

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COURIER

## FEBRUARY 2020 EDITION



### OUR STAFF

Rev. Rod Beardsley - Senior Pastor  
Rev. Phil Lowther—Assistant Pastor

Debbie Dine - Secretary

Email: [csfbc@zoominternet.net](mailto:csfbc@zoominternet.net)

Website: [www.csfbc.org](http://www.csfbc.org)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8-5

Office is closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 pm

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastor Rod's Message	2
Pastor Phil's Message	3
Deacon's Devotional	4
Christian Education	5
Health Ministry	6
Making Bible Reading a Priority	7
Special Events	8
Prayers and Meetings	9
Calendar	10
B/days, Anniversaries, Ministries	11
Lord's Prayer by 15 year old & Hoop Shoot	12



Live a Life that Matters

Sunday services: 8:20 and 11 am; Sunday School for all ages: 9:45 am

### CSFBC MISSION STATEMENT

“Infusing TRUTH to produce selfless followers of God.”

## PASTOR ROD'S MESSAGE

## WAR!

It's clear that we're in a war, a spiritual war. It's all throughout the Bible. The enemy is not only satan but our own strong desires for things of this life. And there's a third enemy, the World. Years ago a book was published entitled, "The World, The Flesh and The Devil". These are tough enemies indeed, but it's important when fighting the battles that we are "MORE than conquerors through Him who loves us." (Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors *and* gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us. Romans 8:37 [AMP]). Bluntly put: We win! No one of those has more power than our Savior! Amen!

However, that doesn't mean that we don't have battles to fight, because we do. Some of those battles are intense and very caustic and have sidelined too many Christians. Too many saints have been tripped up and hindered from their goal of the upward call of God. Well we've addressed all of them in sermons and in other settings in our church. Like what? Obviously there's **the war for LIFE**. The abortionists, following satan's lead, have made significant inroads into our culture. We are seeing some skirmishes being won, we believe that victory may be in sight.

The **war for the image of God**, is intense and getting more extreme every day. A 'gender' is now however you want to define it (eg. 'gender fluid'). People no longer believe that God made them male and female only. (Genesis 1:26) The culture wants to usurp God's role in creating. They obviously cannot do that, all they can do is redefine words. God's The ONLY Creator.

Akin to the fight for the two genders that God created, comes the **war of bio-engineering**. With CRISPER and gene editing comes the reality of the Island Of Dr. Moreau coming to a laboratory near you. We are nearing the days of Revelation 13 and the Anti-christ pretending to create life.

We are dealing with the wars of euthanasia, evolution, climate, politics, lawlessness, usurpation of parental rights, war against Christianity itself.... Those are only some of the fronts that we're battling on. But we've been given us the armor God to put on and with it comes the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6).

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.

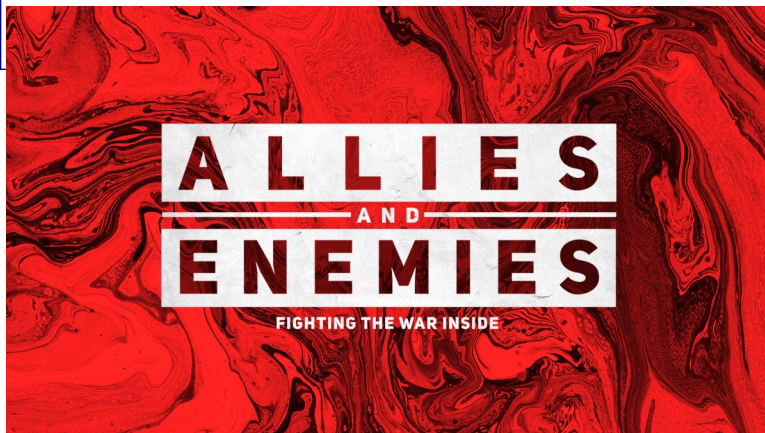
<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Ephesians 6:10-13

Since God is for us, who can be against us,

*Pastor Rod*



## PASTOR PHIL'S MESSAGE

Love is a word that is watered down in today's world. Many people speak of loving a movie or pizza. We use the word love in our language to speak of what we like and it has many many uses. Love is not what you get from a person but instead, it is care and concern for another person, it is modeled and taught. When I was a kid, I remember thinking about the love of parents because they first loved me. This is exactly what the Bible speaks of in 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us." As children, we have a self-centered love. We love because our parents sacrificially take care of us. God shows us His love by loving us first and sacrificing himself for us. His love frees us to love others.

