



News from the Blue Ridge

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Family Events:

January turned into a weather oriented month. With two snows coming in the middle of the month, one that shut down even GWU for two days, we have had over a foot of snow through the month -- something very unusual for this area. Because of little wind, the area was indeed a winter wonderland. Claire got some fantastic shots with her new digital camera. She is quickly learn-



ing how to take advantage of the great versatility of the camera and consequently is getting some picture card level photos of scenery and individuals. I'm still doing some of the editing of the electronic graphic files, but soon she will have her own copy of Photoshop Elements that can be used for editing. By this summer, between her work and some additional work that I can do with the powerful Photoshop 7.0.1 on my graphics computer, we will begin posting a photo

library in a dedicated section of Cranfordville.com for everyone to enjoy.

Health issues for me continue to not be overwhelming as in the past. Through the daily monitoring of blood pressure, blood sugar etc. I have increasingly been able to detect interesting patterns that surface from time to time. For example, blood pressure levels increased during the holidays, while blood sugar levels decreased. But with the beginning of the spring semester, a reversal of these gradually kicked in gear. But neither are out of the safety zone for a male my age: blood pressure 130 over 78 with pulse rate of 68, and an average blood sugar level of about 123. The stiffness and pain from the arthritis is becoming the greatest challenge.

server. Beginning this semester, all the students in my classes can check their grades, attendance etc. anytime day or night simply by clicking on the internet WebGrade link inside their class course room in the academic section of Cranfordville.com, allowing them to see only their grades in the classes they have with me. If they desire, they can provide their parents their unique user id and password that will allow parents to check their grades in my classes as well. Chariot Software that produces the system has provided the WebGrade system for licensed users of MicroGrade. Updating the system by the professor takes less than a minute and three clicks of the computer mouse. I'm really pleased with the system and the way it helps the students stay on top of how their doing in my classes.

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University Happenings:



Two interesting developments have surfaced at the beginning of the spring semester: (1) the trial usage of an online subscription service for access to a massive amount of Bible study materials, and (2) the establishment of an online gradebook for students to access their grades in my classes around the clock from an internet connection located anywhere in the world.

First, the online subscription. During the craziness of the fall semester, there began a relationship of the religion department with the Methodist publishing house, Cokesbury Press, through Paul Franklyn at Cokesbury. The publishing house, one of the most forward looking religious presses around today, has begun an internet subscription service targeted to church staff individuals, called iPreach. For a \$20 monthly subscription, one can gain access to numerous sets of commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc. that would cost over \$5,000 if purchased as print cop-



iPreach
Student Edition

ies. In late summer Cokesbury released a student version of iPreach costing \$60 for a four month subscription. Our department began a trial use of a customized version of iPreach for GWU this spring in some of the advanced elective classes, with the intent of eventually replacing all of the printed textbooks for the courses using iPreach. Next fall will begin the use of the subscription service in all of the Bible survey courses. Not only does this reduce textbooks costs to the student by as much as 70% but also the students and professors gain access to hundreds of text resources that can be used for class assignments. Additionally, this helps the environment by helping reduce the need for paper based materials used in the classroom.

The second exciting development is related to my work in the classroom. GWU has been using the MicroGrade software for quite some time as an electronic gradebook, but hasn't had the commitment to upgrade to current editions. I purchased my own copy of version 5.0 late last fall. In addition to a ton of expanded features, one of the most useful ones is the WebGrade

WebGrade

system located on Chariot software's very reliable and secure web

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Claire's Musings:

Feb 2003

Now I know the real meaning of "winter wonderland" after living in North Carolina. We had a big snow fall (in comparison to my Texas snows) and school was cancelled for the day. It was the perfect opportunity to walk in our neighborhood and use my new digital camera. I still have so much to learn, but what a wonderful opportunity to be able to practice with snow pictures.



The snowfall the evening before was so beautiful; it is hard to describe. Huge snowflakes floated to the ground and everywhere the ground was completely covered in whiteness. How can something so breathtaking be so silent? The quietness adds to the feeling of awe.

The next morning as soon as there was enough light I began taking pictures, experimenting in many different ways. I felt more freedom to take many pictures because I knew I could delete the bad ones. So, of course, I got carried away taking about 60 pictures.

The slightest breeze would blow some of the light snow from the trees and it was almost like it was snowing again, even though there was not a cloud in the sky. The snow glittered and sparkled like diamonds, sometimes silver and other times colors of the rainbow. Even later when I went to the Gardner-Webb Library for research, I was on the second floor enjoying the beautiful snow scenery through a large picture window.

The next week we had an even bigger snowfall. We had 10" of snow and Angie and Brian (15 minutes away in Forest City) had 11" of snow. I have never seen anything like that before. It was so very beautiful, but this time I stayed indoors and ventured out just a little to take a few more pictures.



I have led such a blest life with loving family and friends. I may never get to retire in time to make quilts for each of our kids in order to pass on special memories. But, I will be able to pass on pictures. I have been teased that I am in very few of the pictures. I hope that others (especially Angie and Carrie) will enjoy more seeing through my eyes all the joys of life that meant so much to me. My photography experience began with my girls and progressed from there to the North Carolina mountains.

redemptive sacrifice of Jesus' own life. (2) Paul's instructions for later celebration of this event in 1 Cor. 11:27-34 focus on the seriousness of the celebration and thus demand a personal examination before participating. The threat of divine punishment for failure to do so underscores the importance of this soul searching. The point of the examination in 1 Corinthians is to make sure that a proper attitude characterize our observance, not that we can somehow become good enough to participate. Early Christians understood that through Jesus' tragic death one of the greatest blessings imaginable had come about. This was -- and is -- worth celebrating!



Lorin's Musings:

Thus far in our study of the body of ancient letters we have examined patterns from narrative and traditional material. Under the latter we have first looked at both ancient Christian hymns and confessions of faith as segments of early Christian worship liturgy. One more piece of traditional worship liturgy needs to be studied: the Lord's Supper narratives.

These texts allude to the final supper that Jesus had with the Twelve before his arrest and execution. The earliest written account of this event, dated from the early 50s, is found in 1 Cor. 11:23-26:

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Within two decades of the writing of this account, the Synoptic Gospel accounts surface.

Mark 14:22-26

22 While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." 23 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. 24 He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:26-30

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 22:14-20

14 When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. 15 He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Some observations surface upon close examination: (1) The Old Testament Passover observance set the background for the meal, and thus provides the interpretative backdrop for understanding the meaning of the supper, especially the breaking of the bread and the wine of the cup as expressions of the