



The **VOICE** of Faith

Speaking the truth in love
Faith Community Church
(an Evangelical Free church)

Volume 26 Number 7

JULY 2017

Living Changes

by George Schneider

Most people I know, maybe because I related and was drawn to them, disliked change. Even the suggestion of change with good intentions and goals triggered a sudden involuntary response of repulsion. Be assured, I have known others who embraced change and have gone about it with staggering aplomb and joyful glee (my mother). Ushering in the coming seasons by decorating the household with special effects in anticipation conjures up an aliveness and readiness for what the future holds. There is no dreadfulness and hesitation to cloud and darken (my father).

Accordingly, the past verb tenses used above illustrate my early formative years of learned family standard operating procedures. Learned early basic skills reflect the nature of our viewpoints and form our perspectives. These guide us in how we see the world and how we interact in it. Some are good and some are bad, but indeed they form a mosaic and tapestry of our living.

Today, I look 27 years back into the largest, most important fundamental change I have ever experienced. Old ways, viewpoints, and behaviors began to cease, and new alternatives emerged with grateful acceptance. Linear time slowed. Great forces, both the worst and best, were competing for my soul. Alone and wallowing in despair, I became confronted with a decision that would lead to a cruel death or saving grace. It was a time to choose between Yes/Life or No/Death. Moments were filled with losing loved ones - by divorce and separation. Demonstrable demons tempted for control. I was under attack. Only glimmers of wrongfulness flickered in awareness.

Two forces vied for me: one, the flesh, and the other, the Spirit. Each contested in me: one destroying; the other preserving toward fruitfulness and purpose (Romans 8:13).

As you see today, I live and have been saved. Remembering those harrowing and frightful days remains in sharp focus: the turning point - May 29, 1990 - a clear morning star, bright!

During those early moments and days, calm coolness and savior faire were not on the menu or

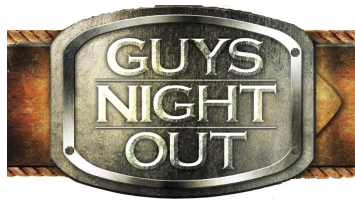
on my plate. Hysteria, panic, gloom were marching. I did know one thing, and this probably saved me: I needed help and finally was ready to try anything. I gave up and knew I couldn't fix myself. I turned away from my flesh and prayed Psalm 23. I looked upward towards God.

A lot started happening; too much even to understand until years later. The impact of the Holy Spirit was stunning and all things became new, exciting, invigorating. Old bad behaviors began to slough off and be unlearned. Blessed spiritual truths beat down lies, and knowing their differences started a life-time quest of discovery.

My relationship with God started in earnest and in celebration, drawing each closer together.

One important truth, perhaps the most important, occurred in a dream I had in my first month: If I continued praying, I would not be disappointed (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). I had desired to tell my parents of my "re-birth", my ever-growing new life, and what was happening to me. But it seemed impossible for both had recently passed away. The message in the dream was, "If you continue praying, you will tell all to your parents." At the time it didn't appear shocking but as a common, well-understood fact. It simply was universally accepted truth. I had always known it but had forgotten. Three years later, in another dream, the encounter happened. Praise the Lord! My joy is in my Savior. Glory be to Him.





Saturday, July 22

5:30 - 8:30 at the church

Agenda: Eat, play, Bible study, pray, replay

Cost: Free will offering

Contact: George Schneider (608) 988-6011

Sign-up: Please sign up so we can prepare enough food. You may sign up at the Information Center in the church lobby or call the church to make a reservation.

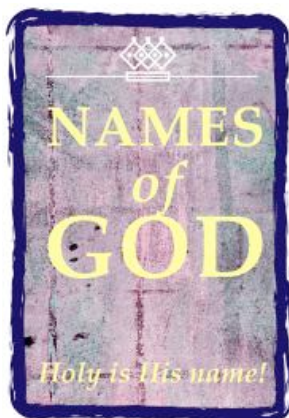
Bring friends!

