



AT FIRST BAPTIST

DAN MCDOWELL
Senior Pastor

SUE NEELY VANBRUNT
Minister of Music

ROBERT FAULDS
Organist

PENNY SOROKES
Church Secretary

MILLARD COOK
Asst. Pastor Senior/Adult Ministries

BRUCE LAVERTY
Director of Family Ministries

MICKI ELLIS
Audio Visual Specialist

BONNIE KETTLE
Financial Secretary

GERALD NUTT
Custodian



Almost 2,000 years ago, the Apostle Paul saw a vision of a man saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Today, that same call is being echoed all over the world—from Myanmar and Brazil to South Africa and Macau. People are crying out for the hope and light of the gospel in a world darkened by sin.

Just as Paul and his fellow believers immediately looked for ways to respond to his God-given vision, International Ministries needs YOUR immediate and ongoing help to respond to the urgent call to preach the gospel.

That's why we're counting on your prayerful, generous support of the 2015 World Mission Offering.

IM's response to Macau: A modern-day translation of Acts 16

The materials in this Guide offer you a powerful means to **inform** your church about the urgent spiritual needs around the world and to vividly **demonstrate** a God-honoring biblical response.

Worldwide mission requires your response

With God's help—and your support through the World Mission Offering—116 International Ministries global staff members are opening new doors and changing lives!

When you give generously to the World Mission Offering, it plays a vital role in sending out missionaries and development workers all over the world.

Join us in praying that people will **come** to Christ, **grow** in their relationships with God and **change** their worlds through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful and generous support of the **World Mission Offering!**



It's that time of year again...no, not just for pumpkin spice everything! As we head into the fall season, it is time to begin preparing for October – and Pastor Appreciation! The job of a pastor is not just full time – it's all the time – 24/7 and it's something that we sometimes take for granted and maybe don't think about as much as we should.

Throughout the month of October we will be taking the time to say a special thank you to both Pastor Dan and Pastor Millard. Again this year we have created special "Thank You Calendars" that will allow you the opportunity to take a moment, on a day you select to say your own thanks in your own way. Vi Pettigrew has these calendars and will have them every week until the end of September and give out remind cards as to when your day is – just in case :-).

We have tried in the past to dedicate the trees in the side yard of the building – and through the art of technology we will make sure this happens on October 4th – rain or shine!

Don't miss the special Sundays on October 11th for Pastor Millard and October 18th for Pastor Dan. We will have a card basket both of these days if you would like to show your appreciation in this way.

And be sure to mark October 25th as a Sunday not to miss as the Diaconate and Fellowship Committee put on an extended fellowship in honor of our pastors following our worship service!

Feel free to find your own special way of honoring both of our pastors for all they do all year long – day, night, weekend – they do so much and this is a small way for us to say "Thank You".

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4 is World Communion Sunday.
Members of the Diaconate will serve
home communion to the shut-ins and
those in nursing homes.



RETIREES LUNCHEON

Pastor Dan is inviting
any and all retirees of
our church to lunch on

Monday, October 12 at noon. He will offer some
devotional thoughts as well as an opportunity for food
and good fellowship. Transportation to this event is
available for any who need it. There is no charge but
donations will be gratefully accepted. Please sign up
on the bulletin insert or call the church office by
Thursday, October 8, if you would like to attend

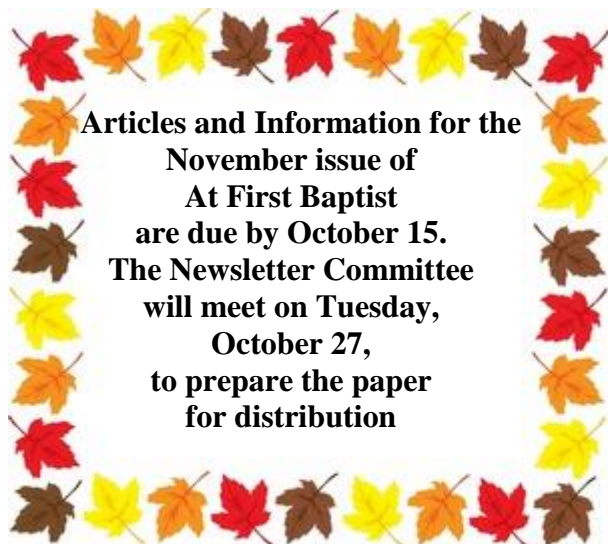


The 2016 Nominating
Committee will soon begin the
process of electing candidates to
our Boards and Committees.
Opportunities Abound!!
Please prayerfully consider how
you can use your spiritual gifts
and talents to be of service to
our Lord in 2016.

