

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COURIER

FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION



OUR STAFF

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Rev. Phil Lowther—Assistant Pastor

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Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8-5

Office is closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 pm

Live a Life that Matters

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Sunday services: 8:20 and 11 am; Sunday School for all ages: 9:45 am

CSFBC MISSION STATEMENT

"Infusing TRUTH to produce selfless followers of God."

PASTOR ROD'S MESSAGE

Recently, a Christian friend sent me some thoughts. They were very helpful to ponder. In fact they were so good that many of them were downright Biblical. I bet as you read them you can even associate some verses with them. Here are some of them:

'Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.'

A sharp tongue can cut your own throat.

If you want your dreams to come true, you mustn't oversleep. (I'll help with that one: Proverbs 6:10, Proverbs 24:33-34.)

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge. (Help: Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 18:33-35, Ephesians 4:26-27)

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.

You lie the loudest when you lie to yourself.

Sometimes we are so caught up in who's right and who's wrong that we forget what's right and wrong.


When you get a second chance, grab it with both hands. When it changes your life, let it.

The 10 commandments are not a multiple choice.

One thing you can't recycle is wasted time. (Here's a couple of verses to help: Romans 13:11, Ephesians 5:16)

I hope these are helpful and have created some contemplative situations for you.

Here's a final thoughtful email for you at this time year from another email: This appeared on my Facebook page today, very appropriate.



*To carry a grudge is
like being stung to
death by one bee.*

Anonymous

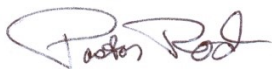
www.JustGetSerious.com

Praise God from Whom All Blizzards Flow

Praise God from whom all blizzards flow, when snow comes down and cold winds blow!

Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God for shovels, gloves and plows...when four-foot drifts surround your house! If more snow falls, praise for snow balls! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!!

Author unknown.



PASTOR PHIL'S MESSAGE

The below excerpt comes from some thoughts after reading a sermon from one of my heroes Charles Spurgeon. It still rings true this month. God is ready to help, strengthen, and provide for us by His mighty right hand. Let us live in dependence on His help for you.

"I am the very one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel."

—Isaiah 41:14

This month of February let us hear the Lord Jesus speak to each one of us: "I will *help* you." "It is but a small thing for me, your God, to *help* you. Consider what I have done already. What! Not help you? Why, I bought you with my blood. What! Not help you? I have died for you; and if I have done the greater, will I not do the less? *Help* you! It is the least thing I will ever do for you; I have done more, and will do more. Before the world began I chose you (Eph. 1:4). I made the covenant for you. I laid aside my glory and became a man for you; I gave up my life for you; and if I did all this, I will surely help you now. In helping you, I am giving you what I have bought for you already. If you would be in need of a thousand times as much help, I would give it to you; you require little compared with what I am ready to give. It may mean much for you to need, but it is nothing for me to help. '*Help thee?*' Fear not! If there were an ant at the door of thy granary asking for help, it would not ruin you to give him a handful of thy wheat; and you are nothing but a tiny insect at the door of my all-sufficiency. '**I will help you.**' "

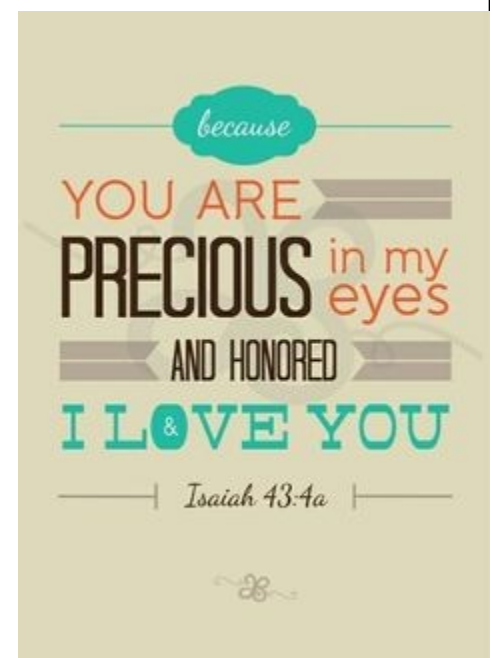
Ask your soul, is not this enough? Do you need more strength than the omnipotence of the United Trinity? Do you want more wisdom than exists in the Father, more love than displays itself in the Son, or more power than is manifest in the influences of the Spirit? So bring your empty pitcher! Surely His well will fill it. Quick, gather up your wants, and bring them here—your emptiness, your woes, your needs. Don't you see, this river of God is full to supply your needs; is it possible to desire more than He can provide? May you go forward in this God's might. The Eternal God is your helper!

