



THE FBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

PROCLAIMING GOD'S TRUTH.
INSPIRING A PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY.

DISCIPLING YOUR HOUSEHOLD THIS FALL

Tom Buck

As I write this article it is a hot summer day, which is just one of the many reasons why I look forward to the Fall. I love the start of football, the kids going back to school, every one back into a regular routine, and knowing that the holiday seasons are not too far away. But as you enjoy your last few days of summer vacation, I want to encourage you to be thinking about the schedule for your family this Fall.

Many of you are not involved in our Wednesday night fellowship and we want to make those evenings an important part of the discipleship opportunities at FBC Lindale. There are some important elements of the life of the church that happen on Wednesday evenings that occur nowhere else. It is my desire that our midweek services not merely be a miniature version of what we do on Sunday morning but is a unique opportunity for you and your family to be disciplined.

First, our Family Fellowship Meal is a wonderful time to build relationships with new people, reconnect with others and create bonds with one another in the body of Christ. We truly believe it is more than a convenient meal but it is a great opportunity for connecting with others in the body of Christ.

Second, in our gathering we intend to spend a significant time in prayer together. One thing that will bring great spiritual strength to our church is to be a body that is faithfully devoted to corporate prayer. There needs to be a time in our week that we stop and pray together as a church family.

Third, it is my desire to use our Bible study this Fall in a unique way. Rather than just being another mini-sermon, I want to teach in an inductive way that will allow involvement from those who attend and help you personally become a better student of the Bible. This does not mean that it will be a type of college class or that you have to desire a Bible degree to come. In fact, my desire is to put the cookies on the bottom shelf and together we will learn how to be better students of God's Word.

Along with these particular distinctives, there will be ministries for the whole family at our midweek service: a new program for children's discipleship and music, our student ministries, our music ministries... when you start your various routines for the Fall, I encourage you to make Wednesday nights a part of your schedule.

DATES OF INTEREST

MEN'S BREAKFAST
AUGUST 7, 7:30 A.M.

COMMUNION
AUGUST 8, AM SERVICES

CHURCH COUNCIL
AUGUST 9, 11:00 A.M.

QUARTERLY MEMBERS MEETING
AUGUST 15, 6:00 P.M.

SCHOOL RESUMES
AUGUST 23

REGULAR WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES BEGIN
SEPTEMBER 1

MEN'S BREAKFAST
SEPTEMBER 4, 7:30 A.M.

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC AT FAULKNER PARK
SEPTEMBER 5, 5:00 P.M.

LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 6

COMMUNION
SEPT. 12, P.M. SERVICE

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TEACH A MAN TO FISH

James Seward

“Amazing! I don’t know how the pastor got all of that out of the passage!” These are the last words a pastor wants to hear. For one, we want you to leave more impressed with the Word of God than with us. But secondly, we seek to explain truth in such a way that people leave saying, “The text is so clear to me now.” Good preaching is not built on the cleverness of the preacher but on the plain meaning of the text. Our hope for you is that as you sit under the preaching of the Word, God will make you increasingly capable of studying the Bible on your own. The goal is not to make the sermon or teaching as easy to digest as possible; the goal is to make it as helpful as possible. We want a church full of people growing in Christian maturity, and one cannot be a mature Christian without knowing how to read and understand the Bible. To that end, here are a few resources that teach you how to read the Bible:

- *Dig Deeper* (Beynon/Sach) – This is an accessible book that teaches sixteen basic tools that we use when interpreting the Bible. I highly recommend it.
- *How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth* (Fee/Stuart) – The approach taken by Stuart and Fee is to look at the different genres of the Bible (e.g. law, gospel, prophecy, letters) and lay out the principles that guide how to interpret that genre. It’s a little bit more advanced but very helpful.
- *God’s Big Picture* (Roberts) – When reading the Bible, it’s vitally important not to lose sight of the forest for the trees. In other words, if you’re going to understand a particular passage, you need to understand how it fits within the wider story of the Bible. This book does a great job of showing the unified story of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. [Note: the book is a bit simplistic in its dealing with the end times and should be read with a bit of caution in these areas.]

