

The Calling

Volume 14, No.

January 18, 2008

First United Methodist Church 501 West Main, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401 580-223-5390

In our morning message series, CSI: Christianity & Science Investigation, we are looking at the relationship of science and religious belief. Science does a wonderful job in helping us understand how a musical instrument makes musical tones. And also how the human ear takes those tones and converts them into electrical impulses that are interpreted by the human brain. But science cannot explain how music moves people as described in the following article.

Yuko Maruyama, a Japanese organist working in Minneapolis, was once a devout Buddhist. Now, thanks to the music of J. S. Bach, she is a Christian. "Bach introduced me to God, Jesus, and Christianity," she told Metro Lutheran, a Twin Cities monthly. "When I play a fugue, I can feel Bach talking to God." Masashi Masuda, a Jesuit priest, came to faith in almost the same way: "Listening to Bach's *Goldberg Variations* first aroused my interest in Christianity." Today Masuda teaches theology at Tokyo's Sophia University.

But why would the most abstract works of an 18th-century German composer guide Asian people to Christ? Charles Ford, a mathematics professor in St. Louis, suggests that this is because Bach's music reflects the perfect beauty of created order to which the Japanese mind is receptive. "Bach has had the same effect on me, a Western scientist," explained Ford. Henry Gerike, organist and choirmaster at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, agrees: "The fugue is the best way God has given us to enjoy his creation. ... But of course Bach's most significant message to us is the Gospel." ...

Rev. Robert Bergt, musical director of Concordia's Bach at the Sem concert series, has first-hand experience with the missionary lure of Bach's cantatas in Tokyo. He used to be the chief conductor of Musashino Music Academy's three orchestras. Bach's compositions brought his musicians, audiences, and students into contact with the Word of God, he said. "Some of these people would then in private declare themselves as 'closet Christians,'" Bergt related in an interview. "This happened to me at least 15 times. And one of them I eventually baptized myself."

After two failed attempts to popularize Bach's music in Japan since the late 19th century, a veritable Bach boom has been sweeping that country for the last 16 years. Its driving force is organist Masaaki Suzuki, founder and conductor of the Bach Collegium Japan that has spawned hundreds of similar societies throughout the country.

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...continued... During Holy Week, Suzuki's performances of the St. Matthew Passion are always sold out, although tickets cost more than \$600. After each concert, members of the audience crowd Suzuki on the podium asking him about the Christian concept of hope and about death, a topic normally taboo in polite Japanese society. "I am spreading Bach's message, which is a biblical one," Suzuki told me.

But why do Bach's melodies and harmonies, so alien to the Asian ear, appeal to the Japanese? Musicologists attribute this to Francis Xavier and other Jesuit missionaries, who introduced Gregorian chant into Japan and built organs from bamboo pipes 400 years ago. Though Christianity was soon squashed, elements of its music infiltrated traditional folk song. Four centuries later, this curious fact is now enabling tens of thousands of Japanese to come to Christ via Bach. The surprising success of this music in evangelizing one of the most secular nations on earth has led Lutheran theologian Yoshikazu Tokuzen to call Bach a "vehicle of the Holy Spirit." (In: *Christian History & Biography*, © 2007)

In Christ,
Darrell

Welcome, New Member!



We welcome Fred Heaton to our fellowship. He transferred from the Immanuel

Baptist Church in Henderson, Texas on Sunday, January 6 in the 10:55 worship service. Fred works in the maintenance department at Lake Murray State Park. He also works at McDonald's Restaurant. His sponsor is Chris Shadle.

Welcome, Fred!

Acolytes for January 20th
Josh Koenig and Kaleb Smithers

8:30 AM
McClure Chapel

10:55 AM
Sanctuary

www.fumcardmore.com
Televised at 10:55 AM on Cable One, Channel 7
Broadcast at 11:00 AM, KVSO AM 1240

[The Lectionary Readings](#)
[for January 20th](#)

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
I Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Sunday's Music

This Sunday is the **Second Sunday after the Epiphany**. Our guest preacher this Sunday will be Bishop Carlos Poma; Bishop of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Bolivia.

In both 8:30 and 10:55 worship services John Emery, organist will play "**Alleluia**" by George Blake.

In the 8:30 worship service I will sing "**Precious Name**" arranged by Gilbert M. Martin. The text to this familiar gospel hymn is by Lydia Baxter, 1870; the original hymn tune is by William H. Doane, 1871. Mr. Martin's solo arrangement is found in the collection *Silently Now I Wait for Thee*, copyright © 1989 by Hinshaw Music, Inc.

In the 10:55 worship service, the Sanctuary Choir, with Kelley Segler at the piano, will sing "**The Child Grew Strong**" by Joseph M. Martin. The text is an adaptation from Louis G. Benson (1855-1930) with additional text by Joseph M. Martin. The anthem is copyright © 2001, 2007 by Malcolm Music, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Please read this text, from Sunday's music:

The Child Grew Strong

We will sing a song of Bethlehem,
of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills the world today.
Of Jesus birth and peace on earth the angels sing away.

We will sing a song of Nazareth, of days of joy and sun.
We will sing of fragrant flowers breath
and of the Sinless One:
for now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;
now spreads the fame of Jesus' name
on all the winds that blow.

And the Child grew strong in wisdom and in grace:
the glory of the Lord; God's glory was upon Him.
We will sing a song of Galilee, of wonders and of love.
We will sing of days beside the sea
and blue skies up above.

