; the church has been blessed with great privilege and great responsibility.

The two priesthoods mentioned in Scripture are the Levitical priesthood and the priesthood of Christ

(according to the order of Melchizedek). By comparing the two, we gain insights into our lives as believers.

Our priesthood is elected.

Priests in the Levitical priesthood were required to be descendants of Aaron (Ex. 28:1, 41, 43; Num. 16:40). It was not built on character, only lineage. In Ezra’s day, some good men were barred from serving as priests because their family lineage could not be traced to Aaron (Ezr. 2:61). Our priesthood is much different. We were chosen, elected before the foundation of the world. Our heritage does not matter. Just as the priest Melchizedek was chosen by God (Heb. 7:3) and Jesus after the same order (Ps. 110:4), so we are chosen by God to serve Him forever as a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9). None of us were qualified to be priests, but in His grace, God commissioned us.

Our priesthood is universal.

The Levitical priesthood was limited to Israel. They served God as the mediators of worship between Israel, God’s covenant people, and Yahweh (God’s covenant name – Ex. 3:14). They were not allowed to go outside of the house of Israel. They were limited by where God chose for His presence to dwell (Ex. 25:2; Lev. 4:4-7, 15-18). Melchizedek was a priest to the Most High God (Gen. 14:18; Heb. 7:1). This was a universal name for God used by Gentiles and even demons (Dt. 32:8-9; Dan. 4:34; Mk. 5:7). Jesus, the High Priest of our confession (Heb. 4:14), was the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29). The call of the gospel is universal. Our priesthood is universal. As faithful priests, we must share the gospel as widely and clearly as possible. There are no limits to its message or its reach.

Our priesthood is unobstructed.

The Levitical priests never really enjoyed unrestricted access to God. His presence was hidden behind a firmly placed veil. No matter how devout they were, their sacrifices did not promote an intimate relationship with God (Heb. 10:1). Through Jesus’ sacrifice, the veil was torn (Mt. 27:51), and access to the most holy place was granted to all who believe (Heb. 10:19-22). We have peace with God (Rom. 5:1), and as a result, we cry out to Him *Abba Father* (Rom. 8:15).

What a picture, what a privilege; what a responsibility we have to spread this hopeful truth for the sake of global impact and universal glory for our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God bless,
Pastor Bud

Trustee-Sponsored MPR Renovation Projects

By Todd Neumann,
Renovation Liaison, Board of Trustees

Here's what is happening with the various MPR projects:

- Great progress has been made on re-covering the south, east, and west wall high-level acoustic panels. The next time you're in the MPR, take a look – they look great! We anticipate the balcony level panels to be completed this month.
- The new sound system install will occur after the acoustic panel re-covering.
- Most supplier logistics issues have been ironed out, and installation of the ceiling light LED retrofit kits will begin May 1!
- The carpet has been delivered to a local warehouse and soon will be delivered to



You may have noticed two large containers in the church parking lot! The purpose for them is to store items from the MPR while the lights and carpeting are being done, and in anticipation of Phase II renovations this year. Thank you to Sharon Nickells and Linda Huck as they have started sorting through all the "stuff" in the MPR and the two storage rooms.

the church. Carpet installation will begin after the MPR lighting is complete.

IN THE
WORKS

lanygrave on unsplash.com

Pray with Werles on March 26

TJ and Lindsay Werle are almost done with the licensing process to become foster parents. If you are interested in hearing more about their journey and/or partnering with them, they will be hosting a prayer meeting at their home on **Sunday, March 26 at 4 p.m.** For more information, please contact Lindsay at lindsaywerle@gmail.com or 425-753-1040.



"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18

By Katy Lynch

We are honored to provide support for those who have lost a loved one and are looking for help navigating the challenging landscape of grief. The material includes insights from experts in the field and testimonies of those who have walked through their own valleys. This video-assisted program is grounded in biblical truth, revealing through scripture that God loves and cares for those who mourn.

WHAT: Grief Share Support Series

WHEN: Monday Nights 7 to 8:30 p.m.
March 20 to June 12, 2023

WHERE: Boulevard Park Church
Room 431

WHO: YOU!

