

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Ken Coleman

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#76 How Great Thou Art

#548 The Lily of the Valley

Scripture Reading by: Jackson Burgess

#361 Nailed to the Cross

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#121 Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing

Sermon: "Two Builders"

Matthew 7:24-27

#945 Kneel at the Cross

#452 Standing on the Promises

Closing Prayer by: Daniel Balch

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#589 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

#738 Take the Name of Jesus with You

Scripture Reading: Parker Balch

Prayer by: Bob Parker

#300 Praise Him! Praise Him!

Sermon: "Twelve Ordinary Men: Two Disciples Named Judas"

John 13:21-27

#453 Love Lifted Me

#957 This World Is Not My Home

Closing Prayer by: Phillip Strickhausen

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

September 23, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

The Church of Football

We are just into the beginning of another football season. NFL teams play their third game today, and most high schools and colleges are 3 or 4 games into their seasons, so the shape of most teams is starting to come into focus. Depending on your level of fandom, and what team(s) you follow, you are either eagerly anticipating the next few months or bracing yourself for a long season.

You won't find many bigger football fans than me. I remember Marshall High School games as far back as when I was 2 or 3 years old. I remember watching some pretty mediocre Texas teams on TV led by Peter Gardere, the only quarterback to beat Oklahoma 4 times (for you Aggies, I remember Bucky Richardson, too). I played football in high school, like many of you. I attended every Texas home game from the time I moved to Austin as a student until last year. My brother is a football coach with a state championship as an assistant.

But sometimes I think about what the sportswriter John Tunis wrote way back in 1928, declaring that football was "at present a religion—sometimes it seems to be almost our national religion." If anything, that statement is more accurate today than when it was first written: the sport has exploded to a degree unimaginable to Tunis, and religion often seems to be on the decline. We assemble together in one place, often on a Sunday, to participate in the rituals: chanting, singing, shouting in unison. Stadiums are modern day temples, where we gather to worship the gods in the center of the sanctuary. We have a fellowship meal. We often make this the centerpiece of our week, devoting our time and our money to it, and we place our hope and faith in it to bring meaning to our existence. Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina even has a 1 hour course they offer: "Religion of SEC Football."

You could substitute many things for football here. The question is: where do our priorities lie? The word "fan" is short for "fanatic." We think that is perfectly fine in the realm of sports. But no one wants to be thought a religious fanatic. Yet that is precisely what God asks of us. There is nothing wrong with football or many other recreational pursuits in life. The problem is when we elevate those things to become idols – we essentially let them take the place of God. Instead, let's endeavor to *seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.* (**Matthew 6:33**).

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Doris Trahan is taking chemo treatments.

Phillip Cottle is in Kindred Hospital in Houston.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Robert White

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard, Dr. Ronald Davis, Frances Petree

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meet Monday, Sept. 24th at 7:00 pm.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Ollie Davis and her family on the death of her sister, Doris Alston. She passed away last week and the funeral was Thursday.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Ronnie & I want to express our most heartfelt appreciation for all the love and support during our time of loss.

We are so grateful for the plant, the food preparation and for serving us.

Thank you to those who came by or attended the funeral, it meant a lot to us.

You are our home away from home and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Love, Ronnie & Elva Caballero

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Somehow, just saying "thank you" doesn't seem like enough.

But I hope you know how much your kindness has meant to me.

The Bernadine Caballero family

Privilege to Serve Sunday, Sept. 23rd

Communion Preparation: Glenda Wiggins

Nursery Attendants: Raven & Sharon Lartigue

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Sept. 30th: Ashley Balch

Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Sept. 30th: Tania Balch, Catherine Parker

continued from front page

On a lighter note, I thought you might enjoy this old list of terminology that shows the further parallels between football and church:

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work, or apparently do anything but sit.

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship.

Halftime - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave

Backfield-in-Motion - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) repeatedly during the service.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work.

Instant Replay - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.

Trap - You're called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer.

Two-minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Halfback Option - The decision of 75% of the congregation not to return for the evening service.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime."

It's something to think about.

Bryant Perkins

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

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