

# BRADY LANE LEDGER

E-Newsletter | Article from Bob Russell | A Devotion - Jeff Keller

## Brady Lane Church

Believing–Living–Connecting

### THE BIG THREE!

#### End of Summer Bash

End of Summer Bash will be on August 1, 2020 from 5-8pm. Carnival Games, Food, and Fun! For All Ages! Join us! Hosted by the Next Generation Team.

#### Upcoming Events/Schedule

Sunday September 13 from 11am to 1pm - 2nd Annual Car Show at BLC. More details to come.

September 27 - LAUNCH OF HOME POINTE! More to come!

#### Back to Church Policies

- Refrain from handshakes and hugs and try to social distance
- Utilize hand sanitizer stations around the church
- If you have to sneeze or cough do so into your elbow...please cover your mouth. If sick...stay home!
- We will utilize communion stations rather than pass trays and plates. Instructions will be given during service. There will be a offering box on the entrance table.
- If you plan to sing bring a mask.
- Brady Lane Kids ministry is in the 11am service only.

## Why Faith Really Matters

(Ecclesiastes 1-4)

Written on June 24, 2012 by Bob Russell

Imagine a tightrope walker about to take the first precarious step across a thin wire suspended between two skyscrapers. But just as he's about to begin an assistant cautions, "I think you'd better wait. We haven't yet secured the cable at the other end..... and we really need to double-check the security lock at this end too..... but you can go ahead if you want – enjoy yourself!"

No entertainer, no matter how skilled, would be foolish enough to take even one step on that tentative wire. Yet that's a picture of what's being asked of the youth of America today. They're consistently taught in educational institutions, "We don't know what happens to you when you die and we're not certain where you came from.... but make the most of your life!" With no certainty about their destiny and no meaningful sense of identity is it any wonder that many are indifferent or cynical about life? Any wonder why there's an increase in teen smoking, body piercing, drug abuse, school violence, sexual promiscuity, and tragic suicides? If we're just evolutionary accidents who are here for a few brief years and then it's over we might as well just cash in on the moment. "Whatever!"

That was King Solomon's conclusion when he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes hundreds of years ago. He examined life from the humanistic perspective and it all seemed meaningless to him – as futile as chasing the wind. We live a few years, work hard to achieve, enjoy some pleasure and then we vanish – so what's the use? Several factors made Solomon cynical about life: the failure of any one man to make a lasting impression (1:11), the injustice of the oppressed, (3:16 & 4:1-3), and the inner discontentment with life as it is (4:7-8). But the primary source of Solomon's despair was the certainty of death. "Like the fool, the wise man too must die! So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing

## Pointers

By Jeff Keller

When picking up a new hobby, or entering a new phase of life it is always helpful to get a few pointers from people who have been down that road. Today...I turn 50. The BIG 5-0. Many people have been giving me pointers as I enter a new decade - things like age is just a number, or welcome to the club, or better fill out that AARP application!

Most of those pointers are good natured fun but what about real life situations. Wouldn't it be great to have someone who could give you pointers when dealing with loss, dealing with marriage issues, dealing with parenting, dealing with life's real issues.

Well the staff at Brady Lane Church has been working on that very thing...31 life Pointers developed by the Home Pointe Ministries - that we have adapted to include our own ideas for resources and also local programs and counselors to help you - our congregation and the community around us to overcome even the most difficult life situations.

This Sunday at BLC we will begin highlighting various parts of the Home Pointe initiative, where we will be building stronger families, and helping BLC to become a stronger family as well. There are pointers for single folks, married folks, folks with kids, folks without kids, single parents, grandparents, and many many other specific life situations. We are very excited about this...as we will work very hard not just to hand out these pointers but to walk along side our families in the church, families in our preschool, and families in our community to show that we love them first and want to help them deal with the issues that matter to them, so that we can earn the trust to be able to share the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who ultimately is the one who really helps us overcome!



after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me." (2:16- 18)

"As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?" (3:19 - 21)

Let's be honest, Solomon was right in his cynicism— unless.....unless there is a God who created us and cares about us....unless the spirit of man does rise upward and there is life after death....unless there is a judgment day when all things will be made right. Wow! Does that possibility ever change things!

Do you see how important a spiritual belief system is? Faith is not just something for superstitious, religious people who, "need that sort of thing" Faith is a huge issue for everyone. If the Biblical account about God and eternity is true then every day has significance. If it's not, life is totally meaningless and we all might as well stand in line for the high windows and get it over with because, "God has set eternity in the hearts of men". (3:11)

Just as a goldfish in a small bowl keeps bumping up against the glass instinctively longing for a wider body of water, so the human heart craves something beyond this life. There is an undeniable, inner longing to live beyond the grave and until that need is satisfied the soul is discontented and troubled. But when that desire is confidently fulfilled there is an inner peace that passes understanding. There's a familiar saying that wraps up the theme of Ecclesiastes, 'Life without God is a hopeless end; but with God it's an endless hope". That's a BIG difference!

Read more from Bob Russell at [bobrussell.org](http://bobrussell.org)



I like to recommend Christians periodically read material from other trusted Christian authors, pastors, and evangelists. Bob is one of the most respected speakers of our time and led one of the fastest growing Restoration Movement Churches in the Midwest helping that community grow from 120 to over 18,000. I encourage you take time to look over his website for more devotional thoughts.