

January 2023

The Trumpet

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



Volume 17 Issue 1

Pastor's Pen

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

I remember a few years ago when one of our USAF church members was about to leave us because of reassignment (PCS). He was a F-15 pilot and came to faith in Christ while stationed here. It was a real blessing to watch his spiritual growth. Having dinner with Ben and Stephanie a few days before they left, Ben shared a story that I will never forget. He told me how he and his grandfather built a pinewood derby car when he was a little boy. When the day of the race came, he fully expected to win. When he didn't, Ben says he brought the car home and destroyed it in front of his grandfather while saying some very hurtful (mean and nasty) things to him. As he shared this story with me all these years later, I could see the hurt he caused to his grandfather still plagued him. They had spent many long precious and quality hours together working on the car. In an instant, the work was destroyed and damaging words were spoken. Sometimes we forget the extent to which our words can impact another person. Many years ago I read an article in *U.S. News & World Report*, February 21, 1994, Page 67. The article concerned a study done by two psychologists of newlyweds over their first ten years of marriage. All the couples they studied started out essentially the same: they were in love; they had tremendous affection for each other; they hardly argued; they enjoyed each other's company. There was one subtle difference. Among couples who would ultimately stay together, 5 out of every 100 comments made about each oth-

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er were putdowns. Among couples who would later split, 10 of every 100 comments were insults. That gap magnified over the following decade, until couples heading downhill were flinging five times as many cruel and invalidating comments at each other as happy couples. Psychologist Cliff Notarius said, “Hostile put-downs act as cancerous cells that, if unchecked, erode the relationship over time”. King David prayed that his words would be acceptable to God. That comment implies there must be words that are unacceptable. Have

you ever thought about the impact of your words on the heart of God? There are many scriptures in the Bible that speak to our words. In the coming editions of the Pastor's Pen, I am going to address words that are "profoundly" spoken, "fitly" spoken, and "rarely" spoken. Let me encourage each of you to give careful consideration to the words you use.

In His grip,
Pastor Jim

Maintenance Report

As we enter into a new year, with it comes change for the Maintenance Committee. Due to health concerns, Thomas Westcott has stepped down as Chairman of the committee. We want to thank Thomas for his years of service as Chairman and much of the behind-the-scenes work he did or organized for the upkeep of the church building and facilities. We are also grateful to the members of the committee (and many other volunteers) that have given of their time, talents, and energies to complete the many tasks needed around the church each year.

The Maintenance Committee met December 11th, called by Pastor Jim, to elect a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Jim Clark was elected Chairman and Richard Kanady was elected Vice-Chairman. Current members of the committee also include Jason Hare, Rebecca Martinez, John Ring, Don Scheffler, Thomas Westcott, and Jenise Zachary.

If you feel led or have a special talent (construction, lawn/yard care, etc.) please consider joining the Maintenance Committee. You can either contact the church office, Jim, or Richard if you'd like to learn more or to join the committee.

Jim Clark - Chairman



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 washcloths and soap.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Yahweh

Who is this God we worship? What is His name? What has he done and what will He do? These are important questions to which believers need to know the answers. Most unbelievers know very little about the one true God and much of what they think they know is wrong. It is both our privilege and our responsibility to communicate true information in a winsome way. For we are no better than any other sinner. We were dead in our trespasses and sins when God made us alive. We were as deserving of eternity in the lake of fire as anyone else. But the Lord had mercy on us and extended His grace.

First, we always need to say there is only one God who eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are not tri-theists; that is we do not believe in three gods. Nor are we modalists, those who believe that there is only one person who manifests himself as father, son or spirit. The Father is not the Son nor the Spirit. Each member of the Trinity has His own role; it was the Father who sent the Son and it was the Son who became incarnate. It is the Spirit who regenerates bringing us into the community of the redeemed. No group that denies these truths has the right to call itself Christian, though some do. This one triune God is the Lord of the universe. He is both our creator and the sustainer of life. As the scripture says, "In Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)." He is the one who works all things after His own council (Eph.1:11) and *causes all things to work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose* (Rom8:28). He has all power and *All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, What have You done?* (Dan. 4:35).

We live in a time when most have rejected this God. Though as we read in Romans everyone knows He exists and though especially in the United States He has shown Himself to many we have as a whole turned our backs on Him. The knowledge of the one true God dominated the lives of its citizens at the founding of this nation. Yet daily we hear of new abominations taking place throughout this land. The Supreme Court of the United States has legalized homosexual marriage in defiance of revealed truth and many in the nation have embraced the disgrace of abortion. The Mormon church which though not Christian was a bastion of ethics and morals, but has now accepted the LGBTQ movement.

Traditionally, Bible translations have rendered the tetragrammaton, YHWH, in all capital letters as LORD. Hebrew does not have vowels but there is general agreement in the academic community that Yahweh is the correct way to fill in those

missing letters. The Legacy Standard Bible, a revision of the 1995 edition of the New American Standard done by the Masters Seminary during the 2020 pandemic, uses Yahweh which is what the Old Testament authors wrote. It occurs more than 6800 times from Genesis to Malachi. Yahweh is God's personal name in the Bible and when translated adds a power to reading the scripture which can otherwise be missed. For example in the Legacy Standard, Psalm 23 begins, *Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want*. Additionally, one of the professors at Masters that did the translation work referred to the shorter version of the name, what he called God's intimate personal name – Jah. Every time we say Hallelujah we are actually saying praise Jah, that is praise God.

