

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 5, Volume 6
June, 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

Every few weeks I get a catalogue from an organization called "The Great Courses" which offers video courses by some of the best professors from some of the most prestigious institutions. I was scanning through their recent offerings and saw a course by Bart Ehrman (an atheist) entitled, "How Jesus Became God." What a strange title—as if Jesus' deity was something that was voted on by men.

Thomas, in the upper room, seeing and touching His resurrected body declared, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:21). Throughout His life, as people saw Him work miracles, they declared Him to be "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Mt. 16:16). The Father from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The demons, when they encountered Jesus recognized Him as the Holy One of God, (Mark 1:24). As we look at the historical events, it wasn't that Jesus 'became God' but He always was the eternal Son, part of the Holy Trinity. The question is, "Why some recognized Him and some didn't?"

Suppose Mozart was walking down the street. People may or might not recognize him to be the great composer. But the moment he sat down at the piano and played, some people would recognize him to be Mozart and honor him accordingly. Others might think, he is a gifted pianist and he knows Mozart's music, but not recognize that he was indeed Mozart. Jesus, in a similar way, walked among us and looked ordinary. He walked, He ate, He thirsted, He did all the things that people do—because He was truly man. But then, from time to time, He did something that only God manifest in the flesh could do—raised the dead, healed the sick, fed the multitudes, calmed the sea, cast out demons, opened the eyes of the blind, made the lame to walk . . . the list could go on—as John said, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which are not written in this book; but if they were, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which would be written." (John 21:25)

Jesus did not become the eternal Son—He always was the eternal Son, the second person of the Trinity. The real question is "Why do people not recognize Him? Why will they not follow Him?" Bart Ehrman is not a stupid individual, but he chooses not to see—because if he truly understood that Jesus is who He is declared to be, Bart Ehrman would have to acknowledge that he is a sinner in need of a Savior. Until a person is willing to acknowledge his sin, he will not be able to recognize who Jesus truly is. That is why those that recognize their own sin often see Jesus the clearest.

Church Events

June 19 – Sunday School Picnic, 6:00 p.m.

July 11-14 – Vacation Bible School

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From Mary Kay

I have split the responses I received into three parts due to length and have edited some, but also want to share as much as I can because we often learn best from others who are walking with Jesus maybe a step or two ahead of us. From my friend who is working up close to 50 years of marriage: Whenever I provide music for a wedding, I always advise the bride (and her mother) that she needs to spend more time and effort on her marriage (daily) than she has planning her wedding...and that is daily, hard, necessary, and sometimes unappreciated work. I've had a lot of years of practice to help, minister to, and love my particular man and most days I get it right, but there are some days I don't and those are the days that if I really examine what happened, I must accept my fair share of the blame. So, here is my list of what I have learned and how I have been molded in the past five decades of helping, ministering to, and loving my guy:

FORGIVENESS IS DAILY

When we attended Stephanie and Jeremy's wedding, there was one nugget of wisdom that the pastor mentioned in his sermon that struck me and has stuck: forgiveness of your spouse is a daily practice. There is always that male/female tension of a different perspective of viewing the same situation. When you internalize that in black and white as either a right or wrong perspective, then you are guaranteed conflict. I once had the privilege of a long conversation with my great aunt who had been happily married for decades. My grandfather's brother was an Olympic gold medal winner, a prolific and well-respected engineer in Los Angeles and together they produced four boys, three of whom died in separate but tragic accidents. That marriage thrived and survived mountain top experiences, which can be just as difficult as their deepest darkest valley experiences. One of my questions for her was this: Are there any areas of conflict in your marriage that are unresolved? Her swift answer: Yes. There are always those "sandpaper" areas that will rub you raw, but you choose not to aggravate them. In other words, you agree to disagree and then you don't weaponize them when you are angry with one another. I call it "Take your dose of Shut the Heck Up." I've had way fewer regrets for holding my tongue and taking the time to chew my words before spitting them out (if they come out at all) than when I've spoken in haste. And I might add to that pastor's comments - sometimes forgiveness of your spouse is an hourly (or more often) practice - especially if you work together daily.