My Choice

by Dorothea Horsfall



I will praise my Lord
from the top of the mountain
of my heart
to the valley in my soul
With all my being
I will praise my Lord
with every ounce of strength I have
With the clap of my hands
to the dance in my feet
and a melody in my heart
With words running around in my mind
I will praise the Lord
with my whole being
with a grateful attitude
from deep within



Yahweh Mekaddishkem

The Lord Sanctifier
(makes holy)

*"Speak to the entire assembly
of Israel and say to them:
'Be holy because I, the Lord
your God, am holy...'"*

Leviticus 19:2



***"Wisdom is the principle thing;
Therefore get wisdom.***

And in all your getting, get understanding. "

(Proverbs 4:7)

***"... He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;
he who keeps understanding will find good."***

(Proverbs 19:8)

For me, wisdom has always meant the **application** of knowledge. Without testing it, applying it to life - knowledge is only good for trivial pursuit. And application is grounded in understanding. Knowledge is the platform on which wisdom rests. Without the initial step of knowledge, wisdom can't stand, but without wisdom, knowledge has no expression. They really are complementary and understanding is the glue.

I've said all that to focus on the following scripture:

"I am persuaded (confident) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

This scripture lists all of the 'things' that could separate us from God and then states they don't have the power to do this. **Nothing** shall separate us from God's love, nothing! Do you believe you are inseparable from the love of God? That His love is stronger than any and every obstacle? Beginning with verse 31, it affirms that "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Then says - "...we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (v 37) **If** you can believe this for yourself, **if** you will apply this principle ... **if** you do, **then** you are more than a conqueror.

Be encouraged!

Editor's note: You can read more of Carolyn's thoughts at <http://yourthoughtsandbeliefs.blogspot.com/>



Tuesday, July 4



Come share your time and talents with **Faith Kids** on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings. **Children's Church** has openings for teachers and **One Way Club** for group leaders and for a Bible lesson teacher or game leader. If you are interested in teaching but not sure if you could commit to every week, you may want to consider teaching every other week or once a month. Maybe you would like to team teach with someone else. We are open to many possibilities.

Contact Jane Collins if you are interested.



Women's Fellowship Breakfast!
Saturday, July 15, 10:00 - 12:00

"For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20



AUGUST 11-13
 Living Waters Bible Camp,
 Westby, Wisconsin
 Get more details at the
 Information Center
 in the church lobby.



Save the Date!
September 8-10, 2017

The Kingdom Agenda
 "Life Under God"

with Pastor Tony Evans via DVD

- Who:** all men out of high school
- Where:** Luther Park Bible Camp, Chetek, Wisconsin
- What:** Great Bible study time; great food; great singing; and free time (read, walk, sleep, fish, golf, canoe, ping pong, etc.)
- Note:** Fishing is available but you will need a current Wisconsin fishing license. Golf costs extra.
- Cost:** \$110 with a deposit of \$20 due by Sep. 3.
- Sign up** at the Information Center.
- Questions:** Check with George Schneider
 More information will be available at the Information Center by July 2.



FROM ALL OF US

A great big "THANK YOU!" to **Cindi Slater** who designed and painted the gym mat murals with depictions of The Armor of God. Thanks, also, go to her husband **Rueben** who was her assistant throughout the project.

And thanks be to **God** who shared them and their talents with this church!






QUARTERLY
Meeting

Sunday, July 30
12:00 p.m.
followed by a
potluck lunch

Faith Community Church

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Needs Fund Communion 10:15 AM Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Prayer Time 7:30 PM Elder Board meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulletin Deadline 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15 AM Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church reserved all day 6:30 PM Prayer Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulletin Deadline 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Ladies Brunch 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 10:15 AM Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Prayer Time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulletin Deadline 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Guys Night-Out 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15 AM Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Prayer Time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulletin Deadline 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Quarterly Meeting 1:00 PM Potluck Lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Prayer Time 					

I will I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
John 16:33



Thanks
for Your
Support!

