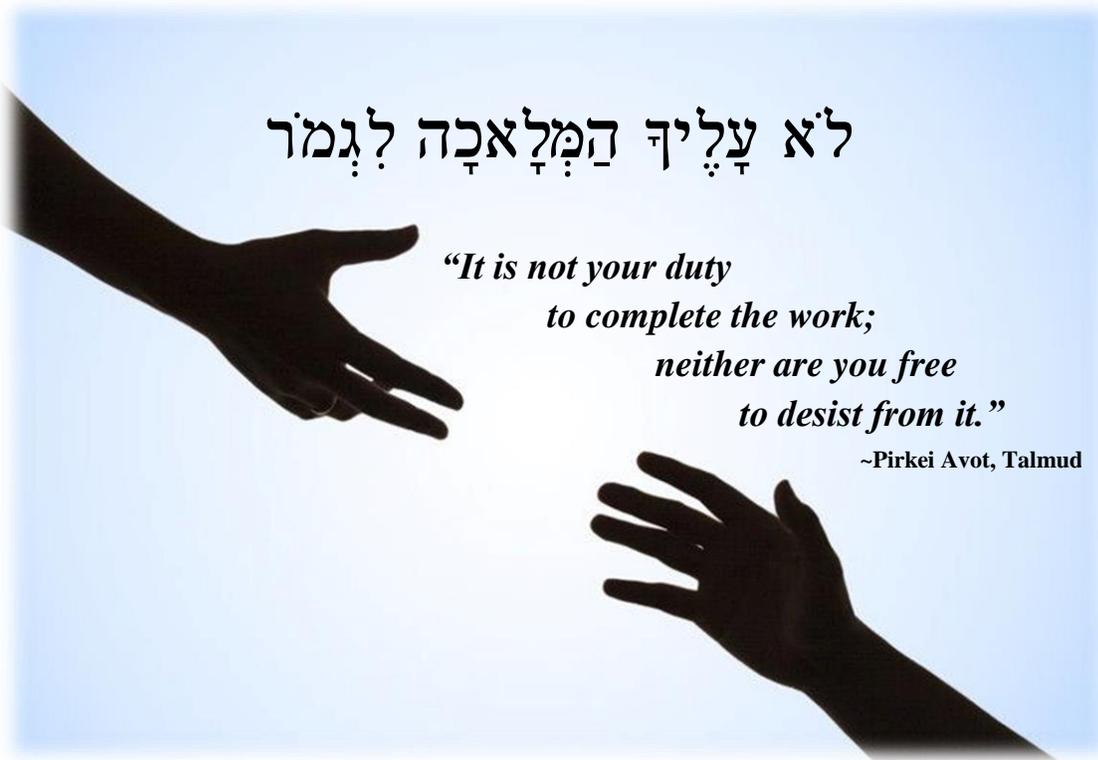


The Bar Mitzvah of
Gabriel Reinstein Dewey

June 8, 2013



Beth Chai Humanist Congregation

Rabbi Arthur Blecher

Songleader Lisa Baydush

Origin of Bar Mitzvah

A Bar Mitzvah service is a traditional religious ceremony at which a Jewish 13-year-old is given the honor of reading from the Torah and/or leading the congregation in prayer for the first time. It is a rite of passage to maturity.

No reference to Bar Mitzvah is found in the Torah, and the origin of this celebration is not known exactly. However, the Talmudic tractate Avot has a passage referring to age 13 as the age at which a boy is expected to observe Judaism as an adult male – “Thirteen is the age for observance of the mitzvot, or commandments.” This is why a boy who reaches his 13th year is said to have become a “Bar Mitzvah.” The term is actually a description of the young man, not the service, as it literally means “son of the commandments.”

Unlike other cultures of that time, Judaism did not focus on a test of physical endurance or pain to mark the passage from childhood into adulthood. In the old days in Jerusalem, it was the custom for the father to bring the Bar Mitzvah before the Temple priest or other elder to receive a blessing and a prayer that “he may be granted a portion in the Torah and that he may live a life filled with good deeds,” according to the Talmudic tractate Soferim.

Beth Chai's Bar Mitzvah Services

Beth Chai's Bar Mitzvah services are unusual in that we do not emphasize the memorization of extensive Hebrew readings from the Torah and Haftarah, but rather encourage the student to develop an original project which derives from his personal interests. Each student prepares for this occasion by attending several years of classes in the congregation's religious school. Then, the student completes an individualized research project in some area of Jewish study that is of particular interest. Finally, the student comes before the congregation to impart to the community what he has learned. By both acquiring and conveying knowledge, the student shows that he is ready to be an adult member of the congregation.