"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismay'd!

I, I am thy God, and will still give thee aid."

fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. -Isaiah 41:10

Pastor Phil



Deacons Devotional

I don't want to be labeled a Christian, with that comes being measured by the worldly standard that label holds.

Before you get all offended or start to worry about me, let me take a few minutes to explain.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

These are just two of many examples in the Bible that God clearly tells us that not some but ALL men have sinned.

The worldly view of a Christian is a perfect person or at least someone that has turned away from past sin and is now perfect- who never sins again. This person has everything all together, they are never tempted and always have their lives and household in order. However, that's not the case. This fake perfect image of a Christian has caused so many to feel not good enough, alone and ashamed of who they truly are. This label invites isolation and separation amount believers and those that are seeking to know God.

You see, how many times in your life have you personally felt like you have fallen short. You may have lied, stolen or possibly took that second lustful look, though you struggle inside with these temptations and the strongholds of some sins you don't feel comfortable sharing with even other believers for fear of rejection or judgement. You may be the mother, at home with 4 children, that is dealing with depression and anxiety, who is completely exhausted trying to keep up with every other mother at church. You feel like you need to keep it all together, not ask for help or show any weakness.

God wants us to show compassion, understanding, love and forgiveness to others. When a brother or sister is struggling, we need to be an empathetic listener, eager to help and a sacrificial servant not a self-righteous judging saint that puts our wrongs and the wrongs of others on a scale. Though different sins have different consequences here on Earth, in God's eyes- they all sperate us from Him and none are worse than another.

So, when I say I don't want to be labeled a Christian by the worldly standards it's because I courageously will stand up and say I'm not perfect. I'm a redeemed forgiven sinner, by the precious mercy and grace of God, through the blood of Jesus Christ my Savior. And I'm still under constant construction. I have learned that I no longer have to worry or fear what others think of me because I know who I am in Christ. God knows my heart and truly what others think of me doesn't matter. If I'm willing to share with others my shortcomings and struggles, God can help me while He is using me.

It's time we join together as one united body to lift each other up, not tear each other down. It's time we stop pointing fingers and throwing stones but instead daily ask God to examine our own hearts so that He can develop a deeper wisdom and understanding in us on how to be tenderhearted towards others.

Then may we foster a church community-

*That is built on encouraging others...

Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

*That is enjoyable...

Psalm 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

*Where the Holy Spirit is ever present...

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

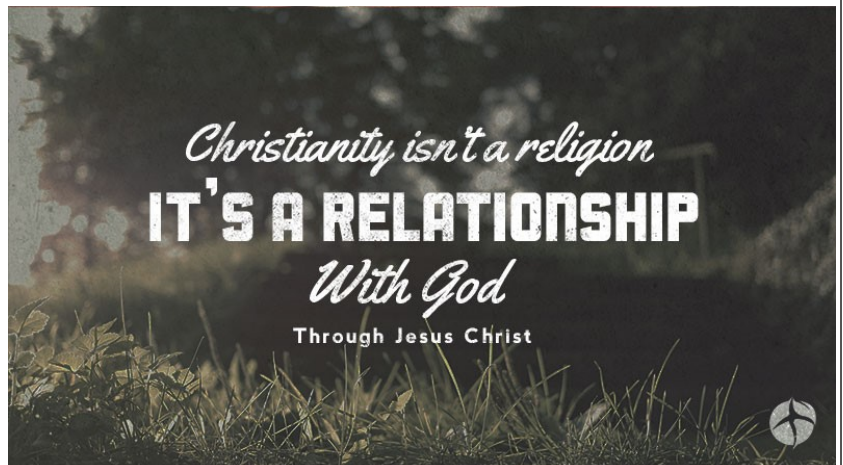
*Lastly that is full of love...

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Be blessed our church family!

In Christ,

Matt and Misty Hovis



Health Ministry

Does Being Fearful Mean You Are Not Walking In Faith?

