



THE FBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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

DON'T SHRIVEL THIS SUMMER

Tom Buck

Summer is a wonderful time of year. It is a time of needed breaks from the routines of life. It's the getaway vacation that we have looked forward to all year or it's planting a garden or enjoying lazy evenings grilling out. The children spend the days running and swimming; playing baseball and swimming; eating popsicles and, did I mention, swimming. My kids love to swim so much their little hands and feet shrivel like prunes.

But I have found there is a warning we should heed about summertime. It can be a very dangerous time spiritually because we are out of the regular routine of things. Most of the ongoing activities of special Bible studies won't start back up until the Fall and we can tend to become spiritually lazy. We can find ourselves preoccupied with summer activities and find ourselves in God's Word very little. And when we continually swim in this world without washing ourselves in the Word, very soon our hearts begin to shrivel.

As your pastor, I want to encourage you to make the commitment to not let your heart shrivel this summer. Enjoy the refreshing season but keep Christ preeminent in all things, including vacations and picnics and softball and long walks and cookouts. Make it your priority not to neglect your soul. Let me give a few encouraging suggestions to keep your soul from shriveling.

- Faithfully worship with God's people on Sundays. Although you can't be at FBC Lindale each week, don't let missing become a habit over the summer. When traveling on a Sunday, plan ahead to stop at a gospel-preaching church. The staff would be more than happy to assist you in finding such a place to worship.
- Don't let your more relaxed schedule prevent you from spending time in God's Word. Perhaps plan a special study for the summer that will help you with a fresh focus. Set a goal to memorize Scripture and take walks focusing on the greatness of God as seen in creation.
- Take advantage of your cookouts and picnics as strategic opportunities to invite fellow believers over for fellowship and mutual encouragement. Have a cookout and invite un-churched neighbors over to build a bridge that might open the way for the gospel.

What sort of summer mindset is this? It is the mindset of Colossians 3:1-2, "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." Enjoy your summer, but don't let your soul shrivel!

DATES OF INTEREST

MEN'S BREAKFAST
JUNE 5, 7:30 A.M.

SPECIAL MEMBERS
MEETING
JUNE 6, FOLLOWING
6:00 P.M. SERVICE

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP
JUNE 6 - 11

COMMUNION
JUNE 13, A.M. SERVICES

CHURCH COUNCIL
JUNE 14, 11:00 A.M.

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL
JUNE 21-25

YOUTH MISSIONS TRIP
GALVESTON
JUNE 27- JULY 3

MEN'S BREAKFAST
JULY 3, 7:30 A.M.

OFFICE CLOSED
JULY 5

QUARTERLY MEMBERS
MEETING
JULY 18, 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNION
JULY 11, P.M. SERVICE

CHURCH COUNCIL
JULY 12, 11:00 A.M.

I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF THAT SERMON

James Seward

I find it ironic listening to different responses to a sermon. A college-educated businessman murmurs, "It was over my head," while a blue-collar tradesman exclaims, "He was speaking directly to me!" Why do two people listening to the same sermon have such different responses? The answer lies in how people listen to a sermon.

When we listen to a sermon, we're not watching TV. The goal of TV is to grab my attention and keep it. That should not be the goal of a sermon. Sadly, too many preachers have made that their goal, and so we've come to expect a sermon to hold our attention with no effort of our own. In fact, we often evaluate a sermon based on how well it held our attention. However, a sermon's goal should instead be to explain the meaning of the passage faithfully, clearly, and boldly. Such a sermon requires a certain level of investment by the listener. Here are some things that I have found helpful in maximizing what I get out of a sermon:

- Read the passage ahead of time. Take time as an individual or family to read over and discuss the passage for the coming week's sermon. In order to help you do this, we are now printing the coming week's passage in the bulletin. (available at entrances to the Worship Center).
- Pray for the sermon. Pray that God would use the sermon to speak to you, and come with an expectation that He will. Throughout the sermon, offer up brief prayers asking God to help you apply the passage to your own life.
- Take notes. I have always found it hard to concentrate when someone is giving a sustained talk on anything. I've learned that taking notes makes it immensely easier to concentrate. It also makes it easier to review the sermon later as you pray over it or discuss it.
- Be a Berean. In Acts 17:11, the Jews of Berea are commended for checking to make sure what Paul was saying was actually what God's Word said. Don't assume that just because a pastor says it that it's true. When you listen to a sermon, you are letting God's Word shape you, not the preacher's words. The sermon is only beneficial in so far as it draws out the natural meaning of the passage.
- Review the sermon. Over lunch, discuss with friends or family what you learned from the sermon. Later on, take time to pray over the truths of the sermon.

