

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ILLUMINATOR

"Ye are the LIGHT of the world." Matthew 5:14

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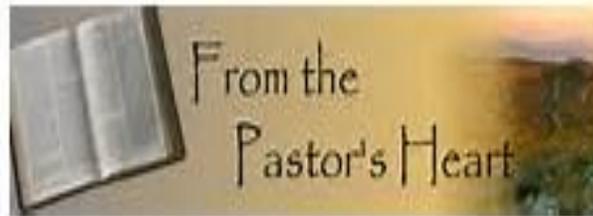
SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

JANUARY 21, 11:00 a.m.

**Guest Speaker: Jake Pelfrey
Central Region Director, Sunrise Children's Services**



BAPTIST MEN'S DAY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28



This Sunday I will continue in 1 Timothy as we look at "*how to conduct ourselves in the church*". This purpose of Paul's letter to Timothy is given in 3:15, "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth".

In the young church there was a danger of false teachings replacing the ground of truth. One major heresy was Gnosticism. This resulted when intellectual minds could not understand how evil and suffering entered the world; so they began to speculate – or make up doctrines to explain them. Truth was abandoned by man's creative imagination. What a great danger when Christian people attempt to add to or change the meaning of scripture to fit their own level of thinking.

Heresy is not only doctrinally wrong; it affects us morally and ethically. If we base our lives on some alternate truth other than God's Word, we will end up believing anything. When people no longer recognize absolute truth, they believe that the definitions of right and wrong change with every generation. Our culture has witnessed this kind of "*making up the rules as we go along*" in areas like the value of human life, marriage, and morality.

The result is that we see a culture rejecting traditional marriage, approving of behaviors like gambling, pornography, living together before marriage, and legalizing drugs. Sex trafficking and human slavery devalue life. We accept abortion as a conventional birth control while passionately advocating "saving endangered animals". How could this possibly happen? You might ask. The answer is quite simple.

Without absolute truth, there is no right or wrong – therefore you can justify anything as acceptable behavior. This is nothing new today. Even the early church struggled with false teachings based on man's imagination instead of on absolute truth. No wonder Paul battled hard against this. If you remove God and morality from the picture, you are left with the culture of Judges 17:6 – "In those days *there* was no king Israel; everyone did *what* was right in their own eyes".

Next Sunday, January 21st, is *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday*. Our guest speaker will be Jake Pelfrey, the central region director for Sunrise Children's Services. The purpose of this special Sunday can be summarized this way – Human life is valuable to God and it does matter what you believe. This Sunday, January 14th, we will look at how a Christian thinks. Hope to see you there.

Bro. Tony

Tony.Brown@whitesburgfbc.org



"So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female." Genesis 1:27

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is coming up on January 21st. I have been reflecting on the "what" and the "why" of this issue and how our culture continues to send the message that our worth is based on our race, gender, attractiveness, political viewpoints, and a thousand other characteristics and traits. Even today, with speeches about equality, there tends to be an undercurrent of hostility towards the perceived enemy or oppressor. From my perspective, there is very little talk about true equality and even less about the true reason for the value of human life. It seems as though our culture is attempting to operate off of a rule of leaving God out of the discussion, with no recognition that the failure to acknowledge God and the distinction that he gave us by creating us in his image makes all arguments valid and fallacious.

Let us remember that being created in God's image, bearing his likeness, sets us apart and gives us value beyond our individual characteristics and attributes. Let us understand that nothing else in God's creation has this distinction and the value extends from the youngest to the oldest. Each person has this value, not because of who that person is but because of whose image they bear. This value does not decrease because of outside circumstances, age, ability to care for oneself, or sinfulness – again, the value comes not from the person but from Him who created them. May we be mindful of this and love our neighbor how Jesus directed us to.

In Christ,
JEREMY
Prov. 27:17

4th-6th GRADE PARENT MEETING

On Sunday, January 21st, at 5:00 P.M., there will be a meeting for the parents of 4th-6th graders to discuss camp and mission opportunities that will be happening this summer. This meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER NEED

Children's jogging pants are needed in all elementary boys' and girls' sizes (small and medium are the most frequent needs). If you can help, please drop off the jogging pants to the church office by January 24th.



We will be singing, *"His Name Is Wonderful"*, as our call to worship this week. Believe it or not this song is one of the more recent hymns in our book. I thought I would share the story behind this song in the words of the composer.

In 1955, Audrey Meier was attending Christmas morning services where children were conducting a re-enactment of the Nativity. The children, dressed as shepherds, were covered in oversized bathrobes. Some of the angels' halos were slightly crooked. Singing the glorious old carols and hearing the scripture passages had great meaning.

The powerful prophecy of Isaiah 9:6 went down deep into Meier's soul as she cherished those words: *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."*

When that familiar scripture concluded, the pastor, her brother-in-law, lifted his hands, closed his eyes and said, "His name is wonderful".

"I felt as if I heard the rustle of angel wings and a musical chorus came to mind." On the flyleaf of her Bible she quickly wrote the words that her brother-in-law had just proclaimed, "His name is wonderful". After she wrote it three times, she added the sacred name of her Lord.

When Audrey passed away in 1996, her last words were, *"His Name is Wonderful"*. Sing out this Sunday, and let everyone hear and know that His Name is Wonderful.