Answer "YES" to the call!!

*"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see
the whole staircase, just take the first step."*

Martin Luther King



**Articles and Information for the
November issue of
At First Baptist
are due by October 15.
The Newsletter Committee
will meet on Tuesday,
October 27,
to prepare the paper
for distribution**



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

➤ SENIOR LUNCHESES:

feature a program and delicious lunch October
thru May (excluding Dec) for just \$8.
Reservations are required @ 1-800-927-9083.
Dates: Oct 9, Nov 6, Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 4,
April 8, May 13.

➤ LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND CRAFT BAZAAR— 11/19 @ 11:30. \$13.00

➤ A CHRISTMAS DINNER CONCERT WITH TIM ZIMMERMAN & THE KING'S BRASS on Friday, December 4. You won't want to miss this evening of music and ministry that includes a delicious meal. The doors open at 5:45 pm and the dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Tickets for this event are \$34.50. Purchase a full table (8 seats) and one seat is free. To get this discount, you *must call* for tickets.

➤ A CHRISTMAS DINNER CONCERT WITH FERNANDO ORTEGA on Saturday, December 5. Celebrated as a uniquely gifted singer/songwriter, Ortega digs deep and creates songs that celebrate not only the Christmas season but God's love and faithfulness. Tickets for this event are \$34.50. Purchase a full table (8 seats) and one seat is free. To get this discount, you *must call* for tickets. Doors open at 4:45 p.m. and dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Fernando will also perform a **CHRISTMAS DESSERT MATINEE** on Sunday, December 6. Tickets for this event are \$21. Doors open at 1:45 p.m. and the event begins at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be **purchased online** or call the ticket office at 607-776-4151 or 800-927-9083.

➤ DINNER CONCERTS with LAURA STORY on February 13 and GREATER VISION on April 16 at the ministry headquarters in Bath, NY. These events begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$33.50 each; a table of 8 pays \$30 ea. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office to order tickets. You can also register at www.flm.org or by calling 1-800-927-9083.

Family of God



We extend our Love and Sympathy to Mel Cunningham on the loss of his step-son James Schnell on August 27; and to Nick and Brian Sanders

on the loss of Mary Alice Pezzimenti on September 13.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Jerry Reynolds

The Ranch @ Cedar Park

1301 W. Whitestone Blvd. Apt 137

Cedar Park, TX 78613

512-230-4135

jrallecatt1@gmail.com

Valerie and Catriona Nolan

P.O. Box 6432

Evanston, IL 60202

THANK YOU'S

It is with deep gratitude that I send great and sincere thanks to all of you at First Baptist. During the last months of my husband's life, Pastors Dan and Millard, and others, often visited my husband in the hospital. This touched my heart greatly. I especially want to thank Pastors Dan and Millard for their leadership and words of comfort at the memorial service for my husband on Aug. 20. What steadiness is given to those who grieve when we hear the Word of God preached. I also want to thank Bob for his music at the organ, Jack Ellis for his singing of "It Is No Secret", and all those who gave heartfelt eulogies. And then the ladies gave us a wonderful dinner buffet in the Fellowship Hall, which gave many of our 'out of town family' a wonderful time to visit each other. Many thanks, ladies.

In His Grip, Marilyn Piepho

Thank you for your recent generous gifts. Donations such as yours enable Genesis House to continue ministering to temporarily homeless people.

~Linore Lounsbury, Director



STEWARDSHIP

REMINDER

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

is November 1.

Remember to turn in your pledge card.

We were made to THRIVE!



OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

The monthly Board meetings will be held on:

Monday, October 12, the Board of Christian Education will meet at 5:30 PM

Tuesday, October 13, using the following schedule:

6:00 Board of Christian Missions

6:30 Diaconate Dinner/Meeting

7:00 Board of Missions; Trustees



YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH

Our Young Musician of the Month for September was Cheyenne Peck. Cheyenne, a senior at Olean High School, has been involved in vocal music here at church in Children's and Senior Choir as well as at school. This year she has been chosen for

Select Choir at OHS. She said that she has been raised on all types of music, so she is interested in many different styles. Cheyenne adds "when listening to Christian genre music, I feel God's presence and it makes me feel stronger in my faith." Cheyenne is the daughter of Francis and Becky Peck. We are happy that she shares her talents here at First Baptist!



The Pastor Will Be Away

Pastor Dan will be on vacation beginning November 2. He will return to the office on November 16. If you have any pastoral care needs, please call Pastor Millard, the church office, or your Diaconate Care Giver.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

If you've had an important event in your life such as a birth, death, wedding, or an accomplishment, or if you can provide an update to a prayer concern, please let us know in the church office. The staff tries to watch for notices in the newspaper but we don't always catch all of them. We like to acknowledge everyone's special moments but we need your help to make sure that we have the correct information. It is also imperative that you let us know when you or a loved one are going to be in the hospital and would like to be visited. Current privacy laws make it difficult to know who is hospitalized.



THIRD ANNUAL LADIES CHRISTMAS RETREAT

We are excited to welcome **Wendy Pope** from Proverbs 31 Ministries as our **Guest Speaker** for our Third Annual Ladies Christmas Retreat on **Saturday, December 5 @ 10 am!**

Proverbs 31 Ministries is a non-denominational, non-profit Christian ministry based in Matthews, NC that



seeks to lead women into a personal relationship with Christ. With Proverbs 31:10-31 as a guide, Proverbs 31 Ministries reaches women in the middle of their busy days through free devotions, daily radio

message, speaking events, conferences, resources, online Bible studies, and training in the call to write, speak and lead others. We are real women offering real-life solutions to those striving to maintain life's balance, in spite of today's hectic pace and cultural pull away from godly principles. Wherever a woman may be on her spiritual journey, Proverbs 31 Ministries exists to be a trusted friend who understands the challenges she faces, walks by her side, encouraging her as she walks toward the heart of God.

Be sure to save the date and plan to join us for this special event to escape the stress of the season for a few hours and charge your spiritual battery with an inspired message, fellowship, food, and FUN! Come and be blessed..... bring your friends! Reservations are required by November 30. Cost is \$15 per person and includes brunch, activities, and prizes!

*²⁸ "Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
²⁹ "Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all."
³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised."*

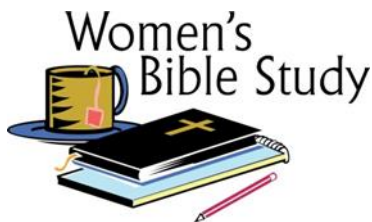
Proverbs 31: 28-30

OPPORTUNITIES AT FBC

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FALL
SALAD LUNCHEON
AT 11 AM on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10.**

Bring your favorite salad to share.....
and the recipe!!

We'll have a time of devotion and share all of the delicious salads as we enjoy a time of fellowship. Afterwards we'll help the White Cross group roll bandages to meet their quota by early next year as well as create Christmas cards to mail to our shut-in members in early December. Sign up on the bulletin insert during Sunday worship or call the church office at 372-5151 by October 8.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

The Ladies'
afternoon Bible

Study resumed at
1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16. The group is
led by Rita Wymer. All ladies are welcome.....Come
and join us!





FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

I don't know about you but I am barely used to the fact that the summer months are over and football season has begun – and here I find the need to think about things in October!

It seems like just yesterday I was excited about seeing the leaves return to the trees again, and now we are just about to watch them turn colors and fall off. It just seems wrong.

But that is life. I found myself reflecting on that bittersweet melancholy feeling as I prepared my message for the opening Sunday of our Stewardship Drive; a message that was aimed at sharing my vision for our church in the year ahead. The message focused on the vision that Jesus had for His disciples immediately preceding His death and resurrection in John 17. It must have been a somewhat similarly bittersweet and melancholy time for Him.