Beth Chai Congregation



Beth Chai, founded in 1978, is a dynamic, inclusive, and independent Jewish humanist congregation. Humanistic Judaism is a movement within Judaism that emphasizes Jewish culture and history, rather than a belief in a supernatural god, as the sources of Jewish identity.

We are part of the rich tradition of Judaism, drawing our strength from the vast repository of Jewish sources and emphasizing Jewish culture, ideals, and ethics. At the same time, we deepen our Jewish identity by interpreting the history and traditions of Jewish civilization in a modern spirit, affirming each person's freedom to choose his or her own spiritual beliefs.

At Beth Chai, we encourage open and frank dialogue on all aspects of Jewish thought and religion, letting individuals decide for themselves what they believe and what is best for them. We come together in mutual respect with a love of learning, a shared dedication to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), and a joyous appreciation of our Jewish heritage.

GREETINGS

Please sing along...

Shabbat Shalom Niggun by Lisa Silver

Wishing you a peaceful Shabbat!

Yai lai lai lai lai; yai lai lai lai lai
Shabbat, Shabbat shalom! (repeat)

שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

Shabbat, Shabbat shalom!
Shabbat shalom! (repeat)
Shabbat shalom!

Welcome Remarks

Rabbi Art Blecher

Please sing along...

Hinei Mah Tov by M. Jacobson-Drozi

Behold how good and pleasant it is when people live in harmony.

Hinei mah tov u'mah na'im
Shevet achim gam yachad (repeat)

הִנֵּה מַה טוֹב וְיָמָה נְעִים.
שֵׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם יַחַד.

Hinei mah tov, hinei ma tov
Yai lai lai yai lai lai lai lai lai (repeat)

Shabbat Greeting

Gabe

This Morning and Beyond

Karen, Rich, Janet, Bob, and Liz, Gabe's aunts and uncles

Karen:

We come together this morning full of memory and hope. Each of us brings a remembrance of things past, the bitter and the sweet, the trials and the triumphs. We recall those special moments we shared as a family – when we loved and when we hurt, and when we laughed, and when we cried, and when we held each other very tightly; but now we feel very good, simply being here together.

Rich:

Those of us who are parents can recall the years when our children were growing and groping to find their way in the world. We remember their awkward efforts to learn new skills, the distress we felt in their frustration, and the joy we share in their success.

Janet:

May our hearts be high with hopes for the future. As we have loved our children – each someone special – so may our children come to respect themselves and develop a sense of their own worth. May they explore many paths, that they

may become better able to choose the path that is right for them. May they grow from competence to confidence, and from knowledge to understanding.

Bob:

Let our children learn that we do not live by mind alone. May their hearts grow in warmth and compassion; warmth for those who are near and dear to them, and compassion for people of every race and creed. May they find the inner security that will enable them to reach out to others with concern and care.

Liz:

May our children have the strength to face reality. Let them not try to find escapes from the struggle that must accompany all growth. May they and we go forward into the future with courage and joy.

CELEBRATION OF SHABBAT AND PEACE

Candle Lighting

Gabe with Sam and Julia, Gabe's cousins

Gabe:

Baruch Atah Adonai
Eloheinu Melech ha-olam
asher kid'shanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu
l'hadlik neir shel Shabbat.

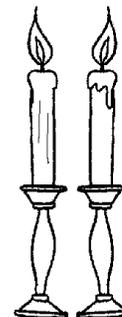
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.

Sam and Julia:

Blessed is the light of the Sabbath, which sanctifies us with its peace and enlightens our minds.

Congregation:

*In this quiet hour, we reflect upon the meaning of our lives.
As these Sabbath candles give light to all who behold them,
so may we, by our lives, give light to all who behold us.*



Sam and Julia:

As their brightness reminds us of the past generations who have kindled light, so may we, in our own day, be among those who kindle light.

Congregation:

May the rays of these candles cast their glow upon us and bring the radiance of joy to all who dwell in darkness.

Sam and Julia:

May our homes be blessed with the spirit of truth, and our dear ones with the light of love.

Congregation:

May all our days be filled with happiness and achievement, with peace and contentment, for us and for others, for our families and friends, for all the inhabitants of the world.

A Reflection

Gabe

On this special day,
I reflect upon the meaning of my life.
I harbor within a vision of myself,
a dream of what I can and should become.
May I pursue this vision;
Labor to make real my dream.
Thus, will I give meaning to my life.
May my efforts to grow in moral stature
bring me the joy of achievement,
and may I always be enlightened
by the teachings of others.

