

connect

a quarterly publication of berean christian church ~ connecting with God, church and community Summer 2019



May His name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. ~ Psalm 72:17

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The Elders Perspective

Facts ...Faith ...Feelings

by paul hines

Have you ever wondered why your faith seems to be strong at times and at other times it seems to be weak? Have you wondered how you could increase your faith? Have you ever wondered why your feelings are so changeable? Have you wondered what you could do about your feelings? These are questions that we all have at one time or another. Let's look at one of the most important principles in the Christian life – the principle of facts, faith and feelings.

These words stand for three aspects of the Christian life that are vital. It is important to understand them. It is even more important that we get them in the right order and keep them there. God's order is: Facts, Faith, and Feelings. Facts form the foundation; faith rests on facts; and feelings come last.

For most people, feelings are the guiding factor in life. If they feel something, they think it is real. If they do not feel anything, they think it is not real. But this is not according to God's order. Others try to put faith first. They think that if they have enough "faith", they can make anything come true. But this is not God's way either. God wants us to have faith, but our faith must rest on His Word; otherwise it is of no value.

God's order is always the same: (1) Facts, (2) Faith, (3) Feelings. We are going to consider each of these three aspects so we can better understand how they affect our lives.

A fact is something that is true. For example, two plus two equals four. Keep this firmly fixed in our mind—facts are always true. We may not believe it, but it is still true. We may not feel it is true, but it is still true. For example, we know that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again to be our living Savior. We know this is true because God's Word says so. A person may or may not believe it, but it is still true. God's facts are always true.

Faith is used in the Bible 239 times! This shows us the importance God places on faith. What is faith? Faith is taking God at His Word and acting on it.

GOD SAID IT...I BELIEVE IT...THAT SETTLES IT!

The Bible makes it clear that all the blessings of God come to us by faith: "Without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6. As important as faith is, it cannot stand alone. It must rest on something, and that "something" must be true. This is why our faith must always rest on God's Word.

Faith deals with things that are real but unseen. We cannot see God, but by faith we know that God is real. We cannot see Heaven, but by faith we know that there is a real place called Heaven. Hebrews 11:1 says: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." We must understand this: our faith in God's facts make them real in our experience. The Bible contains many wonderful promises of God. But they do not become ours until we claim them and make them ours by believing in God's Word.

As I said before, it is a great fact that Jesus Christ died for our sins. God promises eternal life to all who believe in Him. But Christ does not become our Savior until we exercise faith in Him.

When we believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and we take Him as our Savior, we experience salvation. Faith and Christ makes God's salvation real in our experience. We can then say, "I am saved!" Faith believes God. Faith and obedience go together. True faith always results in obedience. Believers are obeyers! To say that we believe something and yet not act on it is not faith. True faith believes God and it obeys God. Faith that does not obey God is not living faith. The Bible says, "...faith without works is dead." James 2:20.

We may say, "I would like to have more faith. What can I do to increase my faith?" Faith grows by constant, careful attention to God's exact statements of fact in His Word. A great man of God, D. L. Moody, prayed and prayed to God to give him more faith. But his faith did not seem to increase. Then one day he read this verse: "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God". Romans 10:17. In a flash Moody saw it -

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Roughin' It

A GUYS GUIDE

by Chris Grode

I was asked to write an article for our Connect. Sure, I thought. Couldn't be too hard. They then told me this article would be the "Roughin' It" article. My puzzled look to this statement prompted a slightly better explanation. They said it's a man's article for the men of the church. Oh, I thought...as opposed to a man's article for the ladies. Never knowing a challenge I couldn't figure out, I said, "No problem. Consider it written".

So here I sit. In my airconditioned room, nice and dry - compared to the rain currently falling outside. I'm particularly ready to write up something good because I just finished quite a nice nap. Honestly however, I'm wondering if the lumbar support in my chair is set right. It's a little uncomfortable. This may not be as easy as I thought. Certainly, stringing together enough words on my laptop to count as an article can't be too hard...Roughing it-what does that even mean?

My first thought was camping. I've camped. Ben Campos has seen me out in the wild, with my boys during cub scout outings, living off the land - which really meant pulling store bought meats out of my ice chest to cook on my little camp stove. But there definitely wasn't any dishwasher to clean up those paper plates we used. So... there could have been some real work. That definitely could have been rough. But, in actuality it was rather peaceful. And if anyone here wants some good camping equipment to experience this level of peace, I could probably hook you up cheap. Camping isn't really my thing, so I don't think the article will be about that.

Guy stuff... My mind went to sports. I could write about that certainly... Ummm...

