



June 2022

Fox River Life



This a continuation of the article that I shared in last month's newsletter from Dr. Michael Milton which is entitled: "Why Expository Preaching is the Power for Pastoral Ministry". You may find May's Newsletter, and past newsletters, on our website under the Media tag.

4. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Vocationally Satisfying.

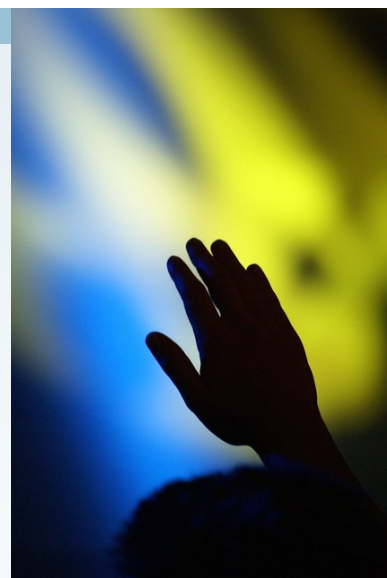
When I say "vocationally satisfying," I am speaking to those who have come, in their own lives, to say with Paul in 1 Corinthians 9.16, "For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!"

If we are called by God to preach the Word of God to a dying world, and if preaching is unveiling the mind of God for man in this Word, and this is what expository preaching is, then it follows that we will only be happy in our work if we are doing that!

Eugene Peterson is the pastor's friend in so many ways. I have greatly benefited from his various works. In "Under the Unpredictable Plant," he tells how he was at the point of burnout at Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Belaire, Maryland. He was going from board meeting to board meeting, doing this and that, and as a pastor who has planted two churches (and Peterson's church was a church plant) I know how it can be. Well, this tired pastor goes to his session and tells them that he can't go on. He thinks he is at the end of his pastorate. Fatigue is physical exhaustion, and we all get that. Burnout is a loss of meaning, and we do not necessarily have to have that, but this is apparently what Peterson had. His Session was wise and told him to list the things he went into the ministry to do. He listed, preaching, visiting the sick, sharing the Gospel, and the things that the Bible teaches us is our work. His Session told him, "You do those things you were called to do, and we will do the rest." You probably have read what happened. He not only was renewed in his ministry, but stayed over 30 years at that church.

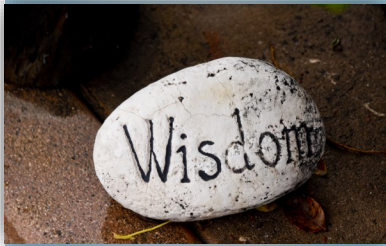
If God has called you to preach, He has not called you to be a rush chairman, a religious store manager, or even a really great storyteller. Yet, there are many who will tell us that expository preaching is not enough. Peterson says, "Propagandists are abroad in the land lying to us about what congregations are and can be. They are lying for money. They want to make us discontent with what we are doing so we will buy a solution from them that they promise will restore virility to our impotent congregations. The profit-taking among those who market these [programs] indicates pastoral gullibility in these matters is endless."

Let us not be gullible. Expository preaching fulfills God's purpose for our lives as preachers. He has called you to preach the Word, and you will never be happy until you go to



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Wisdom

*"The proverbs of Solomon
son of David, king of Israel:*

*2)for gaining wisdom and
instruction; for
understanding words of
insight; 3)for receiving
instruction in prudent
behavior, doing what is
right and just and fair; 4)for
giving prudence to those
who are simple, knowledge
and discretion to the
young— 5)let the wise listen
and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get
guidance— 6)for
understanding proverbs and
parables, the sayings and
riddles of the wise. 7)The
fear of the LORD is the
beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom
and instruction.*

Proverbs 1:1-7

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

that Word, live in that Word, exegete the meaning of that Word, dive like a Pacific native to the bottom of the ocean for the rich pearls of that Word, and then come back up from your time in the deep-blue of God's presence, string those pearls together in a sermon, and put them on the neck of your people.

Only a preaching method, a preaching approach, that is radically Word-centered, Christ-centered, Gospel-saturated, and uncompromisingly faith to the text will give you joy. For you were made to preach.

5. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Eschatologically Useful.

Now when I say eschatologically useful, I am saying that expository preaching brings our people into contact with ultimate realities. In personal eschatology, expository preaching prepares our people to not only live but to die. Oh, if we could hear the stories of faithful preachers, seated right here today, who have shared those sweet and sacred moments of vigil with a family when a loved one is going home. You know that the power for your ministry at that time is in the exposition of the Word. An elder in our church who recently went home to be with the Lord said, "I have been waiting for this. I am ready to go home." This attitude comes from expository preaching.

