



Stand in the Gap

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First, I made sure my browser was set on 'safe search.' I knew my phrase might bring up images I didn't want to see. Then I typed in 'Urban Foxes' and found hundreds of pictures of foxes in city environments. Not only are they out there—they can be photographed by the prepared and stealthy.

What does a fox do in the city? The same thing it does in the woods. It hunts. It survives. Like all wild creatures, survival seems to be its highest focus and value, so above all, it survives.

The interesting thing about a fox is that while it is a predator, it is not an apex predator. Meaning it is also prey. So its goal is to hunt while not being hunted, to catch while not being caught. No wonder we think of a fox as being sly, or sneaky. It has to be.

Still, being compared to a fox is not always the highest compliment. Like in Ezekiel, where God has this to say about the false prophets. "Thus says the Lord God, 'Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing. O Israel, you prophets have been like foxes among ruins'" (Ezek 13:4).

The nation was in complete disarray. A feeble remnant living in the shadow of the mighty Babylonian Empire. They are in this state because they have listened to false prophets and been unfaithful to God. What they need is someone to lead them back to Him. But these prophets are scavengers, seeking to protect only themselves as they live in the ruins of a crumbling civilization.

In the next verse, God tells them what

they should have done. "You have not gone up into the breaches, not did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the LORD" (Ezek 13:5).

To stand in the breach is to find a hole in the wall and say, "I will fill that hole with my body." To say, "That is where the danger is, so I will go there." Where the false prophet creates the breach and then runs from danger, the true man of God faces the danger and stands firm.

He does not merely point to the gap and say, "That is wrong," but he stands in the gap and says, "This is right." In doing this, he makes himself a target. But he does it because it needs to be done.

To build the wall is to teach truth. God's truth protects us. Consider the belt of truth in Ephesians Six. Consider "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31). Consider "The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?" (Ps 118:6). To build the wall is to lead people to Him. It is to teach God's truth and lead people to trust in Him. It is to fill the gap created by false teaching, and replace it with God's Word.

You are not a fox, and are not to act like one. Mere survival is not your highest goal. For the child of God, survival is guaranteed; abundant life lasting into eternity. So do not live as if survival is your priority. Live as if serving God is your priority.

Our civilization is falling apart around us. There are lots of gaps in the walls. Do something about it.

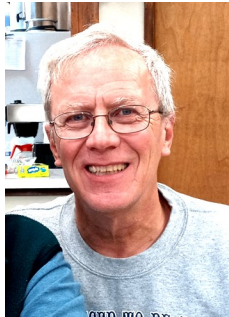


Photo of the Month



Jerusalem was a pretty crowded place when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple. Thanks to the kids at our Christmas program, we know just how busy it was.

"Our mission is to proclaim the Word of God, leading people to a saving faith and a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

Elders Report

Tuesday, 3 December 2024, 6:30pm

Attendees: Steve McLachlan, John Doyle; Jeremy Eaton, Dion Ricketts, and Knute Hernas. Guests: Sue Beckman, Iain Stewart, Annie Ricketts

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved.

Scheduled report:

- Elders calendar review
- Dion is selected as the new Head Elder
- Knute will stay on as secretary
- Commissioning Service for new officers will be scheduled soon.

Pastor's report

- Christmas Day service duties were assigned: Annie – music; Knute – Opening prayer; Jeremy – Christmas Story; Steve – Closing prayer.
- 2025 picture directory will be out Sunday.
- Steve will forward the Mission Committee recommendations for distributing \$5000 in undesignated missions giving
- Andrew Abell has agreed to lead a College and Career group
- Ben Miller is invited to present his PhD thesis at TBF on a 2025 Sunday evening.
- The TBF Facebook page administrators are Steve, Annie and Ben Mc. One of them must approve all posts.
- There will be a New Membership Class offered soon.
- Mike Smith will offer a "Gideons Conversation Program" in the new year.

Youth Pastor's report

- Youth Leadership Training (YLT)
 - Great turnout at every meeting.
 - Starting to plan a 2025 Spring Mission Trip
- AWANA Trek/Journey: Attendance varies between 8-10
- Youth Group: Good attendance; Big Event is a Christmas Party on Dec. 21

Old Business

- Prayer Chain: Dion is studying the options for texting

New Business

- Steve is interested in performing "The Silent Monks" again in 2025;

Intercessory Prayer

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 7 January 2025, 6:00pm

Church Funds 10/31/2024

Benevolence Fund	1,495.00
Bus Fund	3,600.00
Missionaries Reserve	3,935.00
Missions Fund	5,527.00
General Fund	110,800.00
Total	\$125,357.00
Building Fund	\$170,387.00
	\$295,744.00

Thank You so Much!

Your kindness and generosity to us this Christmas is such a blessing. It is a real privilege to serve such a faithful group of people.

Love,

Steve & Joan
John and Jen



Start the New Year right with a Saturday morning spent with your church friends! (You know you'll be ready for the break after this many days of broken routine!)

January 4 at 9 am.



OK guys—Saturday, Jan 18th, at 8 a.m. Like we say when the food is served. "If you need to be told how to do it, you shouldn't be here."

Physical and spiritual food with men you like. See you there.

Congratulations, Ben & Heidi!

Shiloh Mercy Miller
Born December 9, 2024

A welcome addition to your family and to ours!



by John Doyle

Youth Stuff

December is gone and a memory, just like 2024. Good month and a great year for the Youth G.A.N.G.... Ok bring on 2025, hello January. This month we will be going back to Cocolalla for **Winter Camp!** The Youth G.A.N.G. is on the move!!!

