

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COURIER

MAY 2019 EDITION



OUR STAFF

Rev. Rod Beardsley - Senior Pastor
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

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Live a Life that Matters

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

Though dead still speaks

My Dad, Walter Emerson Beardsley, WEB (or WHB, but that's for another day) completed his race on Apr 2 and has received his prize. (*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14*). He met Jesus less than 3 weeks after his 94th birthday, still of sound mind and without debilitating pain. I'm so thankful to have had him around for such a long time, but I knew that he was ready (and had been ready to meet his Savior, Jesus). But that's where it's a prime opportunity to ask you, Are you are ready? *For all our days have declined in Thy fury; We have finished our years like a sigh. As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years... For soon it is gone and we fly away. Ps 90:9*

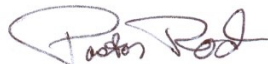
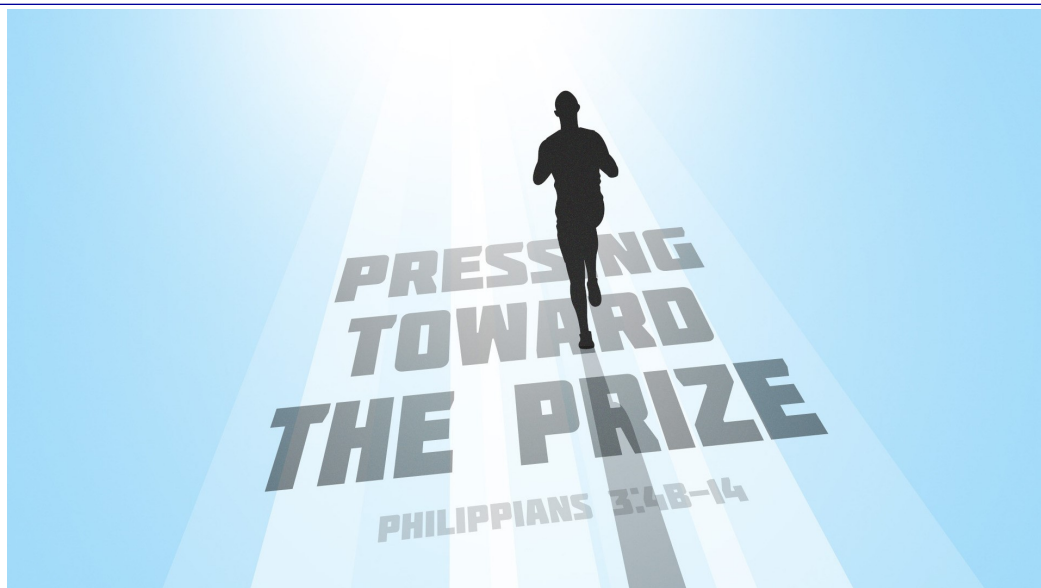
I'm realizing as I hit my mid-sixties that time goes 'faster' on the downhill side of our years. There are some vital lessons to learn in the midst of death and dying. 1) **Live in forgiveness** so that you don't live with regret. Dad and I always dealt with whatever needed to be said. If that required forgiveness, it was sought and offered on both sides. It's impossible to love someone and not have altercations, but NO ONE has to live in that agony of festering unforgiveness. There's a peace in saying 'goodbye' to the most precious people in our lives when there's not the taint of remorse or guilt.

2) I remember doing a funeral where the deceased last request to me was to admonish the family to **stop fighting**. I kept that promise, but it was a very sad funeral, very sad indeed. If you had a parent or loved one die right now, are you content with the way you've acted toward them. Note: the question is NOT are you content with the way they treated you, that's not what you'll answer to Jesus for. See the Scripture admonishes us to: *Live at peace with all men, as much as is possible, so far as it depends on you. Never take your own revenge, beloved,... Romans 12:18*- Can you say that you're doing that and obeying God's Word?

3) I further noted that **Nothing changed**. Our 80# furry alarm clock nuzzled me from the side of the bed to get me awake (at 5:45) for his walk. I was amazed that nothing was different the next morning after Dad died. Birds sang, sun rose, my stomach told me that I was hungry. At least we went through the motions. Erwin Lutzer said that when we die, "Little will change here, everything will change eternally for us after that." (*One minute after you die*.) Live so that when you die nothing changes here or there. I love the words about Enoch, "*and he was not*". Nothing changed as he walked out of this life and into the arms of God. Because "*he had obtained a witness*". Do you have that witness? A witness that you've pleased God.