I then googled "Roughing It". I did not realize that Mark Twain published a book by this title in 1872 where he chronicled his travels through the Wild West. He told of his early adventures including such things as gold and silver prospecting as well as real estate speculations. These experiences, along with his writing about them,

started his path to become the future author that made him famous. His early life was hard which gave him much to write about. My life isn't like his. Almost everything you need at a touch of a button. My wife and I actually drove to the Carbondale Kroger once to pick up the groceries she ordered online. They substituted too many items so I don't think we still shop that way, but I don't know because she really takes care of all that. But I digress, this is supposed to be an article about roughing it.

The comparison of Mark Twain's life and mine did get me thinking however. Mark Twain's life wasn't as hard as it could have been. Every generation life gets easier. In fact, I bet if Mark Twain compared his life to that of someone living a hundred years before him, he would

be thankful for the modern advances he got to enjoy. Life is like that. Each generation makes advances. Some of these changes are smaller than others. I got to live in the age of computers.

Talk about change. I went from watching my older sister type her papers on actual paper to my typing words on a screen so I could print them out, once edited, onto paper.

And now I see my children type words on a screen and share this electronic document for teachers to type their comments directly into the document - no paper necessary. These are small changes. My sister, myself, and even my children had to still write the papers. The need to write remained the same and it was simply the method of turning it in to be graded that changed. Technology certainly made collecting information and writing the papers easier however. I remember looking through actual brown books titled "Encyclopedia Britannica" so I could copy by hand what is written onto cards that would be put into my outline so I could write my essay. Today this process includes having multiple tabs open in Chrome while cutting and pasting information with clicks of a mouse directly into the document that can be edited on the fly. That made things much easier and not so rough.

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**ROUGHIN IT
DEFINED?**

The Prayer Corner

By Stacy Humphrey

You are probably not familiar with the name Epaphras. Paul mentions him in Colossians 4:12—"He (Epaphras) is always wrestling (laboring) in prayer for you, that you will stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. I can vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for all those at Laodicea and Hierapolis." I know many of you work very hard in and for the Church. Yet sometimes I think we miss the need for the labor of prayer. Prayer does not make us ready to do great works. Prayer is the great work!

This week I am working to come up with ideas for VBS crafts. You know...things I won't throw away as soon as my children are distracted! I have given much time and energy to this. But I don't think I have prayed once for VBS. It is so easy to get caught up in the physical need of the the work of the Church. Because these are actual needs—someone needs to mow the grass, clean the bathrooms, get the coffee ready, make sure the sound system works, prepare a lesson for the kids...Yet when this is the focus of our work alone, we forget that our work is not physical.

Doing the physical work just seems to make more sense. We can see those results, others can see the result of our labor, we know we have done what was needed. Oh, how we need to view the work of prayer this way! It is spiritual, it takes our eyes off the physical and makes us look to God. Prayer hands all power back to God. Prayer shows Him and us we believe He can do what He says.

We enter the Holy of Holies with Him, we offer our sacrifice, we acknowledge God alone is able to save, heal, grow, and deliver others. We are reminded that our wrestling (laboring) is never physical, not against flesh and blood. We are convicted of our sin, and forgiven. We surrender control, we grow in faith and trust. He strengthens us through His love. Prayer is our great labor, our great work.

Live a Life of Prayer and Praises



Remember your commitment to pray for the church for at least two minutes each day for the following:

Pray for the relationship of the Body to God: that we would seek God first and grow in our love, our relationship and commitment to Him

Pray for our relationship to one another: that we would love one another always.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 4 :6-7

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Roughin' It

I don't know if I can write an article about Roughing It. I am too blessed. Sure, life isn't always easy and things don't always go the way I want, but at the end of the day I get what I need. We can look at the glass half empty or half full. And depending on the day I can see it both ways. But no matter if I am down in the dumps and feeling like my glass needs a little more or if I am feeling good and am thankful for what is in my glass, I always try to understand what I need to do to change the size of the glass. To me being a Christian is about

A GUYS GUIDE

trying to find the right perspective. It's about changing our mindset so we can be thankful for what we have or careful with what we have left. Yes, as a Christian you should behave according to your faith. But you first need faith which is a trust that you have what you are supposed to have or have been given it for a deeper lesson in life. Yes, it's not easy... But I would gladly lean on my faith rather than follow all the laws of the old testament. Now that would really be "Roughin It".

Continued from Page 4

The Elders Perspective

faith comes from the Word of God. He began to study God's Word. He studied it carefully each day to see exactly what God was saying in His Word. He believed it and he applied it in his life. The result was that his faith grew and grew.

