



God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

February 20, 2018
Volume I, Issue No. 8

From the Pastor's Heart

Job 2:11-13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹² When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky. ¹³ Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that *his* pain was very great.

This scripture has been on my mind for a while. I have pondered back and forth and I really think I finally understand why I can't get it off my mind. As most of you know, I was raised to be a problem solver. When someone brings me a problem they are going through, I solve it. That is just what I do; I believe with God's help I can figure anything out. Before you pick this previous statement to pieces, let me show you where I am going with this. My drive to problem solve has also led to impatient sympathy. What I mean by impatient sympathy/empathy is that if you come to me one day and you say you are going through something, I will give you my sympathy and if I can I will give empathy, then I will also give you the solution (it's okay to laugh) but if you come to me the next day with the same issue, I will have a harder time to give you sympathy and empathy. Why? Because you should be over it by now; I have given you the solution, hence the term impatient sympathy. Just ask my wife, I do good for a little while, but then I get frustrated. This has impacted my relationship with a lot of people, including my wife and my sister. I can empathize and sympathize with the BIG STUFF a lot better than what I perceive as being a little thing (key word here, is "I").

Now let's look at the scripture: first, Job's friends came to him to sympathize with him and comfort him. Okay, great, then what, well they wept with him. Wow! They wept with their friend. They felt his pain and shed tears for him. Then they sat with him for seven days and seven nights, not saying a word, because they saw "his" pain was very great. Notice how *his* is italicized in the scripture, why do you think that was? I believe it was to show me to be patient because his pain is different from mine.

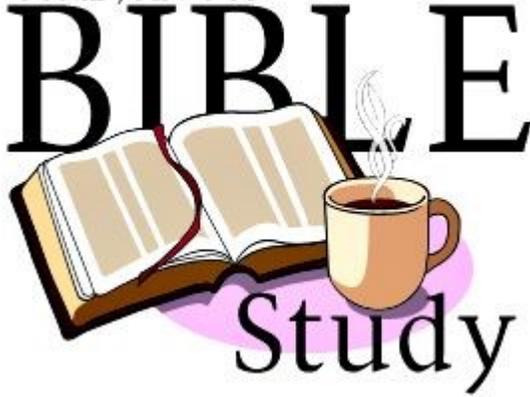
I don't know about y'all but I have had a hard time not sharing my opinion with people. I have a hard time just letting someone sit in their pain, especially when I don't understand it. This scripture helped me understand what it really means to be a friend to people. I can't get frustrated because they don't think like me and because I don't understand. If I am really their friend I will go, weep, and stay. His friends did a lot wrong in the scripture, but we can certainly learn from what they did right. Let us go to our friends, family, and even strangers, let us weep with them when they are hurting, let us sit with them in silence when they just need us there. It's not for us to solve their problem. Since I have taken these words to heart, my relationships have gotten better than I could've ever imagined.

Love, Mark

Prayer requests from Sunday:

- Michael Bright suffered a fatal heart attack this week.
- Jim Manicure fell down the stairs and sustained head and back injuries.
- Travel mercies for Mark & Leigh Clark as they leave for Greece next week.
- Linda McCall is recovering from surgery.
- Mary Haynes has been ill.
- Kathy Osborne expressed gratitude for God's care during a difficult situation this past week.
- The family of Braylon Jenkins, the toddler who was killed in the ambulance crash, and especially his mother, Lyndsay Oakes.

COME JOIN OUR



Everyone knows the story of Jonah and, of course, the great fish. It is a fascinating story whose popularity has remained strong with the young and old alike. The story we remember from childhood takes on a different meaning when we reread it as adults. As children, the “whale” seems to steal the show. As adults, however, we realize the main character is not the great fish or even Jonah, it is God.

The story of Jonah is not just a great, old story. It is very relevant to our struggles today – obedience to God, loving others without condition, God's mercy to us and to others.

You are invited to dive deeper into the story of Jonah on Wednesdays in March beginning at 6:30 pm (4 weeks). The study is entitled: **Jonah, Reluctant Prophet, Merciful God.** Study guides have been ordered but they are not required. Leigh Clark will be the facilitator.

Contact Leigh via email at lgclark4@yahoo.com for more information.



FROM THE
**CHURCH
MOUSE**

- Practice for the Easter Cantata “Redeemed” is at 6 p.m. every Sunday. All are welcome.
- Potluck on Sunday, March 4, following morning worship service. Bring your favorite dish!
- The WMU will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, March 5, at the Prime Sirloin.



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.

- ♦ 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) or BCM student president Ahliyah Gavin (acg4r@uvawise.edu).

When Your Hut's On Fire



The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions. One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God, how could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.



Feb. 27 ~ David & Luann Walker

**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
Rosalind Hunt
Elee Large
Maddie Lewis
Rhonda Moody
Eugene Mullins
Tracy Ott
Donna Owens
Roberta Owens
Wilma Redman
Leah Riley
Margaret Riner
Bea Simmons
Phyllis Still
Tammy Sturgill
Glenn & 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

February Birthdays

2 ~ Clay Spradlin
3 ~ Darionna Mooney
4 ~ Freddie Bradley
8 ~ Linda Walker
9 ~ Penny Stidham
12 ~ Jim Campbell
16 ~ Hannah Fleming
18 ~ Chastity Riner
22 ~ Emily Adams, Chris Mullins, Mary K. Mullins
26 ~ Joanne Kennedy, Neil Walker



WE'RE MOVING!



Mark and Alex have moved to Norton. Their new mailing address is 223 Chestnut Street, Norton, VA 24273.

"If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."

James 1:5-6

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.
mjd8f@uvawise.edu
Phone: 276-393-9882

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.