Finally, 4) how a godly life can cause **everything to be changed**. I read something one of my children posted and it struck me: "Within the past week, I've become acutely aware of how precious family and friends are, and how my grandfather's incredible life has changed generations of those in his community and family." The thought went on to challenge those that are searching in vain, to try Jesus. No wonder Hebrews (11:4) speaks of those who even *though dead still speak!* May that be said on us too!

Living in Jesus' grace,

PASTOR PHIL'S MESSAGE

What is sin to God? Why we must understand God's nature and His rescue! By: Pastor Phil

"God is not political and they all stumble in so many ways, who knows which side is right?" I am sure you have heard someone articulate this statement or one nearly like it. Sin is sin and they are all exactly the same. While there is a kernel of truth in this understanding there is also great error as well. Well, what do you think? Are there sins that are worse than other sins?

On the one hand, there is truth in saying that all sins are bad and evil. All sin separates us from the Glory of God (Romans 3:23). The deserved outcome of a life of sin or a single sin is eternal death and separation away from the presence of God (Romans 6:23). Let's face it; sin is bad, there is no way around it. We sin because we are sinners and all sin causes us to be separated from God. If you stumble in one point you are guilty of breaking all of God's commands (James 2:10). We need to remember who we are sinning against it is not a creature but the Eternal Creator! We deserve Hell not Heaven.



There are three categories of sin that the Old Testament uses to describe how we fall under God's wrath. "I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.'" (Psalm 32:5). The first is "Sin" itself it is missing the mark it is the general quality of all sin, like an archer trying to hit a bullseye and missing the target. The second is "Iniquity" which is the twisting of something good into our own sinful rebellion. King David commits iniquity that is premeditated when he commits adultery and murder. The third is "Transgression" and it is intentional rebellion to God's law, also called a high handed sin. All sin leads to a reprobate mind. When unchecked it will kill peace and destroy everyone; the results of sin are always destructive (Romans 1:24). Hearts are foolish and thinking is darkened if sin is embraced! This means the future of our country, culture, and society can be seen in whether God's Justice (what is right in God's law) or Social (in)Justice (what is right in my own eyes) flourishes. We need to see what God sees. How can we do this?

Let me be clear both parties (Democrats/Republicans) fall short of God's standard of righteousness. Sin is destructive, deceptive, and contagious. Although sin is sin there are sins that are much worse than others and will lead more quickly to our destruction. This was the reason God had to destroy the world by water in Noah's time and Sodom by fire. There are good communities and bad communities. There are good friends and bad friends (Psalm 1). When Israel came into the promised land, God says that he allowed for the Canaanites time until they had filled their sin up completely. You see we have the opportunity to lead others to Christ or enslave others to sin; there is no third option. God saves and the devil destroys. Secret sins will always destroy and roll back on you!

On clear biblical issues, there is a need for the church to speak clearly. God does not stutter when it comes to what marriage is or isn't and the values of life in the womb or at the end of life. God values these things because they reflect who He is and how good He is to reveal Himself to us. We should encourage just laws and seek to undo unjust laws that go against God's Word. We should stand against the tide of hateful religious intolerance (protecting this endangered freedom) and love our neighbors even when we disagree, especially if we disagree.

When we lose the clarity of the Bible to allow for evil in society we have lost our witness. The Bible is clear and frontline battles are unmistakable. Families and kids are under attack and the enemy wants us to shut-up but we need to step-up. We must not give in to the bullying nature of sin in our flesh, our world, or the Devil. God's message is offensive to our world. We are sinners. There is but one hope we all have through faith in Jesus. He paid for and will forgive us of our sin if we but ask. His blood has been shed and Jesus has paid the debt we owed. The risen Christ applies His righteous life to His people by grace that can only be obtained through Him. This means He owns all of us every part!

So while sin flavors and ruins lives like a deadly virus which will stop at nothing but destruction, God offers the free gift of grace and mercy. His blood brings righteousness and holiness so that we will pass from death to eternal life. We have Jesus who heroically conquered sin and gives us His righteousness! The Good News of the Gospel should flavor every part of your life so that those around you have no question that your love God and hate sin, by His Grace in His Power!



Deacons Devotional

Family,

You are my family. And I get another chance to pour out my heart to you in this *Deacon's Corner*. And so I thought, what would be the best explanation or exhortation to give you in the midst of my extended FBC swan song? The answer instead, came as a declaration: I love you. I love FBC because you first loved me. At a fellowship gathering on Presque Isle some of your men listened to my confessions. They prayed with me and for me and began to cover my shame with a spiritual veil. You gave me a room to learn about the Grace that I'd felt poured out upon me, but had no vocabulary to express (The Bereans). You encouraged me and provided me an education in pastoral studies. You trusted me to serve you in various ancillary capacities. And all the while you prayed for me. Well I pray for you. I pray for your leaders boldness and love. I pray for your hurts and your hopes. I pray God will allow you express the gifts He's so wisely given unto you, that you've used to build me up, to continue to edify the Church. Godly wisdom and knowledge you've provided. Tender mercies and forgiveness you've given. Patience and longsuffering you've endured as I've grown as teacher and preacher. But what is the best way for me to show that I love you?

