

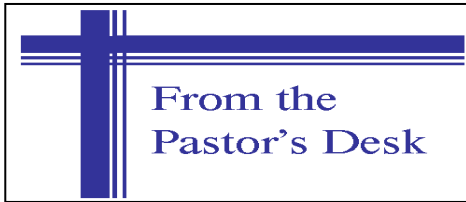


Discover A Place to Call Home

THE MESSENGER

November 2024

Volume 1, Issue 142



The election is over! One of the things I prayed for is, whoever won, it would be a big enough margin to have no doubt where the American people stood. God answered that prayer.

I speak very little of politics, if at all, from the pulpit. Let me be clear, it has never been the case of me being afraid that the church would lose our tax-exempt status. But it has been for the reason related to 1 Corinthians 8-9 summed up in chapter 9, verse 22:

“Among the weak in faith I become weak like one of them. So, I become all things to all people, that I may save some of them by whatever means are possible.”

If my political beliefs hinder me from sharing the gospel, I will not share my political beliefs. Christian and conservative political commentator, Cal Thomas spoke at First Baptist Church Wichita Falls several years ago. He said that he used to believe we could change society through Christian political action, but nothing really changed. But Thomas also said he had long discussions with his friend and debating partner, liberal Bob Beckel, but could never convince him of his point of view. But then one day Bob was going through a personal crisis and that led to the opportunity for Cal to share the gospel with him. In that moment, Bob came to Christ. He said “Jesus ‘convinced’ Bob where I never could.

Another reason I do not share my political beliefs is that I simply become another voice among the millions. Did you need my voice to tell you what to think? My job is to speak to the whole counsel of God through the Scriptures. One Sunday recently, after the sermon, someone asked how I knew they were struggling with an issue I spoke on from the Scriptures? I replied, I didn’t, but God has spoken truth through His Word that touches all of life. If you want to know my political beliefs, just ask and I’ll tell you, but otherwise just sort it out from what you hear from me through the Word of God.

Are there issues though that are bigger than partisan politics? I believe there are.

First, the issue of religious liberty. This belief is grounded in the account of Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem being asked, “is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? His reply is the cornerstone passage of the issue of religious liberty. He asked for a Roman coin and said, “Now, tell me, whose head is on the coin and whose inscription is stamped on it?” They replied, “Caesar’s.” He then told them to give to Caesar what is Caesars but give to God what is God’s” (Matthew 22:15-22).

This has long been a Baptist issue that we have carried for the rest of the church that our ancestors were willing to suffer persecution, imprisonment, and at times martyrdom for. What is unique about our stance is that we don’t just want liberty for ourselves but for everyone, even those who oppose us.

Pastor Hershall Hobbs in his commentary on the Baptist Faith and Message says,

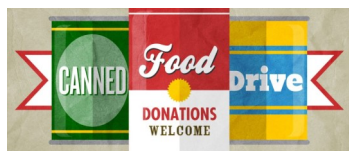
“Baptist have ever been champions of soul freedom, not just for us but for all people. Thus, it is that Baptists believe that a person has the right to be a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Jew, Muslim, atheist, or whatever they choose to be. Baptists believe that they are under divine compulsion to preach to all people the gospel... but they endeavor to win people by persuasion through the power of the Holy Spirit, not through coercion of any kind” (Hobbs, p. 9).

We thus believe in religious liberty because freedom comes from God, not government, it fulfills the Golden Rule, and it propagates evangelism. It’s an issue we stand on.

We also stand for life and the biblical family model. A third-party political movement is the American Solidarity Party. While I don’t agree with all their platform, it is overtly pro-life and pro-natural family. They state in their principles, “Human life is sacred from conception to natural death... on the family they state, “Natural marriage and the family are the central institutions of society and must be supported and strengthened, not undermined.

I have been registered to the same political party for almost fifty years and have consistently voted for the candidates of that party at the national level since November 1976. But this year was the first time I have broken with that. But neither did I vote for the candidate of the other major party. I wrote in the candidates of the American Solidarity Party as a matter of principle over these three issues. Some say I threw away my vote but I don’t believe so, ask and I will tell you why.

~ Pastor Mark



Thank you for all the support that you have given for our blanket ministry for Hospice of Wichita Falls. We made and delivered 13 blankets in October.

Thank you also for donations of food for Grace Ministries. We donated 58 pounds of food in October. The needs for November are Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Small pancake syrup (24oz or less), and pancake mix.

Thanks to everyone that supported the Midwestern students with treats and drinks.

Thank you,
Steve & Ida Jones



At our October meeting, we decided to schedule a Special Called Business Meeting on October 27 so the whole church could join in voting to license Micheal Summers to ministry. The vote was made and passed unanimously.



Volunteers needed in nursery during Sunday School and Worship Times



**Prayer Walk
November 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
November 10 at 5pm**

**Family Business Meeting
November 13 at 7pm**

We have established a team called The Upper Room Team. To be part of the Upper Room Team, we are asking 120 individuals or families to donate \$100 per month. If 120 team members sign up and donate \$100 per month over the next eight months, this would accrue \$96,000. This would allow each person going to pay \$2,000 for the trip and the remaining amount would come from the Upper Room Team fund. This \$2,000 will cover everything on the trip except for souvenirs and a meal or two during travel times. The \$96,000 would also be more than needed for the 2025 trip. However, we don't want to stop in 2025 and the excess amount can be carried over to ensure we can continue the mission and hopefully expand further. If you would like to join the upper room team, you can make your donations by check to the Wichita Archer Clay Association. If you wish to have your donation made electronically, there are options for that through Jan Lee Baptist Church who will then forward your donation to the Wichita Archer Clay Association.



December 6 - Painting Class

**December 7 - Lottie Moon
Dinner & Auction**

December 8 - Movie Outing

**December 15 - Christmas
Presentation**

**December 22 - Scripture Song
Service**

**January 31 to February 1 -
Winter Retreat for Youth Group**

June 1 to 5 - Youth Camp

**June 25 to July 7 - South Africa
Mission Trip**

July 16 to 19 - Kids Camp

July 27 to 31 - VBS

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

jlbcburk@gmail.com
www.jlbcburk.com

**Office hours: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Monday – Thursday**

**Located on Kramer Rd across
from Burkburnett High School**



November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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	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 NOV 13 	15	16
17  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	18	19  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	20  MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	21  ARTICLES DUE	22	23
24  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	25	26  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	27  MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH	28	29	30

October 2024 Sunday School Attendance Record

October 6	49
October 6	49
October 6	46
October 6	45

Average Attendance: 47
Average based on 4 Sundays

October 2024 Financial Report

Tithes	\$47,518.41
Estimated monthly budget needs for 2024 - 2025	\$19,492.51
Designated	\$ 4,121.50



November 2024 Deacon of the Week

October 28-November 3	Marvin Maherg
November 4-10	John Naas
November 11-17	Robert Ritter
November 18-24	Rick Griffin
November 25-Dec 1	Bill Lindenborn

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	On Hold

MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

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



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