



First Baptist Church

“To Know Him and Make Him Known”

July 2018

Pastor's Paragraph

The Death of an Agnostic

You can tell you are getting old when all of the “idols” that you admired are beginning to die off, and you really don’t recognize the new “idols” that are famous with the younger generation. This applies to movie-stars, musicians, preachers, and even intellectuals. This week, we lost an intellectual giant, Charles Krauthammer. For years, I looked forward to Friday, so that I could read his latest column that he published. I enjoyed it because he had a brilliant mind, a sharp wit, and excellent writing skills. One of his latest books was titled “Things that Matter”. Sadly, he neglected the one thing that matters most of all. He avoided discussing the need for God. When he was asked about his personal beliefs, he quoted an old philosopher who said, “I don’t believe in God, but I fear Him greatly.” He described his religious beliefs as being similar to those of Albert Einstein. He said that Einstein acknowledged “a recognition and an awe before the mystery of the order and beauty of the universe, which would imply that there is something very mysterious and very awesome — awe-inspiring — about the universe.” Einstein and Krauthammer were smart enough and honest enough to recognize God’s general revelation. “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1) “Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead,” (Romans 1:19-20) God has filled His universe with evidence of His existence, His glory, and His power. The honest agnostic can clearly see the undeniable evidence.

I have some sympathy for such an honest agnostic. He is perhaps more open and honest than other kinds of unbelievers. He is much more likeable than the militant atheist. The outspoken atheist tends to be arrogant and obnoxious. He hates religion and mocks true believers. Perhaps his motto would be more like, “I don’t believe in God, but I hate him!” The atheist refuses to see what is right in front of his eyes. He rejects all of God’s revelation. The atheist is in denial. The agnostic does not deny the mysteries of God’s handiwork, he just gets stuck in the “mystery” part of it.

Also, there is a third category of unbelievers: the nominal Christian. The nominal Christian is Christian in name only. He believes in God, but has never personally accepted Jesus as Savior. He understands and believes the Bible, but has never repented of his sin and received Christ’s forgiveness. As the old saying goes, he missed heaven by 18 inches, the distance between the brain and the heart. He has a head knowledge of God, but his heart has not been transformed by the gospel. Like the atheist, the nominal Christian is in denial. Like the atheist, he has deceived himself. The atheist has deceived himself into thinking that he is smarter than all of the foolish believers. The nominal Christian has deceived himself into thinking that he is good enough to make it into heaven. Sadly, all three categories of unbelievers share the same fate. Without the gospel of Jesus Christ, they will suffer eternal damnation. It is difficult for the atheist and the nominal Christian to realize this, because they are living in denial, deceiving themselves. Perhaps an honest agnostic could be more open to the truth. I pray that Dr. Krauthammer reconsidered his beliefs as he lay on his death bed. He had the opportunity, if only he would realize that the glorious mysteries of the universe have been resolved in an old rugged cross. ~Pastor

JULY



2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Guest Speaker Mark Meals	2	3	4 HAPPY 4th JULY	5	6	7 Trustees' 8 AM
8 Communion	9 WCBC Junior Camp (4th-6th Grades) [Mon-Sat]	10 Deacons' 7 PM	11	12	13	14 Klarissa's Shower
15 Quarterly Meeting 6PM	16 WCBC High School Camp (9th-12th Grades) [Mon-Sat]	17	18	19	20 Pastor-vacation days off	21
22 Camp Cookies are due Pastor Meals	23 WCBC Junior High Camp (7th-9th grades) [Mon-Sat]	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sports Challenge Set-up	Sports Challenge Super Camp! July 30-August 3rd/Ages 5-12					

WCBC

Please pray for a great summer at Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp! The theme is: "Rekindle the Passion"; Psalm 119:154 ". . . Revive me according to Your Word".

Speaker: Chip Wood will speak at all 3 youth camps this summer. He has spent years as a camp director and is a featured youth speaker nationwide. Chip currently directs the Joy Club Ministries with BCP in Ohio. He will direct all of us to focus on our "Awesome God"!

Junior Camp- July 9-14 (4th-6th grades)
H.S. Camp-July 16-21 (9th-12th grades)
Jr. High Camp- July 23-28 (7th-9th grades)



Cookies for Camp!

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those interested in making cookies to send out to the Jr. High Campers the week of July 23rd.



They always greatly appreciate your cookie donations! Thank you!

Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, July 15th
6:00 PM

Sports Challenge Set-Up!

We will be setting up for the week of camp after church on Sunday, July 29th. We are looking forward to having Jake & Erin Ondrak and their youth group to help us this year!



May Finances

Balance Forward 5/1/2018

Deacon's Fund	\$634.54
Designated Fund*	\$1,822.49
General Fund*	\$32,718.98
Checking Account*	\$35,176.01

May Income	\$10,752.16
May Expenses	\$12,469.72
Net Decrease	(\$1,717.56)

Balance 5/31/2018

Deacon's Fund	\$571.04
Designated Fund	\$1,922.49
General Fund	\$30,964.92
Checking Account	\$33,458.45

*Corrected Amount