



Cross & Spire

Newsletter of First Baptist Church

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"Not a perfect church, not a perfect people, just a simple desire to follow Jesus."

Upcoming Events:

*Financial Peace
University, Thursday
evenings at 6:30pm at
FBC*

*Women 2 Women,
Wednesday,
November 9 at
4:30pm at FBC*

*Men's Breakfast,
Saturday,
November 12 at
7:30am*

*Operation
Christmas Child
Shoebboxes due back
to FBC by Sunday,
November 13*

*Giving Tree set up
on Sunday,
November 13 at
FBC*

*Advent begins
Sunday, December
4*

A Word from Pastor Rick

Like most presidential election years the subject after, "Hello, How are you?" is the election drama and scandal. This one is different though. I have never encountered more sad faces and disgusted gestures. I have also gotten a question from Christians again and again in different forms: "What is God doing in our country?" In my opinion, if this question is a trend everywhere, this election will have done us a lot of good before it even happens, because the answer is surprising, encouraging and motivating.

That God rules in nature and in the affairs of men and women is of course everywhere taught in Scripture:

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: "What have you done?"

In fact Scripture affirms that God's rule is shown in the occasion that causes me to repair a shirt, or throw one away, or mourn or, dance (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15). The writer of Ecclesiastes affirms that God, "has made everything beautiful in its time." This means that things don't happen willy-nilly. He has a purpose in it all that is beautiful. Paul affirms the same thing: "All things work together for good...(Romans 8:28)."

So what is he up to now? If you read the rest of the passage in Romans 8:28-30 you see what it is: "For whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...and whom he predestined he also called and whom he called he also justified, and whom he justified he also glorified." So God's big aim is that men and women can become all that God created human beings to be. He sees who will respond to his sovereign grace ahead of time and then tilts history so that they hear believe become justified and so that every event pushes them on to be more and more like Jesus. The writer of Ecclesiastes says something similar: "I perceived that whatever God does endures forever, nothing to be added to it, nothing to be taken from it." God's work in history has permanent beautiful results. If we add something to it we will mess it up. If we take something from it we will mess it up. Then he says, "God has done it so that people will fear before him." The fear of the Lord in the Bible stands for loving reverence for God in the fabric of life. God's aim in events is to bring people to faith and obedience.

I think you get the point God is shaping history so that people are helped to hear and believe the good news and then helped to grow up in their faith. Even where we were born and live is matched to our need to find God (Acts 17:26-27). The specifics are a mystery. We can't figure out how each event helps. Romans 11:33 says, "O the depths of the riches (of mercy) and the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable are his judgments and his ways beyond tracing out." God is motivated by mercy in his rule of history and directed by perfect knowledge and wisdom, but we can't know the specific reasons for his judicial decisions or figure out precisely what he is doing.

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What we can know is that this election (and every event) is tilting the playing field for the salvation of our friends, family and colleagues. This means it is an opportunity for evangelism even if _____ wins! Think of that. We may see our country sinking and heading into decline, but God is opening people up to him through it. As God's people this is profoundly motivating. This is no time to whine, we have a job to do.

GIVING TREE IS COMING

The holidays are among us, and it is the season of giving. The Missions Board will once again, be hosting the Giving Tree here at First Baptist Church. Many of us look forward to being able to give to someone in need. The Giving Tree will be up Sunday, November 13. Please consider taking a tag off of the tree and helping spread the joy of a new gift for a family in need this season.

TIME FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

It is time again to start thinking about Operation Christmas Child. For those of you who may not know what this is, it is a mission project put on by Samaritan's Purse (You can check them out at samaritanspurse.org). This mission project sends Christmas gifts to children in less fortunate countries. These gifts are usually sent in shoeboxes. It is a great way to further the work of God's Kingdom. We are asking for a more hands on approach from you this year.

Please note

The CE Board thought more people should be involved, so anyone can fill a box! First Baptist Church will have shoeboxes available if you do not have one. You are welcome to take more than one for your family. You can choose to give to a boy or a girl, and what age group you would like to give to. Simply take a box home, fill it with items from this list, and please include a check payable to Samaritan's Purse for \$7 for shipping.

The children receiving these boxes come in 3 age groups: Girl 2-4 years old, Boy 2-4 years old; Girl 5-9 years old, Boy 5-9 years old; Girl 10-14 years old, Boy 10-14 years old. When shopping, please be mindful of the age you are giving to. In order to ensure items are age appropriate.

If you are unable to fill a shoebox, you can still help! Samaritans Purse will also include a program called The Greatest Journey for a donation of \$6.

Children who receive Operation Christmas Child gift boxes are invited to learn more about Jesus through our exciting discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Just \$6 can help us train local teachers and provide a child with Bible study materials, a graduation certificate, and a New Testament in their language. Give today at: samaritanspurse.org/tgj

In your box, you may also include a personal note for the child who will receive the box. It will add a nice personal touch. We also ask you please pray over your shoe box before returning it to FBC. The last day we can receive FILLED shoeboxes is Sunday, November 13.

