



Thoughts from Ian...

Since I moved out of my parents' house in 2002, they sometimes find some of my old stuff in a drawer or in the back of a closet. Last week, my dad found some old notes from high school. It was a page full of text like, "63771|\6 '0|_|2 |\33|)5 |\37 |3' 60|)". I translated the text for him and told him that they must have been old notes from a book I was reading. When I was bored in class in high school, I often wrote in code. Perhaps you used to speak with your friends in pig Latin or some other secret code, as well.

My dad was a bit surprised I could still figure out what it originally meant. He trusted that I was not just pulling his leg. After all, it was in my handwriting. It was found with my stuff. I knew the code and I could translate it. Yes, "high school Ian" was a bit odd (perhaps I still am) but I could figure out what it said. Sometimes I have been asked a similar question about the Bible.

I have been asked by Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and other friends, "How do I know what the Bible originally said? Wasn't the Bible written a long time ago? Isn't the Bible unreliable?" It is a good and important question. And I can confidently say that I am **more** sure about what the Bible originally said than what I wrote in code all those years ago.

Sure, the Bible has its critics. Some religions try to discount its authenticity. If you have not studied the Biblical manuscripts used to translate our modern Bibles, you may be surprised that ancient hand-written copies have some copying errors. Some critics try to use these variant errors as proof that the Bible cannot be trusted. The most famous critic is probably atheist Dr. Bart Ehrman, who wrote "Scholars differ significantly in their estimates—some say there are 200,000 variants known, some say 300,000, some say 400,000 or more!" (book, *Misquoting Jesus*)

But we must put these critics in perspective. 99% of these textual variants do not impact the meaning in any way. They are misspellings, repeated words, or punctuation mistakes in the copies. The remaining 1% of variants (1% of 400,000 = 4,000) are spread across 25,000 manuscripts. Only about a tenth of 1 percent of these variants in the manuscripts are interesting enough to make their way into footnotes in most English translations. Some of you have Study Bibles which make note of these few variant readings. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough, *no orthodox doctrine or ethical practice of Christianity depends solely on any disputed wording*. There are always undisputed passages one can consult that teach the same truths.

Even Dr. Bart Ehrman, who I quoted above, admits that these textual variants are of no real consequence. In the appendix to the paperback edition of *Misquoting Jesus*, Ehrman himself concedes "essential Christian beliefs are not affected by textual variants in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament." In short, we can trust that the Bible has been reliably handed down.

There are other good reasons to trust the Bible has been reliably preserved as well. For example, there were 1,000s of hand copied New Testament manuscripts spread all throughout the Roman Empire before Christianity became a state-recognized religion. It would have been impossible for Rome to track down the copies and change them. It was impossible for there to have been any government or ecclesiastical control over the manuscript copies. The Bible is trustworthy. Why does this matter?

As the great reformed Martin Luther rightly pointed out, Scripture alone is the ultimate authority for what to believe and how to live. And if we are to live by "Sola Scriptura", we need confidence in the text of Scripture. And we do! If you are interested in reading more on this topic, I would recommend Dr. Craig Blomberg's book, *Can We Still Believe the Bible?: An Evangelical Engagement with Contemporary Questions*.

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 AM DEACONS LDL-NOON Pancake House	2 GARAGE SALE	3 GARAGE SALE	4 Drug Court Graduation- Pavilion GARAGE SALE	5 GARAGE SALE
6 10:30 Worship Service Pastor Dwayne Richardson	7	8 10AM– Support Group– Senior Center 7 PM Women’s Board	9	10 NA meets 7:30	11	12
13 10:30-Worship Service Communion	14	15 10AM- Caregiver Sup- port Group- Senior Center SESSION-7pm	16	17 NA meets 7:30	18 Drug Court	19
20 10:30-Worship Service	21	22	23	24 NA meets 7:30	25	26
27 10:30-Worship Service	28	29	30	31 NA meets 7:30		

PLAN ON CHECKING OUT THE 127 SALE AT THE CHURCH, AUGUST 2-5 (WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY). ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY BUILDING FUND. DON'T NEED MORE 'STUFF'? THEN JUST DONATE TO THE BUILDING FUND !! THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD ITEMS WATING FOR YOU TO PURCHASE TO TAKE HOME.