Feelings are emotions such as joy, sorrow, happiness, and sadness. We should understand that feelings are quite different from facts in that facts never change, while our feelings are almost always changing. The state of our health affects our feelings, our relationships with other people affect our feelings and even a change in the weather can affect our feelings.

One day you may be full of joy. The next day, for no apparent reason, you may be sad and depressed. The important thing to remember about feelings is this: feelings are very changeable. For this reason, we should never try to rest our faith on our feelings. No matter how much our feelings may change, they do not affect facts. Facts are always true, and they are true regardless of our feelings. In living the Christian life, we are not to be overly concerned with our feelings. We are not saved by our feelings and we do not live the Christian life by our feelings. We live it by faith in God's Word. If we have enjoyable feelings, we thank God; if not, we go right on believing and obeying God. Faith in God's facts is the way to a happy and blessed life.

God's order is always: (1) Facts, (2) Faith, and (3) Feelings. Facts form the foundation; faith rests on facts; feelings come last.

WOMEN OF JOY
MercyMe
IN CONCERT



DEEPLY ROOTED
THE WOMEN OF JOY 2019 TOUR

THE DEEPER
THE ROOTS,
THE DEEPER
THE LOVE,
THE DEEPER
THE WALK.

AUGUST 16-17,
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE

Conference fees include one night of lodging:

2 persons per room: \$229.00 each

3 persons per room: \$199.00 each

4 persons per room: \$179.00 each

For more information or to sign up contact
Shelly Ward or Lisa Grode

Upcoming Events!

YES!! IT'S VBS TIME...



Join us for the Incredible Race!

June 17th-21st
9:00 am to
11:30 am

Berean Christian Church
1530 Illinois Ave.
Call 684-6601 to
pre-register

A race. But not just any race. A race filled with fun clues to find. A race loaded with interesting challenges to attempt. A race around the world that's a global scavenger hunt like you've never seen.

At the same time, it's about another race. A race that began at the garden of Eden and continues until this day. A race made up of all people from all time. What race? The human race.

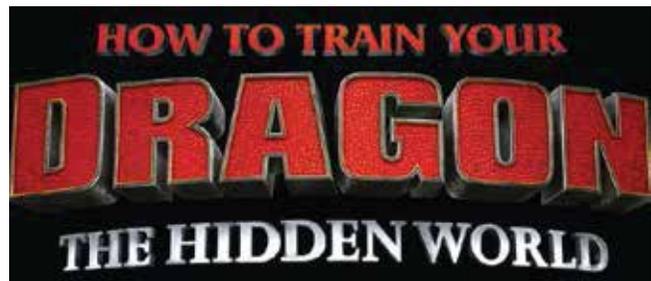
As we move from continent to continent in the "Incredible Race" from Answers VBS, we'll make stops at various times before, at, and after the hugely important tower of Babel incident and see how it matters greatly today.

You don't want to miss this adventure! Watch for registration opportunities!



Come Join the Fun!

Featuring



Date: June 28th

Time: 8:30 pm

Location: Berean Christian Church

1530 Illinois Ave., Murphysboro

Corner of Illinois and 16th Streets

Other Information: Please bring

blankets or lawn chairs

Free popcorn!!



Journey of Joy

"In the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy" Psalm 63:7

by shelly ward

Welcome to Journey of Joy, a new Connect Magazine article written especially for us, Ladies! The purpose? To discover ways to walk along this Christian journey with a bounce in our step, a smile on our face and joy in our hearts! If you would like to or feel led to write an article, please let me know! I do not consider myself an article writer but since this was my conception.....here goes.

Do you find that you compare yourself to other women and come up short? Whether it's spiritual things like talents, gifts, biblical knowledge or physical things like eye color, weight, style, this is something that we all tend to struggle with. As for myself, I'm pretty sure that Amy Grant got the voice that I was supposed to have!

Constantly comparing ourselves to someone else is a bad habit that leaves us feeling inadequate and discontent. God assures us in Psalms 139 that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" and Ephesians 2:10 says that we are "His workmanship"! Consider for a moment God's creation: the same God who put together the entire universe molded you together in exactly the way He wanted you to be! There were no mistakes and no caveats, you were created by His hands and for His purpose so celebrate your differences from those around you rather than lament what you are NOT.

So, what then? We are all born and grow up perfect? Obviously not! God has given us the choice to believe in Him, to follow His ways, to be the person He intended us to be. As Romans 3 says, "we all fall short of the glory of God". Not doing the things of God and making poor choices changes the course we are on. As we return to the righteous path that God desires for us and we compare ourselves to those around us who are walking strongly in the light and in faith, we feel inadequate, guilty. In 1 John 1:9 we see that: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

You are forgiven, so forgive yourselves! Having stepped back onto the path of faith, rejoice in that you have a new day to become all that God wants you to be! Enjoy the ride, so to speak, as God brings you closer to that perfection we are called to in Matthew 5! Shed the guilt like dirt washed off in the shower and, "lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth", Ephesians 4:22-24.

