

The Trumpet

“The trumpet shall sound...and we shall be changed”
(I Corinthians 15:52)



Volume 17 Issue 3

Pastor’s Pen

As I sit to write my last Pastor’s Pen, I can’t help but reflect over my forty years of pastoral ministry. From the day I was called to the pulpit by Pastor Perry Bellah to preach my first sermon, my goal has been to honor God each step of the way and to finish strong. I pray that the Lord is well pleased with my ministry and the way I have run my race.

The last seventeen years my ministry assignment has been FSBC Mountain Home. Saying goodbye will not be easy. However, it is necessary. God has given this church pastors according to His heart for 67+ years. As God closes the door on my ministry here at FSBC, the good news is He is opening the door on a new ministry season for this church. It will be under the guidance and leadership of the next pastor God gives this church.

I exhort you all; love, encourage and support your next God-given pastor. *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you”* (Hebrews 13:17). Remember, just as God didn’t send me here to fill a predecessor’s shoes, your next pastor will not be here to fill my shoes. God will direct his steps and he will walk in his own shoes. The journey will be precious and sweet if you all walk together and worship as a united body of Christ. After all, the Bible tells us, *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity”* (Psalm 133:1). It might be some time before God makes it known who your next pastor will be. But, be patient and wait on

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Him. The scripture also tells us, *“He [makes] all things beautiful in His own time”* (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Trust God and his timing! As I prepare to step through the doorway of retirement, Sarah and I are looking forward to what God has out before us. While I am retiring from the administrative side of pastoral ministry, I pray that God allows me opportunity to continue preaching. For Sarah and me, the last 17 years have been a joyful ministry assignment from our Lord. Standing alongside you, we have laughed together and

cried together. We have agreed and disagreed. We have experienced victories and encountered disappointments. We have rejoiced in salvations, baptisms, church growth, unity and health. We have hosted outreach events through Team Impact, 1st Century ministries to revivals and Bible Conferences featuring nationally acclaimed speakers. We have prayed together and praised God for His answers. We have been blessed with the success of building upgrades; improvement of our financial position; organizational framework allowing for more effective and efficient accomplishment of ministry. Although there is much more to share, I cannot condense seventeen years into one paragraph. I can say, for Sarah and I, we cherish the time we have spent together. The friendship, fellowship and love we have experienced with our FSBC church family is priceless and precious. From our heart to yours, thank you for your encouragement, kindness and care.

Grace be with you all. Amen.

Hebrews 13:25

In Christian love,
Pastor Jim Gregory

Finance Committee

The finance committee is committed to keeping close watch over the church finances. We do this by holding periodic financial meetings to review budgetary expenditures to ensure each ministry is sufficiently funded while also staying on track, in terms of spending for the year. This results in adjustments from time to time as giving and spending dictates. Our goal is to stay within the church budget while still accomplishing ministry needs and aspirations.



Eric Nagel, Chairman

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry formed by Franklin Graham that takes Christmas gifts and the Gospel to underprivileged children all over the world. We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes in November. Each month we will highlight a different item to bring in. But, please remember we will take all types of donations at any time! For June please bring in flip flops, for July bring in school supplies.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Do We Have What The Apostles Wrote?

