



# Countryside Connection

A publication of Countryside Fellowship Church

8850 Baltimore Street, Savage, MD 20763 • 301-490-5737 • www.cfcforchrist.org

Summer 2010



## Elders' Corner - Demystifying the Elders

Larry Gegel

I thought I would take a different approach to this month's Elders' Corner. It dawned on me recently that there may be many members of the congregation who wonder what the Elders do. You are probably aware that as a team we lead the church from a spiritual perspective, making decisions on ministry priorities, doctrine and other things. But, what does it look like from a practical perspective? There isn't space here to describe all the things the Elders do, so this article mostly focuses on the things we do when we meet on a regular basis. Perhaps in a future Elders' Corner we will address some of the other things we work on.

To begin, let me describe the basics of a typical elder meeting:

First on our agenda is typically addressing 'Pastoral Care' issues. We spend time talking about the needs of various members of the congregation. The needs may be physical such as long or short term illnesses; they may be financial if someone is struggling with unexpected bills or a job loss, or some may be having spiritual struggles due to issues going on in their life. After sharing the issues that we are aware of in the congregation we will pray about these issues for some time.

Next we spend time discussing the 'simple' issues. These are usually issues related to various ministries that we think we can get through fairly quickly. Things such as scheduling conflicts, whether or not a proposed event fits in our current priorities, questions brought to us about whether or not certain activities are appropriate and so forth. Another issue that comes up at times is whether or not to allow various outside organizations to use our facilities. With regard to this, we look at whether or not the organization would reflect poorly on us in any way, whether or not they will interfere with any of our own activities, and more mundane issues like security and access to the building.

Toward the end of our regular meetings we tend to reserve time for the issues that we believe will be more time consuming. Some examples of issues that fall in this category are: Each summer evaluating and completing the opportunity list, issues of tricky doctrine areas such as the role of women in the congregation (this was one that we spent many many months on some years ago), and the major priorities for each ministry year. Finally, we finish with more prayer.

In addition to our regular meetings described above, we have for the past year or so been having extra meetings to discuss leadership issues. We have been studying a book titled '*Leaders on Leadership*' and trying to integrate the appropriate ideas into our leadership of Countryside. Through this study, each of the three of us is discovering areas of strength and some that need improvement. We are striving, with God's help, to work on those areas that need improvement so that we may more effectively lead God's people at Countryside.

Our regular meetings generally take place the second Tuesday of each month. If any member of the congregation has an issue that they would like to discuss with the elders, either personal or ministry related, we would be happy to have you join us at the beginning of our meeting. If you have a more urgent need, such as prayer for an illness or other issue, please contact us and again we will be happy to meet with you.

Having been an elder for some time now, I have learned that God's charge to the three of us to lead and care for the congregation is an awesome responsibility. It's challenging at times, it's frustrating occasionally, but it is always satisfying in the end.

If there is anything the three of us can do for you, don't hesitate to ask.



**CREATION CORNER #15****If it looks like a human, why do they call it *Australopithecus afarensis*?***Belinda Robinson*

The June 21, 2010 online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published an article titled, “An early *Australopithecus afarensis* postcranium from Woranso-Mille, Ethiopia”, by Yohannes Haile-Selassie.

The skeleton described in the paper is amazing outright because it is so complete. It contains 32 bones from the same individual: several vertebrae (neck bones), a clavicle (collar bone), a scapula (shoulder blade), upper and lower arm bones, 4 ribs, a pelvis, a femur (upper leg) and shin bone, and a sacrum (tailbone). Many hominid fossil remains consist of just one or a few bones, so this find provides a wealth of information.

First some background: Hominids are a category of creatures which includes humans, chimps, apes, and common ancestors (should they be found). For many years these fossil specimens have been lumped together into common groupings based on radiometric age and location, but not necessarily form. Individual fossil bones can often be identified as human-like, chimp-like, or gorilla-like, based on modern bone measurements and wear patterns. Before such analysis was routinely conducted, it was quite common for researchers to combine bones from different sites to create hominids. A skull cap here, an arm bone there, and a knee from somewhere else, and voila, you have an apeman. In fact, the genus *Homo habilis* was created from co-mingling human remains, chimp remains, and stone tools. The researchers didn't intentionally try to deceive anyone, they just wore their “evolution-only” blinders. The evolution mutation clock told them that around 3 million years ago, humans and chimps had a common ancestor; so if they found hominid bones in those layers, they must belong to this common ancestor. Why not combine specimens from different sites to build a complete picture of what this common ancestor was like?