JULY VOLUNTEERS

Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeter	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers	Mowing
2	Part one: Collins Part two: Meier	Chad & Shelley Gruber	John & Sandy Goree	None	Amy Olson Sarah Aspenson	Erv Jones	Carlyn Jacobson Cody Saylor Larry Kruse Alan Olson	Howard Slotman
9	Part one: Goree Part two: Slotman	Al & Amy Olson	John & Sandy Goree	Worship	Sandy Goree Shelley Gruber	Erv Jones	Carlyn Jacobson Cody Saylor Larry Kruse Alan Olson	Cody Saylor
16	Part one: Gruber Part two: Schneider	Erv & Mary Jones	John & Sandy Goree	Children	Bob Meier Allison Miller	Erv Jones	Carlyn Jacobson Cody Saylor Larry Kruse Alan Olson	Chad Gruber
23	Part one: Jones Part two: Melgosa	Sue Mathre & Heather Saylor	John & Sandy Goree	Prison	Sue Mathre Danielle Kruse	Erv Jones	Carlyn Jacobson Cody Saylor Larry Kruse Alan Olson	Don Hansen
30	Part One: Irish Part Two: Mathre*	Laura Moerer/ Potluck Lunch	John & Sandy Goree	Prayer	Diane Slotman Heather Saylor	Erv Jones	Carlyn Jacobson Cody Saylor Larry Kruse Alan Olson	Erv Jones

Friendship Snack Mix



Life is more interesting when you have a diverse “mix” of friends. Show your variety of buddies how much they mean to you by making this snack for (or with!) them.

What you need:

- 1 cup fish-shaped crackers
- 1 cup chocolate Chex
- 1 cup mini pretzels
- 1 cup peanut butter crackers
- ½ cup mini M&M’s
- Large bowl
- Snack-sized zippered baggies
- Permanent markers
- Foam stickers

What you do:

1. Mix all the food in the bowl.
2. Write a personalized message on each baggie. Decorate with stickers.
3. Measure some snack mix into each baggie. Seal them shut.
4. Share this snack with your friends!



Friends in the Lord

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” It’s important to choose friends who help us be more like Jesus. How many words can you make from the word *friendship*?

F R I E N D S H I P

2-letter words: _____

3-letter words: _____

4-letter words: _____

5-letter words: _____

Words with 6 or more letters: _____

Answers include: in, is, hi, he, hip, end, sip, dip, rip, nip, pie, sir, hid, ship, 'reper, 'siren, 'fresh, 'ferns; 'friend, 'fisher, 'diners, 'rinsed, 'shrine, 'finish, 'shiner, 'insider, 'send, 'ride, 'dine, 'find, 'fine, 'drip, 'shed, 'dish, 'fish, 'rind, 'ripe, 'hide; 'fried, 'pride, 'hinders, 'inspired, 'refinish, 'finished



JULY BIRTHDAYS

16 Emma Hollenbeck

23 Cason Miller

24 Avi Olson



The Pen Project

by Sharon Meier

“513FREE actively works to break the cycle of incarceration by building Christ-centered relationships and programs for those who are: at risk of going, those currently in, and those being released from prison.” This mission statement is found on the homepage of 513Free.com when you click on “Overview”.

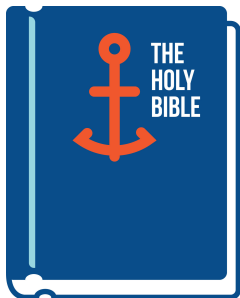
For several years, the Christian band 513Free has been giving concerts at our local prison. As their ministry has grown, they have developed a specific passion to reach those who are in prison through their music, but that’s not all. They have given incarcerated individuals an opportunity to share their poetry, stories, art, and teaching with a broadening audience through The Pen Project. They have just released their third volume of “inspiring artwork and creative writings submitted primarily by inmates.” Their stated goal is “to make this magazine available to each of the 2.2 million incarcerated men, women, and children throughout the United States.”