One of the persistent claims made by the enemies of the Christian faith is that we do not possess what the apostles and other New Testament writers wrote (all of the New Testament was written either by an apostle or an associate of an apostle. For example, Luke was not an apostle but was an associate of the apostle Paul). They will often say that all we have are copies of copies of copies of copies and that in the copying so many mistakes were made that we do not have what was originally written. Certainly there are no extant original manuscripts; they no doubt wore out or got destroyed. And we must admit that there are no two manuscripts that are identical. Also, the earliest complete manuscripts we have are from the fourth century. Moreover there have been some verses added to what was written. Most of those additions are limited to one or two verses. If you have a good study Bible these will be noted for you with a footnote or by some other means. In addition there are two twelve verse passages that were added and that you will still find in your New Testament. The last twelve verses to the Gospel of Mark were added. If you read Mark 16 through verse eight you will notice that the original text does not give us as much information as we would like and that is likely the reason additions were made. The first reason we know that the last twelve verses are not original is that the earliest and best manuscripts do not contain them, the earliest copies of Mark do not have anything after verse eight. Additionally, there are copies of Mark with different length endings. Some stop at verse 11, some at verse thirteen, some at verse 18 and some only have part of verse 20. The other 12 verse passage is John 7:53 – 8:11, the story of the woman caught in adultery. This was apparently a very popular story and was added to the New Testament fairly early on. We know that it was not original for several reasons. First, as with the last twelve verses of Mark, the earliest extant manuscripts do not have these verses. Second, there are manuscripts where it is found in a different place in John. Third, and this is the clincher, there are two manuscripts where the story is found in the Gospel of Luke. While this may be a shock to you, conservative textual scholars will tell you the same thing. When your children go to college they will be confronted with this information and need to be prepared to respond. One thing to remember is that what we want is what John, Peter, Paul and the other New Testament writers wrote, not what has been added for various reasons. Anything not written by an apostle or an associate of an apostle is not scripture.

How then do we reply to the critics? First, we must remember that all of the manuscripts were hand copied. Until the invention of the photocopier in the late 1940's copies of all kinds of documents contained errors. Differences between man-

uscripts are called variants. There are at least a half million New Testament variants. The reason we have so many variants is because we have so many manuscripts. The latest count this writer has found is 5856 Greek manuscripts. Dr. Dan Wallace has called this an embarrassment of riches because we have so many more copies of the New Testament than any other ancient document. Homer has a few hundred copies but the rest fewer than twenty - and many not even ten copies. Additionally, the dates of the earliest New Testament manuscripts are in the 2nd century whereas other documents of the same time frame don't see their first copy for hundreds of years, some more than a thousand. One thing the huge number of manuscripts enables us to do is to find the errors in transmission that have been made. The Greek text we have today is almost 100% accurate. Many folks still use the King James but the Greek text used for that translation had only about 35 manuscripts underlying its composition. This is not to impugn the basic integrity of the King James translators; they did what they could with what they had. Still there are places where they chose to sacrifice accuracy for beauty of language. But how do we handle the more than one half million manuscript variants? First, seventy percent of the variants are simply spelling differences. Uniform spelling is a very modern concept. When William Tyndale was translating the New Testament he could not consult a dictionary because dictionaries had not been invented. In the fourteenth century John Wycliff spelled his own name more than a dozen different ways. And spelling differences do not affect the meaning of the text which is what should concern us. It is a good thing that we have a more accurate Bible today than people did in the 16th or 17th centuries. Sure Tyndale's New Testament would get you to heaven as would the Bishop's Bible as would the Geneva Bible as would the King James. But the closer our translations are to the original the better we will understand what the Lord gave us and preserved for us. Right now computerized studies are underway that will by comparing all the manuscripts we have give us an even more accurate New Testament.

All scripture is God breathed (II Tim. 3:16). It is both our concern and our responsibility to have the most accurate text from which to translate. Thousands of scholars over the centuries have labored to give us the most accurate New Testament they could. How close are we to perfection. Only about ¼ of one percent of the text is at issue today. In this we can rejoice. Will there always be a few places where we are not 100% sure which of the readings is the original. Almost certainly there will be. But let's now answer the question that is the title of this article. Yes, we have what the apostles wrote. Because the scribes that have copied the New Testament over the centuries were careful to include everything in the portion of scripture they were copying some things that got included were not a part of the original. At the same time nothing was excluded. So even though there are places where we are not sure which reading is the original, we do have the original.

