



Beverly Heights
Presbyterian
Church

scattered seeds.

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

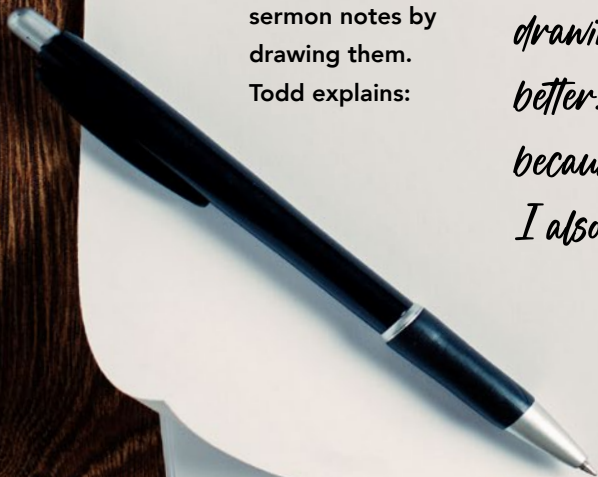
NOVEMBER 2022

sermon sketches



New member and
graphic designer
Todd Loizes takes
sermon notes by
drawing them.
Todd explains:

"I am a visual learner so when I take sermon notes, I like to do a little set of drawings to help me remember them better. I don't spend loads of time on them because I'm not a great sketch artist and I also want to keep pace with the speaker."



10-17-21 / Pastor Devlin / ISAIAH 10:20-34



A prophetic imagination is required to see Jesus in our text today.

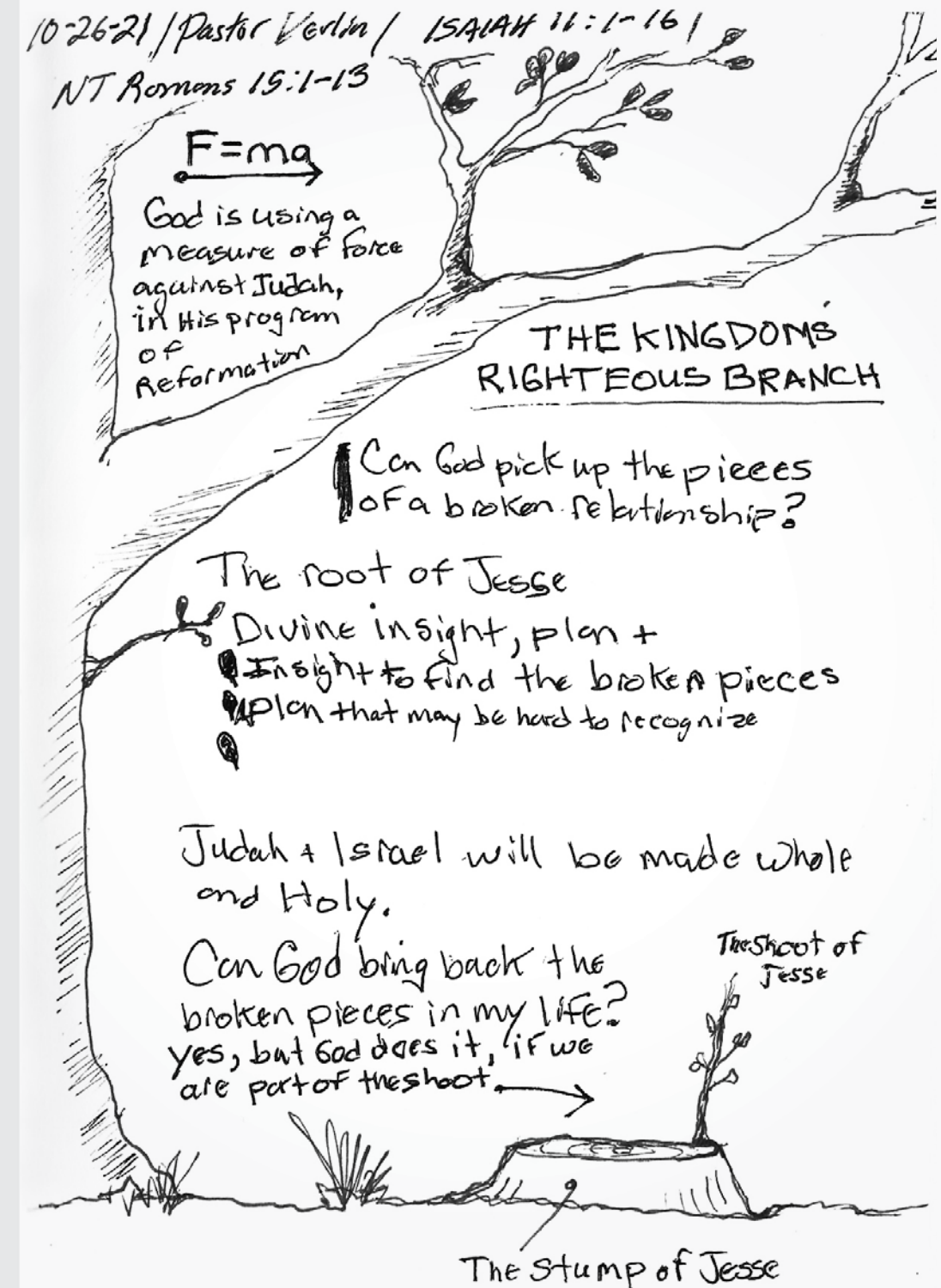
What does it mean to be a remnant people?
→ God is creating a remnant in the church.