It is this one triune God called Yahweh who has rescued millions of sinners who were deserving of eternity in Gehenna, the lake of fire, and brought them to Himself. He would have been perfectly just to punish every one of us. We would have had no basis to complain of such a judgment for as God's word tells us, *the wages of sin is death* (Rom. 6:23). Any honest person will admit that he or she has done wrong. And we have done so again and again. How many mothers have said to their child, "if I've told you once I've told you a thousand times not to do that." Yet as the scripture tells us because of the great love with which He loved us Yahweh made us alive when we were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:4-5). In order for that to happen the Father sent the Son to live a sinless life and then die on a cross having our sins laid on Him. Can you imagine the second person leaving His eternal abode, taking on a human body for you? He who had never known anything but the utter perfection of the trinitarian love of the Godhead took on a human body for eternity that he might rescue you. There is no greater love nor could there be. Our salvation is a triune work for it is the Holy Spirit, who regenerates us.

Just before our Savior died He said, *It is finished* and by that meant that He had accomplished redemption for His people. Of course He still upholds the universe by the word of His power. What has been completed is His time of suffering. That is what He has done but He still has to come a second time when the dead in Christ will rise to meet Him in the air. There are differences of understanding about the exact order of how these things will happen within the community of believers. But there are at least three things that all Christians hold, whether they are premillennial (historic or dispensational) amillennial or postmillennial. First, Jesus Christ is coming again. There are those who say He has already come, that all prophecy has already been fulfilled. Known as preterists they are considered by theologians to be outside of the body of believers. Second, when He comes the righteous will be with Him forever, blessed forever, serving Him forever. Third, the ungodly will suffer eternal punishment. This Yahweh is the one triune God who has saved you and to whom you owe everything. Live your life in light of that truth.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 1 New Year's Day - Worship Service 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- 2-5 No MDO
- 4 Awana resumes (6:00 p.m.)
- 10 Women's Ministry Team Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 10 Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 14 Men's Ministry Kickoff (12 Noon)
- 16 MLK Jr. Day - Offices Closed - No MDO
- 16 Bible Recap (6:30 p.m.)
- 29 Benevolence Fund
- 31 Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)

"We Would See Jesus"

John 12:21

Among those crowding around Jesus after His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, some seekers came to the disciples saying that they wanted to see Jesus.

Isn't that what we all desire? To glimpse Christ anew in our Bible reading? I for one often struggle with keeping up with my daily bible reading because I don't sense much if any change or progress.

Recently a simple suggestion drastically improved my Bible-reading. Too often my own desire to see Jesus becomes lost in trying to get my daily Bible reading back on schedule and completed before the day's demands begin. But remember David, the man after God's own heart?

Try this. Start reading through the Psalms, making careful record of all the statements of how David (and the other writers) viewed the Lord. Make a list. I am convinced that the list will encourage you, enlighten you, and convict you as it has me.

Then, on your knees go over the statements one by one, with the prayer that Christ may be to you what He was to David and the others.

"And you will seek Me and find Me,
when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

Finance Committee

The finance committee is made up of Eric Nagel, Doris Laffoon, Martha Hazelbaker and Bob Neubauer. It has been a privilege to serve this past year as the giving of the members of First Southern has made our job effortless. That is not to say we have not spent time dealing with the needs of the church. But the Lord has blessed us greatly. In spite of the inflation we are seeing in the nation we have more than met our obligations. This enabled us to give extra to reducing the loan on the remodel of our building which along with some special giving has paid off about forty percent of the total. Truly the Lord has blessed First Southern.

We spent hours preparing a budget for 2023 which while reflecting the increased giving is still a conservative financial plan for the coming year. In light of the larger budget we will also set aside additional funds so that we maintain a three month reserve, which is sound economic policy. As God continues to grow our church our desire is to reduce the loan on the remodel project even further getting us ever closer to completely eliminating the debt. What we have seen is faithfulness on the part of the body of believers, a faithfulness that the Lord uses to bless us and to further the work of the ministry.

Bob Neubauer - Chairman



Women's Ministry

Women's ministry has had a wonderful year, praise be to God! We had several great events of fellowship and wonderful Bible studies, and finished out the year with a Christmas Tea – 38 ladies total and every seat filled! Thank you to all the women who helped in any capacity – decorating, hosting a table, bringing food and friends, and helping to clean after. It was a sweet time of fellowship and focusing on preparing room in our hearts for the Lord in this season.

We will be having our first meeting of 2023 in February. If you have ideas or would like to be a part of planning and helping in women's ministry, these meetings are the place to be and are open to all women of our church, not just leadership. We discuss fellowship events, Bible study, ministry opportunities and more. We would love to have you and your input!

We are looking forward to what God has in store for the women in our church this year and being used by Him as we seek to know Him more and make Him known.

For His Glory,
Violet Solis



Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



More Spoonerisms

1. Bead a rook - Read a book.
2. Wrong load - Long road.
3. Bad salad - Sad ballad.
4. Belly jeans - Jelly beans.
5. Pit nicking - Nit picking
6. Plaster man - Master plan
7. Shake a tower - Take a shower

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Darlene Artz
- 2 Garry Harper
- 4 Lendell Simler
- 8 Charlotte Grohs
- 12 Clint Martinez
- 16 Kent Clark



Happy Birthday

- 23 Christine Parsons
- 25 Avery Blair
- 26 Elizabeth Sears
- 31 Eric Grohs
- 31 Ann Parsons

- 15 Jon & Blythe Thompson
- 17 Tyrone & Ann Parsons
- 21 Bill & Sharon Goodnough



- 23 Nathan & Tasha White
- 27 Jon & Kim Juris

Early February Birthdays

- 1 Annabelle Brooks
- 3 Chad Zachary
- 3 Sophia Postelnick

- 4 Mark Barnes
- 4 Doris Laffoon
- 7 Jaydin Blair