



The Beacon

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL'S VERY OWN BIMONTHLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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The Turley Legacy

By Rene Castillero

Some of us have a variety of books sitting on our desks or collecting dust on some bookshelf. Most of your books are probably reasonably insignificant objects after reading them once or twice and are just quietly stacked side by side on a shelf. One of the most common books found in most Christian homes is the Holy Bible. Most people possess their own personal Bible, which is rarely treated as well as a book should be.



Besides your own Bible, your family may have one too. Your family Bible may be as old as your parents have been married, but in some circumstances a Bible can be quite the treasure. You may have noticed a fairly massive run-down book located in Ms. Krohe's room. Even I at first, perhaps, was a little too quick to underestimate the true significance to the Turley family's Bible. The Bible has been passed

down throughout the years in the Turley family, this is Ms. Krohe's grandmother's maiden name.

After turning the cover, a colorful page displayed some information that gives an estimated date when this particular Bible was presented to its first owner. The first page gave the name of its caretaker in a barely legible, yet beautiful, old English font. It was presented to Mrs. Maggie Turley, by her husband. Unfortunately, the date when the gift was presented is unknown because in the space given to place the date was not filled in. Our only clue to hint the date is the blank to fill in the year was followed by "18" (ex. 18_ _), showing that it was given in the 1800's. Secondly, the Bible itself was copyrighted in 1881, obviously it couldn't have been given to Turley prior to this time. Judging by the copyright date and how close it is to Turley's marriage in 1878, perhaps it was an anniversary gift.

The Turley Bible is very unique. The book is quite massive and appears to have been used quite often but probably wasn't nearly as easy to carry around as our personal Bibles today. Other than the normal Bible content with all the scriptures, this Bible is filled with many more surprises. It is packed from cover to cover with illustrations, definitions, footnotes, passage explanations, and so much more! The greatest treasure within this Bible, however, isn't only in the bindings but rather what was slipped in between the pages. The Turley decedents have placed various articles from newspapers and magazines randomly in the Bible. Newspaper articles ranged from obituaries, death notes, murders, marriage invitations, and even car accidents dating back to the early 1900's. Also found within the old pages were marriage certificates giving dates and legal documentation for past marriages within the family. Maggie Turley's marriage certificate can be found within the early chapters of the book. Not only was this Bible for scripture, but also a record of activities during the time of the Turley family.

Currently, the Turley Family Bible is in the care of our own Megan Krohe who treasures the book, proud to carry on the Turley tradition. You may still see the book in her classroom; I highly doubt she has taken it home yet and would highly suggest you take a glance through the historical pages.

Resolutions of 2009

By Paul Duda

Everyone has a New Year's resolution. During December of 2008 many began to think of the new year. They all thought of what to change about themselves for the new year and they hoped to keep it. People looked at the new year as a new beginning. Many believed that they could make themselves better in some way. Some of the most popular New Year's resolutions are losing weight and spending more time with family. Only 35% of people, however, stay with their New Year's resolutions. Most people forget about their resolutions within the first month or so. Here are the top ten New Year's resolutions of 2009:



1. Stop smoking

2. Get Fit
3. Lose Weight
4. Enjoy Life More
5. Quit Drinking
6. Get Organized
7. Learn Something New
8. Get Out of Debt
9. Spend more time with the Family
10. Help Others

The biggest problem with these is keeping the New Year's resolution. How can you keep It? Here are some ways to commit to your resolution. First of all, write it down; this is the best way to success. Commit to what you are striving for, and just don't give it up after a week. Tell your friends about your resolution, so they can help you commit to it. A person cannot commit or fulfill their resolution without the help of friends or family. That is one of the main reasons why resolutions are often dropped; many try to do it all by themselves. My New Year's resolution was to not get so angry at people when they do something stupid or immature. I have not kept this resolution, because some people need to be told when they are doing something wrong. Maybe I will try to follow these helpful hints too!

Keeping Your Hands to Yourself

By Curt Grimes

What do you think of when you hear the words "physical contact?" I think of sports. I see players checking each other full-force in ice hockey. For some reason I'm also reminded of the Pacers-Pistons brawl back in 2004, when angry players went after fans in chaos. Daily school life also comes to mind. I see constant hugging, arms around waists, and cuddling. There is generally just touching where it doesn't belong. This constant physical contact, harmless or sincere, is inappropriate in a school setting such as ours.

