



First Baptist Church

"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

December 2015

Pastor's Paragraph

The Offense of the Gospel

Every generation experiences some despair when the next generation comes along. We tend to suspect that the new generation is ill-prepared, not quite ready to be the kind of husband/wife, father/mother, worker, or citizen that they should be. "My generation is bad enough, but the younger generation is even worse!" It is a common thought from every parent and grandparent. Still, it is rather disconcerting to witness what is happening on college campuses these days. There seems to be an entire generation of pampered, sheltered kids who do not know how to overcome hardship or face adversity. The dictionary is growing thicker as new words and phrases are being coined. "Microaggression" is a term that describes seemingly innocent gestures that are taken as offensive by the victim of the microaggression. A raised eyebrow, a tone of voice, or a disapproving glance can be forms of microaggression. In other words, the "victim" has never faced real aggression, so he has to invent an invisible form of victimization. "Trigger Warnings" are used to warn the poor, unsuspecting victim that they may encounter an idea or a word that offends them. "Safe Spaces" are created where students can be free from any words or thoughts that they may find offensive. No opposing ideas are allowed in a safe space! As a result of perceived offenses, students are marching and making absurd demands, college presidents and professors are being forced to resign, and the universities are becoming the opposite of what they should be. The campus was supposed to be the place where competing ideas could be freely exchanged and debated. But, now only the approved (safe!) ideas are taught. And, no competition is allowed, because that might offend someone.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is not a safe idea. College students would definitely need a trigger warning before reading the Bible! The Gospel is not a microaggression, it is a macroaggression! The gospel boldly confronts the sinner and leaves no safe space. Jesus warned us, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law"; and a man's enemies will be those of his own household." (Matthew 10:34-36) The Gospel challenges, divides, and brings clarity. Paul echoed the words of Jesus, "but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:23-24) Jesus left the glory of heaven to live and walk among men. He faced real opposition, persecution, torture, and death. He bore the sins of the world as he was crucified on the cross. And now, He calls sinners to accept His salvation and to be transformed by His grace. The word "sin" has been banned from schools for many years. The gospel is not allowed on campus. But, to those who believe, it is the power of God to salvation. The World has nothing even close to offer the sinner, so it just bans the truth. Fortunately, the life-changing power of the Gospel cannot be contained! ~Pastor

December 2015

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:14

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 AWANA 6:30-8:10 pm Nachos Night!	3	4 Coffee w/ The King 6:30 pm @ Hollie's	5 Trustees' Mtg. 8 am Teen Progressive Dinner 6 pm
6 Communion 	7	8 Deacons' Mtg 7 PM	9 AWANA 6:30-8:10 pm	10	11	12
13 SS Program 10:30 am Caroling 6 pm	14 	15	9 AWANA 6:30-8:10 pm Store Night! 	17	18	19 Cantata at The Ambassador
20 Cantata 10:30 am  Potluck 5:30 pm	21	22	23 No AWANA	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM 	25 Merry Christmas	26 Pastor on Vacation
27 Guest Speaker	28	29	30 No AWANA	31 New Year's Eve 		
Pastor on Vacation-- Dec. 26th-31st						

We will be doing Bible dedications in memory/honor of our loved ones this Christmas. Envelopes are available on the back table.

Christmas Potluck

This year, for our Christmas Dinner, the committee is having individuals sign up to decorate one table however they choose! Please sign up at the back table and plan to have fun decorating a table for all to enjoy! You pick the theme, color, etc. Whether it's whimsical, classy, primitive, simple, or detailed . . . every table will be unique! Be creative! White plates have already been purchased.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We would like to provide a variety of presentations which could include solos, group numbers, poems, instrumental, readings, piano selections, etc, please let Faye know by Sunday, Dec. 20th.

2016 Ministry Opportunities

Sign up at the back table where you would like to serve in the New Year!



Christmas Events

December 13
Sunday School Program
10:30 am

December 20
Cantata 10:30 am
Caroling 6 pm

December 27
Christmas Potluck
5:30 pm

December 24
Christmas Eve Service
7 pm

October Finances

Balance Forward 10/1/2015

Deacon's Fund	\$730.92
Designated Fund	\$1,322.90
General Fund	\$35,211.55

Checking Account	\$37,265.37
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October Income	\$11,109.02
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October Expenses	\$14,698.61
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Net Loss	(\$3,589.59)
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Balance 10/31/2015

Deacon's Fund	\$730.92
Designated Fund	\$1,322.90
General Fund	\$31,621.96

Checking Account	\$33,675.78
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