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MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

June

- 1 Youth Party (5:30 p.m.)
- 2 Potluck Fellowship (12:45 p.m.)
- 4 Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.)
- 11 Women's Ministry Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 15 Men's Bible Study (1:00 p.m.)
- 16 Father's Day
- 17 Pastoral Advisory Committee (6:30 p.m.)
- 18 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 23 Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- 25 SS Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 27 Men's Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)
- 24-28 TVSBA Kid's Camp
- 30 Pastor Jim's Retirement Ceremony

July

- 4 Independence Day - Offices Closed
- 7 Pot Luck Fellowship (12:45 p.m.)
- 7 - 12 Vacation Bible School (5:30 - 8:30 p.m.)
- 16 Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 Nominating Committee (6:30 p.m.)
- 21-26 TVSBA Youth Camp
- 30 SS Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 31 Awana Workers' Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Trustees Report

Every year the nominating committee nominates, and the congregation approves four members of the church to be its Trustees. As with every standing committee of the church, the pastor serves as an ex-officio member of the committee and can, in the case of tie votes, cast the deciding vote. This group is entrusted with the oversight of all legal matters having to do with the church's physical assets including our buildings, land, and improvements. The Trustees interact with local government agencies and represent the membership as signatories when the church votes to make any changes that require legal authorization.

For example, when our church voted to take out a loan for our remodeling project, the Trustees were required to sign promissory notes on behalf of the membership. Each year, the Trustees review all the church's insurance policies to ensure that we are protected from direct and indirect liabilities associated with our property and operations.

For the calendar year, 2024, the Trustees of the church are: Garry Harper, Chairman, Jon Crowe, Vice Chairman, Dave Ellis, and Vincent Brooks.

Garry Harper
Chairman

The Library

We live in difficult times. What a few generations ago seemed like a stable and mostly Christian nation now is a pagan society and both Christians and our faith are under attack. Whether young or old we all need to understand and be better able to present a defense of what the Bible teaches. The library at First Southern can help. We have commentaries on every book of scripture written by trained scholars. We have exhaustive concordances enabling you to quickly find what you are looking for. See Betty Finley, our librarian, for help.

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And most importantly there is no doctrine of the faith that is in question in any of those places. That means you can have confidence in your Bible. Your responsibility is to first know the scripture, second to be able to present a defense to the critic and third to know some of the men who have done and are doing the work of getting at close to the original as possible.

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



There was a missionary going to the Philippines and his wife had a cat which she could not part with. There was a hole in the wall of the house that they moved into. A mouse lived there and the cat loved to chase it.

Every day the cat would chase the mouse but he couldn't catch it, and the mouse would laugh at him. One day the cat waited outside of the mouse hole. The mouse was very scared because he could hear the cat outside of the hole meowing. Eventually the meowing stopped and all the mouse could hear was ruff, ruff, ruff. The mouse, full of joy, ran out of his house knowing that he had been saved. As the mouse came out of his hole, the cat pounced on him and gobbled him up, and walked away smiling & saying to himself, "it pays to be bilingual."

June Birthdays

2 Roman Solis
4 Steve Noland
6 Sai Crouse
12 John Ring
13 Shannon Crowe
15 Mike Crouse
17 Janet Nesbitt
18 Jenise Zachary



19 Martha Hazelbaker
20 Makala Clark
20 Madi Barnes
20 Varian Postelnick
21 April Anders
28 Grace Postelnick
29 Alex Strong

July Birthdays

3 Jericho Brennan
3 Kim Juris
3 Victor Nostrom
5 Shilo Nagel
10 Sharon Siebenberg
12 Tyrone Parsons
12 Rose Hare
15 Piper Phillips
15 Nathan White
17 Uriah Clark
18 Wayne Clark

19 Lyle Ferch
22 Logan Postelnick
22 Linda Heath
25 Lindsey Rosenbaum
27 Don McCall
28 Sarah Hare
28 Jeannie Zarych
29 Jonni Clark
30 Charlotte Strong
8/5 Jon Juris

Anniversaries

6/12 James & Sarah Gregory
6/12 Richard & Rita Kanady
7/14 John & Norma Harper
7/16 Wesley & Holly Phillips
8/3 Clifford & Rose Hare
8/3 Daryl & Cookie Lyerla



6/15 Lendell & Agnes Simler
6/25 Eric & Jessica Nagel
7/30 Steve & Diane Noland
8/4 Don & Flo Scheffler
8/6 Amos & Kathleen Payton