I think it's interesting that we seemed to have broken a taboo: keeping physical intimacy something that is intimate. We've turned it into a public thing, and everyone's okay with it now. Everyone is so used to hugging now that it isn't a big deal. Hugging doesn't mean anything special anymore. That's a problem.

I am not innocent of doing this either. I would like to make that clear. I'm certainly not against physical contact, but I am trying to show what problems to

may arise when we get used to constant contact in a public setting.

Hugging is a sign of intimacy. Two people hug to show affection or comfort each other. If you're hugging someone that you aren't in a relationship with, step back a moment and think about why you are making this physical contact. Are you occasionally comforting each other in a time of need? That's okay. But if you're not, question why you're making physical contact. If you're making constant physical contact with affection toward one another, this contact could not only be inappropriate, but also sinful. God designed physical intimacy to be special and completely appropriate within a marriage. "Marriage should be honored

by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral" (Hebrews 13:4). When casual physical intimacy is present outside of relationships, it loses its meaning. Suddenly, it's no big deal anymore. If physical intimacy were to be saved for only when you were in a relationship with



Football and ice hockey are full-contact sports. High school life is not.

someone, imagine just how much more special it would become, and how much more special that relationship would be.

But what if you are already in a relationship with this person? The casual, constant, public physical intimacy in the school setting is still inappropriate. Do you seriously have to reaffirm your relationship with your boyfriend or girlfriend between every single class through a hug? To some,

it may look like you both are saying, "Look at us! We're in a relationship!" The other person already knows you like them. Everyone goes through troubling times, but perhaps you can try speaking your thoughts to each other, using words. What an idea!

Keeping constant contact to a minimum not only keeps your thoughts pure, but other people's thoughts pure as well. When people are physically intimate during school, it's really easy for someone to see this and think, "I want that." That constant contact can easily make others feel jealous or lonely. You may also be sending the message that you're not interested in anyone else around you, instilling anger in their hearts. God asks us to keep our thoughts pure.

Physical intimacy needs to be kept intimate. The occasional hug is fine; constant cuddling is not.

Tempting Power: The Politicians Fault

By Taylor Wright

With an impeachment trial in progress, a questionable Senate seat, and a new president from our very own Chicago, even as politically clueless teenagers, the recent news coverage on these situations has kept us informed and involved. Even at the dawning of a new year, it has already been an eventful one in Illinois' history. Infamous for its crooked politics, our state has been jokingly referred to as the most corrupt state in the U.S. But just how does the number of our crooked politicians compare to the rest of the country? According to the Corporate Crime Reporter, between 1997 and 2006,

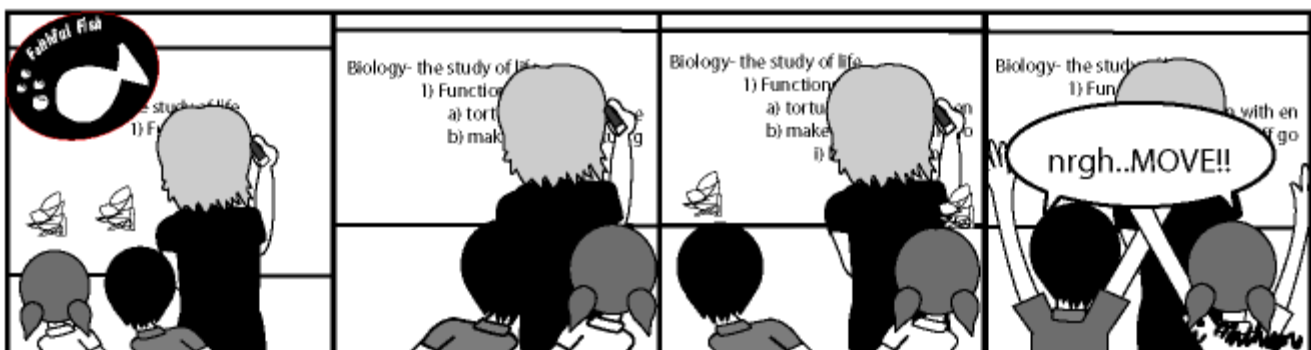
Louisiana ranked number 1 with 326 federal convictions of political representatives. Although Illinois still won for most overall federal convictions (with 524), Louisiana took number one, because of Illinois' larger population. According to political scientists at the University of Chicago, since 1971 alone, more than 1,000 Illinois politicians and business people have been charged with federal corruption cases. Not all have been caught, however. Take for example the Secretary of State in the 1960's, Paul Powell's scheme was not discovered