We've been discussing Joy. Pastors Rod and Phil have called us to foster and exemplify the joy of the Lord which He's invited us into for eternity; "Come and enter the Joy of my Father." I recently responded that; "Looking into the Word of God has been the joy of my life." I want it to be yours also, because this side of seeing Jesus face to face our most precious gift is hearing Jesus speak to our heart in His Word. If I could stir your conscience toward Christ then you'd know you've been loved. The *Bible's ode to the Word of God* is the Acrostic Psalm 119 which most overtly and beautifully praises God on account of His Word.

What is the Psalmist talking about in Psalm 119? He mentions the law, commandments, precepts, testimonies, judgments, and statutes, etc... Altogether eight different Hebrew words are used with varying subtleties and emphasis, but all of which are the result of God opening His mouth. Recall that Jesus said to the disciples that he had food they did not know about. Which was another way of saying the same thing He told the Devil in the wilderness: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that procedeth forth from the mouth of God." By acknowledging the value of the Word we honor it's Speaker. With a high view of scripture we prioritize what God values.

We don't change by changing. We stare, contemplate, consider, and investigate the glory of the character of God as demonstrated in the things He says. And then the Holy Spirit washes over our souls as the Word works on our brains and leaves us transformed. I am reminded of the song which forsakes the old life in view of the new; "And I will never, be the same again." Well that's true of us everytime we allow ourselves to be transformed by a session in God's presence. Do you want to love what God loves and hate what God hates? Do you want more urgency for the lost, more compassion for the hurting, more comfort for the anxious?

Deacon's Continued

It is by spending time in God's Word that the shortcomings in your character can become the legacy of your life. After all, God is supremely glorified when such transformation occurs, for it is obvious to all that it were His work that created supple flesh where there was only dusty stone.

A Sampling to whet the palate of your Conscience:

God's Word we can be Understood

73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding , that I may learn thy commandments

God's Word is Eternal

89 Forever Oh Lord thy word is settled in heaven

God's Word is Trustworthy

50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

God's word brings Joy

97 Oh how I love thy Law/ 14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies Let the Word be your Light. Be obedient to it as you ought. You are not your own but have been bought with a price. Contend then for the faith once for all handed down to the Saints. It is an unchanging faith and a timeless gospel. Paul said he was bound, shackled, and compelled to preach it. Its less a paradox and more a peculiar parallel. We **get to do**, with joy, those things which we must. We've been set free and stand in liberty for the purpose of willfully imprisoning ourselves to God's slave quarters (which happen to be "mansions"). I am stressing the side of Christian duty because times of purification and difficulty have come to our family.

The moment I trusted in Christ, I heard Him speak these words through Pastor Rod; "Come unto me all ye who are weary and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest for your souls... For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." The invitation into the Kingdom God is an entreaty unto willful submission. He didn't say "come unto ease and comfort." We are more than just victims rescued. He said "come unto a *yoke and a burden* ." We are transformed into rescuers with purpose. Our confidence and adequacy in our contentions comes from the trust we possess regarding our future vindication. You can **Joyfully** bring a **Trustworthy** and **Coherent (Understood)** message knowing that it is **Eternally** true. The living Church has the honor and duty of praising God with their lips. The dead have no voice that the living can hear. The not-yet-born have no stage. The angels do not proclaim the eternal gospel in the sky, yet. At this time, right now, it's our time to proclaim the truth of God. We are the only ones who are promised vindication since we contend for convictions that are not simple, human subjections, but human amplifications of the Heart of God Almighty.

It seems I explained a little and exhorted some more, I suppose it's my way of saying I love you.

Lucas Crowe



THY HANDS HATH MADE ME AND FASHIONED ME:
 GIVE ME WISDOM, THAT I MAY LEARN THY COMMANDMENTS
 ~ PSALM 119: 73

Health Ministry



This article is from the National Institutes for Health. Even they are beginning to see the value in adopting God's precepts, though they would never call it such. It's good information if we understand to Whom we should express our gratitude, our Father God. Mary Beth Manross

PRACTICING GRATITUDE

How often do you feel thankful for the good things in your life? Studies suggest that making a habit of noticing what's going well in your life could have health benefits.