We see in the gospels that every time someone had enough faith to come to Jesus, He responded to their need. We see Jesus talking seriously to people about their unbelief on occasion, but we don't see Him sending them away because of their doubt or unbelief. In cancer care ministry you are likely to encounter those who are concerned that their doubts are a barrier to their prayers. When an opportunity presents itself, you may want to open the Bible together and look at the incident in **Mark 9:14-27** where a father brings his child to Jesus and the disciples for healing. The key moment is verse 24: *"Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, 'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!'"* God welcomes all of us, no matter where we are on the fear-faith continuum. He invites us to seek Him in prayer until His peace overcomes all our fears and anxieties. *"Come near to God and He will come near to you"* (James 4:8).

Pray with Honesty: We should remind cancer patients and their families to bring every concern they have to God in prayer. *"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7). Remind them it's safe to bring even the tough stuff—anger, desperation, doubt, hopelessness—God is big enough to handle it. We've already seen that it's okay with Jesus if we pray, *"I believe; help my unbelief."*

Pray with Confidence: Cancer patients and their families often need to be reminded that God is good. He loves us. He doesn't punish people with life-threatening diseases or taking away a loved one. *"There is a thief," Jesus told us, "who comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But I have come so that you may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10:10). It is helpful for all of us to read and reflect upon God's goodness in the scriptures. There may be no better place to begin than **Psalm 23**.

Pray with Certainty: When a cancer patient or family member is struggling with anxiety, they need to know that these anxious thoughts are not from God—*"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7). We do not have to submit to a spirit of fear *"because the [Spirit] who is in you is greater than the [spirit] who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4).

Pray with Simplicity: Encourage patients with the reminder that It doesn't take long or sophisticated prayers to get a response from God. When Peter saw Jesus walking on the sea in the storm, he prayed twice. His first prayer expressed great faith—*"Lord, if it's You," Peter replied, "tell me to come to You on the water"* (Matthew 14:28). But then his second prayer, two verses later, was born of intense fear—*"Lord, save me!"* Jesus answered both of Peter's prayers. As Peter was sinking in the waves, he was very afraid—in that moment he thought he was perishing—but also had faith enough to call out to Jesus.

Pray with Thankfulness: For some cancer patients and their families, their fear can be overwhelming. But instead of surrendering to their anxious thoughts, they may find it helpful to use this scriptural "treatment" to fight fear directly: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:6-7). When they feel anxious, they can simply bring their requests to God with as much gratitude and thankfulness as they can muster—and then God will respond by giving the gift of His peace to protect their hearts from their anxious thoughts.

It is true that fear can involve doubt, and doubt is the opposite of faith; but let them know that their fear does not negate faith. Remind them that Peter expressed his faith in the Lord at the exact moment he was experiencing terrible fear. The opposite of fear is peace. When we are experiencing peace, we are not experiencing fear.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

In your ministry to cancer patients and their loved ones, you may wish to begin by sharing this passage from Philippians as they struggle with their fears—encouraging them to not be anxious, but to pray with thanksgiving, so that God will protect their hearts with His peace—and then you may wish to share the very next verse, **Philippians 4:8**—“*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*”

We need to keep in mind that there is a link between our prayers and our thoughts, an intersection where our fearfulness merges with our walk of faith. Whenever anyone — both those who minister and those who receive ministry — find ourselves anxious about anything, God invites us to pray with thanksgiving and He will give us His peace to protect our hearts. Then He urges us to protect the peace He puts in our hearts by keeping our thoughts positive and focusing on only excellent and praiseworthy things. It is in this place of peace we find freedom from our fear and anxiety.

From: Our Journey of Hope.com So that we all can minister to those struggling with a life threatening diagnosis.

Special Events and Announcements

Basement Dedication
February 3rd during
Sunday School hour



Begins on Wednesday February 6th
after school till 5:30 pm.



Parenting Small Group
2nd Fridays of the month
Friday February 8th
7 pm
Lowther Residence



Valentine's Dinner
Saturday February 16th
6 pm
First Baptist Church
Lasagna or chicken entrée.

small

GROUPS

“Happiness” small groups
 Sunday evenings
 7 pm
 Beginning February 10th
 Coincide with sermon series on “Happiness”
 by Randy Alcorn



