

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Newsletter

OCTOBER - 2023

Pastor Michael's Thoughts

We're in week 4 of the NFL season, and for all practical purposes the season is already over for my Chicago Bears. They are in a battle for being the worst team in the NFL for the second year in a row. They have been outscored in their 3 games by an average of 20 points. Nobody has been outscored by more. This week they get to play another 0-3 team. I still don't give them much hope.

Why am I lamenting about football? Because it leads me to a topic to talk about. As people are calling for the quarterback to be benched, the coaches to be fired, can you imagine reading this in the news, or your kids overhearing how terrible their parent is?

How distressing and upsetting. Whether they are good or bad players and coaches isn't the point. They are people.

That's where they and we as well, need to surround ourselves with the Barnabas' of the world. Barnabas was a New Testament believer in Jesus. He wasn't an apostle, he wasn't a disciple. He was just an ordinary guy who came to a saving faith in Jesus.

The cool thing about Barnabas is that his name means "Son of Encouragement." That

was Barnabas, the ultimate encourager. When nobody wanted to meet with Paul, Barnabas walked alongside of him.

The “Encouragement” in his nickname literally means “called alongside.” That’s the Greek word that paints the picture of someone throwing their arms around you and giving you a big ol’ bearhug of encouragement.

When persecution scattered the Jerusalem believers, those who landed in Antioch, 300 miles to the north, shared the gospel with other Jews as well as with Greeks. Luke tells us “The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord” (Acts 11:21). So, Barnabas was dispatched to pastor that infant flock because nothing would be more important than a person who was born to encourage God’s people.

When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. (Acts 11:23)

Imagine Barnabas’s arrival: big smile, gentle eyes, hearty laugh, hugs. As he heard one salvation story after another he rejoiced, and his joy was infectious. That’s part of the encourager’s gift. He looked into the faces of those Greek believers who didn’t know Genesis from Jonah, how marriage came to be, or what the Ten Commandments are, and yet here they were, alive with the Holy Spirit!

The Bible is filled with stories of encouragers. How can you be one as well? How can you walk alongside someone and offer words of encouragement? I’ve always believed, ‘if you don’t have something good to say, don’t say anything.’ Just keep it zipped. Sometimes, yes, you need to hold someone accountable, but can you do that with love and grace and gentleness, so that they know in the end they are loved. Then as you finish, offer a word of encouragement. Take a lesson from Barnabas and demonstrate encouragement.

Three verses to guide you are - - - -

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ephesians 4:29 ESV - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

See you Sunday!!

Pastor Michael



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WELCOMES

The King's Four

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Date: October 8, 2023

Time: 10:30am

The King's Four Quartet will be leading our worship music and providing the morning message for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Anita Brown and her husband Tony (left) and Nancy Miller and her husband Don (right) are the daughters of Lewis and Ethel McCord, founders of the original Lewis McCord and the Kings Four. Lewis and Ethel went to their heavenly home within a few hours of each other in May of 2021. The group has ministered all over the United States in a variety of venues. They are based in Marion, Indiana but have Summitville, Indiana roots. The King's Four is a non-denominational, non-profit organization sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You will enjoy their smooth, four part gospel harmony. Please make the King's Four Quartet welcome at Alexandria First Baptist Church.



Pastor APPRECIATION

Sunday October 8th

Join us in fellowship after church to honor:

Michael Deutsch
Eric Prophet
Jill Thomas
George Killian

Fried chicken, drinks, and tableware are provided.
Bring your favorite dish(es) and/or dessert!

Event sponsored by the Deacons and Deaconesses

*There are boxes in the main hallway if you would like
to bring in cards or gifts for our pastors!*






FREE ENTRY • FREE ENTRY • FREE ENTRY • FREE ENTRY •

FALL
Festival

10.15.23 4-7PM

FOOD • GAMES • HAYRIDES
LIVE MUSIC • BONFIRE
INFLATABLES • AND MORE

First Baptist Church
2107 S Park Ave Alexandria, Indiana



*If you would like to do a song at this year's Fall Festival,
please talk to George Killian!*



The sewing ladies are going to Camp Alexander Mack in Milford, Indiana for a quilting retreat! They are leaving Thursday, October 19th at 7:00am and plan to return on Sunday, October 22nd around 4:00pm. Pray that they will have safe travels!

EMERGENCY HELP NEEDED!

The local food bank has expressed that they are critically low on canned soups, canned fruits, ramen noodles, peanut butter, and jelly.

Consider bringing in food donations so that we can help those in need. Please look in your cabinets or add to your grocery list some of the items listed above.



Monetary donations are also accepted. Please put your donation in an envelope and place it in the offering box on the visitor center each Sunday.

Attention All Children!

Friday, October 13th - 6:00-9:30pm - Dinner and Movie Night for K-6th graders. Enjoy an evening of fun with our Children's Leader, Jill Thomas!

S.A.L.T. Society

We will have a pitch in lunch on Tuesday, October 17th at noon.

Hope to see you there!

Impact Fall Party

When: Sunday, October 22nd - 5:00-9:00pm

**Where: Home of Andy and Tammy Chastain
3284 E 1800 N Summitville, IN**

**What: Games, music, food, bonfire, hayride,
and more!**

Youth in grades 7th-12th are invited!



HELP NEEDED!

The church is in need of people willing to help set up and tear down tables and chairs for special events like funeral dinners, etc. If you would be willing to help, please fill out a form and drop it in one of the giving boxes in the main hallway. Forms are available on the welcome center. Thank you!

SERVICES



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

6:00-8:00pm: Impact (7th-12th grades)

Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study with Debbie Deutsch

S.A.L.T. Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month

Wednesday

6:30pm: Prayer Meeting (first Wed. of month), Bible Study (remaining Wednesdays)

6:30pm: High Point (K-3rd), Crew 456 (4th-6th), Impact (7th-12th)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From John Ortberg's "All The Places To Go... How Will You Know?"

A common myth about God and doors and the truth that lies behind them...

"If I can't tell which door to choose, either God is doing something wrong or I am"

I have learned this the hard way. Rarely when I have faced one of the "big door" decisions has the choice been simple for me. When I was trying to choose a vocation, I can remember praying for hours, being frustrated to the point of tears. "God, just tell me what to do, and I'll do it. I don't even care what it is. I just want to know."

Crickets.

I did not realize for many years that what I was looking for wasn't so much "God's will for my life." What I was really looking for was a way to be relieved of the anxiety that comes with taking responsibility for making a difficult decision.

God is a door opener, but he is not a celestial enabler. He doesn't even need the twelve steps - who would he turn his will over to?

This is foundational for understanding the notion of open doors correctly: God's primary will for you is the person you become.

The apostle Paul says that God "chose us in (Christ) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight" (Ephesians 1:4). In other words, God's basic will for your life is not what you do or where you live or whether you marry or how much you make; it's who you become. God's primary will for your life is that you become a person of excellent character, wholesome liveliness, and divine love. That's what words like *godly* and *holy* (which too often become religious clichés) point to.



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