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# Hampden Heights Sentinel

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Learning World Cultures. Page 1
- We all have "if only" types of regrets in our lives. Page 2
- Making an asset of one's losses. Page 3
- Dress up your salads. Page 4
- Jolted by every pebble on the road? Page 4
- I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. Page 6

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*For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.  
~Galatians 1:10 ESV~*

## RJA News Corner by Kayla Federowski

### Cultural Heritage School Spirit Day

September 24<sup>th</sup> RJA was all dressed-up for our first School Spirit Day of the year. Our students enjoyed learning, researching, and sharing their information and foods, from some personal cultures as well as ones they are interested in learning about. In grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> show and tell presentations, spotlighted, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Vietnam, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Virgin Islands, and Poland! We feasted and experienced foods from around the world, as well as Friday's pizza, and it just might need to happen like that more often. It was a wonderful day to learn, eat and grow together. (continued on page 6)



## Alabaster Box by Dave Taylor

### Lazarus Is Sleeping – Part 2 (John 11)

In our previous study, Martha had just ended her conversation with Jesus and gone back to the house to inform her sister Mary of Jesus' arrival. Martha had enjoyed her private time with Jesus, and she attempts to provide the same opportunity to Mary by informing her discreetly (John 11:28). Mary immediately rises to go meet Jesus just outside the village where Martha met Him (v29-30). However, the attentive mourners observe Mary's movement and they follow her, attempting to comfort her with their companionship but unintentionally depriving her of the solace and strength secured from a quiet moment alone with her master and friend (v31). When Mary reaches Jesus, she falls down at His feet and utters exactly the same lament as her sister Martha. "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died" (v32). This expression of heart-felt anguish resonates with each of us today because we all have "if only" types of regrets in our life experience. We may be long tormented by thinking, if only those words had not been said, or if different words had been spoken. If only we could change our past actions, or leave past deeds undone, then our situation would be different. But there is nothing further beyond our control than yesterday's words and deeds, whether our own or those of someone else. "May God grant us the serenity to accept things we cannot change, courage to change things we can, and wisdom to know the difference." (Reinhold Niebuhr, 1932).

Although Mary's words are identical to Martha's, her behavior is strikingly different. John the Apostle records that Mary fell down at His feet as she drew near. Martha declared to Jesus her belief that He was the Christ, but Mary prostrates her body before Him in an act of worship. Perhaps these differences arise from more than just preferred personal worship styles. Without being critical of Martha's sincere declaration of belief in Jesus as the Christ, perhaps Mary's spontaneous act of worship testifies to the truth of Jesus' parable of the two debtors (Luke 7:41-43). The debtor who has been forgiven the greater debt becomes a greater lover of his creditor. When Jesus sees the tears of Mary and the Jewish mourners, He was troubled and "groaned in the spirit" (KJV) or "was deeply moved in spirit" (NIV) (v33). Jesus asks where Lazarus has been laid, and they respond to Him, "Lord, come and see" (v34). They express an eagerness to share this bitter experience with Jesus, who has been such a comfort to many in times of sickness and sorrow. They could have replied to His question with a description of the burial place. "Do you remember that cave near the edge of the field close to Lazarus' house?" But the raised voices declare Him Lord and extend the invitation to "come and see." "Let's go together." "We will show you."

Concisely, without descriptive commentary or explanation of motivation, John reports that "Jesus wept" (v35). Those two little words, composing the shortest verse in all of scripture, achieve the bare minimum to qualify as a

complete sentence, with a single noun and single verb. Why did Jesus weep? Emotions are a critical part of mental health, but it can be difficult for us to explain the origins of our own emotional reactions, let alone those of others. In response to Jesus' crying, some of the Jewish mourners say, "Behold, how He loved him" (v36), but that seems to be a misinterpretation of the origin of those tears. There was no need to weep for Lazarus because Jesus knew that Lazarus was sleeping, at rest without pain or discomfort. Jesus knew that within minutes He would resurrect Lazarus and return him to his family, so Christ's thoughts of Lazarus would be centered on the joy of reunion, not on the sorrow of separation. Finally, if we are honest, our tears for the dead, though natural, arise from selfish motivations. We weep for ourselves and the loss of companionship that we have suffered, not for the dead themselves. Surely the tears of Jesus fell, not for Himself, and not for Lazarus, but for the pain experienced by the living.