I remember getting the flu one year and was in bed for two weeks. My Mom and Dad took care of me coming in to check on me, staying up with me during the night. That kind of love is not something you buy, it is a sacrificial love. The Apostle John states it this way, "In this, the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. This is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (John 4:9-10)

So what happens to a church that is gifted but is filled with people who love themselves more than they love God and others? Paul speaks of this in the first letter to the Corinthians chapter 13 is the outworking of speaking about love in an environment of selfish ambition.

If I speak in tongues of men and angels but don't have love what use is the speaking? How are you speaking today? Paul speaks of the fact that God has spoken through Pastors and they should support loving Gospel ministry. We must speak God's Word in love pursuing those who are outside the church. God's loving Word changes our hearts from cold stones to living flesh. So it is not my words that make things happen but instead it is God's very Word spoken in love for His children.

We are just noisy gongs or clanging cymbals if we don't have love. These devices, gongs and cymbals, would have been used to fend off evil spirits or to raise anticipation in pagan worship. You are nothing but noise that produces emotion or excitement if you speak without love. There are people who speak to gain emotive responses but not out of love. So what is this love that is spoken about? Paul defines agape love as a supernatural never stopping love that hunts down sinners to adopt them as children of God. We need to see people through God's eyes.

Each step of the passage in *1 Corinthians 13* leads us to the heart of God and the fact that He has come not just in power but in supreme love. God's *Agape* love is more than what can be explained in words. It is a love that shows regard towards someone. It is care and concern based on God's character and affection toward the other person. Love never fails.

The Old Testament uses the word *Hesed* for *steadfast love* is also difficult to define. God's steadfast love shows us that He makes agreements and promises only He can keep. He loves each of us in spite of our unloveliness. The love of God caused Him to step into our world take on our sin and suffering. He has removed mountains that stood as obstacles between us and God. He invites you to trust Him with Faith for His love will never end. This is love that conquers and rules our hearts bringing God's peace to once fearful hearts.

Jesus is the definition of love that is patient and kind. What would our homes look like if we took to heart what Christ has accomplished through His life, death, and resurrection? May Christ's love be greater and greater in our lives as we trust Him to work through us. Look for ways to show this love to those around you today. May our love reflect the love God has shown into our hearts by His Son, Jesus.

*Pastor Phil*



## Deacons Devotional

### Are You Righteous?

You don't need to answer me, but think about it. What does that mean?

Morally Right or Justified (good or virtuous).

Being in a right relationship (with God)

Conformity of life to the divine laws, nearly equivalent to holiness.

Free from guilt or sin.

Are you like me and don't feel righteous? Are we supposed to trust feelings or the Word of God?

The Word of God of course!!

So how do we sinners become righteous? What does God's Word say?

I don't know about you ... but thinking about this ... None of us are perfect so how can we be righteous? This bothered me for a long time, but I think if we look at a few bible references we can get a handle on this.

Psalm 1: The way of the Righteous and the Wicked. Read it. It says you are either righteous or wicked.

Salvation is earned under the Law, but under the Gospel, salvation is a gift. The Law says, do these things and you will live, but the Gospel says, live and these things you will do. The Law demands Holiness, but the Gospel gives Holiness.

John 3: 16 – 18. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved thru Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe in Him is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

1 John 1: Read it all!! But here are verses 7-10. .7 “if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

So ... 1John1:9 Tells us how to become RIGHTEOUS! So ... How do we get help to do what verse 9 tells us to do? Read ... Psalm 121: All of it! Keep asking every day or more often!

We hope this encourages all of you to read more of God's Word and be filled with the Holy Spirit!

## Righteousness

Philippians 3:9

Greek: dikaiosyne

righteousness, what is right, justice, the act of doing what is in agreement with God's standards, the state of being in proper relationship with God.

## Kids Club/Christian Education Board



KIDS CLUB needs you!!! If you are available March 4 through April 8th on Wednesdays 2:30-6, **have all clearances and Mandated Reporter training**, and want to be a part of this vital ministry to the community please contact Stacie Klemm or Kristin Held. We need 20 more volunteers in order to offer this ministry. Some of these are children that only hear the Word when they are attending Kids Club and they want to come!

Let's plant some more seeds!

The mezzanine will enjoy a face lift this year! We are replacing the couches with carpeted, padded risers and, with the trustees blessing, enclosing the space for safety and increased functionality.

