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The Nutshell

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News and Information from Chestnut Street Baptist Church



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The Nutshell, April 2019



The Case for Easter

As a follow-up to the Bible study we offered on Sunday mornings entitled *Making Your Case for Christ*, we have obtained a new series from Lee Strobel entitled *The Case for Easter: A Journalist Investigates Evidence for the Resurrection*. Our LIFE Groups will be hosting this four-part study in the weeks leading up to Resurrection Sunday, April 21. This is the perfect time to get involved in a LIFE Group, if you haven't already!



We will also have a short book (96 pages) to give away, both to our school bus drivers and then to those who attend worship on Resurrection Sunday.

In This Issue:

As I See It ... by Pastor Frank	1
Church Directory Coming Soon	1
Youth Ministry— Youth Conference	2
College Ministry- NCM & Choir	2
New Directory Coming This Spring!	3
Women's Ministry Events	3
Men's Ministry Events	3
Welcome to New Members	3
NW Disaster Relieve Roundtable	3
Monthly Schedule of Activities	4

As I See It ... by Pastor Frank Johnson For Christians the Cross of Jesus Is Empty

There is a rather sad conversation I read about some years ago now that illustrates a fundamental ignorance of what lies at the heart of Christian belief. A woman was shopping for a necklace in a jewelry store, and the man behind the counter was eager to cater to her needs. She said that she was interested in a cross pendant, and he said, "Oh, yes, we have some nice cross necklaces. Would you like a plain one, or would you rather have one with a little man on it?"

"A little man on it"? Really? Why not ask a Muslim why so many Muslims have Muhammed in their names. As far as jewelry goes, the cross should be a sobering reminder of the focus of Christian faith. Those who have come to follow Jesus confess that he "died for our sins according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3, NET). Whether cross-jewelry depicts Jesus on the cross or whether it is plain is not that big of a deal, on the merely aesthetic level. As a university professor of mine used to say, "Pay your money and take your choice."

However, as a matter of conviction, I argue for what the late Michael Green of Regent College, Vancouver, B. C., called "the empty cross of Jesus." In a book by that title, he made a good case from the New Testament of the Bible that Christians have always considered the death of Christ as a necessary element of Christian teaching, but only one of two essential elements. The next phrases of that sentence from 1 Corinthians continue the thought: "... and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:4-5, NET).

In short, Christians believe in the death of Jesus for the sins of the world, and they believe that He was raised to life again by the power of God the Father. This two-sided affirmation of truth is the center of what Christians call the *gospel*, or "good news." Everything else in Christian thought and life rest on these twin confessions about the *death* and the *resurrection* of Jesus. The cross is a sobering reminder that forgiveness from God comes as a result of His sacrificial love. "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, NET). Because He died for us, we can now be reconciled to God through our faith in Jesus (cf. Romans 5:9-10). But that is not the whole story. The death of Jesus makes possible reconciliation with God, and the life of Jesus makes that *salvation* complete (cf. Romans 5:10-11).

Many churches depict the cross prominently in their places of worship because it is a standing reminder of the love of God shown to the world through the death of Jesus. As we would affirm, *He died that we might live*. But that cross is empty, because it was not the end of the story. As Jesus Himself said to all His followers, "Because I live, you will live too" (John 14:19b, NET). In His resurrection, Jesus not only confirmed the truth of His claims, He also assured those who believe those claims that death has been made powerless over them. The contemporary of William Shakespeare, John Donne, captured this in one of his holy sonnets. Here is how that poem begins and ends:

(Article continued on page 2)



In the Coming Month: April 2019

Sundays	9 a.m. Bible Study Hour, and 10:15 a.m. Worship
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Johnson's, 808 E. Capitol
Mondays 7:00 p.m.	Women's Prayer Walk (Meet at CSBC)
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Prayer Group at the church's facilities, room 202
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Cornerstone Kids' Club (grades 1-5)
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Ignition (youth group, grades 6-12)
Thursdays 6:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Jim & Laura Bisonnette's, 2406 N. Ellington
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	LIFE Group at Boudreau's, 1001 E. Mountainview
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	Crosswalk (Collegiate students and young adults)
Fridays 4:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Briarwood Commons, 1001 S. Chestnut St.
Friday, April 5	Happy 44th anniversary to Pastor Frank and Jeannie!
Sunday, March 7, 10:15 a.m.	Lord's Supper Observance & Deacon Fund Offering
Fri. & Sat. April 12-13	Directory Photos taken at CSBC
Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Friday, April 19, 7 p.m.	Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.	Women's Breakfast
Sunday, April 21	Easter and Choir Performance
Fri. & Sat. April 26-27	NW Disaster Relief Roundtable Training

Youth Ministry

Ignition

This month, Ignition finished up our study on leadership. During the lessons, we got to see the youth step up and learn more about how to become leaders with God at their sides. We also had the opportunity for our youth to partner up with The River Church team for a retreat at Lazy F. The theme, from John 30:30, was, "Jesus must increase, I must decrease." We pray that this is what we are showing in our actions. He is the Lord of all, and we look to share that with others.

Youth Conference

It's time again for our annual NWBC Student Conference! On **May 3-4, 2019** we will travel down to **Pathway Church in Gresham, Oregon** for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and individual growth. The theme this year is "**Momentum.**"

The cost for this year's conference will be **\$50 per person**. This includes conference fee, Saturday lunch and Friday *nights' concert*. Those who pre-register by **April 8th** will receive a **FREE Student Conference T-Shirt**.