20 years of Faith Communities report.
Conducted in 2020
• Most congregations are small and getting smaller. FAST \approx -7% 2015-2020
• The best churches have a clear mission + respond to change.
• It needs a prophetic imagination.

church growth is ending to bring about a remnant.
Growth does not = strength

GOD VALUES STRENGTH

10-26-21 / Pastor Devlin / ISAIAH 11:1-16 /
NT Romans 15:1-13



1.2.22 / Pastor Nate / Revelation 21:22-22:5
"That Holy City"

- ☉ God has placed His church in the center of all things.
- The city is pure (21:27)

NO SUN
NEEDED



? Why the lack of glory? - in the church

1. For the last 50yrs we let the world set the agenda.
2. We give the strength of the church away to the nations, hoping they will make peace with us.

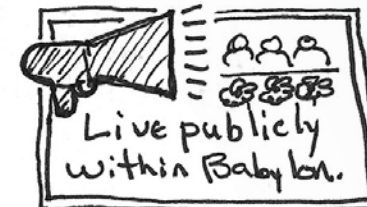
2022 VISION FOR B.H.C.

- A year of return • A return of the wealth
- God is calling us back
- Where is the church located for me?

2.27.22 / Pastor Devlin / Mt 5:1-16
 Jeremiah 29:1-14

- We are the Church because of who we are, not just what we do.
- Stepping into the church from the street is stepping into a different jurisdiction entirely.

HE WILL HOLD
ME FAST.....



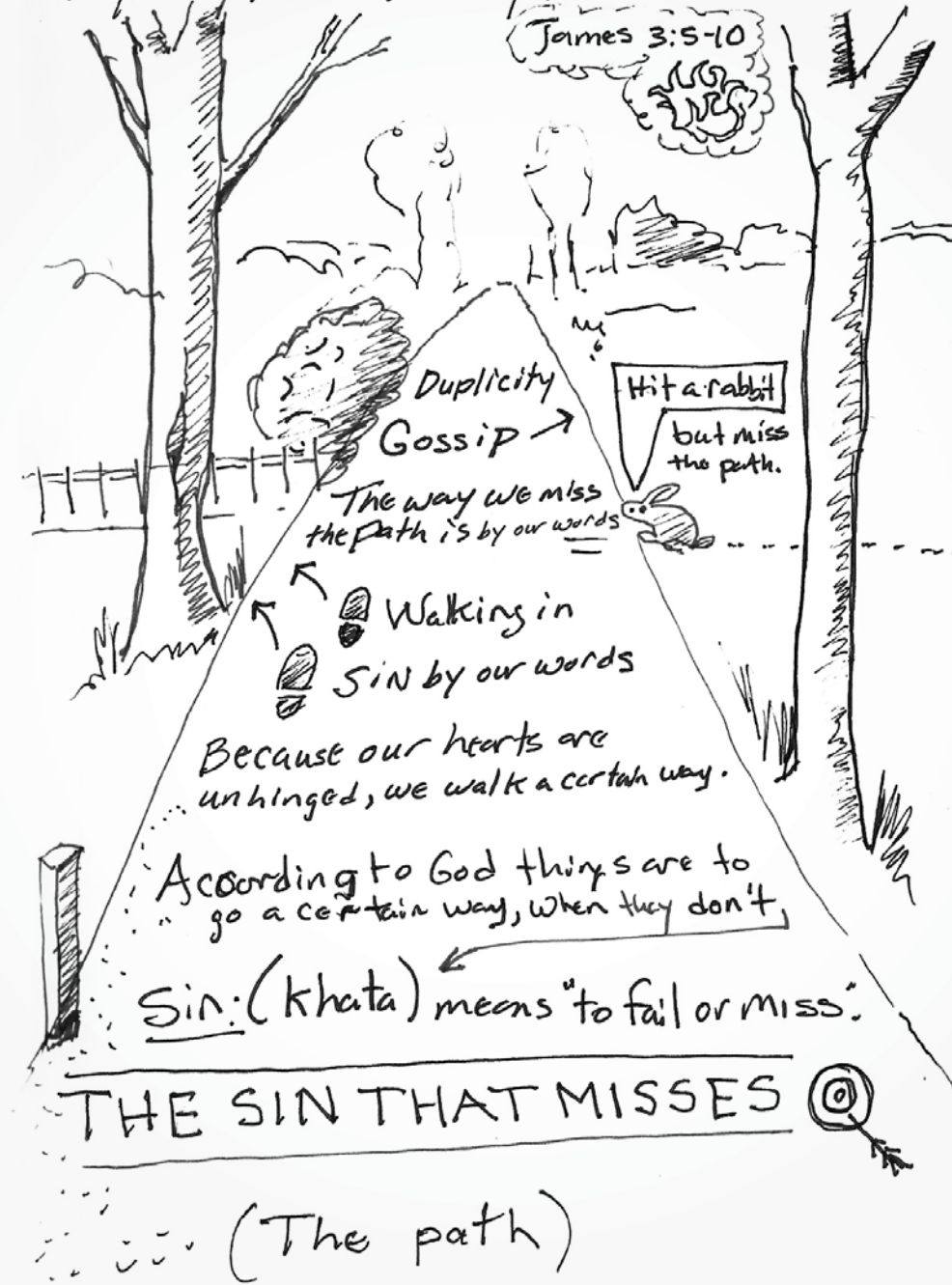
The church is a holy polis (city) and therefore the church is a real, wealthy and powerful political body within the world.

