



# God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

January 30, 2018  
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## From the Pastor's Heart

I have been reading this book called *STRENGTHFINDER 2.0* and it is about just that, finding your strengths. The book discusses with us that we far too often spend too much time analyzing our weaknesses, we don't make our strengths the best they can be. I have struggled with this concept for some time because I believe that you need to see your downfalls in order to strengthen your relationship with Christ. What I fail to realize is that it is okay to celebrate your strengths as well. Let me give you an example of how my brain works in relation to this topic. When I watch sports, specifically baseball, I am disgusted by the site of any "show-boating". I am old-school and believe you put your head down after a homerun and jog, not trot, around the bases staring at the ground as you run. For me that is a sign of doing what you expected of yourself, which is to provide the best outcome for your team. It is also a sign of respect to the pitcher, that he made a mistake, you made him pay, it's over and done. You may be thinking, well, I don't see what is wrong with your thought process, Mark. I will tell you what is wrong with it... where is the joy? Today's game promotes a bat flip, a slow jog around the bases and often the batter staring down a pitcher after he gets a big hit. However, it also promotes fun for the players, there is an appropriate way to celebrate a homerun. It doesn't have to be all business like I have always wanted it to be, you can smile, clap, make hand gestures to your teammates, etc. There is a way to have fun and celebrate the game! This is something I have never really accepted until recently.

Let's put this in religious terms, if we hide our excitement for God, how can we truly worship him? When someone raises their hand to the Lord in song, do we look at them as "they aren't filled with the spirit, they are just show-boating?" What we don't realize is that when that happens, we take the joy for the Lord out of ourselves. If we don't raise our hands or clap when we feel led, we don't show the joy to the Lord that we need to, or maybe that he wanted someone else to see to be comfortable enough to praise him the way they are led. If we hide our excitement for a child that dedicates his life to Christ, how do we encourage that child? Just recently Elliot Walker was baptized. What if we had pretended that his baptism was forever expected? Possibly, we wouldn't have shown him the encouragement, and given God the praise he deserved for saving this child

Now don't get me wrong, I believe you can take it too far but a celebration with worshipping Christ as our Savior is wonderful and that is how we should view it. I want to encourage you, the next time you feel led to sing out, raise your hand, clap, say Amen, make a grunt sound (don't ask me, but I have heard it done a time or two), just let it out. Let's worship Christ the way we feel led and not the way "we have always done it".

Love,  
Mark



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, “My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all.

“One is Evil—it is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

“The other is Good—it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: “Which wolf wins?”

The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

**Prayer requests from Sunday’s worship service:**

- Jim & Sherry Collie—Jim is recovering from the flu; Sherry is still sick and will have tests this week.
- Chris Starnes had surgery for a broken hip.
- Chuck Osborne has the flu and pneumonia.
- Virginia Collins is back home but has numerous health issues.
- Darrell Jackson is in rehab following a hip replacement.
- Sharon Hamblin had successful cataract surgery, and will have the other eye done soon.
- Shelby Carico has three auditions in the coming weeks for doctoral programs.
- Alana Hash is expecting test results this week.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.*

*Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*

*Psalms 139:23-24*

*I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you.*

*John 15:12*



## 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 around 20 students.

- ♦ Jan. 30: spaghetti, garlic bread, salad; Rev. Michael Moore (FBC St. Paul) will lead the discussion on Bible translations
- ♦ Feb. 6: Black History Month meal; guest speaker Rev. Sandra Jones
- ♦ Feb. 13: taco soup
- ♦ Feb. 20: enchiladas with toppings, refried beans (Diane—chicken enchiladas)
- ♦ Feb. 27: breakfast for dinner.

## 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](mailto:mjd8f@uvawise.edu)) or BCM student president Ahliyah Gavin ([acg4r@uvawise.edu](mailto:acg4r@uvawise.edu)).



*Shirts are \$10 for sizes through XL; larger shirts are \$12. See Mark to place your order.*

*UPDATE! Long-sleeved t-shirt available for additional \$2*

*Deadline to place your order is Feb. 6.*

## **Announcements**

- ◆ Choir practice is CANCELED Sunday, Feb. 4.
- ◆ The WMU will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at Prime Sirloin. All women are welcome.
- ◆ To get a list of your annual contributions to the church, please speak with Phyllis Still, Linda Walker or Sheila Shupe.



**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  
Emma Harrod  
Alana Hash  
Sue Hobbs  
Elee Large  
Maddie Lewis  
Rhonda Moody  
Eugene Mullins  
Tracy Ott  
Donna Owens  
Roberta Owens  
Wilma Redman  
Leah Riley  
Duke Riner  
Margaret Riner  
Bea Simmons  
Phyllis Still  
Glenn & Marilyn Teasley  
Joseph Thomas  
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](mailto:lindawellswalker@yahoo.com)

***Come hungry next Sunday***

and plan to stay for the hot  
dog luncheon after church. All  
funds raised will go to the  
homeless shelter in Norton.

The annual business meeting  
will be held immediately  
following lunch.



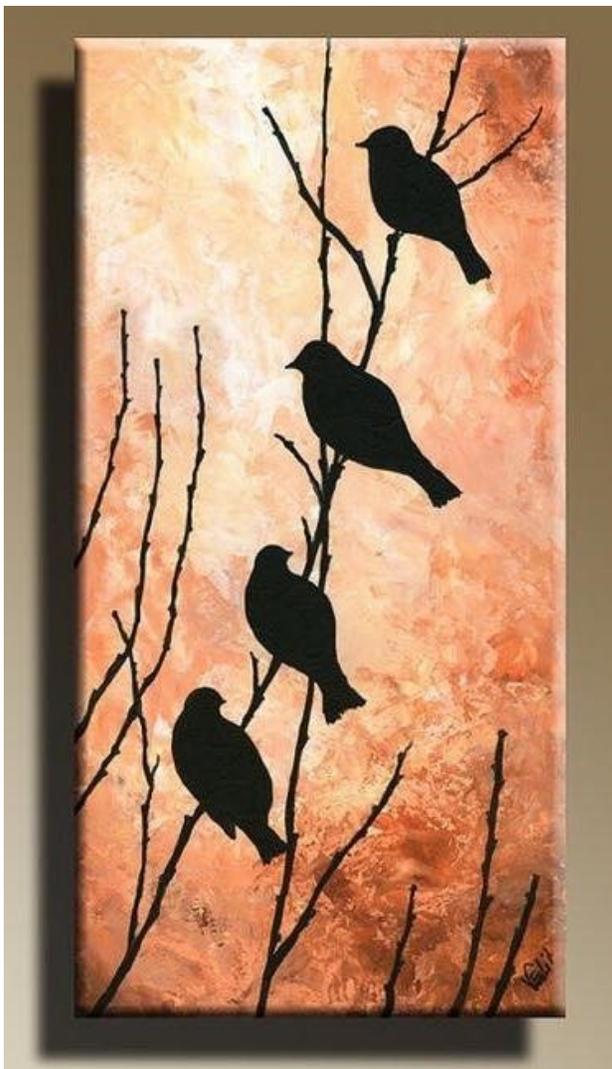
***Current Needs for the Homeless Shelter***

As you do your shopping please consider  
picking up one or more of the following items for  
the homeless shelter:

- Household cleaners
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products

The committee is not accepting clothing at this  
time. There is a collection box in the welcome  
area, near the coffee station.





***LAST CHANCE to sign up if you want to paint!***

*If you are interested please contact Diane ([cornettdiane@gmail.com](mailto:cornettdiane@gmail.com) or 679-1672) and let me know two things:*

*(1) which painting you would like to do, and*

*(2) which day you could attend: Feb. 17 or Feb. 24.*

*We need 10 people to have a class, and Susan can take up to 20. The fee is \$20. We will follow the same schedule as before—have a snack at noon followed by painting.*

***Let me know by Feb. 5.***

**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

Charlene Bates, 276-219-4251, charlenebates715@yahoo.com

Nancy Cox, 276-393-7010, ncox161@gmail.com

Marty Hagy, 276-219-9949, martyhagy@gmail.com

Phyllis Still, 276-679-0987, pwstill1@verizon.net

Linda Walker, 276-870-4889, lindawellswalker@yahoo.com

### Contact Us

First Baptist Church  
9th Street & Virginia Avenue  
PO Box 499  
Norton, VA 24273  
276-679-1235 voice  
276-679-3059 fax  
celebratefbcn@comcast.net

Rev. Mark J. Dixon, Jr.  
Email: [mjd8f@uvawise.edu](mailto:mjd8f@uvawise.edu)  
Phone: 276-393-9882

Visit us on the web at  
[www.fbcnorton.com](http://www.fbcnorton.com) or  
connect with us on  
Facebook.



*Happy Birthday TODAY to*

Matthew Burke

David Mullins

Kathy Osborne

Sean Walker

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