until after his death. While cleaning out the Springfield hotel room where he lived, \$800,000 in cash was found stashed in shoe boxes. The money, all in small bills, had been collected from people ensuring they would pass their driving tests. Not only that, but of those 1000 recently convicted politicians, "an astonishing 30 were Chicago aldermen; that's around 20 percent of those elected to the City Council during that period (Weisberg)." Now, perhaps even more absurd, our Governor has been recorded trying to sell President Obama's former senate

seat! If Governor Blagojevich is convicted and sent to prison, he will become the fourth of the last eight Illinois governors to spend time in the penitentiary for the crimes committed while in office. George Ryan, the prior governor, was convicted for racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction. Not long before Ryan, Dan Walker was convicted of bank fraud, and Otto Kerner for straight-up bribery. Based on these few facts alone, an obvious grade school lesson comes to mind, "Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it."

Faithful Fish

By Kerri Mathiesen



Hot Topics

By Taylor Wright



You can't see it but everyone has felt its sting. Its cold lingers long after it has gone, and it has been around as long as humanity. What is it?

The winter wind... good guess but no. It's Gossip.

No matter if you have been hurt directly by it or hurt others with it, everyone's lives have been affected by it in some way.

Maybe it was something you let slip accidentally, that a friend told you in confidence, or maybe you were just passing along someone else's "Have you heard the latest word?"

Whatever the case may be, you saw the devastating effects gossip can have on friends, relationships, and reputations. Proverbs 26:22 says "The words of gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts." Contrary to the common phrase "Sticks and stones can break my bones but words will never hurt me," the bible explains just how deep a harsh word can hurt. Regardless of apologies and feelings of remorse, once something is said it cannot be taken back or quickly remedied. In a recent devotion the Journalism class read, Amber Morris told a story about a man who had spread a false rumor about his pastor. When asked for his forgiveness, the pastor agreed with one condition. The man was to climb up to the top of the church steeple with a pillow, "rip open the pillow, and let the feathers fly." Although confused, the man complied. After completing the task, he came back to the pastor and asked if he was ready to forgive him. "Certainly," said the pastor "but one more request. Gather up all the feathers you just let go."

Just as the task of recollecting all the wind-scattered feathers sounds virtually impossible, so is taking back all of the pain caused by even a few hurtful words. The next time you are tempted to spout off something nasty, or even a seemingly harmless bit of information, stop and think of this story. What you say, good or bad, cannot be taken back and, like the feathers, gossip can spread as far, as wide, and as swift as chatty mouths can carry them.

Talkin' 'bout Someone's Generation

By Curt Grimes



The average life expectancy for a man is 76 years and for a female 81 years. More and more people live past 100 today, though. Gertrude Baines from Los Angeles is currently the oldest person alive. She was born in 1894 and is 114 years old!

If you recall, in the first issue of *The Beacon*, we asked the freshman class how old they thought our principal, Mr. Schulze, was. On average, they guessed that he was 74 years old. Well, I'm here to finally report Mr. Schulze's actual, true-to-life age. But you'll have to keep reading to find that out.

I'm not picking on Mr. Schulze's age, though. There are plenty of benefits to being old.

- In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
- You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.

Source: http://www.emmitsburg.net/humor/archives/old_people/old_people_2.htm

On a more serious note, though, look at all the events today's 50-year-old has lived through. Many of these events have led to things that we use or remember every day.