A few fun things have been added this year include a photobooth, Chick-fil-a for lunch, merch to buy, a snack shack, donuts, and a **FREE** book called "Is God Calling Me?" by Jeff Lorg for each student .

Our featured speaker this year will be **BRENT CROWE** from Orlando, Florida. Brent is a gifted communicator who loves students and has a genuine heart and a passion to see students come to Christ and grow in their faith. Brent Crowe is currently serving as Vice President with Student Leadership University. Read more about him here <http://www.slulead.com/slu-staff/brent-crowe-ph-d/> .

The worship band this year is the **Pathway Band**. They are a gifted, multi-ethnic band that will do an outstanding job leading. You'll be excited to meet them all in person at the conference!

For our **Late Night Fun** this year we will feature a concert by the band Beautiful Eulogy. **Beautiful Eulogy** is a Portland, Oregon based group made up of artists Braille, Odd Thomas and Courtland Urbano. The group introduces a distinct and directive sound that's driven by a desire to worship and glorify the God of the Bible, based in the context of its' members, hip hop roots and shaped by influences like electronic music, folk songs and old hymns. For more info on Beautiful Eulogy check out <https://humblebeast.com/artists/beautiful-eulogy/>.

This event is a perfect opportunity for youth to invite their non-Christian friends. There will be break out sessions that interest believers and non-believers alike.

In Christ,

Aren Blackwood



Collegiate Ministry

CSBC Choir

We are pleased to be trying something a bit different this year for our Easter Choir celebration. Your choir will be singing some amazing music as part of service Easter Sunday morning. We look forward to sharing in this time of celebration and encourage you to bring your friends with you to church services Easter. We will worship together through song, through Scripture reading and preaching, and through listening to the choir. What a great celebration: resurrection!

Collegiate Ministries

Thank you again and again for your love and support of collegiate and young adult ministries here at CSBC. Because of your generous giving, we had more than enough resources to pay the full way for our team to serve at SAFE Family Ministries and are utilizing the rest of the funds for missions locally and throughout the world. You have noticed, I am sure, the beautiful sunshine, nice breeze and grass showing all around us? With the coming of spring, our opportunities to be outside and connecting with students is reborn. We'll be doing this in a couple ways.

One, each Tuesday we're planning to be on campus giving some type of encouragement to students, staff and faculty. Whether it's giving away baked goods, fresh fruit, hot cocoa and coffee, or popsicles, each week we will be praying that God will allow us to shine some light through gifts of love. And now that the sun is shining, more people are wandering around outside so we can see and encourage them!

Every Thursday we will continue with **Crosswalk**, worshiping God together in song and Bible study. We'd love to have a few of you come and share a piece of your story during Crosswalk. If you're interested and available on a Thursday evening this spring, talk with me (jeremy@csbcfamily.com) and we can set something up. It is a blessing to hear how God has intercepted your life and how He is at work in and through you.

We've got some further plans in the works for fun in the sun and growing in fellowship with each other and with God, so check out Crosswalk to find out more!

His,
Jeremy

(As I See It ..., continued from page 1)

Death be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so.

Why? For a variety of reasons, but especially ...

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

My love in Christ,

Pastor Frank

Chestnut Street Baptist Church
Women's Retreat

Leaning on the Everlasting

Isaiah 26:3

October 4-6, 2019

Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center
Skyline Building with Hotel Style Amenities

Total cost: \$150
Secure your spot: \$25
Only 20 spots left!

Payment Plans and Saturday Only
options available

Women's Ministry

Women's Retreat

Our theme is Leaning on the Everlasting and our guest speaker, Denise Wood will be helping us focus on what that means. We will be staying in the Skyline Building which is set up in a hotel style. Each room features 4 twin beds, bathroom, and provided linens. The building is ADA accessible. The total cost is \$150. A down payment of \$25 secures your spot, since there are only 30 spots available. Think about this, if you pay \$25 a month, you'll have it covered by the time October is here! Payments should be made to MaryDawn Buntin. If you are unable to come for the whole retreat, there is a Saturday Only option available for \$50. For more information, call 509.859.2190 or email csbccladies@gmail.com

Monthly Breakfast

Saturday, April. 20 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Walks

Ongoing on Mondays at 7pm! All April Prayer Walks will start from the church building as we pray for our members and the surrounding neighbors.

New Directory Coming This Spring!

We are putting a new directory together for our church body! We would love to have all of our current member and regular attenders included. By taking new photos and updating contact information, we hope to facilitate better connection with one another. Here is the schedule and plan:

- o Photography dates: April 12 & 13 (Fri., Sat.)
- o Sign up in the foyer after Sunday services.
- o Questions? Contact Lydia Gross or Lacey Myers (church office phone: 509-925-2424, or email: office@csbcfamily.com).

Welcome New Members

Bryce Harmsen	2-10-19
Tim and Tracy Blake	2-17-19
Davina Berger	3-10-19

Men's Ministry Events

Monthly Breakfast

All Gentleman are invited to join together Saturday, April 13, at 8:00 a.m. for a time of Scripture, food and fellowship.

2019 Northwest Disaster Relief Roundtable

God Moments in Service

During or after a tragedy, have you ever thought to yourself "I wish we'd all been ready"? Well, here's your chance to **Get Ready!** This will be an excellent training opportunity for volunteers, or those interested in becoming involved!



April 26-27, 2019
Northwest Baptist Center
3200 NE 109th
Ave, Vancouver, WA
Two days of training for just
\$35.00
Registration Due on April 15th

He is
RISEN

"But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