Many summer projects are taking place inside and outside our church thanks to Sue Crossland, Property Overseer. **Below and Right**—the cupola's stained glass is undergoing repair. **Bottom Right**—Putting finishing touches on the very eroded sidewalk. The air conditioning in the annex is also under repair.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3-Stan Searing
3-Sherie Summers
12-Rick Craft
13-Jacob Fife
17-Doug Radel
17-Alex Straley
26-Barb Searing



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

5-Carol & Art Razo
7-Don & Ruby Crossland
20-Joel & Joy Coughlin
28-Dan & Dianna Karlstadt



	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM JUNE		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$225.00	Fellowship hall rental	
5	\$500.00	Missions	
6	\$100.00	In memory of Loren Thomas	
7	\$100.00	In memory of Carol Straley	
8	\$175.58	Nicelley investment dividend	
9	Notable Expenditures:		
10	Amount	Payee	Purpose
11	\$805.00	Randy Crawford	Mowing, till and seed
12	\$400.00	Lima Pipe Organ	Semi-annual pipe organ service
13	\$175.00	Bureau of Workers Compensation	Workers comp insurance
14	\$131.00	Dwayne Richardson	Guest speaker fee plus mileage
15	\$118.00	David McMaster	Guest speaker fee plus mileage
16	\$1,098.85	Paulding County Treasurer	Real estate taxes
17	Budget vs Actual Income:		
18	\$79,760.50	Budgeted Income	
19	\$77,904.68	Actual Income	
20	(\$1,855.82)	Difference	



From
Treasur-
er Carol
Razo

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Garage Sale– August 2nd-5th in parking lot and Fellowship Hall.
- *Deacons will meet on Tuesday, August 1st at 9AM at the church.
- *LDL will meet on Tuesday, August 1st at noon. They are going to meet at the ‘new’ Pancake House in the ‘old’ Vagabond location.
- *There will be a drug court graduation on Friday, August 4th outside in the church pavilion.
- *Women’s Board will meet at 7PM on Tuesday, August 8th in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Caregiver Support Group will meet Tuesday, August 15th at 10 AM at the Senior Center.
- *Session will meet Tuesday, August 15th 7 PM.
- *Drug Court will meet this month on August the 4th and 18th.
- *Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28th for the Women’s Fall Retreat. Then watch for details through out the summer.

- *There are N.A. open meetings on Tuesdays at 6PM at the Antwerp Community Church, as well as in our Presbyterian Church basement every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM.
- *The designated Deacon for August is Doug Radel. However, any Deacon may be approached for questions or concerns.

July Session Highlights

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, July 18, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

Noteworthy Events

- Our outdoor church service held in the pavilion on July 16th was a huge success!! A wonderful message was presented (along with a few yummy refreshments). It was well attended and enjoyed by many!
- Communion will be served August 13th (the second Sunday of the month) due to Pastor Ian taking a vacation on August 6th. Pastor Dwayne Richardson will present the sermon on the 6th.
- Pastor Ian shared information regarding General Assembly which he attended in Denver, June 20-23rd.
- Discussion was held regarding bringing back the Fifth Quarter Parties to be held after a few home football games this fall. We have reached out to other churches in the community to ask for their help in hosting these once again. Watch for more news.... we just might need your help!!
- We continue to seek people willing to share a favorite passage of scripture during the summer worship services. Please sign the clipboard if God is calling you to do this!

Old/New Business

- **Property Committee updates:** The windows in the cupola above the sanctuary are to be replaced soon, birds continue to get into the suppression system, the external chimes have been repaired, and now the lack of air conditioning in the annex is being looked into. Along with all of these things it has been noted that many sections of our sidewalk should be repaired according to village standards, so that is being researched, also. The good news is we have grass growing near the cottage where the sewer line was replaced! Thanks to Alissa for watering it faithfully!
- Drug Court Graduation will be held at the Presby Pavilion on August 4th.