The church's political Agenda

1. Jesus is Lord! Romans 10:9
2. Hold things in Common Acts 2
3. Love your enemies
 ↳ seek their good.

BE THE CHURCH FOR THIS PLACE.

3/6/22 / Pastor Devlin / Proverbs 19:1-12



9/25/22 / Pastor Devlin / ISAIAH 26:1-12



"The sinews of peace"
Winston Churchill
March 5, 1946

- His greatest speech
- The term "Iron Curtain"
- An attempt at peace, failed

AN IMPOSSIBLE PEACE



God offers to us a peace time message
to console a conflict-ravaged world.

PERFECT PEACE

- peace comes to us by grace
 - cannot be secured by the City of Men
- v1 • By strength it comes
- v34 • By faith, a particular kind of faith - Defiant faith
- v5 • By Discipline and Judgement
 - By lives brought into conformity
- v9 • By obedience
- v13 • By Leadership, His Leadership alone

SECURING THE PEACE AMID VIOLENCE

- Violence close to home (Kennywood)
- It requires sacrifice to achieve.
- Some body has to die; wives husbands, etc.
- Christ breaks the cycle for us.

PEACEMAKING AS HEALTH

- We specialize in MedExpress peacemaking.
- He is our peace. If you know Christ you know....

Blessed are your eyes, for they see.

I have two sons who are both “visual learners.” It’s not that they can’t read with understanding. But the way God has wired their brains causes them to favor seeing images over hearing or reading.

Anything that Jason sees on a blueprint, he can build, and anything that Zach sees on a YouTube video, he can fix. While I might be inclined to *explain* a project or problem to them, their typical reaction is “show me what you’re talking about.”

A cursory reading of the Bible reveals that Jesus had an appreciation for people like my boys. Jesus quite often spoke in pictures. Examples may be found on almost every page of the New Testament gospels. His teaching by storytelling is found most prominently in the visual pictures He drew in Matthew 13. There are at least four pictures Jesus sketches in His teaching on the kingdom of God.

First, there is the picture of a farmer out in his field. In His parable of the Sower and the Seed, He portrayed His followers sharing the good news with others, broadly scattering the message of salvation while warning them that much effort might not necessarily yield as high a harvest as they would expect.

Jesus continued the visual imagery by turning away from their role as sowers


of the seed to the crop they hoped would grow. Along with the wheat, there will be many weeds.

Further, Jesus addresses the enormity of the evangelistic task with the picture of a tiny mustard seed sown in a field. One is made to wonder how anything so small and seemingly insignificant could ultimately yield a successful crop, but Jesus said that it would and it does.

Finally, Jesus takes His listeners into the kitchen as He drew a word-picture of a woman making bread. She adds three measures of leaven to a bowl filled with flour. He could have explained to them that it was a “parts-per-million” comparison with so little yeast mixed with so much flour. Alternatively, He just drew a picture of a bowl of ingredients in preparation for becoming a loaf of bread and, in doing so, He both underscored the challenge ahead while encouraging them.

Admittedly, sometimes a picture alone is inadequate in leading us to full understanding. In fact, the disciples who heard Jesus teach the so-called “parables of the kingdom,” pursued greater insight into His teaching when they asked Him to “explain to us the parable ...”

Here’s another example of the importance of visual images.

Have you ever pulled up to a traffic stop and on the car bumper ahead, you saw this picture:  ? It’s a picture of a fish.

The Greek word for fish is *ichthus*. The fish is a common Christian symbol. It is believed that in times of intense persecution when being discovered as a Christian might mean death, a believer would draw one of the arcs on the ground. If the person with whom he spoke drew the second arc, completing the picture of the fish, it was revealed that both were Christians.

But why the fish? Because *ichthus* became an acrostic where each letter represented a word. In this case the letters (i-ch-th-u-s) represented “Jesus Christ God Our Savior.”

How wonderful that the Lord gave us many senses through which we can understand His word. We hear the message preached with words; we smell and taste the wine and touch the bread of communion; and we see the pictures of truth drawn for us in the Scriptures.

And by it all we come to know Him more.

Rick Wolling is pastor emeritus of Beverly Heights Church.