Taking the time to feel gratitude may improve your emotional well-being by helping you cope with stress. Early research suggests that a daily practice of gratitude could affect the body, too. For example,

one study found that gratitude was linked to fewer signs of heart disease.

The first step in any gratitude practice is to reflect on the good things that have happened in your life. These can be big or little things. It can be as simple as scoring a good parking space that day or enjoying a hot mug of coffee. Or, perhaps you feel grateful for a close friend's compassionate support.

Next, allow yourself a moment to enjoy that you had the positive experience, no matter what negatives may exist in your life. Let positive feelings of gratitude bubble up.

"We encourage people to try practicing gratitude daily," advises Dr. Judith T. Moskowitz, a psychologist at Northwestern University. "You can try first thing in the morning or right before you fall asleep, whatever is best for you."

Moskowitz has been studying the impact of keeping a daily gratitude journal on stress relief and health. Practicing gratitude is part of a set of skills that her research team encourages people to practice. These skills have been shown to help some people increase their positive emotions.

Her team is trying to better understand how a daily boost in positive emotions can help people cope with stress and improve their mental and physical health.

"By practicing these skills, it will help you cope better with whatever you have to cope with," Moskowitz explains. "You don't have to be experiencing major life stress. It also works with the daily stress that we all deal with. Ultimately, it can help you be not just happier but also healthier."

While practicing gratitude seems to work for some people, it doesn't for everyone. That's why Moskowitz's research team teaches other skills, too. These include meditating and doing small acts of kindness.

Her team has been developing and testing these skills with people who have illnesses like advanced cancer, diabetes, HIV infection, and depression. She's also worked with people who care for others with serious illness.

When you make gratitude a regular habit, it can help you learn to recognize good things in your life despite the bad things that might be happening. Moskowitz says that when you're under stress, you might not notice all the moments of positive emotion that you experience. With her research program, she's trying to help people become more aware of those moments of positive feelings.

"Put some effort into experiencing gratitude on a daily basis and see how it goes," Moskowitz advises. "It might just surprise you that—despite how bad things are—there are things you feel grateful for alongside it." And feeling grateful may help improve both your mind and your body.

MAY BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSIES



20th: Tony Jardina
 22nd: Rob Boylan
 Jamie Frank Rodgers
 23rd: Stephen VanMatre
 Karis Lowther
 24th: Aaron Morrow
 25th: Adam Morrow
 27th: Eulalia Beers
 28th: Ken Hale
 Lynette Smith
 29th: Alexandra Pabon
 31st: Parker Schmidt
 Tori Colvin

1st: Bob Burchill
 Brad Burchill
 2nd: Amy Jones
 Micah Humes
 4th: Bill VanMatre II
 5th: Eugene Pabon
 7th: Austin Jones
 Connie Stearns
 Phil Lowther
 8th: Sarah Humes
 10th: Brian Kightlinger
 12th: Laura Stone
 13th: Lucas Crowe
 17th: Conrad Shearer
 18th: LuAnn Wheeler
 19th: Betsy Mateja



1st: Ken and Debbie Dine
 9th: Jeff and Lisa Rindfuss
 22nd: Paul and Lydia Sellers
 26th: Ken and Penny Hale
 27th: Jack and Kathy Parsons
 28th: Bill and Brenda VanMatre
 Tim and LuAnn Wheeler

Nursery

1st Service:

5th: Marilyn Dine and Chris Zirkle
 12th: Craig and Cindy Billingsley
 19th: Amy and Cassidy Boylan
 26th: Angie Mumford and Kalle Kula

Sunday School:

5th: Debbie and Jenna Shearer
 12th: Chris Zirkle and Debbie Dine
 19th: Ken Dine and Paul Sellers
 26th: Wendy Gardner and Dani Schmidt

2nd Service:

5th: Stacie and Aubrey Klemm
 12th: Andi and Jillian Risjan
 19th: Sandy Mumau and Hsiao-Yi Shearer
 26th: Robyn Kovschak and Jenn Howell

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



May

4th: Laura Stone and Kris Bancroft
 11th: Paula Steudler and Bonnie Boylan
 18th: Toni Merritt and Karon Runyan
 25th: Closed for Memorial Day

Special Events and Announcements



Come and fellowship with the Smith family on

Sunday May 5th following 2nd service to wish them well as they go to Haiti as missionaries.



Men: Come to the church on **Saturday May 18th at 8 am** for a morning of refueling!

Begin with a filling homemade breakfast followed by filling up your spiritual

fuel tank with God's Word and fellowship.



