

INTOUCH

December 30, 2007

The Tablecloth

By Pastor Rob Reid

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 30

12:15 PM SENIOR *Hill* Luncheon Fellowship Hall
with guest Mike Hildebrand, speaking on "What's Next?"

No rehearsals or classes this evening

MONDAY – DECEMBER 31 *New Year's Eve*

10 AM- 3 PM Office open shortened hours
Evening Annual College Ski Retreat returns to the church

TUESDAY – JANUARY 1, 2008 *New Year's Day*

*Wishing you and yours
God's richest blessings in the New Year*

*May the LORD bless you, and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 2

9 AM-4 PM Office open regular hours
9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – *Circuit Training* Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY – JANUARY 3

9 AM-4 PM Office open regular hours
9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – *Pilates Strength Training* F. Hall

FRIDAY – JANUARY 4

9 AM-4 PM Office open regular hours
9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – *Step Aerobics* Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM *MOSAIC* – 20s & 30s The Downer's

SATURDAY – JANUARY 5

6:30 AM Men's Monthly Breakfast Coco's, Scotts. Fashion Sq.

SUNDAY – JANUARY 6

9:00 and 10:40 AM MORNING WORSHIP Sanctuary
Dr. Tim Savage
"What is the Anti-Christ?"
1 John 2:18-23

9:00 AM Nursery (infants – 24 months) 301-304
Children's Discipleship (2 yrs–6th gr) 101-102, 201, 203, 206
Adult Fellowships 208 and 209
God's Way of Handling Money – Teleios Study 207

9:00 AM *Discovery I* Library
10:40 AM Nursery (infants – 24 months) 301-304
Children's Church (2 yrs–6th gr.) 101-104, 203, 207-209
EXCEL (Jr. High & High School) Fellowship Hall

12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry – meet at Fellowship Hall
2:00 PM Nursing Home Ministry – Service of Worship Osborn H & R
5:00-5:55 PM CBC Ringers (Older Youth into High School) 208
5:00-5:55 PM Campanitas Ringers (Grades 1-4) 207
5:00-5:55 PM Bell Canto Ringers (Grades 5-8) 209
6:00-7:15 PM Sanctuary Bells (Adults) 208
6:00 PM New Song Singers (Grades 4-6)) 209
6:00 PM *Jonathan Edwards: Religious Affections* Study Library

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18th were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19th a terrible tempest – a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days!

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home.

On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the table cloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?"

The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war (World War II) she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria.

When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week! He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church.

The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

(Continued....)

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike.

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

This beautiful story, based on a true story, speaks volumes about the absolute truth of God working in mysterious ways, and always working for His glory and the good of His own. We look to Him in this coming year, asking that He continue to glorify Himself and be pleased to do so in and through us. May His kingdom and come and His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!

Baptismal Preparation Class

For 4th - 6th Graders
Sunday Mornings
Jan. 13th, 20th & 27th
Time and Location TBA

Parents, please prayerfully consider enrolling your child in this important class. Call the church office to sign up.

CBC WEBMASTER is looking for a skilled assistant. If you possess web skills and have a willingness to serve Christ by using those skills to advance the CBC website, please contact Pastor Ron.

WHEELS FROM ABOVE is still in desperate need of a new location within which to work. The need is for new donated space (800 to 1,000 sq. feet in north Phoenix, cooled, with ceiling lighting, electricity, running water and rest room access). PLEASE, call Partners in Christ at 480-731-9170, or Dan Uhlik at 623-581-2524.

TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Mornings in the Word
studying *Nehemiah, Esther & 1 Timothy*
January 15 - April 29, 2008, 9:00 AM, in the Library

Come join us beginning the 15th for a continuing study of Nehemiah, God's chosen leader to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. We learn much from God's men who faithfully loved and served God. If you were not with us in the fall now is a good time to come and join the women each Tuesday. Books may be picked up in the office for you to prepare before your first class of 2008.

Precept Bible Study
Studying the book of *Isaiah*
January 8 - May 20, 2008, 9:00 AM, Room 207

Come join the inductive study of God's timeless message of redemption to all mankind through his prophet Isaiah. Here we learn of Jesus Christ in all his glory as the promised Messiah and Savior who was obedient unto death on the cross. Materials can be obtained in the church office.

PRAYING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Monthly Prayers for our Children

(All taken from Paul's prayers)

"Our Prayer is for your perfection" 2 Corinthians 13:9

Our children are vital to God's mission of love to this world. Since our children are vital it is incumbent upon us to pray for them. We offer the following prayers (one each month), all based on Scripture, as tinder for our own prayers.

January: Lord, would you please increase this child's love for you and others as he/she advances in your knowledge, and may you grant this child grows in discernment, always apt to choose Your best.

Philippians 1:9-10a (NIV) And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best...

PLEASE CONTINUE TO UPHOLD IN PRAYER: our collegians & staff (38 strong) enjoying their last full day of a five-day ski retreat in Colorado and bussing home tomorrow; six year old **Erin Bailey** undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer; newborn **Teddy Miller** settling into life at home but needing God's healing touch on his heart; **David Vandervoort** whose infected surgical incision is being treated; for Gordon Donaldson's son, **Mark Donaldson & family** in Tennessee, recovering from injuries sustained in a car accident on Christmas Eve.

WE PRAISE GOD AND THANK HIM for the Christ-centered, God-glorifying Advent and Christmas season we enjoyed here at Camelback Bible Church. His presence, and provision of over 700 in attendance on Christmas Eve, was a blessing to everyone. Thank you to all whose service and ministry contributed to and enhanced our celebration and worship. Christ is born... Immanuel... God with us!

PLAN AHEAD FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 13TH

As for the past several years, the P.F. Chang's Marathon will be held on a Sunday morning, this year on January 13th, and result in road closures to the south of the church along Missouri, Camelback and Indian School (the northern path of the marathon loop). Those living south of those streets from 7th Avenue to Hayden may well be impacted as well by the closures forming the southern leg of the route. Next Sunday, we will attach a map and time schedule for closures. In the meantime for full information log on to www.nrraz.com.

The church will be accessible from the north off of Lincoln Drive by 32nd Street, Palo Christi and 44th Street to Stanford Drive. Access to Lincoln from the south can be obtained by both the 51 and 101 freeways.

Plan for an early breakfast north of the church!
We'll be looking for you!

CHILD SAFE CLASS is being offered on **Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008, from 6 PM to - 7:30 pm in Room 207.** Children's Ministry Workers who have not yet taken this class are requested to attend. Please RSVP to Renee Zuck in the church office. Thank you!

REMINDER: There will be no Small Group leadership meeting on January 8th. Instead, Small Group facilitators only will be meeting on January 15th in Fellowship Hall from 6:30 - 7:45 PM. Mark your calendars.

TELEIOS CLASS REMINDERS: both *God's Way of Handling Money* with Tom Bonetto at 9:00 AM in room 207 and *Jonathan Edwards: Religious Affections* with Pastor Tim at 6:00 PM in the Library will meet next Sunday, January 6th.

WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR, WITH 52 SUNDAYS in which to provide and enjoy the floral bouquets that adorn our pulpit for Sunday services. Should you wish to contribute the flowers for any given Sunday or Sundays in the coming year, please contact Mary Gayle in the church office. Thank you.

CBC GIVING UPDATE

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| Fourth Quarter (Oct.-Dec.) Giving Need | \$970,838 |
| Fourth Quarter Giving To Date | <u>\$474,010</u> |
| Remaining Need | \$496,828 |
| Last Week's Giving | \$112,598 |