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSIES

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st: Wylie Hovis | 21st: Janet Wise |
| 5th: Ryker Baer | Wyatt Burchill |
| 6th: Joshua Mumau | 23rd: Troy Shearer |
| 8th: John Dine | 24th: Brooke Pabon |
| 9th: Ed Kovschak | |
| Abigail Lowther | |
| 10th: Andrew Held | |
| Jacob Held | |
| 13th: Rodney Schmidt | |
| Logan Hovis | |
| Edward Sellers | |
| 14th: Val Newell | |
| 16th: Morgan Shaffer | |
| Ginger VanMatre | |
| Mark Peterson | |
| Brandon LaVan | |
| 17th: Jack Parsons | |
| 18th: Gunnar Gage | |
| 19th: Lillian Oakes | |
| 20th: Jacob Jones | |
| Matt Hovis | |



23rd: Jim and Elaine Christie

Nursery

1st Service:

- 3rd: Gina Brace and Tenae Gage
 10th: Carol Thumm and Teresa Findlay
 17th: Marilyn Dine and Chris Zirkle
 24th: Craig and Cindy Billingsley

Sunday School:

- 3rd: Josh and Emily Mumau
 10th: Debbie and Jenna Shearer
 17th: Chris Zirkle and Debbie Dine
 24th: Ken Dine and Paul Sellers

2nd Service:

- 3rd: Andi and Jillian Risjan
 10th: Sandy Mumau and Hsiao-Yi Shearer
 17th: Robyn Kovschak and Jenn Howell
 24th: Kristin Held and Barb Beardsley

Garden Room Schedule

Please be sure to call your partner prior to working to confirm. If you are unable to work, please call to switch with someone and notify your partner. If you cannot work or find anyone to switch please call Laura at 398-2507



February

- 2nd: Laura Stone and Kris Bancroft
 9th: Paula Steudler and Bonnie Boylan
 16th: Toni Merritt and Karon Runyan
 23rd: Sandy and Heidi Mumau

[A Brief Encounter with SCOTUS](#) January 04, 2019

When the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of a 93-year-old war memorial in Maryland, deep down everyone knew: this wasn't just about one cross. It could be about all of them.

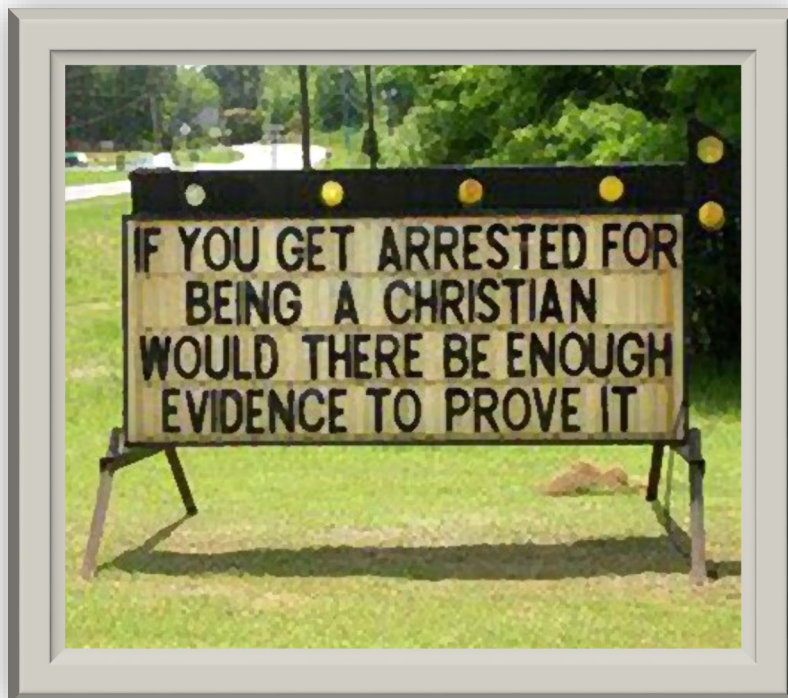
That's what conservatives are hoping anyway, heading into one of the most important religious liberty cases in a generation. For years, men and women of faith have watched wave after wave of secularism try to wash away any mention of Christianity. They've gone after nativity scenes, national cemeteries, even Ten Commandments statues. Just last month, we watched humanists take on Christmas using the same faulty "separation of church and state" logic they're arguing with Bladensburg.

Based on a flawed understanding of the Establishment Clause, FRC's Alexandra McPhee points out in an [op-ed for USA Today](#), "faint-hearted politicians or secular legal groups prevent the [three wise men](#), [baby Jesus](#) in the manger, and the likes of '[Silent Night](#)' from ever making their way onto public property. A decision in favor of the Bladensburg Memorial could mean public officials would feel more empowered to recognize the reason for the season in the public square."

