



NEW LIFE NEWS

The official newsletter for New Life Presbyterian Church • October 2010

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2010

By Andria Tallman

The weekend began with a warm welcome to the Castle Creek Inn Resort in Escondido. There were familiar faces as we entered and also new ones. This year we were blessed to have the company of women from North City Presbyterian Church, as it was a joint effort to plan and execute the retreat with them. This was done with touches of beauty and excellence. Every detail was attended to, and all the women were well-taken care of. The teaching we received was edifying and challenging, the surroundings were lush and peaceful, and the food was abundant and satisfying. Also, the time spent in fellowship with each other and with the Lord was refreshing.

Elyse Fitzpatrick graciously came and delivered three lectures, Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon. She is an author and co-author of 16 books, a conference speaker, and a biblical counselor. She has much wisdom and knowledge from Scripture and from her own life experiences. Her title was "Am I My Sister's Keeper?" This is a twist on the well-known response Cain gave to the Lord when he was confronted with the whereabouts of his murder victim, brother Abel. Elyse began by defining the word "keeper" from the Old Testament and then demonstrated ways in which the Lord is our Keeper. He is the one who guards His own. He sets a hedge, protects and attends (I Samuel 2:9; Job 10:12; Psalm 25:20; Psalm 121). As our Keeper He sovereignly and providentially preserves us supernaturally, if He chooses, but ordinarily by means. The church and

relationships built within are ways in which the Lord tends to His sheep.

Next, she challenged the women to "keep" one another. She intentionally spent much time explaining the gospel. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are our motivation and power to keep each other. He is not merely a good example of how we can do this, but rather He is the reason we can. He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for this sheep (indicative) and now we are told to do the same (imperative). Paul taught the Roman church in the same manner. Romans 15:1-3 commands the strong to bear with the weak and to not please ourselves. This command is rooted in the death of Christ. He took upon Himself our reproach and didn't please Himself; therefore, we have the obligation and ability to do so for others. As we live covenantally in the light of

what Christ has done, our lives should be transparent since as Christians we have already admitted to the undeniable fact that we are wretched sinners who deserve God's wrath. Our care for one another is not self-righteous, rather it is compassionate and full of grace.

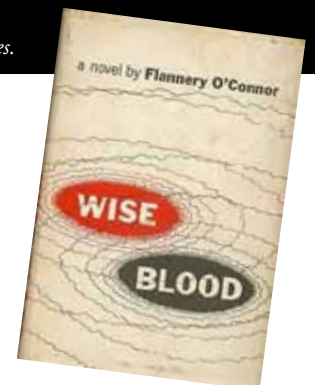
The last lecture served as a review, but also as an exhortation to become our sister's keeper. She gave us time to gather in small groups to share and pray. The expectation is this will continue in our churches. Let us be diligent to live as each other's keepers.

I count it all joy to have shared this weekend with my sisters in Christ. I was humbled and encouraged by the teaching and fellowship. Thank you to all those who worked many hours to make it possible and to my husband who graciously took care of all three of our kids so I could attend. ☘

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Excerpted from *Whose Afraid of Flannery O'Connor?* By Douglas Jones.

O'Connor is easily the most important, talented, and self-consciously Christian short story author of the 20th century. Even when people know about her superior technique and Christian frames, they still usually choke after a story or two. Too rough. Too troubling. They're not hard to read, they'll admit, but still, there's all that weirdness and death. All her stories focus on grace, grace, grace. Real people wrestling with bodily grace. And that's what disturbs many readers. They don't want their grace black. God doesn't want to upset anyone does He? No. Wrong God. Dark grace came to Noah in an ancient tsunami; to Abraham in that mad command to execute; The cross. Yes. The darkest grace. All evil is not bad. Don't be afraid of Flannery. Let her disturb you. As she observed, "all human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us and the change is painful." Let her show you how surprising grace is, how dark and healthy it can be, what a gift it is. The WOC book club is discussing Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood* on Nov 27th. ☘



Did You Know? Who has dined multiple times at "El Bulli" in Spain, one of the most exclusive restaurants in the world? (job associated) Answer page 4

THE KAZULES FAMILY

By Sheryle Kazules

We are the Kazules family and have been members of New Life since the summer of 2006. Prior to that we attended a non-denominational church that ended up closing down after the pastor accepted a position in Florida. We had been visiting reformed churches for about nine months before we settled here. We were looking for a combination of reformed theology, expository preaching and heartfelt family worship, which we have found here at New Life.