Youth Group G.A.N.G. (God's Anointed Next Generation)

Youth Group, come hang with the G.A.N.G. Discover the Word of Christ and maybe a game or two. Sundays 3:30 to 5pm. Restarts 5 Jan 25

Big Event

Winter Camp Cocolalla, 17th to 19th Jan. Register online www.clbcamp.org. You will have to provide

your own transportation—find out who else is planning to go and coordinate rides! Camperships available, contact Pastor John ASAP for information.

Youth Leadership Training (YLT)

This month's meetings, 6th and 20th of Jan.

Upcoming Events

YLT Conference Feb 2025.

Spring Retreat Apr 2025.

Volunteer

The Youth ministries can use your time, talent, and prayers. If you are interested in volunteering or serving the Youth G.A.N.G we can sure use help, please contact: Youth Pastor John Doyle @ (509) 435-6393, tbfpdoyle@gmail.com

Special Presentation(s) at TBF

Sunday, January 19th, will be a busy day for the Miller family, and for everyone who wants to join them!

We will have a **baby dedication** for Shiloh, their newest bundle of joy, during the worship service. Following the service, everyone who wants can stay for a potluck celebrating Shiloh, and a presentation by Ben Miller, PhD, of his dissertation defense."

"Serving Three Masters? Hessian Military Chaplains Between Church, State, and Regiment (c. 1650-1800)."

This explores the tension between loyalties in men serving God and country in challenging times. Especially intriguing for U.S. history buffs is the connection this carries for Hessians serving the British during the Revolutionary War.

Chili Cook-Off and Dad Joke Contest

"Did you hear about the kid who hated Dad Jokes? Now he's looking up Dad Jokes for a contest."

Okay, that's not the best—but few Dad Jokes are! Some recaps from last year: Mike Bell won the hottest chili, and Duane Oehlwein won the strangest ingredient (Bobcat).

Tyson Lacy was overall winner of the Dad joke contest, but Duane might have had the single funniest joke, with the comb he just can't part with!

(Tentative Date) Sunday, Feb 9, after church.

Chili contest: Men only

Dad Joke contest: Dads only

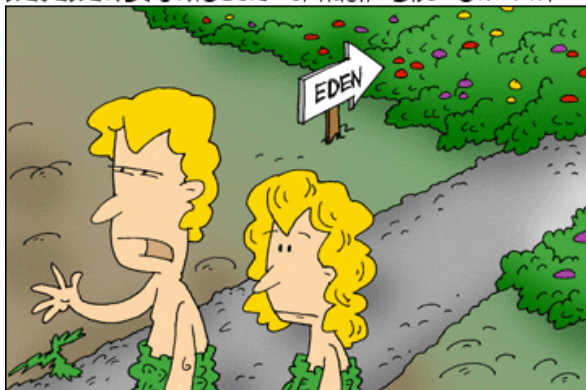
Dad Joke: a wholesome joke of the type said to be told by fathers with a punchline that is often an obvious or predictable pun or play on words and usually judged to be endearingly corny or unfunny.

Snow closure policy: No Closure, No Guilt
If you can make it, we'll be here.
If you can't make it, we won't judge.



PO Box 853
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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 3) 01-03-2005

OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN "LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH "TRUST PEOPLE MORE"

Prefer to get your Newsletter by email? We can do that! Contact the church office at tbfdavenport@hotmail.com



Welcome Back! We hope you had a good time over Christmas and **2 weeks** off from Awana. But you don't want to miss the first night back—Glow Stick Night!

Special Nights in January

Jan 8	Glow Stick night
Jan 15	Middle of Summer Night
Jan 22	Pajamas Night
Jan 29	Duct Tape Night

Come in with your verses prepared and be ready to pick up where you left off. Sparks—We're going to spend 5 weeks of Large Group time with Pastor Steve and Sunday School Charlie!

Our Snow Closure policy is to follow Davenport School. If by some chance the weather gets better or worse enough that we choose to do something else, we'll let you know.

Missionary of the Month:

Brad & Shilo Cain

Serving in Mexico



January 2025

Women's Ministry Leader: Wanda Bowman

Group Members: Debbie Boleneus

Sandy Buchanan

Joan McLachlan

Tiffany Carstens



Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3 Men's Coffee 7 am	4  Breakfast 9 am
5 Youth Group 3:30 pm	6 Youth Leadership 5:30 pm	7 Elders Meeting 6:30 pm	8 Awana 6 pm Glow Stick Night	9 BSF 10 am Ladies Prayer 1 pm	10 Men's Coffee 7 am	11
12 Coffee Fellowship Youth Group 3:30 pm	13 Deaconess Meeting 2 pm	14 Mission Committee Meeting 2 pm Quarterly Board Meeting 6:30 pm	15 Awana 6 pm Middle of Sumer Night	16 BSF 10 am Ladies Prayer 1 pm	17 Men's Coffee 7 am	18  8 am Winter Camp at Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp Jan 17-19
19 Shiloh Miller Dedication Ben Miller Presentation	20	21	22 Awana 6 pm Pajamas Night	23 BSF 10 am Ladies Prayer 1 pm	24 Men's Coffee 7 am	25
26 Communion/ Benevolence Offering Youth Group 3:30 pm	27	28	29 Awana 6 pm Duct Tape Night	30 BSF 10 am Ladies Prayer 1 pm	31 Men's Coffee 7 am	