First, Jesus wept in empathy with those who were grieving over the death of Lazarus. "His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. . . . Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice" (Steps to Christ, p100). Second, Jesus wept over the wider misery and death experienced world-wide by the creatures of His hand. Death is an intruder introduced by the adversary, and it had no place in God's original plan.

Third and most importantly, Jesus wept over the unbelieving hearts of many in the multitude. While the sleep of the first death brings sorrow to the heart of man, and consequently, to the heart of God, this is only a temporal problem for which God has already provided the solution in Christ's great sacrifice. In contrast, unresolved unbelief in the heart has eternal consequences, ending in the second death and producing a permanent separation. Indeed, some within the crowd of mourners expressed their own unbelief and attempted to spread it to others. They called out, "Couldn't Jesus have prevented Lazarus from dying?" (v37). Although this may sound similar to what was said by both Martha and Mary, the members of the crowd crafted their statement in the form of a question, sowing seeds of doubt without offering a definitive answer. In contrast, the sisters both made an affirmative statement of belief in declaring, "Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died."

When the procession arrives at the mouth of the cave where Lazarus has been buried, Jesus commands that the stone covering the cave entrance be removed. Still not grasping the significance of the unfolding events, Martha objects to exposing the people to the stench of death, but Jesus lightly reprimands her and she abandons her objection (v39-40). After several men roll away the stone, Jesus prays aloud before the hushed crowd, taking the opportunity to glorify His heavenly Father

## Alabaster Box (continued from page 2)

and emphasize that God has sent Him into the world (v41-42). After prayer, Jesus cries out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth" (v43). The Creator's voice pierces the ear of the dead. For "all things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:3-4). There is a gentle rustling within the

tomb, and then the expectant crowd sees Lazarus emerge into the sunlight, still bound hand and foot by his grave clothes. Jesus commands the crowd to loose Lazarus from his bindings and set him free (v44). After witnessing this resurrection of the dead, many of the Jews believed on Jesus, but some hardened their hearts and conspired with the Pharisees how they might destroy both Jesus and

Lazarus.

While Jesus could have used angelic forces to remove the stone covering Lazarus' grave, or He could have unwrapped Lazarus' body by the power of His voice, it is God's plan that humanity should work cooperatively with divinity in ministry to our fellowman. May we each embrace the roles that God chooses for us, never

forgetting that with His call comes His enabling.

Comments for Dave? He can be reached at:  
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## Going Deeper by Barbara Snyder

### The Country Parson, His Family, and the Tooth

I came upon a new author this week. His name is William E. Barton, born 1861, died 1930. He was an American Congregational minister, ordained in 1885. He had always dabbled in writing and was able to facilitate opposing political factions with his background knowledge of history, and law. In 1921 he was elected moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches and taught at several seminaries. He and his wife were the founders of charitable projects at home and overseas. In 1924 he retired from the ministry and taught at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Mostly during this time his writing endeavors fascinated the world as he was an expert on the life of Abraham Lincoln, and he had adopted as his own Lincoln's humor and life/people skills. Besides writing numerous volumes, he wrote short stories. It was these short stories that endeared him to the wider audience of the everyday man, woman, and child.

The short stories gradually took on 3 main characters: Safed the sage, Keturah his wife, and the daughter of the daughter of Keturah. Here is a sample from the story called "The Lost Tooth." It starts with the daughter of the daughter of Keturah eating a cookie and becoming very upset!

"... she cried out in terror. And I wondered what had happened unto her, for that is not the way the cookies of Keturah affect people. And she cried not in pain, but in terror. And she said, Oh, Grandpa, my tooth has come out! And she held up a tiny front tooth in her little hand.

Now the loss of a tooth is a matter of some importance to me; for I fear lest the time come when the grinders cease because they are few. But I knew that for her it was not a serious matter.