Peace from Gates of Prayer
Ned Dewey, Gabe's grandfather

As we are called to peace, may we have the vision to see
that each of us, in some measure, can help to realize these aims:

Where there is ignorance and superstition,
let there be enlightenment and knowledge;

Where there is prejudice and hatred,
let there be acceptance and love;

Where there is fear and suspicion,
let there be confidence and trust;

Where there is tyranny and oppression,
let there be freedom and justice;

Where there is poverty and disease,
let there be prosperity and health;

Where there is strife and discord,
let there be harmony and peace.

Please sing along...

Oseh Shalom by Nurit Hirsch

May peace descend on us, on all Israel, and all the world.

*Oseh shalom bim'romav
hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu
v'al kol Yisrael v'imru: Amen.*

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו
הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן:



CELEBRATING THE BAR MITZVAH

The Meaning of Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi Art Blecher

Presentation of Tallit adapted from Mark Frydenberg
Rich and Karen Reinstein, Gabe's uncle and aunt

May your eyes see the best in all people.

May your mouth speak wisely,
and may your hands reach out to others.

May your feet walk the path of your heart's desire.

May you have the patience to learn,
and the spirit to be playful.

May you have the will to imagine,
and the freedom to dream.

May your life be long and happy.

May your good name shine.

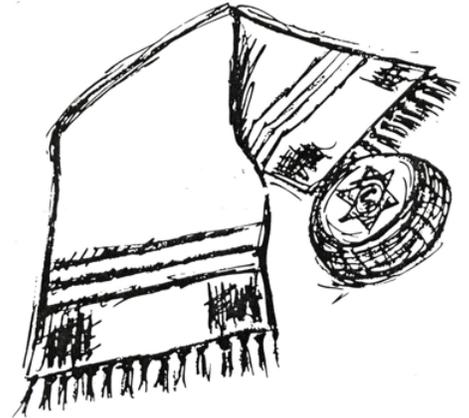
May tradition show you the way.

May you find your place in the world.

May there be love in your heart
and a smile on your face.

May your days be filled with promise,
and wonder and peace.

May you always feel your family's presence
and imagine this tallit to be our arms around you.



May I Be Worthy by Ned Dewey
Gabe

I was nurtured and sheltered by my forbearers.

I am guided by my mentors and teachers.

I eat bread from wheat I have not sown.

I walk on paths I have not made.

I drink from wells I have not dug.

May I be worthy of my heritage!

Please sing along...

Sh'ma B'ni by Craig Taubman

Listen, my son!

*Sh'ma B'ni, take these wings to fly with,
Sh'mi Biti with these roots you will grow;
This is my promise, this is my blessing;
You are the promise
and you are the blessing;
Sh'ma B'ni, Sh'mi Biti...*

*May you live to see the wonder,
In this world and those yet to come;
To care for those who came before you,
To trust in those who are yet to come;
Sh'ma B'ni, Sh'mi Biti...*

*May your heart be filled with wisdom,
May your mind be filled with love,
May your lips be filled with sweetness,
May you shine like the stars above;
Sh'ma B'ni, Sh'mi Biti...*

*So you shall fly on wings of eagles,
And you will grow to be straight and tall;
This is my promise, this is my blessing,
You are the promise
and you are the blessing;
Sh'ma B'ni, Sh'mi Biti...*

Betsy and Reed:

May you live to see your world fulfilled;
May your destiny be for worlds still to
come, and may you trust in generations
past and yet to be.

May your heart be filled with intuition,
and your words be filled with insight.

May songs of praise ever be upon your
tongue, and your vision be on a straight
path before you.

May your eyes shine with the light of holy
words, and your face reflect the brightness
of the heavens.

May your lips ever speak wisdom,
and your fulfillment be in righteousness.

May your Jewishness be not something
inherited, but something to be discovered.

*Berachot 17A, Talmud
Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Covenant & Naming Rituals,
Choosing & Affirming A Jewish Life*

BAR MITZVAH PRESENTATION

Introduction to Gabe's presentation

Rabbi Art Blecher

Gabe's Bar Mitzvah Presentation on Homelessness

Home by Drew Pearson and Greg Holden

Reed, Janet, and Liz

Do Not Be Daunted from the Talmud
Congregation

Do not be daunted
by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly, now.

Love mercy, now.

Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.



Please sing along...

