

NEWSLETTER

Pastor Joel Stamper



LOVE . . . According to 4-8 Year Olds

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-old. "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby - age 5

"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them" Jenny - age 4

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6

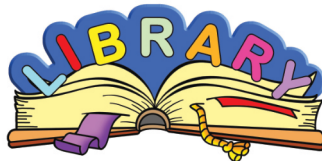
"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

Pregnancy Care Center Fund Raiser



Grace Community Church supports the work of our local Pregnancy Care Center with an annual fund raiser of baby bottles filled with donations. Baby bottles will be collected at end of this month (Feb 27th).



This is the perfect time of year to read a book and/or watch a movie. Your church library has a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books by authors like Max Lucado and other contemporary Christian authors. The church library also has some very good DVD's.

Below are two reviews to give you a glimpse into what the library offers. Come peruse and select materials for your enjoyment and Christian growth.

A Mother's Story - My Son, My Savior by Melody Carlson.
 Book Review by Darlene Jones

I have recently read a book from our Church Library which I really enjoyed. Obviously it is fiction but it was interesting to imagine with the author what Mary, Jesus' mother was thinking.

Believe in Me
 Movie Review by Belinda Hiemstra

Set in 1960's Oklahoma, *Believe in Me* is a true story about a high school basketball coach hired to coach the boys basketball team. But, when he arrives he discovers things have changed and they want him to coach the losing girl's basketball team. This is not what he wants to do. He knows nothing about coaching girls. But with his wife's encouragement he decides to do the best he can. The film is entertaining, well written, and heart warming. Even if you are not a basketball fan take a chance and *Believe in Me*.

... these
 three
 remain:
 faith,
 hope
 and
 love.
 But the
 greater
 of these
 love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

This is My Story: Mary Mellis

I thought I was saved when I was 12 years old. I was talked into the experience, but over the years as I went to church, I knew that I didn't feel like others in church. Then, one Sunday when I was 32, I felt drawn to the front and I accepted Jesus as my Savior. From that moment, I wanted everyone to have what I had. I continue to grow in my faith.



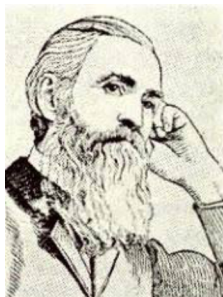
My husband, Don, and I moved to this area in 1995. I began attending Grace when we still met at the Silver Dollar. Back then I did some church hopping but I was always drawn back to Grace. The people here are some of the kindest and sweetest people. They are always eager to talk with me. Ann Foster invited me to join her Bible study. This has helped me grow in knowledge of God. I love the women in the group - friends who encourage and support each other in our journey here on Earth.

These days there are many new people in our church, and I try to meet one new person each Sunday. WOW! What a blessing, I'm sure enjoying the brief introductions and the chances to get more acquainted.

On January 9th of this year, Don's work shop caught on fire and it spread to our home. While it is partially still standing, the insurance company considered it a total loss. We were able to save some things and have them in storage. Meanwhile we are renting an apartment and looking for a new home.

The folks at Grace as well as folks within this county have been so good to us. You can see their hearts bleed for us in their actions and prayers. That means a lot. The support of friends makes hard times a little easier. Thank you church for being a caring church. And thank you so much for your continued prayers!

sweet by and by



Sanford Fillmore Bennett was born in Eden, NY on June 21, 1836. He enjoyed writing poetry and had many poems published in the Waukegan, Illinois Gazette. In 1860 he moved to Elkhorn, Wisconsin and became associate editor of the *Elkhorn Independent*.

When the Civil War broke out, Bennett served with the 40th Wisconsin Volunteers. When he returned to Elkhorn he began running a drugstore and studying medicine. It was in his drugstore that he wrote his one and only hymn. Bennett, himself, recorded the account:

Mr. Webster, like many musicians, was of an exceedingly nervous and sensitive nature; and subject to periods of depression. I had learned his peculiarities so well that on meeting him I could tell at a glance if he was melancholy, and had found that I could rouse him up by giving him a new song to work on. He came into my place of business, walked down to the stove, and turned his back on me without speaking. I was at my desk. Turning to him, I said, "Webster, what is the matter now?" "It's no matter," he replied, "it will be all right by and by."

The idea of the hymn came to me like a flash of sunlight, and I replied, "The Sweet By and By! Why would not that make a good hymn?" "Maybe it would," he said indifferently. Turning to my desk I penned the words of the hymn as fast as I could write. I handed the words to Webster. As he read his eyes kindled, and stepping to the desk he began writing the notes. Taking his violin, he played the melody and then jotted down the notes of the chorus. It was not over thirty minutes from the time I took my pen to write the words before two friends with Webster and myself were singing the hymn.

There's a land that is fairer than day,
 And By faith we can see it a - far.
 For the Father waits over the way,
 To prepare us a dwelling place there.

To our bountiful Father above
 We will offer our tribute of praise,
 For the glorious gift of His love,
 And the blessings that hallow our days.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
 The melodious songs of the blest;
 And our spirits shall sorrow no more -
 Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

In the sweet by and by,
 We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
 In the sweet by and by,
 We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

... Now
 I know
 in
 part;
 then I
 shall
 know
 fully
 even
 as
 I am
 fully
 known.

1 Corinthians 13: 12 (NIV)