Baptist Men's Day will be on Sunday, January 28th. We will need all men to sing in the Men's Choir that Sunday, volunteers to share your testimony that Sunday morning or evening, and we are looking for men to sing solos, duets, quartets, etc. If you are interested in singing, please let me know. If you would like to share your testimony, please let Jeremy know.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Choir resumes Sunday, January 14, 6:00 P.M.
Baptist Men's Day – Sunday, January 28 – Morning and Evening Services
Need volunteers





One of the greatest challenges our youth leaders face is ensuring that our youth receive a solid foundation in the Word. Attending camp is one avenue that allows us to do just that. We will be attending SEESALT Youth Camp this summer. The cost of the camp is about \$300 per person which includes most meals. The youth from Highlands Baptist in Ocala, FL will be joining us at camp this year so it will be a great opportunity to fellowship with our Ocala family.

We will also be returning to Ocala for a week of mission activities this summer. The cost for this trip is minimal as we stay at Highlands. Attendees usually split the cost of any motel stay while traveling, and then pay for meals while traveling back and forth from Florida.

Please mark these dates on your calendar so that your son or daughter will be able to attend camp and go on mission trip.

Our goal is to help those attending be able to go and to place a minimal strain on those families that have students attending. We will be conducting some dinners after morning worship and other fund-raising activities to assist with the cost of attending camp and going on mission trip. If your son or daughter would like to have their cost minimized, or if they need a scholarship, working these fund-raising activities will be required. We will have a parent meeting on Wednesday evening, January 24 at 6:00 P.M. in the Youth Room at church to discuss camp, mission trip and fund-raising participation requirements.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS

January 14

Linda Bentley, Shaun Mynster

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| January 24: | Parent Meeting – 6:00 P.M. – Youth Room |
| January 27: | Game Night – 6:00 P.M. |
| January 28: | Baptist Men’s Day |
| January 31: | Youth Leaders Planning Meeting – 5:30 P.M.
Conference Room |
| February 4: | “Souper Bowl” Sunday – Food Bank Collection |
| February 4: | Super Bowl Party – home of Philip & Julie Bentley |
| June 17-22: | SEESALT Youth Camp – Myrtle Beach |
| June 30-July 6: | Ocala Mission Trip |



- Jan. 14: Zachary Chapman
15: Ava Newell
16: Bill Combs, Michael Cook,
Nina Jenks
19: Gerald Hacker, Teresa Hogg
20: Danny Chapman

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

- 9:00 A.M. Breakfast
FBC Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 A.M. Worship Service

Deacons Meeting



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 7:30 A.M.

Everyone is invited to attend.



We have offering envelopes for 2018 in the vestibule of the church. If you do not have a box, please notify the church office and we will be glad to assign you a box. Offering envelopes help us in posting contributions that are given to the church.



Just a reminder that any announcements and articles that need to be in the newsletter must be in the church office no later than noon on Tuesday. Announcements for the bulletin must be received no later than Wednesday.

If you are presently receiving our newsletter by mail and would like to receive it through e-mail, please contact the church office with your e-mail address.

ATTENTION ALL VAN DRIVERS

We need to update our files. Therefore, please submit a copy of your driver's license to the church office as soon as possible.



UNIFIED BUDGET

EMMA AMBURGEY
In Memory Of
OWEN AMBURGEY

SALLY WEBB CAUDILL
SAM (CLINT) WEBB II
J.W. & JOANN COMBS
In Memory Of
HERBERT CAUDILL

WINTER GIFT

"God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, 'Fall to the earth'; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work" (Job 37:5-7).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. "Snow days" due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We're granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It's like a surprise sabbath – the gift of grace-time – when no one's expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work – his place – in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

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EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Jan. 14
Laura Whitaker

Jan. 21
Linda Setzer, Tricia Lewis

PRESCHOOL WORSHIP

Jan. 14
Calviston & Rebecca Cook

Jan. 21
Deanna Hipps

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS

Jan. 14
Viva Anderson, Brenda Cook, Lori Thomas

Jan. 21
Amanda & Byron Thomas



There is a class for all ages. Come join us at 9:45 A.M. on Sunday morning.

LAST SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

Sunday School ----- 103
Adults -- 58
Youth -- 17
Children -- 20
Preschool -- 8
Morning Worship ----- 147

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Housing Authority -----
Letcher Manor -----
AWANA/IGNITE/YOUTH ----- 100
Children: 70 Adults: 30

ADDITIONS TO DATE

(September – August)

By Baptism ----- 3
By Letter ----- 0
By Statement ----- 1
TOTAL ADDITIONS ----- 4

TOTAL RECEIPTS

Budget Receipts ----- \$ 5,828.00
Budget Requirement ----- \$ 7,255.00
Family Life Center ----- \$ 325.00
Designated ----- \$ 161.00
Lottie Moon ----- \$ 10.00
Budget Required to Date ----- \$ 7,255.00
Budget to Date ----- \$ 5,828.00

IN THE HOSPITAL

CARROLL SHACKLEFORD – Local ARH

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

TOTAL NEEDED – PHASE 2

\$500,000.00

GIVEN TO DATE

\$434,427.00

NEEDED

\$65,573.00

DEACON OF THE WEEK

January 14 - 20

MIKE WATTS