Our church refuses to spoon feed people tasty little morsels with snippets of biblical truth. We want people to feast and the multi-course meal that Scripture provides. This demands a lot more from the listener; and, frankly, it demands more from the preacher. But as with any good thing in life, the extra work is worth it! Hopefully these tips will be as helpful to you as they have been to me so that all of us can get the very most out of every sermon.

PASTORS' Q&A

(submit your questions to james@fbclindale.com)

Q What if I have a question that I would like a pastor to address?

A The pastors welcome the opportunity to answer any question you might have. It might be a question that your child asked you that stumped you (for example, my daughter recently asked, "Is God sad when it storms?"). It might be related to something you read, something a co-worker asked, or something you don't understand in the Bible. It could be practical or deeply theological. We'll take time to answer you personally, and we'll select one question to feature anonymously in the newsletter. We look forward to your questions!



Ryan Taber

As parents we are constantly looking for teachable moments, those situations that occur rather naturally as a part of a family doing life together. Every time I drive by a Sonic with my son and he wants to stop for a slushy, I have a wonderful opportunity to teach him about delayed gratification by telling him that he can either have a slushy now or desert after dinner. Encouraging my children to clean their rooms before they can play is a great way to teach a work now, play later philosophy. I see dads constantly looking for opportunities to teach their children about sports, or money management or a variety of other great life lessons. Have you ever stopped to think about looking for teachable moments about God? In Scripture there are many examples of fathers seizing the opportunity to teach their children about the character and nature of God. Abraham taught Isaac that we trust and obey even when it doesn't make sense. I'm sure this image was burned into Isaac's consciousness. The father of the prodigal son took advantage of a wonderful opportunity to teach about the everlasting love of the father.

While our situations may differ from these examples, we have wonderful opportunities all around you to teach your children about spiritual things. Making worship attendance a priority after getting in late on Saturday night communicates volumes about the importance of participating in the life of the church. Submitting to the speed limit and seat belt laws out of respect for authority is a wonderful opportunity to teach how all of us come under God's authority. Consistently loving our wives as Christ loved the church will bless our children for the rest of their lives as it reveals something of the relationship between Christ and His church. Every day there are opportunities to teach our children of spiritual things, will you take the time to take advantage of them.

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your love, cards, calls & food during my recovery from back surgery. Every day I felt your prayers, which encouraged me to work hard for a speedy recovery. God has always been good to me and my family and I continue to be blessed with the fellowship of a loving church. Again, thank you.

To God be the glory, Shirley Schultheis

THE FBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Vernon Hughes

As I'm sure some of you have, we recently received our new "digital converter box" for our TV, and when we did we added a few new channels to our lineup. One of our newer channels has a show called "The Worlds Strictest Parents." In this show they take children who typically are very disrespectful to their parents and cause trouble at school, and place them into the home of a different family for a week. As I'm sure you can guess by the title of the show, the new family has parents who handle things differently than the children are used to. It's too bad this is a relatively newer show, because my parents could have given them endless material, when I was growing up. As a child I always thought my parents were strict, and in regard to their discipline fell somewhere between the warden of a overseas sweat shop and prisoner of war camp (OK, I might be exaggerating just a little). But I look back now as an adult and I'm very grateful that they were as strict, yes, but also used Godly principles when disciplining my sister and me. Hebrews 12:11 says: "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." You may feel that way when your parents are disciplining you, but know they discipline you because they love you and want you to grow up to be a man or woman who desires to be righteous and good.