Let every vale be lifted high, every mountain ring.
Prepare the way with joyful praise,
behold the King of kings.

And the Child grew strong in wisdom and in grace:
the glory of the Lord; God's glory was upon Him.

Shalom, *Bob*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 20

8:30 am	Worship / McClure Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday Morning Live
9:45 am	Sunday School
10:55 am	Worship / Sanctuary
4:45 pm	Jr. High Youth
5:30 pm	Celebrate Recovery-Men
6:00 pm	UMM
6:00 pm	Girl's Night Out
7:00 pm	Sr. High Youth
7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery-Women

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Day
Church Closed

Tuesday, January 22

7:45 am	Preschool
10:00 am	Faith Circle-Elmbrook
10:00 am	Sanctuary Guild
6:00 pm	Finance Ministry
6:00 pm	Evangelism Ministry
7:05 pm	Church Council

Wednesday, January 23

7:45 am	Preschool
9:00 am	Clothes Closet Opens
9:00 am	Children's Day Out
9:30 am	Body Recall
5:00 pm	Stephen Ministry
5:15 pm	2 nd -5 th Bible Study & Pizza
5:30 pm	Prayer Ambassadors
6:15 pm	Wednesday Worship
7:00 pm	Mid-Week Youth
7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 24

7:45 am	Preschool
9:00 am	Precept Bible Study
12:30 pm	Beth Moore Bible Study
6:30 pm	DivorceCare

Friday, January 25

7:45 am	Preschool
9:30 am	Body Recall

Saturday, January 26

7:00 pm	Youth Bowling Night
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Dates to Remember:

Feb 8	Youth 30 Hour Famine
March 1-7	Rio Bravo Construction Mission
March 9-11	Festival of Faith
March 16	Palm Sunday
March 17-21	Holy Week
March 17-21	Youth Nashville Mission
March 17-21	Spring Break
March 22	Easter Egg Hunt
March 23	Easter
March 24	Church Closed

XYZ
Ministry
Extra Years of Fest

Greetings from your XYZ Ministry!

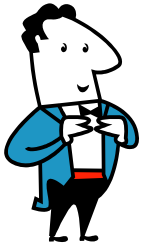
We have received a few of the survey back that were mailed to our age 55+ members. THANK YOU! This information will help us as we plan for the future.

If you haven't received a survey, please call the church, 223-5390 ext. 325. Leave a message and include your name and telephone number.

Please do it today and help us get this much needed ministry started. Thank you.

Sanctity of Life Sunday January 20th

If you or someone you know is dealing with a past abortion and needs to understand God's forgiveness, The Pregnancy Resource Center is offering a workshop called H.E.A.R.T. (Healing the Effects of Abortion Related Trauma) February 4 for eight weeks. The workshop is offered on a first come, first served basis because it will be a small and confidential group. Please sign-up by January 24 by calling Jondra 223-7218 or email prcservices@sbcglobal.net.



UMM
Sunday
January 20th
6:00pm
Colvert Ministry Center
Cajun Feast

Witness: Mike Laird

DIVORCE Care

Begins Thursday
January 24th at 6:30pm
Colvert Ministry Center

LOST!

Beth Moore Bible Study: Loving Well DVD's. Please return to Karen Chaffin or to the church office.

Thank You!

FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital or Recently Dismissed:
Barbara Riley

Loaves & Fishes for January: Peanut Butter 18oz

New Arrival: Tyler and Kristine Rouse announce the birth of their son, **Logan Christopher Rouse**, on Friday, December 21st. He weighed 7lbs-7oz and was 20½ inches long. Logan's grandparents are Roger and Susan Wood.

Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom and Brenda Stewart with the passing of Brenda's mother, Geneva Pruitt, on Sunday, January 6th. Services were held

Prayer Ambassadors

January 23rd

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

1. Our Jerusalem—Ardmore

CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates—pray for Lynn Riley, director; pray for compassion and discernment for the volunteers who advocate for abused or neglected children

2. Our Judea—Oklahoma

Wesley Foundations—campus ministries Pray for adequate resources, building projects to move forward, for effective outreach to students and faculty

3. Our Samaria—North America

Upper Room Prayer Center—pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit on this ministry---boldness among the prayer warriors.

4. To the Ends of the Earth

Hope Secondary School in Bet Jalla (near Bethlehem). This school provides a Christian education for Palestinian youth 6th-12th grades. Many of the students face harassment daily as they cross checkpoints to go to their classes.

5. Persecuted Church

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Eph. 6:18

- Iraq—pray for very poor Christians who are under constant threat of religious pressure and often violence.

The Great Commission charges us to **GO!**
Can you step out and do your part?

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
Who pardons all your iniquities;
Who heals all your diseases;
Who redeems your life from the pit;
Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion;
Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

Psalm 103:2-6



Movement is a must for all! *It is a great gift.* Use of the body does not wear it out - rather, the body wears out from *lack of use.* The simple yet profound truth is that the body was designed to move. No one is exempt from the need to **move** if good health and independence are to be maintained.

Body Recall Class gives you an opportunity to take charge of that gift of movement. Join us **Wednesday** in class as we **RECALL** the strength and flexibility that helps to make living pleasurable and independent. Come and enjoy the fellowship, laughter and fun.



!! DATE CHANGE !!
REGISTRATION
WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 23RD
9:30 am
Fellowship Hall

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Ardmore, Oklahoma
Permit No. 183

Loaves & Fishes

January
18 oz peanut
Butter



Or you may
donate money
to the
emergency fund

Address Service Requested