

Covenant Church Newsletter
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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,
Loving People,
Making Disciples

July 2021

Pastor's Ponderings...

I don't know if you are looking for a summer reading title, but if so, let me recommend *Darwin's House of Cards* by Tom Bethell. I read this book a few years ago, and found that Bethell does a great job of reducing a lot of technical scientific study to a more accessible level. The overall idea is that, despite scientific breakthroughs of the past years, Darwin's theory is less provable today than it was when first published in 1869.

One particularly well-known and supposed "proof" of Darwinism has to do with finches in the Galapagos Islands. According to Bethell, in 1947 ornithologist David Lack published *Darwin's Finches*, "proposing that different beak sizes on the different islands were adaptations caused by natural selection." Many newspapers and magazines reported on the amazing fact that the various Galapagos finches have different size beaks, apparent proof that they were evolving. But it turns out that a drought had made smaller seeds less abundant, which in turn meant that finches with larger beaks found more to eat, and thus reproduced more successfully. When the rains returned a few years later, and small seeds again became abundant, the average size finch beak returned to the norm.

Darwin didn't study the finches very much, but he was well-acquainted with pigeon breeders, and what he knew was that despite much expert manipulation and cross-breeding, pigeons always remained pigeons. No one has ever observed "indefinite departure," that is, one species becoming something else, nor is there anything in the now abundant fossil record that even remotely points in this direction.

The idea of infinite departure is just one of many fallacies commonly accepted by Darwinists without proof. Another is the common argument that a billion monkeys typing at random over a billion years will eventually produce a great literary work. This notion is supposed to help explain one of the most difficult of the Darwinist's problems, how something can come from nothing. Darwinists imagine a primordial soup, the ancient oceans of earth, filled with free-floating bits of non-organic matter, that eventually got zapped by lightning to create a simple single-cell organism. Darwinists don't say where this earth or this soup came from. They apparently do believe the created universe is eternal, whereas Christians would

rather ascribe eternity to God (note that both groups are acting on faith). Eventually, the idea goes, this single-celled organism will mutate, and then mutate again, randomly building the extremely complex genetic code (like a billion monkeys producing a work of Shakespeare).

The problem here is that someone needs to be looking over the monkey's shoulders, and whenever one of them might randomly type the words "to be," this unseen editor grabs those words, to pair them later with the work of another monkey, a million years later, who writes, "or not," and so on. Darwinism, however, can accommodate no "unseen editor," no intelligence working behind the scenes to put all the pieces together. And without such a Power, Darwinism fails.

You may or may not choose to pick up Bethell's book for your summer reading, but either way, please know that there are good thinkers out there who are finding plenty to question about what too many simply accept as true. I am personally much more convinced by what is called "intelligent design," especially the writings of William Dembski (*Intelligent Design*) and Michael Behe (*Darwin's Black Box*). We are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14)!

In Christ,
Brant

From The Clerk

Over \$1000 was donated to our 5th Sunday mission offering in May. The Mission Team and Session added another \$1000 which made it possible to take a check of \$2000 to the Home of Hope. They were very grateful to receive Covenant's gift to help keep their wonderful programs going that help change the lives of young women and their children. As with so many organizations, the Home of Hope was hit hard by the Covid restrictions in their fund-raising activities. They are also grateful for the sponsorships of some of our members who make a continuing monthly offering. If you feel led to be a regular sponsor, please see our mission leader, Everett Greenwood, about how to do that.

Our next 5th Sunday mission offering will be the end of August. We are pledging that offering to the Logos Christian Academy in Casa Grande. Their principal, Dr Ken Ross, will be coming back to Covenant sometime in August to preach another one of his wonderful messages.

Isn't it wonderful to have some snacks and a fellowship time before and after worship again? Thanks to Karen Baker for heading that up. Also, thanks to the Worship team and others who faithfully come early to set up and/or stay late to put away some of the many things needed for worship every Sunday morning.

Men's Bible Study

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:30am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please just show up or if you have questions, you can call Pastor Brant (520-876- 2888 or 480-458- 7628).

Neighborhood Help Team

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

July Calendar

- 3 Spinners, 6:00am, meet at L'Grande Cafe
- 6 Books Are Best, 2:30pm at IHOP
- 7 We've Got Game, 2:00pm at Carol Smith's
- 8 Worship Team meeting, 1:00pm
- 10 Click A Pic, 8:00am, meet at Neon Park
- 14 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's
- 15 Session Meeting, 6:00pm
- 17 Neighbor Helping Neighbor, 6:00am, meet at L'Grande Cafe
- 18 Adult Sunday School, 11:15 – Noon, lesson titled "The Apostasy"
- 21 Crazy Crafters, 2:00pm, meet at TBD
- 24 World Problem Solvers, 8:30am, L'Grande Cafe
- 28 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's

July Birthdays

- 4 Crystalle Kirkbride
- 17 Rev. Brant Baker
- 18 Norm Sandblast
- 18 Ellen Greenwood
- 20 Pauline Johnson
- 20 Suzette LeMieux
- 30 Gary Schmadeke

July Anniversaries

- 20 Jerry & Lori Polito
- 29 Henry & Ruth McLaughlin
- 31 Phil & Gladys Perry