BUILDING COMMON GOALS

A strong marriage only exists when you both put on the yoke and pull hard in the same direction. My husband and I arrived together at the altar as products of dysfunctional families and had agreed that we were determined not to carry on that legacy. This goal was complicated by the fact that after the honeymoon, I moved to my husband's hometown, lived in the old maternal family home and worked closely with his father in the family business. If there would be the best-ever pressure-cooker recipe for disaster and disappointment, this was it. My husband was torn between honoring his parents and honoring his commitment to me, and it took us awhile to work that out. His father was absolutely a wonderful, funny, intelligent, generous man, but his mother was a conniving, manipulative, selfish only-child who publicly wore a sweet persona. The family often capitulated to her demands because if she didn't get her way, then she took it out on their father whom they dearly loved. That was really nasty and heart-wrenching to witness. Consequently, I felt lonely and isolated with nobody on my side (not true, but that's how I felt). Expectations were as far from reality as the east is from the west and that always results in disappointment. I can't tell you how many nights I cried myself to sleep with "Abba, Father" on my lips because I didn't know what to do. Were the circumstances fair? Absolutely not. Were they going to change? Absolutely not. So, I had a choice: stay or go. If I stayed, the attitude of my heart was the only thing I could control in that situation. Honestly, I did consider leaving several times, but I truly did love and admire the man I married, and I certainly did not want to run home to my mother. That meant I had to choose to reconcile and transform my ugly feelings into living a life honoring to God in difficult circumstances without bitterness taking root. It was during this time (years) of trial that I learned some really important lessons of life, love and marriage. Since we had promised each other to break the cycle of negative life patterns, we worked hard to focus on "US." My mother-in-law used the Divide and Conquer technique more skillfully than Napoleon. For example, she would ask my husband if we wanted to come to lunch on Sunday. Initially he would immediately reply to her - usually a yes. And then he would tell me, and I reminded him that we had other plans. We quickly learned that when she asked either of us, we

would answer her, "Let me check with my spouse first and then I'll tell you." That did not make her happy because in her world, "asking" was a mere formality with the expectation that her wants were always honored. That was a big breakthrough and made us a very strong team when she could not divide us. That valuable lesson carried over into parenting and we never let our children come between us on decisions which was a huge benefit for them. Eventually, we decided to separate ourselves from the family business and the family home, because our relationship was never going to be what it should be if we did not. It was also during this time that I started to learn and practice patience, an unnatural trait for me and one that I still struggle with today. My husband is very: stubborn, strong-willed, intelligent and creative. He was constantly at odds with his mother and brought that emotional baggage into our relationship. I quickly learned that nagging was a definite no-no and would bring the totally opposite permanent result of whatever I was trying to accomplish. So, I used this very effective technique: I would mention whatever it was that I wanted done and just quietly left it at his feet with no timetable pressure and I didn't bring it up again. And then I prayed about it. After spending time around his mother, I truly understood his hypersensitivity to nagging. Depending on the request, it sometimes took time for the seed to sprout. That's where the patience lessons came in, and believe me, if you've ever prayed for patience, you know that you have just asked for a heap of trials to be dumped into your lap. But I have to tell you, although this is not a fast method, it is definitely a better relationship-builder path. In fact, after a few years, his mother would ask me to ask my husband to do a particular task for her because "He always does what you ask and will never do what I ask." Duh - who could imagine that? Not wanting to spend my own banked and hard-earned emotional capital on her demands, I just told her that she could ask him herself with positive results if she just used my technique. Of course, she never did. Privately I thought the cliché, "You can lead a nag to water, but you can't make her drink" was appropriate. I also internalized an unexpected ancillary benefit from this: I didn't have to have the credit and I didn't have to even be acknowledged for the idea in order to enjoy the results. Often in that waiting period for germination, the process evolved so that my husband thought it was his original idea before he would act on it. My response, while trying hard not to be too obvious, is always: "Honey, that is a WONDERFUL idea!" God and I both know I'm the Oz behind the scenes, but that's awesome because I can accomplish so much more when I'm not on the front lines. Besides, I've learned the valuable lesson to focus on desired results not credit.