And I comforted her, and I said, fear not. It is of no consequence. And she said, Oh, grandpa, canst thou put it back? And I told her that I could not, and I would not if I could. ... and I said, have no

fear my little girl. The teeth that God gave thee when thou wast little were baby teeth and they will come out one by one, and others shall grow in their place that are stronger, and better, and last longer. And the daughter of the daughter of Keturah was comforted.

Then I considered the losses of life, and the pain and the fear of them, and how they are even as the fear that was in the heart of the little maiden when she lost the tooth. Yea, I went where people suffered by reason of losses which I could not explain so easily, and my words of comfort had behind them no knowledge of what blessing God should provide instead of the thing that had been taken away. But I remembered that it is written in the word of God how God hath provided some better thing.

And I took the little pearly tooth from the hand of the little maiden, and she sat upon my knee and ate the residue of her cookie, and I stroked her golden hair, and I prayed unto God for all those who have losses in life

and who know not how God shall provide any better thing in place of them.

For their sorrow is like unto the sorrow of the daughter of the daughter of Keturah, and there are times when my wisdom stoppeth short of their need."

I want to say thank you to the person who left a compilation of Barton's book Parables of a Country Parson on the free table in the fellowship hall. Had it not been for that gift I would have not had the opportunity to be fascinated with Barton's simple style and profound wisdom. In each short story there is a commonplace dilemma and a compassionate response. If you want to know how the little girl continued in the saga of the Tooth, you may be interested in the following story entitled "The Transformed Tooth." And although Pastor Barton was not inclined to play the Tooth Fairy, another little girl told the daughter of the daughter of Keturah that if the tooth is placed under her pillow it will be transformed into a dollar!

(continued on page 4)



**Going Deeper** (continued from page 3)

And because the daughter of the daughter of Keturah was so young and trusting and believed her little friend, and because the young maiden asked the daughter of Keturah how many teeth she had, and because the answer was 24, and because the daughter of the daughter of Keturah was planning on how she could support the family because she will have \$24.00, grandpa provided the funds, one dollar at a time.

His last few sentences in this story include: "For the little maiden has learned a very precious thing, which is to make an asset of one's losses, and to transform the vacant places of life into opportunities of larger promise. I would she could teach all of God's creatures that if they will lay their losses under their pillow and go to sleep with faith in God, the night worketh a wonderful transformation, and joy

cometh in the morning."...

There is more to this story but I suggest you read it for yourselves. When I have completed the book, I will give it to whomever requests it, if only they would pass it on. Wisdom, and love, and gratitude, and a knowledge and belief in the character of God should not be held to one's self. Amen!

**Recipe of the Month** by Arleen Johns

**Easy Italian Dressings**  
by Mark Anthony

**Dry Ingredients**

- 2 Tbsp sea salt
- 2 Tbsp dried oregano
- 1 Tbsp dried parsley
- 1 Tbsp garlic salt
- 1 Tbsp onion powder
- 1 Tbsp natural sugar
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp red pepper
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme

1/4 tsp celery salt

**Wet Ingredients**

- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2/3 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp water
- 2 Tbsp of the dry Italian mixture.

**Directions:** Mix the dry ingredients and use only 2 tablespoons for the Italian mixture in the wet ingredients.

This dry mixture also does well with veganaise and cream cheese for vegan dips. You can also add a bit of soymilk for a great creamy Italian dressing.

**The Funny Bone** selected by Bob Kondracki

**Round and Round**

Melania Trump dies and goes to heaven, where she meets St. Peter. She notices that there are clocks everywhere. She asks St. Peter why there are so many clocks here.

St. Peter tells her that each clock represents a person on earth, and that every time a person tells a lie, the clock ticks off one-second. St. Peter explains that there's one clock that has never moved because it belonged to mother Theresa and she never told a lie her whole life. The next clock belonged to Abraham Lincoln, and since he only told two lies his whole life, only two seconds had clicked away.

Melania looks all around, and finally asks, "Where is Donald's clock?"

St. Peter says, "Donald's clock is in Jesus' office. He's using it as a fan."

**I'd Love to be Six Again**

A man asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday. "I'd love to be six again," she replied.