- **1961:** Soviets put first man in space
- **1964:** The Beatles become popular with songs like "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "All my Loving"
- **1968:** Emergency 911 Telephone service begins in the US
- **1972:** First jumbo jet goes into service
- **1974:** Pocket calculators start to appear in shops
- **1976:** The United States celebrates 200th birthday of independence from British Rule
- **1980:** Mount St. Helens erupts in Washington, killing 57
- **1982:** First CD player sold in Japan
- **1984:** Apple releases the first successful personal computer, the Macintosh
- **1986:** Nicotine patch is invented by Frank Etscorn
- **1988:** A derivative of cocaine, the new drug crack appears and is increasingly found in US Cities
- **1990:** A gallon of gas costs \$1.34
- **1992:** Bill Clinton becomes U.S. president
- **1994:** World's first satellite digital television service launched
- **1996:** Europeans agree on a single currency, the Euro
- **2000:** A new millennium begins
- **2001:** Four commercial airliners are hijacked and crashed in an attack on America
- **2004:** Ken Jennings wins over 2.5 million dollars on Jeopardy!
- **2005:** Hurricane Katrina strikes the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama coastal areas
- **2007:** Apple Introduces the iPhone
- **2008:** Fidel Castro steps down as president of Cuba after almost 50 years in power

Source: <http://www.thepeoplehistory.com>

Look at this list, and just imagine what could happen during our own lives! Oh, and Mr. Schulze's real age? He says it's "none of your business!"

The title is a reference to the 1965 hit "My Generation" by The Who.

Stacking the Odds

By Rene Castellero

December 31st, 1944, Nazi troops protecting Hamburg, Germany, were witnesses to one of the most heroic flights of World War II. Some German soldiers even believed that this strange sight may have actually been a new Ally secret weapon: a massive eight engine double-decker bomber. This was no new war terror though, what the Germans and American soldiers both saw was the hybrid of two B-17s that collided and were stuck together.

Captain Glenn Rojohn was pilot of a B-17G Flying Fortress and stationed with the 8th Air Force's 100th Bomb Group. Their mission was an air raid over Hamburg, Germany, to drop payload and then turn 180 degrees to head out over the North Sea. At 22,000 feet, Captain Rojohn struggled to maintain control of his aircraft and stay in formation with the other B-17s. Rojohn and his crewmembers fought vigorously to fly while being battered endlessly by near misses of anti-aircraft flak and dodging the constant trailing by German fighter pilots. For Rojohn's craft, they were lucky thus far, but the plain in front was not as timely. The plane shook after the B-17 in front of Rojohn took a direct hit from flak and burst into flames plummeting to the city below. Acting instinctively, Rojohn increased his speed to fill the gap in the formation the fallen Fortress had created.

Upon filling the gap and returning to normal speed, a loud crash under the plane caused the plane to jump violently. After the jump, Rojohn felt the sensation that the plane had sporadically taken on a massive amount of weight and was causing it to lose altitude very quickly. As though a sign from God, Rojohn concluded that his plane had collided with another B-17 within it's bombing group. In the Fortress below him, Lieutenant William G. McNab had smashed the top of the fuselage of his plane into the bottom of Captain Rojohn's fuselage above him. Rojohn tried to gun his engines to free them, but the two planes were hopelessly intertwined. The tails of both planes were perfectly aligned and the top turret of McNab's B-17 smashed through the belly of Rojohn's plane complimented by Rojohn's belly turret shattering through the top of McNab's plane. A crewmember expressed the appearance of the two planes as "two mating dragonflies" (Bennet).

Despite the fact there were a total of seven out of eight propellers running (three on McNab's and all four on Rojohn's); the two intertwined planes were losing altitude. The fourth engine on McNab's plane burst into flames, and fire began to slowly consume the rest of the wing. Fearing fire, Rojohn cut the engines on his plane and rang the bailout bell while desperately trying to maintain control of the flight. All the crew members of both planes that were alive at the time of impact were still alive, although one living crew member was trapped within his ball turret, lodged in McNab's plane. Crewmembers aboard Lt. McNab's plane saw Staff Sergeant Joseph Russo alive through the turret's glass. The turret acted as an inescapable spherical prison; normally, one could crank the turret around manually to escape, but in this case the gears were jammed. Crew members tried to turn the turret around freeing Russo, but all attempts failed leaving Russo alone within his prison wailing his Hail Mary's (Bennet).