Sermon Series

Through the summer, we will be looking at individual psalms. There are 37 praise psalms, 56 lament psalms, 6 trust psalms, 9 wisdom psalms, 8 thanksgiving psalms and 17 that are classified as hymns. The psalms are a rich source of worship and praise. Join us. If you are not able to attend on a Sunday, be sure to check out the sermons on the websites home page: Stpaulsjamestown.org or moniteauchurch.org.

Memory Verse for June

Be working on this important verse from 2 Chron. 16:9:

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

Be working on this verse as a family. Blessings

Simple Ways to Share the Gospel

Someone asked, "Can a follower of Christ accept Christ's offer of salvation for himself and refuse to pass it on? Sharing the Gospel is no more complicated than to simply tell others of your experience of Christ's love, so that they might share it. This does not call first for an expert knowledge of the contents of the Bible, or of theology, nor for skill in discussion and power in argument. It does call for unshaken, unshakable knowledge of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Good Books

"When People are Big and God is Small," Overcoming peer pressure, codependency and the fear of man. By Edward Welch. A good book to read.

Our Missionaries—Dettmans

DEAR PARTNERS FOR THE GOSPEL, “Why not me? Why don’t I share the Good News with them myself?” Andy, a university student in the capital, was sharing at the end of the student conference. Andy started getting involved with our movement after a Christmas outreach, and this was the first student conference that he attended. God was laying on his heart a desire for sharing his faith and testimony with others. We are always talking with our disciples about the importance of sharing, and it is so exciting when it goes from an external teaching to an internal desire! Andy* was one of 22 in attendance at the conference and heard talks on living called, living bravely, living slowly, and more. Erica was asked to speak about how God views women, and shared about what the Bible has to say about the messages that are prevalent in our culture today. Please join us in praying for Andy*, and the rest of the students, that they would be more encouraged and emboldened to live out their faith and share it with others.

Confirmation

This summer we have 16 teens involved in confirmation. We will be learning:

- 1) The story of the Bible
- 2) Basic habits of the Christian life
- 3) Memorize select passages of Scripture including the 10 commandments and the Roman Road (a Gospel presentation)
- 4) The doctrine of the Bible—that it is trustworthy
- 5) The doctrine of God—what He is like
- 6) The doctrine of Salvation—how is a person saved
- 7) The doctrine of the Church—what is the church and what is your part in the church.

Each teen will be writing their own statement of faith (what they believe). Please be praying for these teens. Confirmation can be a transforming time or just another thing that is ‘checked off.’

Correction to the May Newsletter:

Because of writer error, in the Memorial Day article in the May Messenger, the number of Civil War veterans in our cemetery should be 9 instead of 2, and the total number of veterans should be 45 instead of 38.

-Submitted by Mary Haldiman

WWJD

WWJD ended May 4th for the school year. We had consistently 25 that attended. During this time, we learned Bible Verses and songs. We also gave out bracelets. One, from Child Evangelism Fellowship, simply had colors—black, red, white, green and gold. The dark color represented sin; the red, the blood of Jesus; the white, the cleansing that comes through Him; the green, growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and the gold, the heavenly destination that awaits believers. Kids also earned bracelets with Bible verses and stones to carry to help them remember all that Jesus has done for them. Please continue to pray for these as we look forward to VBS July 11-14.

Middle School Youth Group

We finished the youth groups for the 2021-2022 school year April 27th with a cookout and time of just sharing. I appreciate the job Ben, Kim and Seth have played and I appreciate Amber Wilson for organizing the meals for the Middle School Youth Group. As we catch our breath over the summer, we want to remember that summer is a time to grow—attending camp, participating in church and VBS. Pray for the teens of the church and the community.

