

CAPITAL CONNECTIONS

Edition 195C Printed 12/262018

JANUARY 2019

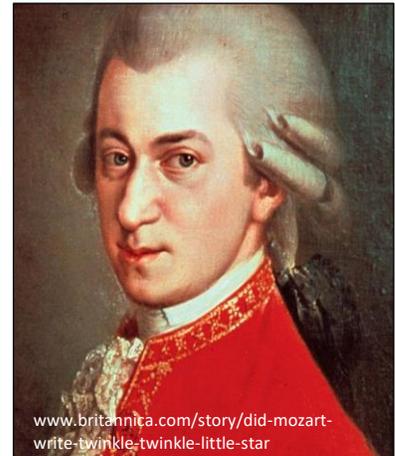
“For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.” (Isa. 28:10 NRSV)

“A-B-C-D-E-F-G; H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O-P.” Can you hear the melody ringing in your ears? Trivia Question: What other well-known children’s song uses the same melody? (Answer at the end of this article). And now for the real trivia before I get to the point.

That melody, written by Mozart when he was a young man, is the one he chose for one set of his piano variations. His Variations are still used today by piano teachers as an instructional aid to teach piano performance and musical composition.

No matter the endeavor, teachers begin with the basics, then add a little at a time as learning occurs. The adage is true, “We must learn to walk before we can run.” What are some implications for Christians?

Our objectives never change. We teach the Bible. We shape believers. We extend our ministry. The basics are perennially the focus for the energy/effort of the Church. That’s why we’re going “Back to Basics” from January 6 through February 10, 2019.



God spoke clearly to Israel and Judah in Isaiah 28:10. In context, that verse comforts and corrects believers. Our comfort is this: a close walk with the Lord in the light of his word is always rewarded. Though the storms of life rage, simple faith saves. By reading the Bible, we discover the “shelter in the storm.”

As a stern correction, the verse warns everyone not to ignore the Bible’s simple instruction. We do so to our own peril. Though everyone learns important lessons through failure, believers don’t have to choose to fail in order to learn. Patiently listening, heeding instruction and doing the right thing are the best preventive medicine.

Welcoming 2019, we’ll address some of the “basics,” each for two weeks at a time. The first is Bible Reading. The importance of reading the Bible cannot be overstated. We’ll provide some simple resources to help everyone get traction as Bible readers/learners.

Second, we’ll also learn why and how to pray. Each of us has wondered, “Does God hear and answer my prayers?” The answer is, “Yes, of course he does.” Do you want assurance of answered prayer? A “precept” of prayer is this: I must align myself with God’s will. Doing so, I have confidence in the effectiveness of prayer.

To conclude “Back to Basics,” we’ll turn our attention to the ministry of evangelism; the task of sharing the gospel. We’ve heard for years that “success in witnessing is simply sharing the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.” God does the “saving.” We do the “sharing.”

We have an exciting year in store. “All hands-on deck.”

Going back to the basics with you, Pastor John

Answer: Both “The A, B, C’s” and “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” use the same melody. More importantly, Mozart’s melody is the musical equivalent of Isaiah’s biblical teaching method: “...precept upon precept, line upon line....”

CBC 2018 REVIEW

If you were asked, “What did the people of Capital Baptist Church accomplish in 2018?” would you struggle to give an answer?

When my children were in grade school, I took a trip with my mom and sisters to Victoria, B.C. While there we visited the Provincial Museum. It’s a wonderful museum. Totally unaware of time passing until we all started getting hungry, we spent 6 hours exploring and left feeling that we had barely made a dent in all the museum had to offer.

A year or two later, Lonnie and I decided to go to Victoria with our children. I was excited to share this fascinating, interactive museum with them. They did *not* share my excitement! After little more than an hour, they were bored and ready to leave.

I share this story to illustrate an Audrey Hepburn quote. She said, “Living is like tearing through a museum... you really can’t take everything in. Remembering helps us absorb the scope of what we saw, thought and accomplished.”

Just thinking about everything on our plate for the coming year can be overwhelming. Perhaps remembering what we accomplished **together** last year will help strengthen us for the year ahead.

January: After several failed attempts to update the Operations Manual to more accurately reflect current procedures, a Document Revision Committee was formed. Five months later they presented proposed changes that were approved in July.

February: Women’s Ministries had a very successful Women’s Retreat, the security and fire alarm system was upgraded to meet city codes, and \$255.25 was given to further the Gideon’s ministry of sharing God’s Word.

March/April: Capital gave \$1,815 to help fund Micah Sharp’s mission trip to the Middle East, and \$2,167 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

The 2018 Deacon election process, which began in March, resulted in the addition of Bob McElvany and Randy Tucker to the Deacon body, and in April Capital paid ABM Construction to paint the Worship Center.

May/June: Capital gave \$804.16 to Hope Pregnancy Clinic’s annual fundraiser to fund ultrasounds to “help those dealing with an unplanned pregnancy choose life”.

June/July: Capital generously donated dozens of craft and snack supplies for Capital Bible Camp; along with that 15 volunteers put in long hours before and during Bible Camp so that 53 children could hear about Jesus and His love for them.

August: Capital's Big Give demonstrated God's love to more than 62 households and provided backpacks and school supplies for 80 students at Washington Elementary. That same month Capital called a new Associate Pastor.

September/October: Capital gave \$1,691 to the NW Impact Offering, purchased a "new" church bus, and at the annual Trunk or Treat, hosted more than 200 neighborhood children and their parents.