In that prayer Jesus prayed for Himself with the clear realization of His mission on the earth. He came to impart eternal life but primarily He came so that we would know the only true God the way Jesus knew Him. To dispel the misconceptions that had arisen about God and to show people that there is something beyond the life that they had been settling for. An abundant and eternal life!

If we are going to accomplish our mission of sharing the faith, hope and redeeming love of Jesus Christ with all people, we need to have the same kind of keen awareness of what Jesus came here to do. We need to experience His Lordship in our life and be clear about what our roles are in the process of sharing the faith, hope and love He demonstrated to us.

After Jesus prayed for Himself He prayed for His disciples and focused that part of His prayer in two areas. As Jesus prayed for His disciples he prayed for their protection and their sanctification. Jesus certainly had concerns for the physical well-being. He knew they were in for years of persecution and even martyrdom.

But he says in verse 13 (before talking about their physical danger): ***“But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves”***. So the concern that Jesus is praying for goes far beyond the physical safety of the disciples. He is praying for their spiritual preservation. He is praying that their joy would not be stolen. The ultimate enemy here was not the Sanhedrin or Pharisees or Saducees, nor was it the Romans. The enemy was (and is) Satan.

In other words the highest priority was the preservation of their souls – something that He describes as “having My joy made complete in themselves”. Jesus knew that the disciples could survive any kinds of physical dangers and persecution so long as they stayed together supporting one another and if they paid the proper amount of attention to feeding their souls.

It is this profound concern that has led me to proclaim **the vision of our church being a beacon of truth and life!** Jesus' prayer continues: ***“They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”***

This is the balance needed for our souls to be protected and our lives to be sanctified (or set apart – consecrated by God). We need to experience and demonstrate the joy in our hearts that the faith, hope and redeeming love of Jesus Christ bring us. And we need to establish our lives on the truth found in His Word. As the old adage puts it “People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.” And truthfully, I won't care much for others until I truly know by experience God's abundant grace and love for me.

During one of my September sermons I compared life in the church to porcupines in the arctic tundra. We need to huddle together for warmth but doing so often causes us to become “prickly” and uncomfortable, so we separate briefly until we get cold again and then repeat the cycle. I mentioned that a pastor is a shepherd, not a “porcupine wrangler”. When we go through those prickly times we need to have the commitment to one another to work through them. No pastor can provide you with that.

That's why Jesus concluded this prayer with a prayer for unity: ***“...that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*** Christian unity is what causes the world to know we are connected to Christ and He to God.

Unity is not necessarily “like-mindedness” (although that helps). It is like the healthy love in a marriage and family – a commitment to one another that overcomes differences of personality, opinion, politics or anything else that threatens to divide us. There is a joy in a healthy marriage and family that is never destroyed by circumstances. We remain happy to be together simply because it is God's will! Anything else just is wrong. ~Pastor Dan



WHAT GRIEVES THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY LIFE?

“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil peaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” (Eph. 4: 30-32)

We all know that the only way to live a successful Christian life is by the controlling power of the Holy Spirit. However, with each choice I make I must decide if I am grieving the Spirit or am giving Him greater control of my life.

I. THINGS THAT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **Bitterness** – This is often marked by anguished resentfulness or rancor. We find this described in Job 10:1 and Isa. 38:15. It speaks of one who is not happy with his lot in life and therefore blaming God for his misfortune. This is an act or attitude to repented of as Peter commanded Simon in Acts 8:22-23

2. **Wrath** – This is the application of anger. When we allow our actions to be controlled by our emotions rather than the leading of the Holy Spirit. Whenever you allow your temper to control your actions be assured you are not being led of the Spirit.

3. **Anger** – This is that inner hatred or madness at another. Col. 3:8 tells us to “put off all anger”. The longer we allow it to fester in our heart, the greater the damage will be. It will destroy our fellowship with God and will easily move us from anger to wrath. To that point that we must take things into “our own hands”. What could be farther from the Spirit’s hands leading and empowering than that of our own hands.

