

March 2022

The Trumpet

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



Volume 16 Issue 3

Pastor's Pen

The Pledge:

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Psalms 119:11

The Problem:

Adam fell – Genesis 3:6

Noah got drunk – Genesis 9:21

Lot committed incest – Genesis 19:36

Abraham lied – Genesis 12:19

Jacob cheated – Genesis 27:35

Moses murdered – Exodus 2:12

Rahab prostituted – Joshua 6:17

David committed adultery – II Samuel 11:3-4

Jonah fled – Jonah 1:3

Thomas doubted – John 20:25

Peter denied – Matthew 26:69-74

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Paul persecuted – Acts 22:4

We rebelled – II Peter 2:13-16

The Penalty:

“For the wages of sin is death, but...”

Romans 6:23a

The Promise:

Jesus redeems!

“...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:23b

The Point:

“...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

Romans 5:20b

In Christian Love,

Pastor Jim

Public Relations

Our ministry goal is to support the committees and church ministries, to honor God throughout the community and draw others to Jesus Christ and the gospel. The PR Committee consists of Sarah Gregory, Michele Ring, Amos and Kathleen Payton, Mary Grohs and Cameron Lord. Bob Neubauer is the publisher and editor of the Trumpet, our church monthly publication, and is considered part of the Public Relations ministry, as well. We have not met yet to establish our goals for 2022, but are working diligently in the update of the church website and updating the Presentation Software during the Worship Service. Many changes are happening behind the scenes. As you notice them, let us know if you like the changes. Also, if you have artistic skills and want to help, let Sarah Gregory know. We love to hear ideas for promoting our church well in the community. There is a Graphics Request Form for any upcoming event, that gives you our help and resources to promote it in a timely and professional manner. Ask Nicole Clark or Sarah for that form a month or 2 before your event. Thank you to all who share their talents and artistic gifts!

To God's Glory,
Sarah Gregory

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 March please bring in combs and brushes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Some Results of the Fall of Constantinople

All of history is connected. That is to say things do not happen in isolation - where we are today is connected with what happened in the past. A case in point, Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) founded by the emperor Constantine, first functioned as the capital of the Roman Empire when Constantine moved the capital of the empire from Rome. And after the fall of Rome in the west it served as the head of the Byzantine empire. The city had a strategic location as the gateway into Europe and had functioned for many centuries as a buffer to the expanding Islamic empire. Then some Italian nation states who were having a feud with Constantinople made an agreement to supply the ships to one of the crusades – if in addition to the main purpose of the crusade the crusaders would also sack Constantinople. This sacking in 1204 weakened Constantinople and led to its eventual collapse to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. Interestingly, this affected how both Roman Catholics and Protestants viewed Anabaptists (Mennonites, Amish & Hutterites). Because the baptismal roles of the church were also the tax rolls of the state, the idea of a free church where only professing believers were part of the church was seen both as weakening the cohesion of the state and as a reduction of its ability to withstand the attacks of the Muslims. This 16th century attitude did bleed over to how Baptists (17th century) were viewed, seeing them as not being a part of “Christendom.” One weakness of the Reformation was that it was a magisterial reformation. That is the church was a state church and everyone in it was considered to be a Christian. But baptizing a baby does not make a Christian. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only means God has given for bringing anyone into the community of the redeemed. The ritual of infant baptism which did not bring regeneration meant that the vast majority of people in the church were not Christians. We should also say that a mere profession of faith is insufficient. One must not just profess faith; one must possess it. Walking an aisle does not regenerate one’s soul. That is the work of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:4-5).

Many of those in Constantinople saw that its fall was coming and fled to the west. This included Greek scholars who brought their manuscripts of the scriptures with them which provided the foundation for the relearning of the Biblical languages. The Latin Vulgate had ruled in the west for more than 1100 years and its many weaknesses would come to light because of the revival of learning prompted by the influx of scholars fleeing the Muslims. Still it was a dangerous thing to learn those languages. It was dangerous to learn Greek because the Roman church saw Greek as the language of heretics and so those who learned it would be viewed that way. And learning Hebrew was even riskier because the Jews were

the ones who had crucified Christ. This was the time of the Renaissance, which was a revival of the learning that had been lost after the fall of Rome in the fifth century. The cry of the Renaissance was “ad fontes” (to the sources), not something new, but a return to all that had been lost.

One of the results of this revival of learning was the desire to produce a Greek New Testament. One man, Cardinal Jimenez, had produced a Greek manuscript of the New Testament but had not published it because it took Papal approval to print any religious work. Desiderius Erasmus, a priest and scholar of the first order, aware of the work of Jimenez rushed to produce a Greek New Testament but had only seven New Testament manuscripts from which to work. He produced a manuscript that was a diglot, having Latin on one side and Greek on the other. As a side note Erasmus thought that his Latin translation was far more important than the Greek. Not having the last page of Revelation, he translated backward from Latin into Greek which resulted in some words that are not found in any Greek manuscript. Erasmus produced four more editions of his Greek New Testament. Then two Protestant scholars produced revisions of his fifth edition. The last of these revisions became the Greek New Testament that was used for the King James translation. Today’s translations are produced from 5856 Greek manuscripts compared to the about 35 used for the King James, resulting in a more accurate New Testament. That is not to say that the King James won’t get you to heaven, it will. But today we have better translations. Some may think that since the King James is the translation that has been around the longest it is the only acceptable translation. But it is not how long a translation has been around but how accurate it is to what was originally written. Jerome’s Latin translation done in 382 was corrected by the work done in the 16th century. The important thing to remember is that what we want to know is what John, Peter, Paul and the other authors of scripture wrote. Textual criticism is all about getting us as close to the original as possible. While we do not possess any of the original manuscripts we actually know for certain more than 99 ½ per cent of the text. And for that less than ½ per cent of the text where we are just not absolutely sure which of the readings is correct there is no essential doctrine of the faith in question. The scribes throughout the centuries copied everything from the manuscripts they were working with, afraid that they might leave something of critical importance out. We know this because some manuscripts have readings that are complete nonsense.