Both our children's and adult department are already planning for Summer Sunday School offerings! We're excited about what we to offer throughout the winter and spring including a study on the book of James as well as an adult parallel of the Gospel Project series that our children and youth Sunday School use. What a great conversation starter over Sunday lunch!

Due to being short one position on our board (**Children's Programming**), we split up the **responsibilities** of that office.

**VBS: Pastor Phil and Pam ~**

**Kids Club: Stacie ~**

**Easter Egg Hunt: Dayna ~**

**Baccalaureate: Adam ~**

**Graduation/Promotion/Teacher Appreciation Sunday: Dayna and Jen ~**

**Christmas Program: To Be Determined**

Please be encouraged to attend our Sunday School offerings, it is an extension of worship and offers a much different 'feel' and a deeper understanding of the Gospel!

Many Blessings,

The Christian Education Board



## Health Ministry

### 15 Spiritual and Health Benefits of Fasting

By Corine Gatti

Fasting has amazing benefits. It draws you closer to God, gives perspective, and boosts your health. If you can't fast food for a day, give up coffee or sweets. Here are several reasons to fast.

**Give Up Bad Habits:** A spiritual fast can help you overcome negative habits.

**Worship:** Worship is another aspect during fasting that will become more intimate. Giving glory to God in worship will re-energize your spirit man.

**Peace of Mind:** Fasting gives emotional strength during trials and times of anxiety.

**Healing Relationships:** Try fasting about a relationship that has been turbulent. The Holy Spirit can minister where there are wounds and bring healing.

**Look to Jesus:** All of us get too busy with life and miss important time with Jesus. Fasting will help you refocus on Him.

**Physical Health:** Fasting is good for physical health and helps remove toxins, especially if you replace meals by drinking fresh water or juice.

**Devotion:** Sacrificing meals or behaviors will create a fresh devotion to God.

**Unplug:** Getting quiet during this time of fasting helps you pause. This might take some practice as we are so connected to our electronic devices, but unplugging will help you unwind and be still.

**Thinking of Others:** A period fasting for others creates unity. It gets you mind off your own worries and allows you to intercede on the behalf of others.

**Adds Years to Your Life:** Fasting can add years to your life researchers at the University of Chicago found in a 2010 study. It can lower blood pressure and also keep bad cholesterol at bay.

**Lower Risks of Diabetes:** Intermittent fasting could lower risks of diabetes said Scientists at the Intermountain Medical Center Heart Institute

**The Word:** Fasting reintroduces God's word. Find a scripture that really speaks to you. Reflecting on scripture during a fast is powerful and can help your prayer life.

**Self-Control:** Fasting leads to better self-control. Over a period time, a fast, will teach self-control and better will-power.

**Lose Weight:** With fasting, you can lose weight by cutting calories and losing body fat.

**Lower Risk of Diseases:** If you skipped just one meal a month, you could reduce risks of clogged arteries, one report suggests. Also fasting could help lower risks of heart disease and Alzheimer's.



## Making Bible Reading a Priority

One constant we see each year at American Bible Society in our annual State of the Bible report is that more than half of Americans (56% in 2019) say they desire to read the Bible more often. However, when we ask them what their top frustration is when it comes to reading the Bible, the most common response is “not enough time.”

What made me want to read God’s Word more? My spiritual journey felt stale and I wanted to grow deeper in my relationship with God. Additionally, I had been asked to lead a ministry and I knew that in order to lead with diligence, as we’re exhorted in Romans 12:8, I needed to be aligned with God’s will, able to recognize his voice, and be filled with his Word. Those things could only happen if I consistently invested time to read and reflect on Scripture.

If you aspire to read the Bible more, the New Year is the perfect time to get started. Why not make 2020 the year you reach your Scripture engagement goals! Here are a few practices that helped me succeed in building a lifelong habit.

### Evaluate and plan.

Many times, we fall short of our goals because we try to make too many major changes at once. We decide to start exercising and immediately begin going to the gym seven days a week. Then, when we are unable to sustain such a demanding pace, we become discouraged and quit altogether. Starting small is one key to forming a new habit. Along with that, evaluating our situations and creating a plan is a must. Ask yourself these questions: Why do I want to do this? What is my goal? How much time can I realistically spend each day? What time of day will work best? What is the best tool for me? Then, create a plan that fits your goals, schedule, and preference.