4. **Clamor** – An out-cry in anger. This is putting voice to your anger. Something has not gone the way you wished and you are angry about. Now if you can get others to agree with you then you will feel justified in your anger. This comes so naturally for it is of the flesh and our old nature pulls us to live in the flesh. The key is to recognize this desire and turn it over to God before it fully develops.

5. **Evil Speaking** – How the tongue can so easily hinder our walk with Christ (read James 3). This is that great temptation of gossip. Something you know or think you know that just must be shared. Why? To bring another person down? To make you look more

exalted in the eyes of someone else? Whatever the reasoning see it for what it is: a hindrance to your victorious life with Christ.

II. THINGS THAT BUILD THE SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE

1. **Kindness one to another** – To be nice, friendly, and willing to help others. Jesus taught us to love our enemies and to pray for them. Even more so for our brothers in Christ.

2. **Tenderheartedness** – To be susceptible to the needs of others. Rom.12:15 tells us to “rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” To have a heart of empathy and to be aware of what others are going through.

3. **Forgiving one another** - How many times? Seventy times seventy. And in what way? Just as Christ has forgiven us. This is the way to build Spirit control in your life.

~Pastor Millard

YOUTH AND CHILDREN



October 31st

6:00 – 7:30 PM

In the Fellowship Hall

Fun, games and candy!

Sunday Mornings

there will be a barrel in the foyer

to receive donations of

wrapped candy

for our Harvest Party.

Thank you for helping with this event!



More Than We Know

When speaker and author Patsy Clairmont encourages people to face their fears and tells them strength is possible in the midst of fear,

she knows what she's talking about. In "You Are More Than You Know: Face Your Fears, Grow Stronger" (Worthy Books 2015), Clairmont uses the examples of her own gutsy past to point out steps in the journey of overcoming fears.

I picked up the book at the Women of Faith conference in Philadelphia while traveling with women from First Baptist and was pleased to discover that the author's unique speaking voice transfers to the page as a unique writer's voice as well. Her humor, generally poking fun at herself, along with her tongue-in-cheek wit makes the book a delight to read. It is her honesty, however, and what she called at the conference "an authentic truth-telling" attitude that will draw the reader in.

As a young adult, Clairmont suffered from agoraphobia and could not even leave her own house. But she tells



how God uses broken people and shares her recovery to the point that she now has frequent-flyer miles on several airlines and even, in her 70s, went up in a hot air balloon over the Maasai Mara in Africa with elephants stampeding below. She also regularly speaks

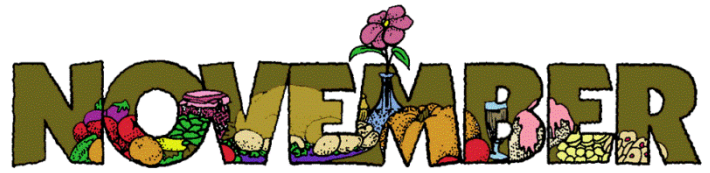
before an audience of thousands at a time.

Clairmont is honest about her challenges, though. Recovery was not speedy. She had to start with baby steps. She can still be anxious. Her success comes through trusting the Lord. She uses the example of Moses several times to help describe her own journey through fear, something that the enemy also throws into many people's lives. She cites how the National Institute of Mental health has compiled statistics claiming there are 6.3 million people who have been diagnosed with one phobia or another.

Each chapter begins with a thought-provoking quote and ends with a verse to deliberate on, as well as a few discussion questions. There is also a valuable page at the end that lists step-by-step recommendations for getting through a panic attack.

If you'd like to borrow this book, some of the OFBC women who attended the conference (like me) may be willing to loan out their copy. It is also available online.