The conquest of Constantinople while in and of itself bad resulted in believers having a reliable New Testament, a very good thing. The mistakes of Erasmus in his five editions of the Greek New Testament have resulted in scholars working hard to give us the most accurate Bibles possible. As the scripture says, *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose* (Rom. 8:28).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

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| 1 | Women's Ministry Team Meeting (6:30 p.m.) |
| 4-5 | Awana Expedition |
| 6 | Potluck Fellowship (12:45 p.m.) |
| 7 | Church Council (6:30 p.m.) |
| 8 | Deacon's Meeting (7:00 p.m.) |
| 6-9 | AAEO Week of Prayer |
| 13 | Daylight Savings Time Starts |
| 21-25 | Spring Break No Awana - No MDO |
| 29 | Sunday School Teacher Training (6:00 p.m.) |
| 31 | Nominating Committee Meeting (6:30 p.m.) |

. Hostess Committee

When the Israelites were building the temple there came a time when Moses had the people stop bringing silver and gold because "what they already had was more than enough to do all the work" (Ex. 36:7). I call that the blessing of extra. The hostess committee wants to express our gratitude for the blessing of "extra" in our church. We have people who bring extra food so we can invite everyone to stay, even if they are new to the church or didn't know about a potluck. We have those that take the extra time and go to the extra expense of making special main courses or desserts. We have those who take extra care to sit with a new person, making sure everyone feels welcome. We have extra hand to wash the dishes and vacuum the floors afterwards. We have extra men who work quickly after the service so that the room is completely set up. Afterwards several families stay and even enlist their children to help with the cleanup so that the hostess committee members don't have to give up their entire Sunday afternoon. Working together brings us not just fellowship but the blessing of having "extra." Thank you to ALL who contribute to our "extra" – and may you be blessed for it just as you have blessed our church.

Michele Ring (for Carol Ellis)

The Unifying Work of Music

As the book of Acts opens, we are given a glimpse in to the upper room of a house where the disciples, the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus were staying as instructed by Jesus. They waited there, as we know, for the enduement of power that would come when they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. In this passage we read that the number of the group was 120. We cannot miss the phrasing of Acts 2:1 where we see, “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all *with one accord in one place.*” (Italics mine) Some of us are now reading through the Old Testament on our way to reading the entire Bible through this year. I came across a passage in I Chronicles that might ordinarily have slipped my notice. In chapter 15, the Ark of the Covenant is being brought up from the city of David to Jerusalem to a tent (likely a copy of the wilderness Tabernacle) which David had prepared. Remember that the same Ark would later be ushered into the newly built Temple during Solomon’s reign. In preparation for moving the Ark, David was careful to move it properly in accordance with the Law. He assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites, the only ones authorized by the Law to handle the Ark, making sure that all were properly sanctified before doing so. I noticed that in verse 5 of chapter 15, one of the groups David assembled were the sons of Kohath. This group of Kohathites was assigned various duties which happened to include singing. And guess what? There were 120 of them.

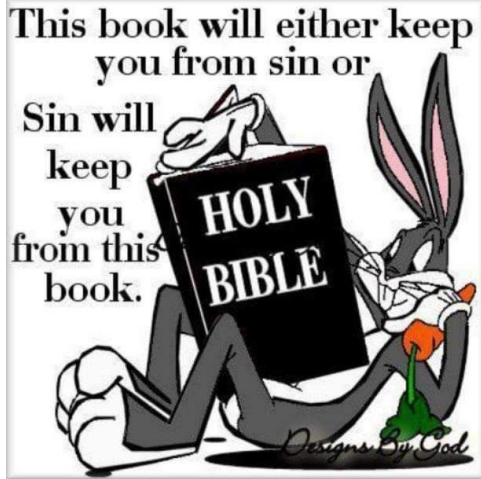
In verse 17, we learn that the Levites appointed Heman, the son of Joel, and Asaph, the son of Berechiah, as leaders of those who would be singers and musicians (using stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals) for the purpose of praise and worship. By the way, Asaph would go on to write several Psalms. This same musical group would accompany the transition of the Ark into the Temple when Solomon dedicated the Temple to the Lord. We can recall that the Glory of the Lord’s presence (often called Shekinah) filled the Temple, and the priest and Levites were then literally unable to stand and continue because of the Lord’s presence. The aim of the music ministry remains the same for our church. We seek to unify our body in worship and expectation of the Lord’s presence filling our sanctuary each Sunday.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has reviewed and revised the Personnel Manual. The last review was completed in 2015. Things have changed since the last update and those changes are now reflected in the manual. The Committee will spend the rest of the year performing Annual Evaluations of the church staff.

Jessica Nagel

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



March Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 Ruth Heinen
7 Meghan Byrem
9 Aurora Farnham
11 Nicole Clark
16 Cameron Lord
18 Bunni Farnham



20 Rose Lindsay
27 James Gregory
27 Fernando Solis
28 Manuelito Brooks
28 Louise Carrol

3/5 Garry & Betty Finley

4/1 Victor & Samantha Nostrom



Early April Birthdays

1 Em Busch

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed and would like to have it included please contact Nicole Clark at the church office.