

November 2023

The Trumpet

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



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Pastor's Pen

In his book *Folk Psalms of Faith*, Ray Stedman tells of an experience H.A. Ironside had in a crowded restaurant. He shares, “Just as Ironside was about to begin his meal, a man approached and asked if he could join him. Ironside invited him to have a seat. Then, as was his custom, Ironside bowed his head in prayer. When he opened his eyes, the other man asked, ‘Do you have a headache?’ Ironside replied, ‘No, I don't.’ The other man asked, ‘Well, is there something wrong with your food?’ Ironside replied, ‘No, I was simply thanking God as I always do before I eat.’ The man said, ‘Oh, you're one of those, are you? Well, I want you to know I never give thanks. I earn my money by the sweat of my brow and I don't have to give thanks to anybody when I eat. I just start right in!’ Ironside said, ‘Yes, you're just like my dog. That's what he does too!’”

There is a precious old hymn that says, “When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged thinking, all is lost, count your many blessings name them one by one and it will surprise what the Lord has done. Are you ever burdened with the load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings every doubt will fly, and you will be singing as the days go by. Count your many blessings name them one by one: count your many blessings, see what God has done.”

As we enter this Thanksgiving season, I wonder how many Christians are intentional about giving thanks to God for all the blessings He showers down upon them. I know it's easy to be bitter and cynical in this current economy, increasing

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violence sweeping and the progress of the Progressives. But God is still in control and He still opens the windows of heaven and pours out blessings greater than we can imagine. Never forget, the countless blessings you enjoy are from the hand God. You can thank Him or credit yourself. I will count my many blessings and, in naming them one by one, I will stand amazed at what my Lord has done!

“And it shall be, when the LORD your God shall bring

you into the land which he promised to your fathers...to give you...cities, which you did not build...houses full of all good things, which you did not fill...vineyards and olive trees, which you did not plant...Then beware that you do not forget the LORD..."

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

In Christian Love,
Pastor Jim Gregory

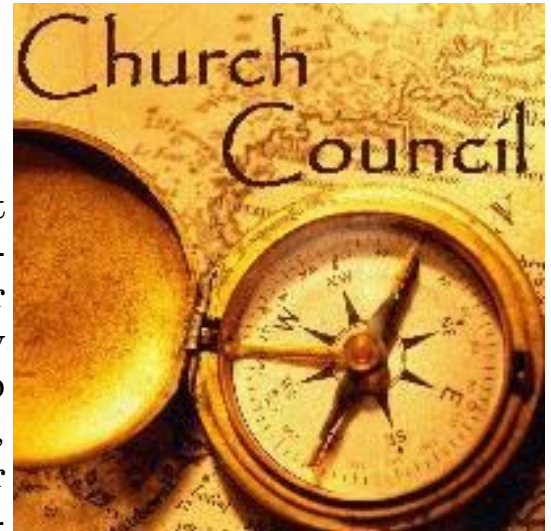
Church Council

Acts 15:25-28 –For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us ...

The 15th chapter of Acts describes the first time the church at Jerusalem hosted a council of the apostles to seek direction from the Holy Spirit on the issue of Gentile converts. This council did not rely on themselves to determine the outcome. They clearly relied on the Holy Spirit to guide them in a decision that would impact future of Christianity.

Our church council is not made up of apostles, but the intent of our council is the same – to bathe every decision that affects the various ministries of our church in prayer to discern the will of the Holy Spirit. Current members of the council are Bob Neubauer, John Crowe, Jim Clark, Patrick Holt, Garry Harper, Martha Hazelbaker, and Pastor Gregory. Nicole Clark attends all meetings and records our deliberations. Each member has a specific

area of accountability, but all decisions are discussed by the entire council as we seek the blessing of God through the Holy Spirit's leading. (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 November pickup and finish filling boxes.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Why I am a Baptist

I was born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania in 1943. My family was part of a Methodist church and so both I and my twin brother received infant baptism. In 1948 my father purchased an apartment building at the New Jersey seashore. No two of the six units were alike unlike apartment complexes today. For two summers we lived in one of the apartments and rented the rest. In 1950 my dad purchased the adjacent building, sold our home in Philly, his business in South Ardmore and we moved into the largest unit of the second building. The island we lived on was eighteen miles long and we lived in a small town in the center of the island. There was only one Protestant church in our town or anywhere near it. It was a small independent Bible church. Through the teaching of the Sunday School teachers I became aware that I was a sinner and one day at home I got down on my knees and asked Jesus if He would please save me. I joined the church when I was twelve having been interviewed by the deacons but for some reason I am unaware of they did not require baptism. It was not until many years later when my pastor at the time taught that baptism is the first act of obedience after coming to faith that I realized I had to be baptized. Our church did not have a baptistry and so we used the large bay that was between our island and the mainland.

My depth of understanding at that point was not great and so you could say that I was a Baptist by practice. Now I am a Baptist by conviction. Baptism by immersion is the common practice of the New Testament. You may read the entire book of Acts ten times but you will find no example of infant baptism. In formal public debate proponents of infant baptism (paedobaptists) are forced to admit this truth. If we look at the day of Pentecost we find the immediate call for those who have professed faith to be baptized. "*Repent and be baptized*" is what Peter says to those who have responded to the proclamation of the gospel. I Corinthians 15:1-4 is a brief summary of the good news that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried and that He rose again on the third day according to the scriptures. Any honest person will recognize that he or she has both done wrong and failed to do right. At that first preaching of the gospel 3000 people made the public confession that they were sinners, that Christ was their only hope and were then baptized. Baptism is the God given ordinance for every professing believer. Paedobaptists will say but you baptize some who turn out to not be Christians. And that is true. Certainly we have all known people who professed faith, were baptized and later left the church. Some return but there are those who never do. Our response is that we are by the New Testament called to baptize on profession of faith. There is no other standard. True we should and do

try to ascertain if the profession is credible but as long as it is we baptize. And in the New Testament we have record of some who left the faith. No doubt they had professed faith and were baptized. But as John wrote, *“they went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us”* (I John 2:19) See Acts 8:13-24 for an example.

What do we say about the household baptisms we see in the New Testament? Let’s consider the Philippian jailer in Acts 16. Finding the prison gates opened he was going to commit suicide until Paul stopped him. Paul responds to his question on how to be saved, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household.”* Paul spoke the word of the Lord to the jailer and his household. And then he baptized them all. There is nothing in the text that indicates Paul baptized any unbeliever. In fact the scripture says the jailer believed with his whole household. This reflects what we often see in the early days of the church, groups of people coming to faith at the same time. More often today we see single believers coming to faith but that is a change from the early days of the church.

Earlier in the same chapter we read about Lydia, a seller of purple who believes and is baptized with her household. The text does not say that her household believed but what are we to think? This household contained adults. Are we supposed to think Paul deliberately baptized people who did not profess faith? Of course not. Some texts on baptism give us the profession of faith and the baptism, some do not. The Bible does not have to repeat every detail for every baptism. We have another clear text in Acts 8 where Phillip is preaching. Acts 8:12 *But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.*

Why is baptism by full immersion? The word baptize in our Bibles is a transliteration rather than a translation. When the iron smith has heated his work he baptizes it. He does not sprinkle it with a little water or pour some water on it. He fully immerses his object in water. That is what the word means. Consider this text about John’s baptism. John 3:23 *John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized.* The fact that the phrase ‘much water’ is included tells us that John was not sprinkling or pouring.

A fair honest reading of the Book of Acts demonstrates that baptism by immersion following professing of faith is what God teaches us in the Bible. Are you a believer in Jesus Christ? Have you been baptized by immersion? If you believe then your obligation is to be baptized.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 5** Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11** Veterans Day
- 14** Deacon's Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18** Thanksgiving Banquet
- 20-23** Thanksgiving Break - No MDO No Awana
- 23** Thanksgiving Day - Offices Closed
- 28** Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)

Personnel Committee

The personnel committee is currently performing administrative functions to develop methods and comply with the policies set forth in the constitution and bylaws. The aim is to have these procedures in place by the new year and start next year in compliance. Although this committee acts in relative obscurity, it is our desire and strategic outlook to ensure proper implementation of the personnel manual, and serve in an effective advisory role to the pastoral staff on often difficult decisions that directly and indirectly affect the church congregation.

Amos Payton
Chairman



If you are not currently serving on a committee or with a ministry consider what gifts God has given you. Those gifts were given to be employed in His service. There was a chorus we sang when I was a boy that went, "After all He's done for you, after all He's done for me, How can I do less than give Him my best, After all He's done for me." Nicole can put you in touch with any ministry or committee where you can serve. Would you not like to hear Jesus say to you, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Music Ministry

Psalm 32:7 – You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

I remember experiencing surround sound some years ago when visiting a friend's home. My friend was rather well-to-do and had turned one of the rooms on his second floor into a sort of in-home theatre. He had purchased a very large screen television which, in those days, weighed several hundred pounds (this was way back when no one ever heard of flat screen TV's).

In all four corners of the room small speakers were ensconced in the upper corners near the ceiling. Two large speakers were on either side of the TV and I was told that a subwoofer speaker was sitting underneath the sofa upon which I was sitting.

My friend put in a tape of the movie, Jurassic Park, and cranked up the volume. Suddenly I could feel the pounding of the T-Rex walking through the rain toward me. The sound of the rain and wind seemed to blow behind me and then move to my left and my right. I was truly surrounded by sound.

When I think of the Holy Spirit's words, "You shall surround me with songs of deliverance," I realize, in reverent awe, that God has built His surround system into the body of Christ – His church. Truly we surround ourselves with songs of deliverance – the stories of our salvation and the sounds of restoration.

Garry Harper
Music Minister



(Continued from page 2)

If you are new to our church, Nicole Clark can provide a listing of the council members and their respective areas of accountability. Ministry ideas should be directed to the appropriate council member for that ministry. With advance notice to Pastor, members may attend and observe council meetings. Those who want to make proposals to the council should first contact the council member over that ministry.

Garry Harper

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



A collector of rare books ran into an old friend who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector.

"Yes, that was it!"

"Do you know what you have done? You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anywhere close to that," replied his friend. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 William Groom
8 Sue Southwick
9 Natalie Sanchez
9 Cookie Lyerla
19 Matthew Strong



20 Michelle Hampton
22 Richard Kanady
26 Blake Rosenbaum Jr.
28 Jake Sisson
30 Agnes Simler

5 James & Sara Postelnick
16 Ryan & Alex Strong



9 Daniel & Mistee Kelly
12/7 William & Sue Groom

Early December Birthdays

7 Elijah Grohs

7 Samantha Simler