Those of us currently serving the Lord through prison ministry know some of the authors and artists who have been featured in these three volumes. We have had them sit with us, telling their stories. These are real people who have come to know and love their Lord, our brothers and sisters in Christ. By the way, you may subscribe to The Pen Project and receive a copy of the current issue.

Look over their website. Watch their videos. Listen to their music. Read their testimonials. Consider donating to their mission. Here is another way you can be part of Prison Ministry even though you may not want to enter through the gates of a prison. Think about it, okay? Thanks.

Keep up with the Wisconsin branch of Prison Fellowship by visiting the following site:

<https://www.facebook.com/PrisonFellowshipWisconsin>



Hold fast to the Bible as the [main] anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.

~ Ulysses S. Grant

He formed it to be inhabited

*For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.
(Isaiah 45:18)*

There are those who believe that they can read the supposed evolutionary order of things into the account of creation in Genesis 1. However, when we look more closely, we realize that there are a number of discrepancies, which cannot be reconciled. Even evolutionary atheists have noticed this – for example, Richard Dawkins is adamant that it is not possible to harmonize Genesis with evolution.

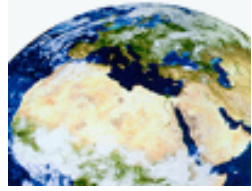
One of the most obvious of these discrepancies is that Genesis tells us that God made the Earth before He made all other astronomical objects. The Earth was created on Day One, whereas the greater and lesser lights and the stars were created on the Fourth Day.

The Earth is the focus of God’s activity, and in particular the human race, who He has purposed to live here, to have dominion over it. He tells us in Isaiah 45:18 “For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): ‘I am the Lord, and there is no other.’”

God says “I am the Lord, and there is no other”. To prove this to us, if proof were needed, He reminds us not only that He created everything, but that “He formed it to be inhabited”. It is through humanity, and therefore, ultimately, through the person of Jesus Christ, that the creation of the Earth has its fulfillment and meaning.

~ written by Pastor Paul Bartz
and taken from
www.creationmoments.com

Creator’s Corner



Lonnie & Debbie Smith
are serving the Lord in France
with ReachGlobal,
the missions arm of the
Evangelical Free Churches of America.



<https://www.thescriturecannotbeprotected.com/>

Food for Thought

- ❖ May we think of freedom not as the right to do what we please but as the opportunity to do what is right. ~ Peter Marshall
- ❖ When you are in the furnace of affliction, God's faithful, loving hand is on the thermostat. He controls the heat, and He has a purpose for your problems. ~ Jeff Schreve
- ❖ God is not in the business of explaining; He's in the business of sustaining.
- ❖ When all other doors in life are closed to us, Jesus will be for us the ever-open door. To call any situation hopeless is to shut the door on God. ~ Anthony Coniaris
- ❖ All change toward God is good; all change away from God is bad. ~ Jay Adams
- ❖ Attempting to control where you are called to trust, and failing to act where you are called to obey, are roots of every sort of evil. ~ Paul David Tripp
- ❖ When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.
- ❖ The fear of man is the sinful exaggeration of a normal experience. It is fear run amok. ~ Edward Welch
- ❖ Where has your sinful behavior and attitude gotten you?
- ❖ The Bible is always addressing the particulars of what people want, trust, fear, think, feel, and act. ~ David Powlison

mission

**The mission of our church is to
glorify Christ,
proclaim the Gospel,
reach the lost,
and train and instruct
Christians in the faith
for service and daily living.**

The Voice of Faith newsletter is a publication of Faith Community Church (an Evangelical Free church). Editor is Sharon Meier. Sunday Worship is at 10:15 a.m. Website is www.faithchurchpdc.org
Visitors are very much welcome!



Faith Community Church
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If you wish to mail this, fold it in half, tape the open sides, and place a postage stamp here.



JULY 2017