

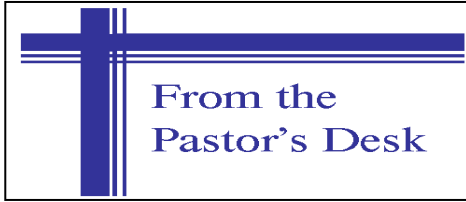


Discover A Place to Call Home

THE MESSENGER

December 2023

Volume 1, Issue 133



I said on Sunday that I would finish up the section of 1 Corinthians with the newsletter article dealing with resolving conflict and disagreements in the church. So here it is.

I used to think, just as many others do, that peace was the absence of conflict. How wrong I was. Conflict is a normal part of our human experience, for people living in relationship with one another. Peace is not the absence of conflict but rather the successful and peaceful resolution of that conflict.

You can see this in the first two chapters of the bible. When God places the first man and woman together in the Garden and gives them minds and emotions, freedom, responsibilities, and a clear boundary. Throw in an adversary, and the table is set, so to speak, for conflict to arise. And this is before the fall of man.

The fall of man in Genesis 3 brings pride, insecurity, fear, and unresolved anger into the world. These emotions allow conflict to escalate and spiral out of control or drive people to withdraw within themselves, never coming to a resolution. Or they just “bite their tongue” and remain silent allowing resentment to build over time. But none of these are the way of God. The near pinnacle of blessedness, according to Jesus, is being a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9).

To be a peacemaker, we must be totally dependent on God and grieve both our own and the world’s brokenness. We must be humble, teachable, and have an overwhelming desire to do what is right.

We must be willing to show mercy and radically forgive people who have harmed us. At the same time, we must be -courageous and honest, hearing and speaking the truth in love to people with whom we disagree. This, along with a willingness to stand on the strength of our convictions in Christ, gives us influence in our world, glorifies God, and is good for the people we encounter. And it allows for peace to exist.

In Matthew 19:15-17, Jesus gives his disciples a process to follow in dealing with conflict. That process encourages conflict to be resolved as quickly and with as few people as possible.

The highest (best) way is for two people to intentionally come together and negotiate a solution. If that is not successful, they should enlist a third party to help guide the discussion and mediate the conflict. If neither of these works, then the church should arbitrate a solution. The lowest and worst form is for things to be litigated in court. This is so much so, that if Christian conflict winds up in court, it should be viewed as failure to follow the law of Jesus which is love.

(But let me make a side note to the discussion on litigation. If someone in the church has committed a crime, the proper civil authorities must be involved. Church leaders should never cover up any illegal activity to protect the church. That shouldn’t have to be said, but unfortunately, it does).

What attitudes are we to bring to the conflict? First, you must identify and evaluate your emotions. “What am I feeling and why?” Is my emotion justified? Let me give you a personal example.

Years ago, as a young man, prior to entering the ministry, I had a pastor named Jim who I wanted to speak to on a Sunday morning about a personal issue I thought was important. Jim brushed me off and I can tell you I felt hurt and ignored. But what was the other side of the story. I have since learned from experience, generally, Sunday mornings are a really bad time to talk to any pastor about a personal issue (of course unless it’s something like, “I think I’m having a heart attack”).

Specifically, though, Jim’s Sunday morning schedule consisted of preaching at an 8:30 AM worship service, teaching a 9:45 AM pastor’s class, and then preaching at an 11:00 AM service. In addition, Jim was a task-oriented person, and he was on task. So, did Jim brush me off? Absolutely, and deservedly so. While I felt hurt when I was ignored by my pastor, I also had an unrealistic expectation of him at that time. It would have been easy to think, “He does not care about or have time for me!” But that was not true. He did, and later, at a more appropriate time, sit down, listen, and help me resolve my issue.

Second, When we learn to not jump to a negative assumption about any situation; when we commit to genuinely listening to another person’s “side of the story;” when we speak in a way that is clear and concise yet communicates respect for the other person; when we “turn the other cheek and go the extra mile;” and when we genuinely seek to solve the problem rather than seek revenge or to win, we do things God’s way.

