



# Heartbeat

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## Media and its hidden theology

Pastor Scott Roberts

Reflect with me for a moment on the Disney classic 101 Dalmatians. In the story, Pongo and Perdita (the dogs) are seeking to protect their puppies from the villain Cruella de Vil who wants to make Dalmatian puppies into a fur coat. On first watch the film is funny, as the 2 thieves bumble their way through the scheme being outwitted by the dogs at every turn. It is also suspenseful as the villain seeks to kill anything standing in her way as she drives her giant 1920 Alvis Speed drophead coupe in the animated film or the 1977 Panther in the remake of 1996. But hidden under the surface of such a ‘kids’ film is a theology of sorts. The theology is that of animal rights. It is Cruella, a thinly veiled name meant to cue the viewer that only the cruel person is the one, who, seeks to wear a fur coat. Similar animal rights messages were being spread in Bambi (1942) where hunters were held out as vicious people. Free Willy (1993), Chicken Run (2000) and a host of other films all sought to indoctrinate people via cute stories to ideas about the ‘horrors’ of zoos, commercial farming, hunting, rodeos, and any number of other causes which a select few producers and directors wanted to push.

This is not a rant about animal rights per se. Rather this is a call to critical reflection for what we engage with our eyes, ears and mind. Every form of media – from the songs that are played on the radio and sung in the shower or in the car, to the books we read, to the movies we watch and the news we consume – is filled with and informed by a theology that is often hidden or obscured by the catchiness of the media. For instance, the popular kids film Frozen (2013) is a marvelous film with some great theology if you watch the whole film through and take its entire message in, but the part of the film that most kids latch onto is smack dab in the middle where Elsa, the main character, flees and embraces “who she is” and sings a song that is catchy about not caring anymore. The song exalts a self-focused, I

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*Everything  
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don't care anymore attitude and it is actually the low point of the movie, not the high point to indoctrinate into kids. But the musical style actually tricks kids into internalizing a message that is destructive and not constructive. The theology of self-actualization at any cost became what most kids remember and sing, not the theology of sacrifice as Anna lays her life down for her sister Elsa.

It is not until we recognize that everything we consume is seeking to spread a message. Only then can we begin to critically reflect upon the messages being sent to us and to bring those messages into conformity to Christ and the gospel. Some of those messages will need to be rejected, some critically appraised, others received. But unless you know the enemy is posturing, you are not likely to be looking for the traps that are being laid. It is when we realize that the message, as well as the form matter, for much theologizing, propagandizing and indoctrination can be done without ever sending someone to a lecture. Media is a powerful force that can shape an entire generation, if one doesn't know he or she is being shaped and influenced.

So, what should we do? Develop a posture of skepticism. Take every song and analyze the lyrics – what is it that is being sung and communicated? Take every film and ask – what message did the director want me to walk away with? How did salvation happen? What attitudes or actions were being held out and extolled? What things were being criticized? Talk about these things with your friends, your spouse and your kids or grandkids. They will open up a host of wonderful opportunities to sharpen your faith and counter the false theologies of the age.



*May God keep  
blessing the two  
of you and may  
the love you  
have for each  
other keep  
growing with  
time.*

## *Happy Anniversary!*

50 YEARS! WOW!

Lanny and Christine would like to share that June 12<sup>th</sup> will be our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!



You are our wonderful church family and we want to share this happy news with all of you! We thank our gracious God for 50 years of marriage- the ups and downs and everything in between. When we got married we thought that we had it all mapped out. Silly us!

There have been many detours on this road of life, but God gives good directions! We have been so blessed in so many ways and our hearts are overflowing with love and gratitude to the Lord, and to all who have traveled on this 50 year journey with us.

Gods blessings to each of you.

With love, Christine and Lanny



# Enough, in Him!

By Ida

It was 3 years ago when the lots for elder were drawn and my name was selected. “What Lord?!? You chose me?! I am not wise enough to do this!!” He didn’t answer me. . . then. So I gathered my courage and waded into the steep learning curve of serving as Council President. “Lord, I never went to Elder school! I don’t know how to do this!! “Just trust, Ida.” “That’s it? That’s all you’re giving me?” Sigh. Apparently.

It was a bumpy beginning that included lots of questions, messy agendas, mishandled Rules of Order, confused conclusions, a few apologies, and lots of patience from others. In time it began to make some sense. No one fired me! Instead I received encouragement, humor, understanding, and grace.

As I served through my term, I saw all the effort in the years of service by faithful servants from the beginnings of our church. And our next leaders will continue to build on these foundations. Over these last 3 years, we’ve grieved in the loss of loved ones, celebrated healing, rejoiced in missions served, grappled with decisions, envisioned our hope, survived a pandemic, and loved one another.

What have I learned? I’ve been thinking a lot about this. I recently read a devotional by Pastor John Upchurch on Crosswalk.com. He quoted Luke 8: 38, 39, where a man, after having demons removed from him, begged to then go with Jesus. But Jesus sent him back to his home to tell how much God had done for him. No training, no classes – just go and tell. Pastor Upchurch talks of his first sermon and how he felt so inadequate and unprepared. Unlike the healed man, John had often felt he needed to know more before he did more. “I can’t tell this person about Christ because I haven’t finished that study on Galatians.” He stated, “it’s hard for me to say ‘enough already’. I know enough already to preach a sermon, even if I’ll keep learning and growing for years. I know enough already to share that God wrenched me out of depression, even if I don’t know how to answer every question about the Bible.”