On the morning of her birthday, he got her up bright and early and off they went to a local theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: the Death Slide, the Screaming Loop, the Wall

of Fear--everything there was! Wow!

Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park, her head reeling and her stomach upside down. Right to McDonald's they went, where her husband ordered her a Big Mac along with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie - the latest Star Wars epic, and hot dogs, popcorn, Pepsi Cola, and M&Ms. What a fabulous adventure! Finally, she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed.

He leaned over and lovingly asked, "Well, dear, what was

it like being six again?"

One eye opened. The wife said, "You idiot, I meant my dress size!"

The moral of this story is: If a woman speaks and a man is actually listening, he will still get it wrong.



*A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs...they're jolted by every pebble on the road.*  
~Henry Ward Beecher~

**Summary of Church Board Minutes from 9-20-21** submitted by Wayne Johns

**READING HAMPDEN HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH 9.20.21 BOARD MEETING MINUTES and ZOOM 7 pm Quorum 9 – Membership 258**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
Pastor Shawn Shives, Paulo Acosta, Juliana Acosta, Eric Blackerby, Shirley Blackerby, Dwight Edris, Leo Pena, Nancy Stump, Bob Kondracki, Jason Shives, Arleen Johns and Wayne Johns.

Quorum declared by Clerk @ 7:02

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
Lorraine Edris, Cheryl Cherington, Jason Mclean, Donna Knarr, David Beard

**Opening Prayer:** Wayne Johns

**Devotion:** Pastor Shawn – Now is the time to make a decision for the Lord. 134 churches have scheduled prophesy meetings in Pa Conference starting October.

**Clerks Report:** Minutes for 8.16.21 reviewed.  
**Motion** with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> To accept minutes as presented.  
**Motion** was approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurer's report provided an overview.  
**Motion** with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> To accept Treasurer's Overview.  
**Motion** was approved.

**FYI:** Evangelistic meeting begins Oct 8. Pastor provided a map for coverage area of 40,000 handbills to be received first week of October. Meeting will be 7 pm T W F S S and additional time for T W F @ 3 pm. Nancy

requests volunteers to help with children. Social Committee will have a social last night of meeting.

**Interest expressed in:**  
Fellowship Hall requesting 10.3.21 for 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday party for Francine Romain.  
Fellowship Hall requesting 11.14.21 for Wedding reception for Michelle Reyes. Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall requesting 12.12.21 for Maricruz/Diego wedding part. Policy and applications for each event have been distributed but not yet returned for last two events.

**Motion** with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve dates for facility use contingent on receipt of application and related funds for each event.

**Motion** was approved.

Discussed wedding policy with current \$800.00 for combination Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall per policy be reduce to \$700.00.

**Motion** with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to update wedding policy for non-Hampden Heights Members to \$700.00 instead of current \$800.00.

**Motion** was approved.

**FYI:** Incoming baptisms – Maximo Alberto Tavarez, Heather Taylor, Myrtle Lewison, Brian, Bruce and Victoria and potentially mom and dad Ymballa during meetings when baptism is discussed.

**FYI:** Church secretary needed up to 10 hours, additional hours must be approved by administrator. It is an hourly position. Candidates, please contact Pastor Shawn.

**FYI:** Reminder for 8 pm PA Conference prayer time via zoom requesting the Holy Spirit to be with upcoming meetings. We encourage everyone to join.

**FYI:** Discussed Shalom Church use of the pavilion. Current lease refers to pavilion use. Will further define parameters to include a security deposit to cover use and return of a key and leaving pavilion clean. Shalom can use their key for church access.

**FYI:** A town hall meeting is scheduled by the PA Conference for 9.25.21 @ 5:30 via zoom providing a summary of activity. Followed by Q & A.

**Pathfinders** – Leo has accepted Nominating Committee request as Pathfinder leader. He reported upcoming events needing approval: Laurel Lake Camporee Oct 1-3. 6 adult staff and 8 children. Pathfinder leadership training Oct 15. Leo will need finger printing for background check. Cost total \$811.00. A calendar of currently known events was submitted for approval. Club must be registered this week. [Will place in bulletin for church approval\*]

**Motion** with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve Camporee, training and fingerprinting for total of \$811.00.

