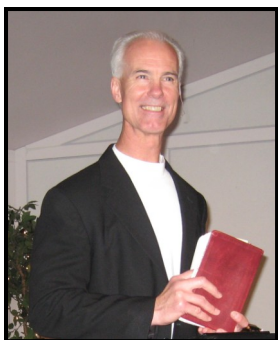


# Grapevine

"I am the vine, you are the branches..." John 15:5



Jim Tiefenthaler, Sr. Pastor

For my Grapevine article, I want to feature an "Up and coming" young writer, that will write for the Grapevine in the future. You have been blessed by his music and now by his writing. The following is written by Sean Boatman "The Oprah Effect" along with his wife Brandi, father Ray and mother Kathy.

Enjoy!

Pastor Jim

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## The "Oprah" Effect

*Discernment is not simply a matter of telling the difference between what is right and wrong; rather it is the difference between right and almost right." - Charles Spurgeon*

The scripture tells us that in the end times there will be many teaching a different Gospel and telling us things to tickle our ears. False teachers will abound. (Often Satan just has to move us a little off center and he will have accomplished his goal. For the Christian, biblical understanding and discernment is imperative.)

There is a wealth of best selling books, talk show hosts and speakers offering up a feast of teachings that promise to unlock the secrets of happiness, material wealth and meaningful spirituality. The challenge for the believer is distinguishing between the good deeds that are often committed by these promoters and the core values or beliefs that are driving them.

Few rival the impact of Oprah Winfrey. No one can deny that Oprah's rise to fame and her impact on society is unmatched in modern history. Her acts of charity and philanthropy are well documented and few can match her success in reaching thousands with her message. However, if good deeds were enough of an indicator of whether or not a person knew the creator it seems that the following verse would not have been necessary:

**"Lord did I not heal in your name? Did I not prophesy in your name? And the Lord will reply, Depart from me for I never knew you" Matt. 7:22-23**

Oprah Winfrey has actively been promoting the New Age Movement for some time. Her guest lists are a who's who of the New Age thought. Books promoted on her show and website shoot to overnight success, most notably, the highly successful New Age handbook, "The Secret".

Oprah's show has normalized a generic spirituality that elevates self and perceives all religions as equally valid paths to God. The show also presents an a la carte blend of religious concepts, from karmic destiny (Zen Buddhism) to reincarnation (Hinduism) to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Christianity.) Oprah herself has said, "One of the biggest mistakes humans make is to believe there is only one way. Actually, there are many diverse paths leading to what you call God"

Many words that are used in promoting the New Age teachings are used by Christians as well, further muddying the water. Faith, belief, meditation are all seen and heard in both discussions. Of course there are major differences between the faith, belief and meditation of the New Age and those of scripture. All of it centers on the object of one's faith. The New Age teachings promote self as the source for truth and faith. One only needs to look inward for answers to life's most difficult questions. Faith in oneself is the greatest faith of all. Look inward, empty your mind of all thoughts and judgments, clear your mind of all clutter and meditate on nothing in order to receive truth from yourself.



Contrast that with the directions of the Bible which say that the object of our faith is Jesus Christ. That He is THE way, THE truth and THE life.

**Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6**

We are told clearly not to empty our minds but: **"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2** and also to meditate on: **"Whatever things are true... noble... just... pure... lovely... meditate on these things." Philippians 4:8**

In conclusion, a believer must be vigilant and on guard about the ways Satan will use to bring false teaching into our homes. The power of media and the scale of a show's audience and popularity do not tell us anything about the truthfulness of the message that it contains.

Grace to you, The Boatmans



# Pastor Jay's Corner



Jay Schilling  
Worship Pastor

This Easter we at GEBC have several opportunities together to thank God for the sacrifice of His One and Only Son.

**Good Friday Worship and Praise Night** (Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm)

**Easter Celebration Services**  
(3 identical services – 8AM, 9:30AM & 11:00AM)

When I think of Easter, it amazes me to think how integral each part of the historic “passion” week fits together as the story of God’s forgiveness of man’s sin comes to completion. (Read Mark 11-16) It intrigues me how Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection are so dependent upon one another. Without Jesus’ death on the cross, there could be no victory in the resurrection; without the resurrection, there would be no significance to Jesus’ cruel death. Both events are necessary to complete the work of God’s redemption for man’s sin. The following poem called

### *The Way of the Cross*

by Anne Johnson Flint highlights this thought.

Some of us wait at the tomb,  
Quickened and raised with Christ  
Yet lingering still in the gloom.

Some of us ‘bide at the Passover feast  
With Pentecost all unknown,  
The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place  
That our Lord has made His own.

If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross,  
His work had been incomplete.  
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,  
He had only known defeat,  
But the way of the cross never stops at the cross  
And the way of the tomb leads on  
To victorious grace in the heavenly place  
Where the risen Lord has gone.

In response, I think of the lyrics to the famous hymn:

*“Jesus paid it all. All to Him I own; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed me white as snow!”*

We’ll see you there!

