



The Living News

July/August
2023

From the Pastor's Pen

In last month's article we covered the three basic steps of sound Bible study. Following these steps is how we study the Bible *inductively*. Inductive Bible study is the process of building up your theology passage by passage, one doctrine at a time. The opposite approach is to start with your theology and then sort the passages according to the doctrinal categories that you bring to the text. In reality, each of us always brings some of our theology to the text. There is no such thing as a "blank slate" Bible reader. We all have to start somewhere, and our different starting points are determined by our preexisting beliefs, attitudes, assumptions, intuitions, and mindset. These things are called *presuppositions*, and we carry them with us in everything we do. Our presuppositions are always running in the background, like software on your computer. They tell us how to filter, process, experience, and interpret all of life.

This is no less true when we study the Bible. We all have presuppositions about the Bible, about God, about Jesus, and so on. In other words, we all have a personal theology running in the background as we try to read the Bible, whether we realize it or not. The most important thing we can do as Bible readers is become keenly aware of our presuppositions and test them for consistency against the Bible itself. How do you do that? Inductive Bible study. Bringing our theology to the Bible is unavoidable, but that is only a bad thing if our theology is bad. So we have to challenge and change our theology as needed in order to bring our thinking more and more in line with the Bible. The three basic steps of inductive Bible study are designed to help us interrogate our presuppositions, discarding falsehoods and building up more biblical beliefs.

So what does the Bible teach about guardian angels? We need to begin with a definition so that we know what we are looking for. Guardian angels are heavenly beings assigned by God to care for, protect, and guide each individual person. We all have presuppositions about guardian angels, whether we realize it or not, but are they consistent with Scripture? Using the three steps, let's find out.

The first step is easy. There is no direct teaching in the Bible on this topic. What about step two, indirect teaching? Remember that indirect teaching involves explicit statements and references that allude to the topic without discussing it at length, usually in a context where some other topic is being directly discussed. These explicit allusions come in three forms: we are looking for any place in Scripture that refers to guardian angels by name; by synonym; or by the general concept. Now, there are no verses that refer to guardian angels by name; however, some passages seem to refer to guardian angels by synonym and concept.

The two clearest passages that seem to refer to guardian angels by synonym are in the Psalms. Psalm 91:11 says God "will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." Angels that God sends to guard you wherever you go—sure sounds like guardian angels. Psalm 34:7 says the "angle of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them." That also sounds like a guardian angel. But do these verses say that *everyone* is assigned one of these angelic protectors? Were these angels only assigned to a particular person or group in the past for some special purpose that only applied to them? Was the assignment for a limited time only? Was it only for Israelites? Does this apply to all people today? It isn't clear.

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Pastor's Pen - continued from page 1

Other passages are suggestive of the concept of guardian angels but not conclusive. Matthew 18:10 mentions angels that belong to "little ones," meaning humble Christians. Acts 12:15 mentions Peter's angel but without further comment. Daniel 12:1 names the angel Michael as the protector or guardian of Israel but says nothing about guarding individuals. Genesis 48:15-16 refers to the angel who helped rescue Jacob from evil, and Genesis 24:7 and 40 speak of an angel who will temporarily help Abraham's servant find a wife for his son Isaac. Hebrews 1:14 describes angels as spirits that God sends to minister to his people. Finally, Job 5:1 and 33:23-24 refer to angels or "holy ones" who may intervene on a person's behalf to save them from death.

As you can see, the indirect teaching is very slim, and all the passages are debatable. What about step three? Is there any implicit teaching we can draw from these or any other statements or teachings in the Bible? In my opinion, it is very difficult to infer or deduce any sure conclusions from these texts that logically implies the doctrine of guardian angels *as we have defined it above*. My conclusion is this: I think it is clear from these biblical passages that God uses his angels to serve and protect his people in various ways, and I think we should expect that God may send an angel to guard us or intervene in our behalf at various moments in our lives. In that sense, yes, the Bible does teach that there are guardian angels. However, the Bible does not seem to teach that every individual is assigned a specific angel as his or her special guardian. That belief is not taught in Scripture, either directly, indirectly, or implicitly. But what do you think?

Grace and peace,
Pastor Wesley

Church News

Church Directory Update — Forms Available



It is time to Update the Forks Church Directory: If you are a regular attendee, or recently became a new member of the church, and would like to be listed in the church directory, or on the email distribution list, kindly contact Gladys Toth in the church office. **Directory Forms have been emailed to the congregation's email distribution and Forms are currently located on the large information table in the Gathering Room.**

If you have the current directory (July 2022 at bottom of inside front cover), and are listed in it, kindly review your information carefully and advise if your information has changed (cell numbers, emails, birthdays, etc.) or if anything is incorrect as listed.