But as more fossils have been discovered, and from even deeper layers, that flawed methodology has been exposed. Researchers find bones that look like humans or chimps or apes, but not hybrids or transitions. Now the “common ancestor” time period has been pushed back to 6-10 million years ago, and fossil hunters continue searching.

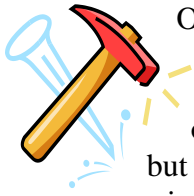
The details in the PNAS paper, as well as comments from the lead researchers themselves, reveal some surprising results. The skeleton of “Big Man”, which dates to 3.6 million years ago, looks surprisingly human. His shoulder blade and rib cage look similar to modern human. His arm to leg proportions match those of a human. His long legs, narrow chest, and inwardly curving back suggest that he walked like a human. His pelvis supported human-like hamstring muscles and human-like arched feet. His pelvis, thigh and shinbone are similar to modern human. The sacrum and collar bone are consistent with human dimensions. He was capable of walking and even running like a modern human. Every bone looks human. I think they dug up a human.

So why call him *Australopithecus afarensis* instead of *Homo sapiens*? The trend in paleontology is to give different species names to things that date older, even if their form is consistent with already-named existing or extinct species. This idea was summed up by “Zinjanthropus”, who offered his informed comments on the Scienceblogs website covering this article (June 23): “I'm frankly happy that they didn't just name a new species, as seems to be the trend nowadays. ... It's at the right place and right time to be *afarensis*, so I think that's probably the simplest diagnosis for now.”



## On Sunday Mornings An Archeological Expedition To Unknown Places Is Under Way

*Dave Menehan*



On Sunday mornings at 9:30am members of Countryside Fellowship Church are out in the sun, feeling the breeze and digging. They are digging deep into something that has been dug for over 2000 years but is still bottomless, something that can at once give you incredible strength or make you drop to your knees, it is something that is the epitome of the ultimate legal system but will set free the most desperate of criminals, it is usually clothed in black leather but might be seen in the company of the most innocent nun. What is it you ask? It's the Bible, THE "Book" the book of God's word to the people of the planet Earth.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am as we dig deep into the Gospel of Matthew. We have been on a journey where Matthew has brought us to a place of decision about this man Jesus. This Gospel (This Story of Good News) has shown us the background of Jesus, his credentials, and the opinion of his opposition. Is he just an itinerate preacher, a rebel against Rome and the Jews, a really nice guy or a mad man who claims to be God! Or, is He, just what he claimed to be, God, and the best friend you will ever have? You be the judge. Meet us on Sunday and bring your head light and an open mine :-)

*Pastor 7*



## Savage Fest a Success

*Dave Menehan*

Despite blazing heat and raging storms the wonderfully well dressed staff of the Countryside Booth at Savage Fest were looking good and feeling good and reaching out to the community. Over 200 photographs were taken at the Fair despite an early closing of activities due to a Tornado warning mid-afternoon on Sunday. Despite this, Bernadette Klingelhofer and many other church members had a friendly smile and a prayer for families and groups of young people that came to have their picture taken.



*Countryside Youth at Savage Fest*

Romney Hogaboam, Countryside's Ace Photographer, worked tirelessly for the 2 days of the Festival and beyond. He spent time after Savage Fest too sending out emails to all the people we came in contact with. We were able to talk and pray with a number of people from the community. We gave out at least a case of Bibles, a bucket full of bracelets that tell the story of Jesus and did several story times with the kids that were visually aided by live drawing and hand puppets. Thank you all who participated by serving (all 22 of you!!! :-). God bless and keep you, wear your shirts proudly and when someone asks you about it, invite them to come and visit us here at Countryside ☺

*Pastor7*

## "Why the Wait?"

~Anna Kitchin

When it comes to prayer, we are always told, from the cradle onward, that God will either answer "yes," "no," or "wait." The wait seems to be the one we most often get, and it kind of pushes us into a sort of passive, vegetative state while we "wait" for God to hurry up and give us that "yes" for an answer.