Parents this is for you guys too. If you feel like all you do as a parent is discipline, don't lose hope. Proverbs 6:20-23 tells us: "My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life." If you are disciplining your children you are training them, and if you are not disciplining them you are training them too, it just might not be something you want them to learn. God has called you to be their shepherd. Sometimes part of that leading and shepherding is hard for the sheep to take, but later it yields peaceable righteousness. Check out the book *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. It's a great resource for parents. Also, later this summer, we'll be having a father training day. Be on the lookout for more info on that. We'll be discussing how to lead family Bible studies, and how to be a more effective shepherd of your family. It'll be good stuff, so keep that on your horizon.

NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you to each and every one for all the flowers, cards, food, words of encouragement, and especially your prayers during the loss of David, our husband and father. Your outpouring of love has been amazing. At times like these we realize how much we need our Christian family.
-Wanda, Ricky, & Lisa Keller

We thank all of you for the prayers, phone calls, visits and notes. God has blessed us with a wonderful Christian family here in Lindale and we are very thankful for that.
-Mike & Dorothy Greb

SENIOR ADULTS: REJOICE!

Ronnie Stribble

What a blessing it was to hear Frank Schultheis give his testimony on Sunday May 9th! Even if you are a "Senior Adult," you are never too old to "examine yourselves and test yourselves," as 2 Corinthians 13:5 tells us. I want to encourage each senior adult to read and meditate again in June and July on the devotional "That You May Rejoice!" It is my prayer you can sing with confidence the songs, "Rejoice! Eternal Life is Yours," "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine," and "Victory in Jesus!"

PLEASING GOD WITH CHURCH MUSIC (PART TWO)

Andrew Pressley

In the last newsletter, 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 discuss how we please God with the words of our songs.

Here's a helpful tool for thinking about the texts we sing. What if, just as an experiment, we didn't sing a single note in one of our worship services? We'd still have the song texts, but we'd just recite the words together in unison... sort of like a responsive reading. Could the texts we recite stand alone as a biblical reiteration of God's truth? Far too often, we let some sloppy phrases and false ideas about God slip into our singing because we like the music. Set the music aside for a moment and think on the text alone.

In one popular song, the singer gratefully describes a deceased person in heaven who comes to realize how much of an impact he has had on others. Consider this "heavenly" scene: "One by one they came, far as the eye could see | Each life somehow touched by your generosity | As Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord | He said, "My child, look around you. Great is your reward.""

Now hear this biblical account: "Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped" (Rev. 5:11-14).

The difference is obvious. In the song, the masses line up to praise a faithful servant. In the Bible, the masses line up to worship the One he served, Jesus Christ. Of course, the Bible doesn't tell us everything that will occur once in heaven, but the best thing to do when we gather is to celebrate those things that we know Scripture teaches us. Regardless of how good the music is - the song paints a picture of heaven that we don't see in Scripture. In order to please God with the lyrics of our songs, we should use ideas and language that we know please Him, and those are most readily available in His Word. Let's resolve together to commit to biblical texts in our songs.

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NEW COLUMN: PASTOR'S Q&A
ARTICLES FROM OUR PASTORAL STAFF
NOTES OF APPRECIATION
CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JUNE AND JULY

NEW LIBRARY HOURS:

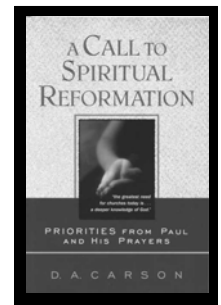
SUNDAYS
9:00-9:45 AM & 10:30-11:15 AM

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

AVAILABLE IN OUR CHURCH LIBRARY: A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION

Transform meager, self-driven prayers into powerful, God-centered prayers. Perhaps the best book available on prayer today, this book teaches us how to allow God's Word to shape the priorities of our prayers. Carson examines each of Paul's prayers, showing us how praying like Paul will bring about true spiritual reformation. This is a demanding read, but worth the effort!

*Note: Though no longer featured in the newsletter, the sweet tradition of dedicating a book in someone's memory will still be available. Notification of this honor will be reserved for the warmth of a personal, handwritten note to the loved one's family.



"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience would be neither right nor safe. God help me. Here I stand, I can do no other."

-Martin Luther, 1521



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