Jeff and I became convicted by the Word to home school our children before we were even married and will be graduating our first son in two years. It can be difficult, but we believe the results are worth every sacrifice. We've seen much good fruit from our efforts and look forward to a full, rich harvest for years to come.

Our family enjoys trips to the zoo, camping, bird watching, and playing many versions of "Settlers of Catan." Each summer the boys can hardly wait for zoo nights and Crown Point activities to start. All the boys are active in the Cadet program and look forward to Soup Kitchen each week.

Stephen and Alex are members of



the choir and have ministered in music, playing the piano. They are both active in speech and are looking forward to this year's competition season. Ben and Daniel anticipate helping at the tournaments as timers. They can hardly wait until they are old enough to compete!

Jeff dabbles in photography and is an avid bird watcher. He has been taking our family portraits for a few years now after becoming frustrated with the quality of photos produced by our local photo studios. I enjoy sewing and reading and feel I've stumbled upon a gold mine in our church library. Deborah is so knowledgeable and has recommended many great books.

Stephen writes songs in his free time and enjoys volleyball games with his friends. Ben builds with "Legos" and sometimes helps me bake. Alex and Daniel both like to read and all the boys play games of "Risk" and "Lord of the Rings."

We have encountered many opportunities for fellowship and service with our church body. It unifies and strengthens our church members and families as we serve and care for one another. We are thankful for the life long lessons our sons are learning and the chances for us all to actively live out our faith. We look forward to meeting more of you and growing in the Lord together. 🌟

TRIBUTE TO NEW LIFE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

By Carl Creodon

*You spend all week getting ready
For your class with Jim, Josh or Betty.*

*Preparation is essential,
But that's no certain credential.*

*Even the best laid plans
Have crumbled under tiny hands.*

*Coming up with lessons can be a chore,
Especially if you're preparing one night before!*

*But let's not exclude our adult teachers too.
They need prep time, just like you.*

*Once you join the teaching pool,
The Bible is your primary tool.*

*Whether you teach the "Sonbeams" or sanctuary session,
You strive to create a really good lesson.*

*So, when that bell chimes and the lights go dim,
End your conversation because it's time to begin.*

*All the preparation isn't for naught
As you present your lesson, that's hopefully caught.*

*So here's a hearty thank you for all you do,
Creating lessons and controlling the class milieu. 🌟*

TACTICS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

By David and Connie Kocher

On Saturday, September 11, about 120 people spent the day at New Life in a tactics training seminar with Greg Koukl of “Stand to Reason” (STR). In attendance were New Life members and a number of participants from other local churches.

STR is a Christian apologetics ministry Greg founded in the mid-1990's. The mission of STR is to train Christians to make a reasoned defense for Christianity in a manner that is even-handed, accurate and persuasive. STR's approach to apologetics is drawn from II Corinthians 5:20, where the apostle Paul states that we are “ambassadors for Christ.” As ambassadors for a nation represent their government on a field of service, we, too, as ambassadors for Christ, are called to represent Him and His kingdom in our “field of service.”

To help us be more effective as ambassadors, Greg introduced us to a method of communicating with others that he calls the “Columbo tactic.” It is based on the investigative approach employed by TV detective Lt. Columbo. In his investigations, Lt. Columbo always asks a series of questions that gradually uncover inconsistencies in the suspect's explanations and ultimately expose him with his own words.

How do we, as ambassadors for Christ use the Columbo tactic? We do this by asking just two simple, yet powerful questions: “**What do you mean by that?**” and “**How did you come to that conclusion?**” The first question requests clarification, shows a genuine interest in the other person's view, and tells us *what* they think. The second question reveals *how* they think and provides valuable information for follow-up questions. The goal of this probing manner is to diplomatically uncover weaknesses or inconsistencies in their position and then offer an alternative view for their consideration. Greg explained that we don't have to be confrontational or defensive when we hear claims such as “All religions are basically the same” or “There are no absolutes.” The Columbo tactic

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places the burden of proof for the claim squarely on the one making the claim. This means that we don't have to defend our view or even state our case at the outset of the discussion.

Greg showed us that this tactical approach of engagement helps eliminate some of the pressure we commonly feel when discussing critical issues. So, instead of finding ourselves “on the spot” or forced to defend our view, this tactical approach allows us to have a productive conversation, rather than a heated argument. It gives us an effective way to uncover fallacies in thinking and provides an opportunity to steer the conversation in a direction that, with God's grace, will challenge the listener to consider the claims of Christ and the Christian world view.

All who attended the seminar were encouraged as Greg reminded us that our main mission as ambassadors is to engage our “foreign” culture with Truth. We gained renewed confidence that we can engage our friends, neighbors and coworkers on a wide range of topics as faithful followers of Christ.