Waiting is not passive. Waiting is where all the growth takes place. Why else would God tell us to wait so often? God is testing us to see if we will be faithful to Him, even if He is silent and will not respond. His silence is in and of itself an answer. He is telling us, "You are not yet ready for me to give you a yes. It is not a no, because I know that you can change and grow, but until you mature more, you are going to have to wait for that yes." God is silent because He wants us to take the initiative to pursue him with an active fervor, regardless of His answer, or lack of an answer.

So why the wait? God is calling us to really be Christians. The word Christian means little Christ. We are to imitate Christ in every aspect of our lives. Christ was faithful to God, to the point of death on a cross, even when His Father turned His face away, Christ was faithful. We, then, are to imitate this righteous faithfulness in order that we might be conformed more to the image of Christ. So next time God tells you to wait, buckle up and ready yourself for days filled with lessons to learn, and goals to reach. Run as though to win. Live as though every day is a wait, growing every moment, seeking first God's kingdom, and living out your faith fervently and actively.



Congratulations to 2010 High School Graduates:

Anna Kitchin  
 Jessie Newton  
 Ashley Mathews  
 Christy Canner  
 Daniel Cho



Please keep them in your prayers as they pursue their interests and further their education.

- Anna will be attending Grove City College in PA to study communications and English;
- Jessie will be attending Carroll Community College while deciding if she wants a career working with small children (after working at the Merritt Athletic Club with them);
- Ashley will be attending Howard County Communication with an interest in elementary education;
- Christy will be attending UMBC and studying graphic design;
- Daniel Cho will be attending the City University of New York and looking into medicine or business (or both!).

Proverbs 1:2-7

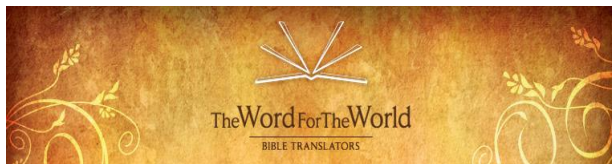
... for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young- let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance - for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

## Missions Moment

CFC supports a number of missions and the Missions Committee meets on a regular basis to review the latest news and needs of our missions. Please contact Elaine Gegel if you are interested in participating.



**Dr. Barry Funnell, of The Word for the World** will be visiting Countryside in early October (tentatively scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup>). By that time, he will have traveled to India to teach a course on Principles of Bible Translation. The Word for the World is raising funds to print more Bibles for the Sena people who desperately need and want them.



The **Hoblitz'** have returned to the Republic of Georgia and are encouraged by the receipt of a shipping container that holds many needed articles including two vehicles. They are discovering that Georgians are open to Christian, Bible centered outreach and are working with local pastors and translators. A new project includes alcohol and drug rehabilitation efforts. They ask for our continued prayers for support and safety.



**Dan Schmidt of BCM (Bible Centered Ministries)** reports new Bible clubs underway as well as an initiative to develop teacher training programs and materials in order to be more of a service provider for local churches.



### News from Laurel Pregnancy Center ([www.laurelpregnancycenter.org](http://www.laurelpregnancycenter.org))

The Janet **Lynn Dick 5k Race/Walk for Life** was once again blessed with a beautiful morning despite a rainy forecast, and over 150 participants and friends representing 35 local churches (including CFC) came out to Centennial Park to support the ministry. ***Thank you to those of you who helped raise over \$19,000 for the LPC!*** It was exciting to see the number of young people participating in the 5K!

A fall semester of "**Lifeworks!**", **comprehensive parenting classes**, will begin **August 2nd**. This is a great program designed for **any** expectant mom and dad. Rich in the fundamentals of pregnancy care, labor and delivery, infant care, parenting and family dynamics, we offer the "**Lifeworks!**" **Parenting Program** not only to our clients but to the entire Greater Laurel community, including our church community. *Come find encouragement, support and friendship with others who are also at this unique crossroad in life, parenthood.* **We always are looking for class facilitators and instructors. This is a unique and very rewarding way to volunteer at the LPC. Contact Cheryl Dudek at [cdudek@laurelpregnancycenter.org](mailto:cdudek@laurelpregnancycenter.org) to learn more.**

