



# God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

May 1, 2018  
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## *From the Pastor's Heart*

Alex and I were having a conversation the other day with someone (sorry I can't remember who) and the conversation got to being honest. It was a very interesting conversation and by now you should know it was self-reflective. So I bring the conversation to all who take the time to read this.

The topic: Prayer and Honesty

The Discussion:

Okay, so you are scrolling on Facebook and you see someone post a devastating status asking for prayer. You decided to comment "praying for you" or "prayers" or "praying for you and your family" etc... You get the point. Now, do you actually pray for that person? For that situation? For that outcome?

Some of you may not have Facebook so ... You run into someone at the supermarket and they are asking you for prayers. You say "I will keep you in my prayers", you run and put them on the prayer list, but do you actually pray for them?

OUCH! I know, we say this phrase with the best of intentions, but seldom do we actually follow through.

Or what about when someone tells you an idea and you respond "I'll pray about it"... when what you really mean is "no". Who reading this has done that? (I raise my hand).

Do you realize that on top of not spending time with the Lord, we aren't being honest to those who need our prayers?

This letter isn't meant to break us down, but it is meant to make us think.

Last Sunday we talked about giving things to God. We realized that we say it all the time but don't really know how. Well, the first thing to do is be honest about having things to give to Him and then we pray. Sometimes, we don't do either.

*Love, Mark*

## Prayer requests from Sunday:

- The family of Tyler Flanary, who drowned Saturday in a kayaking accident in Nashville. Tyler was the grandson of Debra Taylor, and the son of Wayne & Tracy Jordan.
- Two of Jean Spradlin's brothers-in-law, Harold Spradlin and Billy Spradlin, were placed in hospice care this week.
- Jean's brother had emergency gall bladder surgery and is recovering.
- Jonah Kelly had surgery to repair a fractured ankle.
- June Jones' neighbor, Eugene Graham, was admitted to the nursing home this week. His daughter, Dottie Graham, was hospitalized with pneumonia, asthma and COPD.
- The uncle of Rodger & Sharon Greear's son-in-law died this week.



## JOIN US FOR PIZZA NEXT SUNDAY



In lieu of the usual monthly potluck next Sunday, May 6, the church will provide pizza and drinks for everyone. Guests are asked to bring salads and desserts. To be sure we have plenty of pizza, please let Jean Spradlin (679-2284) or Barbara Collins (679-1292) know if you will attend.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to a 4 week Bible study on 1, 2, 3 John and Jude: Learning and Living the Truth. We will explore truth in our relationship with God and with others and truth in the church. We will be challenged to consider what truth governs our lives – God's truth or the world's truth.

Our study will begin on Wednesday, May 16, at 6:30 pm. The study guide is \$6. Please place your order with Linda Walker by Sunday, May 6.

## The homeless shelter needs our help.

The shelter is full and they are running low on food and personal care items. They have plenty of canned food and milk. They particularly need bread, lunch meat, canned soups and noodles, spaghetti sauce, pizzas, any kind of easily prepared meat products such as wieners, sliced ham. They said they need bottled water, juice, and presweetened Koolaid. You can drop off food at the shelter, or bring it to the church and it will be delivered. Thank you!

Several of our young people will graduate this month. Your church family is proud of you, we love you, and we're praying for you. Congratulations!

*Kaitlyn Wegner*

UVa-Wise, bachelor of science in nursing and a minor in women's studies



*Taylor Mullins*

John I. Burton High School

Taylor will play football at UVa-Wise and plans to major in software engineering.

*Joshua Griggs*

UVa-Wise, major in visual art

Josh will take a year off to get married, then attend graduate school.

*Shelby Carico*

Ohio University, masters in trumpet performance

Shelby will attend James Madison University this fall to pursue a DMA in trumpet performance, pedagogy and literature.

*Tierra "Tia" Bates*

John I. Burton High School

Tia has been accepted to the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech.

*Jazmine Fannon*

Union High School

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

David & Jewell Ball  
Helen Bass  
Charlene Bates  
Libby Bowman  
Gail Buchanan  
Jim Campbell  
Jim & Sherry Collie  
Linda Cooke  
Tim Cox  
Rhonda Elliott  
Family of Tyler Flanary  
Rue Gembach  
Wayne Harrison  
Emma Harrod  
Alana Hash  
Mary Haynes  
Sue Hobbs  
Rosalind Hunt  
Elee Large  
Maddie Lewis  
Family of Lann Malesky  
Jim & Wanda Manicure  
Eugene Mullins  
Tracy Ott  
Donna Owens  
Roberta Owens  
Wilma Redman  
Leah Riley  
Margaret Riner  
Bea Simmons  
Tammy Sturgill  
Marilyn Teasley  
Joseph Thomas  
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](mailto:lindawellswalker@yahoo.com)



May the Lord bless you and protect  
you. May the Lord smile on you and  
be gracious to you. May the Lord  
show you his favor and give you his  
peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Correction for the directory—The email address for Bill and  
Rue Gembach is [polok@verizon.net](mailto:polok@verizon.net) (there is no 1).

## May Birthdays

**4 ~ Madison Milam**

**5 ~ Ed Withrow**

**8 ~ Alex Dixon**

**16 ~ Noah Mullins**

**18 ~ Stewart Spradlin**

**25 ~ Landon Rakes**

**26 ~ Ken Owens**



## Operation KID

*(Kids in Distress)*

*The church is collecting items to make care  
bags for police to give to children they  
encounter during a call. Please bring blankets,  
toothbrushes & toothpaste, stuffed animals,  
and other items to the church.*

**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](http://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](mailto:cornettdiane@gmail.com).