Our next Session meeting will be held August 15th.

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

Pastor Ian Ferguson, Moderator



HAS GOD BLESSED YOU OR HELPED YOU THROUGH A TOUGH TIME ?

Consider sharing your praise or even a favorite Bible verse with the congregation during a Sunday Service in August. Just a three minute (or less) share.

There is a sign-up sheet at the top of the stairs or leave a message for your chosen Sunday on the church's voicemail and we will sign you up.

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

OUTDOOR WORSHIP



Sunday, July 16th, the congregation gathered outside under the pavilion to worship, while enjoying coffee and donuts. The weather was beautiful and the light breeze was Heaven sent.

Far Left– Amber and daughter, Jocelyn. **Above**– Brynn and Jocelyn playing on the swings. **Below right**– Pastor Ian delivering his message.



Left– Alissa and Jane kept the kids corralled during the service. **Above**– Stan and Barb Searing.





HERB MONROE CELEBRATION AT THE PARK

The Presbyterian Church showed up in full force to celebrate Herb Monroe in July.

Above-The Presby Singers entertained the crowd with a song written for Herb.

Below- Herb's son, Bob and family, along with Jane Nice.



Above- Herb's great granddaughter reading the winner of Janes Nice's signed book. Greg Kremer is also pictured.



Above- A couple of Sue's enjoying the mer-riment and the wonderful weather. Sue Paulus and Sue Crossland.

Middle-Patty Meriwether.

Right- Pastor Dave Meriwether sharing a message at the celebration.





Left-A small but mighty group met for Ladies Do Lunch at the Fiesta Habanero in July.

Left to Right- Jane Nice, Martha Punches, Sue Paulus, Becky Craft and Barb Searing.

Below-Rick and Becky Craft boarded the train and headed west to Glacier Park in Montana last month. Gorgeous ! Scenery's not bad either.



Above and Right- As part of their 10th Anniversary, the Hands of Hope dedicated a Safe Haven Baby Box Drop off in July. The baby box is located in the Paulding county Hospital.



If you have been to a luncheon or church dinner, you have experienced some of the fabulous dishes that the Presby ladies have served up. If you have a dish that you have been hankering to try, let us know and we'll try to get the recipe in print.

ORANGE ZEST SCONES (Becky Riley)

Prep: 20 minutes Bake: 13 minutes

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. Salt

1 egg

3/4 cup sour cream

1/2 cup sugar

1 tsp. orange zest

3/4 cup unsalted butter

(Cut into squares and frozen)

1 recipe Maple-Orange glaze

Maple-Orange Glaze

In a bowl stir together 1 3/4 cups powdered sugar and 1 tsp. orange zest. Stir in 3 Tbsp. melted butter, 3 Tbsp. orange juice, 1 tsp. vanilla and 1/2 tsp. pure maple syrup until smooth.

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl stir together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In a small bowl lightly beat the egg. Whisk in sour cream. In another bowl combine sugar and orange zest. Using the back of spoon, work zest into sugar until well combined; stir into flour mixture. Add butter to flour mixture; using your fingers or a pastry blender, blend in butter until mixture is pebblelike. Stir in sour cream mixture until dough starts to come together and forms a ball. Divide dough in half.

2. Place one dough portion on a lightly floured surface and press into a 6-inch circle. (It should be about 3/4 to 1 inch thick.) Cut circle into six triangles. Arrange triangle 1 inch apart on the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with second dough portion.

3. Bake 13 to 15 minutes or until golden. Cool on baking sheet 5 minutes. Transfer scones to a wire rack. While scones cool, make Maple-Orange Glaze. Spoon the glaze over scones.

For the second year in a row, John Paulding appeared at the John Paulding Summer Blast celebration in July. John (Pastor Ian) walked the parade route throwing out root beer candies.

John later was found at the Herb Monroe Park educating spectators on how Spruce beer kept the soldiers in his time from contracting scurvy.



**Sunday School at
9:00**

**Worship Service
10:30**

**First Presbyterian
Church**



firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

**In Essentials, Unity,
In Non-Essentials, Liberty,
In All Things, Charity.**

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