Looking forward, pray for the Lord to keep His promise to us. He said, “The harvest is great, but the laborers are few, pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into the harvest field.” Mt. 9:37-38. As you pray, God will be moving in hearts to step forward—perhaps He will move in your heart to become a part of what He is doing in the youth groups.

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

“Give us this day our daily bread.”—Matthew 6:11



“Food Truck Party” will be held at St. Paul’s/Grace UMC, Monday-Thursday, July 11-14 from 6:30-8:55 each evening. Children ages 4 through completed 6th grade are invited to get on a roll with God. Gathering and pick-up will be at St. Paul’s Evangelical Church.

Watch for upcoming registration information in the church bulletin and July Messenger.

St. Paul's Evangelical Board Meeting

Monday, May 16, 2022

The May Board Meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Oerly and opened with prayer led by Pastor Steve Watson.

Those in attendance were Mark Oerly, Pastor Steve Watson, Lucas Heimericks, Kathy Reimler, Nancy Haldiman and Sandee Eschenbrenner. Ben Marshall was out of town.

The Secretary's report of the April meeting was read and approved. The motion to approve was made by Lucas Heimericks, seconded by Nancy Haldiman and passed by vote of the Board.

Kathy Reimler presented the April Treasury's Report. The motion to accept the report and approve payment of the May bills was made by Nancy Haldiman, seconded by Lucas Heimericks and passed by vote of the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Church Record Book: The Church Record Book has been updated to show the transfer of Virginia Strein from St. Paul Evangelical Church to Salem Baptist Church.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lights: The ceiling lights in the Adult Sunday School class room located behind the sanctuary are not working properly. Mark Oerly will follow up regarding what bulbs are required and also try locating an appropriate height ladder.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented his monthly report including mileage, expenses and visitations. All weekly youth groups have been discontinued for the summer months. Confirmation has begun and 16 youth are participating. The Baccalaureate Service was well attended and Seth Rohrbach was the guest speaker. Pastor Steve also spoke to the Board regarding the purchase of a second projector. The Board agreed that he could proceed with obtaining information and costs and report back to the Board in June.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. Nancy Haldiman and Lisa Rohrbach are going to be cleaning the children's music cabinet located in the Fellowship Hall where the children's Sunday School "opening" is held. If you are aware of anything that needs to be saved, please contact Nancy or Lisa.
2. A new roaster pan has been purchased for our kitchen use. If you are interested in purchasing the used roaster pan, please provide a sealed bid to any Board Member by June 20th. We remind you that the used pan has a broken temperature knob.
3. As in the past, any excess funds collected in the Special Offering for Matt Oerly's Camp Aurora Kids will be donated to Camp Aurora.

Mark advised that our next Board Meeting will be on Monday, June 20th. The motion to adjourn was made by Lucas Heimericks, seconded by Kathy Reimler and passed by vote of the Board. The meeting was closed by all reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandee Eschenbrenner

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, June 19th - Sunday School Picnic/6 PM Hosts: Ben & Kim Marshall
Lashley & Joyce Rohrbach
Patty Waldron
Dan & Debbie Kuenker
Charles & Nita Dishion
Trenton Barbour

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Family Night Hosts/Hostesses: *Ben and Kim Marshall Lashley and Joyce Marshall Patty Waldron Dan and Debbie Kuenker Charles and Neta Dishion Trenton Barbour			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Bradley Schoenthal Evan Schoenthal	8	9	10 Karen Schlup	11 Ben Glenn
12 Kim Marshall	13 Cory Reynolds Andy Clay	14	15	16 Evan Knierim	17 Jacob Haldiman Evelyn Rohrbach	18 Milayna Meisenheimer
19 Sunday School Picnic, 6 p.m. Harold Haldiman Mikayla Haldiman Madison Haldiman	20 St. Paul's Board Meeting Margaret Heimericks	21	22 Brayden Schoenthal Ethan Schoenthal Caleb Rohrbach	23	24	25 Darren Haldiman
26	27	28	29	30	<u>Vacation Bible School:</u> <i>July 11-14</i>	