Great, we are firmly established now in the thought that we are exactly who God created us to be...but you might be asking, what do we do with all these weaknesses and the pain that comes from living in this broken world? 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 says: "but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong...so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God."

God does not desire us to stand in our strengths but to allow Him to work through those weaknesses and pain to further establish His perfect sovereignty. Ladies, be courageous! Step out in faith, not personal strength or ability, and allow God to use your weaknesses to reach the lost. Let God help you through the pain and then use it to show His love to those around you. When He works through our weaknesses, He receives the glory and not us!

To recap...let's be courageous in weakness, ask for and accept the forgiveness God offers, walking free of guilt and remember that God has created you by His hands and for His purpose!

Celebrate life, ladies...enjoy a bounce in your step, keep that smile on your face and rejoice in your hearts for you are children of God!

Mission Update

Go therefore and make disciples ...

At Berean our Missions Ministry Team looks for opportunities to support missions throughout the world, the Southern Illinois Christian Service Camp in West Frankfort is an example of a regional organization we support. Here is an overview of their mission.

Southern Illinois Christian Service Camp is a Christian campground supported by roughly 40 Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ in our region, from Mount Vernon down to the Paducah area. We are located on the edge of West Frankfort, Illinois and have been here since 1951. Our association was founded in the 1930's, and held camps near the Dixon Springs area until settling in our current location.

Our main purpose is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our summer programs and offer a Christ-focused facility for use in Southern Illinois. Our summer programs begin in June and typically run through the

first week of August. We also look to support the area youth with a few events throughout the year. Additionally, we offer our grounds for rental on a building by building basis. We are a Christian organization that centers around the person of Jesus Christ and the truth found in the Bible.

Our website includes all the information necessary for our summer programs including event dates, registration information, camp rules and forms. We offer information about our facilities and rentals for you to consider for your event. We also provide other ways to keep in contact with camp as well and current camp news. And finally, we offer information and ways that you can support the camp physically, financially, and by partnering in prayer with our ministry. Camp is supported primarily by the generous gifts and time of many volunteers. We hope you will visit us soon and become a part of the S.I.C.S.C. family! Here are the 2019 Summer Camp dates:

Camp Schedule

EVENT	FALL '19 GRADE	FEE	DATE	DEAN
Middlers I	3-4	\$90.00	June 2-6	Shayne Howell
Day Camp	K-1	\$30.00	June 7	Katie Hastie
High School	9-12	\$150.00	June 9-14	Andrew Hastie
Intermediate	5-6	\$120.00	June 16-20	Adam King
Junior High I	7-8	\$150.00	June 23-28	Matt Porritt
Middlers II	3-4	\$90.00	July 7-10	Tim Uhls
First Chance	2	\$60.00	July 10-12	TBD
High School II	9-12	\$150.00	July 14-19	Drew Robison
Intermediate II	5-6	\$120.00	July 21-25	Bryce Pitlick
Junior High II	7-8	\$150.00	July 28-Aug 2	Darren Periman

The Real Game of Thrones

By Troy Humphrey



About Troy

Do you hear that? What is God calling you to do? Since coming to Berean in October 2008, Stacy and I have enjoyed seeing our older sons marry, the birth of three grandchildren and the addition of what we affectionately call our 'B' team.

God placed the call on our lives to become foster/adoptive parents. With the much needed support of our family at Berean, we have added six to our number, making us busy, fulfilled and tired!

As believers, God calls all of us to do something!

On April 17, 2011 HBO premiered the medieval other-worldly series 'Game of Thrones'. Based on George R.R. Martin's best-selling book series "A Song of Ice and Fire"; its last episode aired this week after eight seasons. It chronicles seven kingdoms and their embroiled struggle to survive.

As Jace Lacob writes: "Game of Thrones is a political potboiler crossed with the essence of medieval legend, as ambitious and power-hungry lords and ladies vie for the throne, unleashing a violent and dangerous game that threatens the tenuous peace of this feudal society.

The world of Martin's novels, which contain maps, character lineages, and a slew of appendices to keep readers on the right path; is a complicated one, containing separate and sometimes interconnected storylines, told from varying perspectives, that reward paying strict attention."

Based on reviews, its content is violent, seductive and crass. With that being said, there is some great spiritual application—the prevalence of evil, the concept of many gods versus one God, the tenacity of the human condition, the unexpected goodness of mankind.