In Rojohn's plane, he ordered his crew and copilot, 2nd Lieutenant William G. Leek, to bail out, but Leek refused to leave. It took all the

strength of tain Rojohn and Lieutenant Leek to pull back on the controls keeping their craft from going into a spiral. The fire from McNab's plane had spread to the wing of Rojohn's, and he

concluded that they would have to crash on German soil. During the crash sequence, Leek murmured his observation to Rojohn, pointing out that the ground was "coming up faster and faster." Rojohn and Leek prayed one last time and then both planes smashed into the ground.

Upon impact, the explosion from McNab's plane had launched Rojohn's B-17 upward and forward causing it to slide across the ground finally smashing itself into a wooden building. Everything from the wings on back was gone, either incinerated by McNab's plane exploding or laid in chunks on the torn up German soil. God had certainly protected Captain Rojohn and Lieutenant Leek, because both were alive, securely fastened in their seats in the cockpit. Neither was badly injured and crawled out of the aluminum wreck from a hole in the top of the cockpit. Upon crawling down the remnants of the fuselage, Leek and Rojohn leaned up against the bomber.

Leek drew out his cigarette box and handed one over to Rojohn. When Leek was about to light his cigarette, a German soldier pointed his rifle at his head. The soldier violently tore the cigarette from Leek's mouth and then turned his head to show him a stream of gasoline pouring out from a ruptured fuel tank in the crashed plane's mangled wing. Both pilots were taken prisoner (Bennet).

Two of the six men that parachuted out of Rojohn's plane unfortunately did not survive the landing, and the gunner locked within his turret perished in the explosion. Amazingly, four men from McNab's plane managed to escape and survive the bail out, and were taken prisoner as well. During Rojohn's and McNab's time as prisoners, the Germans were never fully content with their interrogations. The German's wanted to be sure that this accident was not actually a prototype Ally secret weapon.

After the war and raising a family of three, Rojohn tried to locate his copilot. He went through governmental records and tried to locate Leek. Finally after 40 years of searching, Rojohn finally located Leek's mother and managed to talk over the phone with Leek, speaking for the first time since their crash in Germany. Following the 100th Bomb Group's reunion, William Leek died leaving Rojohn the last of the dragonfly experience. In November of last year, Captain Rojohn died as well.

McNab and Rojohn were among the most amazing and heroic pilots of World War II. No other pilots could have flown a accidental bomber hybrid over Germany in those dangerous conditions. Stories like Rojohn's should be remembered, especially because of the miracles that God performed.



A Year to Remember

By Paul Duda



The year of 2008 has been an eventful yet melancholy year. Some of these events have made history all around the world. 2008 was probably one of the most uplifting and joyful years, as well as the most disastrous and crazy years. 2008 to some people was one of the most historical years of all time. Here are some of the

major events that to some are miracles and to some a disaster.

One of the most historical events of 2008 was President Barack Obama winning the presidential election. He was the first African American to become President of the United States of America. Many wanted Barack Obama because he was the change that they needed to help put this country in a new direction. He was inaugurated

in January of 2009 and we all hope he will be the change the country needs.

During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Micheal Phelps became one of the most famous athletes. He won eight gold medals in swimming. He was the first person to ever win gold in every one of his races. One of the biggest controversies, however, was that there were Chinese female gymnasts who were underage. They were not caught, but were questioned and nothing happened to them. They were only thought to be underage because of the weight and height.

Great actors such as Paul Newman, Heath Ledger, and Bernie Mac left us this past year. Heath Ledger was nominated for his movie "The Dark Knight," even though he is now dead. Heath Ledger was a talented young man who will be looked at as one of the greatest actors of our time. Paul Newman was also a wonderful man. He gave money that he earned to charities all around the world, and Bernie

Mac brought smiles to our faces. His memory will live on for generations to come. They will be missed by all.

In the economy, the United States had to give a seven hundred billion dollar bailout to the companies such as AIG and Sallie Mae. The gas prices went to almost five dollars in most areas. Many people had to also foreclose on the their homes. America is in a desperate time right now, and many Americans are losing their homes and their lives. Over a million homes had to be foreclosed last year.

Other little things we had to deal with included: the pregnant man, OJ flipping out on people, and Hillary Clinton almost becoming President. America is hoping that 2009 will be a much better and more successful year than 2008. It is still to early to tell but I am hoping that it will be a year to remember.