



# THE FBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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

## THE BLESSINGS OF A GODLY PASTORAL STAFF

Tom Buck

One of the greatest blessings I have serving our church is the wonderful pastoral staff God has given us. I get the privilege of working every day with a group of men who deeply love the Lord and want nothing else than to see our church continue growing as a Word-centered, Christ-exalting, God-honoring community of believers.

I could not think of anyone who loves and cares for our children more than Vernon. He works to lay a foundation that grounds them in God's Word. Then as our children grow and transfer into our Students' Ministry, you could not find someone who works harder at seeing our students press on towards spiritual maturity than Ryan. As your pastor, who also has children, I am thankful to have these men facilitate the spiritual growth of my own children. I joyfully entrust my children to these men. I love them and their willingness to stand in the gap with me and you.

Nothing could be more important than the teaching ministry of a church. You need leaders who firmly holds to the truth of God's Word and believe there is no other means by which people's lives can be transformed. We need men who will point us to the Word of God in every circumstance. We have such a man in James. He is committed to God's Word like no other person I have ever worked with and he serves the people of our church in myriads of ways.

When it comes to loving and caring for God's people, I have never worked with anyone who fits the bill more than Ronnie. He has served FBC Lindale for over 20 years and continues to be a faithful servant. He is a team player and always wants what is best for the church, as he evidenced in his decision to transition into Senior Adult/Pastoral Care Pastor. From the day I walked into the doors of this church, he has been a faithful friend. I thank God for him and I know that this church will always do so, too.

Stepping into an already successful music ministry after someone has spent two decades in that

position could be the job for a sacrificial lamb. It would require someone who is not controlled by his own personal ego but exalts Christ above everything else. It must be someone who loves people and is willing to set aside his personal agenda for the good of the church and the cause of Christ. You pray it will be someone who continues to grow that ministry in its commitment to being Word-driven in every way. God sent us such a man in Andrew. This young man is wise beyond his years and I count it a privilege to work with him every day.

I want you to know how much I love and respect these men. They love you, love your children, care for your spiritual growth, minister to you through the joys and pains of life and all the way point you to the Gospel. I want this because I love you, and this is how I feel about you. I desire God's best for your life and want FBC Lindale to be a place where you can entrust your family through the years knowing you will receive the utmost spiritual care and guidance possible.

October is pastor appreciation month and usually this means the Personnel Committee calls upon you to show appreciation to your pastors in various ways. One of those is a love offering that the church gives near the end of October. In light of this emphasis, my comments in this article come off as self-serving. So I decided to be excluded this year in this appreciation month offering so that I can personally ask you to reach out and do something very special for these men. They serve this church sacrificially in ways that often only I see. Find a way to encourage their families who also give of themselves for the good of our church. When you have the opportunity to give a love offering, give joyfully and generously as they work hard and are worthy of that type of honor. But above all, thank God that he has given us a staff like this. I truly believe you could not find as wonderful a group of men anywhere else.

## DATES OF INTEREST

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
OCTOBER 1, 7:30 AM

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
OCTOBER 4, 6:00 PM

**DEACONS MEETING: POT-  
LUCK WITH THEIR WIVES**  
OCTOBER 10, 6:00 PM

**RESOUND CONCERT**  
FEATURING  
**BENJAMIN HARLAN**  
OCTOBER 16, 6:00 PM

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
OCTOBER 28 & 29

**MEMBERS MEETING**  
OCTOBER 30, 6:00 PM

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
NOVEMBER 1, 6:00 PM

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
NOVEMBER 5, 7:30 AM

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**  
NOVEMBER 7

**DINNER AND CONCERT**  
**WITH MATTHEW SMITH**  
NOVEMBER 9; DINNER AT  
5:30 PM, CONCERT 7:00 PM

**SENIOR ADULT FALL**  
**BANQUET**  
NOVEMBER 11, 10:15 AM

**GREAT COMMISSION**  
**FOCUS WEEK**  
NOVEMBER 13-19

**THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
**CELEBRATION SUNDAY**  
NOVEMBER 20, 5:00 PM

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**  
NOVEMBER 23-27,  
NO EVENING  
ACTIVITIES OR SERVICES

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## PASTORS' Q&A

**Q** If “Christ” isn’t Jesus’ last name, did He have one?

**A** You are right that “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name. “Christ” is a Greek title that, translated, means “Anointed.” The same word, translated to Hebrew, means “Messiah.” So Christ = Messiah = Anointed. The three offices that were “anointed” offices in the Old Testament were prophet, priest, and king. So to call Jesus the “Christ” is to call Him the Prophet of prophets, the Priest of priests, and the King of kings. “Christ” is no more (and no less) a part of Jesus’ name than “king” is part of King Henry’s name.

