



## Pastor's Pen

*“And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:21-26)*

There are many paths we can walk down using this text as our starting point. For instance, we could consider the necessity of the hand of the Lord blessing the work of the disciples and in adding new believers to the Kingdom of God. We could contemplate the significance of the flood of news coming into Jerusalem from the outlying areas; to the extent that Barnabas was sent to check it out. We could discuss Barnabas’ observations as he saw the grace of God at work; or how he encouraged them to stay strong in the Lord. We could share what it might mean to a church (like ours) to have Paul and Barnabas leading Bible studies, teaching Sunday school and preaching for a whole year. All of the aforementioned would be great paths to walk. But I want to focus for a moment on the last verse of our text; *“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”*

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Because this became the distinguishing name of the followers of Christ, it was worthy of our consideration. The name was evidently given because they were the followers of Christ. But by whom, or with what views it was given, is not certainly known. Whether it was given by their enemies in derision, whether the disciples assumed it themselves, or whether it was given by Divine intimation, has been a matter of debate over time. Space constraints prohibit me from entering the debate. But what is clear is it soon became a name

of reproach on the lips of the wicked and ungodly; it remains so today. However, for the true Christian, it is an honored name; the most honorable title that can be conferred on a mortal. It suggests at once to a Christian the name of his great Redeemer; the idea of our intimate relationship with him; and the thought that we receive him as our leader, the source of our blessings, the author of our salvation, and the fountain of our joys. It is the distinguishing name of all the redeemed. We are Christians; that is our peculiar name, and by this we are known. Being a Christian should define our character, behavior, feelings, doctrines, and hopes. The name binds us all together, unites us in one accord, places us on a common level, and makes us one family that is known for our love for the Lord Jesus Christ. When the names of royalty are forgotten, and the titles of nobility cease to amuse or dazzle the world, the name Christian will be remembered.

In Christian Love,  
Pastor Jim

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## Deacon's Benevolence Fund Ministry

**Purpose:** The primary purpose of the fund is to have a ready means of providing some assistance and relief for the temporary or unforeseen financial emergencies experienced by our church members. By building a fund in advance of the need, our church body will be better able to minister to a person or family that we might not otherwise have been able to help.

**Funding:** A special offering will be taken during the fifth Sunday morning service and will be separate from the collection of the general offering. Contributions may, of course, be made at any time by designating a check or placing money in an offering envelope (to Benevolence Fund). (Continued on page 6)

### Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry formed by Franklin Graham that takes Christmas gifts and the Gospel to underprivileged children all over the world. We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes in November. Each month we will highlight a different item to bring in. But, please remember we will take all types of donations at any time! For July please bring in School Supplies.



# **PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD**

## **APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER**

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### **Our God is Holy**

Who is this God we worship? He is the eternal triune God who created the universe ex nihilo, that is out of nothing. He is all powerful. As the scripture says there is no man that can stay His hand. He is loving, He is merciful, He is gracious but above all He is holy. When Isaiah saw God, he said, "Woe is me, I am ruined. Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts." The King, the Lord of Hosts, that Isaiah saw was in fact the second person of the Trinity, the son, for the scripture tells us that no man can see God and live. The seraphim, Isaiah tells us, called out to one another, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory. While we rightly say God is love, never does the scripture refer to Him as love, love, love.

We live in a time where the love of God is constantly proclaimed but seldom is His holiness mentioned. We often hear of His mercy, but rarely of His justice. When Jesus Christ came the first time it was to demonstrate His mercy, but when He comes again it will be to show His wrath. Woe to that man or woman on the judgment day who does not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. For today is the day of salvation but once Jesus comes He will not show mercy to the reprobate. We tend to think of Jesus almost exclusively as gentle and mild, however it is into His hands that the Father has committed all judgment. There will be no reprieve from the justice that is meted out at the White Throne. There will be no appealing His ruling. No one should think that he or she can repent after Christ comes. God has granted repentance for a time but not forever (Acts 5:31, 11:18).

Therefore, we must answer the question, what does it mean to be holy? The same root word gives us the words holy, saint, sanctified and sanctuary. The basic meaning of the word is to be set apart. While this is frequently seen concurrently with being righteousness, that is not its meaning. For believers there is positional holiness and experiential holiness. Every Christian has been set apart for Christ. This was true in eternity when we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world and in time when we came to faith. Experiential holiness or sanctification begins the moment we come to faith and is a process that continues throughout our lives. Final holiness (glorification) when we are perfected awaits either our deaths when our souls go to be with Jesus or His return. God, by contrast, has always been perfectly holy so there is no process involved.

That is why God cannot tolerate evil in His presence. That is why no man can see God and live until our sin is entirely removed and we enjoy the inability to sin. Before the fall Adam had both the ability to sin and the ability not to sin. The latter is what was lost both for Adam and all of mankind when he ate of the forbidden fruit. Though Adam lost the ability to not sin he gained what Augustine called the non-*posse non-peccare*, the inability to keep from sinning. Before we come to faith all we can do is sin. That is why the scripture says all our righteousness is as filthy rags. Thus, we read in Ephesians we were dead in our trespasses and sin. We were dead, not wounded and had to be made alive that we might embrace Christ. There is no island of goodness or righteousness in any of us. Before we come to faith even our best deeds since they are not done in service to Christ are sin. For a deed to be acceptable to God it must be both a righteous deed done for the right motive. And only a believer can have an acceptable motive

What should characterize our lives in light of God's holiness. It should be lives that are continually being set apart for Him. It should be lives where we examine what we do to see that it reflects who God is, what He has done for us and what He wants us to do. Every person who comes to faith is given at least one spiritual gift by the Lord. We are called to use those gifts in the service of Christ. And that service involves us in service to others. We relate to believers and non-believers. When you proclaim the Gospel to an unbeliever you serve Jesus. When you help a Christian, you serve Christ. The more we engage in either activity the holier we become.