### Start small and be consistent.

My goal was to read through the Bible in a year, and after evaluating my schedule, I decided I could set aside at least 20 to 30 minutes each morning to read and reflect on a portion of Scripture. That meant waking up earlier, which wasn’t easy, but I made it a priority and now it has become a daily habit like brushing my teeth. My tool of choice was the *One Year Bible* in the New Living Translation because it fit both my goal and my schedule.

### Remove barriers.

I set myself up for success by being prepared and eliminating excuses. I keep my Bible, pens, and journal together in a basket by my spot on the sofa, so I don’t have to waste time searching for them. Consequently, each morning, I’m able to grab a cup of coffee, and go to my place where everything is ready and waiting for me.

Setting a consistent place is important to building a routine, too. My Bible reading place has changed depending on my season of life. When my boys were young, I would drop them off at school in the morning and sit in my car at the park for 20 minutes before heading to the office. When the weather is nice, my spot is the swing on my patio. Now that I have a morning commute, I read on the train on my way to work.

### Make it enjoyable.

One sure way to stick to a habit is to make it enjoyable. I love my Bible time and feel deprived if I miss it. Each morning when the house is quiet, I curl up on the sofa with my Bible, journal, a cup of coffee, and my cat. To make my reading easier and more relatable, I use the New Living Translation. If I need a change at the end of a year, I switch to a different Bible version to keep my reading fresh.

### Enlist friends.

Sharing experiences with friends is a great way to stay on track and to grow in our relationships with them and with God. Several of my friends also read the *One Year Bible*, and we often share what we are learning with each other either in person or online. This keeps us connected and helps us see God at work in each other’s lives.

### Keep moving forward.

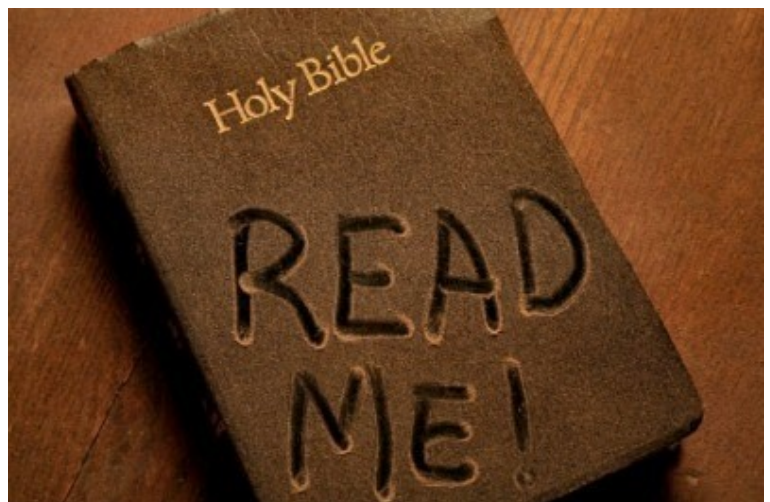
I am a perfectionist by nature, so when I am using a Bible plan, I want to be perfectly consistent. I used to be tempted to catch up on my reading if I fell behind, and that made me feel overwhelmed and likely to quit. However, I have learned to let go of missed opportunities and pick up where I left off or move to the current date of the plan I am using, skipping the days that I have missed.

### Get Started!

If reading the Bible more is something you aspire to do in 2020, take some time to evaluate your situation and create a plan. Then, get started!

One great tool that will activate your Bible reading habit is [The Bible App](#) by YouVersion. It puts hundreds of Bible reading plans in your pocket via your smartphone. American Bible Society publishes an ever-expanding collection of topical plans in the app. Search for them under Plans. The plans range from three-day topical studies to one-week plans to year-long plans for reading through the Bible in a year. You can do them alone or with friends and set up reminder notifications to help keep you on track.

May 2020 be your year of greater Bible engagement!



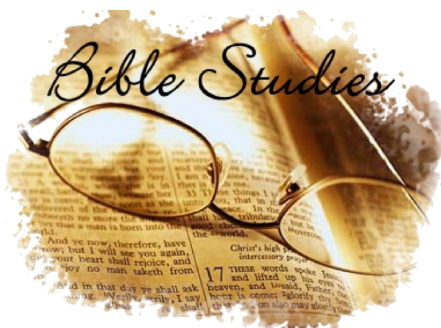
Announcements

Happy Valentines Day

Valentine's Dinner
6 pm
Saturday February 15th
All Purpose Room

Chicken or Pork meat choice
Potatoes, vegetables, rolls and dessert
Served by our Youth 3:16 group
Please Sign up on the Welcome Center with your meat preference.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



Beginning Sunday evening February 9th at 7 pm we will resume our in depth Bible Study of the Book of Isaiah corresponding with the sermon series on the book of Isaiah.