Expository preaching also is eschatologically useful in that it brings our people to see God's ultimate cosmic realities. I would say that faithful exposition of the Word would probably distance our preaching from some of the excessive, eisegetical propositions that we sometimes hear at certain prophecy seminars that lead to theological speculation and seem to draw cosmic curiosity seekers. But faithful exposition, say of 1 Corinthians 15 or Ephesians 1; leads our people to see that God is a teleological God, that this world is going somewhere, and that we who are God's children are destined for something greater than ourselves.

The revelation of God gives meaning, purpose, context to time, space, and eternity, to man and God. It gives meaning to sickness, hope, and even happiness in the face of theodicy, and the questions of suffering.

6. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Personally Edifying.

The call to preach the Word is a blessing. Each week we come to the text, and we are fed by it, hopefully, before we give it to others. I know the James 3 warning against being teachers, but we also know the words of Paul—this Word will "make you wise for salvation" (2 Timothy 3.15). We will save ourselves as well as those who hear us.

I must say this, also. When we are about the work of expository preaching in the pastorate, the work carries us along in a sense. Week-in and week-out, we develop a discipline of study, for to preach the Word of God line-upon-line, precept-upon-precept, demands time, struggle, and prayer. I know that in this room, your heads and hearts are turning, perhaps not over this address, but over the portion of Scripture that you must deliver this week. Is there anything as rewarding in life as unburdening your soul in that movement when you approach the sacred desk and open up the Bible? Expository preaching feeds my soul. I know of no other way to put it. But more than that:

7. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Constantly Challenging.

To present the mind of Christ in a text requires much of us, does it not? I once heard a preacher say that every time he preached, a little piece of him died. I am sure there are those for whom that is true because they are tired of preaching, or they will know that they will get ripped to pieces at the front door of the church. But this man was speaking about preaching in a way that I can identify with. Like you, to preach the mind of God, to go through the necessary steps to get there, then to emotionally discharge the holy calling on your life through the act of expositing a text is the most challenging thing in the world. It takes your very life.

I was once in a seminar with Dr. D. James Kennedy where seminary students got to ask him anything they wanted. One asked, "Dr. Kennedy, what is the most challenging thing you have ever done in the ministry?" His answer was, "Prepare next Sunday's sermon." Can I get an "Amen" on that? We all know it is true. We all know that such rigorous preaching cut short the life of John Calvin. It must be balanced with recreation and separation unto God in quiet prayer and reflection. We all know that to constantly face the Word of God each and every week, sometimes three or four times each week, is overwhelming at times. But for those called to do

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"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts." Colossians 3:15

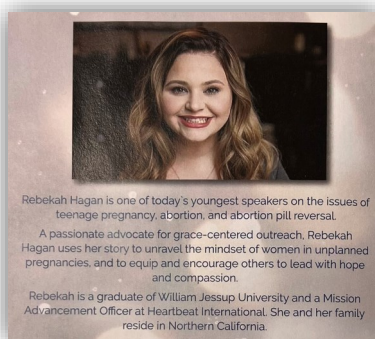


On Thursday, May 12th, Jay & Linda Hoffman attended the annual "Together for Life" Fundraising Banquet hosted by Vida. *Together for Life* benefiting Vida Medical Clinic and Support Services is hosted annually in May. Here is a description of the event from Vida's website that I thought was better than anything I could say:

This annual fundraising dinner banquet brings together friends of Vida for an evening of celebration, recognition, and support for Vida. The evening features a social hour, dinner, silent auction items, raffles, speakers, and highlights from the organization. The event also includes a prayer service prior to dinner and other evening event festivities.

One of two major Vida fundraisers every year, proceeds from *Together for Life* support Vida's mission and work to empower individuals to make healthy life-affirming decisions through free education and medical services.

The picture and description on the right is of the speaker for the night. Her story was powerful. You can see more about her at this link: <https://rebekahhagan.org/>.



Mark your calendars for our Ladies' Craft & Lunch on Sunday, July 10th. We will be doing some painting...stay tuned for more details! In the meantime, here are a couple pictures of some finished Egg Carton Wreaths from April's crafting day.



Hannah Hoffman made bunnies instead of flowers and Lois Peeters combined her wreath with a craft she made at another event.

We, as a ministry team are working on some exciting events for the future and would covet your prayers for the planning process! We will share more as we finalize details, so stay tuned!



Deaconess Ministry

UPDATE



Deaconess of the Month—Angela Groff

Worship in the Park will be at Colony Oaks Park on July 17th with a picnic to follow. There will be a sign-up closer to the event.

If you have any questions, you can contact one of the Deaconesses.

Behind and Before

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! 2)You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3)You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4)Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. 5)You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6)Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. 7)Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8)If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9)If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10)even there your hand shall lead me,

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and your right hand shall hold me. 11)If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12)even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. 13)For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14)I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15)My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16)Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. 17)How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18)If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. 19)Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!