- If you have experience the death of a loved one
- If you know someone you can invite to Grief Share
- If you desire to learn more about how to help others in their grief journey
- If you want to pray for those leading and attending this support group

INFO: Register via website:
www.griefshare.org

Workbooks can be purchased via website or at the first session.

Contacts: Lynda Eck 206-351-3462
Katy Lynch 206-371-0554
BPC Office 206-243-2600

A Volunteer Voice

Transform Burien Ministry

By Wes Mattson

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this ministry! The Bible says that the poor will always be with us. Unfortunately, the numbers are going up at Transform Burien.

On Sunday, February 5, we served 130 meals.

I noticed that there were more disabled people who needed help.

There were also some Ukrainian refugees and there must have been 20 young children who came through the line that day – heartbreaking.

I am so grateful for everyone from Boulevard Park Church who showed up to help. We had a lot of volunteers so we were able to use some to help with the clothing and food banks and still have enough to work the food line. I am so thankful for the youth who also served. They could have been at the mall or gaming or pretty much anything else, but chose to help feed the hungry. Now that was a great choice on their



Photo Credit: B-Town Blog

part and a blessing to all who were there looking for help.

OK, I may not drive a Rolls Royce, but I have so much to be thankful for. When I really think about it, I guess I am thankful that I don't drive a Rolls Royce.

God bless each one who came needing help – a warm meal, clothing, or supplies from the food bank. May they come to know our Savior if they don't already.

A special thank you to all who came that day to serve our Lord at Transform Burien.

Milestones

Baptisms

February 19, 2023

Ayodhya Hakim

Cosmo Steiner-Schlede

Deaths

Lazlo (Lazi) Nagy

January 23, 2023

husband of Kathi Nagy

Barbara Averill

February 16, 2023

sister of Roger Cox

All-Church Prayer Meeting

Everyone is invited to participate in our monthly prayer meeting. On the first Sunday of each month, from 9-9:45 a.m., the adult Sunday school time is dedicated to praying for each other, our church, the community, and our world. Since her inception in Acts 2, one of the early church's defining characteristics has been devoted prayer. We want to emulate that devotion and invite you to join us.

Light & Life

Share Grace Banquet

A free, lavish dinner with an inspiring guest speaker, Amy Ford of Embrace Grace.

Join us Saturday, March 18

5:15 p.m. Check in & Reception
6-8 p.m. Dinner & Program

Register by March 5:

supportcnps.org/events or
253-383-6033



Is this your year to get involved again or for the first time?



Register by March 5!

supportcnps.org/events
or scan the QR code.

Questions? 253-383-6033



SHARE
Grace

2023 LIGHT & LIFE FUNDRAISING DINNER

March 18, 2023 | Greater Tacoma Convention Center

Calendar Events

WEDNESDAY REG. SCHEDULE

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

10:00A Ladies Bible Study

6:00P Light Dinner

6:30P Talent Zone

6:30P Youth Group

Sunday, March 5

9:00A Prayer Meeting

9:15A KIDS and Youth

Sunday School

10:30A Children's Church

10:30A Worship Service

in Person and Livestream

/ Communion

Tuesday, March 7 & 21

6:30P Ladies Bible Study

Friday, March 10

6:30P Men's Retreat, Session 1

Saturday, March 11

8:00A Men's Retreat,

Session 2-3

SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

March 12, 19, 26

9:00A Adult Sunday School

9:15A KIDS and Youth

Sunday School

10:30A Children's Church

10:30A Worship Service

in Person and Livestream

Monday, March 13

11:00A Ladies Fellowship Circle

Tuesday, March 14, 28

9:30A MOMLife

Saturday, March 18

10:00A Women's Event

Monday, March 20 & 27

7:00P GriefShare

Tending the Flock

Be a Good Berean

By David Siedenborg, Elder

If you were somewhat engaged with social media in January and February, or watched the Super Bowl, you probably saw the current advertising campaign called *He Gets Us*. And the “He” is Jesus. When I see our culture refer to Jesus in a positive light, my typical response is for my eyes to brighten in a moment of hopefulness. But then the experience of 57 years on this earth kicks in, and hopefulness quickly switches to suspicion as I start to think, “OK, coming from our culture, I doubt they ‘get’ the real Jesus.”