Check out First Baptist Church of Cambridge Springs on Facebook! See all upcoming events and pictures of events that took place. Don't forget the website: www.csfbc.org It also has all the calendar events, meetings and current newsletters. Let our Digital Media Co-ordinator Madison Klemm know if there is something you'd like to have added!



World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.
More details as it gets closer.
See Larry or Stacie Klemm if you are interested in participating.

Youth 3:16 will be doing a lock-in February 28-29th in support of



MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 21ST.



## PRAYERS and Monthly EVENTS

**The Grieving:** Charlotte Kirk, Kay and Dwight Dunton

**Cancer:** Karen Held, Meghan Cunningham

**Health Issues:** Rose Cummings, Brian Smith, **Bob Wilmoth**

**Rehabilitating:** Janet Wise, Judy Wrye, **Randy Gorske, John Belfiore, Ed Kovschak, Bill Weaver**

**Nursing Home:** Ralph Batchelor, Judy Klemm, Bill Hodge, **Jim Christie, Pete Teed**

**Military:** Dillon Lang, Keith Bentley, Howard VanMatre, Adam Alm, Jimmy Humes, Gregg Merritt, Wesley Fleischer, Christian Ross, Austin Shearer, Wyatt Fleischer, Tyler Hauf, Bryce Kirk, Wyatt Doubet

**Guidance:** Brian & Lynette Smith, Eugene and Fawn Pabon, Lucas and Estela Crowe

**College Students:** Madison Klemm, Mark VanMatre, Stephen VanMatre, Katie Duda, Jordan Anderson, Neely Colvin, Clayton Dingle, Zachary Dingle, Austin Jones, Jillian Risjan, Cami Schmidt, Cori Schmidt, Ryan Shaffer, Alex Wheeler, Brenna Rindfuss

**Expectant Moms:** Rachelle Held; Bettina Baer



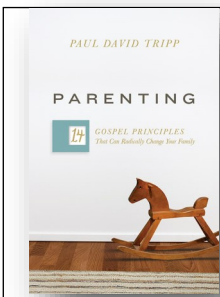
Tuesday  
February 4th  
Prayer Meeting  
7 pm



Vows Everyday.

L.O.V.E. Marriage Small group will meet every 3rd Friday at the Hovis'. The next meeting is Friday February 21st at 6 pm.

L.O.V.E. stands for Living Our



**Parenting Small Group**  
**Friday**  
**February 7th**  
**7 pm**  
**@ Lowther's**

**Men's**  
**Breakfast**  
**Fellowship**

Saturday February 29th 8 am.  
Come for breakfast.  
Stay for Bible Study.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  Pray for Pastor Rod
2 <b>COMMUNION</b> 6 pm Youth 3:16	3 Office Open 8-5 7 pm Trustees  Pray for Pastor Phil	4 7 pm Prayer Meeting	5 Office Open 8-5	6 6:30 pm Praise Group 6:30 pm Prison Ministry	7 Office Open 8:30-5 7 pm Parenting Small Group	8  Pray for Pastor Rod
9 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	10 Office Open 8-5 6 pm CE Board  Pray for Pastor Phil	11	12 Office Open 8-5	13 6:30 pm Praise Group	14 Office Open 8:30-5	15 6 pm Valentine's Dinner  Pray for Pastor Rod
16 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	17 Office Open 8-5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 6:30 pm Deacons Presidents Day  Pray for Pastor Phil	18	19 Office Open 8-5	20 6:30 pm Praise Group	21 Office Open 8:30-5 <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	22 8 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast  Pray for Pastor Rod
23 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	24 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Board Chairmen Meeting 7 pm Advisory Board  Pray for Pastor Phil	25 7 pm History Night	26 Office Open 8-5 Noon Lenten Lunch at Church of God	27 6:30 pm Praise Group	28 Office Open 8:30-5 30 hour famine lock-in	29 30 hour famine lock-in  Pray for Pastor Rod
					2 0 2 0	

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries



19th: Lillian Oakes  
 20th: Jacob Jones  
 Matt Hovis  
 21st: Janet Wise  
 Wyatt Burchill  
 23rd: Troy Shearer  
 24th: Brooke Pabon  
 28th: Kim Marzke