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From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

so, it is a response to a calling to an amazing love that demands my soul, my life, my all. Would you really want it any other way?

Finally:

8. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Always Contemporary.

When we go to the Word, and preach the Word, we never have to worry about whether it is the right time or not, or if this is the right message or not. Now surely wisdom is needed to discern between preaching Lamentations at a wedding or Leviticus chapter 15 and "bodily discharges" at the dedication or baptism of an infant. But, you know what I mean. As I think about this conference, I am reminded once more that expository preaching is always in vogue, always "cool," if you will, for the human condition remains the same in every age.

Conclusion

How did Lloyd-Jones follow Campbell-Morgan? Expository preaching. How did Boice follow Barnhouse? Expository preaching. How did Timothy follow Paul? "Preach the Word." We must guard what was deposited to us with expository preaching. We must, because we can't conduct a sound ministry of visitation of the sick and dying without it. We cannot carry on the work of evangelism, discipleship, world missions, building up our saints, or being a witness to our communities without expositing the Word from another world. We were made for it. It is our lives. It is our heart. Readers of great missionaries' stories will recall the amazing story of that intrepid Scotsman, the physician Dr. David Livingston, who, like Lloyd-Jones, was not only a medical doctor but also a preacher of the Gospel. You will recall that David Livingston's body was returned from Africa, where he died, to be buried with highest honors in Westminster Abbey. But do you also recall that before his body was removed from the deepest parts of that great continent to make the 700 mile trip to the coast, the tribesmen of the place where he died so loved this man that they removed his heart from his body and buried it in great ritual in the land where he preached the Gospel? Jesus said in Matthew 6.21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (NIV). The tribesmen knew that David Livingston's treasure was Africa. His soul would go to His Savior. His body would return, for the time being, to his native country. But Livingston's heart was in Africa.

So do our people know that we treasure them? Do they know that we treasure preaching the Gospel of God to them? Do they know where our hearts are?

I was the 12th pastor of a church that was started in 1838. The men who went before me were greatly loved. I followed one of the greatest Christian communicators of the 20th century. Dr. Ben Haden remains a close friend. He followed a man whose name is engraved on everything from the YMCA to a homeless mission. He followed a beloved pastor who died five years into office but whose five years left an impression of ministry that was felt for six decades after his death. He followed a former Confederate chaplain who led a veritable civil rights campaign for African-Americans in the late 1800s in that community. He served for 50 years. He always wore a clerical collar and always left the gas light, later electric light burning, on the porch of the manse—"just in case someone needs a minister."

I once talked to some of the older folks in our congregation about my predecessors! "Why are they still venerated so? What was it about them that made them so special?" I heard answers—from different people, different stories, but always a common denominator. I think that the reason my predecessors are so honored is that, like Livingston, they preached the Word to a certain people in a certain time in a certain place. That Word did for those people in their land, in their time, what the Word always does—saves, changes lives, heals, restores, gives hope, brings assurance, and brings God to men and men to God. I am convinced that in the final analysis, this is the answer. All preachers, whether they consider themselves mice or elephants, great or small, are loved when they faithfully open up the Bread of Life and feed the lambs of Jesus. And this becomes our legacy, not that our images are recorded in oils to hang on a church wall, but that our hearts are buried in that place where we took our stand, spent our years, and gave our lives to preach the Word. For, you see, to those whose lives are changed, you will always be a giant to them. Amen.

In His Name & For His Glory,

Pastor Tim

Intentional Discipleship Update

For the month of June we will be having Men & Women's Bible Study on Saturday Mornings. We will be taking a break for the summer after that. Also, we will be having Sunday School through the month of June as well before we take a break. The Thursday Ladies Bible Study will have their last meeting on the 16th and will then take their summer hiatus. Let's finish these last few weeks well!

Street Music Week:

On June 13th-17th our own Bill & Doris will be Street Performers at the Annual Street Music Week in Downtown Appleton. They will be raising money for Feeding America East Wisconsin. I would encourage you if you are able to go downtown between noon and 1 P.M. to encourage and support the Olson's. In addition we will be taking up a special offering on June 19th for Feeding America East Wisconsin. Also, we would ask that everyone bring non-perishable items during the month of June to be donated to the St. Josephs Food Program. During this time of inflation and rising costs the poor in our community suffer the most. Please consider being a part of reaching out to those in our community who are struggling.



What a blessing to have a children's church for the younger members of our church! Gracie, Jordan, Elliot, Alivia, and Wyatt make up our charming group. We start each session with a prayer focusing on (adoration) I love you prayer, (confession) I'm sorry prayers, (thanksgiving) thank you prayers, and (supplication) our please, prayers. After that we go on to our memory verse. Together we say Psalm 119:89-90, "Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth and it stands fast." It is amazing to hear how fast the kids have picked up these verses.

