



God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

March 20, 2018
Volume I, Issue No. 12

(Ed. Note: Pastor Mark needs a break this week. I hope you will enjoy this devotional instead.)

The Process of Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Many people act as if there's no defense against temptation. With the first hint of desire, they immediately throw their hands up and give in to every little enticement. Can you relate to this? What we must realize is that temptation is a gradual process, and it can be short-circuited at any stage.

Temptation usually begins in the mind, where we live out imagined scenarios. The human mind has an amazing capacity to create entire exchanges and experiences out of nothing. Through fantasy, we can enjoy something without ever bringing it into the real world. Therefore, since it's not real, we think it's perfectly harmless.

But a fantasy world leads to a downward spiral of enslavement. Ultimately, our thoughts become so wrapped around the one temptation that it seems impossible to think of anything else. At this point, our minds are held captive by the desire. No matter where we go or what we do, we can't outrun our own thoughts! And when our life becomes focused on anything other than God, we are trapped.

But the Lord is faithful and will provide the way of escape. Since temptation begins in the mind, that's where the battle should be waged. The only way to disrupt the process is by filling our minds with the Word of God. As we continually feed on a hearty diet of Scripture, the Word will work in us—uprooting sin, transforming our thoughts, and overcoming the tempting fantasy. The Bible is powerful! We can trust it to set us free from the burden of temptation.

Dr. Charles Stanley

www.intouch.org

Prayer requests from Sunday:

- Jill Dixon is ill; Mark and Alex have been to visit with his mother and will return home this evening.
- Jean Spradlin said Rhonda Moody recently celebrated two years of being cancer-free.
- Barbara Collins spoke with Wayne and Debbie Harrison and Wayne sounded good. He is undergoing chemo for the brain tumor.
- David Gibson is off the ventilator and is making slow progress but is not out of the woods.
- Shirley Robinette (Christiana's grandmother) has been placed in hospice care.
- June Jones and her family continue to need our prayers.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 4-6.

The theme is "Game On!"

Speak with Mary Hagy if you can help.

Spaghetti Dinner

On Sunday, April 15, immediately following worship service a spaghetti dinner will be held to raise money for the youth to attend Camp Bethel. Pasta and sauce are covered, items still needed are:

- Desserts
- Drinks
- Salad fixin's

Please let Mary Hagy know if you can help. The City of Norton first responders will be our guests for dinner and we want to feed them well.

Clean out your closets and help the youth!

Along with the spaghetti dinner on April 15 a silent auction will be held to raise funds for Camp Bethel youth. Donations may be dropped off at the church any time. All items except clothing are welcome.



Join us for tea!

Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m.

- ◆ Wear a hat! There will be prizes for the most beautiful hat, the most creative hat, the tackiest hat and the People's Choice Award. June Jones has a few hats to share if you'd like to borrow one.
- ◆ Our guest speaker is Rev. Sandra L. Jones, pastor at Williams Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.
- ◆ Entertainment provided by the "We're So Bad We're Good" repertory theater ensemble. Don't ask—the rest is a surprise!
- ◆ We will sing!
- ◆ Bring a door prize
- ◆ Bring a dish to share



BCM Meals and Bible Study

Mark and the students meet at 6 p.m. to prepare dinner. If you would like to help cook or contribute food, please let Mark know the Sunday before the meeting. They usually have from 10-20 students. Below is their menu for the rest of the semester.

March 20 ~ cookout

March 27 ~ spaghetti tacos

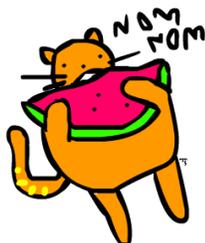
April 3 ~ ham, green beans, mac & cheese

April 10 ~ gumbo

April 17 ~ chicken casserole

April 24 ~ Boston Butt, cole slaw, pasta salad

May 1 ~ cheesesteaks, chips



Baptist Collegiate Ministry

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) is located in a building adjacent to The University of Virginia's College at Wise campus. As a part of the Virginia Baptist Collegiate Ministry, the mission of the UVA-Wise BCM is building community, making disciples for Christ, and developing Christian leaders. BCM has been a part of collegiate ministry at UVA-Wise since 1958.

Membership in UVA-Wise BCM simply requires a willingness to participate, Baptist affiliation is not necessary. Annually, less than one-third of active BCM members are Baptist.

The BCM facility is open and available to students throughout each day and evening, and includes a prayer room, conference/meeting room, library/resource room, and a fully-equipped kitchen. Weekly opportunities include a home-cooked fellowship meal and Bible study every Tuesday evening.

For more information please contact the director, Pastor Mark Dixon (mjd8f@uvawise.edu) or BCM student president Ahliyah Gavin (acg4r@uvawise.edu).

**As you pray this week,
please remember the
following.**

David & Jewell Ball
Libby Bowman
Gail Buchanan
Jim Campbell
Dottie Chittester
Virginia Collins
Linda Cooke
Tim Cox
Jill Dixon
Rhonda Elliott
Wayne Harrison
Emma Harrod
Alana Hash
Mary Haynes
Sue Hobbs
Rosalind Hunt
Elee Large
Maddie Lewis
Jim & Wanda Manicure
Eugene Mullins
Tracy Ott
Donna Owens
Roberta Owens
Wilma Redman
Leah Riley
Margaret Riner
Bea Simmons
Tammy Sturgill
Glenn & Marilyn Teasley
Joseph Thomas
Mike Todd
Beverly Viers
Susan Gillenwater Wells
Brenda Whitaker
Little Ed Withrow
Our country's leaders
First responders, volunteers
Armed Services men and women
Missionaries
Nursing home patients



Please send prayer requests to
lindawellswalker@yahoo.com

Announcements

- Our study of Jonah continues Wednesday at 6:30. Please read Session 2: Jonah Prays and God Saves.
- Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 7 a.m. in Norton City Park.
- We will celebrate Communion on April 1. There will be no potluck.

March Birthdays

8 ~ Michelle Buckley, Christiana Robinette
19 ~ Shirley Roberts
22 ~ Mark Dixon
26 ~ Little Ed Withrow
28 ~ David Walker

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

March Anniversaries

8 ~ Neil & Beth Walker

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

A colorful graphic featuring the words 'HAPPY ANNIVERSARY' in a bold, multi-colored font. The text is surrounded by several colorful balloons (pink, blue, red) and bursts of colorful fireworks or confetti.

First Baptist Church of Norton gives anyone the chance to come together and worship with like-minded congregants as members of a strong, loving community. Whether you're looking for peace of mind, a way to give back, or simply want to be a part of a loving family — First Baptist Church of Norton welcomes you. Join our community, and start your journey to God-centered growth with us!

How to join FBC Norton

- Baptism—You desire to express faith in Christ through baptism.
- Transfer—You wish to transfer membership from another church.
- Statement of Faith—You are a baptized believer and come on statement of faith.
- Watch Care—You would like to be connected to our church family without official membership.

Deacons

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Visit us on the web at
www.fbcnorton.com or
connect with us on
Facebook.

Or better yet, come and visit
us in person!



This newsletter is published every Tuesday morning on the church's web page. Please send news, photos, and announcements to cornettdiane@gmail.com.