In ancient times, most did not have last names like we do today. Think of the famous authors of the ancient world: Homer, Socrates, Aristotle, Plato. Since most did not have a last name (also called a family name), they often added some description to define who they were talking about. For example: James, son of Zebedee (father’s name); Augustine of Hippo (hometown); Alexander the coppersmith (vocation). The biblical record indicates that Jesus was delineated based on His hometown (Nazareth). So the closest thing to Jesus’ last name would be, “of Nazareth.”

Email your questions to [james@fbclindale.com](mailto:james@fbclindale.com)

## THE GOD WHO WON'T LET GO

Ronnie Stribble

The Bible says, “Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for! Even that it would please God to destroy me; that He would let loose His hand, and cut me off!” Job was described as one of the greatest men in the Ancient East. He was a man who was blameless before God, and upright and just before men. He had seven sons, three daughters, 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen and 500 donkeys. Yet, trials and troubles came upon him and he lost it all, including his health. Job felt that life was over for him, and he cursed the day he was born (Job 3:1-4) and questioned the purpose of his existence (Job 6:11). He even prayed God would release the painful grip he had on him and turn loose his hand and cut him off and let him go. But little did Job realize that there was purpose to his pain, and that God could make sense out of his sorrow, and bring fruitfulness from the famine that struck his life. Though Job thought he had nothing to live for, God knew he had everything to live for. God’s answer to his request could be summarized by the prophet Isaiah, “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me” (Isaiah 49:15-16). God never forgot nor forsook Job, and blessed the latter end of his life more than the beginning (Job 42:10-17). In the end he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 donkeys – two times as much as he had at the beginning. So, if you are going through a storm, place your faith in the God who won’t let go.

## LEVERAGING FBC FOR THE GOSPEL

James Seward

Hell is real. God’s grace in Christ is also real. We believe it with all our hearts. And so we are passionate about reaching out with the gospel, especially bringing it to those with little or no access to it.

Last March during the Mission Launch weekend, I laid out the basic course our Missions Committee is charting as we seek to mobilize the church for gospel effectiveness. This Fall, you will be seeing some of these plans starting to take shape. Here are a few highlights:

*First Sunday Mission Focus* – The first Sunday of every month will have a missions focus. There will be a bulletin insert featuring a “Missionary of the Month.” In addition, each Sunday School class will set aside time to pray for the missionary that class has adopted.

*Great Commission Focus (GCF) Week* – On November 13-19, we are dedicating a whole week to highlight Missions within our church. The Sunday morning and evening services will feature Joe Dillon, a former IMB missionary who now works stateside with the IMB. That Sunday, we will also have an informational lunch to help the church learn more about where we’re going in Missions and how to get involved. Look for more details soon!

*December Missions Giving* – Our church sets aside every December to give to international missions (through the IMB Lottie Moon offering). Last year, our church was in the top 2% in per capita giving among SBC churches. We believe it is within our church’s reach to give even more this year than last year, and we have some exciting plans to help us achieve that.

These are just a few of the exciting things you’ll see happening as we seek to leverage FBC for the gospel. Exciting days are ahead for us!

## NOTES OF THANKS

We deeply appreciate your kind expression of sympathy in our time of great sorrow. We know our pain will decrease and what will remain will always be. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
The family of Justin Ross Sanders



## THE ROCK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Vernon Hughes



## HOW TO TRAIN YOU CHILDREN

Ryan Taber

In this first month of KidsCore we've been learning the song "Lord Most High," and we ended our discussion time by discussing Elijah and the prophets of Baal. This story, that's found in 1 Kings 18, is a showdown between God and His prophet Elijah, and King Ahab and his 450 prophets of Baal. Baal was a false god that King Ahab and his 450 prophets had led the Israelites to worship. Both the prophets of Baal and Elijah prepare an altar and sacrifice. The prophets of Baal pray to Baal to send down fire to consume their sacrifice, and of course nothing happens. Then Elijah commands that four jars of water be poured onto his altar. Not exactly the best thing to do when starting a fire, but he wanted there to be no doubt of God's might. So he had them pour four more jars onto the altar, and then four more jars. That's a total of 12 jars! Then he prayed that God would let it be known that He was God and turn the people's hearts back to Him. Of course fire rained down and, it says, consumed the offering, the wood, the stones, the dust, and licked up all the water. I think it's easy for us to judge the Israelites and not ourselves. How could their hearts stray so far from God? But how many times have I let things in my life come between me and my relationship with God? How many times have I let "things" become gods in my life? We have to keep the main thing the main thing. I think we should stop and look at our own lives to make sure our focus is on the one that rescued, saved and provides for us on a daily basis. He is the Lord Most High.