The goal is to have all info gathered, and the updated directories printed and distributed by end of July,... so, **Kindly Submit your Forms by Sunday, July 9th.**

A Brief Update from the Board of Trustees

- **New Website** – The church website is being upgraded and will hopefully be up in July, with more information added. The goal is to keep the website updated with current happenings at the church, including current Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, events and resources. More information and the launch date is forthcoming.
- Kyle Hall, President of the Trustees plans to give an update in July of the financials of the church, current projects, future projects and other information. Stay tuned for the date.
- Basement renovation is a big priority for AHG / Youth Group usage.

Worship in Fellowship Hall, July 2 - August 20

Due to lack of air-conditioning in the sanctuary, our worship services will be held in the Fellowship Hall **July 2nd through August 20st. Worship on August 27th will be held at West Brandywine Park** (see back cover).



“Thank You” from the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross wishes to **“Thank You”** for your blood donation at The Forks Blood Drive held on June 12, 2023. They reported:



“Your drive was perfect! You collected 32 donations on a goal of 32!! Outstanding!!!”

The **Next Forks Blood Drive** is Scheduled for **Monday, October 2nd** and is already available for you to sign up on their website: www.redcrossblood.org - **Please, Sign Up Now!**

From their website, in the **“Find a Drive”** box, Type: **FORKS** and pick an open time slot!

The whole process only takes about 30 minutes. Your **1** donation can save up to **3** lives!!

There is always an URGENT need for blood, so please give as often as you can!

Ladies Summer “Gather & Gab” Lunches

Calling ALL Ladies! Summer Fellowship Lunches are back! For the months July and August, **all** ladies are invited to get together for lunch, or simply to ‘gather and gab’ **on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.**

We will meet at **September Farm at 1:00 PM** (Rte. 322W right outside of Honey Brook) on: **July 6th & 20th and August 3th & 17th**

Kindly notify the church office (Glady) when you are able to attend so we can save tables ... but feel free to simply Show Up when you are free to do so! so we know how many to expect and grab enough table space, or **just show up!**



“Wing Night” at September Farm

Mondays: July 3rd & August 7th

Pastor Wesley will be at September Farm enjoying their Monday Night Wing Night on these dates, and anyone interested is welcome to join him for a time of refreshment and fellowship. The first “Wing Night” on June 5th was a great time of fellowship! **Come join the fun!**



Remember to Pray for Your Secret Sister!



What a blessing it is to know that someone is praying for you! Are you remembering to pray regularly for your Secret Sister? Are you encouraging her by sending her a card and/or giving her a small token gift each month?

Be sure to check the Secret Sister table each week as gifts & cards appear randomly!



“Whoever does God's will is my . . . **sister** . . .” Mark 3:35



Deacon Ministry



A Special “Thank You” from CCWS

Chester County Women’s Services would like to express their deepest appreciation for your participation in their Baby Bottle Campaign again this year! Your generous donations raised **\$2,099.00** to help support single mothers and their babies!

Christmas in July! - School Supplies for Bridge of Hope

Each year, the Deacons sponsor a Drive for Bridge of Hope, throughout the month of July, collecting items that they are requesting. This year BOH is asking churches to donate School Supplies for the children of low income, single-parent families.

Here is the Wish List provided by BOH:

- Crayola supplies: boxes of 16 crayons,
- packs of 8-12 colored pencils,
- packs of 8 markers thick, packs of 8 markers thin
- #2 Pencils: any size box works
- Travel size pencil sharpeners
- Highlighters, packs of 3 or 4
- Dry erase markers: packs of 8-10
- Glue sticks
- 2 Pocket folders, all different colors
- Packs of travel tissues
- Small bottles (2 - 3 oz.) of Purell hand sanitizer
- Post it Notes 3x3 all colors and size
- packs Composition lined notebooks
- Staples or Walmart gift cards (for specific items that school districts ask for)



Extra Credit Wish List Item: good quality backpacks (Jansport, LL Bean) in gender neutral colors

There will be a Collection Box in the Gathering Room beginning Sunday, July 2nd, and will remain there throughout the month. You will be asked to bring in all items by Sunday, July 30th.

If you have any questions, contact Colleen Knudson, 610-389-9205, or ask any of the deacons: Deb Colburn, Ron Lefferts, Reeta Stern, Cate Pedrick or Kathy Wills. (This announcement will be in upcoming Sunday bulletins).



Coffee & Candy Bars for Our Local Veterans

The deacons are sponsoring a new, ongoing ministry to help support our local veterans at the Coatesville VA Medical Center. In the past we have provided cards for Veteran’s Day, but many other organizations do also, and they become inundated with cards.



We would like our church to donate chocolate bars (any kind), which will go to veterans at large, **and ground coffee** (which will go to resident veterans), **on an ongoing basis**. We have been made aware of the need, and know that they will greatly appreciate our gifts.