The television show isn't what this article is about, it's the title. Because like the series, our lives are a 'game of thrones', but it's no game! The Old Testament was an extensive history of God's people under the rule of earthly kings. This telling of 'throne rule' isn't shaded, distorted or watered down. It chronicles kings, mostly bad, but a few godly; some ruthless, others kind. What's interesting is there's one other place with a lot of 'throne talk' and it isn't in the Old Testament! The book of Revelation, has some revealing truths for us.

Revelation 4:2-10--Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. Revelation 5:1--I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. Revelation 6:16--and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

Revelation 7:10-11--and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, Revelation 8:3--Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.

Revelation 19:4--And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen Hallelujah!" Revelation 20:11-12 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. Revelation 21:5--And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new " And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

Who is on the throne of your life?

Berean Information

a quarterly publication of berean christian church ~ connecting with God, church and community

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Elders

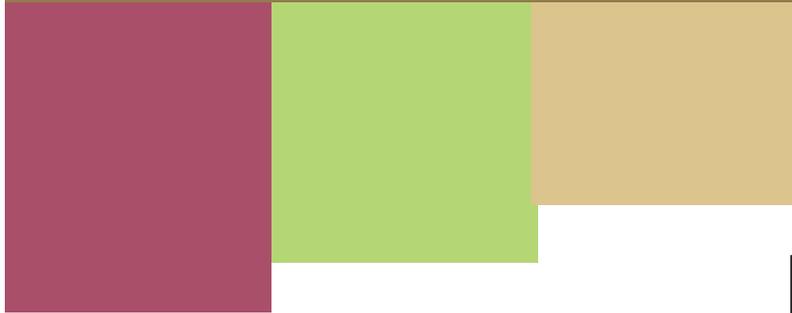
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9:30 - Noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday



berean
christian church

At Berean, we hope that as a member, regular attendee or as a visitor that you feel closer to God through our worship services, ministry opportunities and fellowship.

Our goal is to connect with God, with each other and with our community.

If you ever have any questions about connecting or how to take part in any of the ministry teams please contact the friendly church staff, the elders or a member.

The Berean Christian Church - Connect

Editor - Shelly Ward
Layout - Russ Ward

The Berean Christian Church - Connect is a quarterly magazine produced, edited and published by the staff and volunteers of Berean Christian Church.

Feature and articles are completed by staff members, current members or attendees of Berean Christian Church and all articles published or photographs used in the creation of this publication are for the use of Berean Christian Church only.

If you have any questions, comments or wish to submit an article for consideration, regarding Connect please write to Berean Christian Church - PO Box 492 Murphysboro, Illinois 62966.

What's New at Berean?

THE GIFT OF AIR CONDITIONING!



Could someone please turn on the air conditioning ~ my face is melting.

God's timing is always perfect! In what can only be called a convergence of blessings from multiple places, the HVAC units in the kitchen and offices have been replaced just in time for Summer and VBS!

Megan Austin started us off on this project by applying for a grant from the Oldham Little Church Foundation out of Houston, Texas. This was quite the process with multiple steps involved which resulted in a \$9,000 grant for HVAC improvements.

Additionally, at Christmas time we took up a special offering for this work and you came through in a big way! We collected just under \$4,000. Thanks to all of you who gave so willingly.

Finally, let's give a shout out to PASS Heating and A/C out of Herrin for providing one furnace unit for the offices at no charge and giving us an additional discount of \$2,700!

I'm sure you will agree (if not now, in June) that the result is heavenly cool air!

Again, a big thank you to all who made this recent part of the Fresh Start campaign a reality!

Hand-Me-Downs Anyone?

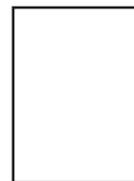


"If it's not wearable, it's not shareable!"

Lisa Kirby is working in conjunction with Victory Christian Fellowship church to provide used clothing to those in need in our community. She will be collecting clean clothing in good shape here at Berean and taking it to the "store" at the Victory Christian Fellowship facility.

Donations should be brought to Berean and placed in the container provided. The container is located in a classroom in the back of the church. Look for the sign on the classroom door!

Lisa says, "Please remember.... if it's not wearable it's not shareable!" She also would like to say a big thank you for helping out with this new ministry!



www.bereanconnect.com

berean christian church is located at the corner of illinois ave. and 16th st. in murphysboro. come connect with us.



& Holding

fun, food, fellowship

June 15th, 2019
The Blue Boar
Meet at Berean 11:00 am

Join the "senior" crowd for fun, fellowship and great food!