Tuesday May 7th
Prayer Meeting



Parenting Small Group
Friday May 10th
7 pm
Lowther Residence



The office will be closed Monday May 27th in

observance of Memorial Day.



Attention all women and girls:
Saturday May 25th come join us for a luncheon at 1 pm.

Book of the Month

Always True God's 5 promises when life is hard.

By James MacDonald

Sometimes in life we are going along, doing all right, managing the ups and downs of our routines, when out of nowhere a boulder drops from the sky and crash lands on our lives. It might be a serious illness, a job loss, or something that just wasn't in the plan. But the weight is often sudden and crushing we're desperate for help to come or we might not make it. When life gets hard we need God's promises.



Going through hard times, this author realized he didn't need lessons he needed life support! He leaned hard on the Lord and delivered a series of messages called "Always True: Five Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises." Five promises God makes over and over to every person of faith to every generation.

The promises give incredible hope; they give buoyancy in stormy water and can keep us from going under. When nothing else makes sense, these promises will literally be the rock you can stand on while you wait for the better days that are coming. We are assured of this because they are the promises of God Himself!

SPECIAL PRAYERS

The Grieving: Karon Runyan, Dan Viglione, Jan Cory, Joyce Cory, Nadine Shaffer, Rodney Schmidt, **Pastor Rod, Esther Closky, Justin Gaines, Dave and Robin Oakes, Gary Mateja**

Cancer: Karen Held, Larry Haroon, Kelsey McClellan, **Karon Runyan, Jason Runyan**

Health Issues: Emily Williams, **Kim Marzke, Misty Hovis, Julie Brink, Judy Wrye**

Rehabilitating: Janet Wise, Gary Boylan, **Bill Hodge, Jim Acklin, Tom Anderson**

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, Jordan Anderson

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

Guidance: Brian & Lynette Smith, Lucas Crowe



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	2 Noon Prayer in Marcy Park 6:30 pm Prison Ministry 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm History Night	3 Office Open 8:30-5	4 All Purpose Room in Use C.S. Boro Spring Clean Up Day Pray for Pastor Rod
5 COMMUNION 12:30 pm Fellowship/Celebration Luncheon 6 pm Youth 3:16	6 Office Open 8-5 7 pm Trustees Meeting Pray for Pastor Phil	7 7 pm Prayer Meeting	8 Office Open 8-5 9-2:30 C.S. Cares Day 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	9 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study	10 Office Open 8:30-5 7 pm Parenting Small Group	11 Pray for Pastor Rod
12 	13 Office Open 8-5 6 pm C.E. Board Pray for Pastor Phil	14	15 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	16 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study	17 Office Open 8:30-5	18 8 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast Pray for Pastor Rod
19 Mission Moment 12:30 pm Mission Committee Mtg. 1-5 All Purpose Room in Use 6 pm Youth 3:16	20 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Deacons Pray for Pastor Phil	21	22 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	23 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study	24 Office Open 8:30-5	25 1 pm Women's Banquet Pray for Pastor Rod
26	27 Office Closed Memorial Day Pray for Pastor Phil	28 6:30 pm Board Chairmen 7 pm Advisory Board	29 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	30 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study	31 Office Open 8:30-5	
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This and That!

*Something **EXCITING** and **NEW** is coming to our church!*

*Matt and Misty Hovis would **L.O.V.E.** to share all of the details with you this month!*

Cambridge Springs Borough Clean up day is Saturday May 4th 8 am till 3 pm for **Borough Residents only**. They **WILL NOT** accept Tires, Batteries, Liquids, Hazardous Materials or items with Freon. Cost is \$5.00/car load; \$10.00/truck load; \$25.00/trailer or dump truck load.



Congratulations to our students that have made the Honor Roll at their respective learning institutions!

Saegertown High School: Karley Price and Cassidy Boylan

Vo-Tech: Jake Jones and Karley Price

Cambridge Springs High School: Ryan Shaffer, Cori

Schmidt, Tristin Findlay, Lyndsay Stover, Jake Jones, Myranda Findlay, Parker Doubet, Aubrey Klemm, Nathan Held, Jordyn Wheeler, Cameron Doubet, Parker Schmidt, Micah Humes and Dylann Dupont

Calvary Baptist Christian Academy: Laurel Steudler, Brett Kania, Natalie Held, Everett Gardner, Levi Gardner, and Anna Held

~ SAVE THE DATE ~ SAVE THE DATE ~ SAVE THE DATE ~ SAVE THE DATE ~



Saturday June 1st

French Creek Association Rally

9:15 am Registration

9:30 am meeting

Lunch is provided

More pertinent details as they are finalized.