With respect to our worship we should be concerned with our attitude and our behavior. The section of the church building that is used for worship services is called the sanctuary. How we behave in God's house should be a matter of concern for all of us. Sadly, worship today often tends to show a lack of respect for God. Consider using the time before the service begins to prepare your heart for worship with prayer and in reading the text of the sermon that will be preached. While society has become less formal than it was a half century ago, that does not mean we should be casual, indifferent to how we behave or dress when we come before our holy God. When you read the Old Testament, you must be struck with how concerned the Lord is with how we worship Him. Even more important than the outward trappings is the attitude of our hearts. Our concern should be with doing everything we can to honor the King of Kings. The English reformer Hugh Latimer was preaching in London one time and in the congregation was king Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>. Yes, the king Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>. Seeing the king Latimer said, "Careful what you say Latimer, the king is here." Then he said (and I picture him looking up), "Careful what you say Latimer, the King of Kings is here."

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

4	Independence Day - Offices Closed
16	Youth Water Party (11:00 a.m.)
18	TVSBA Executive Board Meeting
30	Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)

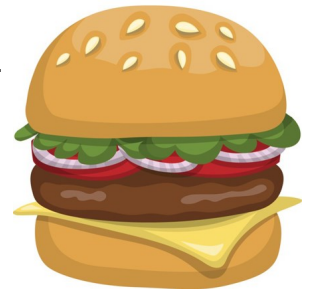
### Hostess Report

As we are in the middle of renovation, we have temporarily suspended our pot-luck meals. When we are cleared to resume, we will be sure it is posted in the Sunday Bulletin.

Until that time, perhaps you as individuals and families will have the opportunity to reach out to new attendees and invite them to join you for dinner at your home or at one of our restaurants in a worthwhile attempt to get to know them.

See you soon!

Carol Ellis - Hostess Committee Chairman



### The Cry of Jesus

When the Lord Jesus was hanging on the cross he said several things which are recorded for us in the Gospels. Most of the time the actual words are given, but in one case they are not. Mark 15:37 reads, *And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last.* Luke 23:46 says, *And Jesus crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father into thy hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.* Somehow though, it does not seem that those words would be spoken as a loud cry. Instead, it may be the words recorded in John 19:30. *Therefore when Jesus has received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.* The words "It is finished" seem more appropriate to have been the loud cry. We await eternity for the answer to this question.

## Reigniting our Heritage

By Garry Harper

To All Legacy Members Philippians 1:4-6 (NIV)

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

As we watch the physical transformation of our church, we are keenly aware that “Reigniting our Heritage” isn’t merely an outward transformation. It is a testimony of our commitment to faithfully bear witness to the transforming work of Jesus Christ who, as our Chief Priest, ever makes intercession for us so that the work He began in our fellowship will be faithfully completed on the Day of His appearing.

Our mission was started in 1957 by a group of believers whose heritage of faithfulness continues to this day. We are grateful for our champions of the faith – many of whom already enjoy the glories of heaven and complete fellowship with Christ, our Lord and Savior. But we must acknowledge those who, although they now live in other cities, states and nations, helped build our heritage of faith and have, in the past several weeks, reached back to us with contributions toward our current mission.

Our prayer for them is that Christ will continue to bless them with His many graces and, on that Day of His appearing, reunite us with them in the fellowship of all believers from time immemorial. As we enjoy the fruits of their labors and faithfulness, let us all work to be worthy of the calling we all have in Christ Jesus. We pray that their faithful and generous gifts will be multiplied by the work we carry on – a work we do in the power of Christ and in His name.

We pray that their faithful commitment will bear spiritual fruit here and in our extended family across the world.

(Deacons Report continued from page 2) Because of the generosity of the FSBC family the Benevolence Fund has raised \$3,288.66 in the past 18 months. During this same time, we (deacons and Pastor) have provided assistance to our church family in the amount of \$2,046.43. We are truly humbled and grateful that the FSBC family has entrusted us with this special ministry.

God Bless, Jim Clark - Deacon Chairman

## Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
2. How did the blonde die ice fishing? She was hit by the Zamboni.
3. How Long is a Chinese man's name. No, it actually is.
4. I'm reading a book about gravity. And I just can't seem to put it down.
5. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

## July Birthdays and Anniversaries

3 Victor Nostrom  
 5 Shilo Nagel  
 6 Bob Pursell  
 10 Sharon Siebenberg  
 12 Tyrone Parsons  
 12 Rose Hare  
 15 Ashley Sims  
 17 Uriah Clark  
 18 Larry Sears



*Happy Birthday*

18 Wayne Clark  
 18 Karen Williams  
 21 Jessica Stokes  
 22 Raymond Tucker  
 24 Jerimyn Stokes  
 26 Julie Harper  
 28 Sarah Hare  
 28 Donald McCall  
 29 Jonni Clark

23 Jake & Michelle Sisson  
 8/3 Clifford & Rose Hare  
 8/4 Don & Flo Scheffler

30 Steve & Diane Noland  
 8/3 Daryl & Cookie Lyerla



## First Week August Birthdays

5 Rose Purcell

5 Heather Eddy