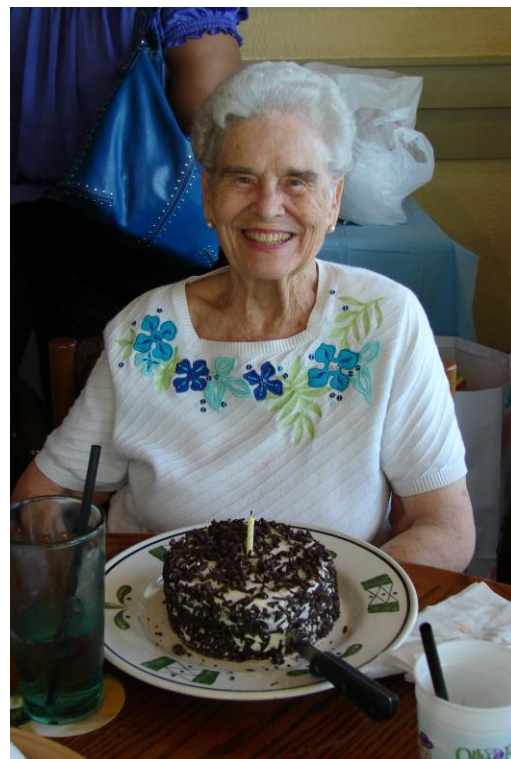
**Baby Bottle Campaign** – LPC Director Andrea shared a ministry update with CFC on Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> and launched a new baby bottle campaign. More bottles are available – your “spare” change can make a difference!



## A Special Birthday Celebration!



On June 30th our own Dave Hamby who has recently begun work as a limousine driver for Deluxe Transportation in Spencerville, MD was kind enough to arrange a very special birthday gift for one of our most experienced church members, Doris White! Beginning at her home, Doris took a ride to the Olive Garden Restaurant in the beautiful suburbs of Columbia Maryland. She rode in style in an incredible stretch limo provided through the efforts of Dave and his boss Willie Cook. We can't thank you guys enough for making Doris's 89th such a wonderful memory!



**Happy Birthday**

# Hooper's Island

Dave Menehan



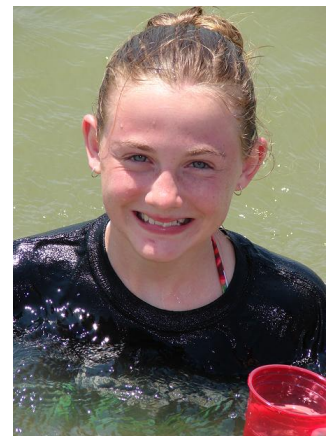
The Youth Trip to Hooper's Island was a great time for everyone. Doug and Sandy Swinburne had a full house again this year and were wonderful hosts for a special time of friendship building and spiritual growth. The weather was beautiful and sunny, though there was a constant strong breeze that made our games of Ultimate Frisbee very interesting. People tall and small hit the water and paddled the waves and caught some rays. Perrin Robinson and Travis Waller led our worship time Saturday evening and Josh Drown brought us a devotional, that concentrated on Christian decision making, that got us thinking about where we are going and how we're going to get there. Thanks Doug and Sandy and the leadership team! Speaking of getting there, when can we come back? ☺



*Sandy Swinburne*



*Kira Welch, Jamie Barthol & Alina Newton*





*Very Special Congratulations  
To Dave & Beverly Leighton  
On the Occasion of their Baptism*



Welcome to Countryside!

*Baby Madison*

Proud Parents  
Jerry & Lauren

Doting Grandparents,  
Terry & Susan McAleer

2010 Monthly Budget: \$18,000  
June giving: \$11,444  
2010 Monthly Average: \$15,533  
7/30/10 Annex Loan Balance: \$383,067

### Calendar of Events

August

- 6 – Static Motion (7 - 10) @ Eitmiller’s
- 13 – Static Motion
- 14 – Purple Door (High Schoolers @ Eitmiller’s)
- 14 – Dan Schmidt book reading
- 15 – Ladies Ministry Luncheon
- 20 – Youth in the Annex
- 28 – Static Motion BBQ

**Also:**

**Men’s Fraternity  
Saturdays at 8:00 am**

**Women’s Craft Night  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7 pm**

**College Ready  
Sundays at 7:00 pm @ the Eitmiller’s**



*If you have news or insight that you would like to share in the Countryside Connection,  
contact Connie Durkin at 202-320-5676 or e-mail [conniedurkin@aol.com](mailto:conniedurkin@aol.com).*