



God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

July 3, 2018
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(This week's devotional is from intouch.org)

COMPASSION FOR THE LOST

Matthew 9:36-38

Throughout the Gospels, a phrase commonly used of the Lord is “He felt compassion” (Matt. 9:36). These words describe what Jesus often experienced when He encountered people in a helpless condition: He was moved to alleviate their suffering.

Man's greatest suffering is due to alienation from the Lord because of sin. Even though many people don't realize it, they are enemies of God and can do nothing to make themselves right with Him. Thankfully, Jesus felt compassion for us and reached down to save us; otherwise, we would all be doomed to the everlasting punishment of separation from God's presence. Yet often we fail to show that same compassion for the lost all around us. Like the Pharisees, we may avoid people because their behavior is sinful, but God desires that we show them kindheartedness rather than withdraw into religious isolation.

Jesus pictured the multitude of lost people as sheep without a shepherd and a field ripe for harvest. All that's needed is for the Lord to send workers into His harvest, and that's exactly what Jesus did when He said, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21).

There are multiple ways to show Christ's compassion to those who are suffering physically, financially, or emotionally, and we should do what we can to help. However, temporal suffering is minuscule compared to what awaits the unbeliever eternally. That's why the most compassionate thing we can do is to make people aware of their helpless condition before God and share the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Prayer requests for this week:

- Donna Morton has a ruptured vocal cord.
- Mary Lambert injured her arm.
- Jack Breeding, an infant born last week, has a hole in his heart and will have surgery at Vanderbilt.
- Chris Stidham will see a neurologist for treatment of a sciatic nerve issue.
- The 13-year-old neighbor of Chris & Penny took her life this past week.
- Mark Dietrich's mother and nephew plan to visit in the next week or so.
- Jean Graham fell in the nursing home; she has two brain bleeds and a broken rib.
- Jim Stanley is hospitalized for sepsis and pneumonia.
- Rodger Greer's cousin, Francis, had a stroke this week.
- Debra Kimberlin, her mother-in-law, and her father-in-law, were killed in a car crash in Rogersville, Tenn., this week. Her husband and daughter are hospitalized. Debra is an employee of Old Dominion Power in the Norton office.



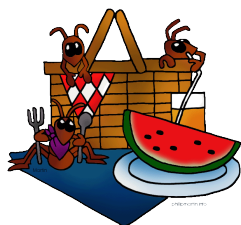
Praises:

- Jeffrey Hunsaker made a profession of faith following Sunday's service and accepted Christ as his Savior!



On July 7 at 6:30 the church will set up a table in front of the former Parks Belk building and give out freezer pops during Norton's Fourth of July celebration.

The church will attend *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine* outdoor drama as a group on Friday, July 27. The time to meet will be announced soon.



Annual Church Picnic
August 12 ~ 11 a.m. ~ Camp Bethel
Canoeing, kayaking, swimming, tubing
And of course EATING!

Bring your favorite dish to share, and a friend or two.



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

David & Jewell Ball
Charlene Bates
Libby Bowman
Jack Breeding
Gail Buchanan
Jim Campbell
Jim & Sherry Collie
Linda Cooke
Tim Cox
Rhonda Elliott
Wayne Harrison
Emma Harrod
Alana Hash
Sue Hobbs
Rosalind Hunt
Wanda Jenkins
Elee Large
Maddie Lewis
Eugene Mullins
Charlie Osborne
Tracy Ott
Donna Owens
Roberta Owens
Leah Riley
Margaret Riner
Bea Simmons
Chris Stidham
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



happy anniversary

3 ~ Mark & Alex Dixon

18 ~ Fred & Lynn Ramey

27 ~ Mark & Leigh Clark



3 ~ CAROL HOWARD

11 ~ ADDIE MULLINS

15 ~ DAVID BALL

17 ~ SYDNEY FLEMING

18 ~ BAILEY RUSSELL

26 ~ DANIEL WALKER

27 ~ EUGENE MULLINS

27 ~ LUANN WALKER

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
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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.