

January 2020

The Trumpet

“The trumpet shall sound...and we shall be changed”
(I Corinthians 15:52)



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Pastor's Pen

Twenty years ago, the most widely used phrase was "Y-2K". Do you remember how the use of that phrase carried the overtones of apocalyptic events? Y-2K meant at midnight on the turn of the century (from 1999 to 2000) the world as we knew it would end. Computers were going to crash; records would be lost and bank accounts zeroed out. Airplanes would fall out of the sky as computer-controlled avionics failed. Our dependence on computer technology would be our downfall. Folks began to store up food supplies as fear mounted that grocery stores would run out of food and be unable to get their orders filled. Batteries were at a premium as those "in the know" reported a high probability of power failures and power grid chaos. Then the clock struck midnight and we entered into the 21st century without incident.

Twenty years later, standing at the doorway of a new year, our concerns are no longer computer catastrophes. Today our focus is on the economy, stock values, jobs, retirement funds, social media addiction as a user and consumer, a polarized government, a shifting culture, and a changing society. Getting caught up in this current multi-focus mess, provides many excuses for getting sidetracked in our personal ministries. We wake up one day and realize twenty years have passed. We've been knocked off course, and are no longer passionate about accomplishing our God-given ministry.

In the late 1800s William Borden, son and heir to the Borden dairy fortune, graduated high school. For a graduation gift his father sent him, along with a servant,

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on a trip around the world. As he left for his ship, his father gave him a new Bible and the boy read it during his travels across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The millions he saw without Christ and without hope grabbed young William's heart; he wrote his father and informed him that he intended to serve Christ on the mission field. As William considered the dangers, challenges and sacrifices ahead of him, he wrote in the back of his Bible: "**NO RESERVES.**" When William returned to the United States he enrolled in Yale to pre-

-pare for the ministry. After graduating with honors he entered Princeton Seminary. He turned down many impressive job offers and the opportunity to replace his father in a few years. However, nothing could deter him from the ministry he was called to. As he entered seminary, he wrote two more words in the back of his now well-worn Bible: "**NO RETREATS**". William finished seminary in three years and was accepted as a Missionary to China. Saying his good-byes to family and friends he sailed for the Orient, stopping in Egypt for further preparation. While in Egypt, he became ill and died a month later - dead at 25 years of age. When William's father sorted through his son's personal belongings, he thumbed through his well-used Bible and found two more words his son had written while on his deathbed: "**NO REGRETS.**"

No reserves, no retreats, and no regrets. What a way to live and die! Did you know, Jesus was never knocked off course? He said, "... *My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*" **John 4:34**. At Calvary, hanging on an old rugged cross Jesus said, "it is finished".

Happy New Year to All,
Pastor Jim Gregory

Deacons Report

~ It has been a privilege to serve you this past year. We function as an extension of Pastor Gregory as he shepherds the flock here at First Southern. We assist him by sharing the joys and struggles of our assigned families for prayer and assistance as needed. We encourage you not to hesitate to contact us if you're aware of an individual or family in our congregation that could use a ministry touch.

~ We encourage you to remain vigilant in prayer during this season as hearts soften and some will receive a word about our Lord spoken in love. We, however, must be in a state of readiness as the Lord provides lifestyle evangelism (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 January please bring in wash cloths & soap.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

God Bless America - With Repentance

Immediately after the events of September 11, 2001 we saw many of our leaders gathered in Washington D.C. singing God Bless America. We also saw an increase in church attendance. Lots of people had an increase of interest in spiritual things. But it didn't last because it wasn't a real revival. People were not actually looking for God, they were just afraid of what might happen to them. And it is not that the Lord doesn't sometimes use fear to draw people to Himself, but as a whole this was not the case in 2001. The changes in people's lives were temporary and not lasting. There was no recognition that they were sinners needing a savior. On the day of Pentecost when Peter preached that first sermon and the Spirit convicted the hearts of many people they asked, "*Brethren, what shall we do?*" Peter responded, *Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" On that day three thousand people were saved. Most of the people who 'got religion' after 9/11 were coming for the wrong reason which was demonstrated when they soon left. The apostle John wrote, *they went out from us because they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out that it would be shown that they all are not of us* (I John 2:19). Some attended churches but never professed faith. Others said they were believers but then apostatized.

We live in difficult times for Christians. Many have left the church and are not different from the first century professors who were a part of churches but then left. So, it has always been with the faith. Certainly, we wish they would have truly embraced Christ and are sad to see them leave. If there is anything good about their leaving is that the result is a purification of the church. No doubt there is still no perfectly pure assembly, but having unbelievers leave puts us closer to where the church should be. It is not dissimilar to a married couple where one is a Christian and the other is not. The one who is not always negatively impacts the walk of the believer, not the other way around.

What we want to see is a revival of the proportions that this country experienced in the 1740's where hundreds of thousands came to faith. Many preachers were going up and down the east coast preaching the gospel and seeing droves of people come to saving faith. Not only were existing churches filled with new Christians many churches were started to meet the need. One English preacher, George Whitefield, is estimated to have preached to ninety percent of the people in America and to have been used by God in saving ten percent of the country - having preached at least 18,000 times to about three million people in America. He had a huge voice and could by the estimate of Benjamin Franklin be heard by thirty thousand people at

the same time. Sadly, Franklin was not one of those who came to faith. Whitefield made seven trans-Atlantic trips literally spending years of his life on ships. The result of his efforts and those of other preachers is known to church historians as the Great Awakening and is the reason the United States was so dominated by believers at its founding in the 1770's. Even those like Franklin who were not Christian held a Christian world view about what was right and what was wrong. Many non-Christians today reject the Christian values held by people in general just a generation or two ago.