That’s what I have learned! I know enough already to serve the Lord, even if I don’t know all the protocols or what the future holds. I am strong enough already to pray out loud and lead a meeting, even if I get butterflies and fumble my words. I am enough already to be used, as I am, for God’s service, even if I am still being changed by him. It isn’t up to me to be enough, because Christ in me is more than enough! He gives us more than enough love, more than enough grace, more than enough strength, and more than enough gifts. We just need to see it and then use it. He has made us enough, just as we are, to get busy. Ephesians 2:10 declares, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the drawing of lots was done. After lifting to God the names of the nominees, Lou Kooistra and Don Recker were selected for elders, and Mike Button was chosen for Deacon. These servants are enough already because Christ is more than enough in them. For those servants not selected, they are already being made enough in Christ to serve wherever and however God is planning for them.

What else did I learn? Or maybe relearned? We never serve alone. “So in Christ we, who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5. I could have never faced the decisions and challenges we, the council, faced without walking together as one in Christ. Like ingredients in a cake, we have our own gifts God placed in us, but when we mix those gifts together we create good stuff! In every ministry, in every mission, in each class, in every gathering, and in every time of worship we serve Christ as one heart. Together we are enough because He is soooo much more than enough!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!” II Corinthians 5:17

## Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study and Fellowship Resumes!



After a long hiatus due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, I am pleased to announce the resumption of our Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study and Fellowship!  
The first meeting will be on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm at church.

I welcome any suggestions on study materials- feel free to please let me know by September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Otherwise I will choose something for us. I look forward to seeing everyone return and maybe some new faces who are always welcome to join our usual good spirited discussions!

Lanny

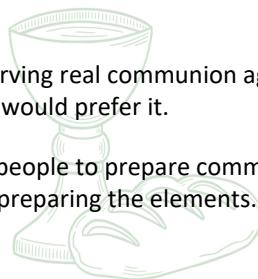
*"We are one body in this one Lord"*

## Communion



Starting this month, we will be serving real communion again. Prepackaged communion will also be available for anyone who would prefer it.

To accomplish this, we will need people to prepare communion each month. You will be asked to wear a mask and gloves while preparing the elements. If you are interested, please contact the church office.



*"Transforming the lives of families experiencing homelessness.  
Because every child deserves a home."*

## Family Promise



a program of  
Interfaith Coalition

In May, a Family Promise family of 4 received 4 meal kits (all the ingredients for a meal) that people in our congregation provided and delivered. Thank you to all who participated for blessing this mother and her children with these ready to make meals. Families who have been homeless and are trying to find permanent housing, jobs and or pursue schooling are stressed and the meals are a tremendous help to them. Thank you for bringing the "cup of cold water."

Family Promise will probably continue to have families in what they are calling "static sites" (individual houses) until the end of this year. At that point, they may return to rotating housing in churches as they did the first 2 years of the program.

Our next opportunity to bless families is the week of July 12. If you are willing to help, please call or text or email Lorraine.

## Serving Schedule

### June 2021



#### Greeter Schedule

- 6 Lou & Ev
- 13 Lou & Ev
- 20 Clair & Hildred
- 27 Gina & Joe

#### Prayer Room

- 6 Chuck
- 13 Alice
- 20 Lou
- 27 Terry

*Not able to serve when scheduled?*

*Please call someone to take your place.*



*Thank you for your help!*

### July 2021

#### Greeter Schedule

- 4 Jerry & Faye
- 11 Lanny & Christine
- 18 Dave & Ida
- 25 Len & Terry

#### Prayer Room

- 4 Dave R
- 11 Ev
- 18 Lanny
- 25 Len



*"to serve the Lord our God is the heartbeat of our mission"*

- Steve Green

## Deacons



reach out to  
those in need

## Deacons Digest

By Elaine Snapper

Our church is planning a mission trip to Omak, and plan to use some funds out of the mission trip designated funds to support the mission trip to Omak. A special offering will be taken on June 27 for the Omak mission trip. People are encouraged to participate in this event from Aug. 29 – Sept. 4.

Our church will be providing Family Promise meals for the week of May 23. Deacons were encouraged to check in with district members to have conversations about being involved in church events.

The offerings for April were slightly reduced, but income did exceed expenses. Cash management was also discussed.

The deacons reviewed and supported the Director of Youth and Outreach job description.

A discussion took place about the Jeffrey and Melissa Bos family, who are missionaries in Oman. The deacons were supporting inviting the Bos family coming to our church and sharing about their work in Oman.

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* John 15:12



## Giving in April 2021

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 1,957	\$ 12,944
General Fund Offerings	\$ 14,210	\$117,135
Rent / Utilities Income	554	1,515
PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	26,700
Interest Income - Undesignated	16	90
Total Undesignated Income	14,780	155,440
General Fund Expenses	(18,940)	(91,112)
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (4,160)</u>	<u>\$ 64,328</u>
Total 2021 budget, including ministry quotas		\$281,796
Year-to-Date Budget for 5 months		\$117,415
Total Undesignated Income		<u>155,440</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 38,025</u>

### Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 10,000

Food for thought

**What if...**

**you woke up today  
with only the things  
you thanked God for  
yesterday?**



*You crown the year with your bounty,  
and your carts overflow with abundance.* Psalm 65:11



Bask in the love  
and light of  
Christ on your  
birthday.



# June 2021



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

		1	2 11:30 am Elders Mtg  7pm Deacons Mtg	3 6:30 am Men's Small Group	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship Service / Communion	7	8	9 7pm Council Mtg	10 6:30 am Men's Small Group	11	12 Lanny & Christine's 50th Anniversary!  
13 9:30 am Worship Service	14	15	16	17 6:30 am Men's Small Group	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship Service  7pm Prayer Mtg	21	22  	23	24 6:30 am Men's Small Group	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship Service	28	29	30			