

December 2024

# The Trumpet

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



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## The Leadership Journal

### Church Councils – Ecumenical And Others

There have been many church councils in Christian history. Some were local, some regional and some councils of the whole church known to us as ecumenical councils. An ecumenical council historically is a council of the whole church. (Today ecumenical is not a good word because it is used of different groups getting together to approve of all kinds of error and heresy). Though the Roman Catholic Church lists many most Protestants accept the first six councils. The only infallible source with respect to our faith is holy scripture yet the results of these six councils are considered to mostly be an accurate reflection of what the Bible teaches. In order they are:

Council of Nicaea	325
1 <sup>st</sup> Council of Constantinople	381
Council of Ephesus	431
Chalcedon	451
2 <sup>nd</sup> Council of Constantinople	553
3 <sup>rd</sup> Council of Constantinople	680 – 681

The second council of Nicaea in 787 restored the veneration of icons and is rejected by protestants as are all subsequent councils of the Roman church.

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The idea of church councils is not a bad one. There have been many councils that were regional covering the eastern or the western church. There were councils for just North Africa and there have been councils that were what we would call a local area. Christian leaders getting together to work on serious issues is a good thing because a church or small group of churches may miss something because they are too close to a situation to get perspective.

The great weakness of the Christian church in the early centuries was that ultimate power became concentrated in one man, the pope. When it is just a single person at the top you get all his strengths in dealing with issues but all his weaknesses as well. Though in small churches like ours there is usually a single pastor he has deacons to work with him both to help him and to keep him from making serious errors. In addition in our church we have a church council which brings together leaders from various areas of the church to help guide the church's direction.

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### From the Office

My name is Nicole Clark and I am the administrative assistant here at First Southern. The office is open Monday – Thursday from 8 – 3 pm. Currently, the office doors are locked at all times. If you are planning on coming in, please call ahead even if you have your own key so I am aware of who is in the building.

Some of my main duties include answering the phones, getting the mail, and making the bulletin. I am also here to help the ministries and committees of the church by making copies and gathering supplies. As the church's purchasing agent, I make sure we have all the supplies necessary for church each week. I also keep track of all donations for tax purposes, get the slides ready for Sunday's service, and keep the church's calendar.

Some of the things you can do to help me are making sure all bulletin, copy, and supply requests are in by Wednesday morning, not posting any flyers without the approval of the Church Council, and coming to me *before* announcing any meetings or events so I can clear any conflicts which might arise.

Thank you and God Bless,

Nicole Clark

### 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 December please pray for the boxes that have been sent. For January please bring in washcloths and soap.

## **PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD**

### **APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER**

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#### **Santa Claus – A Pseudo Christ**

Once again we are privileged to celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. But our secular culture is always trying to draw our attention away from Jesus. Perhaps the main way that is done is by the promotion of Santa Claus. Hallmark with its multiple channels has many Christmas movies almost all of which laud Santa rather than Jesus. The use of secular carols fills their movies and when a true carol is used it is rarely to promote the birth of Jesus, rather it is used as background for whatever else is happening in the story. The movies are always promoting “Christmas Miracles” which for the most part are not miracles at all but matters of providence. And as is done with Santa Claus, the basis for the “miracles” is the goodness of the people involved.

The dictionary defines the word pseudo as sham, false, spurious, pretended or counterfeit. The last of those words is perhaps the one that best defines Santa Claus. To understand why we need to think about some of the words that help us understand who God is. One of the ways theologians talk about God is by discussing His attributes, those qualities that describe the one triune God. God is holy, God is just, God is merciful and God is love are just a few of the things we can say about Him. This article, though it is over 1000 words is not nearly long enough to even list all of the Lord’s attributes. As an aside we should mention that God is not just all those attributes pieced together but is simple, that is not complex. Nevertheless understanding His attributes helps us understand Him, which is a good thing.

Next we need to recognize that God’s attributes fall into two categories, communicable and incommunicable. Communicable attributes are those that can in some measure be communicated to us. These would, for example, include love, mercy, holiness, justice and many others. Incommunicable attributes are those that cannot be communicated to us in any way. God is eternal, that is He never had a beginning and will never have an end. You and I had a beginning when we were conceived in our mother’s womb and though we will never have an end we are not eternal. In fact the reason we have no end is because God sustains us. We have no ability within ourselves to maintain ourselves. And since every one of us had a beginning we cannot be described as eternal. Three of God’s best known incommunicable attributes are His omnipotence, His omnipresence and His omniscience. That is to say God is all powerful, God is present everywhere and God is all knowing. His omnipotence is demonstrated thru his creation of the entire universe by speaking it into existence. Gen. 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and*

*the earth*. Every day astronomers are discovering even more of the vastness of the universe. Yet all God had to do was say, *Let there be*, and there was. As far as His omnipresence is concerned David said whether he was in heaven or Sheol God would be there. And God's omniscience is shown in that He sees not only everything we do, but He also even knows the thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

Think then about the well known song about Santa Claus. "He knows if you are sleeping, He knows if you're awake. He knows if you've been good or bad, so be good for goodness sake." These lines say that Santa Clause is omniscient. Also notice that unlike God who shows mercy to Christians in spite of their behavior Santa Claus gives rewards based on behavior. If we were to expand that we would say that good people go to heaven, bad people go to hell. Of course since we are all sinners there are no good people. The idea that Santa covers the entire world in one night is a pseudo omnipresence.