**Motion** was approved.  
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**Department Reports**  
**Safety & Security** – Safety check completed on an intermittent basis because of COVID. Prior to that did have a fire drill and church has been re-keyed.

We did not yet complete an active shooter drill. Safety and Security is very important for our church but noted difficulty getting tasks completed. This year will complete current leader's position and it is hoped someone can actively continue. Training was completed at BMA in the past. Recommendation: Take safety seriously. Acknowledges God will provide help but we are expected to complete our part.

**Adventurers** – Registration completed have 10 attending. Plan is to meet 3 X/month. Last year started late (Oct) with 10 then decrease to 9. COVID did negatively impact Adventurers program. Several activities were completed during the year. (campout, family outing, etc) Had Investiture on 5.15.21.

**Community Service** – Continuing with Jewish Federation every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month. Currently meeting outside in pavilion because of COVID with food pre-packaged by Helping Harvest. Our involvement is as volunteers, Jewish Federation completes all ordering and paper work. We inform them the number of volunteers we will have. Food distribution is between 60-75. Day-of-Caring happened this month with United Way provided 6 volunteers to help with distribution. Also have food available in #10 classroom for emergencies and/or church members in need. The Benevolent Committee can be contacted in event of emergencies. [pastor, head elder, head deacon, head deaconess,  
(continued on page 6)]

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**Church Board Minutes** (continued from page 5)

community service leader and treasurer]

Three departments scheduled to report next month: **Worship Team – Communications – Greeters/Hospitality** Will return to cycle with following meeting as listed below.

**BENEDICTION:** Eric Blackerby

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:14 pm

**Departments Reported:**  
1-Plant Manager, Deacon, Deaconess  
2-Personal Ministries, Interest Coordinator, Prayer Ministry  
3-Health Ministry, SS

Coordinator, Social Committee  
4-AV System, Elder, Newsletter, Pathfinders  
5-Safety & Security, Adventurers, Community Service  
6-Worship Team, Communications, Greeters/Hospitality

\*Not discussed prior to adjournment.

**Notable Quotes** selected by Bob Kondracki

God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with. ~Billy Graham~

A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell. ~C. S. Lewis~

It often requires more courage to dare to do right than to fear to do wrong. ~Abraham Lincoln~

Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right. ~Max Lucado~

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. ~Maya Angelou~

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. ~Martin Luther~

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. ~Robert Louis Stevenson~

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. ~Winston Churchill~

Against logic there is no armor like ignorance. ~Laurence J. Peter~

God's promises are all on condition of humble obedience. ~Ellen G. White~

**RJA News Corner** (continued from page 1)

**Words from the 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Students**

**What Bible character would you like to sit down and talk with for hours, and why?**

"I would like to sit down and talk to Elijah, because he went to heaven without dying. I would also like to ask him how he was so prepared to go to heaven and leave Elisha. In 2 Kings 2:11-12, "as they were walking along suddenly a chariot of fire appeared drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men separating them and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father, my father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!" And as they disappeared from

sight, Elisha tore his clothes." -Addy Mendez 7<sup>th</sup>

"John, because I want to see his perspective of the visions he saw. And why he never referred to himself." - Rommel Virtudazo 10<sup>th</sup>

"Jesus, because I want to know how he felt when he got crucified on the cross." - Edwin Mercado 9<sup>th</sup>

"The serpent, because I want to know what it gained from tricking Adam and Eve and why he did it. In Genesis 3:4-7 he deceived them by causing them to believe what he said was true. He lied to them when he said, "You won't die" and for that God said, "because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You crawl

on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel" - Maggie Kargbo 7<sup>th</sup>

"The Bible character that I would like to sit down and talk to would be Moses. I want to know what it was like traveling and being so close to God. I also want to know what it was like seeing the Red Sea close. Like did it cause a huge wave or close calmly?" -Vincent Klopp 9<sup>th</sup>

**Reading Junior Academy...  
Educating Today and for  
Eternity!**