You can download the “Tactics” seminar and Greg's Sunday sermon at New Life's website (newlifelamesa.org). Each Sunday afternoon from 2:00-5:00 p.m. on KBRT (740 AM), Greg hosts a call-in radio show on the topics of ethics, values and religion. Other apologetic resources are available on STR's website (www.str.org). Be sure to read Greg's new book, *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*, available in the church library and at Evangelical Bible Book Store. ☛

Stand to Reason's
Greg Koukl
Equipping Ambassadors with Knowledge, Wisdom, and Character

Join us...

Learn how to think more clearly about your convictions, and to make an effective, even-handed, gracious case for classical Christianity and classical Christian values.

September 11, 2010
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
New Life Presbyterian Church
3333 Luke Murray Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91942
Admission is free

To register:
Call 619-667-5999 or
email info@newlifelamesa.org

"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars."

— Martin Luther

A PARENT'S PRAYER PROGRAM

By Bob Hostetler, Focus on the Family 2000 From "The Cuckoo's Nest" small group fair table

The following are brief suggestions for prayer from Scripture. According to Hostetler, "Feel free to duplicate it or improve upon it to help you pray... for your children."

1. Salvation

Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. (*Isaiah 45:8, II Tim. 2:10*)

2. Growth in grace

I pray that they may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (*II Peter 3:18*)

3. Love

Grant, Lord, that my children may learn to live a life of love through the Spirit who dwells in them. (*Ephesians 5:2, Galatians 5:22*)

4. Honesty and integrity

May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection. (*Psalms 25:21*)

5. Self-control

Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be "alert and self-controlled" in all they do. (*I Thessalonians 5:6*)

6. A love for God's Word

May my children grow to find Your Word "more precious than gold, than much pure gold; [and] sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb." (*Psalms 19:10*)

7. Justice

God, help my children to love justice as You do and to "act justly" in all they do. (*Psalms 11:7, Micah 6:8*)

8. Mercy

May my children always be "merciful, as [their] Father is merciful." (*Luke 6:36*)

9. Respect (for self, others, authority)

Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as your Word commands. (*I Peter 2:17*)

10. Strong, biblical self-esteem

Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus." (*Ephesians 2:10*)

11. Faithfulness

Let love and faithfulness never leave [my children], but bind these twin virtues around their necks write them on the tablet of their hearts. (*Psalms 63:8*)

12. A passion for God

Lord, please instill in my children a soul with a craving for You, a heart that clings passionately to You. (*Proverbs 3:3*)

13. Responsibility

Grant that my children may learn responsibility "for each one should carry his own load." (*Galatians 6:5*)

14. Kindness

Lord, may my children "always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else." (*I Thessalonians 5:15*)

15. Generosity

Grant that my children may "be generous and willing to share [and so] lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age." (*Romans 14-19*)

16. Peace, peaceability

Father, let my children "make every effort to do what leads to peace." (*I Tim. 6:18-19*)

17. Hope

May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 15:13*)

18. Perseverance

Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them. (*Heb. 12:1*)

19. Humility

Lord, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all." (*Titus 3:2*)

20. Compassion

Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion. (*Col. 3:12*)

21. Prayerfulness

Grant, Lord, that my children's lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (*Eph. 6:18*)

22. Contentment

Father, teach my children "the secret of being content in any and every situation...through him who gives [them] strength." (*Phil. 4:12-13*)

23. Faith

I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children's hearts. That by faith they may gain what has been promised to them. (*Luke 17:5-6, Hebrews 11:1-40*)

24. A servant's heart

Lord, please help my children develop servant hearts that they may serve wholeheartedly" as if [they] were serving the Lord, not men." (*Ephesians 6:7*)

25. Purity

"Create in [them] a pure heart, O God," and let their purity of heart be shown in their actions. (*Psalms 51:10*)

26. A willingness and ability to work hard

Teach my children, Lord to value work and to work hard at everything they do, "As working for the Lord, not for men." (*Col. 3:23*)

27. Self-discipline

Father, I pray that my children to develop self-discipline, that they may acquire "a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair." (*Pro. 1:3*)

28. A heart for missions

Lord, please help my children develop a heart for missions, a desire to see your glory declared among the nations, your marvelous deeds among all peoples. (*Psalms 96:3*)

29. Joy

May my children be filled "with the joy given by the Holy Spirit." (*I Thess. 1:6*)

30. Courage

May my children always "be strong and courageous" in their character and in their actions. (*Deut.31:6*)