—Reviewed by Deb Wuethrich



Coming Up in November:

- ❖ The American Baptist Youth Convention will be held in Syracuse on November 6-8 for grades 7-12.
- ❖ A Veteran's Day Breakfast will be held at FBC for veterans, their families, etc. on November 11. Any veteran and spouse will receive a FREE breakfast, with donations accepted from families and others attending. These donations will be used to benefit Veterans in some way.
- ❖ Giving Thanks Dinner Nov. 21 – 6 p.m.
- ❖ Hanging of the Greens Nov. 22

AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH (ABY) CONVENTION NOVEMBER 6-8

Last year most of our teens attended the ABY Convention in Syracuse and were greatly blessed by the experience. This event, which cost \$150 each to attend, offers opportunities for worship, small and large group sessions, workshops, an "International Carnival" and several meals. The Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Syracuse.

Nate Maxfield will be the musician and worship leader for the convention and Rob Ely will be the keynote speaker. Workshops will be held to allow students to explore a variety of different topics and small groups will give participants the chance to discuss scripture passages with their peers. The registration fee covers lodging for both nights, both evening meals and all program costs. This event is for students in grade 7-12 and young adults up to age 22. See Pastor Bruce if you are interested.

"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." Colossians 2:6

ARE YOU READY TO REIMAGINE?

By Deb Wuethrich



From left: Deb Wuethrich, June Johnston, Shelly Woods, Tina Carpenter

On a fluke, my Women of Faith roommates and I stopped by a booth and filled out a survey on an electronic tablet. What we got in return was our photo wearing purple boas and a leather bracelet that says, “Reimagine.”

I like that word. In fact, I liked it so much that when I saw a book on the table entitled, “Life Reimagined: Discovering Your New Life Possibilities” (Richard J. Leider and Alan M. Webber), I just had to buy it. You see, as a recent retiree who moved back to Olean after years in Michigan, I am in a transition period myself. I’m trying to rediscover what I still want to do in life. I’m redefining myself and how I spend my days. I am exploring a “Reimagined Life.”

What my friends and I signed up for that day by taking the survey were e-mail invitations to check out an interactive website at www.lifereimagined.org. that has little tests and guidelines to help explore possibilities. It is endorsed by the AARP, but is designed to help anyone at any age find the courage to reimagine their life’s direction. The idea is sort of baby-boomer driven. Of course we boomers can’t just grow old and follow a more traditional path as most of our parents did. We want something different, something creative, something more. AARP describes Life Reimagined more as a movement—and a new conversation of “living versus age.” The old models sort of looked like a bell where we start the line chart by climbing from a young age, and then by middle age, we reach some peak in our career and lives. Then there is the dreaded decline line on the chart. Life Reimagined says we don’t have to do that.

The book and website use real life examples showing people who have redefined themselves or their careers at some point, such as that of Chris Gardner, who went from homelessness to stockbroker. His story was told in the Will Smith movie, “Pursuit of Happyness.”

I could not have discovered Life Reimagined at a better time on my own journey or at a better venue than Women of Faith. (Of course I know God is the author of our lives and must have orchestrated this for me.) The podium was full of inspirational examples, primarily of women who chose to follow Christ as well as their passions and then shaped their careers from there. I was surprised to learn of earlier hardships and challenges such as Patsy Clairmont’s anxiety disorders, or Thelma Wells being locked in a closet as a child and what she did with that experience. Yet they overcame those things, through faith in God and having the courage to pursue their passions. Luci Swindoll has lived several lives, an opera singer, a corporate executive to name two. Sheila Walsh moved from successful career with the 700 club to a breakdown and then back again. Marilyn Meberg has counseled countless others in bettering their lives and making their own choices. That these women were in their late 50s and into 60s when they started WOF 20 years ago and are only now stepping back a bit is an incredible encouragement to one who is looking for some new direction rather than dreading a downward spiral.

I know a lot has to do with staying healthy, but emotional health counts, too. Finding your niche can help with well-being. Life Reimagined consists of six practices: Reflect, Connect, Explore, Choose, Repack, and Act. It’s a map and guidance system designed to help explore passions and figure out what you want to do next.

Do you feel like there’s something missing in your life? What have you always wanted to do? Maybe there’s still time. Reimagine it—and then act on it!





WHO AM I LIKE?