1st: Wylie Hovis  
 5th: Ryker Baer  
 6th: Joshua Mumau  
 8th: John Dine  
 9th: Ed Kovschak  
 Abigail Lowther  
 10th: Andrew Held  
 Jacob Held  
 13th: Rodney Schmidt  
 Logan Hovis  
 Edward Sellers  
 14th: Val Newell  
 16th: Morgan Shaffer  
 Ginger VanMatre  
 Mark Peterson  
 Brandon LaVan  
 17th: Jack Parsons  
 18th: Gunnar Gage



23rd: Jim and Elaine Christie

**1st Service:**

2nd: Brenda Beers & Cindy Billingsley  
 9th: LuAnn Wheeler & Brenda VanMatre  
 16th: Karen Burchill & Missy Zimmerman  
 23rd: Amy & Cassidy Boylan

**Sunday School:**

2nd: Debbie Dine & Karen Joslin  
 9th: Ken Dine & Paul Sellers  
 16th: Stacie Klemm & Wendy Gardner  
 23rd: Pam Lowther & Lydia Sellers

**2nd Service:**

2nd: Andi & Jillian Risjan  
 9th: Ken & Debbie Dine  
 16th: Kristin Held & Barb Beardsley  
 23rd: Darlene Gorske & Robyn Kovschak

Nursery

**Garden Room Schedule**

Please be sure to call your partner prior to working to confirm. If you are unable to work, please call to switch with someone and notify your partner. If you cannot work or find anyone to switch please call Laura at 398-2507

1st: Laura Stone & Kris Bancroft  
 8th: Toni Merritt & Karon Runyan  
 15th: Bonnie Boylan & Debbie Shearer  
 22nd: Lynn Smith & Dan Encapera  
 29th: Laura Stone & Kris Bancroft



## LORD'S PRAYER by a 15 year old

Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all..  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the State..

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.  
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong..

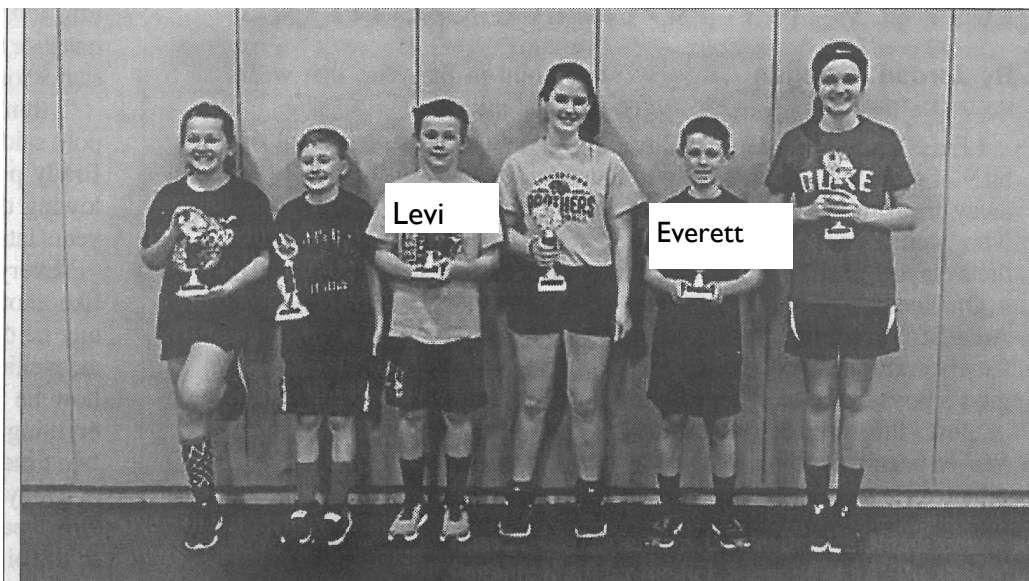
We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

Amen

**"Tolerance is NOT a Christian virtue. Charity, justice, mercy, prudence, honesty; these are Christian virtues." --- Archbishop**

## Congratulations Everett and Levi Gardner 1st Place Elks Hoop Shoot Competing in Districts on February 8th



Contributed photo

**The Elks Lodge 219, Meadville, held its annual Hoop Shoot Contest on Jan. 11, crowning six champions (boys 8-9, boys 10-11, boys 12-13, girls 8-9, girls 10-11 and girls 12-13), who will advance to the district competition in Warren on Feb. 8. The six Meadville winners are, from left, Lydia Slagle, Levi Gardner, Everett Gardner, Bailey Dillaman, Kyle Steiger and Lindsey Greco.**