Lo Alecha by Beth Schafer

It is not your duty to complete the work, neither are you free to desist from it.
(Pirkei Avot 2:21,20)

Lo alecha ham'lachah ligmor, ligmor (6x) לא עליך המלאכה לגמור

V-'lo atah ben chorin (3x)

ולא אתה בן-חורין

L'-hi-ba-teil mi-men-ah

להבטל ממנה

Mi me-nah

A Lover's Quarrel with the World

Merle Cook, Gabe's great aunt

Merle:

Let us be counted among those who are not satisfied with the status quo, but who yearn and work for a better world. Give us the courage to quarrel with those who claim that we cannot afford to abolish poverty, injustice, and discrimination. Give us the courage to quarrel with a society that condones dishonesty and unethical conduct, and which suppresses truth.

Congregation:

But let our quarreling not be destructive. Let it be out of love, not envy. Let it be in order to correct and to improve, not just for the sake of tearing down.

Merle:

Give us the courage to quarrel with the idolaters who say: "My country, right or wrong," instead of saying: "My country, when it is right; my country to be made right whenever it is wrong."

Congregation:

A bit more truth; a bit more justice; a bit more love than there would have been if we had not loved the world enough to quarrel with it.

The Gift of Kindness by Anne Frank
Margot, Nadine, Nora, Ben, Gabe's cousins

Give of yourself; give as much as you can! And you can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness! If everyone were to do this much and not be as mean with a kindly word, then there would be much more justice and love in the world. Give and you shall receive, much more than you would have ever thought possible. Give, give again and again. Don't lose courage. Keep it up, and go on giving! No one has ever become poor from giving!

Parents' Remarks to Gabe
Betsy and Reed

Rabbi's Private Blessing of the Bar Mitzvah

Please sing along...

Shehecheyanu by Tzvika Pik

Thank you for sustaining us and enabling us to reach this special day.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu

Melech ha-olam

Shehecheyanu v'kiymanu v'higianu

Lazman hazeh

A—men (2x)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהֵחַיְנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ
לְזִמְן הַזֶּה:

Things to Remember

Rabbi and Beth Chai Mitzvah students

Rabbi:

Remember that your presence is a present to the world,
That you are a unique and unrepeatable creation,
That your life can be what you want it to be.

Students:

Remember to take the days just one at a time,
To count your blessings, not your troubles,
That you'll make it through whatever comes along.

Rabbi:

Remember that most of the answers you need are within you,
That those dreams are waiting to be realized,
That decisions are too important to leave to chance.

Students:

Remember to always reach for the best that is within you,
That nothing wastes more time than worry,
That not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.

Rabbi:

Remember that the longer you carry a grudge, the heavier it gets,
That you shouldn't take things too seriously,

Students:

That a little love goes a long way and a lot goes forever.

Rabbi:

Remember that happiness is more often found in giving than getting,
That life's treasures are people, not things,

Students:

That miracles can still happen.

Blessing of Peace

Rabbi Art Blecher

May we find peace with those we love.
May we be at peace within ourselves.
May we render peace in our world.
Let us offer this song of peace.

Please all join in...

Od Yavo by Moshe Ben-Ari

Peace will come upon us; Peace on us and on everyone!

Od ya-vo sha-lom a-lei-nu (3x)

עוֹד יָבוֹא שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ

v'al ku-lam (repeat)

וְעַל כּוֹלָם

Sa'laam, aleinu v'al kol ha-olam,

סַלְאָם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כּל הָעוֹלָם

sa'laam, sa'laam (repeat)

סַלְאָם סַלְאָם

Tzedakah

Gabe

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Prayer by Sylvia Kamens and Jack Reime

Rabbi and congregation

Rabbi:

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

Congregation:

In the flowering of the wind and in the chill of the winter, we remember them.

Rabbi:

In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

Congregation:

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

Rabbi:

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

Congregation:

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

Rabbi:

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

Congregation:

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

Rabbi:

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

Congregation:

*As long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now part of us,
as we remember them.*

Mourners' Kaddish

Yit' gadal v' yit' kadash sh' meih raba.
B'alma di-v'ra chir' uteih,
v'yam'lich mal' chuteih
B'chayeichon uv'yomeichon
uv'chayei d'chol beit Yisrael,
ba-agala uviz'man kariv, v'im'ru: Amen.

Y'hei sh' meih raba m'vorach
l'alam ul'almei al'maya.