By Wendy Pope
June 26, 2015

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children."
Ephesians 5:1 (NLT)

"Mommy, my friend needs new crayons," bellowed my then 5-year-old as he climbed in the family van after school. In a true mommy-has-all-the-answers kind of way I confidently responded, "Well, his mommy will buy him some new crayons." The next day Griffin and I had the same conversation. Only this time Griffin added, "His mommy can't buy him more crayons." To which I replied, "Well, your teacher will get him some crayons."

Later, when I called Griffin to dinner I noticed he was quite delayed; usually he was the first one to the table. What happened next stirred my soul. Me: "Griffin, what kept you from coming when I called your name?" Griffin: "I was going through my crayons to take some to my friend." Me: Yes, I was speechless. Griffin's example of selflessness weighed heavy on my heart for several days. What an extraordinary act of generosity for such a young boy.

I knew God used ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. And I began to wonder about some of my favorites from the Bible ... and myself: Who am I like? Do I have the tenacity to accomplish a lengthy assignment like Noah? Am I courageous and daring like Esther? Can I patiently wait years for God's plan to unfold like David? Would I have the character of the Good Samaritan or the thoughtfulness of my 5-year-old? Could I have that?

Though it's good to be inspired by the actions and faith of others, our key verse instructs us to imitate one person, Jesus. Imitating Jesus is quite a tall order. Most times I try to be like Him, but I miss the mark. Can you relate? If I'm honest, some days I'm more like the rogues in Scripture than Jesus. I don't enjoy that comparison as much, but it's worthwhile to ask tough questions. Is my heart stubborn and spirit unwilling to obey God like Pharaoh? Am I prideful and audacious like Samson? How often do I deny Christ like Peter before the crucifixion? Am I pious like the Pharisees?

Unfortunately, I have to answer yes to some of these. At times, I submit to my sinful nature. I make decisions with pride and arrogance that are contrary to what God wills and wants. God expects me to forgive her even though she deeply wounded me? Forget it. That woman doesn't deserve my forgiveness. I asked and asked him to help me, but he didn't. Now God wants me to help him? I don't think so. If he needs help, why doesn't he get a job instead of standing on the corner asking for handouts?

The more we rebel against God's ways, the less tender our hearts become. Distance invades our intimacy with the Lord, which leads us on a dangerous path away from Him. It's then that we should pray and ask Him to reveal areas of rebellion. Our response to His revelation? Immediate repentance followed by immediate obedience. The result will be an agreeable spirit and a softened heart, like Jesus, with a desire to imitate Him in all we say and do.

We each have certain aspects of our personalities that are similar to Noah, Esther and David. If we are willing to admit it, we can be a little like Pharaoh, Samson and the Pharisees, too. However, our goal should be to liken ourselves to one hero in the Bible ... Jesus: obedient, humble, compassionate, truthful and so much more.

Dear Lord, I ask You to help me walk upright, imitating You in everything I say and do. Quicken my spirit when I fail, so I might repent and be restored to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TRUTH FOR TODAY:

Ephesians 5:1-2, *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* (ESV)

Philippians 2:1-4, *"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."* (NIV) -

(Wendy will be the featured speaker at the Ladies Christmas Retreat on December 5 @ FBC)



- 2 Matthew Kirkwood
Robert Woods
- 3 Janice Collins
- 5 Larry Nenno
- 6 Pam Wynn
- 7 Sue Chiapuso
Carl Park Samuelson
- 8 Leroy Lovell
- 11 Gayle Rockey Peterson
- 15 Jessie Selph
- 19 Aaron Geise
- 20 Joan Mitchell
Lucas O'Dell
- 21 Grace Thurston
- 22 Maunie Ketchner
- 23 Ken Boser II
- 26 Willie Anderson
- 28 Debbie McDowell
- 30 Jerry Nutt Sr.
Gen Rinus
- 31 Logan Funden



- 4 Willie & Sheila Milton
Ken & June Wallace



Monday thru Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Fridays

Morning devotions

Approximately
9:30-10:00 a.m.

There is no secretarial staff on Mondays. The pastor's schedule can sometimes be unpredictable due to visitations, emergencies, etc. If you stop by and find "nobody home", we ask for your patience and understanding. We will do our best to be here during posted office hours.

Give Thanks to the LORD,



for he is good; his love
endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