Proverbs 22 tells us, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Training up children is hard work, it is constant, 24 hour a day 7 day a week kind of stuff. I was reminded of this recently when our 3 year old asked me why I wasn't wearing my seatbelt. Everything I do or don't do has an impression on my children. How I treat their mother, how I respond to adversity, how I handle stress, how I show compassion to those less fortunate, my attitude towards the church and its leaders...all these leave an imprint on my children. Sounds a little daunting doesn't it? Well the good news is that we don't have to wonder how we should train our children. The Scriptures are not silent on the issue of parenting and our heavenly father has modeled for us the perfect balance of mercy and discipline, patience and action, and most of all a perfect unconditional sacrificial love. My strongest advice to parents is to spend a period of time searching the Scriptures and prayerfully considering the characteristics and attributes that you want your children to possess when they are grown. Make a list of the things you want your children to do and be when they are adults, and then be that adult.

## INSPIRED MUSIC PT. 2

Andrew Pressley

In the last newsletter, I wrote about a claim that goes something like this: "God inspired this song." I believe that God can inspire songs in a way that's a bit more profound than the way a lost love or a beautiful landscape inspires art. Thinking on the things of God is an inherently inspiring endeavor, and it should prompt new, beautiful, thought-provoking art. However, if by "inspired" we mean that God revealed new divine truth to us, we must reject that notion. (By the way, you can always access old newsletters on our website: [www.fbclindale.com](http://www.fbclindale.com).)

In my estimation, songwriters make "inspired" claims for two reasons. One is gentle, godly humility. They don't want to take credit for their work, so they give credit where it is ultimately due. But sometimes, either consciously or subconsciously, artists do this to get themselves off the hook. If God gave them their song, who can question what it says?

To the humble artist, I make this plea: Give credit where it's due, but don't cloud the waters of inspiration with this sort of notion. Just say, simply, for example: "God is so faithful, and I wrote this song to echo the testimony of His faithfulness in His Word. All the praise is His!" To the other sort of artist: you're not off the hook. Think about the claim you're making: speaking for God Himself! The Bible says we should be about testing truth claims (1 John 4:1,

Acts 17:11), and music is no exception to this pattern.

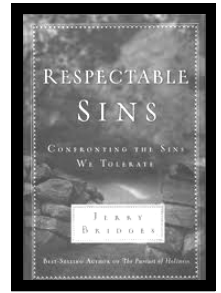
Now, to the listener: sometimes we have unique and meaningful experiences with songs that would lead us to believe they are inspired. Imagine a young man caught up in a promiscuous lifestyle of club hopping and such who, at a concert, hears the late 60's hit "Spirit in the Sky." Reminded of his Christian upbringing, he heads to a local church and hears the gospel and becomes a Christian. We shouldn't assume that the song is inspired (or even generally beneficial) just because God brought good from it in this man's life. In fact, the song boasts, "Never been a sinner; I never sinned," a theme antithetical to the gospel.

God, in his redeeming work, takes even sinful things and uses them to accomplish good. However, this doesn't mean we should celebrate untruth or imperfect means in our Christian efforts. Regardless of how meaningful or how impactful a song has been in our lives, it must *still* pass the Scriptural test. And if we find that it falls short of what the Bible has for us, we mustn't celebrate the song for its value in truth or discipleship. After all – it's *God* who is at work in our lives, not merely music. To value the song above the Lord's standards is to misplace our faith in man's creation rather than the Creator.

Instead of being fascinated by the fact that certain songs have a unique impact on us individually, we need to commit to the notion that EVERY song we use must be thoroughly examined through the lens of Scripture, a process that I try and model in these articles – and will continue to do so.

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### AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY: *RESPECTABLE SINS (JERRY BRIDGES)*



While evangelicals continue to decry the “big sins”—such as abortion, adultery, and violence—we often overlook more deceptive sins. It seems we have created a sliding scale where gossip, jealousy, and selfishness comfortably exist within the church. In short, some sins have simply become acceptable. Bridges writes not from a sense of achievement, but from the trenches of his own personal battles. Drawing from scriptural truth, he sheds light on subtle behaviors that can derail our spiritual growth. Throughout, Bridges encourages victory over personal sin through the gospel's transforming power.

### LIBRARY HOURS:

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

**WEDNESDAYS**  
5:30-6:00 PM

NO ONE SETS OUT TO BECOME AN APOSTATE - IT'S NEVER THE RESULT OF ONE ABRUPT, DRASTIC TURN AWAY FROM THE LORD. INSTEAD, APOSTASY IS MOST OFTEN THE PRODUCT OF A PATTERN OF SINFUL COMPROMISES THAT HARDEN AND GRADUALLY STEER A PROFESSING BELIEVER AWAY FROM THE TRUTH.

-JOHN MACARTHUR



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