If you want to know more, just ask, just not on Sunday mornings ☺

~Pastor Mark.





Thank you to everyone that supports our hospice blanket ministry. Without financial assistance and help making the blankets, we would not be able to do this ministry. For the month of November we delivered 7 blankets. So far this year, we have already broken our goal of 100 with 114 blankets delivered. We still have December to deliver to hospice, so thank you all so much.

We had set a goal of 550 pounds for January through November for Grace Ministries. We have delivered 494 pounds. When we add in the 204 desserts, we add an additional 363 pounds. Thanks to you all, I know our community has been blessed.

Thank you,
Steve & Ida Jones



The bus will be taken to the shop to have the AC and door looked at.

The choir room bid of \$2000 has been approved.

Purchase of new laptops for Youth and Fellowship Hall has been approved.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be on November 19, 6pm at the BMS Auditorium



Prayer Walk
December 3 at 9:15am
Meet in JLBC Fellowship Hall



Wednesday Night Services
Meal for Everyone at 5:20pm
Adult class in Sanctuary at 6pm
Youth & Team Kids class at 6pm



Deacon Meeting
December 10 at 5pm

Family Business Meeting
December 13 at 7pm



Lottie Moon 2023 Goal: \$4,000
Current Giving: \$2,945.70



Lottie Moon Dinner & Auction
December 2 at 5:30pm



Christmas Eve Breakfast at 9:30am

Scripture Song Service at 11am



Snowman Painting
Class December 15
6pm \$30
Led by Lahoma Vaughn



Youth Building Furniture Fund
Goal: \$3000 Current: \$1606.24



Youth Group
Parade Float and
Christmas Party
December 9



Offices Closed December 25 & 26



NYE Game Night
with Dinner &
Prayer
December 31 6pm

PASTOR & DEACONS

Please feel free to call any of us at any time.

Mark Simons	940-867-5066
Rick Griffin	940-249-8461
Bill Lindenborn	940-781-2504
Marvin Maherg	940-636-2207
Robert Ritter	940-631-7437
John Naas	501-607-0713

MARK SIMONS – PASTOR

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Monday – Thursday

Located on Kramer Rd across from Burkburnett High School



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	4	5  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	6  MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	7  7:30PM	8	9  
10  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	11	12  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	13  MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	14  FAMILY BUSINESS MEETING @ 7PM ON DECEMBER 13 	15  PAINTING CLASS 6PM	16
17  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	22  ARTICLES DUE	19  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	20 	21	22	23
24  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	25  Closed for Christmas	26  Closed for Christmas	27 	28	29	30
31  CHRISTMAS EVE BREAKFAST AT 9:30AM SCRIPTURE SONG SERVICE AT 11AM	 NYE GAME NIGHT W/ DINNER & PRAYER @ 6PM 				YOUTH GROUP UNITED WEEKEND AT CAMP CHAPARRAL JANUARY 5-6, 2024 	

November 2023 Sunday School Attendance Record

November 5	61
November 12	60
November 19	41
November 26	40

Average Attendance: 51
Average based on 4 Sundays

November 2023 Financial Report

Tithes	\$15,605.54
Estimated monthly budget needs for 2023 - 2024	\$16,182.00
Designated	\$ 2,156.42



December 2023 Deacon of the Week



Nov 27-Dec 3	John Naas
Dec 4-10	Robert Ritter
Dec 11-17	Rick Griffin
Dec 18-24	Bill Lindenborn
Dec 25-31	Marvin Maherg

Prayer Notification

If you have an e-mail address and desire to be on the prayer notification, please call the church office with your email information.

Questions? Call Jennifer @ 569-1211

We're on the web!

www.jlbcburk.com

Jan Lee Baptist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:45 AM
MORNING SERVICE	11:00 AM
ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE	Resumes in Fall

MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

MEAL	5:20 PM
PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY	6:00 PM
YOUTH & TEAM KIDS ACTIVITIES	6:00 PM



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