As a nation what the United States needs is to come to repentance. This will not be easy in the current climate. Most of what passes for evangelism today is anything but. Sinners need to hear that they are sinners. They need to know that the wages of sin is death, not just physical death but eternal spiritual death that will have them gnashing their teeth for all eternity. They need to turn from their sin and flee to Jesus Christ who is their only hope and help. People complain about the exclusivity of the Christian faith, the claim that trusting Christ is the only way of salvation. That complaint would be valid if there was another way, but there is not. Buddha can't help them, neither can Confucius. Mormonism is polytheistic believing in many gods and will only grant them hell. Islam though monotheistic does not embrace the one triune God and cannot save them.

What then is required of us? First, we must pray. Zion travailed and brought forth children the scripture tells us. God does not move apart from the prayers of His people. What is frightening is that very few in our churches are praying today, either individually or corporately. But we must pray if we want to see any kind of a return to where we used to be as a nation. While we don't control God so that our prayers will guarantee revival, there will be none without our prayers. Faithfulness in prayer is an absolute must. While the Lord may answer a single prayer, most often it is regular ongoing prayer that sees the answer we seek. Second, we must gather regularly as His people. If we do not honor Him with our worship we can hardly expect His blessing. The One who saved us is worthy of all praise, He is worthy of our time and He is deserving of our attention. We are commanded to not forsake the gathering of ourselves together and all the more as we see the day drawing near. Allowing the distractions of this world to keep us from our churches is short sighted at best. Third, we have to evangelize. Certainly, God has the power to bring people to faith apart from our testifying about Him, but he has chosen to use us as His instruments for drawing His people to Himself. Jesus said, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age* (Matt. 28:19-20)." Whether in prayer, worship or evangelism, may each of us be used by God to bring the desperately needed revival.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 1 New Year's Day - Offices Closed
No MDO No Awana No Prayer Meeting
- 2 No MDO
- 5 TVSBA Sunday Night Prayer
- 6 No MDO
- 6 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 7 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- 14 Nominating Committee Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 18 Ladies' Fellowship (1:00 p.m.)
- 20 Human Right's Day Offices Closed No MDO

Finance Committee

The finance committee puts its effort into preparing a church budget each year and into helping the various ministries of the church with their needs and requests. As with any organization income levels and expenditure requirements cannot be perfectly predicated. The committee responds to the changes as they take place. One important difference between what we do and what happens with secular organizations is to pray about our work and the needs of the church. For it truly is the Lord who oversees our work. In a sense what we do is related to how the scriptures were produced. It is not that our work is "God breathed" like the Bible. But, God used men to write the text that we have. He did not send the Bible down from Heaven on a parachute. We pray and trust the Lord for guidance in our work. Another difference between our work and scripture is that we are neither infallible nor inerrant. Also, our congregation makes the final choices, the committee just recommends. We do encourage the members to prayerfully consider everything about the church finances, looking to God for guidance.

Women's Ministry

Women-in-Touch (Women's Ministry) at FSBC finished out the year with a 6-week Bible Study on Thursday mornings and evenings with 15-20 women in attendance throughout, and a Progressive Christmas Party going from house to house enjoying great food and fellowship along with a Devotional and gift exchange.



Looking forward: Our theme for 2020 will be LOVE, based on the Scripture in Matthew 22:37-39: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself”. In-reach and outreach activities will be planned each calendar quarter and will focus on practical application of those commandments. Specific details will be announced soon.

In January we will offer a **Bible Study** taking us through Galatians. And March 20th – 22nd the TVSBA **Ladies Retreat** is scheduled. **Save the Date** and watch for details coming soon.

We have a “closed group” Facebook page for Women-in-Touch with all the upcoming events and announcements. If any woman attending FSBC is not a part of that group and would like to be included please let Sarah Gregory know.

(Deacons Report - continued from page two)

opportunities with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and business contacts.

~ We'll have the wonderful scenic Scripture calendars, as in recent years, available to distribute again this year on Dec 15th and 22nd after Sunday morning worship.

~ We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

The deacons

Jim Clark

John Ring

Steve Noland

Wayne Clark

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. Q. Why did the cat go to Minnesota? A. To get a mini soda.
2. Q. What do you do if your dog chews a dictionary? A. Take the words out of his mouth.
3. Q. What do you call a cow that chews your grass? A. A lawn moo-er.
4. Q. What is black and white and red all over? A. A sun burnt penguin.
5. Q. What do you call a thieving alligator? A. A crocodile.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 Darlene Artz
2 Garry Harper
4 Lendell Simler
8 Charlotte Grohs
16 Kent Clark
23 Christine Parsons



Happy Birthday

25 Avery Blair
26 Elizabeth Sears
26 Daniel Williams
31 Ann Parsons
31 Eric Grohs

17 Tyrone & Ann Parsons
2/1 Bob & Rose Purcell



25 Sam & Darlene Artz

Early February Birthdays

2/1 Annabelle Brooks
2/4 Mark Barnes

6 Alice Williams
7 Jaydin Blair