Consider also what "salvation" is with Santa Claus. If you are good little boys and girls you are rewarded with whatever you want. But in true salvation we are only deserving of eternity in the lake of fire. It is only by God's mercy that even the best of us goes to heaven. All the goodness we can muster is filthy rags before a holy God. The effect of all that is associated with Santa Claus is to present a spurious alternative to our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus was very God who became incarnate in the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. Though the conception was supernatural the birth was a normal human birth, Roman Catholicism notwithstanding. His life was one without sin so that it could be offered as the spotless lamb for the sins of His people.

Some would say that Santa Claus is just a harmless tradition. Nonsense! Santa Claus draws us away from the worship of our Savior with a substitute offering, an alternative salvation which saves no one. He places very little demand on us, just that we are good little boys and girls. The truth is that God demands perfection. When the Israelites offered a sacrifice it had to be one without spot or blemish. God demands no less from us. Have you ever read an obituary that said the dead person live a good life. Yet if you knew that individual you would know that his or her life was not perfect. And you might know that the man or woman never professed faith in Jesus Christ. That "good" man or woman will spend eternity in Gehenna, the lake of fire.

This Christmas let us determine to worship Jesus, and only Jesus. Our attention must be on Him. Rejoice brothers and sisters, that baby who was very God and very man grew to adulthood, lived the perfect life that we could not and would not live. Are you a Christian? Then He gave that life for you. "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC****December**

- 1-7 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer**
- 1 Question & Answer 2025 Budget (5:30 p.m.)**
- 2 Church Council (6:30 p.m.)**
- 10 Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)**
- 13 Ladies' Christmas Party (6:30 p.m.)**
- 15 Church Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)**
- 24 Christmas Eve - Offices Closed**
- 25 Christmas Day—Offices Closed**
- 12/25 No Awana**
- 29 Benevolence Offering**
- 31 New Years Eve Offices Closed**
- 12/23—1/3 No School**

**January**

- 1 New Years Day Offices Closed**
- 1 No Awana**
- 14 Deacons' Meeting (7:00 p.m.)**
- 20 Martin Luther King Day - Offices Closed**

## NOMINATING NEWS

The Ministry Opportunity form for year 2025 was handed out to the church congregations over a period of about 6 weeks and thanks to all those who completed the form we were able to accomplish the tasks of the committee very efficiently.

The committee put together the Church Volunteer Report and presented it to the church membership at the October business meeting for approval. The report was approved with minor changes.

In the next 2 months the various church committees and ministries are meeting to appoint the chairman and leaders for the upcoming year. Once the names are submitted to Nicole and then forwarded to the Nominating Committee we will begin helping the leaders and chairmen with recruiting members for their specific committee or ministry.

Leading or chairing a committee or ministry of the church requires a commitment of one year. However we understand things can happen such as unexpected emergencies and so the Nominating Committee stands ready to assist in staffing the vacant positions.

The main purpose of the Nominating Committee is to help all our brothers and sisters in using their God given talents and abilities to serve in His church. Romans 12: 4-6 *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...*

We are so blessed to have faithful and dedicated people eager and ready to serve and I look forward to another blessed year at First Southern Baptist church.

Lord bless you all,  
Brother Patrick

### **The Purpose of Music**

What is the purpose of music in the worship service of the church? While we enjoy singing that can hardly been the reason since we are in church to worship the one triune God. The Bible answers the question in Psalm 100:2 when it says, "Come before His presence with singing." It is the job of the music leader to bring us into God's presence, ready to hear His word.

## Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



A Rabbi went to the local barber shop. After his hair cut, he got ready to pay the barber and the barber said, "No Rabbi, I don't charge the clergy for haircuts." So the next morning the barber found a loaf of Jewish rye bread outside of his door step.

A couple of days past and a Catholic priest came in to get his hair cut. He got ready to pay and the barber said, "No Father, I don't charge the clergy for hair cuts." So the next morning he found a bottle of wine outside his front door step.

Several days later a Baptist minister came in to get his hair cut and when he got ready to pay the barber said, "No Reverend, I don't charge the clergy for their hair cuts." So the next morning, the barber found 15 Baptist preachers on his doorstep, ready for a hair cut!

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 CC Chase  
7 Elijah Grohs  
7 Samantha Simler  
10 Kathleen Payton  
13 Roman Grohs  
20 Omayya Simler



*Happy Birthday*

26 Sharon Goodnough  
27 Patti Clark  
27 Chris Pentico  
29 Diane Noland  
30 Le Roy Damke

12 Jericho & Daylin Brennan  
15 Vincent & Raedena Brooks

29 Eric & Mary Grohs

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 Darlene Artz  
2 Garry Harper  
4 Lendell Simler  
8 Charlotte Grohs  
10 Becky Muncy  
12 Clint Martinez

16 Kent Clark  
23 Christine Parsons  
25 Avery Blair  
31 Ann Parsons  
31 Eric Grohs

2/1 Annabelle Brooks  
2/3 Sophia Postelnick  
2/3 Chad Zachary

2/4 Mark Barnes  
2/4 Doris Laffoon

6 Garry & Donica Harper  
17 Tyrone & Ann Parsons

21 Bill & Sharon Goodnough  
27 Jon & Kim Juris