As you sit under the preaching at FBC, as you work through the Sunday School study guides, and as you take advantage of various resources, we hope that you learn to study and understand the Bible for yourself. As the old proverb says it: we don’t want to give you a fish, we want to teach you to fish.

PASTORS’ Q&A

(submit your questions to james@fbclindale.com)

QI would like to know the best way to pray for our president and other government officials?

AThis is a great question. I Timothy 2:1-4 makes clear that we must pray for our government leaders and ties our prayers to 1) our own godly, meek lives and 2) God’s desire for all to be saved. This is important stuff! Here are a few principles that should guide us:

- 1) Trust in God. Our prayers should flow from the calm confidence that God is the true King of this world, and government leaders are powerless before Him (Psalm 2:1-6, Proverbs 21:1).
- 2) Praise. 1 Timothy says that we should give thanks to God for our government leaders. God has ordained civil governments because mankind in anarchy is worse than virtually any government. No matter how bad, we should praise God for our government leaders.
- 3) Salvation. Whether our elected leaders claim to know God or not, we should pray that their hearts would yield to Christ. Only then can a leader really lead with the necessary humility and genuine dependence upon God.
- 4) Justice. The common biblical instruction given to governmental leaders is to execute justice. Pray that our leaders would act justly, particularly for the poor and helpless (including the unborn!).

Hope this helps! -James



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Ryan Taber

One of the themes I keep hearing from parents today is that they just want to provide their children with every opportunity that they can. The end result of this is a family schedule that has Mom, Dad, and the kids each with their own busy schedule of dance lessons, piano lessons, soccer practice, math tutoring, band practice, swimming lessons, and who knows what else. I am all for giving my kids opportunities, but what if we are focusing on worldly opportunities rather than Godly ones. I would love to see more families prioritizing their lives around giving their children more opportunities to spend time in God’s word, or more opportunities to serve, or more opportunities for little children to see how a Godly husband loves his wife sacrificially. I hope that as the start of a new school year approaches, your family will pray about the kinds of opportunities that you are seeking for your children and that over time your priorities would come in line with God’s priorities for families.

NOTES OF THANKS

I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers, calls, cards, and food during my surgery and chemo. Please keep praying for me. I’m 1/2 through. Praise the Lord.

Love you all,
Margie Cowen

Thank you all so much for the kindness and generosity during the recent passing of my mother Rebecca Faust. I appreciated the wonderful food and visit to the funeral home of so many of your members. I will remember your thoughtfulness always.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth “Libby” Guarisco
(sister of Ilene Welch)

Thank you so much for the love and support you have been to my daddy and our entire family through the loss of my mom. The visits, calls, cards, food, and prayers have been a tremendous support to all of us. We especially appreciate the wonderful meal so many helped to provide for our family after the funeral service. It was such a blessing to be able to gather with our family and share that time together. God has blessed my parents with a godly church family. I know that you will continue to encourage and love my daddy. Thank you for serving and ministering to our family in such a tangible way.

Blessings,
Beverly Watson
(Malcolm Watson’s daughter)

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Vernon Hughes

And just like that - the summer is almost over. Did you get everything done this summer that you set out to accomplish? One of the things at our house that we've been working on is for Andrew to learn to ride a bike without the training wheels. We're not quite there yet, but we're working on it, and we're getting pretty close. You see, Andrew is too big for his old bike, so we bought him a "big boys" bike, and he has started learning how to ride it. You know, sometimes in our relationship with God we can be a bit like Andrew. We always need to be growing, never content with where we are in our faith, but desiring more.

2 Peter 3:17-18 says: "You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." For Andrew right now, he needs to spend more time practicing riding his new bike. We are no different. We need to spend time with God everyday studying His Word. If we're going to be "Big Boys and Girls" in our walk with God, then we also need to spend time at it.

Who can Find It?

According to the Bible, what is better to find than silver, gold or jewels? The first child that can tell me the answer and also the scripture reference will win a prize. You can call me at (903) 882-3396 with your answer. Good luck!