In Him,  
Pastor Jay



Pastor Meredith

*Eternal life...*

*Wow what an amazing gift.*

# From the desk of Pastor Meredith

I really just want to encourage everyone in our church family with this article. God is so good to us, and despite our circumstances he takes care of our every need. He has given us life and offered us eternal life through the death of his son, our Savior, Jesus Christ! Eternal life..... Wow what an amazing gift. It really helps to put things into perspective when I think about it. If you compare the amount of time for our life on earth, say 75 to 85 yrs, to eternal life in heaven with our Savior, which is forever, you really begin to understand how short our time is on earth. Our mission on earth is to simply glorify God in every aspect of our lives; giving Him thanks and blessing His name for everything, no matter what we are going through at the time. Psalm 136:1 says “give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His loving-kindness is everlasting”. Verse 23-24 in that same chapter says, “Who remembered us in our low estate, For His loving-kindness is everlasting. And has rescued us from our adversaries, for His

loving-kindness is everlasting.” He takes such good care of us even in our most difficult struggles. How great is our God! What an encouragement it is to know that we belong to Him.

I also want to let you know about a couple of things that are going on at GEBC. We have added a new ministry to our Care Ministry Network and are very excited about it. I want to thank Clunie Whitney for coordinating our new “Job Connections” ministry. This new ministry is simply a way of those who need work in this difficult economy to be matched up with those in our church body who need workers. If you are out of work, have a job available, or know of someone who is hiring, whether full time, part time, or even just temporary please contact Clunie at 360-893-0241. We have also recently implemented a security team to monitor the foyer and the parking lot during Sunday morning service. Ed McDonald is doing a great job coordinating that. Thank you Ed and all those on the team for your service to our Lord.

## GEBC Weekly Preschool

Barb and Vern Harris had a vision over six years ago to begin a preschool program at Graham Emmanuel as both an outreach to the community and a ministry to the young families within the church body. I have been abundantly blessed to have the opportunity to direct this program and to be mentored by Barb, whose passion for teaching children is unparalleled. We started with only one class of 14 children and God has blessed us to overflowing so that now our intention is to provide 4 classes each filled with 14 eager three and four year olds beginning in September. Our staff includes Karen Duncanson, Fray Davis, Sarah Sweborg and

myself (the Pastors probably consider themselves to be part of the staff as well since they visit during snack time and lead a chapel devotion each week.) We offer the best finger painting, candy gluing, lipstick drawing, pet parade and static cling rice filled sensory table in all of Washington! Currently we are accepting applications for children who will be turning three and are completely potty trained by the end of Aug. Also, children who are four and will be entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2010 may register at this time. The \$40 registration fee is non-refundable and tuition is \$100 per month. Beginning April 15 the registration fee will rise to \$50 and tuition will be

\$110 per month. This money is used to purchase supplies, equipment and completely covers our payroll.

How can you as a church body support this ministry? I'm glad you asked.

1. Birth more children
2. Inform your friends about our program
3. Pray for unchurched families to be drawn to our program.
4. Pray for 56 children to be enrolled

For further information or to obtain a registration packet call (253) 847-3577 ext. 107 Cindy Staton  
Preschool Director/Teacher



Cindy and her son Daniel  
*Cindy loves bugs*

## Focus Youth

**Name:** Lucas Mayne

**School:** Bethel High School

**Favorite subjects in school:** Music, math, and science

**Hobbies:** Playing my trumpet hours on end, track and cross country, and spending time with friends.

**How long have you been attending GEBC:** 12 years, since kindergarten.

**When did you accept Christ as your personal Savior and what led you to make that decision?** I was three, it was a Saturday morning, and I went downstairs and found my dad at the table. I had been thinking about it for the last few days and surprisingly, I understood what it meant to accept Him as your Savior. I asked my dad to pray with me so I could enter into that relationship.

**Your favorite activity at GEBC:** Just talking about our spiritual struggles or strengths in youth group/Sunday school.

**Favorite verse:** Philippians 4:13 He who has put determination within your heart will give you the ability to succeed. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**What are the challenges you face as a Christian?** I have a hard time remembering that I am supposed to shine and be a beacon to others every day.

**What are your plans when you finish High School?** Go to a four year school or music conservatory and get my degree in either music education or a performance degree with a minor in conducting.

**What ministry do you see yourself serving in?** Instrumental worship.



*Wednesday Youth Group*



## Youth Ministry



**Jon Wimmer**  
**Youth Pastor**

Sr. & Jr High  
Youth Group

Meets on Sunday from  
10:30 to 11:30 am

Meets on Wednesday  
From 6:30 to 8:15 pm



My family and I are excited about GEBC, great new friends, a new place to live, and an exciting opportunity to be a part of your lives as you are part of ours!

Recently, I challenged everyone involved in GEBC's youth ministry to pray for 40 days. The result was some specific answers to prayer, but also a sense, from many involved, that our prayer life has much room for improvement. We will pursue similar challenges in the future in the hope that we will continue to draw closer to the Lord.

Let me give you some snapshots of what has been going on with youth ministries at GEBC:

The Wednesday night junior high group has embarked on topics centering around the person of Jesus and developing a personal relationship with Him. We have also emphasized games, activities and breakout group discussion.