The lessons we have been working on focus on how God's word is true, there are no mistakes in scripture, and His will endures forever. You might have seen the kids with flashlights...that was from our lesson on how God's word guides us. One of our most challenging lesson, a few weeks ago, was explain the Trinity. The kids were great! We learned the Trinity through sign language. Our kids can sign, The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. You will have to ask Gracie to demonstrate!

Crafts have been a favorite for the kids. We have colored, cut, painted, and used stickers on many projects. The craft coincides with the weekly topic. Yes! We get messy. Praise God for our little group! Please keep us in your prayers. Each one is special!



If you haven't taken a minute to walk through the library, you might be surprised to find some new books on the shelves. We've had some donations from church members and friends that you might find educational and/or entertaining! This the perfect time of year to pick something you've always wanted to read, or something you never knew you wanted to read, and take it home and enjoy some time each day reading!

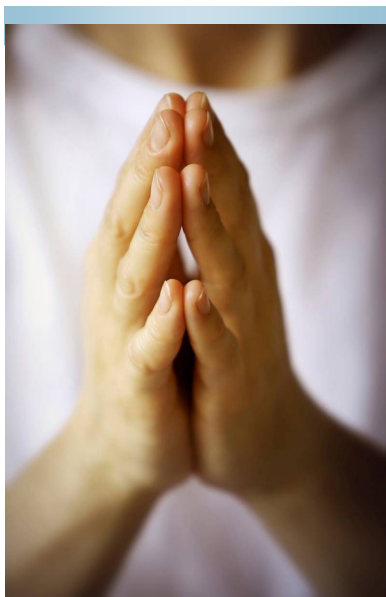
If you need suggestions, I'm sure that Pastor Tim could give you some. 😊



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20)They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! 21)Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? 22)I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. 23)Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24)And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

June 5—Ask PT

June 12—Prayer at 5 pm

June 19—Solo Christos at 5 pm

June 26—Prayer at 5 pm

SUNDAY



Financial Update—April 3-24, 2022

Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00

Received: \$ 9,193.00

Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Men's & Women's

Bible Study

Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer

Wednesdays at 9:30am



June 5

Pat Groff

June 12

Howard Schimke

June 19

Scott Smith

June 26

Bob Abitz



Please contact **Carol Smith** at
(920) 788-9795

to volunteer in 3 different capacities in our children's ministry. There are also sign-up sheets for the different rooms you can serve in down the children's Sunday School wing.

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items.
Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address: prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920) 277-1526 or Linda Hoffman at hofflad@gmail.com—(715) 255-3809.

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

FROM THE MISSIONS BOARD

We are continuing to work on policy and scheduling some missionary visits. The next Missions Board meeting will be held June 6th at 6:30 in the church conference room.



Ryan Smith's List of Needs for his mission trip to Estonia

Donations of the following items:

- Card games such as:
 - Skip-Bo
 - Farkle
 - Rack-O
 - Rook



(no Uno, Phase 10, or regular deck of cards)

- Christian themed stickers in bulk
- Water balloons
- Glow sticks
- American candy



Examples of American Candy

Ryan is still approximately \$1,000 short of his fundraising goal. You can still give to him by going to this link: <https://converge.org/missionary/ryan-smith>. You can also earmark your offering for Ryan's Mission Trip.

Jesus is Lord

“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10)For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11)As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” 12)For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13)for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14)How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15)And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Romans 10:9-15



Our next committee meeting is Wednesday, June 8, 2 pm, FRBC.

UPDATE...

through activities that support spiritual growth, build relationships, and meet practical needs. This is done through fellowship times, helpful seminars, etc. (2)To show God's love to the residents and support staff of a local residence facility/nursing home. This is accomplished by providing/assisting in worship services at various facilities around the Valley, currently Care Partners on Irish Road in Neenah (Fox Crossing).

We just recently sponsored a spring seminar, but are now planning for some upcoming fellowship times that you won't want to miss. Details will be announced soon. As always, our activities are not just limited to seniors, but are open to everyone. Stay tuned!

Also, if anyone is interested in joining our team, please talk to Lynn Abitz.

Young @ Heart is our senior ministry at Fox River Baptist Church. We have 2 goals: (1) To support seniors at FRBC

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



- 1—Eliza Bressler
- 2—Judy Waggoner
- 12—Michele Hewitt
- 14—Angela Groff
- 16—Jay Hoffman
- 24—Rick Hinz



- 3—Howard & Doris Schimke
- 6—Scott & Rhonda Dohms
- 20—Don & Chris Wynkoop
- 22—Bob & Lynn Abitz
- 23—Carl & Sheryl Zwerg



Fox River Baptist Church

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Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm