

FIRST EDITION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1115 B STREET
FLORESVILLE, TEXAS 78114

OFFICE: 830-216-4946 FAX: 830-393-3613

October 1, 2011 Volume 36, Number 10



Dear family,

In October we think of a lot of things like the Peanut Festival, Fall and football. But October is also a month to remember our roots. We are not Lutheran but it was Luther who initiated the break from the Roman Catholic Church with the tacking on of his 95 theses to the church door in Worms, Germany. The main thrust of Luther's theses was the topic of authority. There are four sources of authority that are normally appealed to by professing Christians. These are: tradition, experience, reason, and Scripture. These four competing sources of authority are each important if kept in their proper place. Tradition is important, experience is important, reason is important, and of course, Scripture is important. All of these sources of authority are legitimate, as long as we understand that Scripture is the ultimate authority that rules all the other authorities. However, many Christians/Churches have misplaced the ordering of these authorities over the centuries. Let me illustrate what happens when each of these authorities is allowed to rule:

1. Tradition Rules—Roman Catholic Church
2. Experience Rules – Pentecostalism
3. Reason Rules – Theological Liberalism
4. Scripture Rules – Biblical Christianity

This is what was at the heart of the Reformation; the right of Scripture to rule over all other authorities. The 16th century Reformers said, "Tradition is fine, experience is fine, reason is fine, as long as it does not contradict Scripture. But Scripture is the final and ultimate authority for all that we believe and do as individual Christians and as churches." The Reformation is still important to us as Baptists today, because of our dissent. Historically, Baptists have dissent out of the 16th century Protestant Reformation through the 17th century English Separatist movement. Another reason why the Reformation emphasis on the authority of the Scriptures is important is because this is a battle that we must continue to fight. This is necessary because the same authorities still battle for supremacy, even among Baptists today. For example:

5. Tradition Rules – "We've always done it this way," or its ugly step-sister "We've never done it that way."
6. Experience Rules – "God told me ..." or "I feel ..." or "I saw..." or "I heard..."
7. Reason Rules – "I think ..."
8. Scripture Rules—"God said in His Word."

Tradition can be good. There are lots of wonderful traditions. Experience can be good. We are not to discount the value of experience. In fact, this is where the Apostle Peter's words in 2 Peter 1:16-19 can help us. Peter highlights his experience by saying they (apostles) saw the Lord and heard the word as eyewitnesses. But notice vs. 19 ... and so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place... In other words our tradition, experience and reason must correlate with the Word. It is the Scriptures that trump all competing voices. If we have the Bible, we have a more sure word than tradition, we have a more sure word than experience, and we have a more sure word than reason. This is the heart of the Protestant Reformation: The doctrine of the Scriptures alone as the authority which guides our doctrine and practice. Early in 1521, the new emperor, Charles V, summoned Luther to appear before the imperial diet of Worms in the spring of 1521. It was on April 18, 1521 that Luther was asked at Worms to recant his books which were contrary to the teaching of the church.

What did Luther say? Since then your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, not embellished: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason, for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradict themselves, I am bound to the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand. May God help me, Amen. October may be about the Peanut Festival, Fall and Football, but as we think about the way we practice our faith in the light of history, it ought to also be about **"What you do say"?**

See you Sunday,
Mike

Terry's Notes



CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

TEAM KIDZ- Wed. at 3:30pm
TEAM KIDZ PRAISE- Wed. at 4:30pm
HIS ANGELS- Wed. at 4:45pm
PRAISE CHOIR- Wed. at 7:30pm

SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 4 MOVIE NIGHT at 6:00 pm
OCTOBER 6 SENIOR ADULT PLANNING
 MEETING PIZZA HUT 11 am
OCTOBER 21 CLEAR SPRINGS SEAFOOD
 RESTAURANT (Leave 10 am)

SINGING MEN OF SOUTH TEXAS CONCERT SCHEDULE

October 20 FBC, Uvalde
November 17 FBC, Wimberley
December 27 Holy Land Tour
January 19 FBC, Hondo
February 16 FBC, Fredericksburg
**March 8 FBC, Floresville & FBC La
 Vernia at Floresville Convention Center**
**April 19 Tilden Baptist Church at
 McMullen County Community Center**
**May 17 Northwest Hills Baptist Church,
 San Antonio**

(All MOST concerts begin at 7:00pm)

THANK YOU!

After serving as one of our 11:00 am organists for several years, Lorraine Young has decided to resign her position due to health issues. We certainly will miss Lorraine at the organ in the future; however, we appreciate all that Lorraine has contributed these many years to our worship services. Thanks, Lorraine, for your servant's heart and your love for the Lord!

God Bless You!
Bro. Terry

Family Ministry Outreach

We would like to thank everyone for your help and donations to reach out to families right here in the Floresville area. The Mission Committee has given the Outreach program a new name. It will be called the "Family Ministry Outreach" (FMO). Some children in this program attended Vacation Bible School. Because of their interest in attending church, a bus ministry has been started. God is good.

We are now in need of food to supply the families. The brown bags can be found on the table in the foyer on Sunday mornings. All donations are appreciated and will be used to help feed these families.

In addition, a team is being formed to look into repairs for some of the homes. So we may very soon be calling on people to help with home improvements/repairs.

Last but definitely not least, an interest has been shown by several people to have a family to minister to. We will have a meeting on Oct 16th immediately after the late service to discuss the program with those who are interested. We would like to recommend you attend the meeting if you are interested, but if you cannot attend, please call Mae Belle Stringer at 830-534-6944 for information.

Looking forward to how the Lord will continue to use us in His service.

Thank you for your help and interest,
Your Mission Committee



Student Ministry News

As you are reading this article I am in Druin, Haiti, working with a village building a missionary house for future missionary teams to use. We are also building relationships with the locals so that we will be able to share Christ with them. Please continue to pray that God will use our team in a mighty way and that God will protect our comings and goings. I want to thank all those who contributed to this trip. My prayer is that God will bless your willingness to give.

Last month on September 28th our students participated in See You At The Pole. This is a global day of prayer for students from all over the world to gather at their flag pole and pray for their campus, administrators, teachers, friends, and our nation. That evening we had a rally to celebrate and reflect on the experience. There were five churches involved in the rally. These are exciting times in the lives of our students. This generation is poised to make one of the greatest impacts on our world than ever before. Please pray for our students because satan is aware of the impact

this generation could have and his desire is to disrupt the spreading of the gospel.

We have two more Fifth Quarters; one on October 14th and one on November 4th. Please pray for these events. Pray that students will hear the gospel and respond to the call on their life. We need adult volunteers to help out at these. If you would be willing to help, let me know. We have also started a ministry on Sunday nights called Make a Difference. As Christians we all are called and equipped to make a difference in people's lives. It is my desire that our students see how easy it is to make a difference and challenge themselves every day to be a difference-maker. Each Sunday evening we will be doing something as a group to make a difference for others. If you would like to help out or if you know of something we can do as a group, please let me know.

Because Students Matter to God
Bro. Aaron

BRYAN'S BITS



Recently I have been reminded of the verse Proverbs 16:3. In the NIV it states "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Over the past several years, I have seen that in action. Our video ministry and web ministry are both testaments to giving our desires to the Lord and letting him work it out in his time, not ours. Be it relationships, careers, or ministries, please remember to commit to God and allow his plans to flourish in the proper time. I could take up a whole page with stories from my past that illustrates this, and if you would like to hear a story or two, please let me know.

Download complete,
Bryan

OFFICE BLOG

IN SYMPATHY

Christian Sympathies are extended to the Baldemar M. Trevino family, father to Ed Trevino, who passed away August 28, 2011; Also, Christian Sympathies are extended to the Arla Ray Tyson family, sister to Carl Ray, who passed away September 7, 2011; Also, Christian Sympathies are extended to the Donaciana Cardenas family, mother to Donna Arispe, who passed away September 11, 2011; Also, Christian Sympathies are extended to the Philip Puzzo family, father to Joyce Robinson, who passed away September 14, 2011.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: A nice round, glass, cut crystal vegetable bowl was provided for the last Fabulous Fifth dinner and has not found its way home. Please contact the office if you know where the bowl is.

FOUND: A hearing aid was found in the sanctuary and is located in the office.

THANK YOU!

Our Church Family,
Thank you for the beautiful plant and for all of your prayers throughout Balde's illness. Many of you were there for the services and it meant so much to us. Bro. Mike, thank you for dropping everything to visit at the house.

The Family of Balde Trevino

Dear FBC Family,
My family and I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our church family. We certainly were aware of your prayers that lifted us up during this time of mourning. We want to also express our thanks for the gifts which were given in my Father's honor.

Ron Bluff

Floresville Baptist Church,
I just wanted to express my sincere thanks to everyone who helped the kids and I when I had foot surgery. Whether it be with phone calls or bringing us food – we really appreciated it (and cards). A lot of folks I still don't know, but everyone made us feel like we were family and we will never forget that! Thank you for all of your prayers as well. I am still slowly healing, but wanted to thank everyone.

God Bless,
Amy Swindells

To My Precious Church Family:

What a wonderful group of people that is the fellowship of FBC Floresville. Thank you so very much for the outpouring of love in the cards, calls, prayers, and so many expressions of caring in our loss of Joe. I'm so glad I'm a Part of This Family of God.

Love,
Pat and Scott Gill

Dear FBC Family,

Words are inadequate to express our appreciation for your many expressions of kindness and support when Dad (Whitley) passed away. Thank you for your calls, cards, memorials, and to those who came to the funeral. The love of God through His people helped to sustain and strengthen us, and we appreciate and will never forget it.

Love,
Bob & Judy Whitley

Dear Aaron, Ashley, & FBC Floresville,
Thank you for the gracious hospitality and use of the home to stay in during our college Retreat! We appreciate you all very much. May God continue to Bless you!

College students of
Woodland Place Baptist Church,
Justin & Melissa Coffey

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER



The Wednesday Night meals have resumed for the Fall semester. The cooks are doing a great job of feeding our bodies and souls. The menu for the month of October is printed below. Please remember the goal of these dinners is to eat, fellowship, and most important, bible study or prayer meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. To-Go plates should try to be limited to working spouses, shut-ins, and students getting out late from practices. The cost will remain at \$3 per plate.