The senior high group has just begun experimenting with a new Wednesday night format that allows time for small groups to meet every other week to include learning, discussion, prayer and accountability. Another new addition is Pass the Bucket, an evening where discussion is facilitated centering on questions that have been anonymously submitted by the youth.

Youth Wednesdays will also comprise a portion of the Wednesday night program giving students the opportunity to lead the evening.

On Sunday mornings, we will soon begin an experiment called Echo with both the junior and senior high groups. Echo is about learning the Bible in narrative form and will challenge us to learn large portions of God's story, Genesis through Revelation, with a chronological sense of how each segment fits within the whole.

Recent memorable youth events included a Kutless concert, a junior high fun & games night and a junior high girl's all-nighter (a special thanks to Gary and Jenny Pessemier for opening up their home to the ladies!).

I am excited for the warmer weather months which will be heavy on FUN! We've got a lot of great events in mind and many opportunities to get to know each other better and serve our Lord. Let's have some fun doing both!

Slowly we are defining who we will be and what we will be about as a youth ministry. Please pray for the students and the leaders as we seek and learn what is pleasing to God.

## Missions Report

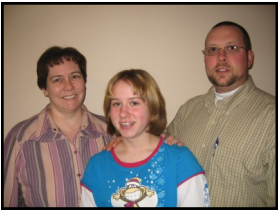
Get updates about our missionaries, the Swift's, the Purviance's, the Stark's, Melissa Meyer, the Brinkley's and the Martin's and find out how you can pray for them by reading their newsletters on the mission board located in the hall by the preschool rooms. We are looking forward to the Brinkley's return home in June to hear about what God has done in their lives while they were in Niger. August 1-15, thirteen people from GEBC will be going on a mission trip to the Philippines. We are excited to see how God will use us. Please help support us with your prayers. You will also have an opportunity to support us by attending the spaghetti feed on March 29th after second service or eating at Applebee's on April 21st.

**In Christ is our strength, The Missions Committee**

## Origin of the Word Easter: What does it mean today?

More important than the question of how the word Easter originated is what it means to us today. When you think of the word Easter, what do you see? If you see bunnies and baskets of chocolate eggs, you are missing out on the richness of this day, considered by many Christians to be even more significant than Christmas. Easter, to Christians, is actually Resurrection Day - the anniversary of the day Jesus rose in triumph from the grave, claiming victory over death. Because He lives, so can you and I, through simple faith in Him. God provided Himself the sacrifice. Thanks to Him, you and I have the hope of eternal life with Him.

## Focus Family



Meet the  
Richardsons

How to find a  
church  
without really  
trying.



As usual I'm totally in love with this edition's focus family. Robert and Trish have become friends and I was excited to get a turbo boost in getting to know them better by writing their focus family article.

Robert and Trish met on, get this...Match.com! So cool how God is using technology to put marriages together. They were able to e-mail and talk on the phone for a month before they ever met. They have 2 children from Robert's previous marriages, a son, Brandon 18 and a daughter, Ashlyn 12.

Robert accepted Christ as a child and made Him Lord of his life in his late 30s. Trish was invited by a friend to church and church camp and accepted Christ as savior in high school. They have been attending GEBC for 2 years and the process that brought them to us is AMAZING... when I heard Robert's answer to the question: "How did you end up at GEBC?" I was tempted to name this article How to find a church without really trying. His answer is worth quoting so here goes..."We searched for a church that was Bible based, medium sized and close. We started with the top 100. We cut the ones that didn't share our Biblical standards. Of the ones left we visited each one twice. Some were too small, some were too big, some were too stuffy, some were too outrageous, some had sermons that were lively and some were real sleepers. Some churches had organs and hymns and some had bands with drums. Coffee mug gifts were

always a bonus. All in all GEBC had the right combination of what we were looking for. I think the part that was the best was when people greeted us it wasn't overly weird friendly, it was genuine." SCORE! I think as a congregation we strive to be genuine and not too, what was it? "weird friendly."

Trish and Robert serve our family here in many ways. They are the leaders of the Harvest Carnival (along with the Glassers); they have joined our Outreach Team and are faithful attendees of the Wednesday co-ed bible study and One Cord family ministry on Sunday morning (2<sup>nd</sup> service in the chapel...had to do a quick commercial )

Favorites? Ice Cream: Trish, mint chocolate chip Robert, caramel caribou (is that really a flavor???) Bible verse: Trish, Romans 8:28 Robert, John 6:66-68 Movie: Trish, likes 'em all Robert, Road Warrior

Now I'm going to let you in on a couple of secrets about our family. Trish and her bother and sister were adopted at birth and Robert is diagnosed with Uhtoff Syndrome. Get to know these guys and you'll be in love too!

By Fray Davis

Check out our Website @ [www.grahamemmanuel.org](http://www.grahamemmanuel.org)



Lots of things happening and lots of places to serve. Come and get involved with our GEBC family..:) Serving is a great way to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ and glorify God!