And the war on Christmas isn't the only thing at stake. As FRC's Vice President for Policy, Travis Weber, explains, "This is an incredible opportunity for the Supreme Court to not only rule for this cross -- but to clarify the tangled confusion of current Establishment Clause law, which is currently being used to remove religious messages, signs, and symbols from public squares around our country." That's a point FRC's legal team made in a new amicus brief just authored and submitted to SCOTUS by Travis and Alexandra. "As we make clear in our brief, religion has a natural, proper, and even essential role in our public life and the life of our military. The cross shape of this memorial is an eminently understandable public expression of faith by a community enduring loss."

Thanks to President Trump, Americans will have the benefit of two more strict constructionists hearing the Bladensburg case: Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Hopefully, they'll agree with us that finding the cross unconstitutional would mean "a total hollowing out of the right to religious expression in the public square. The cross sits at an intersection of National Defense Highway among many other monuments dedicated to our nation's military but is being targeted for its shape. The use of the cross is a poignant reminder of the sacrifice of service members for our country. The government and the public should be able to honor that memory, not erase it."

For more in-depth analysis on the case, check out [FRC.org](#)



Book of the Month

When God Weeps: Why Our Sufferings Matter to God - Joni Eareckson Tada, Steven Estes

Do you think that your problems and sufferings matter to God? Or do you just think He doesn't care?
If God is loving, why is there suffering and what's the difference between permitting something and ordaining it?

When troubles come into our lives, these questions come to our minds. We try to make sense out of them and know that we believe in a loving and just God and can't figure how He can do this to us.

This book is written by Joni Eareckson Tada has been in a wheelchair for thirty years. This has given her a special understanding of God's intentions for us in our pain.

This book goes beyond the glib answers that fail us in our time of need. With firmness & compassion it reveals a God big enough to understand our suffering, wise enough to allow it, and powerful enough to use it for a greater good than we can ever imagine.

This book is divided into 4 sections. I'm sure you will find something that is meant for you or just read the whole book and see what Joni has to say!

“Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.”

Mason Cooley

[@K-3TeacherResources.com Free Quote Wednesday](#)

SPECIAL PRAYERS

The Grieving: Karon Runyan, Chris Zirkle, Celia Thayer family, Terry and Renee Terrill, Dan Viglione, Jan Cory, Joyce Cory

Cancer: Karen Held, Larry Haroon, Linda Roth, Kelsey McClellan

Health Issues: Emily Williams, Kim Marzke, Eulalia Beers, Misty Hovis, Bettina Baer

Rehabilitating: Janet Wise, Gary Boylan, Lynn Smith, Marilyn Dine, Bill Hodge





Nursing Home: Paul Kirk, Jean Port, Ralph Batchelor, Judy Klemm

College Students: Austin Jones, Katie Duda, Stephen VanMatre, Cami Schmidt, Neely Colvin, Brenna Rindfuss, Clayton Dingle, Zachary Dingle, Mark VanMatre, Jordan Anderson

Military: Dillon Lang, Keith Bentley, Howard VanMatre, Adam Alm, Jimmy Humes, Gregg Merritt, Wesley Fleischer, Christian Ross

Guidance: Brian & Lynette Smith



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1/2 day Penncrest	2 Pray for Pastor Rod
3 COMMUNION 9:45 am Basement Dedication 6 pm Youth 3:16	4 Office Open 8-5 7 pm Trustees No School Penncrest Pray for Pastor Phil	5 7 pm Prayer Meeting	6 Office Open 8-5 3 pm Kids Club begins	7 6:30 pm Prison Ministry 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	8 Office Open 8:30-5 7 pm Parenting Small Group	9 Pray for Pastor Rod
10 Blood Pressures Taken 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	11 Office Open 8-5 6 pm C.E. Board Pray for Pastor Phil	12	13 Office Open 8-5 3 pm Kids Club	14 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group 	15 Office Open 8:30-5	16 6 pm Valentine's Dinner Pray for Pastor Rod
17 Mission Moment 12:30 pm Mission Committee 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	18 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Deacons No School Pray for Pastor Phil	19 	20 Office Open 8-5 3 pm Kids Club	21 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	22 Office Open 8:30-5	23 Pray for Pastor Rod
24 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	25 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Board Chairmen 7 pm Advisory Pray for Pastor Phil	26	27 Office Open 8-5 3 pm Kids Club	28 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group		
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