

Wayside Pulpit

D. E. EARNHARDT

Text: "A Christian in an unchristian world."

A very learned doctor of dignity said that you cannot be a Christian in an unchristian world. When I heard that I laughed till I cried. If that were true then nobody could be a Christian.

I wonder what St. Paul would say about that. He preached his sermons through the bars of the jail. Likewise John the Baptist held his last service in a court room where the judges and the jailors were soured up to their gills and the dancing of a naked woman was the main attraction.

This old gag that "Dr. Whimsical" was trying to pull was that our environment determines the who and the what. In other words we are tree frogs that take our color from the bushes around us. In other words you could put a bell on a hog and let him sleep in the parlor and change him into Mary's little lamb. All you would have to do for a polecat would be to bed him down in the dining room. All you would have to do to make a scoundrel would be to make him some dates with some nice girls.

Andrew Jackson would never have been converted had he not met up with an honest preacher. "Reformation of manners" is not the Christian message. The modern death rattle will not be cured with a salt-water gargle.

Why is it one sometimes has such prankish thoughts in church?

YESTERDAY HAS PAST

By MARY LIZZIE LANE

When the nights are long and dreary,
And our thoughts are running low,
Our memories will go back to our loved ones
That were called and had to go.

Some nights we may turn and toss,
And dream of the years that's past.
But when we were living them,
We knew they could not always last.

Time is really fleeting swiftly by,
It don't wait for you and me.
Soon the harvest time will come,
Then our reward we shall see.

We live today, yesterday has past,
God holds the unknown in His hands.
And whether it be sad or joyful,
Yes, we know Jesus really understands.

We can't call back a single day,
But on into the future we must go.
Where I live or where I die,
Give me flowers as they grow.

Yes, I've lived for many years,
And watched the sun rise in the east.
I have paused along the way,
And on God's Word I did feast.

I can remember the by gone days,
And how it really used to be.
When we gathered around the fire,
And prayed on our bended knee.

Bandon Notebook

By Mrs. Eleanor F. Jackson

All kinds of nice surprises greeted the unusually sizeable congregation in Arrowhead Beach's Bandon Chapel on Sunday morning.

Mrs. H. Truston Bunting, organist and alternate teacher of the senior Sunday School class, presented Miss Joyce Harrell, 14, of Chesapeake, Va., who sang a hymn "My Jesus, I Love You," which she had composed herself.

Joyce is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Johnson of Arrowhead Beach. Just too late for publication last week came a phone call from two proud Arrowhead parents who stated that their younger son and his family would be visiting them for a couple of days.

The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Solomon Barnes. He is one of the deacons and trustees of Bandon Chapel. The son is Rev. George William Barnes, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Bluefield, Va.

Stephen Brady Long, also a deacon and trustee, was scheduled to teach the adult class, but invited Mr. Barnes to take his place at 9:45 A. M., which he accepted.

After being introduced to the congregation, he said he was "just plain Bill" and that the one difference between teaching and preaching is that "a preacher swings his arms about more than a teacher," so he would "try to hold his firmly on the lectern."

Born in Rocky Hock, he grew up in Portsmouth, Va., attended Bluefield College, University of Richmond, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he received his degree of Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.).

Mr. Barnes married Miss Barbara Wirt of Christiansburg, Va. They have four sons: Danny, 16; David, 14; Dwayne, nine, and Darell, five.

He has been a minister for 11 years and pastored four churches: Big Spring Baptist Church, Elliston, Va., Pocahontas Baptist Church, Pocahontas, Va., Round Oak Baptist Church, Corbin, Va., and his present church.

"Just plain Bill" has an older brother, Earle, who is also a minister in Long Island, N. Y., and twin sisters, Mary and Martha, both married and living in Portsmouth, Va.

Bandon Chapel was twice blessed. It developed, for Rev. Glenn Eugene Bunch, Jr., its regular "first Sunday" guest preacher, followed Mr. Barnes by conducting the church service, including Holy Communion at 11 A. M.