For more information, you can visit: samaritanspurse.org/occ

Items to include:

Hygiene Items (please make sure to include all these items with your shoebox):

Toothbrush, Toothbrush Holder, Bar of mild soap (in a plastic ziplock bag), Soap Holder, Toothpaste, Washcloth, Comb, T-shirt, Hair accessories, Clothing line and clothespins
School supply items: Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Solar Calculators, Writing Pads, Crayons, Coloring Books
Toys: Little Dolls, Toy cars, Jump ropes, Soccer Ball & pump, Light up toys with extra batteries, Slinky, Etch-a-Sketch, Plastic Dinosaurs, Play Jewelry, Musical Instruments (Harmonica, recorder, mini guitar)
'Other' Items: An outfit of clothing, Stuffed animal, Plastic bowl & cup (good quality, no designs).

DO NOT INCLUDE:

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 12 at 7:30am at First Baptist Church. Any questions, feel free to contact Chris Scholtz at 603-242-2323 or Jim Newcomb at 603-448-2782. See you there!

WOMEN 2 WOMEN

Women 2 Women: Calling all ladies!

This month the W2W group will meet on **Wednesday, November 9, at 5 PM**, as we host the **Community Dinner** that night at our church! All are invited - we would LOVE to have a big group out for this - it's not only a great opportunity for fellowship with each other, but also a chance to support another ministry of

First Baptist, as well as become better acquainted with and serve our neighbors in the community. We're planning a Mexican-themed dinner, and there's plenty for everyone to help out with (food prep, set-up, decorating, serving, clean-up, or just coming to hang out with people!) Please check out the sign-up sheet at the back of the church sanctuary for what is needed. If you can't actually come that evening, you can still participate by providing food items!

Questions or need more details? Please see Ruth Newcomb at church or contact her at 603-448-2782 or ruthless_girl@yahoo.com.

Please join us for a really fun evening of fellowship and service to our Lord! If you've never been to W2W before, this would be a great time to start coming!

BOARD OF DEACONS UPDATE

Greetings from the Deacon Board,

Although the board continues to meet twice a month, this update will only include information from our first meeting of the month. The board met on Tuesday October 11th and worked through our usual business agenda which includes, pastoral care issues, community care team updates, and worship service information. Our 2nd meeting took place on October 25th after the due date for this newsletter.

After completing our regularly scheduled business, Pastor Rick proceeded to lead us through some scriptures pertinent to service as a deacon. We looked at and discussed the following Scriptures: 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:21-25, Titus 1:5-13, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 5:1-4 and Acts 20:25-32. We looked at the Timothy and Titus verses to learn what the Bible says about qualifications for a deacon while the Hebrews, 1 Peter and Acts verses address what the Bible says about the task of a deacon.

We ask you to please continue to keep the Deacon Board in your prayers as these scriptures are quite daunting and humbling as to what is expected of us while at the same time Isaiah 53:6 states, we all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. And as always, we continue to pray for all of you, Christ's church and congregation.

Respectfully submitted in Christ's love,
Marjorie Olson and the Board of Deacons

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

THANK YOU!!

We want to send out a huge "Thank You!" to all the Hosts who not only opened up their homes but also fed the multitudes at FBCL's

Progressive Dinner on Saturday October 15. A total of 24 people moved from house to house and were met with abundant hospitality and good cheer.

It was a great time of fellowship and food and we even had door prizes at the end!

We look forward to doing this again sometime in the future.

Thank you all again!

The Adult Discipleship Committee

UPDATE FROM JANET HALL

I would like to thank everyone who said prayers for my brother and my family during his medical issues and his passing. The cards and notes were greatly appreciated and comforting. Thanks so very much.

I will be returning to Haiti December 9th to the 19th to continue the work of Regenesis Project. What funds that are have available will determine how much will be accomplished. Regenesis Project should be able to partially move ahead with the plans to put a computer lab in a local Christian school which is run by a Haitian pastor and his wife. There is also a great need, because of Hurricane Matthew, to find some ways to help the local farmers recover from their losses. Come January and February, there is going to be a shortage of food and will continue until new crops can be planted and harvested. I currently do not know what this assistance will look like, but am keeping in contact with those in Haiti who can advise me on these matters.

Regenesis Project is a 501(c)3, so all donations are tax deductible. If you wish to donate to our work, you can send a check to Regenesis Project, P.O. Box 34, Plainfield, NH. 03781, or give it to Gail McCoy. Please make the check out to Regenesis Project. All donations are used for ongoing projects. I pay any and all of my personal expenses while traveling and staying in Haiti. I would like to thank those of you who have supported our work in the past and those who have supported me personally. This is an endeavor that I feel God has laid on my heart, and any and all support, especially prayer support is appreciated more than you can know. I know when I am in Haiti, whether or not there are people praying for me. Prayers for safety, wisdom and for the ability to touch peoples' lives for Christ are important. Thank you. Janet Hall