Now making instantaneous assumptions is not wrong, but to hold on to either assumption as true without biblical confirmation is dangerous and simply the wrong approach. A correct approach is illustrated in Acts 17, when Paul and Silas preached at the synagogue in Berea. Those Bereans, after eagerly listening to Paul and Silas, departed and then were “examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.” A few decades ago an elder told me that we should all aspire to be “good Bereans.” That has stuck with me, and I hope it does with you as well.

So how does one follow the example of a good Berean? First listen to what someone says about scripture, and then examine the Scriptures, using God’s Word as the final authority, to “see whether these things” are so.

What does *He Gets Us* say about Jesus? Just for grins, I searched on my iPhone’s Bible app and found 39 days of *He Gets Us* devotional reading. I have to say, it was kind of painful to read all 39 devotionals. I think the primary pain was that while there were many truths included about the character of Jesus, there was no devotional mention of His deity or his ushering in the Kingdom of God. There was actually a mild but fairly biblical call to salvation in the 37th devotional, but the journey through the first 36 painted a picture of a really nice man named Jesus, who loved and accepted people just as they were, and “called out toxic religious and political systems.” Something that anyone could do on Instagram.

On Day 5 of Devotional 1, entitled “Jesus changed the narrative,” the author explains

that Jesus didn’t come to be the conquering liberator to save the people from an oppressive government. The author goes on to say, “Instead, Jesus’ approach was upside down. Instead of conquering, he talked about freedom. Instead of being born to a prominent family, he identified with the poor and persecuted. He loved children. For sure Jesus came to bring freedom, but his target was the heart, the source of all lasting change.”

Yikes – where do I begin? Clearly the author is right about Jesus’ approach being “upside down” from the culture. But then the author swerves between awkward comparisons before running headfirst into heresy.

Regarding the first comparison, I did a search through the gospels for the word *freedom* – I didn’t find it. Now perhaps the author makes some inferences about freedom from Jesus’ words, but defining what freedom means *biblically* is pretty important – otherwise someone from our culture will likely attach a hedonistic meaning to the concept.

Is the second comparison, the whole “instead of being born...he identified with” thing seemed like an apples and oranges fruit salad juxtaposition. I think Jesus identified as the Son of God – because that is who He is.

But when the author states that the heart is “the source of all lasting change,” I compare that to Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?” A two-second examination reveals that lofty statement about the human heart is 180 degrees out of phase.

When the authors of the *He Gets Us* campaign laser focus on the nice parts of Jesus’ ministry and barely touch on the merciful salvation from God’s wrath through the death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ, they are like a little child who goes to Red Robin with his parents, only excited about those red balloons on a stick, missing the whole point for going there – bottomless fries.

So don’t be like the *He Gets Us* authors – don’t be distracted from the bottomless fries.



The Garcia family: Laurie, Jared and Carson.

Global Workers, continued from page 2

stranger to missions. She was a caregiver to her great-aunt who had served as a missionary in the Philippines. She went on a short-term missions trip to Utah, and spent two months in China where God gave her a desire to become a missionary. She has also been to the Philippines on three different occasions where she taught Biblical Counseling (she has an M.A. in Biblical Counseling) to the women and went with Jared to visit church plants in Northern Philippines.

The Garcias will be going to the Philippines to begin their ministry as early as September. However, if Jared gets the 5-month internship for which he has applied, they will be moving to Washington D.C. in August and hope to leave for the Philippines in January 2024 after the internship ends. Once in the Philippines, Jared will begin transitioning into the lead pastor of the church where his father is currently the pastor but is wanting to retire. The church has a school which will be used to train current pastors in the area as well as church planters who are in much need of biblical training. The Garcias realize this is a long-term ministry and expect to be there for 20-30 years.

How Did the Garcias and BPC Connect?