November/December: This period began with the Men's Chili Cook-Off, included the dedication of 99 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan Purse estimated value \$4,356), and ended with Lottie Moon gifts totaling \$2,321 (as of 12/26).

Over the course of the year, \$3,391.69 in benevolence funds were distributed, \$875 was given to Disaster Relief, \$470 in personal care and grocery items were given to Simonka Place, and \$180 was sent to the Salvation Army's Samaritan Services, which meets emergency needs. And between January and November of this year, Capital gave \$21,041.95 to the Cooperative Program.

Capital's Small Groups gave more than \$1,200 for Washington Elementary, and helped organize 10 monthly reunion meals for senior adults previously served by the NWSDS meal site.

In addition to Small Groups, some Sunday School classes have ministries. The one example I can share is the Adult 4 Sunday School class annual Christmas food drive. This year we collected 140 pounds of food for Food Share.

Few things are more time consuming than the maintenance of Capital's buildings and grounds. The first weekend in November folks from Capital and Comunidad spent a large part of their Saturday removing 3 dead trees, trimming bushes and doing other maintenance. But that's nothing compared to the estimated 25 hours a month volunteers invest year-round to keep lawns mowed, weeds pulled, plants watered, lights and plumbing working, and technology up-to-date and operational in both the office and the sound booth.

So that's my short list of the things we accomplished together in the past 12 months. It does not include time invested by leaders and teachers, youth workers, and nursery volunteers. It doesn't include budget giving that pays salaries, insurance, keeps the heat and lights on, purchases office supplies and Sunday School literature and keeps the bus ministry functioning.

Thank you volunteers and givers... and now doesn't 2019 sound like a piece of cake?



FIRING STORIES

Most adults have had careers of one kind or another. Some of us are happily retired and glad we don't have to go to a job five days a week. Others of us are still working at jobs that help pay the house payments and provide food for our families.

Few at my age are still working, but I am and happy to be doing what I do — teaching as an adjunct professor at Corban University, where I am the matriarch — the oldest person on staff.

I've written about some of my other teaching jobs, but this month I'm writing about jobs from which I was fired. I'm almost proud of one of the firings, and I know the other was unfair.

But, once again, I'm able to see how God worked through both of these job losses, making things better in spite of my anguish.

FIRING #1: I was several months pregnant with our son Kevin (who has been in heaven for eight years now) and working as a teller at a Bank of America. Earl was taking classes at Cal Baptist and caring for our daughter Kathy, who was about 2.

Out of the blue, the manager called me to his desk at the end of the day and told me I was fired. "Being unfriendly with the customers" was his reason. I believe it was due to the fact that I was the first of a small crew of tellers to be pregnant; several other ladies on the staff had joined me; perhaps he blamed me for spreading the "problem."

When Earl picked me up after work, I was in tears. "I got fired!" I cried.

Earl tried to cheer me up: "I was fired once," he said. That was no consolation.

My fear, as I recall, was this: "Whenever I apply for a job, they'll want to know if I was ever fired, and I'll have to admit the crime." (I've had numerous jobs since, and no one ever asked if I'd been fired.)

The good that came from that was this: a family in our church had a furniture making business, and they gave Earl a job working there. I was able to stay home and care for Kathy and be a housewife.

FIRING #2: The year was 2001. I had taught at Camarillo High School in Southern California for 15 years, and I was set to retire the next year. The last day of the school year, the principal called me to his office.

"I'm firing you from being the newspaper advisor," he said. "You have allowed too many problems with the school's newspaper."

Why was I fired? Here is a brief synopsis:

A) In 2000 our neighboring/rival high school's principal had illegally censored his school's newspaper. (They had written articles about teen mothers, and the principal had told them they couldn't print them.) In California then, and in Oregon now, high school journalists are protected by a code that says only material that is "libelous, obscene, slanderous or incites students to present a clear and present danger" can be censored.

Our editor wrote a front-page story about the other principal's illegal censorship, and we printed the article the other school wasn't allowed to print. Both my editor, Nick, and I were in trouble: Nick said he was called to the principal's office more than "the hoodlums on campus." That year Nick won the Student Press Law Center's high school editor of the year for his work.

I was in trouble with the superintendent and others over this, but we plugged on. The next year, my editors wanted to do something sensational "like Nick."

B) One of the five schools in the district had had a “suicide by cop” incident: an armed young man had come onto their campus and held a gun to a young girl’s head. The police shot and killed him.

So my editors decided this is what they would do: they would tour the other high schools and take photos of the “holes” on campus, areas that were not well protected.

And they did. The front-page story (with photos) showed the holes on the other campuses. While the other principals could have said, “Oh, my! We have holes on our campuses. We better fix those problems,” that is not what they did. Instead, they attacked my principal and said, “Get that woman out of there!”

This was two years in a row that Camarillo’s newspaper had drawn negative attention from the superintendent and the other principals.

So...what were the blessings of this firing?

1) The editor who wrote about the holes on the other campuses won the LA Times first place award for his front-page story and \$500. After being “punished” by our principal because he had skipped class to check out the other schools, he served Saturday detention and wrote a column about the situation. That earned him another first place from the LA Times and another \$500.

2) During my last year before retirement, I mentored the new newspaper adviser, who was finishing a program with Cal State Northridge. One of the education professors there knew me and knew I was mentoring the new adviser. “Ellen, we need to pay you for mentoring the new adviser,” she said. And they did. With that money, I was able to buy my first laptop computer.

3) My story of being fired was printed in the Student Press Law Center’s publication and in other publications since then. Education codes in many of our states protect student journalists, but they don’t protect advisers. My story is one of many that could be told.