There is a box, on the donation table in the Gathering Room labeled “**VA—Vets**”, in which donations can be placed.



Youth Group Happenings

Youth Group Meets 2nd & 4th Friday of Each Month, 6:00 PM All Local Youth Ages 10-17 years old are Welcome!

Israel and Victoria Sanchez are now in the leadership role for Youth Group, supported by Diane Shumaker, Gladly Toth, Ron Lefferts and Pete Dawson (and the parents of the youth... Thank you!).

Israel is teaching a series on 'Who is Jesus?' As we trace Jesus' life, death and resurrection through passages in the gospels, we are learning about Jesus' mission and character, answering questions such as 'Why did Jesus have to come to earth?' and 'Was he really fully God and fully Man?'

Our prayer for the youth (and for us youth leaders) is to love Jesus, be like Him, and help others be like Him. (Colossians 1:28).

Our meetings begin with prayer, followed by themed activities/games, Bible lesson, and singing praise to the Lord. The night concludes with snacks & drinks. Ending time is 7:30 PM.

On June 9th, the Youth and Leaders carpoled to the Castle Roller Rink in Lancaster.

On June 23rd, they had fun (and made a mess), Tie-Dying tee shirts!



JULY— AUGUST 2023 SCHEDULE

July 14: **A Night at Golf Zone:** miniature golf, go-karts & then to Dairy Queen

July 28: House Night—Sheep Theme


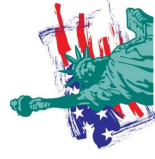





August 11: **Pool Party!!**

August 25: House Night—Missions Theme




Go-Karts

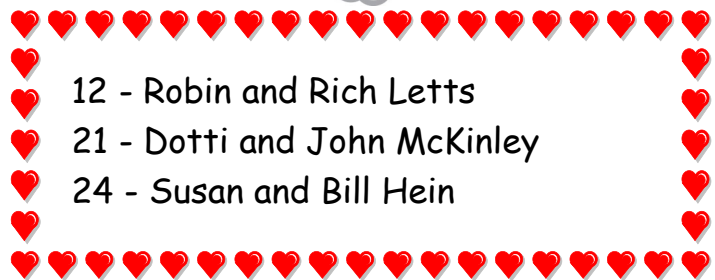
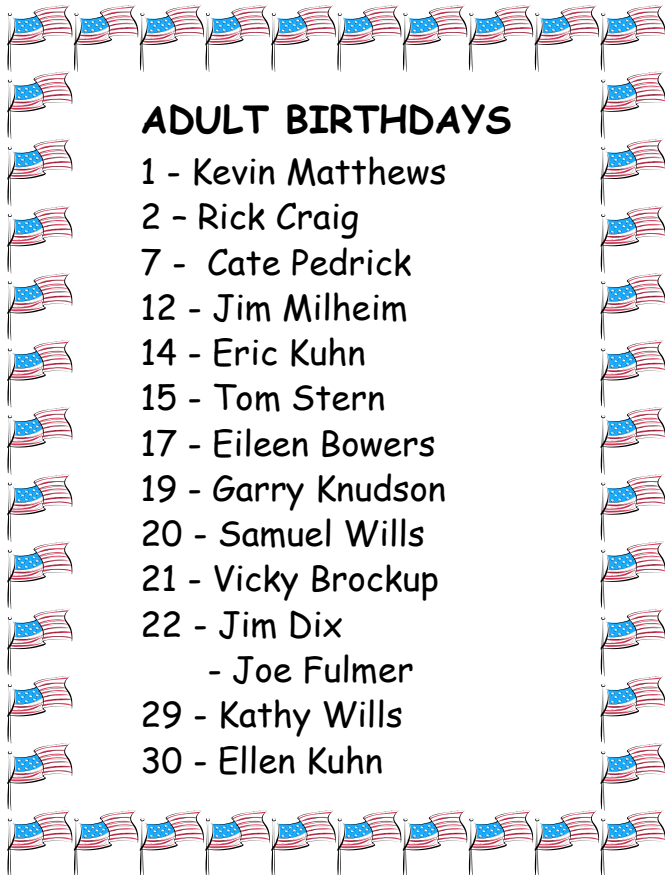


JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
							1 9:30 AM Karate
2 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	3 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls	4  Independence Day	5 No Bible Study	6 1:00 PM Ladies Lunch at September Farm	7 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Church 4:30 PM Karate	8 9:30 AM Karate	
9 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship No Prayer Hour	10 10:30 AM The Daytimers Game Day 7:00 PM Trustees	11	12 7:00 PM Bible Study	13	14 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Church No Karate 6:00 PM Youth Group- Golf Zone & DQ	15 No Karate	
16 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	17 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls	18	19 No Bible Study	20 1:00 PM Ladies Lunch at September Farm	21 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Church 4:30 PM Karate	22 9:30 AM Karate	
23 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship No Prayer Hour	24 10:30 AM The Daytimers Game Day	25	26 7:00 PM Bible Study	27	28 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Church 4:30 PM Karate 6:00 PM Youth Group- Sheep Theme	29 9:30 AM Karate	
30 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	31						