So how did we come to know about them and what has the process been to where we are today? Some time ago the church received an email in our church email Info@BPC.org from Jared Garcia asking us to consider supporting him as a missionary. He was looking for like-minded churches and found us on 9Marks website. Pastor Bud and two others who have access to that

account independently read his request. All three later discussed and agreed that we should look into it further (all three were impressed with what they had read). Bud reached out to Jared and vetted him theologically and Jared passed with no concerns.

The next step was to get to know the missions agency that Jared is associated with. Since we were not familiar with this particular agency, Randy Boyd and Bud met with the head of the missions agency RTIM (Reaching and Teaching International Ministries) in order to check them out thoroughly. RTIM is **strongly aligned** with BPC's missions priorities. They also partner with Radius International and require anyone going to an unreached/closed people group to go through Radius training. Bud was so impressed with RTIM, he commented that if they had been around when he went to Africa, he would have gone with them.

The Missions Committee then sent an application to Jared which he and his wife completed. After reviewing their application, the committee decided to follow up with an interview followed by discussion and clarifications. The Missions Committee had no hesitancy in recommending the Garcias to the elders for financial support. All the information that the Missions Committee had gathered throughout the process was sent to the elders for consideration. Since Jared and Laurie were going to be in the Seattle area the second week of February, the Missions Committee set up a time for the elders to meet with Jared in person. After a wonderfully prepared meal by our own Pit Master Randy Boyd, the elders interviewed Jared. The elders have decided to hold off on a decision to approve them for support until the church has an opportunity to learn more about the Garcia's ministry. They did visit BPC on Sunday, February 12, when they met with the adult Sunday School class and were introduced to the congregation during the service. Many of you were able to speak with them after the service and sign up for their monthly newsletter. More communications will be coming out soon.

If you have any questions please contact the Missions Committee (Randy Boyd, Nancy Brown, or me). If you would like to reach out to Jared you can contact him (Jared.Garcia@RTIM.org). He would love to hear from you and answer any of your questions. You also can check out their missions agency at RTIM.org.



Celebrations!

March Birthdays

- 2 Don Jones
Kathi Nagy
- 6 Michelle Harder
- 8 Joanne Mackey
- 10 Lisa Martinez
- 11 Roger Gillihan
- 14 Mark Parish
- 19 Callum Kowallis
- 20 Anthony Moore
- 21 Maddie Borer
Gary Moseley
Kristina Schaefer
- 24 Mary Jordan
Lori Neumann
- 26 Pam Stariha
- 27 David Gonzalez
Dina Vogel
- 29 Tim Bryce
Declan Kowallis
- 30 Harry Burlingame
Kara Siedenburg

Early April Birthdays

- 2 Betty Bennedsen
Marlene Burton
- 3 Dave Huck
- 4 Tyler Siedenburg
- 6 Madison Burt
Ellen Jackson
- 8 Anita Dakin
- 9 Penny Clifton

If your birthday is not listed, and you would like it to be, please contact the church office.

The Dr. Is In!

On Sunday, February 19, the congregation celebrated Pastor Bud's receiving of his Doctorate in Theology from Columbia Evangelical Seminary after nine years of study. A cake reception followed the worship service.



BOULEVARD
PARK CHURCH

Reaching Our World for Christ

1822 S 128th Street
Burien, Washington 98168-2903

Inside

Introducing Potential New
Global Workers (page 2)

The Priesthood of Believers
(page 3)

Grief Share Support Ministry
(page 4)

Care Net Banquet (page 5)

Be a Good Berean (page 6)

All-Church Prayer Meeting
(page 7)

Men's Retreat

March 10-11, 2023

Boulevard Park Church - Room 151

Slaying the Giants in Your Life

Videos by Dr. David Jeremiah

Friday evening 6:30 p.m. (Snacks)

Session 1: Temptation [Dave Will]



Ice cream social (About 8 p.m.)

Optional video: "The Woodcarver"

Saturday Morning: Breakfast 8 a.m.

Session 2: Anger [George Brown]



Session 3: Guilt [Jon Recker]



**Lunch: 12:30 p.m. -
Famous Dave's BBQ**

Learn how to deal with these major problems