Yit' barach v'yish' tabach v'yit' pa-ar
v'yit' romam v'yit' nasei v'yit' hadar
v'yit' aleh v'yit' halal sh' meih d'kud'sha,
b'rich Hu, l'eila min-kol-bir' chata
v'shirata tush' b'chata v'nechemata
da-amiran b'alma, v'imru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'lama raba min-sh'maya
v'chayim aleinu v'al-kol-Yisrael,
v'im'ru: Amen.

Oseh shalom bim'romav,
Hu ya-aseh shalom
Aleinu v'al-kol-Yisrael, v'imru: Amen

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.
בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי-בְרָא כְרַעוּתֵיהּ.
וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ
בְּחַיֵּיכוּן וּבְיָוְמֵיכוּן
וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל.
בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהִי אֱלֹהֵי שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ
לְעָלְמָא וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם.
וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ
דְּקוּדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעֵלְא מִן-כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא
וְשִׁירְתָּא, תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאִמְרֵיךְ
בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהִי אֱלֹהֵי שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן-שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם
עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

May all who are bereaved among us find comfort and peace.

Amen.

CLOSING

Greetings

Beth Chai Board Member

Wish for Gabe

Congregation

As you begin your journey into adulthood,
May all the gifts hidden inside you find their way into the world;
May all the kindness of your thoughts be expressed in your deeds;
May all your learning lead to wisdom;
May all the love in your heart be returned to you;
May you be blessed with the health of body and joy of soul; and
May you be protected from harm, so that you may bring joy to others
and find peace for yourself.

Please all join in...

L'chi Lach by Debbie Friedman

From Genesis 12:1-2

*L'chi lach, to a land that I will show you;
Lech l'cha, to a place you do not know;
L'chi lach, on your journey I will bless you,
And you shall be a blessing (3x), L'chi lach!*

*L'chi lach, and I shall make your name great;
Lech l'cha, and all shall praise your name;
L'chi lach, to a place that I will show you,
L'simchat chayim (3x), L'chi lach,
And you shall be a blessing (3x), L'chi lach!*

Blessing Over the Wine and Challah

Gabe with Betsy and Reed

Closing Remarks

Rabbi Art Blecher

Please all join in...

Siman Tov

May good signs and fortune light your way!

*Si-man tov u-ma-zal tov
u-ma-zal tov u-si-man tov (repeat 3x)
Y'-hei la-a-anu (repeat)
Y'-he-ei la-nu, y'-hei la-nu,
u-l'-cho-ol Yis-ra-eil (repeat 4x)*

*סִמָּן טוֹב וּמַזָּל טוֹב
וּמַזָּל טוֹב וְסִמָּן טוֹב
יְהִי לָנוּ
יְהִי לָנוּ יְהִי לָנוּ
וּלְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל*

Acknowledgements

We thank our family and friends for helping us celebrate this very special occasion. Your presence on this day means a tremendous amount to us.

We are grateful to Rabbi Art Blecher for leading the service and for all the help he provided to us in the months leading up to this event. The support and encouragement he gave Gabe was invaluable.

Thanks to Lisa Baydush for her wonderful presence and singing – and for helping us organize both the service and the music in our program. Her enthusiasm and love of music and the way she shared this joyous occasion with us has been a total pleasure.

Thanks to all the homelessness experts who were so generous with their time with Gabe – Dr. Amy Kossoff, Dr. Abby Morris, Karen Feinstein, “Javier,” and to all the people everywhere who give their hearts to this cause every day. Keep the faith.

Gabe plans to donate a portion of his bar mitzvah gifts to the following local organizations that help homeless people:

- Friendship Place (Washington, DC)
- Bethesda Cares (Bethesda, Maryland)
- Miriam's Kitchen (Washington, DC)
- Father McKenna Center (Washington, DC)
- Shepherd's Table (Silver Spring, Maryland)

He will also continue to give out Giant gift cards.

Message from Gabe:

As you've heard in my speech, giving out gift cards was really interesting and meaningful for me. It gave me a chance to get to know people who are homeless and show in a small way that I care about them. I wanted to encourage you to have the same experience, so I am providing \$5 grocery gift cards in a basket in the Fellowship Hall where we will be having lunch. Please take a card if you can commit to giving it to someone who's homeless. If you don't think you'd give the card away, just don't take one, as we only have a limited number. I hope you'll find the experience of directly helping someone on the streets to be as fulfilling as it was for me. Maybe you'll decide to buy more grocery cards to give away and tell others about this idea too. I'd love to hear about your experience giving away the grocery card, so if you can, please email to tell me about it at gabedewey99@gmail.com.

**Please join Betsy, Reed and Gabe
for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.**