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
6 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion No Prayer Hour	7 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls	8	9 7:00 PM Bible Study	10	11 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Church 6:00 PM Youth Group-Pool Party 4:30 PM Karate	12 9:30 AM Karate
13 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	14 10:30 AM The Daytimers Game Day 7:00 PM Trustees	15	16 No Bible Study	17 1:00 PM Ladies Lunch at September Farm	18 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Church 4:30 PM Karate	19 9:30 AM Karate Irwin Reunion—FH in Use Noon-4:00 PM
20 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship No Prayer Hour	21 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls	22	23 7:00 PM Bible Study	24	25 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Church 6:00 PM Youth Group-House Night - Missions 4:30 PM Karate	26 9:30 AM Karate
27 10:30 AM Worship & Lunch in the Park  6:00 PM Prayer Hour	28 10:30 AM The Daytimers Game Day 3:30 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Session	29	30 No Bible Study 	31		



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify us by placing a note in Gladys Toth's mailbox located in the Meet & Greet area.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

AUGUST

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Jane Lee Miller
- 2 - Glenn McClintock
John McKinley
- 4 - Dan Noble
- 10 - Bob Fernholz
- 20 - Phyllis Ferguson
Diane Shumaker
- 21 - Bob Erdmann
- 22 - Bill Ensslen
- 28 - Lisa Hartman
- 30 - Alice Martin

Children to Sr. Teens

- 15 - Lynly Rigg (12)
- 18—Abigail Westervelt (6)
- 22 - Mitchell Williams (10)



*Love Never Ends
August Anniversaries*

- 7 - Reeta and Tom Stern
- 13 - Kathy and Rodney Rigg
- 31 - Janice and Cliff Wardle

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify us by placing a note in Gladly Toth's mailbox located in the Meet & Greet area.

Thoughts & Smiles



The Heart of Jesus



The idea of a spiritual heart transplant is a vivid image to me; once you have the heart of somebody else inside you, then that heart is there.

Jesus’ heart is inside me, and my heart is gone. So if God were to place a stethoscope against my chest, he would hear the heart of Jesus Christ beating.

The Power of Kindness

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

—Amelia Earhart



“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.”

—Theodore Roosevelt

Oxygen for Ministry

Flight attendants instruct airplane passengers that if oxygen masks are needed, we should secure our own before assisting someone else. Why? If we aren’t getting enough oxygen ourselves, we can’t help another person for long.

The Holy Spirit empowers Christians for ministry — the work of loving and caring for our neighbors and God’s creation. But if we aren’t Spirit-fueled on an ongoing basis, we will soon lack capacity to serve. This may manifest as burnout, cynicism, exhaustion or even lack of faith. So how to ensure we’re breathing in the Spirit’s energy and guidance instead of poor-quality “air”?

By taking part in corporate worship regularly, immersing ourselves in the Scriptures (devotional reading and Bible study), praying “continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NIV) and spending time with Christian friends and mentors. Opening ourselves to the Spirit in these ways allows the Breath of God to flow into us, which in turn empowers us to reach out to others in love.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

5 Steps to a Friendlier Church



1. Speak to the other person first. Don’t wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don’t know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.

“What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.”

—Joseph Addison

“A life without love is like a year without summer.”

—Swedish proverb





PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!



"IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A=	E=	I=	O=	U=
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I k p my y s
 l w y s n th L R D.
 W th h m t my
 r g h t h n d,
 w l l n t b s h k n.
 P s l m 16:8, N V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV



NEWSLETTER

Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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E-mail: office@forkschurch.org



We are on the web:
www.forkschurch.org

Worship Service & Picnic in the Park



Sunday, August 27th

West Brandywine Park
198 Lafayette Road
Coatesville, PA

Worship: 10:30 AM-11:30 AM
Picnic: 11:45-2:00 PM

Hey Fork's Family & Friends! Here is an opportunity to invite your friends, relatives and neighbors, who might not have a church family, to worship with us and then enjoy an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship.

We will worship at the West Brandywine Park on **Sunday, August 27th** at our normal time. Dress code will be casual; things you would wear to play volleyball or other lawn games. The Worship Service will be held in the Amphitheatre adjacent to the picnic pavilion. Feel free to bring a blanket or lawn chairs to sit on during service.

The Fellowship Committee will provide all paper products including utensils, drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, chips, condiments & tablecloths. **We are asking each family to bring a cold side item (in containers that fit in coolers), or a dessert to share.** Watch for sign up inserts beginning in the August Sunday bulletins.