INVOLVING SENIOR ADULTS IN MINISTRY

Ronnie Stribble

It's a myth that senior adults no longer want to contribute. It's equally untrue that senior adults don't want to be actively involved. I am so thankful for the many senior adults in our church who are actively involved in so many ways.

Just a few months ago I was standing in the back of the worship center as our worship service began. I could not help but notice an elderly man in a wheelchair. What struck me was his body language. He was leaning forward and was engaged in every part of the service. You could see it in his eyes and the countenance on his face. One of our members, Martha Yancey, turned around to check on him. Later I asked her who he was and she said, "He is my father, J. A. Watson." Mr. Watson passed away on July 11 at the age of 96. His obituary gave testament to his life:

"He and his wife, Hattie Mae, shared 69 wonderful years together until her death. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were the joy of his life as well as serving his Lord and Savior well up into his 90's, until he was no longer able to drive. He was a witness to all he came in contact with. It has been said by a member of First Baptist Church of Liberty City where he was a member, "His smile, wit and servant's heart and faithfulness will be greatly missed. He had a heart and passion for missions."

I saw living proof that Sunday. You are never too old to serve the Lord!

PLEASING GOD WITH CHURCH MUSIC (PART THREE)

Andrew Pressley

A few months ago, I pointed out the fact that many churches operate their music ministries based on this fundamental question: "What music pleases the masses?" First Baptist Church is striving to take a different approach to her music. Instead of venturing to accomplish the impossible task of pleasing every person that walks in our doors, we ask the question, "What music pleases God?" In this article, I'll continue the discussion as to how we please God with the words of our songs.

What words should we sing in our worship services? It seems like a goofy question, I'm sure. But when you stop to think about it, the possibilities are endless. Sure, most churches have a general commitment to singing songs that pertain specifically to the Christian faith. But is every "Christian" song ever written acceptable to God? What would He have us sing?

Some people take this approach: we can sing anything except what the Bible forbids. The songwriter in me really wants to like this approach. What artistic freedom! However, when I sit down with pen and paper, I'm terrified that my unchecked thoughts about God might be inaccurate, or at the very least entirely un-profound. Where should we look for inspiration? The obvious answer is the correct one: the Bible.

Even if we accepted that everything permissible in the worship service, Paul's wisdom should surely apply here, too: not everything is beneficial. When we think about song lyrics to use in worship services, we should be sure that the songs we use aren't merely biblically *acceptable*. ("Mary Had A Little Lamb" is biblically acceptable – nothing wrong or unholy contained there.) Our songs should be biblically *driven*. By this, I mean that the words should be inspired by, taken from, and checked thoroughly against Scripture. The more we can imitate the Word of God in our songs, the more confident we can be that we're singing truth – and therefore – that the words of our songs are pleasing to God.

The more we venture from the ideas, themes, and language of Scripture, the more we are at risk of singing something that is untrue. It's easy to construct metaphors or stories to entertain or inspire a congregation. It's also easy to write down our unfiltered thoughts about God, the world, and ourselves. Yet Christians are called to a higher standard: we are to model every aspect of our lives after Scripture and the example of Jesus Christ. The lyrics of our music are no exception.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PASTOR'S Q&A

ARTICLES FROM OUR PASTORAL STAFF

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

LIBRARY HOURS:

SUNDAYS

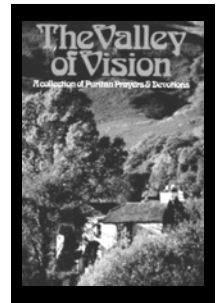
9:00-9:45 AM & 10:30-11:15 AM

WEDNESDAYS

10:00-12:00 PM & 5:30-6:00 PM

“Great God, in public and private, in sanctuary and home, may my life be steeped in prayer, filled with the spirit of grace and supplication, each prayer perfumed with the incense of atoning blood. Help me, defend me, until from praying ground I pass to the realm of unceasing praise. Urged by my need, invited by Thy promises, called by Thy Spirit, I enter Thy presence, worshipping Thee with godly fear, awed by Thy majesty, greatness, glory, but encouraged by Thy love.”

-from the prayer "Meeting God" in *The Valley of Vision*



“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen.
Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”
-C. S. Lewis



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