Mr. Bunch announced from the pulpit that on Sunday, a week hence (July 16) at 4 P. M. he would hold Bandon Chapel's first baptismal service at Holly's Wharf, on the shore of the Chowan River.

The children's Sunday School is having a wiener roast at 2:30 o'clock on the grounds of Bandon Chapel this Saturday.

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Make Going To Church A Habit

FINDING GOD'S GUIDANCE

International Sunday School Lesson for July 9

Lesson Text: I Kings 19:9-18; John 16:7-15.

Again, in our lesson for today, we apply ourselves to studying the characteristics of yet another redoubtable Old Testament character. In studying the events that befell Elijah, this lesson may lead us to a greater understanding of our fluctuating moods, encouraging us to look inward for help from God against discouragement, finding in Him the necessary stimulation to renewed endeavor.

The story of Elijah is one of heroic and persistent faith, and an unceasing war on the part of one man against idolatry on the part of many. It is also the story of human frailty for, as we shall see in the perusal of our passages for today, Elijah became exceedingly despondent in the course of events. He literally fled for his life, seeking shelter in a cave, pondering the enormity of the task which lay before him; it seemed, at this particular time, that he was the only one left of God's legions, and he felt himself a failure in his appointed task.

Reading further, we shall see that God manifested Himself to His servant, as was His wont—in a display of might and elemental majesty; in wind, in earthquake, in fire. And, finally, in "a still, small voice"—which was all the more telling by contrast.

God dealt with Elijah in the best way possible for the frame of mind he (Elijah) was in. He assured Elijah that he was not—as it seemed—a lone remnant of the faith crying out in the wilderness. God named names; Elijah was to recruit Hazael to be king over Syria—Jehu to be king over Israel—and Elisha was to take up the yoke of His servant, Elijah.

In effect, God was telling Elijah that he was far from alone in the Lord's work. Continuity was assured, until Christianity would come into its own. He was not to give up in despair—rather, he was to go forth armed with his faith, and do battle accordingly.

Today we, as did Elijah, need to bend our wills and our lives in God's service. We are to come out of the caves of despair, or despondency, of self-interest, and abandon ourselves to God's on-going purpose.

Contrary to Elijah's belief at that particular time, God's cause was not lost—nor will it ever be. Elijah was not the only instrument God had at hand—there were others in long succession, and it will always be so. When we fall, others will step in to take our place in the witness to righteousness and truth.

Today, as in the time at which our Scriptures are set, God still speaks in a "still, small voice" to men. He speaks to us through that intangible (but very powerful) thing that makes up the soul of man—our conscience.

When we do wrong, we are troubled. We feel uncomfortable within ourselves, and we cannot rest. When we do right, we are permeated with a sense of peace, of well-being. This is the bar-

Continued on Page 10

SPACESHIPS AND SANDWICHES



Sunday
Ezekiel
37:11-14
Monday
Job
17:1-16
Tuesday
Psalms
38:12-22
Wednesday
Proverbs
11:23-31
Thursday
Jeremiah
17:5-8
Friday
Luke
12:13-21
Saturday
Luke
12:22-30

"Okay, we've landed, now let's get out and look at this old moon!"
My two small boys are at it again. Today, the old gray stump is a spaceship. Tomorrow it may be a fort or a castle. More practically, at lunchtime it's a picnic table.
Right now the side yard is my sons' world. Behind a picket fence, they roam the seas and sky in imagination, the sound of their voices reassuring me of their safety.
It won't always be this way. Someday, they'll leave the back yard forever, swashbuckling through a world of schools and camps, friends and parties.
How strange it will be—not to guide their every footstep. Where am I to get the courage? Fortunately, I can answer my own question. I have my church, and so do my boys. As a source of great goodness, it will guide them all their days.

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After carefully perusing the writings of a number of political prognosticators, we have come to the conclusion that most of them write what they agitate rather than what is happening.

It is strange how other people can tell you how to run your business, and why.