October 5

Chalupa Dinner

Prepared by Chris Moss & Ivy Lanier

October 12

Enchiladas, Spanish Rice

Prepared by Loree & Louise

October 19

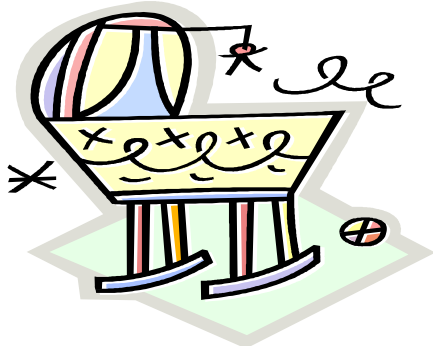
Salad Night, Oatmeal Cookies

Prepared by Barbara Herndon

October 26

Roast, Potatoes, Green Beans

Prepared by Esther Remling



Congratulations on the birth of:

Molly Maxine Bingham

Born August 22, 2011

7 lbs., 14 ounces

Parents: Matt & Melissa Bingham

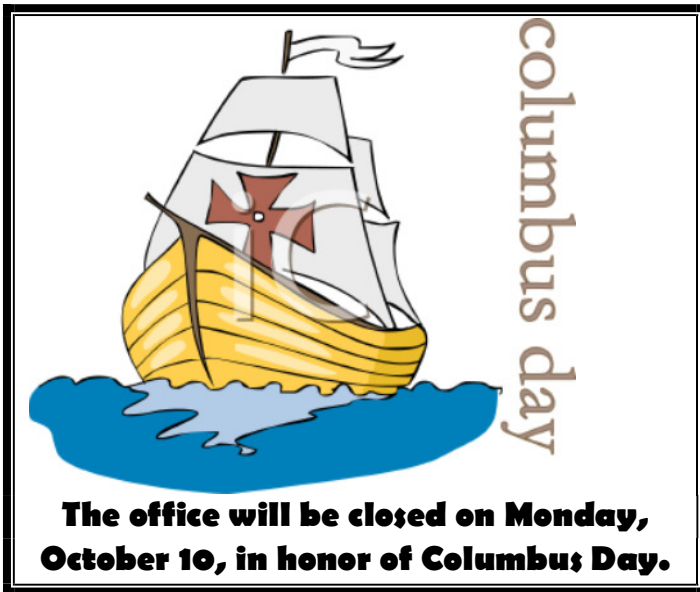
Big Sister: Madelyn

Grandparents: John & Judy Murray



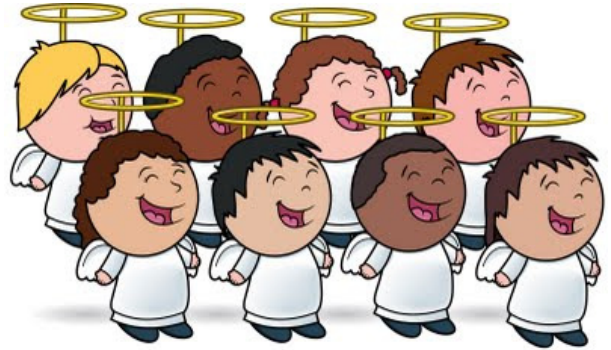
JACK O' LANTERN

*I am a Jack O' Lantern
My light will shine so bright
For I am a Christian pumpkin
My symbols tell what's right.
My nose is like the cross
On which our Savior died
To set us free from sin
We need no longer hide.
My mouth is like a fish
The whole wide world to show
That Christians live in this house
And love their Savior so!
The story starts at Christmas
My eyes are like the star
That shone on Baby Jesus
And wise men saw from far
My color it is orange
Just like the big bright sun
That rose on Easter Day
Along with God's own Son.
And so on Halloween
Let's set our pumpkins out
And tell the trick or treaters
What God's love is all about!*



COLLEGE & CAREER SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is a Sunday School class now available for all College and Career young adults, generally between the ages of 18 – 30. The class meets in the upstairs section of the Education Building at 9:45 every Sunday morning. John Long is the teacher and welcomes all those who are interested. There are also outside activities planned, so please come and enjoy the bible study and fun.



HIS ANGELS CHOIR

Attention all four and five year olds!!!! His Angels needs you. Come sing, do a craft, and play instruments with us from 4:45-5:30 on Wednesdays. It is so much fun and a great way to introduce your child to choir. If you have any questions, contact Grace Lanning or Carolyn Perales.

First Baptist Church

Mike Clements, Pastor
 Cell Phone: 830-391-2016
 Terry Smith, Minister of Music
 Cell Phone: 830-391-3362
 Aaron Coffey, Minister of Youth
 Cell Phone: 830-391-0036
 Joyce Hurt, Children's Director
 Penny Smith, Office Manager
 Office Hours: 8:00 - 4:00 (M-F)
 Cindy Bean, Prek Director/Teacher
 Carolyn Perales, Prek Teacher

First Baptist Church
 1115 B Street
 Floresville, TX 78114
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